



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES & MARINE RESOURCES

OPENING REMARKS

BY

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MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

AT THE

**JOINT ANGOLA – NAMIBIA FISHERIES MOU
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON PROTOCOL 1**

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

05TH JUNE 2017

Dr. Moses Maurihungirire, Permanent Secretary MFMR;

Ms. Maria de Lourdes Sardinha, National Director, Ministry of Fisheries Angola, Co-Chair of Protocol 1;

Ms. Anna Erastus, Director of Policy, Planning and Economics, MFMR, Co-Chair of Protocol 1;

MFMR Senior Management, present

Staff members from the Ministry of Fisheries of the Republic of Angola, and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Republic of Namibia;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning

I wish to take this first opportunity in my short speech to thank the delegation from our close and friendly neighbour, the Republic of Angola, for sparing time to travel to Namibia for this important meeting. I welcome you to the Republic of Namibia, and specifically the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, please feel at home, because in many ways, Angola and Namibia are one people. I am delighted that we can host you and look forward to fruitful discussions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me remind ourselves that Angola and Namibia have an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on fisheries which was signed on 24th June 2014 by Myself and my counterpart her Excellency Victoria De Barros Neto. Out of this MOU, four protocols were developed namely; Economic Cooperation;

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance; Aquaculture and Resource Management. I must emphasise that the Angola-Namibia MoU on Fisheries is particularly important because our two EEZs are in the Benguela ecosystem, we share a land and maritime border, and several of our fishery species are either migrating or straddling across this common border.

I am aware that there have been previous meetings to consider several of the protocols under this MoU, particularly Protocol 2 on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), which took place in Walvis Bay during the period 27 – 28 April 2017. I am aware that the issue of IUU fishing was discussed at that meeting, and several proposals on addressing the recent incidents were discussed. During the MCS meeting; it was concluded that measures to prevent, deter and prevent IUU fishing between the two countries should emphasise the sharing of MSCS resources and be put in practise. It was agreed that the first joint patrol should take place on the mid- June 2017.

I wish to emphasise the seriousness with which Namibia is taking the issue of IUU fishing, and am confident that, with full support from my counterpart in Angola, the recent incidents of IUU fishing around our common maritime border will not happen again.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I note that this round of technical consultations is focussing on Protocol 1; Economic Cooperation, in order to take stock of progress made since the signing of the MoU. I am informed that today's meeting on Protocol 1 will be co-chaired by National

Director in the Ministry of Fisheries of the Republic of Angola, Ms. De Lourdes Sardinha; and the Director of Policy, Planning and Economics in our Ministry, Ms. Erastus. The meeting is being attended by key members of staff from both countries.

Among the key aspects listed for discussion in this meeting include four areas of cooperation, namely: Fishing Opportunities; Human Resources Development; Socio-economic Research and Information Exchange, and the progress made on these matters.

I note that the first area of cooperation that deals with Joint venture establishment and quota allocation. On this area, I am happy to report that the fishing industries in our two countries have already established a joint venture between Namibian and Angola called 'NAMGOMAR S.A Pesca', which is mainly in the Horse Mackerel fishery. There is, however an existing fishing right granted to Angola in the hake fishery, in line with our Marine Resources Act, 2000. Furthermore, more, to date an allocation of 25,000mt in horse mackerel since 2014 to 2016 and 26 000 in hake since 2007 to 2017.

With respect to other areas of cooperation, the technical people are still making progress on several aspects. As part of this meeting, I am informed that the delegation will travel to Walvis Bay, to further consider several areas of cooperation. I am happy to note that the technical committee is envisaging to organise and set up a Namibian/Angolan forum come 2018, and a mechanism of strategizing to ensure that both countries have one position on areas

of mutual interest when participating at discussions in regional, RFMOs, and other and international forums.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to underscore the critical importance of Protocol 1 on Economic Cooperation between Angola and Namibia. Sustainable fisheries is an important tool for economic development of our two countries. We must learn from each other on best practises on maximising economic benefits from our fisheries, and how we can share resources to minimise costs associated with management of fisheries, including IUU monitoring, control and surveillance. I therefore ask the delegates to think creatively how Namibia and Angola can implement a protocol on economic cooperation on fisheries which is dynamic, feasible, and futuristic. A protocol that can take advantage of our joint synergies to meet the 21st Century challenges of fisheries development.

I, together with my counterpart in Angola, look forward to receiving the joint feed-back on this protocol on Fisheries Economic Cooperation.

I now declare this bilateral consultative forum between Namibia and Angola on protocol 1 of our joint MoU officially open.

I Thank You.