

No. 31029

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**MULTILATERAL**

**Agreement for the establishment of the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFO-PÊCHE) (with annexes). Concluded at Abidjan on 13 December 1991**

*Authentic texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 9 June 1994.*

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**MULTILATÉRAL**

**Accord portant création de l'Organisation intergouvernementale d'information et de coopération pour la commercialisation des produits de la pêche en Afrique (INFOPÊCHE) [avec annexes]. Conclu à Abidjan le 13 décembre 1991**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et français.*

*Enregistré par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture le 9 juin 1994.*

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARKETING INFORMATION AND COOPERATION SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS IN AFRICA (INFOPÊCHE)

The Contracting Parties,

**Conscious** of the importance of the fisheries sector in their economic development;

**Convinced** that African countries would benefit greatly from the development of their fisheries which may depend on the establishment of international market information and cooperation organization for fishery products;

**Realizing** that the promotion and success of such organization can be facilitated through regional cooperation;

**Considering** that the said cooperation can best be achieved through the establishment of an intergovernmental organization carrying out its activities in collaboration with countries, organizations and institutions that may be able to provide financial and technical support;

Have agreed as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 23 December 1993, the date when instruments of ratification or accession had been deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization by the Governments of at least five States listed in annex I, in accordance with article 14 (4):

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)</i>
Guinea .....	29 December 1992 <i>a</i>
Guinea-Bissau .....	7 April 1993
Liberia .....	9 November 1993
Senegal .....	28 May 1993 <i>a</i>
Sierra Leone .....	23 December 1993 <i>a</i>

Subsequently, the Agreement came into force for the following State that had acceded to it, on the date when an instrument of accession had been deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization by its Government, in accordance with article 14:

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of accession (a)</i>
Cameroon .....	18 February 1994
(With effect from 18 February 1994.)	

**ARTICLE 1**  
**Establishment**

The Contracting Parties hereby establish the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa, hereinafter referred to as "INFOPÊCHE".

**ARTICLE 2**  
**Definitions**

For the purpose of this Agreement:

"Fishery products" means all aquatic animals and plants and products derived therefrom. Endangered species falling under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora adopted in Washington in 1973, as amended,<sup>1</sup> are excluded. Marine mammals, especially dolphins which are not covered by the said Convention shall not be included within the services provided by INFOPÊCHE.

"Host State" means the State in which the seat of INFOPÊCHE is situated.

"Marketing information" means data and other information on distribution, transport and sale of fishery products on local and international markets and on the overall process of the said product development and promotion including advertising, public relations and other services.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, p. 243; vol. 1052, p. 406, and vol. 1459, p. 362.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**Objectives**

The objectives of INFOPÊCHE shall be:

- (a) to contribute to the development and modernization of the fisheries sector of the Contracting Parties;
- (b) to contribute to more balanced supplies of fishery products to the Contracting Parties;
- (c) to make the best use of export opportunities within and outside Africa; and
- (d) to promote technical and economic cooperation among Contracting Parties.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**Functions**

For the achievement of its objectives, INFOPÊCHE shall provide:

- (a) marketing information on fishery products, including sales opportunities and supply prospects within and outside Africa;
- (b) advice on technological developments, product specifications, processing methods and quality standards in accordance with market requirements;
- (c) assistance in identifying new products and promoting under-utilized species;
- (d) training of staff in governments, institutions and the fishing industry in marketing development.

**ARTICLE 5**  
**Headquarters**

1. The seat of INFOPÊCHE is in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). However, if on the date on which this Agreement enters into force, the Côte d'Ivoire has not deposited an instrument of ratification or accession in respect of this Agreement, the seat of INFOPÊCHE shall be determined by the Governing Council by a two-thirds majority of its members.

2. The Host State shall make available to INFOPÊCHE, without charge, the premises required for its operation as described in **Annex II** to this Agreement.

3. The Host State shall undertake to grant to INFOPÊCHE, to its premises, property, funds and assets, to the members of the Governing Council, to the Director and the staff of INFOPÊCHE and to the consultants, the privileges, immunities and facilities provided for in Article 12 and in Annex II to this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 6**  
**Membership**

1. The Member States of INFOPÊCHE shall be the Contracting Parties to the present Agreement.

2. The original founding Member States of INFOPÊCHE shall be those States in Africa specified in Annex I to this Agreement which ratify or accede to this Agreement in accordance with Article 14, paragraphs 1 and 2.

3. The Governing Council of INFOPÊCHE may, by a two-thirds majority of all its Member States, authorize any State not referred to in Annex I to this Agreement, which has submitted an application for membership, to accede to the Agreement as in force at the time of accession, in accordance with Article 14, paragraph 3.