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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5182 719  
[www.au.int/maritime](http://www.au.int/maritime)

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**2<sup>ND</sup> CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR MARITIME-RELATED AFFAIRS\***

**1<sup>ST</sup> HIGH LEVEL AFRICAN MARITIME CROSS-SECTORAL  
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING**

**5<sup>TH</sup> AFRICAN MARITIME CROSS-SECTORAL  
EXPERTS WORKSHOP ON THE 2050 AIM-STRATEGY®.**

**03 – 06 DECEMBER 2012,  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA.**

**DECL/M/II/CAMRMRA/2012**

# **ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON THE 2050 AFRICA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME STRATEGY (2050 AIM STRATEGY®)**



**6 Dec. 2012**

## 2050 AIM STRATEGY DECLARATION

**We**, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation participating in the Ministerial Segment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of African Ministers responsible for maritime-related affairs\* held in Addis Ababa from 03 to 06 December 2012 under the co-chairmanship of Honourable Mrs. Souad Bendjaballah, Algerian Minister of National Solidarity and Family who chaired the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of African Ministers responsible for maritime-related affairs held in Addis Ababa on 21 April 2012, and Honorable Mr. Valentin Djènonatin Agossou, Minister of Maritime Economy of the Republic Benin, which is chairing the Union;

**Inspired** by the objectives and principles stated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU), (Articles 3 and 4);

**Recalling** the decision Assembly/AU/Dec.252(XIII) adopted at the 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Sirte, Libya, in July 2009, in which the Assembly expressed its serious concern at the mounting insecurity in Africa's maritime domain; welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Commission to develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy to address Africa's maritime challenges and opportunities;

**Recalling also** the Decision of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda in July 2010 [Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.294(XV)] by which the Assembly lent its support to the efforts being undertaken by the Commission in this regard including the elaboration of an integrated maritime strategy for the management of the continent's maritime domain;

**Recalling further** the Communiqué of the 242<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) held in Addis Ababa on 04 October 2010, which welcomed the efforts being made by the Commission and "looked forward to the early development of the African Integrated Maritime Strategy";

**Strongly condemn** all illegal activities in Africa's maritime domain;

Welcome the initiative undertaken by the AU Commission to develop the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM-Strategy);

**Concerned** by the increasing risks to sustainable development associated with Africa's maritime domain threats and vulnerabilities to include: illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing), dumping of all sorts of marine pollutants, arms and drugs trafficking, human trafficking, illegal oil bunkering, piracy and armed robbery at sea, etc;

**Concerned also** by the fact that in addition to loss of revenue, illegal trafficking in Africa's maritime domain fuels violence and insecurity, feeds corruption, finances the purchase of weapons, corrupts youth, causes environmental pollution and destabilizes communal life;

**Recognizing** the importance of inter-agency and cross-border cooperation in the development and implementation of maritime policies, particularly in the areas of safety, security, protection of the marine environment and maritime labour;

**Recognizing also** all ongoing initiatives related to Africa's Maritime Domain to include the Seapower for Africa Symposium, African Port Management Associations' endeavours, the

Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) and Union of African Shippers and Stakeholders endeavours;

**Recognizing further** the Abuja Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the Indian Ocean MoU, the Mediterranean MoU on Port State Control, the Djibouti Code of Conduct, the NEPAD Joint Implementation Mechanism of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions in the implementation of the marine and coastal environment as well as the African Maritime Transport Charter;

**Conscious** of the interdependence between Africa's economic development and sustainable policies for the exploitation, protection and preservation of Africa's marine environment;

**Conscious also** of the need for enhancement of wealth creation from Africa's maritime domain and take full advantage of the wealth of opportunities laying there for Africa's socio-economic development;

**Having considered** the deliberations of the High Level African Maritime Cross-Sectoral Senior Officials meeting and the Expert Segment of this Ministerial Conference held in Addis Ababa respectively on 05 December 2012 and from 03 to 04 December 2012;

**Strongly condemn** all illegal activities in Africa's maritime domain, including the act of piracy and its attendant effect of taking hostages of Seafarers whose families pains the African Union shares;

In light of the above, and on the basis of the report of the preparatory meeting of African Maritime Cross-Sectoral Experts as reviewed by the High Level African Maritime Cross-Sectoral Senior Officials meeting;

**Commit ourselves to:**

**Strengthen and sustain** inter-agency collaboration in addressing maritime challenges and opportunities at National levels as well as enhanced cross-border and sub-regional cooperation;

**Take all necessary steps** to ensure the ratification by the AU Member States of all relevant international instruments and take full advantage of the provisions contained in these various instruments;

**Further:**

**Adopt** the 2050 AIM-Strategy articulating an overarching, coherent multilayered African-driven long term vision to address Africa's maritime challenges and opportunities;

**Adopt also** the 2050 AIM-Strategy Plan of Action for Operationalization;

**Express** our unconditional support to this extremely important initiative and assure the Commission of our full cooperation and further request that all stakeholders support strategy which will boost global security standards and enhance the dignity of future generations of African citizens;

**Urge** the AU Commission and the RECs/RMs to spare no efforts in ensuring the timely implementation of the 2050 AIM-Strategy Plan of Action for Operationalization;

**We also:**

**Undertake** to review the 2050 AIM Strategy every three years and to annually assess the implementation of the 2050 AIM Strategy Plan of Action for Operationalization;

**We therefore:**

**Endorse** the proposal to establish, within the AU Commission, a fully-fledged Department of Maritime Affairs to comprehensively address cross-cutting and multifaceted inland waterways, oceans and seas geostrategic challenges and opportunities;

**Endorse also** the proposal to establish a 2050 AIM Strategy High Level College of Champions (HLC2) which will champion the 2050 AIM Strategy. Composed of selected high profiled African leaders, the HLC2 will leverage, through sustained lobbying throughout Africa and around the world, the necessary tangible and intangible sources of power, political will and buy-in, as well as marshal the required resources for the implementation of the 2050 AIM Strategy;

**Request** the Commission to follow-up on all aspects of this Declaration and report thereon to the next Conference of African Ministers responsible for maritime-related affairs\* which should take place in FY 2013.

**Further request** the Commission to take necessary steps for the adoption of the 2050 AIM Strategy in January 2013 during the 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Union.

\* 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.