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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia P. O. Box 3243 Tel; 5517 700 Fax: 5511299

Website: www.africa-union.org

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON MWENCHA HOLDS MEETING WITH TASK FORCE OF 2050 AFRICA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME STRATEGY (2050 AIM-STRATEGY)

Addis Ababa, 22 September 2011 – The Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Mr. Erastus Mwencha, held a meeting on 22 September 2011, with members of the cross-Department task force formed to develop and implement the comprehensive 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM-Strategy).

The meeting which took place in the meeting room of the Deputy Chairperson's bureau at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was an opportunity to "touch base" with the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force Members and energize them in the pursuit of their respective contribution to this very important policy document on Africa's holistic approach to Oceans and Seas.

Mr. Mwencha reminded all members of the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force that Africa being a BIG island, there is a need to have a better understanding of all activities in its adjoining oceans and seas, and think seriously how to maximize the limitless opportunities laying therein. He recalled that the AU Commission is receiving congratulations from all over the world for this very important milestone.

The 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force, which was formed on 03 June 2011 at the AUC is composed of representatives from the following departments and directorates of 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 of the legal counsel and strategic planning. Experts nominated to represent Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms (RMs) and relevant specialized organs such as the Sea Power for Africa Symposium, are to be incorporated in the Task Force. When deemed necessary and appropriate, the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force may call upon any expert for his/her expertise.

Deputy Chairperson Mwencha encouraged all members of the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force to hold in trust and confidence any sensitive information disclosed in the course of performing their task. He said all members of the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force shall be bound by the terms of a Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

The Non Disclosure Agreement was signed by the Deputy Chairperson in the presence of all the 2050 AIM-Strategy Task Force members of the AU Commission.