AFRICAN UNION

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THE JOINT MEETING OF SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

ON THE

AFRICAN CHARTER ON MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (THE LOMÉ CHARTER)

CONCEPT NOTE

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
OCTOBER 2017

I. CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

1. The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union adopted in Lomé on 15th October 2017 an historical charter on Maritime security and safety and development in Africa (*Lomé Charter)*. The Lomé Charter is a new strategic guideline with the view to coordinate specific actions between the Member States across the continent, in order to secure the oceans and seas by combatting piracy, arms trafficking and human being on the African coastlines. The expected benefit of the Charter is to create a geostrategic framework for an enhancement of cooperation for all the Member States of the African Union in the domain of maritime.

2. The Lomé Charter goes beyond the scope of the Revised African Maritime Transport Charter that was adopted in 2010 in Kampala, Uganda and, besides matters of maritime safety and security, it covers issues related to economic development in Africa. In fact, the challenges of maritime security and safety need to be addressed as a priority for the Member States of the African Union and for the prosperity of the continent. With 38 coastal States, 13 million of maritime economics domain, and 17% of global freshwater resources, 90% of imports and exports transit through the African maritime space. Furthermore, being endowed with natural and environment resources has to be appreciated as an opportunity for sustainable development.

3. The Assembly Decision, Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 taken during the 28th Extraordinary Summit of the Assembly held on 15th October 2016 in Lomé, Togo, States as follows: "*Requested the Commission to take all necessary measures in order to convene Extraordinary Session of the relevant Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) which were not involved in the elaboration process of the Charter namely: The STCs on Trade, Industrial Minerals, STC on Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism, STC on Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and other relevant STCs to enable them to consider issues falling within their respective mandate and submit their contributions to the African Charter, in the form of annexes for the Assembly for consideration in July 2017"*.

4. Having regard to the technical areas of the annexes, and under the Chairperson's office, the Office of Legal Counsel convened meetings on 16th to 21th January 2017 and 6th to 10th March 2017 for the elaboration of the annexes to the Lomé Charter. On the 8th to 10th July 2017, the Office of Legal Counsel convened a meeting of Independent Experts to review and finalise the draft annexes in line with the objectives of Agenda 2063 for the development of the blue economy in Africa and to ensure that the draft annexes are comprehensive.

5. In order for the Commission to submit the annexes to the next Union Assembly which will be held in January 2018, the African Union Commission plans to convene on the 30th to 31th October 2017 in Lomé the joint meeting of the relevant Specialized Technical Committees for the validation of the annexes to the Lomé Charter.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

6. The main objective of the joint meeting of STCs is to finalise and validate the seven annexes to the Lomé Charter.

7. The current STCs in the African Union are as follows:

1) Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
2) Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration;
3) Committee on Trade and Industry and Minerals;
4) Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism;
5) Committee on Gender and Women Empowerment;
6) Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;
7) Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment;
8) Committee on the Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
9) Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control;
10) Committee on Migration, Refugees and IDPs;
11) Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports;
12) Committee on Education, Science and Technology;
13) Committee on Communication and ICT;
14) Committee on Defence, Safety and Security.

III. STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

8. Organization of the joint STCs' meeting will be under the guidance of the Chairperson. The Department of Infrastructure and Energy will be responsible for coordinating the preparations of the meeting with the effective involvement of the various departments in the Commission related to the STCs concerned with the Lomé Charter and its annexes.

9. The joint meeting will be convened in distinct sessions of Experts and Ministers. On 30th October 2017, the Experts will meet in two (2) joint plenary sessions at the opening and conclusion of their work. In between, they will hold separate parallel sessions of each STC for detailed technical consideration of the Annexes.

10. The Ministers will convene in plenary session only on the 31st October 2017 at the same venue to consider and endorse the outcome of the work of the Experts.

11. The draft Agenda and Programme of the meeting are attached hereby.

Table: Annexes and linkages with Departments

Annexes	Department concerned
I: **Definitions**	▪ All STCs
II: **General Provisions**	▪ All STCs
III: **Living Marine resource**	▪ Rural Economy and Agriculture Department
IV: **Extraction of Non-Living Marine Resource and Energy**	▪ Trade and Industry Department
V: **Climate and environmental sustainability**	▪ Rural Economy and Agriculture Department
VI: **Poverty Eradication, Employment and Social Development**	▪ Social affairs Department ▪ Women Gender and Development Department ▪ Political Affairs Department
VII: **Blue/Ocean Economy**	▪ Trade and Industry Department ▪ Department of Energy and Infrastructure
VIII: **African Maritime Cabotage**	▪ Department of Energy and Infrastructure

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS

12. The major outcome of this meeting will be the adoption of the final annexes for onward submission to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs.

V. DOCUMENTS

13. The following document will be made available:

(i) The African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa
(ii) The draft annexes on Lomé Charter
(iii) The report of the workshop of Maritime Expert Group (16th to 21th January 2017)
(iv) The report of the Independent Government Expert Group (8th to 10th July 2017)
(v) The Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (VI) adopted on 15th October 2016, Lomé, Togo.

VI. LOGISTICAL ISSUES

14. The Republic of Togo shall be responsible for all logistical arrangements, in collaboration with the Commission.

VII. PARTICIPATION

1) **Experts:**
   i. Member States: at least one (1) for each relevant STC
   ii. RECs; and
   iii. International Partners related to the Annexes

2) **Ministers:**
   At least one (1) Minister to represent each Member State (Member States should decide the Minister(s) to represent them at the ministerial meeting).

VIII. VII. VENUE AND DATE

15. The joint meeting of the relevant Specialized Technical Committees on the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter) will take place in Addis Ababa on the 30th to 31th October 2017.

IX. VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION

16. The following staff can be contacted for further information relating to this Meeting:

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