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EXPERTS WORKSHOP ON
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
6 - 7 APRIL 2010

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. From 6 to 7 April 2010, the Commission of the African Union (AU) convened a Workshop of Experts on Maritime Security and Safety, at the AU Headquarters, in Addis Ababa. The Workshop was a follow-up to the relevant paragraph of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.252(XIII) on the Report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa, adopted by the 13th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Sirte, Libya, from 1 to 3 July 2009. In that decision, the Assembly expressed its serious concern at the mounting insecurity in the maritime spaces around Africa, and Somalia in particular; strongly condemned all illegal activities in these regions; and welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Commission to develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy to combat these scourges. The Workshop was also convened within the framework of other relevant AU instruments, including the Africa Maritime Transport Charter (AMTC), which was first adopted in 1994 and updated in Durban, in October 2009.

2. The Workshop was opened by Dr. Elham Mahmoud Ahmed Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy. In her opening remarks, Dr. Elham Ibrahim recalled that, for years, African states have been mostly concerned by the declining capacity of their maritime industry. However, recently, the growing menace of unlawful activities on African waters and the rapid escalation of piracy activities off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Guinea has meant that more attention be also given to matters of maritime security and safety and concrete action be taken to rid the continent of these scourges. In this respect, she highlighted the need to adopt and implement practical measures that would make it possible to address each and every issue related to the current maritime security situation in Africa.

3. Speaking on behalf of Malawi, which is chairing the Union, Mr. Ernest Makawa, emphasized the necessity to take action for maritime security and safety in order to, *inter-alia*, protect fisheries, which make a vital contribution to the food and nutritional security of Africans and provide income for many others. He invited the experts to bear in mind that a threat-free maritime domain is a prerequisite for an integrated and prosperous Africa.

4. The following AU Member States participated in the Workshop: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. The Workshop was also attended by the following Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution: East African Community – EAC, Economic Community of Central African States – ECCAS, Community of Sahelo-Saharan States – CEN-SAD, Intergovernmental Authority on Development – IGAD, Southern African Development Community – SADC, Eastern African Standby Brigade Coordination Mechanism – EASBRICOM, and Northern Africa Regional Capacity – NARC. The Pan-African Parliament and other relevant AU structures and

institutions, including the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), also attended the Workshop. Representatives of the Gulf of Guinea Commission, African Think Tanks and Academia were also in attendance.

6. The Workshop was also attended by the United Nations Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the African Maritime Advisory Group (AMAG) at the IMO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), La Francophonie and other AU bilateral partners (Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain, UK, USA), as well as by Greenpeace Africa.

7. The Workshop provided an opportunity to review the challenges facing Africa in terms of maritime security and safety. In this respect, and in the context of relevant national legislations and international conventions and instruments, emphasis was placed on issues relating to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing), dumping of toxic wastes, arms and drugs trafficking, human trafficking, oil bunkering, piracy and armed robbery at sea, etc.

8. The Workshop also reviewed the initiatives being undertaken both within and outside Africa to address the issue of maritime security and safety. In this respect, the Workshop acknowledged the efforts made by the AU, including the AMTC, the Durban resolution (2009) and the Plan of Action on Maritime Transport (adopted Abuja in February 2007 and updated in April 2008, in Algiers, and in October 2009, in Durban), the activities being implemented at regional and national levels, as well as those carried out within the framework of the United Nations and other relevant international institutions, such as the IMO, which initiated the Djibouti Code of Conduct on the Suppression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

9. The Workshop stressed the urgent need for renewed efforts at national, regional and continental levels to promote maritime security and safety and ensure that Africa takes responsibility and full advantage of its maritime domain, as part of the overall efforts towards the development of the continent, bearing in mind that a well-managed African maritime domain will be an invaluable asset for wealth creation, socio-economic advancement and prosperity, as well as a significant contribution to global security.

10. Against this background, it was agreed that the Workshop should be followed by a series of other activities aimed at raising awareness among the key stakeholders of the continent, mobilizing the indispensable political will, building capacity at all levels, securing the required resources, as well as building partnerships. More specifically, the Workshop emphasized the following elements:

- i. the need for early signature and ratification of the AMTC and implementation of the Durban resolution and Plan of Action on Maritime Transport, as well as other relevant AU instruments and decisions on maritime security and safety;

- ii. the ratification by the AU Member States of all relevant international instruments, including: (a) the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, known as MARPOL 73/78, (b) the 1988 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention), Protocols and related instruments, (c) the Maritime Labour Convention, and (d) FAO instruments on IUU Fishing. The Workshop underlined the need for concerted action through the AU to take advantage of the provisions contained in these various instruments;
- iii. the launching by the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, the RECs and other stakeholders, of specific activities aimed at supporting efforts to promote maritime security and safety, including through the Sea Power for Africa Symposium and the African Standby Force, as well as through an update on the state of signature and ratification by the AU Member States of the relevant international instruments;
- iv. the need, as the case of Somalia clearly demonstrates, to promote holistic approaches to address the issue of piracy. Such approaches should be informed by a proper understanding of this phenomenon and the context in which it is taking place, and involve both security measures at sea and efforts to promote land-based initiatives, i.e. enhancement structures of governance and protection of the livelihoods of coastal populations;
- v. the establishment, under the overall coordination of the AU Commission, of cross-sector Working Groups to address: (a) maritime security, (b) maritime safety, (c) maritime pollution, and (d) wealth creation from Africa's seas and oceans;
- vi. the development of an Integrated Maritime Strategy for Africa, articulating a common vision and addressing aspects relating to maritime security and safety comprehensively. Such an integrated Strategy should involve all stakeholders and take into account the multifaceted challenges facing Africa as far as maritime security and safety is concerned.

11. The Workshop recommended the convening of an expert-level meeting of AU Member States before the end of 2010, to review the steps taken towards the promotion of maritime security and safety, including IUU fishing, dumping of toxic wastes, piracy and armed robbery at sea and oil bunkering, as well as the envisaged Integrated Maritime Strategy for Africa.