

# SILENCING THE GUNS

Special Feb '20 **NEWSLETTER**



## SUMMIT

A special Newsletter covering the activities and outcomes of the AU Summit

# SILENCING THE GUNS

Special  
Feb '20

# NEWSLETTER

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# Message by Ambassador Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security



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The AU theme of the year 2020 - "Silencing the Guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa's development", was formally launched during the Assembly of the African Union, on February 10. The theme was chosen in light of causal connection between the two major concepts that describe Peace and Security on one hand and Development on the other. The concept of Peace and Security is critical, due to the depth of its positive impact across many priorities of the African Union, including stability, economic growth, public service delivery, poverty reduction, fighting corruption and confidence-building. The concept of improved development - encompassing political, economic and social development - is central to the achievement of a stable, prosperous, and confident continent, which is based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The theme of the year is one of African Union's Agenda 2063 flagship projects - "Silencing of the Guns in Africa". Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063, seeks to ensure a peaceful and secure Africa. Peace and Security through the implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) remain important focus areas for the African Union in 2020, particularly with regards to the critical role it plays in peace support operations and all of the facets of ensuring peace, security, stability and development on the continent.

Whilst the African Union aspires to maintain peace on the continent, it has to balance such, with development since the two are interconnected. In turn, development becomes a basis for social progress. It is for this reason that the AU has put the development Agenda of the continent as one of the key strategic priority areas for 2020 as a strategic way forward towards silencing the guns on the continent. The structural root causes of conflicts in Africa include governance deficit and development failure. Given that governance deficit is always at the heart of violent conflicts in Africa, it is worth auditing the pace of implementation of our governance frameworks. Global developmental challenges such as climate change, poverty, proliferation of illegal arms and nuclear weapons, international terrorism and human trafficking highlight the need for deepening cooperation among all global players.

**Enjoy the read!**

# Speech by H.E. Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa



Photo © AUC

Looking at the achievements made in promoting peace and security in the continent, in recent decades, particularly since 2004, with the operationalization of the AU Peace and Security Council, the noble objective of silencing the guns and ending wars in the continent is achievable. In retrospect, from around 30 active conflicts in 2004, we must celebrate the fact that we are now addressing fewer conflicts than then. I must state with emphasis that a lot of work has, therefore, been done and continues to be done, to ensure a conflict-free Africa in line with the aspirations enshrined in the Solemn Declaration adopted by this Assembly on 25 May 2013 on the occasion of the OAU/AU 50th anniversary.

Indeed, Africa has a robust blueprint for promoting peace, security and stability, as well as advancing good governance, respect for human and people's

rights and constitution. This blueprint is the combination of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA). The PSC has led and continues to effectively lead the implementation of this blueprint.

This begs the question as to what else can be done to further enhance our concerted efforts in conflict prevention and resolution. Here, the determining factor is the political will of Member States. Prevention and resolution of conflicts is done on national territories, and therefore political will is very crucial. In other words, while the respect for national sovereignty is paramount, this should not undermine our efforts to scale up conflict prevention and, if and when necessary, take collective action in the name of the principle of non-indifference as enshrined in the Constitutive Act.

Cognizant of the fact that civil conflicts are triggered by series of disagreements, disparities within or between individuals, communities and factions, we are faced with the challenges of being more creative in conceptualizing and implementing innovative solutions to conflicts. In this perspective, our focus should primarily be to ensure preservation of national unity, functioning of state institutions and overall sovereignty of the people.

In this context, it is imperative to conceptualize inclusivity in all facets of conflict resolution as one of the essential ingredients in silencing the guns in the continent. Put in the field, this means involving all layers of society, particularly women and youth. It is an established fact that causes of conflicts in our continent are varied and multifaceted. A significant proportion of these conflicts have been predominantly driven by ethnic rivalry over political succession, disagreement over modalities for conduct of national elections or over the outcomes of elections, as well as power struggles within the state. Conflict also arise due to struggle over control and access to natural resources and the accruing benefits. Furthermore, it is a fact that parts of the African continent are still facing struggles for nation-



al and transnational identities and this can generate challenges to national cohesion. The consequences are manifold, ranging from deep-seated hatred and destructions with their attendant manifestations of mistrust, inequality, risks of genocide, etc.

While we continue to deploy conventional methods of conflict resolution through processes that involve the use of wise Pan-Africanists, international and regional organizations, the involvement of neighbouring countries, peace support operations and civil society organizations, we should be cognizant of the nature, scope and cultural settings of these conflicts. With this approach, one can then forge a tailored comprehensive strategy, including the use of formal and informal mediation mechanisms at the village, community, state, regional and continental levels.

In other words, lessons learnt underscore the point that convention-centric approaches combined with inclusive local processes is more likely to contribute positively to silencing the guns in the continent. This is obvious in case of conflicts instigated on the preservation of traditional social entities such as extended families, lineages, clans, 'tribes', religious brotherhoods and ethno-linguistic groups, etc. In these types of conflict settings, there is need for a hybrid conflict management mechanism that will take into consideration traditional/ indigenous methods of interventions in search for a balanced solution between the centers and the peripheries, in order to preserve national unity with due respect for diversities. The overall objective of this hybrid approach is the preservation of national unity without infraction on the existing religious and linguistic factors.

Given the experiences gained and the results achieved in the past decade or more, the African Union needs more than ever to spearhead and strengthen its conflict mediation efforts and lead action aimed at more operationally bringing together all African and international actors, including the United Nations, in conducting enhanced collaborative efforts to silence the guns and create conducive conditions for socio-

economic development in the continent. This should be translated into concrete steps to be immediately undertaken to silence the guns in Libya, Mali, and the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, as well as in Somalia and other hotspots. Africa has the will and ability to defeat terrorism as it defeated colonialism and Apartheid. The African people do expect such victory that will indeed lead to a permanent silencing of the guns in the Continent.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the need to review and adjust our conflict prevention and resolution tools in order to effectively and efficiently respond to the ever-changing nature of conflict, violence and criminality on the continent. I reiterate, once more, that silencing the guns is an achievable task that can help us to promote the sovereignty of our people and further advance our Pan-African integration and development objectives.

I thank you

**I thank you**

## The 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union



Heads of states at the AU Summit 2020, Photo © AUC

African Heads of State and Government converged on Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February for the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union. The Summit held on 9th and 10th February, was significant in two ways. Firstly, H.E Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of the Republic of South Africa took over the chairmanship of the 55-nation continental body, for one year, from H.E Mr. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Secondly, the Assembly launched the AU Theme of the Year 2020 – 'Silencing the Guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa's development'.

"Today we stand at the cusp of the greatest step towards continental unity since the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)," H.E Ramapho-

sa said in his remarks, shortly after taking over the AU chairmanship from President el-Sisi.

Key in his 2020 agenda for the continent was the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) adopted last year to enable the realization of intra-Africa trade, reignite industrialization and pave the way for Africa's integration into the global economy.

"We have to level the playing field for African businesses, so they are able to operate in a large-scale market unfettered by regulatory fragmentation. This is an integral part of rebalancing global trade relations," emphasized the AU Chairman, while also urging the advancement of women's economic

## KEY HIGHLIGHT

and financial inclusion, which he noted was key in addressing the scourge of gender-based violence. “We want to focus on ensuring that there is accountability to global gender commitments. We have heard the calls of the women and girls of Africa for liberation from the shackles of patriarchy, violence and economic exclusion,” he noted.

President Ramaphosa’s 2020 priorities include the achievement of a conflict-free continent through the Silencing the Guns initiative. To support this initiative, South Africa is slated to host an Extra-Ordinary Summit on Silencing the Guns, to re-evaluate the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa (AUMR), and at the same time respond to emerging circumstances on the African peace and security landscape. “The Summit must come up with real actions we as Africans must take, to end conflicts, and deal with acts of terrorism, that are raging in many countries and regions such as the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and now spreading to other parts of Southern Africa as well.” he stated.

The year 2020 therefore, marks an acceleration and concentration phase in the activities and efforts aimed at achieving a continent free of conflicts and wars. Activities proposed for implementation in the course of 2020 are designed to accelerate on-going efforts while at the same time, taking stock of the progress made so far.

In its fifth report on the implementation of the African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the year 2020, for the period February 2019 to February 2020, the AU Peace and Security Council has indicated that December 2020 is the deadline set by the Assembly for silencing the guns in Africa, in line with the Solemn Declaration.

“The persistence of the hotbeds of terrorism in many regions of the African continent and their worrying development, is a stark reminder that this cancer is far from being eradicated,” H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the AU. Commission Chairperson said in his address to the Assembly of the Union, stressing the urgency with which conflicts and other scourges on the continent need to be dealt with decisively.

## Launch of the First Continental Report on Implementation of Agenda 2063



tary- General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the African Development Bank President, Mr. Akinwunmi Adesina; and Botswana President H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi; and senior national government officials from A.U. Member States.

It is a joint effort between the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD and is the first report, within the biennial reporting cycle defined by the African Union, to review performance with regards to Africa’s development priority areas and to outline strategies and policy measures required to implement the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan. The report features dashboards on performance in the implementation of Agenda 2063 at the continental, regional and national levels

As a result, the parliamentarians; as representatives of African people, can now assume their role in advancing Africa’s peace agenda and contribute towards ‘Silencing the Guns by 2020’ – the theme of the year. They are equipped to advocate and mobilize their national parliaments and constituencies to take action, to develop and implement National ‘Silencing the Guns’ Programmes, fully committing to ending all wars in Africa.

The First Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063, which is an assessment of 31 African Union Member States and six Regional Economic Communities towards achieving Africa’s blueprint and master plan for sustainable development and economic growth was launched on 10 February 2020, on the margins of the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union.

The report was launched at a high-level event attended by attended by H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of Côte D’Ivoire and A.U. Champion of Agenda 2063; H.E. Vera Songwe, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic Affairs and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the African Development Bank President, Mr. Akinwunmi Adesina; and Botswana President H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi; and senior national government officials from A.U. Member States.

## UNESCO – Equatorial Guinea International Prize in Life Sciences



Liu Yuxi (C), head of the Chinese Mission to the AU, with Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea, and Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, after receiving the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences on behalf of Tu Youyou, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2020. Photo © Michael Tewelde

Three laureates were awarded the UNESCO–Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences awarded during the Assembly of the Union, at the 33rd Ordinary Session.

Dr. Cato Laurencin, a biomedical engineer and Orthopaedic surgeon; Prof. Kevin McGuigan of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI); and Prof. Youyou Tu of the Chinese Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, who is also a laureate of the 2015 Nobel Prize for Medicine were honoured with the prize for their outstanding contributions to the advancement the sciences.

Of significance is how their contributions, through education and scientific breakthroughs could help silence the guns in Africa.

The UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences rewards significant efforts of individuals or institutions through scientific research towards improving the quality of human life. Life sciences hold the key to a better future, as it contributes to poverty eradication, improved health, food and water security.

Established by UNESCO’s Executive Board, to support the achievement of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, as well as UNESCO’s global priorities included in the Medium-term Strategy 2014-2021, the prize is funded by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, and is given annually to three laureates.

## CISSA Moves to New Headquarters



CISSA Moves to New Headquarters, Photo © AUC

On 9th February 2020, the African Union inaugurated the headquarters of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services (CISSA), in a ceremony attended by African Heads of State and Government. The inauguration was presided over by the Equatorial Guinea President, H.E. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. CISSA’s mandate includes providing the African Union Commission (AUC) and AU Member States with timely intelligence, which goes a long way in assisting them in making informed decisions.

The new premises enhance CISSA’s work in the intelligence realm, which is key to ending violent conflicts and silencing the guns on the continent. CISSA’s existence was necessitated by the need

to share information on the transnational security threats facing Africa. Such threats require cooperation and collaboration among Intelligence and Security actors in Africa.

CISSA was established by the African heads of Intelligence and Security Services, following a meeting held on 26 August 2004 in Abuja, Nigeria, and later endorsed during the January 2005 AU Mid-Term Assembly of the Union.



## African First Ladies join the push for gender equality



Participants at the African First Ladies Event at the AU Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2020, Photo: 2020 © AUC

The network of African first ladies under the umbrella body - Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD) – has joined efforts to have more women included in the decision-making processes of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

OFLAD held its 24th General Assembly in Addis Ababa, on the margins of the AU Summit to advocate for positive policy and social changes regarding women, youth and children. Key on its agenda was gender equality and empowerment. The OAFLAD Assembly was held under the theme, ‘Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: A Pathway to the Africa We Want’.

“Africa’s irreversible development cannot be achieved without the African Woman,” noted H.E. Madame Aïssata Issoufou Mahamadou, the First Lady of the Republic of Niger.

The network of Africa’s first ladies is also fighting outdated practices that are retrogressive to women, among them early and forced marriages; female genital mutilation and gender-based violence, all which are critical in attaining sustainable peace and development on the continent.

“Discrimination in access to administrative and political decision-making positions; lack of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and unequal opportunities in access to quality education and training are also critical issues requiring attention,” said Madame Aïssata.

The OAFLAD Assembly provides a platform for the first ladies to share their experiences and achievements in their home countries. This year’s forum discussed country-level achievements based on the OAFLAD 2019 – 2023 strategic plan.

## Urgent steps needed to fully incorporate women’s rights in ‘Silencing the Guns’ Campaign



Participants at the GIMAC biannual meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2020, Photo: © Artisan Prod

On the margins of the AU Summit, a network of 55 Civil Society Organisations promoting gender equality and accountability for women’s rights under “Gender is My Agenda Campaign”, (GIMAC), held its biannual meeting in Addis Ababa, to discuss and solidify recommendations to the AU Assembly.

The pre-Summit CSOs Consultative meeting which took place on 3rd and 4th February 2020, was held under the theme *“Recognizing and Amplifying Women and Girls’ Agency to Silence the Guns*



Photo © Artisan Prod

*in Africa”*. The aim was to discuss existing gaps in implementing constructive gender-related actions and its impact on silencing the guns in Africa.

Women and girls are among the most vulnerable population on the continent and are disproportionately affected by conflict. They are subject to trafficking, sexual violence and often used as a weapon of war by political militias. As a result, many suffer from trauma, sexually transmitted diseases, stigmatization and at times unwanted pregnancies. A 2018 ACLED report indicates that out of all political violence experienced on the continent, sexual violence targeted at women and girls stood at 27%. Hence, in taking steps towards silencing the guns, it is vital to take-into-account the needs and rights of African women and girls.

With this in mind, the meeting provided a platform for actors from all levels, including gender experts, gender focused CSOs, women rights activists, women and girls from conflict affected areas as well as AU and UN departments, to discuss the existing gaps towards silencing the guns in Africa. It gave

## WOMEN AND YOUTH

space for participants to consolidate a common position on the effectiveness and efficiency of the AU and Member States in mainstreaming gender in their engagements. Central to the discussion was the AU Peace and Security Council's **Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns by 2020**. This important document guides the actions taken in order to silence the guns and highlights issues concerning conflict prevention, reconstruction and the overall state of governance and human rights.

Discussions also focused on the need to accommodate women in decision making processes in the peace and security realm, in any steps taken towards silencing the guns, as well as the need to speed up the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa. As an important step, there was renewed commitment for support to actions that would promote gender equality in Africa, by H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The AU Commission Chairperson has been instru-

mental in supporting the AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) in ensuring that the High-Level Panel on Gender Equality continues to articulate and engage the concerns of African women in the overall implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. This commitment is an important step towards translating gender equality and women's and girls' needs and rights, in the steps taken to silence the guns. As a result, CSO participants also confirmed their continued commitment in the long-term partnership and collaboration with the AU, RECs, Regional Mechanisms, Member States, United Nations agencies, the Private Sector, Women's Movement, Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations. Continuity of this partnership is a credible way of ensuring that women and young people play central and pivotal roles in peace and security issues, including, conflict prevention, combating violent extremism and peacebuilding.



GIMAC biannual meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2020, Photo: @ Artisan Prod

## Children and Armed Conflict



In order to mitigate violence against children during armed conflict, the AU Commission, Governments of Nigeria, Uganda, Norway, and Save the Children held a high-level dialogue on the sidelines of the AU Summit, to strengthen the protection of children.

Specifically, the dialogue sought to; remind AU Member States of their commitments to protect children affected by armed conflict in Africa; show-

case good practices from AU Member States on the protection of children affected by armed conflict; and galvanize commitment and action to prevent, protect and address the 6 Grave Violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

Deliberations aimed at among other things, enlisting political support and commitment for the protection of children and influence the adoption of a decision reiterating the commitment of the Heads of State towards the appointment of the Special Envoy on CAAC at the AU.

African Union's increasing role in maintaining peace and security on the continent makes the protection of children in armed conflict even more critical, especially this year, when the continent is rallying together to silence the guns.



Photo © AMISOM



## Virtual Youth Summit between Youth and AU leadership on Silencing the Guns



AU Leadership discussing with the African Youth on the accession of the Virtual Youth Summit, Photo: 2019 © Mikias Sissay

Leading up to the AU Summit, the Youth Division in collaboration with the Silencing the Guns Unit, within the AU Peace and Security Department organised a Virtual Youth Summit to ensure the voices of young people are heard and their contributions included in the agenda of the Summit. The one-day session took place on 31st January 2020 and connected participants in all AU Member States through a virtual platform, where discussions focused on challenges confronting the meaningful engagement of young people in silencing the guns on the continent.

African Union Commissioners participated in an inter-generational dialogue with the youth during the Virtual Summit, a platform which provided the youth with an opportunity to directly interact with the AU leadership. Together, they discussed the opportunities and challenges of the meaningful participation of young people in all areas of peace and security, including conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

## 'She Stands for Peace'



Cover Photo

A highly acclaimed book which documents the successes of African women and girls in peace efforts, 'She Stands for Peace', published through collaborative efforts of the African Union and the United Nations was launched in February on the margins of the 33rd Ordinary Summit.

The book recognises and celebrates African women and girls who have exceptionally advanced the women, peace and security agenda on the African continent. The page-turner narrates exceptional success stories of 4-women led organisations and

the transformational journeys of 16 - women and girls, which have been hugely impactful to peace and security efforts on the continent.

"By sharing these stories, the women and girls have shown us what courage, resilience and commitment can achieve," said Amb. Kwesi Quartey, the AU Commission deputy chairperson, during the official launch of the book, which is also part of the projects of the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

# FemWise Africa



Members of Femwise-Africa pose for a group photo with Commissioner for Peace and Security H.E. Smail Chergui inside the Julius Nyerere Building at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Photo: © AUC

In 2020, activities of the Panel of the Wise and its subsidiary mechanism FemWise-Africa have been slowed down by the COVID-19 pandemic, the newest challenge to the Continent, and this has slowed efforts towards the implementation of the Panel's mandate.

In the first quarter of 2020, the Panel of the Wise through the direct actions of its Chairperson, H.E. Amre Moussa, focused on supporting continental efforts to lobby for the lifting of sanctions against AU Member States. This follows growing calls by the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and member states for the unconditional lifting of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe and Sudan by the

United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Zimbabwe has been under sanctions for nearly 20 years due to political reasons, while Sudan accused of sponsoring terrorism, has been under sanctions since the 1990s.

These sanctions have affected economic progress in both countries resulting in a drastic reduction in Foreign Direct Investment, thus hampering development and sustainable conflict resolution.

In recognition of the peace and security threats that the sanctions pose for the two countries, and their broader geographic regions, the Panel of the

Wise discussed the issue at their 20th Statutory Meeting, held on 31 October 2019 in Djibouti. They further mandated H.E. Amre Moussa, the Panel's incoming Chair, to prioritize and champion the AU's efforts towards the lifting of sanctions during his tenure. Subsequently, in January 2020, he undertook a consultative mission to Zimbabwe where he met with then acting President and First Vice President, H.E. Constantino Chiwenga. This initial engagement was followed by a series of consultations with key Sudanese and Zimbabwean stakeholders during the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 36th Ordinary session of the African Union Heads of State and Government.

During the Summit, in an attempt to garner further support for a collective effort towards the lifting of sanctions, the Panel Chair engaged various stakeholders, including the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, and the Commissioner for Political Affairs; the AU Special Envoy for Silencing the Guns; the Chair of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan and South Sudan; as well as the UK Special Envoy on the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea. H.E. Amre Moussa also met with the FemWise-Africa co-Chair, Mme Catherine Samba Panza, and the AU Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security, to discuss issues related to women's participation in peace building and conflict resolution.



H.E. Amre Moussa, Chairperson, Panel of the Wise (file photo), Photo © Institut Amadeus



# Unlocking the Full Potential of Africa's Blue Economy

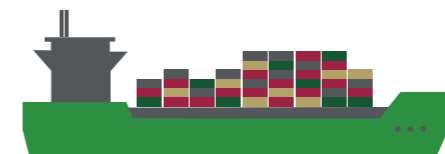


The people in the fishing village of Orimedu prepare their boats for a day out at sea, Photo © Arne Hoel, World Bank

A high-level meeting to discuss the opportunities within Africa's Blue Economy was held on the margins of the February Summit, to provide a platform for policy-dialogue on leadership, partnerships and cooperation at all levels in facilitating a coherent, coordinated and efficient implementation of the Continental Blue Economy Strategy. The meeting also sought to amplify and accelerate action for a sustainable ocean economy by key stakeholders, and solicit support from African leaders.

The development of a sustainable blue economy is of strategic importance to the implementation of African Union's Agenda 2063 flagship projects, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which aims to accelerate intra-African trade and strengthen Africa's common voice and trading position in the global market place. With more than 90% of Africa's import and export transported by sea, the continent has 38 coastal and island states and a coastline of over 47,000 km, and hence presents an enormous opportunity for the continent to develop the sectors associated with the blue economy.

In order to harness the vast benefits that Africa's Blue Economy, a continental strategy was developed to provide a framework to guide discussion and preparation towards the sustainable exploration of this resource. The Blue Economy Strategy is to guide the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that becomes a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, through advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport, the management of tourism and fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation of deep sea mineral and other resources.



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