PERSGA

الهيئة الإقليمية للمحافظة على بيئـة البحـر الأحمـر وخليـج عدن
The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)

PROTOCOL

CONCERNING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE RED SEA AND GULF OF ADEN

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(DRAFT VERSION, 28 FEBRUARY 2018)

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PREAMBLE

The Governments of:

The Republic of Djibouti

The Arab Republic of Egypt

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Federal Republic of Somalia

The Republic of the Sudan

The Republic of Yemen

Being Parties to the "The Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment" adopted on 14th February 1982 (Jeddah Convention), hereinafter referred to as 'the Convention'; and its associated protocols;

Conscious of the continued pressures on the living marine resources and their ecosystems within their respective territories and elsewhere, due to the overfishing, environmental impacts form human activities and other factors, which may result in irreversible decline of living marine resources, unless co-operative and effective measures to deal with and minimize such pressures are taken;

Recognizing that fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture industry with its all activities shall promote maintenance of its quality, diversity and availability of fishery resources and that management measures shall also take wider ecosystem integrity into account;

Recognizing the importance of fisheries and sustainable aquaculture industry with its all activities to food security, especially for artisanal and small scale fisheries that provide income and livelihood for fishing communities in the region;

Stressing the importance of safeguarding marine living resources, biodiversity and ecosystem integrity and, improving them as natural and cultural heritages of the PERSGA region, in particular through responsible fisheries and sustainable aquaculture with its all activities that consider protection and conservation measures on a national and regional basis, ensuring that such measures are implemented in a comprehensive manner through protection programs in general, and biosecurity programs and their applications in particular.

Considering the principles enunciated in the international instruments, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 (1992), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995), and other relevant declarations and international instruments; as well as the principles and commitments articulated in the Jeddah Convention (1992); the regional Protocol Concerning Conservation of Biodiversity and Establishment of Protected Areas (2005); the regional Protocol for Protection of Marine Environment From Land Based Activities (2005);

Recognizing that adoption and eventual ratification of this Protocol will provide many national, regional and global benefits including: sustainable management of fishery resources and aquaculture in the region; conservation of endemic, migratory, regional and globally significant species of fauna and flora; reduction of the loss and degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems; enhancement of socio-economic development and food security, through the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, including fishing and other uses; facilitation of the development and implementation of effective fisheries and aquaculture management procedures; assistance to the region in the implementation of and compliance with related international instruments joined by its countries, assistance to and collaboration with other regions with similar regional legal instruments and; improvement of regional collaboration, particularly concerning issues of a trans-boundary nature and by providing mechanisms for public awareness, education and research;

Have agreed as follows:

PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1: OBJECTIVES

1. To collaborate for the sustainable management, conservation, and protection of the living marine resources and integrity of their habitats and biological diversity in PERSGA region, to achieve ecosystem well-being and economic well-being of people, both for the present and future generations.
2. To collaborate in the establishment and implementation of principles and conservation managerial, technical and supervisory measures for responsible fisheries and aquaculture activities in PERSGA region, taking into account all their relevant biological, technological, economic, social and environmental aspects, which also consider rules, programs and applications of biosecurity, including health and safety of marine biota in general, and their cultured ones in particular. *666

ARTICLE 2: USE OF TERMS

For the purpose of this Protocol the following terms and expressions have the meanings indicated below, except when otherwise inferred from the text:

1. "Alien species": means species or sub-species that have been introduced into an area outside their past or present natural distribution.
2. 'Competent Authority': means the authority designated by each Contracting Party, as responsible for the coordination for implementing this Protocol.
3. 'Biological diversity' ('biodiversity'): means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia,* terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
4. 'Biological resources': means genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity.
5. 'Biotechnology': means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use.
6. Brood stocks: Fish brood stocks.
7. 'Carrying capacity': means the capacity of a natural system, such as a coral reef, to support tourism, recreation or other human activities, according to physical, ecological and socioeconomic criteria.
8. 'Contracting Parties': means those Parties which have become party to this Protocol.
9. 'Convention': means the Regional Convention for Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment, 1982.
10. 'Council': Council of the Organization.
11. 'Ecosystem': means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit;
12. 'Endemic species': means any species believed to occur only in a specified geographic region in the wild.
13. Ghost fishing: Unreported fish or marine organisms captured by abandoned and lost gears in the sea.
14. 'Habitat': means the place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs;
15. Illegal Fishing: refers to activities: (i) conducted by national or foreign vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of a State, without the permission of that State, or in contravention of its laws and regulations; (ii) conducted by vessels flying the flag of States that are parties to a relevant regional fisheries management organization but operate in contravention of the

conservation and management measures adopted by that organisation and by which the States are bound, or relevant provisions of the applicable international law; or (iii) in violation of national laws or international obligations, including those undertaken by cooperating States to a relevant regional fisheries management organization.

16. Inland water: waters on the landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea from part of the internal waters of the state.
17. 'Organization': means the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).
18. Overfishing: is the practice of catching fish at a rate that exceeds the ability of species populations to compensate for the loss of their stocks through natural reproduction.
19. Port State Measures (PSM): are requirements established or interventions undertaken by port states which a foreign fishing vessel must comply with or is subjected to as a condition for use of ports within the port state.
20. 'Protected area': means a geographically defined coastal and marine area that is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.
21. 'Protocol': The Protocol Concerning Regional Cooperation in Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
22. Responsible fisheries/ Responsible aquaculture: According to the Declaration of Cancun (1992), the concept of responsible fisheries/ responsible aquaculture encompasses the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources in harmony with the environment; the use of capture and aquaculture practices which are not harmful to ecosystems, resources or their quality; the incorporation of added value to such products through transformation processes meeting the required quality standards; and the conduct of commercial practices so as to provide consumers access to good quality products.
23. 'Sustainable use': means the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.
24. 'Threatened species': means any taxon whose survival is significantly jeopardized by human activities or other factors. It is a collective term encompassing the following IUCN (The World Conservation Union) categories: Critically Endangered (taxa facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild), Endangered (taxa facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild) and Vulnerable (taxa facing a high risk of extinction in the wild).
25. Unregulated Fishing: refers to fishing activities: (i) in the area of application of a relevant regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organization; or (ii) in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law.
26. Unreported Fishing: refers to fishing activities: (i) which have not been reported, or have been misreported, to the relevant national authority, in contravention of national laws and regulations; or (ii) undertaken in the area of competence of a relevant regional fisheries management organization which have not been reported or have been misreported, in contravention of the reporting procedures of that organization.

ARTICLE 3: AREA OF APPLICATION

This Protocol shall include the Sea Areas as defined in the Convention, together with the terrestrial coastal areas, the saltwater marshes communicating with the sea, and any terrestrial coastal areas designated by each of the Contracting Parties. Member states having inland marine waters shall endeavor to consider in its national management to be in accordance with the provisions of this Protocol.

ARTICLE 4: GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:

1. Adopt strategies, policies and management plans for responsible fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, conservation and development of living marine resources, and to control health, safety and quality of their aquaculture and captured harvests
2. Ensure that fisheries management and aquaculture development plans and decisions are based on the best scientific information and knowledge available and consultation with stakeholders;
3. Apply precautionary approach to management, exploitation and conservation of living marine resources, taking into account that the absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take measures to conserve the species and maintain the ecosystem integrity;
4. Provide for ecosystem based approach to management of fisheries and aquaculture
5. Protect, conserve and properly manage biodiversity and critical habitats for living marine resources with particular emphasis on threatened species;
6. Prevent overfishing and prohibit all kinds of offensive fishing practices such as dynamiting, poisoning and other comparable methods
7. Control Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing
8. Adopt effective monitoring, control and surveillance measures in fisheries and aquaculture management;
9. Adopt comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and applications of biosecurity programs for aquaculture and fisheries infrastructure projects and operations, assess their impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems and promote techniques which minimize adverse impacts on the environment and enhance biosecurity;
10. Control all forms of pollution from fisheries and aquaculture activities that pose a significant impact on habitats and species through biosecurity programs and applications;
11. Responsibly manage, and appropriately develop subsistence, small scale and artisanal fisheries, to secure and just livelihood;
12. Designate Competent Authorities responsible for the fulfillment of the obligations and duties specified in the Protocol.

PART 2. REGIONAL DATA, STATISTICS AND INFORMATION

ARTICLE 5: CATCH AND FISHING EFFORT STATISTICS

1. Contracting Parties should ensure that timely, complete, regular and reliable statistics on catch and fishing effort are collected and maintained in accordance with acceptable standards and practices and in sufficient detail to allow sound statistical analysis. Such data should be disseminated to the regional Organization in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality required.
2. In order to ensure sustainable management of fisheries and to enable social and economic objectives to be achieved, Contracting Parties shall ensure that sufficient knowledge of social, economic and institutional factors are also available through data gathering, and socio-economic studies.
3. The Organization should compile data received from the member states and make them available, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, in a timely manner and in an agreed format to all member states and other interested party according to agreed procedure by the contracting parties.

ARTICLE 6: INVENTORIES AND LISTS OF SPECIES

Contracting Parties shall provide inventories and/or periodically lists of marine commercial and/or cultural species used for local trade; harvested species whose exploitation is regulated by this Protocol; and threatened species, if applicable, adopting internationally recognized criteria to define these species, in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of The Regional Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and Establishment Protected Areas (2005). These inventories and/or lists, which constitute Annexes 1 and 2 of the Regional Protocol Concerning the Conservation of Biological Diversity and Establishment Protected Areas (2005), shall also include the Fish Stocks population status and measures for restoration of their decline, as appropriate.

ARTICLE 7: INVENTORIES OF AREAS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE

Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide inventories for areas of special importance to living marine resources and biodiversity, such as areas containing important habitats for the species critical life history stages, spawning and fishing areas, reservoirs of biological diversity and threatened species as well as other species of socio-economic importance and cultural heritage. Identification of such areas shall be considered in the selection of sites for possible inclusion in protected areas and/or managed areas in the region.

ARTICLE 8: FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESEARCH

1. In accordance with their national laws, Contracting Parties shall:

a. Ensure that appropriate research is conducted into all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture such as: biological, ecological, and socioeconomic- in addition to fish stocks assessment-, aquaculture and fish products quality. They should ensure and encourage the availability of research facilities and provide appropriate training, staffing and institution to conduct the research, taking into account the special needs of the Member States and the needs of scientific information for the timely management decisions.

b. Encourage research and the use of research results as a basis for the setting of management objectives, reference points and performance criteria. They shall ensure that adequate linkage exists between applied research and management policies plans and practices to marine living resources, as an essential element to their conservation, management and development. In the absence of adequate scientific information, appropriate research shall be initiated as soon as possible.

2. The regional Organization shall coordinate with the Member States to encourage collaborative research and assessments of the status of fish stocks, and the development of

uniform guidelines and collaborative technical and research programs to improve understanding of the biology, environment and status of trans-boundary aquatic stocks, and as appropriate, facilitate research at the regional level and the sharing of the results of such research with other regions.

3. The research priorities may include, studies that focus on the following:
   a. the state of the fish stocks;
   b. the impacts of ecosystem changes resulting from fishing pressure, pollution and other anthropogenic impacts or habitat alteration;
   c. the effects of' climate or environment change on fish stocks and marine organisms;
   d. the selectivity of fishing gear and its environmental impact of fishing gear on target species and on the behavior of target and non-target species in relation to such fishing gear as an aid for management decisions and with a view to minimizing by-catch as well as safeguarding the biodiversity of marine ecosystems;
   e. evaluation and monitoring new types of gear before their commercial introduction, including the impact of such types of gear on the fisheries and ecosystems where they will be introduced;
   f. economic, social, marketing, nutritional and institutional aspects of fisheries and aquaculture;
   g. traditional fisheries knowledge and technologies, in particular those applied to small-scale fisheries, in order to assess their application to sustainable fisheries conservation, management and development;
   h. best environmental practices and methods of mari-culture, its sustainability and assessment and monitoring of its impacts on the marine ecosystems, using biosecurity programs and their application;
   i. any other research topics related to management of living marine resources in the region.
4. Contracting Parties shall ensure that research vessels and conducting scientific research activities in waters under their jurisdiction comply with the conservation measures and regulations of national, regional and international laws.
5. The regional Organization and Member States shall call for relevant international organizations to provide technical and financial support, as appropriate and upon request for research efforts in the region, in view of relevant articulates in the international instruments acknowledging devotion of special attention to the needs of developing countries.

PART 3. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

ARTICLE 9: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES

1. Within areas under national jurisdiction, Contracting Parties should seek to identify relevant domestic parties having a legitimate interest in the use and management of fisheries resources and establish arrangements for consulting them to gain their collaboration in achieving responsible fisheries.
2. In collaboration with the Organization, Contracting Parties shall cooperate to ensure effective conservation and management of the shared, trans-boundary, straddling, and highly migratory fish stocks and species, which should be achieved, where appropriate, through bilateral, subregional or regional arrangements to regulate exploitation and/or implement specific management or conservation measures.
3. Contracting Parties shall establish, within their respective competences and capacities, effective mechanisms for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance to ensure compliance with their conservation and management measures, as well as those adopted by subregional or regional organizations or arrangements.
4. Contracting Parties shall take effective measures to ensure that levels of fishing effort are commensurate with the sustainable use of fishery resources; and to protect non target species and ecosystem from fishing operations and practices. Such measures should provide *inter alia* that:
   a. exploitation of the stocks remains economically viable;
   b. the economic conditions under which fishing industries operate promote responsible fisheries;
   c. subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries are safeguarded and/or promoted;
   d. biodiversity of aquatic habitats and ecosystems is conserved and endangered species are protected;
   e. depleted stocks are allowed to recover or, where appropriate, are actively restored;
   f. adverse environmental impacts on marine environment and fishery resources from human activities are assessed and, where appropriate, corrected; and
   g. pollution, waste, discards, ghost fishing, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species are minimized, through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost effective fishing gear and techniques.
5. In implementing the precautionary approach, Contracting Parties shall take into account, *inter alia*, uncertainties relating to the size and productivity of the stocks, reference points, stock condition in relation to such reference points, levels and distribution of fishing mortality and the impact of fishing activities, including discards, on non-target and associated or dependent species, as well as environmental and socio-economic conditions.
6. Contracting Parties and the Organization shall, if appropriate, on the basis of the best scientific evidence available, , determine stock specific target and limit reference points, and, at the same time, the action to be taken if they are exceeded or approached ; and, measures should be taken to ensure that it will not be exceeded.
7. In the case of new or exploratory fisheries, Contracting Parties shall adopt as soon as possible cautious conservation and management measures, including, *inter alia*, catch limits and effort limits. Such measures should remain in force until there are sufficient data to allow assessment of the impact of the fisheries on the long-term sustainability of the stocks, whereupon conservation and management measures based on that assessment should be implemented. The latter measures should, if appropriate, allow for the gradual development of the fisheries.

8. If a pollution incidence or natural phenomenon has a significant adverse impact on the status of living aquatic resources, the Contracting Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures on an emergency basis to ensure that fishing activity does not exacerbate such adverse impact. They shall also adopt such measures on an emergency basis where fishing activity presents a serious threat to the sustainability of such resources. Measures taken on an emergency basis should be temporary and should be based on the best scientific evidence available.

ARTICLE 10: AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL MEASURES

1. Contracting Parties shall develop an appropriate legal administrative and technical framework for development and management of responsible and sustainable aquaculture, including an advance evaluation of the effects of aquaculture development on genetic diversity and ecosystem integrity, and ensuring that aquaculture development is ecologically sustainable and allow the rational use of resources shared by aquaculture and other activities;
2. The Organization in collaboration with Member States shall establish regional procedures specific to aquaculture to undertake appropriate environmental assessment and monitoring, and observe application s of biosecurity programs in aquaculture, with the aim of minimizing adverse ecological impacts and related economic and social consequences. Such procedures shall *inter alia* assist to:
    a. Minimize risks of disease transfer and other adverse effects on wild and cultured stocks;
    b. Ensure that the livelihoods of local communities, and their access to fishing grounds, are not negatively affected by aquaculture developments;
    c. Promote aquaculture practices that support sustainable development of rural communities
    d. Protect trans-boundary aquatic ecosystems;
    e. Ensure responsible choice of species, location and management of aquaculture activities
    f. Minimize risks of disease transfer and other adverse effects on wild and cultured stocks
    g. Ensure appropriate practices in the genetic improvement of brood stocks, the introduction of non-native species, and in the production, sale and transport of eggs, larvae or fry, brood stocks or other live materials;
    h. Subjecting non-native species used in aquaculture to experiments, in order to ensure that they have no negative impact on native species;
    i. Encourage universities and research centers, to develop culture techniques for endangered species to protect, rehabilitate and enhance their stocks, taking into account the critical need to conserve genetic diversity of endangered species, as appropriate;
    j. Require that the disposal of wastes such as offal, sludge, dead or diseased fish, excess veterinary drugs and other hazardous chemical inputs does not constitute a hazard to human health and the environment, and establish appropriate monitoring programs
    k. Regulate the use of chemical inputs in aquaculture, particularly those hazardous to human health and the environment;
    l. Ensure application of best environmental practices and the food safety of aquaculture products and the product quality at all stages of aquaculture development, such as establishment, production, harvesting postharvest processing, storage and transport, ensuring application of appropriate rules and regulations, especially biosecurity programs and their application;
3. Contracting Parties shall adopt a bio-security system in aquaculture practices.

PART 4 SPECIFIC PLANS OF ACTION

ARTICLE 11: COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

1. The Organization and Contracting Parties shall collaborate to develop, adopt and implement a Regional Plan of Action for combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (RPOA-IUU) to provide an umbrella mechanism for cooperation and coordination of measures to combat IUU fishing, considering special needs of the Member States. The RPOA-IUU should include, but not limited to the following:
   a. Roles and responsibilities of the Member States, including as flag states and coastal states
   b. Roles of the regional Organization
   c. Agreed port state measures
   d. Agreed market-related measures
   e. Collaborative actions in monitoring, control and surveillance, such as harmonization of laws /regulations and exchange of information
2. Contracting Parties shall undertake a thorough review of their national laws, as appropriate, the regulations and practices relating to IUU fishing in order to rationalize and strengthen the legal regime and to make possible the application of all relevant agreed tools and measures in the RPOA-IUU. As appropriate, Contracting Parties shall also develop National Plans of Actions for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (NPOAs-IUU), considering their special needs.

ARTICLE 12: SPECIAL CONSERVATION PLANS

1. The Organization and Contracting Parties shall collaborate to develop, adopt and implement Regional and National Plans of Actions for Conservation of Sharks, Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Marine Mammals and/ or ensure that impacts from fishing and aquaculture are considered in other existing and comparable regional action plans.
2. Considering their special needs, Contracting Parties shall undertake a thorough review of their national laws, as appropriate, the fishing and aquaculture practices in order to rationalize and strengthen the legal regime and to make possible the application of all relevant agreed measures in the Regional Plans of Actions for Conservation of Sharks, Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Marine Mammals.

PART 5. OTHER PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 13: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

1. The Contracting Parties shall promote regional technical and scientific cooperation in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, sustainable use of living marine resources, and rules and regulations for monitoring operational processes, biosecurity programs and applications, where necessary, through PERSGA, and if applicable, international cooperation; in particular, the regional technical and scientific cooperation in implementing this Protocol, *inter alia*, through the development and implementation of national policies. In promoting such cooperation, special attention should be given to the development and strengthening of national capabilities, by means of human resources development and institutional capacities;
2. The Organization shall be used as a mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation;
3. Contracting Parties will encourage, where appropriate, cooperation in technology development and use, including local and traditional knowledge, and developing ways of this cooperation, in accordance with national policies and legislation, and to achieve the objectives of this Protocol. For this purpose, the Contracting Parties shall encourage cooperation in the training of personnel and the exchange of experts
4. The Contracting Parties shall promote the establishment of joint research programs for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of this Protocol.

ARTICLE 14: PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS AWARENESS

Contracting Parties shall endeavor to inform the public of the interest, value and benefits of responsible fisheries and aquaculture practices; and conservation of ecosystem biodiversity and integrity. Such information may be included in education programs, media programs and other means. Contracting Parties shall also endeavor to promote the participation the stakeholders in the implementation of this Protocol.

ARTICLE 15: REPORTS TO PARTIES

Contracting Parties shall submit to ordinary meetings of the Parties periodic reports on implementation of this Protocol, in particular on:

a. Fisheries and aquaculture statistics and status of fish stocks
b. Development of aquaculture
c. Implementation of NPOAs-IUU, and national biosecurity programs and applications in aquaculture activities.
d. Implementation of NPOAs- Sharks, NPOAs- Marine Turtles, NPOAs- Seabirds, and NPOAs- Marine Mammals
e. New national legislation and regulations for fisheries, aquaculture and biosecurity programs relevant to this Protocol.

ARTICLE 16: ANNEXES AND AMENDMENTS

1. As appropriate, the following annexes and regional plans shall be considered as integral part of this Protocol:
    i. The Regional Plan of Action for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, which shall be developed and adopted by the Contracting Parties in collaboration with the Organization in the framework of the implementation of Article 11 of this Protocol;
    ii. The Regional Plans of Actions for Conservation of Sharks, Marine Turtles, Seabirds, and Marine Mammals, which shall be developed and adopted by the Contracting

Parties in collaboration with the Organization in the framework of the implementation of Article 12 of this Protocol;

iii. Any other plan of action that requires to be developed and adopted by the contracting parties within the framework of implementing this Protocol.

2. The procedures for amendments to this Protocol shall be those set forth in Article XXI of the Convention;

PART 6. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 17: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Organization shall, *inter-alia*:

a. communicate with Competent Authorities in the Contracting Parties on the application of the Protocol;

b. provide training of national specialists, particularly for monitoring and implementation of the provisions of the Protocol;

c. arrange upon request, for the provision of legal and technical assistance and advice to the Contracting Parties for the effective implementation of the Protocol;

d. enhance the regional capabilities and networks for the exchange of data and information of relevance to the Protocol;

e. establish a common procedures for fisheries monitoring ; including collection, analysis and reporting of fisheries statistics;

f. develop a regional awareness programs in cooperation with the contracting parties;

g. prepare periodical reports on the implementation of the Protocol and present them to the Council and the Focal Points;

h. establish and maintain liaison and co-ordination with relevant regional and international organizations and conventions including but not limited to the Arab League (AL), the World Bank (WB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP);

i. perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Council for the implementation of this Protocol;

~~j.~~ co-ordinate with the FAO-Regional Office for Near East and North Africa (FAO-NENA), in any matters that would facilitate the implementation of the protocol, where needed.

ARTICLE 18: COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Each contracting Party shall designate a competent Authority to serve as a liaison with the Organization for technical and scientific aspects of the implementation of this Protocol. The Competent Authorities shall meet periodically to coordinate all issues activities related to this Protocol.

PART 7. FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 19: EFFECT OF THE PROTOCOL ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The provisions of this Protocol shall not affect the rights of Contracting Parties to adopt relevant stricter national measures for its implementation.

ARTICLE 20: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Disputes that may arise from implementation of the provisions of this Protocol shall be resolved through the procedure set forth by the Convention.

ARTICLE 21: SIGNATURE

This Protocol shall be open for signature during the meeting of plenipotentiaries of the member states to be held in Jeddah on …….....

ARTICLE 22: RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL

This Protocol shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which will assume the functions of Depository according to Article XXIX of the Convention.

ARTICLE 23: ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. The present Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the day of deposit of at least four instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to the Protocol.
2. This Protocol shall enter into force with respect to any party on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit by that party of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

ARTICLE 24: WITHDRAWAL

The procedures for withdrawal from this Protocol shall be those set forth in Items 1, 2 and 3 of Article XXVIII of the Convention.

In witness whereof, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Protocol.

The Republic of Djibouti

The Arab Republic of Egypt

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Federal Republic of Somalia

The Republic of the Sudan

The Republic of Yemen

Done at the city of Jeddah on …… in three versions: Arabic, English and French, which have all similar and equal judgments. In case of dispute, the Arabic Version should be considered as the final reference.

الهيئة الإقليمية للمحافظة على بيئة البحر الأحمر وخليج عدن
The Regional Organization For The Conservation Of The Red Sea And Gulf Of Aden

PERSGA

PERSGA

الهيئة الإقليمية للمحافظة على بيئـة البحـر الأحمـر وخليـج عدن
The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the
Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)