



## Directorate of Information and Communication

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#### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of African Ministers in charge of Maritime-related Affairs consider the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy)



Addis Ababa, 6 December 2012 –“There is a maritime dimension to virtually every major issue facing Africa today, including competitiveness, job creation and security. This is why the commission is increasingly putting maritime affairs at the center stage”, said Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma addressing the Second Conference of African Ministers in charge of Maritime-related Affairs, which held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012, at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Organized by the AU Commission under the theme “Towards the Implementation of the 2050 AIM Strategy’, the conference aimed to further discuss the 2050 AIM Strategy with all the AU Member States and to follow the procedures for its final adoption in January 2013 during the 20th ordinary session of the African Union Summit.

In her address to the conference, delivered on her behalf by H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, AUC Deputy Chairperson, Dr. Dlamini Zuma highlights the main challenges as well as geostrategic opportunities faced in Africa’s maritime domain, which require a collective political will by the African States. “If we don’t take the responsibility to strategize our **future... now**, if we don’t own this strategy, future generations of African citizens will be obliged to cope with the future that others have shaped for them”. She added.

The Deputy Chairperson said, “considering the fact that Africa is a big island, there is a need for us to have a better understanding of all activities in its adjoining oceans and seas, and seriously strategize how to maximize the multitrillion dollars’ worth wealth opportunities laying therein and address their cross-cutting and multifaceted geostrategic challenges and opportunities”.

Commending the efforts of the Experts in developing 2050 AIM strategy, Hon David Musila, Assistant Minister for Ministry of State for Defense of Kenya said “the strategy offers immense economic growth potentials and addresses most if not all of Africa’s maritime challenges, threat and opportunities”.

He expresses his country support for the formation of a standalone department for maritime affairs at the AU Commission. He urges for the adoption of the AU final draft 2050 AIM Strategy for realization of growth potential and enhanced cooperation in maritime security and economic exploitation emphasizing that “The time to harness our collective efforts to ensure sustainable exploitation is **now**. A lot has been lost to unregulated players who don’t have continent interest at heart. Our humble role is to ensure we popularize this great endeavor to our people”.

The meeting considered the 2050 AIM Strategy, the deliberations and recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> African maritime cross-sectoral Experts workshop and the high level African Maritime cross-sectoral Senior Officials meeting which took place on the 3rd-4th December 2012 and the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 respectively at the AU headquarters.

At conclusion of its deliberation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of African Ministers in charge of Maritime-related Affairs adopted the *Addis Ababa Declaration on the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy*, in which it adopted the 2050 AIM Strategy and the Plan of Action for Operationalization, endorsed the proposal to establish, within the AU Commission, a fully-fledged Department of Maritime Affairs and the proposal to establish a 2050 AIM Strategy High Level College of Champions (HLC2).

The information, which was immediately tweeted by H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, AUC Deputy Chairperson, is currently being retweeted by thousands of internet users worldwide.

The Conference also requested the Commission to take necessary steps for the adoption of the 2050 AIM Strategy in January 2013 during the 20th Ordinary Session of the Union; and to follow-up on all aspects of the Declaration and report thereon to the next Conference of African Ministers responsible for maritime-related affairs which should take place in fiscal year 2013.

It’s worth noting that the AU Commission organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of African Ministers in charge of Maritime related affairs on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012 at the Commission's Headquarters back to back with the 4<sup>th</sup> Experts workshop on the 2050 AIM strategy.

For further information, please visit the AU website: [www.au.int/maritime](http://www.au.int/maritime) or contact Samuel Kamé-Domguia, OCist. Coordinator, 2050 AIM Strategy Task Force.  
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