

AFRICAN UNION

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**2ND CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MARITIME-RELATED AFFAIRS*,
BACK-TO-BACK WITH THE
1ST HIGH LEVEL AFRICAN MARITIME CROSS-SECTORAL SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING AND THE
5TH AFRICAN MARITIME CROSS-SECTORAL EXPERTS WORKSHOP ON THE 2050 AIM-STRATEGY®.
03 – 06 DECEMBER 2012,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA.**

CONCEPT NOTE

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

“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 dully 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.

Finally, the Commission organized the 1st Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Maritime Related Affairs* on 19-21 April 2012 at the Commission's Headquarters, back-to-back with the 4th Experts workshop on the 2050 AIM-Strategy.

The African Ministers in Charge of Maritime Related Affairs* agreed to meet again to further discuss this very important initiative before the end of the year 2012. They asked the Commission to send the amended version of the Official Draft 2050 AIM Strategy to all Member States and allow them ninety (90) days to forward further comments and/or inputs to the Commission**. They agreed that the next African maritime cross-sectoral Experts workshop will immediately be followed by a High Level African maritime cross-sectoral Senior Officials meeting, prior to the ministerial meeting. They also agreed that the 2050 AIM-Strategy will

ultimately follow the procedure for its final adoption in January 2013 during the 20th Ordinary Session of the Union.

As a follow up, the Commission organized at the Commission HQs in Addis Ababa, a four-day Technical Workshop from 01 to 04 October 2012 to amend the Official Draft, taking into account comments and/or inputs from Member States. The last Technical Workshop to review the Plan of Action took place on 02-04 November 2012.

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 03 December 2012 at 08:30 am, to 06 December 2012 at 13:00 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 Communications relating to this event should be communicated to the following address:

African Union Commission Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Attention: Mr. Samuel KAME-DOMGUIA, OCist.

Coordinator, 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force.

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VI. How?

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

- African maritime cross-sectoral **Experts** will meet on 03-04 December 2012, from 09:00 am to 17:30 pm.
- African maritime cross-sectoral **Senior Officials** will meet on 05 December 2012; from 10:00 am to 17:30 pm.
- The meeting of African **Ministers** Responsible for Maritime-Related Affairs will start on 06 December 2012, at 10:00 am, with the opening statement of H.E. the Chairperson of the Commission.

All participants will be self-sponsored.

* **Ministers, members of the Government/Cabinet, from all AU Member States, dealing with any of the various sectors related to the African Maritime Domain, to include amongst others: Energy, economy, water, water resources, justice/legal, planning and development, tourism, defense, 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, science and Technology.**

**The amended version of the Official Draft 2050 AIM Strategy was sent to all Member States on 25 April 2012.