

AFRICAN UNION

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**1ST CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MARITIME RELATED AFFAIRS,
BACK-TO-BACK WITH THE
4TH AFRICAN CROSS-SECTORAL EXPERTS WORKSHOP ON THE 2050 AIM-STRATEGY®.
19 – 21 APRIL 2012,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA.**

CONCEPT NOTE

Towards
the Implementation of the
2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy
(2050 AIM Strategy®)

MARCH 2012

“Together, let’s navigate the future... now! Keep an eye on www.au.int/maritime, and swim with us on Twitter and Facebook in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and... Kiswahili. Fair winds!”
(End of year email sent on 16 Dec. 2011, by H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC to all Staff in Addis and around the world, all Member States and Partners.)



I. What?

The Commission wishes to recall that, as a follow-up to the decision adopted by the 13th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Sirte, Libya, from 1st to 3 July 2009 [Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.252(XIII)], the Commission organized, at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, from 6 to 7 April 2010, a meeting of cross-sectoral maritime Experts of all Member States.

This workshop provided an opportunity to review Africa's maritime opportunities and challenges. In this respect, and in the context of relevant national legislations and international conventions and instruments, emphasis was fully placed on issues relating to illegal Fishing, arms and drugs trafficking, human trafficking, oil bunkering, piracy and armed robbery, environmental crimes to include illegal dumping of toxic wastes on African coasts, etc.

Participants to this workshop agreed on the crucial need for development of Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM-Strategy), articulating an overarching and multilayered African-driven long term vision to address Africa's maritime challenges and opportunities, focusing on wealth creation thanks to sustainable governance of Africa's seas and oceans.

The decision adopted by the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held from 25 to 27 July 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, "lent its support to the efforts being undertaken by the Commission including the elaboration of this continental integrated strategy for the management of the continent's maritime domain". The African maritime transport Charter was also adopted during this session.

On 3 June 2011, the cross-Department 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force was formed, to spearhead the development and implementation of the integrated, coherent and comprehensive (multisector, multidisciplinary) 2050 AIM-Strategy.

During the 20th session of the Executive Council on 26 January 2012, when the Commission presented the report of the Chairperson, it was mentioned that this cross-sectoral Task Force to develop and implement the 2050 AIM-Strategy had been formed within the AU Commission since 03 June 2011.

It was also mentioned that the Commission organized a workshop on 20-21 December 2011 at the AU Commission's Headquarters to review and finalize the draft 2050 AIM-Strategy.

As follow-on of the December 2011 workshop, the Commission organized a technical Experts meeting from 06 to 07 March 2012 in Addis Ababa to polish up the draft 2050 AIM-Strategy, incorporating the recommendations from the Experts who attended the December 2011 workshop.

II. Why?

Africa's oceans and seas are under pressure. In the past decades direct aggregate losses of revenue from illegal activities in Africa's maritime domain amount hundreds of billions US dollars, not to mention the loss of lives. Traditional maritime activities increase, such as shipping or fisheries, while new ones, such as aquaculture or offshore renewable energy, emerged. The rise in intensity of activities at sea took place against the backdrop of insecurity, degradation of the marine environment and falling biodiversity, aggravated by the effects of climate change.

In maritime domain, the multi-disciplinary and systematic approach of the human uses of coastal and ocean space and the resources found there as well as multiple factors influence that

pattern of use. Central to maritime affairs are concerns relating to conflict of use and the need to maintain the sustainability of the natural environment. To this end, the Commission must focus on the governance of Africa's maritime domain and advocate the need for the development and implementation of integrated, coherent, and joined-up decision-making in relation to Africa's oceans, seas, coastal regions and maritime sectors. An integrated maritime approach should thus promote and fosters the identification and exploitation of cross-sectoral synergies between all policies relating to Africa's maritime domain.

There is a maritime dimension to virtually every major issue facing Africa today, including competitiveness and job creation. This is why the Commission must put maritime affairs centre stage. Ensuring a sustainable future for Africa's maritime domain hence calls for a joint effort under different law enforcement agencies, security, fishing, transport, trade, environment, industry, scientific research or other.

Additional information is available at www.au.int/Maritime.

III. Where?

The workshop will be held in the AU Commission's Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

IV. When?

From the 19 April 2012 at 08:30 am, to the 21st April 2012 at 07:00 pm.

V. Who?

The Workshop intends to bring together African cross-sectoral maritime experts and politicians*, relevant Universities, specified organs such as the Sea Power for Africa Symposium, relevant African think tanks and NGOs, development partners and relevant international institutions as well as other stakeholders from the private sector and civil society.

All communication relating to this issue should be communicated to the following address:

African Union commission, 2050 AIM Strategy Task Force.

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Email: aruwanyabundig@africa-union.org.

VI. How?

The workshop will be articulated on plenary sessions and working groups.

In addition to the presentation of the 2050 AIM-Strategy, three (3) Panels will focus on:

- a) Wealth creation from sustainable governance of Africa's maritime domain;
- b) Interagency maritime information sharing and coordination,
- c) Multi-purpose Offshore/Ocean Patrol Vessels (OPV).

All participants will be self-sponsored.

* Ministers, members of the Government/Cabinet, from all AU Member States (including Member States without window on the sea), dealing with any of the various sectors related to the maritime domain, to include: Energy, economy, water, water resources, justice/legal, planning and development, tourism, safety, security, social affairs, counter narcotics, fisheries, shipping, ports, harbours and marine infrastructure, trade, labour, marine environment, climate change, oil, gas and mining industry, scientific research or others.