

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALI
FARMING AND FISHING One People-One Purpose-One Faith**

NATIONAL FISHERIES DIRECTORATE



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**REPORT OF SHARING AND REFLECTION/AWARENESS-RAISING
WORKSHOP ON THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE
ARTISANAL FISHERIES IN A CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY
ERADICATION OF THE AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES (CAOPA)**

Mande Hotel in Bamako

May 20 and 21, 2021



Head Office : Route nationale, en face Station Zen - Grand-Imbour/Imbour - Contact : Tel : Fax : +221 33 954 70 90 - +221 76 336 09 12 - +221 76 600 80 39 / BP : 1144 Imbour-Sénégal Website : caopa.org - Email : caopa.peche@gmail.com - Arrêté N° 010046/MINT/DGAT/DLA-PA du 1-07-2013, N.I.N.E.A : 006373295/OA9

I - INTRODUCTION

On Thursday 20 and Friday 21 May 2021, was held in Bamako, a workshop of sharing and reflection / awareness-raising on Voluntary Guidelines for sustainable artisanal fisheries in a context of food security and poverty eradication.

Organized by the African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fishing (CAOPA) in collaboration with the CNOFPFM (National Collective of Professional Organizations of the Fish Sector of Mali), it brought together more than forty participants from the interior of the country and Bamako region. They are made up of actors from all segments of the artisanal fisheries and aquaculture sector, technical services of the ministerial departments in charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Environment, Social Development and Health, Promotion of Women, Industry and Trade, and Employment and Vocational Training, the representative of FAO Mali, the PAFHA and JEJE NI JABA projects

CAOPA was represented by a strong delegation led by its president, Mr. Gaoussou GUEYE.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- ✓ To inform all actors about the content, the objectives and the advantages that they can draw from the Voluntary Guidelines for artisanal fisheries;
- ✓ Facilitate the appropriation of the Voluntary Guidelines as an instrument for the development and promotion of artisanal fisheries;
- ✓ Identify the country's priority areas within the framework of a national action plan;
- ✓ Set-up a committee to develop the Action Plan.

This report is structured around the following points:

- Opening ceremony;
- Communications;
- Group work;
- Setting-up of the monitoring committee;
- Recommendations;
- Conclusion.

II - OPENING CEREMONY

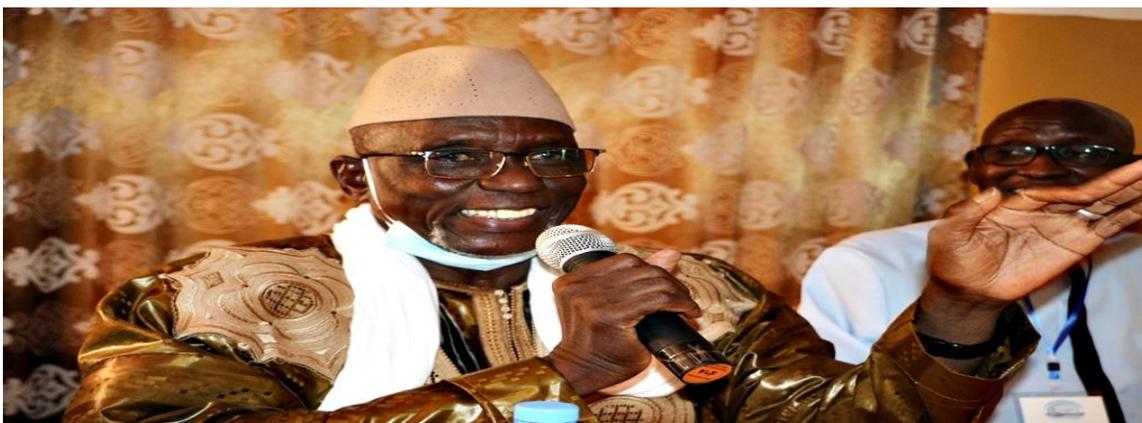
The opening ceremony was marked by three speeches:

- ❖ Welcome address by the President of the CNOFPFM-CAOPA, Mr Abdoulaye KONTAO;
- ❖ The speech of the FAO Mali Representative Mr. Issa KEITA, Programme Officer;
- ❖ The opening speech of the workshop by Mr. Lassine DEMBELE, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, representing the Minister.

Mr. Abdoulaye KONTAO welcomed his hosts from CAOPA and the participants from the different regions of Mali, executives from the technical services of different ministerial departments and the National Directorate of Fisheries, managers of projects and programs in the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector and members of APCAM to the Malian capital of Bamako.

He explained the importance of the workshop on the voluntary guidelines on artisanal fisheries in the context of food security

He ended his speech by thanking all the participants including FAO, CAOPA, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, other invited departments and



participants from the regions of Mopti, Sikasso, Segou, Koulikoro and the District of Bamako.

Following Mr. KONTAO, Mr. Issa KEITA, representative of FAO Mali, welcomed all the participants and showed the importance of holding this sharing workshop on the voluntary guidelines for artisanal fisheries. He assured the availability and the support of FAO to this process and wished a good progress of the workshop.



The opening speech was delivered by Mr. Lassine DEMBELE, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Mr. Dembélé thanked our brothers, sisters and friends of CAOPA headed by Mr. Gaoussou GUEYE, President of CAOPA for having accepted to organize this sharing workshop and to honour with his presence. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mali and in his own name, he welcomed all the delegates of CAOPA to the African soil of Mali.

He recalled the history of the creation of CAOPA and the great and respectful place that it occupies in the defence of the interests of the fishermen of Africa and in the fight for the safeguard of the fishing resource. CAOPA is the reference in Africa and in the world.

He also pointed out the importance of fisheries in Mali, which is a key sub-sector of the national economy with a contribution of **3.9% of GDP in 2020 (INSTAT)**. Fisheries production, including aquaculture production, ranges from **80,000 to 100,000 tons per year**, and is strongly linked to flood and rainfall conditions. The



jobs created are estimated at more than **500,000**. They concern the production, processing and marketing of fish, with women and young people predominating.

In conclusion, he renewed his thanks to CAOPA for the commendable efforts it is making for the improvement and development of inland artisanal fisheries in order to make them engines of development in our respective countries.

III - WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

The work of the sharing and awareness-raising workshop on the voluntary guidelines for artisanal fisheries took place in plenary and group work. The facilitation was provided by Mr. Ngagne MBAO supported by Mr. Siriman SAKHO for a simultaneous translation in local language.

3.1. Setting up the workshop board

After the opening ceremony, the following bureau was set up to lead the workshop:

- **President:** Mr. Abdoulaye KONTAO; President of the CNOFPFM;
- **First rapporteur:** Ms. SIREBARA Fatoumata DIALLO, CNOFPFM (processor);

- **Second rapporteur:** Mr Cheick Oumar MAIGA, Administrative Secretary of CONASCOPA;
- **Third rapporteur:** Mrs. TRAORÉ Bintou Fili KEITA, Regional Director of Fisheries of the District of Bamako.

3.2. Adoption of the draft agenda and work program

The draft agenda and work program for the meeting were discussed and adopted after presentation, with the main amendment being the inclusion of the Friday prayer time to enable participants to perform their religious duties.

The choice of Mali to host the first workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines in a continental country was very relevant to show that inland fisheries and fish farming are also concerned by this international instrument developed by FAO.

The presence of state authorities through the different ministries concerned confirms that the first partner in the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines remains the state, which must accompany the fishing and fish farming communities in a participatory and iterative manner. More than twenty-five (25) professionals representing the entire fish value chain and coming from all regions is a strong signal of the level of commitment of the actors in the implementation of VG.

Two anecdotes can illustrate this i) Mr. Touré from Kayes located at 614 km from Bamako had to insist on respecting the agenda for a full two days given the interest and richness of the exchanges. "We came to learn, to inform ourselves and to understand the VG for the development of our activity. We will stay as long as necessary," he said.

*ii) Mr. TAKO, a village chief in the Mopti area who had to travel more than 630 km in 24 hours, spent the night in the bush because of the frequent breakdowns of the transport buses and the need to take another one each time. He took the floor to say how tired he was. He said he forgot about it as soon as he had this opportunity to share his experience and expose the situation of the fishery on behalf of his peers. The active participation and attendance of representatives of other ministries is part of the commitment of **all stakeholders**.*

3.3. Presentations

Three presentations were made on:

- ❖ Presentation of CAOPA;

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- ❖ Presentation on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines;
- ❖ Presentation of the situation of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in Mali.

3.3.1 Introduction to CAOPA

This presentation was made by Mr. Mamadou Aliou DIALLO, Communication Officer of CAOPA and highlighted the following points:

CAOPA was created in 2010 in Banjul following annual meetings since 2000. It brings together national artisanal, marine and continental fisheries organizations from 26 African countries.

Officially recognized in 2013 by the Senegalese Government by decree N°010046 of 10/07/2013 published in the official gazette in accordance with the headquarters law of the host country and working for all member organizations in Africa.

The objectives of CAOPA are:

- To impulse an African dynamic of development of the sustainable artisanal fisheries for the well-being of the artisanal fisheries communities and to contribute to the food security of populations.
- To support the setting of good governance, democracy and transparency within organizations.
- Promote the consideration of issues facing women in artisanal fisheries, advocate for their involvement in decision-making processes.
- Work with the government to define policies that frame, protect and promote the sustainable development of African artisanal fisheries.
- Helping professional organizations in the artisanal fisheries sector to strengthen them.

CAOPA is run by a gender-balanced board: 4 men and 4 women, elected for a five-year term, renewable once.

▪ **CAOPA's main programs include:**

- Strengthening of Professional Organizations of artisanal fisheries.
- Promotion of the role of women through policies to develop their activities.
- Launching of a program for the existence of a single federation of professionals in the artisanal fisheries sector per member country.
- Promotion for the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for small-scale fisheries.

CAOPA is an organization that is open to the world but very much rooted in the daily practices of women and men along the fish value chain. CAOPA is a learning organization that feeds on shared experiences and information through a communication strategy supported by modern means.

3.3.2 Presentation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-scale Fisheries

This presentation, made by Mrs. DION Micheline, Head of the Women's Program of CAOPA, focused on the following points:



- ✓ The Voluntary Guidelines aim to ensure the sustainability of artisanal fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication.
- ✓ The Voluntary Guidelines were developed through a highly participatory process with strong involvement of all stakeholders at all levels and countries from all continents. At least 4,100 direct stakeholders from all artisanal fisheries systems were involved.
- ✓ The Voluntary Guidelines, recognizing the important role of women and youth, promote equality and equity between men and women as women represent more than 50% of the actors in this sub-sector.
- ✓ The Voluntary Guidelines are a comprehensive document in substance and form and take into account the multi-sectorial dimension of development.

It is an instrument to support responsible fishing and sustainable social and economic development for present and future generations.

As such, they offer relevant guidelines to be taken into account by governments when developing policies and strategies for the promotion of artisanal fisheries.

A video summarizing the strategy for developing the guidelines was shown to workshop participants

Thanks to a good reading and judicious use of the VGs, a country like Senegal has already received funding for its project from its action plan.

Ms. Micheline Dion showed pictures of their modern processing site with a day care centre attached to a landing dock adapted to the realities of the field in Abidjan. This example aroused a lot of reactions from the workshop participants who wish to use it to improve their working conditions.

In addition, she shared the ongoing experience of providing decent housing to each of the women transformers.

3.3.3 Presentation of the state of Mali's artisanal fisheries and aquaculture

This presentation was made by Mr. Alhousseyni SARRO, Deputy National Director of Fisheries of Mali;



The Presentation highlights the following points:

The geographical situation of Mali shows its landlocked nature where artisanal and continental fishing are practiced thanks to two big rivers which cross it, the Niger river and the Senegal river.

He presented the general framework of the fisheries and aquaculture policy and institutions. He announced the annual production forecasts, which are estimated at 117,690 t, including 7,670 t from fish farming. He emphasized the contribution of the sub-sector in terms of job creation (285,000 to 500,000), i.e., a rate of 7.2% of the active population, and income for a total cost of CFAF 90 billion per year. He recalled the history of aquaculture in Mali and the different intensive aquaculture practices.

He enumerated the enormous potential through rivers, the development offices, the integration of irrigation with fish farming activities, the development and implementation of a five-year plan.

He mentioned the difficulties and constraints facing the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector, which include

- Insufficient infrastructure (landing stages with amenities);
- impacts of climate change;
- non-compliance with the texts in force within the framework of the regulations for sustainable and responsible fishing;
- the low financing of the fisheries sub-sector;
- the lack of consideration given to fish farming in national agricultural and rural development and research programs;
- the poor control of technical parameters of production and the low yield of existing farms;
- the lack of a technical extension structure and of qualified high-level personnel;
- the lack of basic public and private infrastructure for fry production and training centres;
- The lack of a reliable database and statistical information on fish farming.

He ended on a hopeful note by highlighting the continuation of the aquaculture development program during 2021 (after an evaluation of the 2016-2020 program) which will ensure the management of fisheries resources, create an attractive environment for aquaculture and initiate a real process of specialization of the sector.

3.3.4. Discussion of the presentations:

These various presentations were followed by discussions, questions and answers, comments and contributions.

The participants commended and congratulated the presenters for the quality of their presentations.

Participants' concerns included the following:

- the importance and quality of the training;
- the level of qualification of human resources in the sub-sector;
- capacity building of actors and organizations;
- the low profile of aquaculture in Voluntary Guidelines,
- the political weight of CAOPA in countries and in Africa,
- securing fishers on their habitat sites;
- provisions for the impacts of COVID 19;
- The use of tools contained in the Voluntary Guidelines and CAOPA website.

To the various questions asked, the presenters provided satisfactory answers to edify the participants.

Mr. Mamadou Aliou DIALLO encouraged the actors to use CAOPA website for more visibility of their activities.

Mrs. SOMPLEHI Micheline DION shared practical cases that enlightened participants on how to use these instruments on behalf of the actors. The landing stage of her union in Abidjan is a concrete proof.

With regard to fish farming in the voluntary guidelines, she asked that this activity be taken into account in all the country's priorities when developing the three-year action plan for Mali, as 2022 will be the International Year of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Mr. Alhousseyni SARRO underlined the existence of several training programs at the public level and with several private actors; the awareness-raising must be very intense against the actions of pollution of the river waters.

All the floating cage programs are accompanied by training and marketing support and advice. He invited the beneficiaries to approach the technical services for more information and advice to improve their activities.

The presence in Bamako of the President of CAOPA was welcomed by both the state authorities and the actors of the sector. In spite of his busy agenda, the professional organizations had requested the participation of President Gaoussou GUEYE to bring them his support and especially to share his experience. According to the President of CAOPA, the whole strategy of CAOPA is based on advocacy, a formidable and powerful weapon if it is well prepared and argued on the basis of the real life of the populations concerned.

The fishermen have knowledge and practices to value, to capitalize for their diffusion in order to transmit them to young generation and to contribute to research. The fishermen must refuse the label of "poor" that is attributed to them.

"Fishermen are not poor, that's the idea that they want to put in our heads with their different aid programs that they themselves use for 90%. Let's refuse to believe it because we feed our community and especially the world with our fish. Let us prepare for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYFA2022)" invites President GUEYE.

Mr. Gaoussou GUEYE, President of CAOPA, to the delight of the participants, made a general summary of all the issues. He took note of the specific issue related to the securing of fishermen's sites, but only by relying on advocacy at the right time and in the right place. He called for a sacred union because *"united we are strong and very strong and nothing can stop us, we fight without sticks, without drums but with our strength which is the solidarity between actors"*.

3.4- Reflection in groups:

With all this information, the participants were divided into two working groups to identify priority areas to be addressed in the forthcoming national action plan, which will be developed in a participatory manner with all stakeholders.

Group discussions focused on:

- Identification of most urgent aspects to be taken into account;
- Identification of priority areas of intervention and stakeholders;
- Reflection on the creation of the coordination and monitoring mechanism of the activities.

After exchanges in the working groups and the restitution of the results in plenary, a synthesis was made with the support of the facilitators.

Thus, the priorities of the fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders are the following:

1. Investment/financing of the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector;
2. Strengthening of fishing and fish farming infrastructure and equipment;
3. Capacity building for women, youth and vulnerable people (training, awareness raising, information, exchange visits, advocacy, support/advice, outreach)
4. Development of production and productivity (access to quality fry and fish feed);
5. Development of research in the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector;
6. Support and guidance program for women, youth and vulnerable people (processing, training, access to credit, education of children, health);
7. Revision of texts for the co-management of fisheries (taking into account customs and traditions);
8. Protection from sewage and harmful practices and pollution.

3.5. Setting-up of the coordination and monitoring system for activities

Within the framework of the development of the action plan and the appropriation of the process, a committee for the implementation of activities was proposed and adopted, bringing together the actors of the fisheries and fish farming organizations, the different technical services, the projects and programs in charge of the sector.

The composition of the committee is as follows:

- Representative of fishing and fish farming organizations;
- Representative of the Ministry of Fisheries;

- Representative of the Ministry of the Environment;
- Representative of the Ministry of Social Development;
- Representative of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training;
- Representative Ministry of Industry and Trade;
- Representative of the National Fisheries Directorate;
- Representative APCAM;
- Two Representatives Resource persons of projects and programs in charge of the fisheries sector.

On the side-lines of the workshop, the delegation organized a field visit to the production and training centre "La femme Rurale" of Mrs. SIREBARA Fatoumata DIALLO and to the fishing camp of Amandine at Bazoumana COUMARE.



This visit allowed the delegation to see the role that women play in the development of the fish sector, in the creation of employment for young people and especially in the integration of systems: fish farming integrated with market gardening and fish processing with added value.

The President of CAOPA was amazed by the visit of the production and training centre of Mrs. SIREBARA Fatoumata DIALLO who has once again earned his respect and admiration with her achievements and especially for the employment of qualified youth (graduates) in her unit.

The delegation's visit to Amandine camp left the president speechless. He would never have imagined the existence of such habitats sheltering children and women. At the end of this visit, the delegation wished to reinforce the fight for a better and more secure site for these fishermen populations.

3.6. Closing Ceremony:

The closing ceremony, chaired by the representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Mady Nantené KEITA, was marked by the following interventions

- The address of the participants' representative:

Mr. Seydou TOÉ, President of the National Confederation of Cooperative Societies of Fish Farmers of Mali (CONASCOPA) addressed, on behalf of all the participants from Mali, a special motion of thanks to the whole delegation of CAOPA and particularly to its President Gaoussou GUEYE, for all his ongoing efforts for the development of artisanal fishing and aquaculture in Africa.

He faithfully relayed the words of thanks and blessing of the participants to the presenters followed by congratulations to the facilitator and translator for their commitment to participation and discipline throughout the workshop. He reassured the president of CAOPA of the good execution of the implementation of the activities and urged him once again to translate the recommendations of this workshop into action.

- **The speech of the President of the COLLECTIVE**

The President of the Collective, Mr. **Abdoulaye KONTAO** joined President Toé in wishing the entire delegation a safe return to their respective countries and also to all the participants who came from the interior of Mali and those living in Bamako

- **CAOPA President's Address:**

The President of CAOPA, Mr. Gaoussou GUEYE was pleased with the holding of this workshop in Bamako and said he was satisfied and pleasantly surprised by the effective and quality presence of the Malian administration and technical services alongside its nationals.

He urged all fisheries and aquaculture organizations to consider themselves as members of CAOPA.

He assured the actors to make their action plan and for the rest a priority, he will take care of the search for funding from partner institutions.

- **The closing speech of the workshop:**

The representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, **Mr. Mady Maténé KEITA**, recalled the thanks of the Government of Mali for the organization of this workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines as underlined by the Secretary General of the Ministry at the opening of this workshop.

He congratulated the participants for the relevant recommendations made and promised the total availability of his department for their achievement. He greeted all CAOPA through its dynamic president for its noble fight in favour of the fishing actors' sector in all its generality.

He wished full success to the collective and a lot of courage to people who will be appointed for the development of action plan and the follow-up of the implementation of activities.

He wished a safe return to all participants in their respective families and declared closed the work of the sharing and reflection/awareness raising workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines aimed at ensuring sustainable artisanal fisheries in a context of food security and fight against poverty.

The workshop ended with a standing ovation from the participants to the facilitators Mr. Ngagne MBAO and Mr. Siriman SAKHO for the quality of their facilitation and translation.

3.7. RECOMMENDATIONS and CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

At the end of the speeches of the officials, the communications, the debates in the working groups and in plenary, the participants in the sharing and reflection/awareness-raising workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines made the following recommendations

1. Formalize the composition of the committee in charge of the development of the Action Plan by taking into account the sectoral ministries;
2. To develop the action plan on the basis of the priority axes of the actors of the artisanal fishing and fish farming of Mali;
3. Prepare and implement a communication and awareness plan for the inclusion of inland fisheries in the challenges of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022;

4. Ensure the dissemination of the content of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-scale Fisheries to fisheries and fish farming organizations, public authorities and partners for their appropriation.

The sharing and reflection/awareness raising workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines aimed at

The workshop on "Ensuring sustainable artisanal fisheries in a context of food security and poverty eradication" achieved its objective thanks to the quality of the presentations made and the active participation of the actors, technicians and supervisors.

The workshop saw the participation of the sectoral ministries and their attendance during the whole duration of the work, which confirms their vision of the multisectoral dimension in the management of artisanal fisheries. They showed their satisfaction for the quality of the presentations and asked CAOPA to work for its effective operationalization in Mali.

Thus, the participants made a commitment to return the information received to their respective departments and to transmit the knowledge to other members at their bases.

This commitment of the actors must be accompanied by the technical services and the partner projects and programs in a participatory approach.

All agreed that there should be a sustained awareness campaign on the VIS so that all parties involved can understand its importance, scope and ownership.

And to better optimize the mobilization of all modern and traditional communicators through the most relevant channels, a communication plan is expected to be developed. Thus, the way to disseminate the VGs will be specified to reach the greatest number of actors and make the information accessible to all.

The main issue is to develop as soon as possible the action plan and pilot projects to better prepare the participation of Mali in the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022. *"This opportunity must be seized by our country so that continental fishing is finally recognized worldwide in the same way as maritime fishing,"* said Mr. KEITA.

ANNEX
WORK PROGRAMME

Agenda

DAY 1 on May 20, 2021

Schedule	Work	Actors
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Registration and set-up of participants	CNOPFPM/CAOPA
9:30 - 10:00 A.M.	Speech by the President of the National Collective of Organizations of the Fish Sector of Mali (C N O P F P M) Speech by the FAO Representative Speech by the Minister in charge of artisanal fisheries or his representative	--- FAO Representative Department
10:00 - 10:30 A.M.	Family photo Coffee Break	
PRESENTATIONS		

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.	Presentation of the participants	Facilitator
10:45 - 11:00 am	Presentation of CAOPA	CAOPA Team
11:00 - 11:30 A.M.	Presentation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines	CAOPA
11:30 - 12:00	Discussions and synthesis	Facilitator
12:00 - 12:30 PM	Presentation of the Artisanal Fisheries (description, potential, constraints and threats, possible solutions)	Relevant services
12:30 - 1:00 PM	Discussions and synthesis	Participants Moderator
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Lunch break	
3PM - 5PM	Reflection on ways and means of implementing the Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of the most urgent aspects to be taken into account; - Identification of priority areas of intervention and stakeholders; - Reflection on the creation of the coordination and monitoring mechanism for activities 	Facilitator Working groups (up to 3) Participants
5:00 - 5:15 pm	Summary of the day End of the day's work	Facilitator

DAY 2 on May 21, 2021

Schedule	Work	Actors
9:00 AM - 9:15	Presentation of Day 1 report	Reporting team

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AM		Facilitator
9:15 - 10:00 A.M.	Presentation of the results of the Working Groups	Participants Facilitator
10:00 - 10:30 A.M.	Coffee Break	
PRESENTATIONS		
10:30 am - 1:00 pm	Discussions on priorities for the country	Facilitator Participants
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Lunch break	
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Summary of the Workshop's work	Facilitator
3:30 - 4:00 pm	<p>Closing Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading of the main recommendations of the workshop - Address by the President of the Host Organization - Closing remarks by the Minister or his representative <p>End of the work</p>	Facilitator Team CAOPA/ CNOFPFM Department

