



Name of organisation: Coalition for Fair Fishing Agreements

Speaker: Raissa Nadège Leka Madou, fishmonger from Côte d'Ivoire and member of the African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Organisations (CAOPA)

Statement:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Raissa Nadège Leka Madou. I am speaking on behalf of the African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Organisations (CAOPA).

I am a fish processor and fishmonger in the artisanal fisheries sector in Côte d'Ivoire. I am here to speak on behalf of all African women who, every day, transform fish into food that is accessible to all, into income for our families and into dignity for our fishing communities.

Our daily life is a struggle against smoke from the ovens, the lack of a cold chain and declining catches.

We always have the future of our children in mind. Will we be able to send them to school? Will they have a future in artisanal fishing?

You, representatives of our states, have the opportunity to support us so that we can continue to feed populations.

Effective solutions exist:

- Modern, clean fish processing equipment can be installed, such as ovens that reduce wood consumption and improve fish quality. This protects our health, that of consumers and the environment.
- Solar-powered refrigeration and storage equipment can reduce post-harvest losses.
- Safe workspaces with clean water, designated landing areas and suitable markets, so that we have decent working conditions.

Above all, we want to participate in decisions on maritime policies, co-management plans and blue economy projects. Because without our voice, without our work, without our commitment, there is no food security, there is no sustainability.

Support us, because empowering women in small-scale fisheries is the first step towards feeding people with the ocean's resources.