

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE OF THE WOMEN IN MARITIME OF WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA HELD AT KING FAHD PALACE HOTELS, DAKAR-SENEGAL ON TUESDAY 6TH-WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Women in Maritime of West and Central Africa (WIMOWCA) in conjunction with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) held its 1st Annual General Meeting and Conference from 6-7 December 2022. The AGM and Conference was a hybrid event that took place in the beautiful city of Dakar, Senegal.

The theme of the conference was *“Transitioning to a Decarbonized, Digitalized and sustainable Shipping”*.

The 1st Annual General Meeting and Conference was hosted by the government of Senegal.

BACKGROUND OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Women in Maritime of West and Central Africa (WIMOWCA) is a sub-regional body established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to champion the promotion and empowerment of women in maritime industry in the sub-region. WIMOWCA is the 8th of such regional associations set up by the IMO and presently the youngest following its inauguration by the IMO on July 23rd, 2021 at a high-level hybrid event held in Accra, Ghana. The formal inauguration and launch was performed by the Secretary General IMO, His Excellency, Mr Kitack Lim supported by the Minister of Transport, Ghana Hon. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah. At that event we also received good will messages from Nigeria’s then Minister of State Transportation, Distinguished Senator Gbemisola Saraki and heads of Women in Maritime Associations.

OBJECTIVES OF WIMOWCA

WIMOWCA serves as the link Association between the IMO and Maritime Women of West and Central African Region. It has the following objectives amongst others:

- To advocate gender equality in the maritime sector of West and Central Africa
- Lobby for increase in the percentage of women in senior management cadre in the maritime sector
- Promote women’s access to quality employment in the maritime sector
- Enhance inclusion of women in the maritime sector through partnership and collaboration with developmental partners.

This is in line with IMO’s strategic approach towards enhancing the contribution of women as key maritime stakeholders by incorporating gender dimension into its maritime/shipping policies in line with SDGs 1, 5 and 14.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

The representatives of the following thirteen (13) member countries attended the AGM and Conference: Cameroun, Congo Brazzaville, Cote D’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of

Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Women in Maritime Eastern and Southern Africa (**WOMESA**), Network of Professional Women in Maritime and Port Sectors of West and Central Africa (**NPWMP-WCA**), Women in Shipping and Trade Associations (**WISTA**), Women in Maritime Africa (**WIMAFRICA**).

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN SENEGAL

Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries
National Agency for Maritime Affairs (ANAM)
Autonomous Port of Dakar
National Agency of Aquaculture (ANAN)
National Armament (COSAMA)
Conseil Senegalais des Chargeurs (COSEC)

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony included the following major activities:

-Welcome Address by Director General of National Agency for Maritime Affairs (ANAM)
Senegal -Massamba Edouard Achille Gueye

-Opening remarks by President, Women in Maritime of West and Central Africa (WIMOWCA)
Mrs Sylvia Asana Dauda OWU

-Remarks by IMO Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa (Anglophone and Francophone) representing the IMBAYEnternational Maritime Organization (IMO), Capt. Dallas Laryea

-Keynote address by Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy Senegal His Excellency Papa Sagna MBAYE.

-Solidarity messages from;

- WOMESA -Ms. Anere K.WODAJO (President)
- NPWMP-WCA- Ms. Florentine GUIHARD KOIDIO (President)
- WISTA- Ms. Jemilat MAHAMAH (Secretary WISTA International and Director responsible for Africa)
- WIMAFRICA- Ms. Yvonne LAWSON (President)

DECLARATION OF CONFERENCE OPEN

The Conference was declared open by Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy. In his key note address, he expressed the delight of the President, Republic of Senegal Monsieur Macky SALL, the people and government of Senegal at the decision by WIMOWCA to hold its first AGM and Conference in Senegal. He noted that the theme of the Conference “Transitioning to a Decarbonized Digitalized and Sustainable Shipping” resonates with the ideologies of the government of Senegal. He supported the need for women to be considered to occupy high level positions in other to drive the maritime economy.

In declaring the Conference open he assured that the Conference communique would be adopted and implemented by the authorities in Senegal.

APPRECIATION TO IMO

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the Secretary General International Maritime Organisation (IMO) His Excellency Kitack Lim for sponsoring thirty six (36) women made up of WIMOWCA Executives and Resource Persons to the 1st AGM/Conference.

PRESENTATION DURING THE CONFERENCE

The Conference showcased seven (7) sessions covering a period of two (2) days. The speakers and discussants were sixteen (16) in number drawn from Ghana, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Congo Brazzaville, Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Cameroon, ECOWAS Regional Centre for maritime Security- Senegal, Women in Maritime Africa (WIMA) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Incisive presentations and thought-provoking commentaries were made on the following topics:

1. Building Capacity for Sustainable Shipping in Africa
2. Building Smart ports for a Sustainable Maritime Industry in Africa
3. Decarbonizing Shipping, the Role of Energy and Technology
4. Addressing Maritime Policy challenges for a Sustainable Maritime domain
5. Managing Diversity for a sustainable maritime industry
6. The role of women Leadership in promoting a sustainable maritime industry
7. SDG's and women empowerment in the maritime community

RESOLUTIONS REACHED

At the end of the presentations, discussions and commentaries, the following RESOLUTIONS were reached to enable "Transitioning to a Decarbonized, Digitalized and Sustainable Shipping".

- (a) African countries to note the importance of using digital solutions and smart initiatives by building smart ports for a sustainable maritime industry in Africa.
- (b) The use of Technology, automation and data analytics will help overcome limitations and deliver highest value in terms of efficiency, quality and reliability of service in African ports.
- (c) In order to align with the concept of building smart ports in Africa for economic growth, African government should draw a long-term strategic plan with measurable KPIs that align with relevant United Nations Conventions to build a vibrant maritime ecosystem and sustainable infrastructural development.
- (d) Women should be integrated in mainstream maritime activities through access to training which will serve as strategy for building wholesome human capacity for sustainable development.

- (e) Women in Maritime Associations in West and Central Africa to embrace one platform that will ensure synergy and drive their common purpose.
- (f) African countries to develop effective and efficient policies that will prevent marine litter.
- (g) It was noted that Nigeria successfully enacted a legislation known as Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences (SPOMO) Act 2019. Countries in West and Central Africa are encouraged to domesticate relevant IMO Conventions that will help in the fight against piracy in the Gulf of Guinea Region.
- (h) Need for political will that would enable energy transition in the West and Central Africa Region.
- (i) Bridge the gap by establishing deliberate policies that enable women bring value to the table such as education, training, mentorship and succession planning.
- (j) Women need to be visionaries delivering compelling visions for the change they want to see. This can be achieved by encouraging other women to develop board room characteristics and leadership traits.

BUSINESS SESSION

INAUGURATION OF THE WIMOWCA SENEGAL NATIONAL CHAPTER

In line with the Constitution of WIMOWCA, the National Chapter in Senegal was inaugurated. This was conducted by the IMO Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa and witnessed by the President, Executive Council and the General Assembly.

1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The WIMOWCA 1st AGM was held on Tuesday 6th December, 2022.

The General Assembly considered the issues deliberated by the governing council during its virtual meetings between 2020 and 2022 and resolved as follows:

1. The composition of the Governing Council to be expanded to cover positions stipulated in the constitution. To that effect Republic of Togo filled the position of Vice Treasurer and Congo Brazzaville the position of Media Officer 1 now to be known as Communication and Public Relations Officer.
2. The Constitution to be translated into Portuguese and circulated in four (4) official languages in the region (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese).



- 3. National chapters to commence payment of membership subscription fees from 2023 and ensure transfer of annual subscription fees applicable to various categories of membership as provided in the constitution.

ADOPTION OF COMMUNIQUE

The motion for the adoption of the Communique was moved by Nigeria and seconded by Democratic Republic of Congo.

Dated this 7th day of December, 2022

Mrs. Sylvia Asana Dauda OWU
President

Mrs. Nneka Obianyor
Secretary

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

- Cameroun
- Congo Brazzaville
- Cote D'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo