

Sub-regional workshop for harmonisation
between countries of regulations on the use
of dispersants and the development of an
agreement for cooperation and assistance
Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania and
Senegal

WORKSHOP REPORT

Dakar, Senegal

28–31 October 2025



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Executive summary

Title: Subregional Workshop for the Harmonisation and Cooperation Regarding the Use of Dispersants

Hosted by: High Authority for the Coordination of Maritime Safety, Maritime Security and Marine Environment Protection (HASSMAR) and National Maritime Affairs Agency (ANAM)

Venue and date: Fleur de Lys Point E hotel in Dakar from 28 to 31 October 2025

Type of event: Technical work sessions

Organised by: International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and Ipieca, the global association for the study of environmental and social issues in the oil sector, as part of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) project.

Number of participants: 31

Summary: This workshop is part of a medium-term project whose objective is to establish as much as possible harmonised national regulations for the use of dispersants amongst countries, and to promote cooperation on this topic and for oil spill preparedness in general (in times of peace), as well as emergency assistance for dispersant application and overall response in case of an incident. This effort should be supported by both national and subregional governance through the development of a subregional agreement.

In this context, the workshop aimed to initiate discussions and reflection on the development of such an agreement, focusing on the following four main components:

- Regulation and harmonisation;
- Cooperation between countries (in peacetime);
- Assistance between countries (in the event of an incident);
- Governance amongst countries.

The workshop included technical presentations and various working sessions with national authorities.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This workshop is taking place in a sub-regional context marked by an intensification of maritime and energy activities. The West African coastline is experiencing a significant increase in maritime traffic with the growing development of oil exploration and production projects in several countries in the region. This development is leading to an increase in the risk of marine pollution, justifying the need for enhanced cooperation between coastal States to ensure effective preparedness and response in the event of an incident.

This approach is fully in line with the provisions of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC 90), which encourages States Parties to establish national response systems, promote technical and operational cooperation, and develop regional mutual assistance mechanisms. It also complies with the provisions of the Abidjan Convention (1981) and its Emergency Protocol, which form the common regional legal framework for all coastal countries in West, Central and Southern Africa. These instruments call for coordinated preparedness and the sharing of information and resources between States to deal with accidental marine pollution.

The countries involved in this workshop – Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal – share a particularly vast and interdependent maritime area, representing a combined Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) estimated at over 1.2 million square kilometres. This geographical and ecological proximity, combined with common economic interests, reinforces the relevance of a sub-regional agreement on the use of dispersants, optimising cooperation and mutual assistance to strengthen collective resilience to the risks of oil spills.

1.2 Objectives of the activity

This workshop is part of a medium-term project whose objective is to ensure the implementation of regulations for the use of dispersants in the countries, harmonised as far as possible between the six countries and to promote cooperation between countries on this issue and on pollution response in general (in peacetime), as well as mutual assistance in the event of an incident, supported by national and sub-regional governance through the establishment of a sub-regional agreement.

In this context, the workshop aimed to initiate discussions and reflection on the development of such an agreement, based on the following four major components:

- Regulation and harmonisation;
- Cooperation between countries, outside of incidents;
- Assistance between countries in the event of an incident.
- Governance between countries

Subject to these developments, the aim is to organise a second sub-regional workshop in 2026 to continue and consolidate the results achieved in harmonising regulations for the use of dispersants and for cooperation and assistance between countries in general.

1.3 Venue, participants and work programme

The workshop took place at the Hôtel Fleur de Lys – Point E in Dakar from 28 to 31 October 2025.

The event brought together around 30 participants, a list of whom is available in [Annex 3](#) to this report.

The workshop consisted of technical presentations and various working meetings with national authorities. The programme for the four days of work is given in [Annex 2](#) to this report.

2 Activities and presentations

2.1 Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on Monday 28 October 2025. An opening address was given by Ms Anais Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager, followed by a speech by the Secretary General of HASSMAR, Captain Mamadou Ndiaye.

The speeches are available in [Appendix 1](#) of this report.

2.2 Official group photo



2.3 Activities

2.3.1 Sessions on the technical aspects of dispersant use

Day 1 – Monday 28 October

Session 1: Introduction to response at sea

This introductory presentation, led by Mr Franck Laruelle (ITOPF), reviewed the key principles of combating oil spills at sea. It briefly reviewed the main response techniques (containment and recovery, chemical dispersal, in situ burning), highlighting their conditions for effectiveness, their advantages and limitations, and the need for rapid action.

The presentation, illustrated with case studies (Prestige, Tasman Spirit, Macondo), highlighted the value of the NEBA (Net Environmental Benefit Analysis) approach in supporting balanced and scientifically sound decisions.

Finally, Mr Laruelle stressed that the effectiveness of operations depends as much on preparation and inter-institutional coordination as on appropriate public communication, particularly to mitigate negative perceptions associated with certain techniques such as the use of dispersants.

Session 2: Reminder of the action of dispersants on hydrocarbons

Mr Lindsay Page-Jones reviewed the fundamental principles of chemical dispersion and how dispersants work.

Mr. Lindsay Page-Jones explained that the effectiveness of this method depends on several factors, such as the type of oil, temperature, weather and the time elapsed since the spill. Ms. Guillou also emphasised the concept of dispersibility, which is strongly influenced by viscosity, temperature, oil ageing and water salinity. These parameters determine the window of opportunity during which the use of dispersants remains effective, generally limited to the first few days after the spill. The session thus helped to consolidate scientific and operational understanding of the conditions required for the effective and controlled use of dispersants at sea.

Session 3: Review of the effects of dispersant use and their implications

The session, led by Mr Franck Laruelle, focused on the environmental effects, conditions of use and validation protocols for dispersants. The presentation reiterated that current dispersants are relatively low in toxicity and less harmful than the hydrocarbons they treat, while emphasising that their application temporarily increases the bioavailability of hydrocarbons as they are dispersed in the water column. The effects observed at sea are generally limited and transient, while the risks become more significant in coastal areas where dilution may be low.

The presentation emphasised the need to define geographical limits for use, based on minimum depth and distance from the coast, in order to avoid excessive exposure of sensitive coastal ecosystems.

Mr Laruelle also recalled the criteria for testing and approving dispersants (efficacy, toxicity and biodegradability) and internationally recognised protocols (France, United Kingdom, United States, Norway, Australia). Finally, the NEBA (Net Environmental Benefit Analysis) concept was presented as a decision-making tool for comparing the potential environmental impacts of different response options and choosing the strategy that causes the least damage to the environment. This concept must be implemented using a robust, evidence-based method.

Session 4: Reminder of the principles of dispersant application

Ms Marie Goarin (Oil Spill Response Limited – OSRL) led a session on the use of dispersants, providing a comprehensive technical overview of application methods, operational requirements and the main parameters influencing the operational effectiveness of this response technique.

The presentation emphasised the importance of robust logistical preparedness: stock availability, equipment maintenance, staff training and the implementation of pre-authorisation procedures for rapid mobilisation in the event of an incident. It also highlighted best practices for handling and safety, as well as existing support mechanisms, such as the Global Dispersant Stockpile (GDS) and industrial underwater tools for blowouts, such as capping stacks and SSDI systems. In conclusion, she emphasised the crucial role of planning, inter-institutional coordination and real-time monitoring in ensuring the effective use of dispersants.

Session 5: Industry and dispersants

The remote presentation by Mr Andrew Tucker (BP), also Vice-President of the GI WACAF project, explained the place of dispersants in the industrial response to oil spills, recalling that dispersants are an integral part of the response "toolbox", along with containment and recovery or burning. He emphasised the conditions necessary for their effectiveness and the importance of rapid and coordinated decision-making between authorities and industry.

Mr Tucker stressed the importance for each country to have clear national regulations on the use of dispersants, but also a national plan incorporating all response options, robust cross-border cooperation mechanisms and regular joint exercises. Finally, he encouraged participants to consider two key questions: what is the national policy on dispersants, and who is responsible for authorisation in an emergency? He reiterated that proactive planning and regional cooperation are essential for a rapid and effective response to spills.

2.3.2 Sessions on the regulatory aspects of dispersant use at national and sub-regional level

Session 6: Key elements for a national policy on the use of dispersants

Ms Anaïs Guillou's presentation outlined the key elements of national regulations on the use of dispersants: conditions of use, product approval procedures, responsibilities of the authorities and definition of areas of use based on environmental criteria. She reiterated the concepts of pre-authorisation and derogation, and the need for training, safety and environmental monitoring. Finally, she emphasised the need for regional harmonisation and close collaboration between authorities and the oil industry to ensure a consistent and effective response.

Session 7: Discussions on the technical and regulatory aspects of the use of dispersants

The various delegations were invited to discuss the issue of the list of dispersants authorised within the sub-region. It was agreed that developing a common vision does not necessarily mean establishing a single list for all countries. Mr Lindsay Page-Jones pointed out that it remains the responsibility of each State to maintain its own national list and, where appropriate, to issue an exception for one or more products.

Several participants then raised the issue of the need to test the dispersants currently in storage. Mr Lindsay Page-Jones pointed out that each product has its own expiry date. When this date is reached, the product is not automatically destroyed (by transfer to the competent chemical treatment organisations), but is first tested for effectiveness. If this test confirms that the product retains satisfactory properties, its shelf life may be extended, provided that more regular monitoring and close checks are put in place. In general, testing a dispersant is simple and should be carried out at least every five years, or even more frequently to ensure prudent stock management.

The Mauritanian delegation raised the case of the COREXIT dispersant and questioned its current status in light of the critical studies published on it. Some authorities, particularly within the European Union, remain reluctant to authorise dispersants in general (as the configuration of their coastlines is not conducive to the use of dispersants), while the United States, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has tightened its criteria for evaluating dispersants.

Session 8: Why a sub-regional agreement on the use of dispersants for the sub-region (risks/relevance)?

Ms Anaïs Guillou introduced the rationale and relevance of a sub-regional agreement on the use of dispersants in combating oil spills. She pointed out that the countries of the sub-region share common geographical, environmental and economic characteristics: exposed coastlines, sensitive coastal areas, expanding maritime activity and a developing oil industry. In this context, a common framework would make it possible to better harmonise practices, facilitate cooperation and mutual assistance, and ensure better management of cross-border incidents. The presentation also highlighted the need for a duty of information and alert between countries, as well as the role of partnership with the oil industry in strengthening

the level of collective preparedness. The delegations were then invited to comment on the relevance and challenges of a sub-regional agreement on the use of dispersants in the coastal area comprising Mauritania, Gambia, Senegal, Cabo Verde, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. Lindsay Page-Jones emphasised that this project is based on the existing provisions of international conventions, in particular the OPRC 90 Convention and the Abidjan Convention and its Emergency Protocol, ratified by all States in the subregion, and that its primary aim is to strengthen their operational implementation through subregional cooperation. Mr. Lindsay Page-Jones continued the session by detailing the articles of each of the two conventions directly related to the establishment of this framework for multilateral cooperation and assistance. Following his presentation, a brief exchange took place between the delegations on the practical implementation of the provisions of these two conventions.

Several participants highlighted the difficulties encountered by some countries in effectively implementing the provisions of these conventions. He recalled that, in his country, the sharing of official documents, such as the National Emergency Response Plan (NERP), is the responsibility of the relevant ministries. It was also noted that many States in the region still rely on technical support from GI WACAF and IMO to assist in the implementation of these conventions, particularly due to the perceived lack of operational capacity of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat. Other sub-regional organisations are mentioned, such as the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME), jointly supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), in which several countries in the sub-region participate.

Session 9: Overview of some (sub-)regional agreements on preparedness and response around the world

The presentation by Mr Franck Laruelle (ITOPF) provided an overview of the main regional and sub-regional agreements on oil spill response, illustrating their effectiveness with examples such as the Channel Plan and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Revolving Fund. He showed that these mechanisms, based on information sharing, mutual assistance and regular exercises, facilitate a rapid and effective response, clarify responsibilities and support collective decision-making. Mr Laruelle concluded by emphasising the value for West Africa of establishing a similar operational mechanism to complement existing conventions such as OPRC 1990 and the Abidjan Convention.

Day 2 – Wednesday 29 October

Session 10: Status of national regulations for the use of dispersants

During this session, each national delegation presented the status of its regulations on the use of dispersants. The countries detailed their main administrative and legal provisions (competent authorities, authorisation processes, stakeholders involved), as well as their operational capacities — including available stocks, dispersant application and monitoring resources, and any other relevant contextual information related to implementation. Following these presentations, the WACAF IG team compiled all the information shared into a summary table providing a comparative overview of existing national frameworks and regional capacities. The table is presented below:

	Mauritania	Senegal	Gambia	Cape Verde	Guinea-Bissau	Guinea
National Plan	Decree No. 2018-023 approving the POLMAR PLAN, currently under review.	Official (2009). Update planned.	Signed in 2024.	Complete (2010). Approved in 2015 by the IMP but no regulations. Awaiting signature. Update planned.	Complete (2023), awaiting signature.	Coming soon.
Dispersant regulations	Developed and validated; annex to the POLMAR plan currently under review.	Official (2016 – decree). Annex to the POLMAR plan. Update planned for 2025 with new provisions.	Draft regulations (2025).	Included in the plan. Draft since 2010; process currently underway.	Complete in the plan (2023).	To come.
Competent authorities – dispersants	Ministry of Maritime Affairs (AMAM) and Ministry of the Environment (DECE), with technical support from IMROP.	General Secretariat of HASSMAR.	GMA and NEA.	Clarification required (IMP, DNA or other competent authority).	Government entity responsible for environmental protection.	To be confirmed.
Geographical and bathymetric limits of use	Outside the PNBA and RBTDS. Minimum depth: 20 m . Minimum distance: 2 nautical miles from the baseline.	2 nautical miles / depth 20 m; 15 nautical miles / 25 m; 24 nautical miles / 30 m (depending on area).	Minimum 1 nautical mile offshore from the low-water mark. Depth: 20 m . Outside protected areas.	Minimum 1 km from the coast (~0.54 NM). Depth: 20 m (20 m isobath).	24 nautical miles from the baseline.	Coming soon.
List of approved products	Yes.	Yes – 12 products.	Yes.	No.	Yes.	No.

Figure 1: Summary of national regulations and capacities relating to the use of dispersants

Session 11: Resources to be deployed for the use of dispersants

Ms Marie Goarin's presentation highlighted that the effective use of dispersants depends above all on the speed of intervention. She outlined the essential capabilities that need to be anticipated: a defined decision-making process, prior authorisation, and appropriate spreading methods. She emphasised the key role of national authorities in coordination, logistics and the provision of equipment, as well as the importance of training, exercises and cross-border protocols. The main difficulties encountered often relate to administrative complexity, lack of coordination and insufficient maintenance of stocks.

Following her presentation, the Mauritanian delegation requested clarification on how OSRL operates. Ms Goarin explained that members, through annual membership, have priority access to 50% of the organisation's global capacity, while non-members can request emergency assistance, but at higher rates and subject to operational availability.

Session 12: Review of possible approaches to harmonising regulations on the use of dispersants and developing a sub-regional cooperation and assistance agreement

This session, led by Mr Lindsay Page-Jones, laid the foundations for the development of a future sub-regional agreement on the harmonisation of the use of dispersants and sub-regional cooperation and assistance. He presented the fundamental principles to be retained in order to ensure the consistency and effectiveness of such a framework for cooperation between the States of the sub-region.

The agreement will primarily aim to harmonise existing national frameworks, promote technical and regulatory coordination between neighbouring countries, and facilitate mutual assistance in the event of accidental oil spills.

The structural elements presented focused on:

- Clarification of responsibilities: defining the respective roles of the competent authorities, technical agencies and private operators;
- Geographical limits of application: identifying areas where the use of dispersants is authorised, restricted or prohibited, taking into account ecologically sensitive areas;
- Conditions for authorisation and decision-making: establishing a common process for pre-authorisation and rapid decision-making, ensuring the effective use of dispersants within the 'window of opportunity';
- Mutual recognition of authorised products: consider a common list of products already approved at national level;
- Operational capabilities: inventory available stocks, spreading equipment and monitoring resources, and response capabilities in general, while identifying training and joint exercise needs.

Elements for cooperation and assistance include:

- Cooperation mechanisms: information exchange, exercises, training, etc.;
- Mutual assistance mechanisms: alert, assessment, assistance between states, facilitation of industry response, management of cross-border pollution, etc.;

- Governance: steering committee, technical group, review of the agreement and annexes, etc.

Mr Lindsay Page-Jones also presented a preliminary indicative structure for the agreement, including a statement of intent, objectives, scope, alert and assistance procedures, and operational annexes containing national inventories, focal points and standard forms.

This session provided an opportunity to put the existing national regulations, presented earlier by the delegations, into perspective in order to identify commonalities and differences. These findings served as a working basis for an initial open discussion among all the delegations present.

Several delegations emphasised the need for a common reference framework for the use of dispersants.

The discussions also highlighted the need for a clear and rapid validation mechanism for the use of dispersants between neighbouring countries. Several delegations therefore supported the creation of a unified sub-regional protocol to regulate these exchanges and simplify cross-authorisations.

Discussions then focused on the need for enhanced coordination between countries to ensure a rapid and effective response and the designation of national monitoring centres responsible for receiving and transmitting incident notifications at the sub-regional level.

An in-depth discussion then focused on the concept of prior authorisation for the use of dispersants.

Session 13: Framework and objectives of the agreement: expected content and presentation of the working tool

During this session, Lindsay Page-Jones presented a possible framework for the future sub-regional agreement, specifying its overall objective, scope and proposed governance principles. The agreement will aim to harmonise national regulations, strengthen cooperation between States and define clear mechanisms for mutual assistance in the event of an incident involving hydrocarbons.

Mr. Lindsay Page-Jones presented the main thematic areas to be considered, including:

1stComponent: Framework and objectives of the agreement

- National regulations for the use of dispersants signed and in force, harmonised between countries;
- Approval by countries to develop and implement a sub-regional agreement on cooperation and assistance in the event of accidental oil spills at sea;
- Framework, scope, territorial scope of application, legal nature.

2^eComponent: Assistance

- Alert mechanisms, assessment, notification & regular information exchange between countries;
- Mechanisms to mobilise external technical assistance to supplement national capacities (assessment, modelling, monitoring of dispersant effectiveness, etc.) ;

- Mechanisms for mobilising and managing cross-border aerial surveillance;
- Mechanisms for mobilising external response resources to supplement national capacities (products, equipment & logistics);
- Mechanisms for managing cross-border spraying operations.

3^eComponent: Cooperation

- Regular sharing of up-to-date information on the use of dispersants and response systems and capacities in countries;
- Sub-regional cooperation mechanisms in place between countries (meetings, training, exercises, focal points, etc.);
- National and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms in place between countries and industry.

4^eComponent: Governance

- Governance structures to develop the draft agreement;
- Governance to formalise the agreement;
- Governance to implement and sustain the agreement;
- Governance to consider possible extensions to the agreement.

Based on these proposed thematic areas, Ms Anais Guillou presented a table ([Annex 4](#)) summarising the various key discussion points for developing the content of the agreement. This tool will guide the group work sessions on the third and fourth days.

2.3.3 Group work and discussion

Day 3 – Thursday, 30 October

Session 14: Group work on the following topics: framework, assistance and cooperation

On the third day of the workshop, the national delegations were divided into three working groups to examine in depth the possible contents of the future sub-regional agreement, structured around a table of major thematic components ([Annex 4](#)). Each group was led by a facilitator responsible for guiding the discussions and ensuring harmonised progress between the parallel discussions. This collective exercise aimed to encourage the active participation of all delegations while allowing all key topics to be addressed in a collaborative setting.

All groups were able to address the component on the framework and objectives of the agreement, which defines the guiding principles, scope and purposes of the text. Discussions focused in particular on the need to establish a common basis for cooperation, clarify key terms and definitions, and set realistic and measurable objectives, including for the harmonisation of national policies on the use of dispersants.

They then worked on the section on assistance and mutual support mechanisms between States in the event of an incident. Participants identified possible sources of assistance (governmental, private or international), the resources that could be mobilised (qualified personnel, response equipment, dispersants, technical advice, analysis and monitoring resources) and the general principles for making them available, recalling that the provision of assistance should remain non-binding and at the discretion of the assisting party, in accordance with Article 7 of the 1990 OPRC Convention.

Finally, the session ended with the Cooperation Component, which focused on the establishment of coordination and communication mechanisms between countries. Discussions focused on the designation of national focal points, the role of an operational technical secretariat, information-sharing arrangements, and the possibility of organising joint exercises and periodic meetings to strengthen exchanges and regional responsiveness. This collaborative exercise resulted in concrete and convergent proposals on the broad outlines of the future agreement, thus laying the foundations for a joint document reflecting both national priorities and the collective will for cooperation within the sub-region.

Day 4 – Friday 31 October

Session 15: Group work on governance

On the fourth day, group work continued in a plenary session, focusing on the final component relating to governance. The aim was to define the management, coordination and monitoring arrangements for the future sub-regional agreement. The discussions identified several key elements for ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the cooperation mechanism.

Participants emphasised the need to establish a clear governance structure, based on a steering committee responsible for strategic monitoring and a technical secretariat, or operational coordination unit, responsible for day-to-day support for the implementation of the agreement. This secretariat could ensure the flow of information, the updating of national inventories, support for Member States and the preparation of periodic meetings, among other things.

It was also proposed that rules of procedure be established specifying the functioning of the committee, the frequency of meetings, the decision-making process and the financing arrangements. The delegations agreed that the governance of the agreement should be based on the principles of transparency, neutrality and equitable rotation of responsibilities among countries. Finally, the importance of regularly assessing progress and periodically updating the text was emphasised, in order to adapt the cooperation framework to changing national and regional contexts.

This plenary session thus made it possible to consolidate the proposals from the working groups and outline a common governance architecture.

Session 16: Work on the stages and processes of development and implementation:

The final session, chaired by Ms Anaïs Guillou (GI WACAF), was devoted to defining the stages of development, validation and implementation of the future sub-regional agreement on the use of dispersants. The aim of this session was to clarify the technical and political phases of the process, from consultation between countries to the signing and implementation of the agreement, and to identify the annual or cyclical activities necessary for its sustainability.

The discussions led to a general consensus on the roadmap to be followed, based on several milestones: technical consolidation of the text through inter-state exchanges, institutional validation by the relevant ministries, official signing of the agreement, and then its gradual implementation (with the support of GI WACAF).

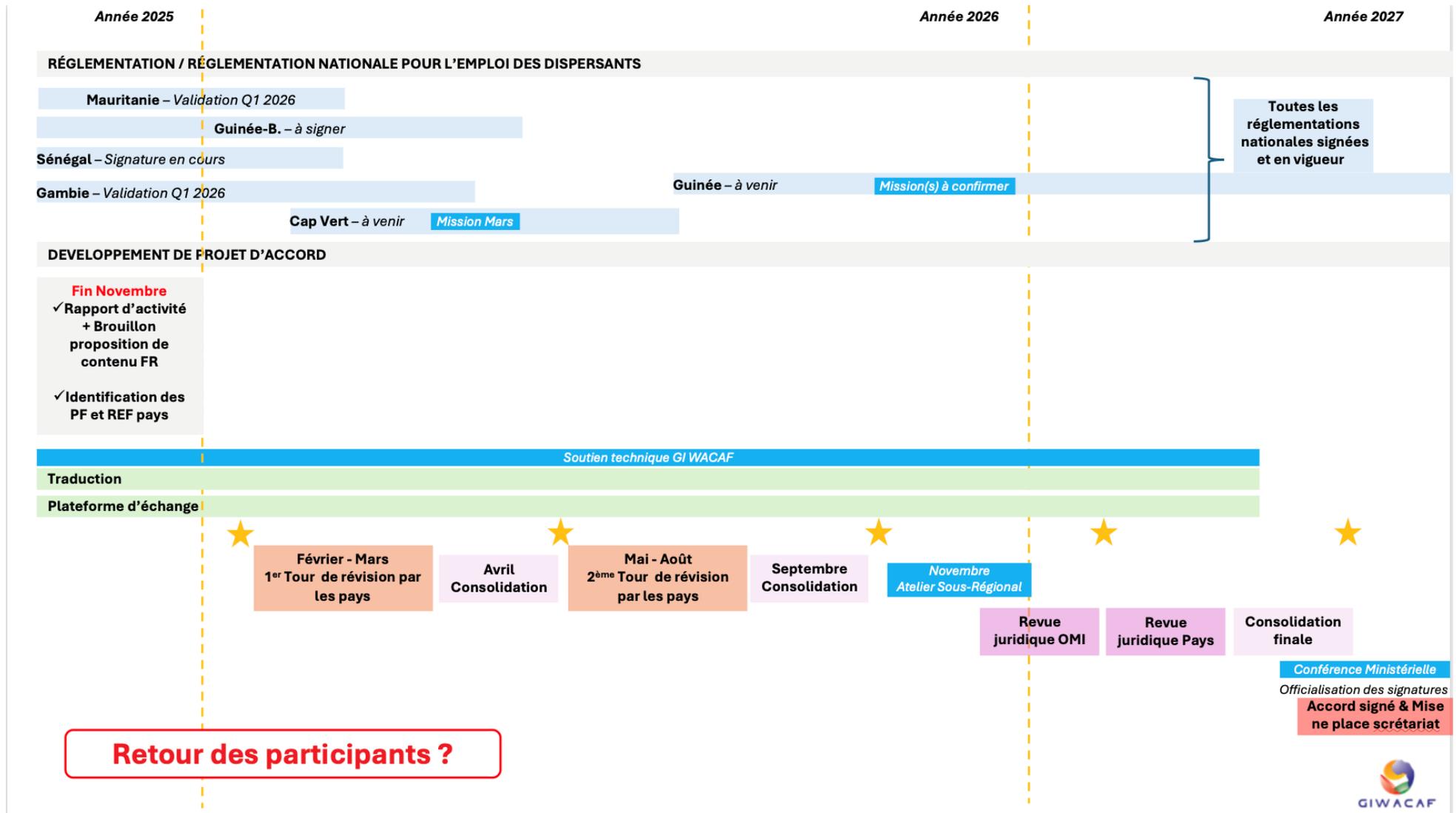


Figure 2: Roadmap for the next steps leading up to the signing of the Agreement

The issue of external partnerships was then addressed. Mr Babana Yahya Emhamed (Mauritania) suggested that COP 15 of the Abidjan Convention, scheduled for 2027, could provide an opportunity for the official signing of the agreement, noting that the IMO should be represented there. He also mentioned the need to keep the oil industry informed about the project and to consider its participation in certain stages.

Ms Anaïs Guillou pointed out that the agreement is primarily an instrument between States, not a partnership with the private sector, while recognising the importance of regularly informing industry players and consulting them as necessary.

With regard to the roadmap, participants acknowledged that it was ambitious, but agreed on the need to move forward without waiting for all countries to be at the same level of preparedness. The possibility of signing in successive waves, with a first group of countries ready to sign, was considered in order to avoid any deadlock. Each delegation committed to following the objectives set out in the roadmap and to continuing discussions on the basis of a shared collaborative document.

During the discussion, it was suggested that the IMO should officially support the initiative in order to strengthen its legitimacy with the signatory ministries.

The Gambia stressed the importance of this IMO support being reflected not only in an official letter, but also in enhanced communication integrated into reports and working documents. Ms Anaïs Guillou confirmed that the WACAF IG would prepare an official letter of support from the IMO to be sent in the first quarter of 2026, accompanied by an updated timeline for the ministers concerned.

Finally, the session concluded with the consolidation of the summaries and recommendations from the four components of the future agreement, followed by a plenary presentation by the rapporteurs of the key recommendations and a joint action plan for the continuation of the agreement development process.

2.4 closing ceremony

The closing ceremony on 31 October 2025 was attended by the Secretary General of HASSMAR, Mr Mamadou Ndiaye.

On behalf of the delegations, The Gambia thanked GI WACAF, IMO and Senegal, emphasising that the draft agreement discussed provides a solid basis for strengthening sub-regional cooperation. Senegal reiterated the importance of the discussions held and its willingness to follow the roadmap towards a formal agreement by 2027. Mauritania and Cabo Verde also welcomed the initiative, stressing the need to strengthen regulatory harmonisation and regional cooperation in the face of increasing risks associated with offshore activities and maritime traffic.

On behalf of GI WACAF, Ms Anaïs Guillou highlighted the quality of the work, the identification of technical priorities and the development of a collective action plan, reaffirming the commitment of GI WACAF and the IMO to support countries in the rest of the process.

In closing the workshop, the Secretary General of HASSMAR emphasised the importance of enhanced cooperation and assistance and regulatory harmonisation, in particular through a common list of approved dispersants. He also announced the celebrations for HASSMAR's 20th anniversary in 2026 and invited GI WACAF to participate.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of certificates.

3 Recommendations

3.1 Recommendations for countries

- Officially appoint national technical advisors in charge of this project; provide them with the means to collaborate effectively on this project (time, technical resources, travel, meetings, etc.); and identify and bring together the skills, human and technical resources necessary for the project (specialists in marine response, coastal specialists, specialists in cooperation and assistance, etc.).
- Provide timely feedback to all countries, using the WACAF IG for information sharing, to help develop the project: proposed agreement content, national response regulations and resources, options for the signing process, activities to be considered for implementation, etc.
- Identify reasonable deadlines for the proposed stages of the roadmap, identify potential obstacles to development and implementation, mitigation measures at national level and possible external support needs.
- Ensure the involvement and support of the relevant ministries for the project.
- Identify the relevant levels and processes for signing the draft agreement and ensure that its provisions are consistent with those of other countries.
- Ensure that the (minimum) resources necessary for the development, signing and implementation of the agreement are available.
- Identify the need for updates to the National Plan and national regulations (as necessary) and carry them out.
- Ensure the rapid entry into force of national regulations on the use of dispersants, harmonised with other countries in the sub-region.
- Participate in the creation of a network of national focal points to develop the draft agreement and facilitate its signing and implementation.

- Identify the specific technical, legal, organisational and other support needs for this project.
- Develop, with other countries in the sub-region, cooperation mechanisms to develop and implement this project.
- Develop, at the national level, information and cooperation processes with the oil and gas industry.

3.2 Recommendations to the International Maritime Organisation

- Request that the IMO send a letter to the competent authorities of the countries and to the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention to remind them of the objectives of this project, inform them of the results of this first workshop, the planned follow-up actions and the need for support from the relevant ministries in 2026.
- Support the development and implementation of the agreement by maintaining regular communication with the relevant ministries in the six countries.
- Provide countries with technical assistance, as needed, for the harmonisation of national regulations on the use of dispersants.
- Provide countries with technical and legal assistance, as needed, for the development of the provisions of the agreement, the signing process and the implementation of the agreement.

4 Conclusion

This sub-regional workshop, dedicated to the harmonisation of the use of dispersants and cooperation and assistance in combating oil spills at sea, marked a milestone in regional cooperation between Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal. It provided an opportunity to collectively address the technical, regulatory and operational issues related to the use of dispersants and to lay the foundations for a future general sub-regional cooperation and assistance agreement.

Throughout the week, the discussions enabled participants to draw up a shared inventory of national regulations, available capacities and practices for the use of dispersants, and to identify areas of convergence and the need for harmonisation between countries.

The technical and plenary discussions demonstrated a strong consensus around several principles: the need for harmonised pre-authorisation, the establishment of a common list of approved dispersants

More importantly, the work also made it possible to define the main components of a future cooperation and assistance agreement for response operations, mechanisms for operational assistance between States, a permanent coordination framework promoting information exchange and responsiveness in the event of an incident, and finally to draw up a clear roadmap for the validation, signing and implementation of this instrument.

Participants also reaffirmed the importance of building on the provisions of the OPRC 90 Convention and the Emergency Protocol to the Abidjan Convention, to which the countries of the region are signatories, in order to anchor this agreement in existing international commitments.

At the end of the proceedings, a common vision emerged: that of a sub-region that is better prepared, better connected and capable of acting collectively to address the risks of marine pollution.

The WACAF IG reiterated its commitment to supporting States in continuing the process until the agreement is signed and formally adopted, which is expected to happen by 2027.

5 Annexes

5.1 Annex 1 – Opening speech

Mamadou Ndiaye, Secretary General of HASSMAR

Captain, Director of the CMMC Zone G;

Director General of ANAM;

Madam Head of the GI WACAF Project;

Expert trainers;

Ladies and gentlemen delegates;

Dear representatives of stakeholders in government action at sea;

Distinguished guests, in your respective capacities, ranks and qualities.

It is with a deep sense of honour and responsibility that I stand before you today, in my capacity as Secretary General of HASSMAR, to officially open this regional workshop on harmonisation and cooperation in the use of dispersants during marine oil pollution response operations.

The aim of this four-day sub-regional workshop is to strengthen our collaboration, share our experiences and develop common strategies for the effective and responsible use of dispersants, thereby contributing to the protection of our marine and coastal ecosystems. Allow me first of all to welcome you to Senegal and to express my deep gratitude to the International Maritime Organisation, IPIECA and the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) for choosing Senegal, the country of Teranga, to host this important event, which aims to strengthen the capacities of six States in the sub-region.

I would also like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the senior management of the National Maritime Affairs Agency (ANAM), the IMO focal point, for agreeing to support Senegal's contribution to the organisation of this important meeting, which is attended by high-level delegates from Senegal's friends and brothers, whom I greet by their titles, names and capacities.

I am also delighted by the remarkable participation of Senegalese organisations involved in the protection of the marine environment.

Madam Head of the GI WACAF project,

The GI WACAF project is a privileged partner of HASSMAR in the establishment of a national system to combat marine oil pollution. Since 2008, GI WACAF has supported HASSMAR in the development of its national plans to combat marine oil pollution, in particular the POLMAR Plan and the POLMAR-TERRE Plan.

I would just like to say that, thanks to your technical support, Senegal now has a coherent national system for combating marine pollution, which is tested and proven periodically through exercises.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The highest authorities of our coastal States, aware that maritime areas are significantly exposed to the risks of pollution linked in particular to maritime traffic and offshore exploration or exploitation activities, are working on a daily basis to strengthen the legal, institutional and operational frameworks for combating marine oil pollution.

To this end, and in line with this dynamic, the State of Senegal has signed and ratified several relevant international conventions on combating marine pollution and protecting the marine and coastal environment. This ratification has resulted in the harmonisation and adaptation of legal, institutional and operational frameworks, as well as the development and implementation of a national plan to combat marine oil pollution (POLMAR Plan) since 2009. Since 2022, this plan has been reinforced by a national plan to combat marine pollution affecting land areas (POLMAR-TERRE plan), the implementation of which is based on a vulnerability map of sensitive areas along the Senegalese coastline.

In addition to this arsenal of operational tools, the State of Senegal has established a regulatory framework for the use of dispersants.

Furthermore, since the last workshop organised in Dakar by GI WACAF in 2017 on the use of dispersants and Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA), we have seen significant progress in our countries' policies on the use of dispersants.

However, despite the political will of our respective States, the maritime environment in our region remains vulnerable to the risks of oil pollution. A coordinated and harmonised response to these incidents is essential to minimise their health, ecological and economic impact.

That is why I welcome this initiative by the GI WACAF Project to bring our States together to establish a coherent and harmonised framework for the optimal use of dispersants.

Dear participants,

During this workshop, you will undoubtedly have the opportunity to deepen your knowledge of dispersants, analyse response protocols, assess the associated environmental risks, and discuss best practices in decision-making and post-response monitoring. These technical and strategic exchanges are essential to ensuring the effectiveness and safety of our response to oil spills.

We must therefore seize this opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation, promote the sharing of experiences, and encourage the establishment of a harmonised framework for a coordinated response to cross-border challenges.

I would also like to welcome all the experts, government representatives, international partners and all those involved in the preservation of our maritime areas. Your participation is a testament to your unwavering commitment and provides the foundation on which we will build robust and sustainable responses.

I wish you all a fruitful workshop, rich in constructive exchanges and concrete proposals. By working closely together, we can build a solid framework for a more coherent, effective and environmentally friendly response in our region.

I hereby officially declare this sub-regional workshop open.

Thank you for your attention.

Anais Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager, IMO/IIECA

Dear Secretary General of the High Authority for the Coordination of Maritime Safety and Protection of the Marine Environment (HASSMAR)

Director General of the National Maritime Affairs Agency (ANAM)

Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of the delegations from Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal,

Distinguished guests, in your ranks, grades and capacities, with all due respect,

Good morning,

It is my pleasure and honour to address you at the opening of this sub-regional workshop on harmonisation and cooperation concerning the use of dispersants. This meeting is organised in cooperation with the authorities of the Republic of Senegal, in particular HASSMAR and ANAM, and benefits from the technical and financial support of the International Maritime Organisation and IIECA.

This support is provided within the framework of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa, the GI WACAF project. This project was established in 2006 and aims to strengthen countries' capacity to prepare for and respond to oil spills at sea by promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors, in particular the oil industry.

In its 20 years of existence, the GI WACAF project has worked with the authorities of the 22 African member states of the initiative. Together, we have organised more than 150 activities that have enabled a large number of countries to strengthen their capacity to prepare for and respond to oil spills.

The countries gathered here — Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal — share a maritime space that is vital to their economies and ecosystems. Oil exploration and production, maritime trade, and the passage of tankers and commercial vessels through the region's waters offer significant economic opportunities. However, this economic windfall comes with the risk of marine pollution from oil spills. Such pollution would have environmental and economic impacts and could threaten the food security of populations dependent on fishing and coastal resources. This is a risk that should not be overlooked and is recognised by the governments in the area.

In order to protect themselves as effectively as possible against this risk, each country needs to have a functional and effective system of prevention, preparedness, response and remediation.

However, accidental spills know no borders and can become a serious cross-border problem within a matter of hours. This therefore also highlights the crucial importance of cooperation between countries to strengthen preparedness and response capacity for oil spills in the WACAF region. Faced with the risks of accidental cross-border pollution, it is essential that we speak with one voice, share our expertise and act in a coordinated manner. The objective of the project that brings us together this week is clear: to establish, as far as possible, a harmonised framework for the use of dispersants, to strengthen cooperation between countries and to organise mutual assistance in the event of an incident.

The process we are initiating together this week is based on the OPRC 90 and Abidjan Conventions, which are the pillars of regional cooperation in pollution preparedness and

response. With the support of the WACAF IG and IMO technical advisers, over the next four days we will discuss and work on four key areas:

Harmonising regulations on the use of dispersants; strengthening cooperation and information sharing; facilitating mutual assistance in the event of an incident; structuring sustainable and inclusive governance.

These priorities are central to a common goal: to protect the marine environment in a sustainable manner while strengthening the region's response capabilities. This collective effort reflects an approach that is technical, progressive and realistic.

I would like to commend the efforts of national authorities, technical experts, and regional and industrial partners. This meeting marks a decisive step towards stronger, more operational and more united cooperation for the benefit of the region.

I invite you to participate in this work with the same determination and spirit of collaboration that characterise the GI WACAF project. On behalf of the IMO and IPIECA, I thank you for your commitment and wish you fruitful discussions.

Thank you.

5.2 Appendix 2 – Programme

Day 1 – 28 October	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome remarks – <i>Captain M. NDIAYE, SG HASSMAR</i> Opening remarks – <i>Anaïs Guillou, GI WACAF Project Manager</i>
10:00	Break and group photo
10:45 – 11:00	Introduction and objectives - <i>Marine Laigle, GI WACAF</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Introduction to marine response – <i>Franck Laruelle, ITOPF</i> <i>Challenges, possible techniques depending on the type of oil / Tactics depending on the type of oil and incident</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Reminder/ Dispersants and hydrocarbons - <i>Lindsay Page-Jones, Astan</i> <i>Principle of chemical dispersion & Dispersant product / Fate of hydrocarbons dispersed in seawater / Dispersibility of hydrocarbons, limitations. Window of opportunity</i>
12:00 – 12:30	Reminder / Effect of dispersant use and implications - <i>Franck Laruelle, ITOPF</i> <i>Toxicity and bioavailability of dispersed hydrocarbons / Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) / Geographical limitations on the use of dispersants / Testing and approval of dispersant products</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Reminder / Use of dispersants - <i>Marie Goarin, OSRL</i> <i>Spreading equipment and maritime and aerial operations / Monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness / Spreading capacities and external assistance</i>
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Key elements for a national dispersant use policy – <i>Anaïs Guillou, GI WACAF</i> <i>Example of the GI WACAF guidance document / Concepts of "pre-authorisation" and "derogation" / Dispersant application methods: ship – aircraft – SSDI</i>
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Industry & Dispersants – <i>Andrew Tucker, bp</i>
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Technical & regulatory aspects of dispersant use: Questions & Answers
3:30–4:00	Break
4:00 p.m. – 4:30	Why a sub-regional agreement on the use of dispersants for the sub-region (risks/relevance)? – Round table discussion – <i>GI WACAF</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Reminder of key provisions relevant to a draft agreement – <i>OPRC 90 Convention & Emergency Protocol to the Abidjan Convention</i> <i>GI WACAF</i>

5:00 p.m.	Overview of some (sub-)regional agreements on preparedness and response around the world – Franck Laruelle, ITOPF
17:30	End of Day 1

Day 2 – 29 October	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00	Status of national regulations for the use of dispersants – Senegal / Mauritania / Guinea-Bissau / Guinea (15 min per country)
10:00	Resources required for the use of dispersants - Marie Goarin, OSRL Key issue: ability to spread quickly over an area / Key elements: decision-making process, prior authorisation, spreading system and method / Role of national authorities
10:30	Break
11:00 – 11:30	Status of national regulations for the use of dispersants – continued - Gambia / Cape Verde - (15 min per country)
11:30 – 12:30	Summary of national regulations on the use of dispersants in countries in the sub-region – GI WACAF Reminder of the principles and possible approaches for harmonising regulations and practices and for developing a sub-regional cooperation and assistance agreement on the use of dispersants – GI WACAF
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
1:30pm – 2:15pm	Scope and objectives of the agreement Lindsay Page-Jones, Astan •Expected content •Presentation of the working tool
14:15 – 14:30	Reminder of key points for harmonising national regulations
14:30 – 15:30	Proposed discussion points for developing the content of the agreement – Assistance & financing
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Break
16:00 – 17:15	Proposed discussion points for developing the content of the agreement – Cooperation & Governance & nature of the agreement
17:15 – 17:30	Formation of discussion groups for Days 3 & 4 Presentation of the agenda, practical organisation and reporting procedures GI WACAF
17:30	End of Day 2

Day 3 - 30 October	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 - 10:30	Group work on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regulation & harmonisation of national regulations on the use of dispersants •Support
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 – 13:00	Group work on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cooperation •Governance & nature of the agreement
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Feedback & Summary of group work on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Regulation & harmonisation of national regulations on the use of dispersants •Attendance •Cooperation •Governance & nature of the agreement
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	Presentation of the content proposal document – Introduction & overview
17:30	End of day 3

Day 4 – 31 October	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 10:30	Presentation of the content proposal document – Assistance
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 – 12:30	Work on the stages and processes of development and implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Technical development and validation stages between countries Signing and implementation stages •Annual/cyclical stages or activities
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Consolidation of summaries of recommendations for the four components + structure/content of the agreement + development and implementation stages

15:30 – 16:00	Feedback from rapporteurs, with key recommendations and action plan
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Closing ceremony
16:30	Coffee break – End of workshop

5.3 Appendix 3 – List of participants

Name	Position	Organisation	Gender	Source of funding	Email Address
Ngouye SOUGOUFARA	Head of Operations	HASSMAR	M	Self-funded	sougoufaran@gmail.com
Marie Rose DIOH	Legal expert in maritime and oceanic activities	HASSMAR	F	Self-funded	marodioh1@gmail.com
Fatim Ndao	Intern	HASSMAR	F	Self-funded	
Anna Thérèse Ndiaye	Intern	HASSMAR	F	Self-funded	
Ndeye Khadidjatou Sarr	IT Intern	HASSMAR	F	Self-funded	sarrkhadija40@gmail.com
MYA CHRISTY ATSITSINIGA AGNENGUE	Maritime law intern	HASSMAR	F	Self-funded	myaagnengue@gmail.com
Ndeye Fatimata Lo	CMSI	HASSMAR	F	Self-funded	nd.fatimata.lo@gmail.com
Oumy KA	Communications and Public Relations Advisor	HASSMAR	F	Self-funded	oumy.ka@hassmar.gouv.sn
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Fatou Diarra Sakho	Chief of MRCC	MRCC	F	Self-funded	chef.mrcc@hassmar.gouv.sn
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Koudy WANE	QHSE Engineer	PETROSEN HOLDING SA	M	Self-funded	kwane@petrosen.sn

*National workshop to update the Republic of Congo's National Emergency Response Plan
Pointe-Noire, Congo, 22-26 January 2024*

Ibrahima DJIGO	Head of the DPM and Marine Pollution Control and Monitoring Division	ANAM	M	Self-funded	ibrahima.djigo@anam.sn
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Oury Sow Gueye	Operations Division	Fisheries Protection and Surveillance Directorate	M	Self-funded	
Moustapha Diop	Head of Project Monitoring	ANAM	M	Self-funded	moustapha.diop@anam.sn
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Babana Yahya Emhamed	Independent Expert	AMAM	M	IMO-funded	Babana.ould.yahya@gmx.com
Toutou Mahfoudh	Head of Maritime Transport Auxiliary Management Service	AMAM	F	IMO-funded	Toutouhabib@amam.gov.mr
Mohamed Lemine Chrif Mahmed	Director of Marine Environment Preservation	AMAM	M	IMO-funded	dpem@amam.gov.mr
Fatoumata Linda Sall	Changed studies	GIWACAF	F	IMO-funded	Fatoumatalindasall@gmail.com
Rassy Kanté	Head of the Ship Inspection Department	Centre for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zone	F	IMO-funded	Rasydak@gmail.com
Aleida de Fátima Correia Andrade Gonçalves	Maritime Delegate	Port Maritime Institute	F	IMO-funded	Aleida.f.andrade@imp.cv
Marino Rodrigues Gomes	harbour master	Maritime Port Institute	M	IMO-funded	marino.rodrigues@gov.cv

*National workshop to update the Republic of Congo's National Emergency Response Plan
Pointe-Noire, Congo, 22-26 January 2024*

Wandifa Saidyleigh	Director of Marine Environment, Governance and Policy	Gambia Maritime Administration	M	IMO-funded	wandifa@yahoo.co.uk
Lamin Komma	Programme Manager and Head of Coastal and Marine Environment Programme	National Environment Agency	M	IMO-funded	Komma16@yahoo.com
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5.4 Annex 4 - Table of proposed content for the subregional agreement by component

The tables below summarise the proposed content, by component, for the subregional cooperation and assistance agreement, as discussed between participants, and the initial responses.

The information below is provided for guidance only.

CHAPTERS OF THE SUBREGIONAL AGREEMENT: FRAMEWORK & STATUS		
Subject		Response
Purpose	<p>Define the objectives of the agreement. E.g.: harmonisation of regulations on the use of dispersants, adoption of guidelines for the use of dispersants shared between countries.</p> <p>AND cooperation (in peacetime), assistance in the event of pollution for spreading AND for general response at sea in the event of accidental spills ==> Possible extension to general response offshore</p>	No objection to the principles of cooperation mentioned above.
SCOPE		Response
Technical scope	<p>Specify the technical scope: In general, emergency response in the event of accidental spills of hydrocarbons (and possibly other hazardous substances) causing a spill of these substances (or risk thereof) into the marine and coastal environment.</p> <p>In particular, the use of authorised dispersants spread on the water surface or injected at the source of the leak (oil installations) in the event of accidental HC pollution.</p> <p>Option. And may be extended as necessary to other response means and resources.</p>	<p>Necessary distinction regarding the response to oil spills. The subject of HNS may be considered at a later stage, depending on the progress made by the parties in updating the relevant convention (OPRC HNS Protocol 2000).</p>

Geographical scope	Specify the geographical coverage of the agreement. E.g. (ref. OPRC 90): Marine environment, coastal areas and related interests. EXPLANATION = coasts and beaches, territorial waters, EEZs of each country + inland waters (->Guinea-Bissau) + archipelagic waters (-> Cape Verde) Specify any special transboundary water areas (e.g. joint areas)	The term "inland waters" should be excluded in order to take into account the specific cases of Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. Prefer the use of the term "areas under the jurisdiction of the States Parties to the Agreement".
Type of substance	Specify the type of substances taken into account: HC and possibly SNPD	
Type of event	Specify the type of event taken into account. E.g.: Accidental spills & spill risks or other accidental releases from fixed installations, ports, ships, other sources and unknown sources	
Possible exclusions?	E.g. OPRC 90 warships	
DEFINITION		Response
Definition of terms	Specify the definition of general terms used in the Agreement: -> use of terms from the OPRC 90 Convention, Art. 2?	No objection
	Addition of supplementary definitions ----- to be specified, examples: - other terms not covered by OPRC 90: - Chemical dispersion - Response operation (at sea) - Claiming party - Assisting party - Products (dispersants): - Equipment - Logistical support ----- Other? -----	

NATIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM & COMPETENT AUTHORITIES		Response
National response system	Recall the obligations of a State Party to the OPRC 90 Convention, in particular Article 6.	
Competent Authorities - Assistance	Which authorities are responsible (Ref. Art. 6 OPRC 90) for: - sending requests for assistance; - receiving requests for assistance and making offers of assistance; and - accepting offers of assistance.	
Focal points - Subregional agreement	Each country shall designate high-level representatives of the competent national authorities or entities with the authority and responsibility to approve and sign the Agreement (ministers or others). Countries will also define the validation and signature procedure and determine whether a Conference of the Parties is necessary for the signing of the Agreement, or whether each party can sign it independently in its own country.	
RELATIONS WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS & MECHANISMS		Response
References to existing instruments	IMPORTANT. Refer to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Montego Bay, 1982 & Convention	Mention in order: 1.Montego Bay 2.OPRC 90 3.Abidjan Convention
	IMPORTANT. Refer to the 1990 OPRC Convention	
	IMPORTANT. Refer to the Abidjan Convention and its Emergency Protocol.	
	What are the interfaces/relationships with key organisations (IMO, Abidjan Convention Secretariat) and the role or support expected from them?	
	Consider a reference to the OPRC-HNS Protocol of 2000	
	Consider a reference to other IMO conventions as appropriate.	

References to other mechanisms	Consider a reference to other regional instruments, mechanisms or organisations in force, if relevant. E.g. Yaoundé Architecture	
	Consider a reference to other instruments/mechanisms not in force in the subregion but which may contain relevant information: CCLME?	
	What support is available from other initiatives (e.g. GI WACAF, without mention required in the Agreement)?	
	What are the main relationships with representatives of the oil and gas industry in the countries?	
REFERENCES TO NATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF DISPERSANTS		Response
	Commitment to have national regulations in place. And to share it.	
HARMONISATION OF NATIONAL REGULATIONS		Response
	Commitment to find possible points of harmonisation. Possible references to annexes, guidelines and other documents?	
LEGAL STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT		Response
Legal nature	Discuss the legal nature of the agreement: - non-binding (Declaration of Intent, MoU) - binding, including financial provisions - other?	The term "Agreement" is currently preferred, with non-binding status. The term "letter of intent" is to be excluded as it is considered too weak by Senegal and Mauritania.

CHAPTERS OF THE SUBREGIONAL AGREEMENT: ASSISTANCE, COORDINATION & COST RECOVERY

Notification & information		Response
<p>Authorities & Procedures</p>	<p>Principle of obligation to inform neighbouring countries, particularly if there is a risk to those neighbouring countries.</p> <p>Which national authorities are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ISSUING alerts and notifications to neighbouring countries; - RECEIVING alerts and notification forms from neighbouring countries. 	<p>Consensus on the principle of mandatory reporting. Each country must identify and share the authority that will be responsible for issuing alerts.</p> <p>Another option would be to mobilise the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of each Party for this purpose, and in cases where there is no MRCC in place, to appoint a focal point or institution.</p> <p>Senegal: HASSMAR Gambia: Gambian Maritime Authority (GMA) Cape Verde: Instituto Marítimo e Portuário</p> <p>It will also be necessary to specify the context in which the principle of obligation applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the event of a Tier 3 incident - If the country requires assistance regardless of the level of pollution - Risks of cross-border impact
	<p>What are the procedures followed by national authorities to alert and notify the authorities of neighbouring countries in a timely manner in the event of a potentially transboundary spill or a major spill that may subsequently justify a request for assistance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Via emergency channels (e.g. MRCC) - Via diplomatic channels (e.g. exchange via M.A.E. of Note Verbale) 	<p>In terms of procedures, both channels (emergency and diplomatic) are required, with contact points to be specified for each country in an annex to the Agreement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A rapid/operational channel (alert, notification, information, emergency measures): Maritime Affairs/administrations in charge of maritime emergencies, monitoring centre, MRCC, etc. 2. An official channel (request, offer and acceptance of assistance): Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs, Embassies, etc. <p>These channels must be consistent with existing emergency systems.</p>

Information	Which national authorities/organisations are responsible for producing/receiving situation reports during the pollution event?	Several proposals (MRCC and national focal point institutions) but consensus on the need for a rapid channel, with a platform for information exchange between countries (IARIS, etc.). To be specified in an annex to the agreement.
	What are the procedures followed by national authorities to regularly inform neighbouring countries of the situation during events, the plans activated, the teams mobilised and the operations underway?	Proposal to exchange an information note via the predefined rapid channel between focal point institutions.
Option	Sharing of aerial/satellite observation results, modelling, etc.	Yes. See above (information note)
Conditions for the provision of assistance		Response
General conditions	<p>Agreement in principle between countries to assist each other in the event of an accidental spill?</p> <p>What are the "means" of assistance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competent personnel? - Technical advice (remote) for information, modelling, intervention, etc.? - Products (government property/other?) - Spreading equipment and other response equipment - means of monitoring, sampling, measuring the quality of the marine and atmospheric environment - Response and monitoring vessels and aircraft - means of analysing samples - and any other means relevant to response and monitoring <p>Possible sources of assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government - Private sector in the country - possibly external - others? 	<p>Consensus on general conditions and agreement on possible means and sources of assistance. However, the question of industry has arisen. Senegal has an agreement with BP for the use of response equipment, but this does not authorise Senegal to use it in response to a request for assistance from a neighbouring country.</p> <p>Question of the need for an MoU between countries to ensure a responsive assistance? Also, need to clarify assistance through a pre-approved document.</p>

	<p>What are the general principles for providing assistance? IMPORTANT. Remember that the provision of assistance is always at the discretion of the assisting party. Ref. OPRC 90 Art. 7</p>	
Expression of needs	<p>Commitment to formulate clear, detailed, quantified written requests.</p> <p>Involvement of technical managers from the countries concerned in drafting urgent requests for assistance.</p> <p>Reminder of the need to use the same language for requests and offers of assistance.</p> <p>Consider using existing guidelines, in particular: COMMON LEXICON FOR SIGNIFICANT EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TYPES</p>	<p>Consensus</p> <p>Add a reference to the LEXICON in the IOA (IMO) guidelines</p>
Requests and acceptance of offers	<p>What are the points of contact in countries for sending/receiving offers (OPRC 90, Art. 6)? And the channels and methods of emergency communication (?) / official communication?</p> <p>What are the forms for 1/ requesting and 2/ accepting an offer of assistance? Ref. Appendix SAMPLE ACCEPTANCE/DECLINE COMMUNICATION of "Guidelines on International Offers of Assistance in Response to a Marine Oil Pollution Incident" (January 2016)</p> <p>How is the offer of assistance between the two parties formalised in a contract? How are the costs assessed (in advance)?</p>	<p>The official points of contact are the countries' Ministries of Foreign Affairs, with all the administrations involved in copy (e.g. note verbale, accompanied by technical documents).</p> <p>Add document templates to the Annexes to the Agreement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request 2. Offer 3. Acceptance 4. Contractual clauses <p>To be taken into account and defined: Cost assessment (using a matrix), currency to be defined, etc.</p>
Principle of transfer of responsibility	<p>Include the principle of defining the "point of transfer of responsibility" for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - personnel from the country providing assistance, i.e. the place and date from which the country requesting assistance assumes responsibility for the safety and security of personnel, working conditions in the country, etc. - equipment from the country providing assistance, i.e. the place and 	<p>Provide for transfer clauses adapted to the terms of assistance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Provision of resources and consumables -> Transfer point to be defined 2 - Provision of resources and competent personnel for deployment -> Transfer point to be defined 3 - Provision of vessels/aircraft complete with crew. No complete transfer - to be adapted

	<p>date from which the country requesting assistance assumes responsibility for the equipment.</p>	<p>This transfer point may be the customs clearance location or any other location agreed between the assisting party and the requesting party.</p> <p>The requester shall provide for technical verification and validation of the resources provided by the assistant upon receipt of the resources at the point of transfer of responsibilities. The requester shall verify the type, quantity, condition, etc. of the resources.</p>
<p>Principle of immunity/limitation of liability</p>	<p>Include the principle of "immunity" applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to personnel providing assistance for the duration of the assistance in the requesting country, i.e. personnel providing assistance shall not be held liable for any action, damage, repercussions or other consequences resulting from their advice or participation in the fight (except in cases of gross negligence or wilful misconduct). - the use of equipment by the country requesting assistance, i.e. the use of equipment "as is" by the country requesting assistance after its acceptance. - measures taken by units engaged in the coordinated response by the country requesting assistance, i.e. personnel from units providing assistance cannot be held liable for any action, damage, repercussions or other consequences resulting from measures taken in the context of the assistance (except in cases of gross negligence or wilful misconduct). <p>Or consider other liability and compensation regimes in the event of damage or injury caused by the provision of assistance.</p>	<p>Consensus on this principle</p>
<p>Provision of technical advice</p>	<p>What types of technical advice can be provided?</p> <p>What are the conditions?</p>	<p>Any type of technical advice related to the incident, as requested by the requesting country: technical advice on response, information, products, drift and behaviour modelling, satellite imagery, advice on response strategies, legal advice on compensation, advice on management/organisation of operations.</p>

Provision of personnel/specialists	<p>What types of personnel and skills can be provided?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment operators, aerial surveillance specialists, monitoring & sampling, management/coordination, and others <p>IMPORTANT. Competent person involved in this agreement.</p>	<p>Any personnel/specialists who may be useful. The assisting country undertakes to provide trained AND competent personnel in response to the applicant's request.</p>
	<p>Include provisions relating to responsibilities. Supporting personnel shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supports and advises the country requesting assistance but does not participate in command, supervision, decision-making or any other task that is normally the responsibility of the authorities of the country requesting assistance (unless both countries agree otherwise); - undertakes to provide its services in accordance with the instructions and guidance it receives from the supervisors of the country requesting assistance; and - undertakes not to disclose any information relating to the event, damage, response operations, etc. to external entities (except to the hierarchy of the organisation to which it belongs). 	<p>Yes, but it should be specified that it is the assisting country that is bound by confidentiality and must not disclose anything. The country in charge may, for its part, communicate any information it wishes. Diplomatic support/the embassy must also be included in the confidentiality agreement.</p>
	<p>Specify the administrative measures put in place to facilitate travel and arrival in the requesting country for personnel providing assistance and to speed up administrative procedures (such as visas and immigration procedures).</p>	<p>Yes, but specify the process, especially for visas.</p>
	<p>Include provisions to define how assisting personnel are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - informed about the local situation and conditions, safety and security measures in place, etc.; - assigned to a supervisor; - informed of their tasks and expected results, etc. 	<p>Consensus</p>

	<p>Include provisions ensuring that the requesting country provides safe and effective working conditions for support staff, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safety and security, - medical support or evacuation (if necessary), - safe working conditions in the country, personal protective equipment, - food, accommodation, - local transport, telephone and internet communications, etc. 	<p>Consensus: International flight/transportation to be covered by the assisting party. All local expenses covered by the requesting party</p>
	<p>Remember that the assisting party must ensure that its staff are always properly insured against risks.</p> <p>ANYTHING ELSE?</p>	<p>Consensus</p>
<p>Supply of products and equipment</p>	<p>What types of specialised response equipment and consumables can be supplied? IMPORTANT: Do not limit yourself to means related to spreading, but cover all means of monitoring and response in the event of accidental spills at sea.</p> <p>Commitment by the assisting party to provide equipment in good condition, complete with accessories, manuals, etc.</p> <p>NOTE. Remember that the resources here are the property of the Government but may be the property of other entities.</p>	<p>Consensus, but should not be too restrictive with regard to equipment; if incomplete, missing accessories, etc., this should not prevent mobilisation.</p>
	<p>Include the principle of "examination and acceptance" of equipment by the country requesting assistance = verification by the requesting country of the equipment upon its arrival in the country (condition, inventory as requested) for acceptance or rejection. Rejected equipment is returned to the assisting country. The assisting country is informed of the acceptance or rejection of the equipment as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Consensus. Regular equipment testing must be put in place. A report on the receipt and return of equipment is required, with the necessary supporting documents: e.g. inventory</p>

	<p>What administrative measures are in place to speed up and facilitate the shipment, transfer and receipt of equipment between countries, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - customs clearance, - practical and logistical arrangements at the port/airport - and other administrative procedures. 	<p>Define an authority with the power to implement the facilitation of these procedures, accelerated customs procedures, and the removal of import taxes and fees. Include the terms and conditions in the agreement.</p>
	<p>Include provisions specifying that the requesting party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - will use the equipment within the limits of its intended use - the equipment will be returned clean and in the same condition as when it arrived (except for normal wear and tear). - and that consumables/lost equipment will be replaced (or reimbursed). 	<p>Consensus</p>
	<p>OTHER?</p>	
<p>Provision of logistical support</p>	<p>What types of logistical support and units can be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offshore intervention vessels - monitoring/sampling vessels - vessels for the maritime transport of products/response equipment - aircraft for aerial surveillance - Land transport - means of communication, camp, base camp and any other <p>IMPORTANT. Do not limit yourself to resources related to spraying</p> <p>Commitment by the assisting party to provide resources that are in good condition, complete, insured, compliant, certified, etc.</p> <p>NOTE. Remember that the resources referred to here may be owned by the government or other entities.</p>	<p>Consensus To be added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crew and maintenance team - Maintenance during the period of assistance invoiced - Drones

	<p>Include the principle of "point of integration into operations" for assistance units, i.e. the place and date from which these units integrate into the organisation and combat operations of the requesting country and follow its tactical instructions.</p> <p>And provisions to ensure that assistance units and their personnel are, upon arrival:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - informed of the situation and safety and security measures in place, - assigned to a supervisor or commander on site, - informed of their tasks and area of operation. 	<p>Consensus, based on the transfer of responsibility.</p>
	<p>What administrative arrangements are in place to facilitate the entry of units from the assisting country into the requesting country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flight authorisation, navigation in territorial waters, entry into port, health checks, customs, security and other <p>& Include procedures to expedite the arrival of personnel on board the units in the requesting country (e.g. visas).</p>	<p>Consensus, to be specified in the agreement</p>
	<p>Include provisions for the assisting country to provide any navigation, flight and traffic authorisations necessary to provide the service.</p>	<p>Consensus</p>
	<p>Include provisions for the assisting country to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - practical and logistical arrangements for arrival and operations (e.g. airport parking, berthing space at port, provision of fuel/electricity/other supplies, crew support, security, etc.). - crew support 	<p>Consensus</p>
	<p>Include provisions specifying that units must be returned clean and in the same condition as on arrival (except for normal wear and tear).</p>	<p>Consensus</p>
	<p>OTHER?</p>	
<p>External assistance resources - DISCUSSION</p>		<p>Response</p>

	<p>REMINDER. Assistance resources may be owned by the Government of the assisting party. OR owned by the port/private sector of the assisting country. These resources should be able to benefit from the same facilitation mechanisms. (SEE ownership of assistance resources from sources outside the assisting country).</p>	<p>Specify whether the assisting country remains involved in communication when a private operator located in its waters provides assistance to country B (the requesting country).</p>
Health & Safety during operations		Response
	<p>Provision for the requesting party to undertake to provide the means and instructions to ensure that operations are carried out safely (individual and collective protective measures).</p>	<p>Consensus</p>
External communication / Confidentiality		Response
	<p>Provision for the assisting party not to disclose information related to the incident and operations without the consent of the requesting party.</p>	<p>Consensus</p>
Elements for cross-border operations		Response
	<p>Preamble. Two situations are envisaged: I. Transfer of resources from the government of country 'A' to another country 'B' to monitor pollution. II. Transfer of resources from a government/responsible party/external assistance from country 'A' to country 'B' to monitor pollution. Option (uncommon). Joint cross-border operations (air and/or sea)</p>	<p>Three main situations are envisaged: 1 - Pollution spreading from country A to country B -> TRANSFER of command of operations at sea from country A to country B (government alone or government + responsible party). 2 - Significant pollution on both sides of a maritime border -> SIMULTANEOUS OPERATIONS by countries A and B, each in their own waters under jurisdiction, with communication between commanders in the area of countries A & B, and coordination between the national response organisations of countries A & B (involvement of responsible party/others also possible). 3 - Significant pollution on both sides of a maritime border + operations involving multiple Gov. & Resp. Party vessels & others -> JOINT/COMMON OPERATION managed by the Commander in the area of A OR B (or other: Resp. Party) in the waters under the jurisdiction of A & B.</p>

	<p>What are the procedures for informing the Government of the risk of pollution crossing into another country's waters? And of operations in progress?</p>	<p>See above. Communication and coordination of operations by the heads of the national organisations in charge of the response. Regular exchange of information between countries via direct calls or designated Liaison Officers from each country (who may remain in their respective countries or join the other country's national organisation).</p>
	<p>What mechanisms are in place to enable rapid authorisation of cross-border aerial surveillance flights and the sharing of results between countries?</p>	<p>See the procedures for entering the territorial waters/airspace of each country (civil aviation, possible restrictions by the armed forces). The country conducting the aerial surveillance mission undertakes to share the results as soon as possible with the other country or countries affected or likely to be affected.</p>
	<p>What are the procedures for the rapid authorisation of the passage of ships from one country to another (EEZ & territorial waters)?</p>	<p>See above.</p>
	<p>What are the operational interfaces and mechanisms between national crisis management organisations to coordinate the passage of assistance from one country to another?</p> <p>What arrangements are in place for exchanges between national organisations?</p> <p>What arrangements are in place to transfer overall coordination of operations from one government to another? NOTE. Operations in the field may still be carried out - in part - by the resources of the first country.</p>	<p>See above for the organisations responsible. It is important that each country share information about its national organisation and the individuals or positions designated to key functions within these organisations. Interfaces will need to be defined between these various organisations (who talks to whom?). Liaison officers may be designated to facilitate exchanges between organisations as necessary.</p>
	<p>What specific arrangements should be considered when these operations involve private resources/external assistance?</p>	<p>Define the coordination arrangements between countries and the responsible Party. Contractual basis if private entity, and diplomatic basis if governmental entity.</p>
	<p>What are the interfaces and operational mechanisms for coordinating joint cross-border operations? (with possible involvement of industry).</p>	<p>See above for responsible bodies</p>

Specific elements relating to the participation of the oil and gas industry		Response
	Should specific provisions relating to assistance from the oil and gas industry between countries be included?	To be considered. In particular for cross-border interventions carried out by the industry (or likely to be carried out by the industry).
	NOTE. Various scenarios are possible. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The industry, as the responsible party, responds and continues its response in the waters of another country. - The industry assists and continues its assistance in the waters of another country. - The industry sends resources to another country - Other... 	
	What procedures should be considered?	The industry (in country A) initiates the response and mobilises additional resources (country, region, international - if necessary). The national authority in A activates its response system for major incidents and coordinates/facilitates the entire operation. The authorities in A notify and regularly update country B. The latter activates its response system as soon as a risk is confirmed. The authorities in A and B coordinate to facilitate the continuation of the intervention by the industry in the waters of A in the waters of B.
	What are the special maritime areas and/or areas of joint interest for exploitation/exploration by the oil and gas industry?	To be specified with the specific provisions in place - if applicable.
	OTHER?	
Elements for the end of response operations		Response
	What are the procedures for informing countries of the end of operations? How is the end of operations decided in the case of cross-border/joint intervention?	

	<p>Include (or not?) provisions for producing a joint post-event report, incorporating lessons learned, positive elements and areas for improvement for the agreement?</p>	
<p>Financing of assistance costs and cost recovery</p>		<p>Response</p>
	<p>What are the general principles relating to cost recovery for the provision of assistance (see Annex to the OPRC 90 Convention)?</p>	<p>Consensus to be reached.</p> <p>The financing and reimbursement of costs related to the provision of assistance must take into account the various types of assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - technical advice, modelling, satellite imagery, etc. - competent personnel (field operations, aerial surveillance, monitoring & sampling, assistance with management/coordination of operations, legal advice, etc.). - response products (dispersants) and consumables - (specialised) response equipment: spreading systems, recapture and recovery systems at sea, other response equipment, sampling and environmental quality measurement equipment, etc. - Maritime logistics resources (measurement/sampling vessels, dispersal vessels, recovery vessels, transport vessels, etc.), aerial resources (surveillance, transport, dispersal, etc.) and land-based resources (transport, etc.) <p>Different financing and reimbursement arrangements will be developed according to the type of assistance provided, based on a number of principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The applicant shall bear the costs associated with the use/operation/implementation of the loaned equipment, and repair/replacement/reimbursement as necessary. - The assisting party shall not seek to make a profit (in principle, countries shall assist each other without seeking to make a profit). - Technical advice may be invoiced if costs are incurred (e.g. acquisition of satellite images). - The assisting party may charge at cost for the salaries and other expenses of its personnel. - Equipment may be made available free of charge by the

		<p>assisting party, or invoiced at a daily rate (e.g. flat rate) for certain resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All consumables not returned in good condition to the assisting party shall be reimbursed or replaced. - The operating costs of the logistical resources made available by the assisting party will be invoiced at cost (up to and including crew salaries, where applicable).
	<p>What are the procedures for reimbursement of assistance between countries in the event of the provision of government resources? NOTE: In the case of private resources, the mechanisms will be adapted and managed directly by the entities that own these resources.</p>	<p>Invoices with supporting documents shall be sent in accordance with the contractual clauses accepted by the countries.</p> <p>Request that the assisted country cover the costs. Principle of recovery of reasonable expenses Exchange costs covered by the assisted country</p>
	<p>How to track the time/quantity of human, technical and material resources used?</p>	<p>Daily reports, monitoring of equipment before and after, inventories, checks, etc.</p>
Recovery of costs related to the provision of personnel/specialists	<p>Include methods for calculating the (daily) cost of personnel on duty in the requesting country (to be reimbursed to the assisting country), or at least the elements to be taken into account in calculating this cost.</p>	<p>Yes for all costs and expenses (not salary) -> Prior agreement on a salary for specific predefined roles.</p>
	<p>Include provisions for the reimbursement of local expenses incurred by personnel on duty in the country requesting assistance, or the direct management of these costs by the country requesting assistance (food, accommodation, local transport, telephone and internet communications, etc.).</p> <p>And reference to the OPRC 90 Convention & its Annexes</p>	<p>Consensus</p>

<p>Recovery of costs related to the supply of products and equipment</p>	<p>Include methods for calculating the costs associated with the supply of products and equipment (to be reimbursed by the country requesting assistance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - transport between countries; - waiting time and use by the country requesting assistance; - maintenance/repair and return transport; - management costs (administrative procedures) and administrative costs (customs, other procedures). <p>And reference to the OPRC 90 Convention and its Annexes</p>	<p>Yes, price to be estimated upon acceptance of the offer of assistance and clarification of the basis on which the costs are calculated: distance travelled, time taken to mobilise, fuel consumption, maintenance costs</p>
<p>Recovery of costs related to the provision of logistical support</p>	<p>Include methods for calculating the (daily) cost of units and their personnel on duty in the country requesting assistance (this cost must be reimbursed to the country providing the assistance).</p> <p>Note: costs may also cover transit and travel time between the country providing assistance and the area of operation/support, and waiting periods (i.e. periods when units are mobilised but not performing the service).</p>	<p>Yes, countries provide assistance without seeking to make a profit. The requesting party bears all operating costs. The assisting party bears the salary costs for its personnel.</p>
	<p>Include practical provisions for invoicing and payment of costs?</p>	<p>Yes (terms, currencies, etc.), via the ministries of foreign affairs</p>

CHAPTERS OF THE SUBREGIONAL AGREEMENT: COOPERATION, PREPARATION & REGULAR ACTIVITIES

INFORMATION SHARING		
Staff	<p>Do countries agree to share directories and contacts of national specialists for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > preparedness for response? response? > specialists/centres of expertise for surface spreading, monitoring, modelling, etc.? for subsea injection? 	<p>Yes, agreement in principle.</p> <p>The directory of competent personnel who can assist (from different countries) can be organised into categories according to key skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assistance with general management/coordination of operations (national team) - assistance with command of operations in the field (at sea) - assistance with health and safety at sea - specialised operators for operations and deployments at sea (spreading, containment and recovery, etc.) - aerial surveillance - Monitoring of spreading quality and samples at sea - Sample analysis laboratory and capabilities - Legal advice and compensation - etc.
Equipment	<p>Are countries willing to share inventories (government, industry, others) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > dispersants available in the countries? > dispersant application systems (surface and subsea)? > vessels/aircraft supporting dispersal in countries? <p>NB. The inventory specifies, among other things, packaging, weight and dimensions, transport constraints, owners, conditions of access and mobilisation, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > other means of intervention in the event of accidental pollution at sea > Other means of monitoring/assessment in the event of accidental pollution at sea 	<p>Yes, agreement in principle.</p> <p>Inventories (for certain logistical resources of the Armed Forces) may be limited to general specifications (e.g. type, size and main response capacity of vessels).</p> <p>In order to be operational and useful within the framework of the Agreement, inventories shall be precise and detailed, for example DISPERSANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - manufacturer, trade name, year of manufacture, expiry date, results of the last efficacy test (if expiry date has passed), etc. - SDS / MSDS - total volume and storage location - packaging (drum, barrel, IBC, ISO Tank, etc.) - owner (government, private, etc.) - Other (for transport, etc.)

		<p>For example, MARINE FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - manufacturer, trade name/model, year of manufacture - technical description and dimensions - technical specifications (material, strength, etc., area of use, limits of use) - Volume/total weight/dimensions of container (if stored in a container or other) - options/restrictions for lifting (slings? other? certification?..) - Packaging (container, other, none, etc.) - type of pump/motorisation/hydraulic unit, etc. - Fuel types (diesel/petrol) and utility oils - Accessories (supplied/to be provided) - owner (government, private, etc.) - other... <p>AND NEEDS/SUPPORT FROM SPECIALISED STAFF</p>
<p>Procedures</p>	<p>Are countries willing to share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > the main spill scenarios for which dispersants can be used, along with technical information (types of hydrocarbons, dispersibility window, etc.)? > national regulations on the use of dispersants (under review and up to date)? > national alert and notification procedures and associated forms? > national procedures for mobilising external resources and associated forms? > procedures for importing and approving dispersant products? > Other? (Safety data sheet/technical data sheet on dispersal?) etc. 	<p>Yes, agreement in principle. Upon request for procedures for importing approved dispersants.</p>

Feedback	Are countries willing to share: > feedback (post-exercise, incident, other) > other information, research, tests, etc.?	Yes, agreement in principle. This point is considered particularly important in order to strengthen skills.
Information sharing procedure.	Specify the procedure for regularly sharing information on national response systems in general and national dispersant use mechanisms (national organisation, competent authorities, (pre-)authorisation procedures, lists of dispersants, inventory of equipment, etc.) and on the Agreement (operational procedures and information).	Yes, and specify the principles in the agreement. Detail the practical arrangements in an annex to the agreement. Provide for exchange platforms.
SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND INDUSTRY		Response
Actors	What are the national focal points of the authorities (i.e. the regular liaison body between countries in exchanges relating to preparatory activities under the Agreement)? And specialists from each country who may be involved. And any contacts in the oil and gas industry?	See national plans for focal points. Technical advisors for this particular agreement to be appointed.
Cooperation between countries	Do countries agree to meet annually (in person or remotely) to review the agreement, its implementation, past activities and plans for the coming year? How?	Regular meetings of technical advisors are needed, e.g. every two years in person, and remotely between these face-to-face meetings.

	<p>Do countries agree to establish an annual programme of activities to build capacity on the subject? Including, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > national/sub-regional training? > national/sub-regional exercises (tabletop, deployment, large-scale, specialised: sampling, monitoring, decision-making processes, etc.)? > technical meetings for country specialists? > Other? <p>How?</p>	<p>Yes. These events should be detailed in a reasonable annual action plan, including meetings of representatives and other meetings. Training courses, exercises, etc. may be organised by the host country/countries in conjunction with potential partners (public/NGOs/private sector, etc.), or meetings of focal points may be linked to other events related to pollution response (organised as part of other initiatives).</p> <p>The agreement should also include, in an annex, guidelines shared between countries for chemical dispersion and monitoring and pollution response at sea in general.</p> <p>These activities should include a skills development component, tailored to the needs of each country.</p>
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	ADDITION	<p>Some countries, including Senegal, propose (following the adoption of a first version of the Agreement) and in a later phase of sub-regional capacity building, to consider the creation of a centre specialising in the response to and preparedness for accidental pollution.</p> <p>The main mission of this centre could be to serve as a centre of expertise to help States in the sub-region prepare for accidental pollution and to provide assistance/advice in the event of pollution.</p> <p>This centre could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- bring together a number of competent personnel specialised in preparedness and response- be responsible for facilitating and "bringing to life" the agreement, i.e. serving as the technical secretariat for the agreement, organising meetings of representatives and parties, updating and disseminating annexes (in particular inventories of resources, emergency and skills directories, model documents, guidelines, etc.)- organise response preparedness activities (training, exercises, etc.)- Provide technical advice in the event of pollution to the affected state(s)- Have sampling capabilities, monitor environmental quality and, in the longer term, have analysis and other capabilities- Extend the scope of activities to accidental pollution by SNPD, alternative fuels, GPI, FAME and others. <p>This centre could also help countries in the sub-region to maintain a good understanding of the risks of incidents and how they evolve, and therefore of the response capabilities to be put in place by the private sector, ports, local authorities and, in addition, at national level.</p> <p>This centre is not intended to coordinate or direct interventions. States are and remain sovereign.</p>
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COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY		Response
Cooperation with industry	<p>Do countries agree to exchange information and collaborate regularly with the oil industry on this subject? For example, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Inform each other about current projects (exploration & production, others) and future developments. > Keeping each other informed about the latest developments in the industry regarding the use of dispersants (surface and subsea). <p>How?</p>	Yes. The industry should be kept informed of progress and planned activities, and participate/provide support as necessary.
	<p>Do countries agree to carry out joint activities with the industry on this subject? And/or participate in preparedness activities? And which activities are most relevant: training, exercises, specialised meetings, technical workshops, others?</p> <p>How?</p>	Yes, in principle.
Implementation of cooperation.	<p>Specify when and how focal points (or other designated representatives) can discuss the provisions of the Agreement, potential problems and improvements, and define an annual plan of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > remotely (teleconferences scheduled at least once a year); > in person, during meetings. <p>How?</p>	Combine face-to-face and remote meetings to ensure regular exchanges (at least once a year).

CHAPTERS OF THE SUBREGIONAL AGREEMENT: GOVERNANCE		
Meetings of the parties		Response
Meetings of the parties	What are the arrangements for regular meetings of the parties?	<p>Regular meetings must be held, with at least one face-to-face meeting per year bringing together the technical representatives of the members. Virtual meetings should also be organised once a quarter to monitor activities. In the event of an incident, an extraordinary meeting, either online or face-to-face, would be convened to quickly learn lessons and share feedback. Finally, the creation of a WhatsApp group would facilitate ongoing communication between members.</p> <p>The secretariat is provided by the country hosting the meetings (rotating presidency). During these meetings, we will gradually move towards establishing a headquarters.</p> <p>Option: Maximise physical meetings from the outset to ensure the agreement is firmly established, THEN allow for greater flexibility with virtual meetings.</p>
National implementation		Response
	What is the commitment of countries to the implementation of this agreement?	
Secretariat		Response
	Is a Secretariat necessary to coordinate activities related to the agreement and disseminate information on a regular basis?	

	<p>What mechanisms are in place to ensure the Secretariat's function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - existing national entity in a country or position in an agency/ministry - national entity created in a country - existing or newly created (sub-)regional entity in a country - rotating secretariat between countries - other... 	<p>Each country will take turns providing the secretariat for a period of two years. This means that the associated costs — particularly those related to translation services, which were mentioned most frequently — will be covered by the country providing the secretariat during that period.</p>
	<p>What are the responsibilities of the Secretariat, its main tasks and the resources allocated to it?</p>	
	<p>Who should be the member(s) of this secretariat?</p>	
	<p>What is the estimated annual workload of the Secretariat (number of days)?</p>	
Funding		Response
	<p>Specify whether the Secretariat's funding is supported by one or more countries hosting the Secretariat. Or, if necessary, specific funding to be provided.</p>	<p>For a Secretariat that rotates every two years. This means that the costs incurred (in this case, mainly translation costs) will be borne by the country providing the Secretariat. => The participation costs of the countries go to the countries => Secretariat costs go to the countries providing the secretariat => For additional costs such as organising exercises, etc., consider turning to external organisations: GI WACAF - Industries - World Bank.</p>
	<p>Specify the method of financing - if necessary - of regular activities (meetings, workshops, etc.) by the countries.</p>	

Evaluation		Response
	What are the evaluation procedures?	
Updating the agreement and annexes		Response
	What are the types/values of the various parts of the agreement and the levels of signatures required?	The agreement must be signed at ministerial level. For annexes and updates: No need to go through the ministerial signature process again.
	What is the procedure for revising, amending and updating the text of the agreement: frequency, responsibilities, meetings, etc.?	
	What is the (simplified) procedure for revising and updating the annexes (with inventories, directories, operational procedures and other information)?	
	What is the procedure for disseminating updates to: - the text of the Agreement - the Annexes	
	...	
Acceptance, signature, entry into force, dissemination, duration, termination		Response

Review & signature	What is the procedure for technical acceptance of the Agreement by the parties?	<p>Each country should be allowed to choose which ministry signs the agreement, given the differences between countries in this regard. Another possibility would be to have our respective consuls sign the agreement, for example at the Abidjan secretariat => Less ceremonial</p> <p>Perhaps give preference to operational government bodies as signatories?</p> <p>Example of the Abuja MoU (financially binding): Recommendation by the IMO, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and signed by the latter, even though the Ministry of Maritime Affairs was responsible for its implementation. This may have led to the MoU's shortcomings, as the ministry responsible for signing it was not fully aware of the issues at stake.</p>
	What is the procedure for the parties to sign the text of the Agreement? - circulation between countries - Authorities competent for signing	COP 15 could be the venue for ratification by the States Parties
	What is the procedure for the parties to sign the annexes to the Agreement?	
Entry into force, withdrawal, accession	What are the mechanisms and expected dates for the Agreement to enter into force?	
	What is the procedure for withdrawal from the Agreement by the Parties?	
	Are there any procedures to be followed for accepting a new country?	
Disputes	Are there procedures to be followed in the event of disputes or disagreements between countries?	

Dissemination		Response
Dissemination	The relevant ministries, national agencies or other national stakeholders must be informed of the provisions of the Agreement and accept them prior to the Agreement being signed by the countries. Identify the entities that should have a signed copy of this agreement.	
	What is the procedure for regularly informing key organisations (IMO, Abidjan Convention Secretariat)?	
	Regardless of the legal status of the Agreement, given that it will relate to the Abidjan Convention and OPRC 90, it will need to be forwarded to the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention and the IMO.	No objection
Depositary		Response
	To be discussed depending on the nature of the Agreement/MoU and related needs.	
Languages of the agreement		Response
Agreement	What are the official languages for correspondence and the text of the Agreement (three official languages? One official language and two translated languages? French? Portuguese? English?).	Consensus: The text of the Agreement will be drafted in the three languages.
Annexes	What are the valid languages for drafting the annexes (French? And/or Portuguese? And/or English?).	For the Annexes, one language: English? The annexes are an integral part of the Agreement and therefore if the Agreement is translated into three languages, the same applies to the Annexes

Activities	What is/are the valid language(s) for drafting the annual activity plan, reports, emails and regular communication between countries?	Three possible languages / Technical specifications: English
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ANNEXES TO THE SUBREGIONAL AGREEMENT		
INFORMATIVE ANNEX		Response
Maps		Response
	Map of the agreement's scope	
	Map of maritime borders between countries in the subregion	
	Bathymetric maps (with at least the -5m, -10m, -20m and -50m isobaths)	
	...	
Inventory of resources in the countries of the sub-region		Response
	Stock of dispersants in countries in the sub-region - Private/port/public	
	Marine dispersant application resources & vessels	
	Aerial dispersal resources	
	Aerial surveillance resources (helicopters, aeroplanes)	
	In-situ measurement and sampling equipment	
	Approved laboratories for hydrocarbon and seawater analysis	
	...	
Directory		Response
	Focal points responsible for the agreement in the countries of the sub-region	
	Emergency contact points in countries in the sub-region	
	Identified specialists in countries (spraying operations, monitoring, evaluation, etc.)	
	...	

Excerpts from PNIUs, regulations for the use of dispersants, etc.		Response
	Content to be discussed	
Forms		Response
	Notification, information and assistance request form (POLREP: POLWARN + POLINF + POLFAC)	
	Example of a note verbale for a request for assistance	
	Example of assistance request form (to accompany a note verbale)	
	Example of assistance offer form	
	Example of assistance offer acceptance form	
	Other forms	
	...	
Mobilisation		Response
	Procedures for authorising the emergency entry of ships and/or aircraft into the territories of countries in the sub-region (at port or airport entry points)	
	Emergency customs clearance procedures for the arrival of goods and equipment at port or airport entry points or in maritime areas	
	Immigration procedures/issuance of emergency visas for persons from within and outside the sub-region	
	"Confidentiality form" for mobilised personnel	
ANNEX RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT		Response
Financing of assistance		Response
	Procedures, guidelines to be considered	
Financing of governance & preparation		Response
	Procedures, guidelines to consider	
Terms of reference for the secretariat		Response

*National workshop to update the Republic of Congo's National Emergency Response Plan
Pointe-Noire, Congo, 22-26 January 2024*

	Terms of reference (annual) for the secretariat: establishment, staffing, finances, activities, operation, etc.	
	Examples of annual programme of activities	