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**The first meeting of the African
Ocean Governance Strategy**
Istanbul, 19 October 2015

Conclusion of the meeting

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Planning Meeting for the Development of the Ocean Governance Strategy for Africa Region Conclusions

Istanbul, Turkey – 19 October 2015

I. Background

1. At the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in March 2015, in Cairo, Egypt, the African Ministers agreed on the Cairo Declaration. As stated in the paragraph 14 of the Cairo Declaration, African Ministers decided to develop an ocean governance strategy in Africa in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Regional Seas Conventions as well as the Strategies set by the African Union, namely the African Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 (AIMS 2050) and Agenda 2063: Africa We Want.
2. UNEP's work on ocean governance has been undertaken through the Regional Seas Programme. There are eighteen Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans across the world, of which seven Regional Seas are administered by UNEP. Four Regional Seas Conventions include Africa's oceans and seas: Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention, Nairobi Convention and Jeddah Convention.
3. These four Regional Seas have facilitated and supported collaboration mechanisms among neighbouring countries. On the basis of that experience and to respond to the call of the Cairo Declaration, the four Regional Seas Conventions have been exploring ways to consolidate and harness the natural blue capital potential of the oceans and seas in Africa as part of their contribution to Agenda 2063 and the Africa Integrated Marine Strategy 2050 (AIMS).

II. Ocean Governance Planning Meeting

4. The first planning meeting for the development of the African Ocean Governance Strategy was held on 19 October 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey with the aim of discussing the process of development of the African Ocean Governance Strategy as stated in the Cairo Declaration. The four Regional Seas Programmes heads of secretariats participated the meeting. A full list of participants of the meeting is shown in Annex 1. The meeting agenda is included as Annex 2.
5. The meeting started with the opening remarks by Mr. Robert Wabunoha who represented the UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA). He welcomed the participants and outlined the background and the objectives of the meeting highlighting: 1) how to develop ocean strategy for Africa and (2) how to organise the Regional Conference in 2016. Ms Mette Wilkie, Director of UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), thanked Black Sea Commission for hosting the meeting. She highlighted that the development of African Ocean Governance goes hand in hand with the SDGs and current development of ABNJ discussion. She stressed that Regional Seas Conventions in Africa are vehicles for the ocean governance and Africa is leading continent-wide Ocean Strategy.

III. Potential Challenges for development of an African Ocean Governance Strategy

6. Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention, stressed that the African Union's involvement and engagement of the Contracting Parties of each convention are crucial for a successful African Ocean Governance Strategy. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Barcelona Convention, pointed out the strong differences existing in terms of constituencies of the relevant Regional Sea Conventions. Mr. Ahmed Khalil, PERSGA, also added that there are member states at PERSGA that are not in the AU.

IV. Discussion on the process of developing the African Ocean Strategy

7. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Barcelona Convention, stated that the analysis of the current initiatives on African oceans and seas will be a good start to develop the African Ocean Strategy. He also stated that a clarification on what is expected to be delivered by 2016 is needed.
8. The meeting participants agreed that by 2016 the working group will (1) conduct a scoping analysis of existing ocean strategies and governance mechanisms including gap analysis if necessary (Analysis of Regional Governance Structures); (2) analyse elements to be included in the Strategy based on well-recognised principles; and (3) conduct stakeholder consultations (AMSEM member countries as well as stakeholders at different levels). The participants agreed that the initial analysis needs to define what African Ocean Governance Strategy is. The strategy needs to be concise and strategic rather than going into details of actions for implementation that may be left to a later stage.

V. Analysis of existing Regional Governance Structures (scoping study / analysis)

9. The meeting participants agreed that an in-house scoping study (Analysis of Regional Governance Structures) will be conducted. It needs to define what Ocean Governance is and what African Ocean Governance Strategy is. This analysis will lead to a draft strategic framework to be presented at the Regional Conference.
10. The scoping study needs to be based on the AIMS2050 and Agenda 2063 and other regional plans, identifying current gaps. The analysis will address following issues:
 - (1) Definition of ocean governance;
 - (2) Global discussion of ocean governance (issues of continental shelf, climate change, BBNJ/ABNJ and the SDGs);
 - (3) Existing legal and institutional framework and instruments on ocean governance;
 - (4) Major elements from the existing studies in Africa such as Blue Print in Abidjan Convention;
 - (5) National level analysis to identify good practices and examples in Africa;
 - (6) Mechanisms for science-policy dialogue;
 - (7) Role of UNEP and Regional Seas for the implementation of the African Ocean Governance Strategy; and
 - (8) Issues related to LMEs.

The paper will also link this regional discussion to global discussion so that the African Process will feed into the global processes and debates. The scoping analysis will need to be stored in a way that will continue to be available in the future.

VI. A Panel of Government-designated Experts (PGE)

11. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP, proposed that a Panel of Government-designated Experts (PGE) be established to review a draft Strategic Framework. Each of the four (4) Regional Seas Programmes in Africa would request their Parties to nominate experts in participating in the PGE. Other stakeholders including regional and international organization would also be able to join the PGE. Once the key elements of the draft Strategic Framework is ready, a Regional Conference will be held around October 2016 to review and agree on the draft Framework, which will be further developed into the African Ocean Governance Strategy.
12. Mr. Dixon Waruinge added that the experts from secretariats also need to be included in the PGE. Mr. Ahmed Khalil, PERSGA, pointed out the nomination process needs to be fair to all the countries. However, UNEP does not have a specific budget to this African Ocean Strategy at this moment and thus donors are needed to support the participation to the PGE process.
13. The participants agreed that this discussion on African Ocean Governance needs to be elevated inside UNEP. This working group, therefore, requested UNEP that this Ocean Governance process needs to be placed as a high priority issue across divisions. This issue should also be ideally reflected to the UNEP PoW. Africa is leading the regional ocean governance process and the discussion in Africa should be fed into international ocean governance discussions. The participants agreed to create a proposal as Working Group based on the in-house scoping study which could be used to approach potential donors.

VII. Outline of African Ocean Strategy

14. The participants were invited to discuss the outline of the Strategy document based on the proposed structure provided by UNEP¹ (Annex 3).
15. The participants agreed that the strategy would be developed on the basis of an integrated, cross-sectoral approach focusing on issues such as cooperation, management and economic development.
16. This strategy will be based on principles such as the Importance of the regional dimension, precautionary principle, polluter-pays principle, inclusiveness, universality, integration. The strategy should enable implementation of management tools including ecosystem based management, Blue economy, and MSP. Thus the Strategy would address the following strategic

¹ UNEP/ Ocean Governance/ WG.1/2 Concept note for developing Africa Ocean Governance Strategy, Annex: Proposed outline of Strategy

options: SDG Implementation, Ecosystem-based Approach, MSP, Blue Economy, Across Sub-regions, Across Sectors, Science-Policy nexus, Synergies among different stakeholders (e.g. RS / RFMOs). Strategic Themes, associated with ocean management for livelihoods and growth would include energy, urban and coastal planning, tourism, oil and gas, climate change, fisheries, (ABNJ, continental shelf, etc.).

17. Mr. Abou Bamba, Abidjan Convention briefed the process on Blue Print for integrated Ocean Governance Strategy for Africa. The Cairo Declaration allows that process at Abidjan Convention to be linked with African-wide Ocean Strategy. The Blue Print will be ready by December 2015, and will be presented by March 2016 at a Regional Symposium. Mr. Bamba will circulate the draft of Blue Print by 23 October 2015 to the meeting participants.
18. The participants agreed that the outline of the Strategy document will be as below:
 - a. Vision
 - b. Principles
 - c. Results of the Analysis of Step 1 (Global, Regional, National Horizons)
 - d. Strategic Options
 - e. Strategic Themes and Expected Outcomes
 - f. Means of Implementation
 - g. Monitoring and Evaluation

VIII. Timeline for preparation

19. The working group agreed that the substantive competence for the process of preparation of the strategy would come from the UNEP DEPI, including inputs from UNEP DEWA, DELC and DTIE. The capacity of visualisation of maps, for example, exists in UNEP DEWA including possible connections with UNEP Live. Thus UNEP DEPI will be in charge of the preparation of the scoping paper proposed. This paper should include substantive inputs from Regional Seas Convention secretariats. ROA will provide the political support and coordinate with AUC together with review of the documentation.
20. The term of reference (TOR) for defining the scope of this analysis will be prepared before the end of 2015. A telephone conference will be organised before the end of this year to agree on the TOR.
21. It should be noted that the EU ocean governance process is ongoing in parallel to this African process and the experience can be shared among the two processes.

IX. Organisation of the Regional Conference (October of 2016)

22. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP, further presented a proposal on the organization of the Regional Conference. The participants pointed out that the timing of the conference is important in the context of other ongoing political initiatives. UNEP ROA is responsible for the organisation of the Regional Conference and suggested organising the conference in October 2016 with the divisions and regional seas secretariats headed by DEPI providing the substantive support.
23. Based on the proposal presented, the participants agreed that the regional Conference will serve four purposes:
- 1) Discuss how to harness the natural blue capital of the oceans and seas on the African continent as a contribution to the development of Africa;
 - 2) Discuss how to use the existing national and regional ocean governance frameworks to strengthen the regional governance mechanisms of oceans and seas in Africa in the context of the environment and ecosystems;
 - 3) Review a draft strategic framework and provide guidance to further submission to AMSEN/AU; and
 - 4) Discuss implementation of the SDG 14 within the African Ocean Governance Framework.
24. The potential participants will be 100-200 people. The participants of the Regional Conference could include: Ministries of environment; fisheries; economics; foreign affairs, sector specialists such as mining and energy; other regional institutions; and NGOs. However, the availability of financial supports to the participants will depend on funding.
25. UNEP ROA will take the lead for the selection of the host country of the Regional Conference bearing in mind Cairo as President of AMCEN, the headquarters of Nairobi and Abidjan convention and Addis Ababa the political capital of Africa and other related political arrangements.

X. Recommendation

26. The working group requested UNEP that this African Ocean Governance process needs to be put at a high priority across UNE since this process will feed into international discussion on ocean governance. It could also be reflected in UNEP PoW or MTS.
27. The working group request that the technical competence come from the UNEP DEPI, including the inputs from UNEP DEWA, DELC and DTIE.
28. The working group request UNEP to identify possible funds for the development of African Ocean Governance Strategy.
29. The working group propose that African Ocean Governance is also brought to the attention of UNEA 2.

XI. Closure of the meeting

30. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Barcelona Convention reported the summary of discussion to the Director of DEPI, UNEP, Ms. Mette Wilkie and to the 17 RSCAP meeting.
31. Ms. Mette Wilkie emphasized the importance of the engagement of stakeholders in order to get future endorsement. The working group responded that once the scoping is done, the working group will invite stakeholders for their inputs. An online consultation could be an option.
32. The participants agreed that a list of possible opportunities for consultation at relevant meetings will be produced by UNEP DEPI. AMSEN's special session in March 2016 could be used to inform the stakeholders on the African Ocean Governance process. However, the Regional Fisheries Organisations need to be invited in the session. Mr. Roberto Wabunoha, UNEP ROA, will follow up the possibility of presentation at the next AMCEN special session.
33. Ms. Mette Wilkie, UNEP closed the meeting, thanking all the participants for their valuable contributions. Mr. Gaetano Leone will report to the other Regional Seas Colleagues on 20 October 2015 at the first session. The meeting closed at 17:15 on 19 October 2015.

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