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2050
AFRICA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME STRATEGY
(2050 AIM STRATEGY)

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have a pleasure to present to you the AIM Strategy 2050 of the African Union. My presentation will start with a short introduction then I will embark on addressing specific question in relation to this symposium.

Short introduction:

Let's first identify why there was a need for a Maritime Strategy?

It started by the *AU Constitutive Act*, in its *Article 3*, the Union objectives includes, *inter alia*, to “(f) promote peace, security, and stability on the continent; and (j) promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies;...”

Moreover, *Article 4* stated that one of the Union principles’ is to “(d) establishment of a common defence policy for the African Continent...” and this was the objective on which the Union established the Peace and Security Council.

In this regard, it is to be noted that the Maritime Strategy addresses all major issues that Africa is confronted with, namely:

- i. Diverse illegal activities, which include toxic waste dumping and discharge of oil, dealing in illicit crude oil, human, arms and drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery at sea;
- ii. Energy exploitation, climate change, environmental protection, conservation and safety of life and property at sea;

- iii. Research, innovation and development; and
- iv. Maritime sector development, including competitiveness, job creation, international trade, maritime infrastructure, transport, information, communication, technology, and logistics.

To reach these goals, the African leaders sought to adopt a strategy to be a key pillar for economic and social development, through enhancing a sustainable “blue economy” initiative that improves Africans well-being while significantly reducing marine environmental risks as well as ecological and biodiversity deficiencies. (Assembly/AU/Dec.252(XIII) adopted in Sirte, Libya on 2009)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now, I will start addressing specific question regarding the Strategy, in the following order:

1. How will the Strategy help meet National, Regional and Continental Security Goals?
2. How will the Strategy help identify Maritime Capability and Capacity?
3. How will the AU and the 2050 AIM help the Maritime Force Collaborate across Africa and the International Community?
4. What is the Future of AIM Strategy?

1. How will the Strategy help meet National, Regional and Continental Security Goals?

In addressing security goals, the Strategy aims at dealing with security from a broad perspective, if these are incorporated in the work of the national competent entities, regional arrangements and continental organizations, then the Strategy will be a success. *These include developing the following:*

- i. A comprehensive understanding of existing and potential challenges, on the 3 levels, including allocation of resources to identify priorities over a pre-determined time-frame.
- ii. A comprehensive, concerted, coherent and coordinated approach that improves maritime conditions with respect to environmental and socio-economic development as well as the capacity to generate wealth from sustainable governance of Africa's seas and oceans.
- iii. A common template for the AU, the RECs/RMs, and relevant Organizations; and Member States, to guide maritime review, budgetary planning and effective allocation of resources, in order to enhance maritime viability for an integrated and prosperous Africa.
- iv. A business plan that specifies milestones, capacity building targets and implementation requirements, including technical and financial support from within Africa and also from development partners.

We do foresee that if this is implemented as envisaged, it will lead to a real sustainable system of governance of the seas of Africa, which will assist Member States in achieving maritime security.

There are also several initiatives in tandem with existing regulatory framework mentioned in the Strategy aiming at achieving this goal.

2. How will the Strategy help identify Maritime Capability and Capacity?

The Strategy includes a section on the steps aiming at identifying the Continent's maritime capability and capacity as follows:

- i. Encouraging sub-regional cooperation in the construction and equipping of standardized commercial vessels, patrol vessels and other specific naval vessels, machinery and electrical installations and life-saving appliances in Africa;
- ii. Intensifying efforts with RECs/RMs and Member States, in order to significantly improve Africa's share of global ship ownership by gross tonnage from 0.9% to at least 7% by 2050;
- iii. In order to improve the picture of one or more aspects of a REC/RM or Member States' maritime sector and facilitate discussion among actors with maritime responsibilities, the AU shall spearhead a full-scale maritime sector assessment that will lead to the activation of relevant reform programmes;
- iv. Mapping and assessing the existing capabilities and gaps so as to enable improved cooperation, capacity-building and coordination between all stakeholders towards enhancing wealth creation in a safe and secure

African Maritime Domain (AMD) across each of the six cross-cutting categories of activities in the maritime sector (Commerce, Transport, Extractive Industries, Defence and Security, Tourism, and Education, and Scientific Research).

v. ***There are four building blocks for capacity and capability building as follows:***

1. Maritime Defence Architecture (MDA) that includes architecture design, compliance procedures, public participation, interoperable C4ISR architecture, information sharing, environmental protection;
2. Maritime professionals (recruitment process, leadership doctrine, training, pay and benefits, public support, professional relationship);
3. Maritime infrastructure (piers/quays and port facilities, dockyards/shipyards, command centers, aids to navigation and hydrography infrastructure and facilities, C4ISR infrastructure, maintenance facilities, training facilities);
4. Maritime surveillance and response capabilities (legal authorities, patrol vessels and operational equipment, command and control, operational procedure, sub-regional and cross-country interoperability).

vi. Different types of analysis shall be conducted to make an assessment of the current situation and identify tangible points for reaching intended capacity and capability building aims, to achieve the 2050 AIM Strategy objectives. This systematic approach shall lend itself to a return-on-

investment understanding of cost of improvements versus cost of doing nothing.

3. How will the AU and the 2050 AIM help the Maritime Force Collaborate across Africa and the International Community?

In implementing the Strategy, the AU attempts to enforce the outreach initiatives that include the following:

1. “*No more sea-blindness*” campaign is one of the initiative that shall be launched by the AU and the RECs/RMs, with a yearly event, including use of global media platforms, to sensitize the general public on the importance of the sea.
2. AU Member States shall undertake to incorporate into their *education systems* at all levels the significance of their maritime zones as part of their geographical territory.
3. The AU shall organize a *Maritime Security and Development Conference* on an annual basis to bring together cross-sector experts from public and private sectors to exchange views on various cross-cutting marine related issues. Ministerial level participants will also be invited so as to bridge discussions with politics decision makers and uphold the indispensable political will.
4. “*World Oceans’ Day*”, that the UN established for promoting links between maritime communities and organizations. The AU shall push for the effective observance of this Day within Member States in order to increase awareness

for the importance of Africa's oceans and seas to economic development, environmental sustainability and quality of life.

5. An African regatta, racing formally structured events with comprehensive rules describing the schedule and procedures of the event, including social and promotional activities which surround the racing events shall be organized on a yearly basis at Community, National and Regional levels to ***uphold awareness of the outreach initiative.***
6. AU shall push for a right-sized ***representation of the African continent in the various organs of marine related international institutions***, so as to ensure that the voices of Africa are properly heard in relevant international forums and to put Africa's maritime sector in the center stage during international discussions associated with African or global maritime agenda which is crucial for long-lasting, meaningful development in the maritime field.

4. What is the Future of AIM Strategy?

Africa is now in the transition between the creation of the Strategy and its growth, which can be referred to as the initial implementation stage. It is a stage whereby all stakeholders are supposed to come together in order to pave the way forward, which will ascertain what growth will be like.

Attempts now is to bring together relevant stakeholders in the Continent to discuss the way forward. Steps envisaged are the following:

- i. Enhancing means for information Sharing, Communication, Collaboration, Cooperation, Capacity-building and Coordination, with the

- overall objective being to achieve increased development and integration of the continent;
- ii. The AU developed *the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and development in Africa (Lome Charter)*, in order to boost the implementation of the 2050 AIM Strategy in conformity with International Maritime Law. So far, 34 States signed the Charter and one ratified it;
 - iii. Currently, there are Eight 8 Draft Annexes to the Charter, which were created with the intention of catering for the Maritime developmental aspects, in addition to the maritime security, which had been mostly catered for in the Charter. The Draft Annexes are still in the negotiations stage;
 - iv. The AU is working on supporting the implementation of a Maritime Disaster Management Strategy for Africa, with measures aimed at preventing or reducing risks of disasters; lessening severity or consequences of disasters; emergency preparedness, rapid and effective response to disasters; and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation in the AMD. In this regard consideration shall be given to early warning sensors and centers and build on the concept of disaster relief and humanitarian aid from the sea;
 - v. In partnership with interested stakeholders, the AU is working towards the rapid establishment of standardized Regional Maritime Headquarters (MHQ) with Maritime Operational Coordination Centers (MOC) with

mutualized response capabilities in all RECs/RMs. *The goals of Regional MHQ and MOCs are twofold:*

1. to increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the African Standby Force (ASF) as African Navies participate in integrated operations, a move to improve Africa's Maritime response capabilities; and
 2. to improve situational awareness in the AMD, involving all organizations and agencies with a key role in maritime safety and security;
- vi. Establishing a system to incorporate and implement a Common Fisheries Policy for the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks in accordance with the ecosystems and precautionary approach for the whole Exclusive Economic Zone for Africa;
- vii. The AU shall work with the UN World Tourism Organization on eco-sustainable marine tourism in Africa; lastly
- viii. *The AU wishes to establish a standalone Department of Maritime Affairs (DMA) to develop and coordinate all policies implementation on the AIM Strategy in AMD. The DMA will work on:*
- a. Enhancing collaborative, concerted, cooperative, coordinated, coherent and trust-building efforts throughout the continent and with partners to augment global maritime safety and security standards;

- b. Seeking to assess and realize the economic multiple co-benefits potential of Africa's millions of hectares of marine area;
- c. Promoting the sustainable development of marine industry through strategic funding programmes and essential scientific services;
- d. Safeguarding Africa's marine environment through research and environmental monitoring; and
- e. Establishing links between beyond and across Africa's traditional regional maritime boundaries, and fostering Africa's initiatives to build a network of partnerships that is as global in nature as are the world's common maritime threats and challenges.

As you can imagine, the AU has a very promising Strategy with clear goals and roadmap. However, there are still many challenges to the implementation which requires a lot of work from the AU, its Member States and Partners in order to foster Maritime Security across Africa's shores and Seas.

I look forward to further cooperating with you in making our world a better one.

I thank you