

**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION / 2050 AFRICA'S  
INTEGRATED MARITIME STRATEGY (2050 AIM-STRATEGY) TASK FORCE**

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**2013 Mo Ibrahim Foundation Forum: The Chairperson of the African Union  
Commission Highlights the Importance of African Blue Economy**



**Addis Ababa, November 10, 2013 -**

The 2013 Mo Ibrahim Foundation Forum was held at the African Union (AU) Commission Headquarters on November 10, 2013 under the Theme: “Africa Ahead: The Next 50 Years”. This theme was in line with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OAU/AU and aimed to spell out major opportunities and specific policy challenges the continent will have to address over the next 50 years. Present at this

continent-wide ceremony were high profile African personalities such as, among others, **H.E. Ato Hailemariam Dessalegn**, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the AU, **H.E. Dr. Dlamini Zuma**, Chairperson of the AU Commission, **H.E. Dr. Carlos Lopes**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, **H.E. Dr. Donald Kaberuka**, President of the African Development Bank Group, **H.E. Dr. Jean Ping**, former Chairperson of the AU Commission, **H.E. Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim**, former Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), **H.E. Mr. Trevor Manuel**, Minister in the Presidency in charge of National Planning Commission, South Africa, and **H.E. Dr. Mo Ibrahim** himself, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

In her opening note, **H.E. Dr. Zuma** highlighted, among others, the importance of promoting Africa’s **Blue Economy and Blue Growth** by stating: “To the Green Economy, we must add the Blue Economy, namely maritime resources and the all economy around the maritime industry,” a *sine*



*qua non* condition to Africa's true and meaningful renaissance that guarantees, protects and advances the socio-economic interests of African populations.

Such a statement from the Chairperson of the AU Commission reveals the extent to which the **maritime dimension and the Blue Economy in Africa's Renaissance** hold a prominent place in her mandate to elaborate the AU 2063 Agenda, a global Strategy aimed at optimizing the use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans. By the same token, she exhorts African leaders and policy-makers to take ownership of African Maritime Domain.

It is therefore in line with this goal that the **2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy** (2050 AIM-Strategy), an African comprehensive and integrative vision, has been developed by the AU Commission with the conviction that Africa's socio-economic development highly depends on her Maritime industry, Blue Economic and Blue Growth for the benefit of future African generations.

For further details on the 2050 AIM-Strategy and its Plan of Action, please visit: [www.au.int/maritime](http://www.au.int/maritime)