

**Inputs from OSAA as ECESA-plus Member for Secretary General’s background note on the preparatory meeting of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 with the theme:
“Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of the SDG14”**

The successful global implementation of SDG 14 will require the United Nations and international community to focus its attention on Africa, including the relevant regional agendas and frameworks which have been developed on the continent that align with SDG 14. The input below is organized in four categories, which represent key elements to be considered for the Secretary-General’s background note.

Background

The world’s oceans, seas and rivers are a major source of wealth, creating trillions of dollars’ worth in goods and services as well as job-creations for millions of people. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that renewable energy from the oceans has a power potential sufficient to provide up to 400% of current global demand; current global renewable energy supply from ocean power remains small but is expected to increase in the medium term.¹ Africa’s supply potential from hydropower is estimated at 283 Gigawatts (GW), and is able to generate close to 1200 Terawatt hours (TWh) per year which is 8% of the global technical potential. In comparison, this is far more than Africa’s current energy consumption, and therefore represents a significant potential to be realised.²

Of Africa’s 54 countries, 38 are coastal, and more than 90% of Africa’s imports and exports are conducted by sea. The largest sectors of the current African aquatic and ocean-based economy are fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, transport, ports, mining and energy. These sectors carry the most weight for Africa’s economy. According to the African Development Bank, direct travel and tourism employment in Africa totalled 8.7 million in 2014. Taking into account the indirect job creation, Africa tourism alone creates 20.5 million jobs which translate to 7.1% of total employment on the continent.³ In many African countries, the ocean economy contributes one-quarter of all revenues and one-third of export revenues. The OECD estimates that in 2030, these ocean based industries have the potential to outperform the global economy in terms of value added and job creation. The value added by these sectors could reach over USD 3 trillion with strong growth in aqua culture, port activities and fish processing which could contribute to approximately 40 million full time jobs.⁴

Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out to “*conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*”. This is an important priority for Africa, featuring prominently in the African Union Agenda 2063. In 2015, the African Union adopted Agenda 2063 as the basis for Africa’s long-term socio-economic and integrative transformation. SDG14 has its counterpart in Agenda 2063 Goal 6 on “*blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth*”.

Moreover, in 2012, the African Union already adopted the 2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) which provides a broad framework for the protection and sustainable exploitation of the African

¹ [Africa’s Blue Economy: A policy handbook](#), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2016 and [Renewable Energy: Medium Term Market Report](#), International Energy Agency, 2015

² [Africa Energy Outlook](#), International Energy Agency, 2014.

³ [Africa Tourism Monitor: Unlocking Africa’s Tourism Potential](#), African Development Bank, 2015

⁴ [The Ocean Economy in 2030](#), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2016

Maritime Domain (AMD) for wealth creation. In this strategy, the AU calls the continent's Blue Economy⁵ “a new frontier for the continent's renaissance”.⁶

There are a number of threats which may endanger Africa's sustainable maritime environment, including transnational organized crime such as illegal arms and drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery at sea, illegal oil bunkering, crude oil theft along African coasts, and human trafficking, especially in the Mediterranean. Most of these threats are geopolitical in nature, multifaceted and interconnected, and have become more complex with the increase of illegal migration across the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, the AIMS fed into Agenda 2063, in order to carefully integrate issues around Africa's Blue Economy and maritime geostrategic challenges and opportunities in the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission as well.⁷ This means that the targets of SDG14 around the protection of the world's oceans and seas cannot be isolated from regional economic and geopolitical maritime strategies, especially in Africa.

To conclude, the United Nations and international community should ensure the coherent and integrated implementation of SDG14 alongside Agenda 2063's Goal 6 in line with regional strategies and in collaboration with regional stakeholders and partners. In this respect, OSAA would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To ensure successful implementation of SDG14, the United Nations and international community should support the implementation of Africa's regional agenda, Agenda 2063, and its related Goal 6 on “blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth”.

- Agenda 2063's Goal 6 of “*Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth*”, supports the first Aspiration of Agenda 2063, namely “*A prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development*”. The priority areas identified in Agenda 2063 for goal 6 are a) marine resources and energy and b) port operations and marine transport.⁸
- Agenda 2063 sets the framework for Africa's national strategies to develop/implement policies and programmes for sustainable utilization of marine resources to increase their contribution to GDP. The vision of Africa 2063 states that “the inception gains from the economic transformation will go hand in hand with improved environmental conditions.” This means that “at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water and 10% of coastal and marine areas would have been preserved” by 2023, which is in line with SDG target 14.5, which states “by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information”.⁹
- The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) of Agenda 2063 forms the basis for the preparation of medium term development plans of member states of the AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AU Organs. The FTYIP includes 2023 targets for Goal 6 within the priority areas of ‘marine resources and energy’ and ‘port operations and marine transport’ as well as indicative strategies at the national and continental levels. See Appendix I.

⁵ The Blue Economy in the African context covers both aquatic and marine spaces, including oceans, seas, coasts, lakes, rivers and underground water, encompassing a range of productive sectors, including fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, transport, shipbuilding, energy, bioprospecting, and underwater mining and related activities (Africa's Blue Economy, UNECA, 2016, p. 1)

⁶ [2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy](#), African Union, 2012

⁷ H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission in her speech at the Gulf of Guinea Summit on June 25, 2013.

⁸ [Agenda 2063](#), African Union, Addis Ababa, 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, [SDG14, target 14.5](#).

⁹ [Agenda 2063](#), African Union, Addis Ababa, 2015.

2. To ensure successful implementation of SDG14, the United Nations and international community should promote and forge effective and sustainable partnerships with the implementing agencies of Agenda 2063, and strengthen national and regional entities in their implementation of SDG 14 and Goal 6 of Agenda 2063.

- The RECs, the African Development Bank and NEPAD Agency are key implementing partners for Africa of Agenda 2063 & the SDGs at the national and regional level, and should be engaged to the fullest extent to ensure the coherence in the implementation of SDG14 and Goal 6 of Agenda 2063.
- The FTYIP indicates that at the national level the blue economy should be supported to grow, while at the regional and continental level, the African Center for Blue Economy and the African Climate Fund need to be fully scaled up and financed.¹⁰

3. To ensure successful implementation of SDG14, the United Nations and international community should refer to relevant regional frameworks and strategies on sustainable oceans and blue economy.

- The AIMS integrates a plan of action with clearly defined goals, objectives, activities and milestones that are extremely relevant to SDG14 and Goal 6 of Agenda 2063.¹¹
- Following the 2050 AIM Strategy, the African Union launched the 2015-2025 decade of African Seas and Oceans in July 2015 to further promote the critical role of Africa's Blue Economy, Maritime Protection and Governance and Maritime Capacity Development in Africa's structural transformation during the next decade and beyond under the global framework of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹²

4. There is a need for strengthened South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and North-South cooperation in the implementation of SDG14 and Agenda 2063's Goal 6.

- Africa, like other regions of the world needs to benefit from sustainable exploitation of the high seas, which are a 'global common good'. Strengthened partnerships with member states, multi-national cooperations and marine bio-diversity entities will enable Africa to reap dividends from the massive water bodies that surround her in a sustainable way to ensure the wellbeing of all its citizens.

5. Particular attention should be dedicated to the opportunities and challenges facing Small Island States (SIDs) in Africa for the implementation of SDG14 and Agenda 2063's Goal 6.

- Africa is home to 6 SIDs¹³ whose citizens' livelihoods depend on the oceans and seas. These states are particularly vulnerable to the vagaries of global warming, and should play a key role in partnerships for the implementation of SDG14.

6. The commitments under SDG14 and Agenda 2063 Goal 6 need to be carefully monitored and evaluated.

¹⁰ [First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063](#), 2014-2023, African Union, 2015.

¹¹ [2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy](#), African Union, 2012

¹² Launch of the 2015-2025 Decade of African Seas and Oceans, [Concept Note](#), African Union, 2015.

¹³ The 6 SIDs in Africa are: Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome & Principe & Seychelles.

- Reliable and high-quality data and statistics are an important prerequisite for the successful implementation of the SDGs as well as Agenda 2063. Therefore, in order to track progress against the implementation of SDG14 and Agenda 2063 Goal 6 in Africa, capacity building investments are needed to put such information systems in place at the local, national, and regional level in Africa.
- The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa forms the Secretariat of the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism, which was established to review the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development (GA Resolution 66/293). This places the UNMM in a unique position to make a contribution to ensure SDG 14 and Agenda 2063 Goal 6 are adequately monitored and evaluated.

7. Potential themes for partnership dialogues to be held at the Conference should ensure an explicit focus on Africa's particular challenges and opportunities in the implementation of SDG14.

- A large number of developing countries, and the majority of LDCs, are in Africa and many African countries have coastal regions upon which their economies and people depend. Lessons from the Millennium Development Goals show that Africa has the most to gain and the most challenges to overcome regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, the Conference should ensure that its partnership dialogues provide sufficient focus on the Africa, will best achieved by dedicating one of the partnership dialogues to the implementation of SDG14 and Goal 6 of Agenda 2063 in Africa.

Appendix I: Agenda 2063 Goal 6 in First Ten Year Implementation Plan¹⁴:

Goal 6: Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth		
Priority Area (1)	2023 Target	Key Process Actions/Targets Towards 2023
<i>Marine resources and Energy</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 50% increase in value addition in the fishery sector in real term is attained by 2023 2. Build at least one Giant Aquaculture showpiece 3. Marine bio-technology contribution to GDP is increased in real terms by at least 50% from the 2013 levels 	N/a
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. At least 10% of renewable energy sources is from wave energy. 5. Commission and complete prospection of seabed's for minerals and hydrocarbon potentials by 2023 <p><u>Continental.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Member States Maritime Laws harmonized at the Regional level 	

¹⁴ [First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, 2014-2023, African Union, 2015.](#)

Indicative Strategies

To achieve the above targets, the following indicative strategies will have to be considered

National

1. Implement the African Integrated Maritime Strategy.
2. Develop/implement policies and programmes for sustainable utilization of marine resources to increase their contribution to GDP
3. Put in place policies and programmes in place to avoid the over exploitation and plundering of fishing beds including advocacy and compensation measures against illegal fishing revenue loses
4. Put in place policies and programmes for the protection of marine resources
5. For African Island States: Provide policies / incentives and positive regulatory environment for the creation new businesses with platforms based on: (i) deep ocean water applications (ii) marine hydrocarbon and mineral exploration and exploitation (iv) marine biotechnology and off (vi) aqua-culture development
6. Develop/implement R&D policies in support of the growth of marine resources business
7. Develop skills and technological platforms for blue economy businesses
8. Develop/implement policies and programmes to increase research and development for the monitoring of the High Seas, particularly where ecosystem components straddle between areas of national jurisdiction and the High Seas.
9. Develop / implement policies for reduction pollution of the ocean environment from both land and sea-based sources
10. Conduct economic valuation of natural blue capital and potential for growth or value addition
11. Develop/ implement policies to support the application of marine spatial planning and integrated adaptive oceans policy/governance for Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)
12. Develop / implement policies for marine spatial planning for sustainable development
13. Build valuation of blue / ocean capital into national accounting system
14. Develop / implement programmes for the growth of marine energy businesses
15. Build capacities including technology platforms for marine businesses
16. Conduct research in support of the growth of marine businesses

Priority Area (2)	Target for 2023	Key Process Actions / Targets for 2023
<i>Port Operations and Marine Transport</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribution of shipping / port operations services to GDP in real terms is increased by 50% 2. Locally, owned shipping lines carry at least 5% of annual tonnage of cargo. 3. Average duration of ship call time is reduced by at least 30% by 2020 4. Average time for clearing of goods from the ports is reduced by at least 50% by 2020 	N/a
<p>Indicative Strategies</p> <p>To achieve the above targets, the following indicative strategies will have to be considered</p> <p><u>National</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratify and bring into force the revised maritime charter 2. Implement the African Integrated Maritime Strategy 3. Develop/implement policies for the growth of port operations and marine transport 4. Build capacities for the growth of the port operations and marine transport 5. Conduct research and development in support of the growth of marine transport businesses to determine the sectors status, contributions and potential 6. Invest in ICT to enhance maritime management 7. Improve data and statistics for shipping services <p><u>Continental</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct feasibility studies to outline options for financing of Africa's shipping industry, maritime university and center of excellence 		