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PRESS RELEASE N°064/2011

"TASK FORCE TO LEAD DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF 2050 AFRICA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME STRATEGY (2050 AIM-STRATEGY) FORMED"



Addis Ababa, 3 June 2011 - A cross-Department task force to develop an integrated, coherent and comprehensive 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM-Strategy) was formed today at the African Union Commission. The 2050 AIM-Strategy will articulate an overarching multilayered African-driven long term vision to address Africa's maritime challenges and opportunities.

The 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force was formed in the face of the pressure that Africa's oceans and seas are under. These include loss of life and revenue from illegal activities. The lost revenue amounts to hundreds of billions

of US dollars in the past decades. African Union statistics show that traditional maritime activities such as shipping and fisheries intensified in the past decades while new ones, such as aquaculture and offshore renewable energy emerged. The rise in intensity of activities at sea took place against a backdrop of insecurity, degradation of the marine environment and falling bio diversity, aggravated by climate change.

AU Commission Deputy Chairperson Mr Erastus Mwencha officially introduced the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force members to each other today, and stressed the need for Africa to provide quality leadership on Africa's strategic maritime affairs at the continental level. He observed that maritime issues cut across all the departments of the AUC. This is the reason, he said, why there was need to form an all-inclusive task force of experts to provide leadership.

The Deputy Chairperson said Africa needs to safeguard her resources and her population from plunder. Good governance is essential in this, he added.

The 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force, which is to incorporate experts nominated by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms (RMs) and relevant specialized organs such as the Sea Power for Africa Symposium, is composed of representatives from the following departments and directorates at the AU Commission: peace and security; economic affairs; human resources, science and technology; infrastructure and energy; political affairs; rural economy and agriculture; social affairs; gender; trade and industry; information and communication; administration and human resources management; office the legal counsel and strategic planning. When deemed necessary and appropriate, the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force may call upon any expert for his/her expertise.

The 2050 AIM-Strategy should be ready for adoption by January 2012.

Mr Samuel Kamé-Domguia, OCist. was elected convener of the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force, which agreed to meet every two weeks.