



COMMISSION DE
L'Océan Indien

Edition spéciale

Revue de presse –MASE

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La France et le Kenya signent deux accords régionaux de sécurité maritime



A la Conférence internationale sur l'économie bleue durable qui s'est tenue à Nairobi (Kenya), la sécurité maritime est apparue comme un thème fédérateur conduisant à des engagements fermes de la part des Etats.

La ministre de la Défense du Kenya, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, et l'ambassadrice de France au Kenya, Mme Aline Kuster-Ménager, ont signé, le 27 novembre 2018, deux accords régionaux de sécurité maritime dont les Comores, Djibouti, Madagascar, Maurice et les Seychelles sont déjà signataires. Ces deux accords élaborés dans le cadre du programme régional MASE financé par l'Union européenne participent concrètement à l'émergence d'une économie bleue authentiquement durable en Afrique orientale et australe et océan Indien.

En effet, l'accord pour la mise en place d'un mécanisme régional d'échange et de partage de l'information maritime et l'accord régional de coordination d'actions en mer constituent la base d'une architecture moderne, efficace et solide de sécurité maritime dans l'océan Indien occidental. Ces deux accords permettent aussi l'opérationnalisation du Centre régional de coordination opérationnelle basé aux Seychelles et du Centre régional de fusion de l'information maritime basé à Madagascar.

La ministre de la Défense du Kenya, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, a souligné la portée de ces accords qui « vont transformer la vie de tant de personnes, et particulièrement les femmes qui sont vulnérables à l'insécurité ». L'adhésion du Kenya à ces accords est ainsi un engagement concret de l'Etat à ajouter à la liste des réussites de la Conférence sur l'économie bleue durable, a-t-elle souligné.

Pour Aline Kuster-Ménager, Ambassadrice de France au Kenya, il est naturel pour la France, Etat membre de la **Commission de l'océan Indien (COI)** au titre de La Réunion, de participer à cette dynamique de coopération régionale pour la sécurité et la stabilité. En signant ces accords MASE, la France exprime son engagement à contribuer activement à la sécurisation de long terme de l'espace maritime de l'océan Indien occidental, a-t-elle ajouté en substance.

Charles Bastienne, ministre de la Pêche et de l'Agriculture des Seychelles, représentant la présidence seychelloise du Conseil de la Commission de l'océan Indien, s'est félicité de la signature de ces accords par la France et le Kenya.

« Ces accords amplifient notre coopération pour la sécurité et le développement durable de la région et je suis heureux de souligner également la contribution de l'Union européenne qui a indiqué un appui additionnel de 5 millions d'euros au programme MASE pour l'opérationnalisation de ces accords ».

Pour Hamada Madi, Secrétaire général de la **Commission de l'océan Indien** et dépositaire des accords, « l'adhésion de ces deux pays a d'autant plus de sens que la France est un membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies qui participe, de plus, aux missions régionales européennes comme EUNAVFOR Atalanta, et que le Kenya mobilise ses forces armées dans des opérations régionales de stabilité tout en renforçant ses capacités maritimes ».

La cérémonie de signature des Accords MASE a été marquée par la présence de Wallace Cosgrow, ministre de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et du Climat des Seychelles, des représentants des Etats signataires, de l'Union européenne, bailleur du programme MASE, et des organisations régionales chargées de la mise en oeuvre du programme MASE (IGAD, EAC, COMESA et **COI**).

Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference kids off in Nairobi

26 November 2018



His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President and Commander in Chief of Kenya Defence Forces makes his opening address for the Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference at Tsavo Ballroom, Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi.

The first Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference was officially launched on Monday, 26 November 2018 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi.

While making his official opening address, His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President and Commander in Chief of Kenya Defence Forces pointed out that oceans, seas and lakes supported livelihoods of a greater majority of the world population, enhanced food security and nutrition and provided employment to many. The President described oceans as the heart of the planet as they contained 97 percent of the Earth's water and supplied nearly half the oxygen used in breathing, absorbed over a quarter of the carbon dioxide the world produced and regulated the weather and temperature. The President also called upon each participant to ensure they played their part in ensuring these valuable resources were protected as they were utilised.

"We have adopted a programme to accelerate the development of our fisheries, by increasing aquaculture, fish processing and storage capacities and related blue economy industries, thereby creating employment opportunities for our people," said the President. He also disclosed that the previous week he had commissioned a new fisheries complex jetty to enable docking of large fishing and patrol vessels and announced the establishment of a Fishing Corporation. The President also confirmed that Kenya had ratified the Port State Measures Agreement that will ensure vessels flying the Kenyan flag comply with measures contained in that Agreement.

At a side event organised by the **Maritime Security in Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Program (MASE)** held at the Taifa Hall, University of Nairobi, Defence Cabinet Secretary Ambassador Raychelle Omamo stressed the importance of integration, cooperation and collective action among all stakeholders, if the dream of a thriving global blue economy was to be achieved.

The CS Defence appreciated MASE for the efforts it had made in ensuring improvement of security within the region. “Let us all continue to share knowledge and how we can deal with maritime threats and even maximise opportunities offered by the blue economy,” she said. The CS also stressed on the importance of incorporating women in matters security and the blue economy, and described them as a crucial entity for progress of any kind.

The side event brought together personnel from Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community, Interpol, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission, Coastal Community Against Piracy (CCAP) and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).

The three day Blue Economy Conference which is co-hosted by Kenya, Canada and Japan brings together over 15000 delegates from over 180 countries. The theme of the conference being “Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The conference focuses on new technologies and innovation for oceans, seas, lakes and rivers as well as the challenges, priorities and partnerships. The conference is expected to present immense opportunities for economic growth and will be anchored on two conceptual pillars of Sustainability, Climate Change and Controlling Pollution, Accelerated Economic Growth, Jobs and Poverty Alleviation. Transportation and Global Connectivity, Employment, Job Creation and Poverty Eradication, Maritime Security, Enforcement and regulations are among the nine sub themes of the conference.



Defence Cabinet Secretary Ambassador Raychelle Omamo addresses delegates at a side event organised by the Maritime Security in Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Program (MASE) at the University of Nairobi.

Moderator of the MASE side event Mr Timothy Walker from the European Union addresses the MASE delegation.

Les Seychelles récompensées au forum sur l'économie bleue au Kenya avec un prix pour le secteur maritime

By: [Betymie Bonnelame](#) Traduit par: [Rudie Bastienne](#)



Le président Faure a déclaré que ce prix reconnaissait les Seychelles comme les champions de l'économie bleue dans le secteur maritime (State House)

([Seychelles News Agency](#)) - Le président des Seychelles, Danny Faure, a reçu mardi le **Blue Economy Award** sur les secteurs maritimes africains lors d'un banquet organisé par la Commission de l'Union africaine à l'hôtel InterContinental au Kenya.

Le prix, qui a été remis par le président de la Commission, Moussa Fakki, reconnaît les pays, les associations et les individus qui ont apporté une contribution significative au programme pour l'**économie bleue** en Afrique, a déclaré mercredi State House.

"Ce prix reconnaît que les Seychelles sont les champions de l'**économie bleue** dans le secteur maritime, sur tout le continent africain et dans le monde", a déclaré M. Faure.

Le chef d'état des Seychelles, une nation insulaire de l'océan Indien occidental, participait à la Conférence sur l'**économie bleue** durable qui s'est tenue à Nairobi (Kenya) du 26 au 28 novembre suivant l'invitation du Président, Uhuru Kenyatta.

M. Faure a remercié le commissaire de l'UA pour le prix ainsi que d'autres partenaires dont le soutien est essentiel, tels que l'ONU, la Banque mondiale, l'Union européenne, le Commonwealth, l'Association de l'océan Indien (IORA) et la [Commission de l'océan Indien \(COI\)](#).

Il a déclaré que le soutien de ces diverses organisations avait aidé «les Seychelles d'une manière ou d'une autre et nous avait permis de sécuriser

fermement l'**économie bleue** dans le cadre du programme de développement de l'Afrique».

M. Faure a également félicité l'Association des armateurs africains et son secrétaire général, Fumni Folorunsi, pour son travail et a ajouté qu'il attendait avec intérêt le premier forum d'investissement pour la ligne de navigation panafricaine qui se tiendra aux Seychelles au mois de mars.

Pour conclure, M. Faure a déclaré: «Je dédie ce prix à tous mes frères et soeurs de mon continent, l'Afrique, ainsi qu'aux concitoyens assidus et engagés de mon pays bien-aimé, les Seychelles.»

Les autres bénéficiaires des récompenses étaient le président du Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, le président du Togo, Faure Gnassingbé, et le Premier ministre de l'île Maurice, Pravind Jugnauth.

Le banquet a eu lieu en l'honneur des chefs d'État, des responsables gouvernementaux et des délégués participant à la conférence sur l'**économie bleue** durable organisée par l'hôtel InterContinental de Nairobi, au Kenya.

29 novembre 2018

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2001304413/billions-pledged-for-blue-economy>

Billions pledged for blue economy

Protus Onyango and Wainaina Wambu



Defence Cabinet Secretary Raychelle Omamo, Chief, subdivision for maritime development technical cooperation International Maritime **Organization**, EU Maritime security Programme Michelle Stalone and CEO Provincial aerospace UAE Operations Keith Stoodley follow proceedings at the Blue economy conference 3rd day on Maritime safety, security and regulatory enforcement at KICC ON 28TH November 2018 [Photo :David Gichuru/Standard]

Governments and donors pledged billions of shillings to implement outcomes of the first Blue Economy Conference that ended yesterday in Nairobi.

The conference, which brought together 16,320 delegates from across the world, saw countries commit to put aside money to protect oceans, seas, lakes and rivers and the ecosystems they support.

Kenya committed to establish a blue economy bank to support the growth and development of the sector.

The host also promised to ensure safety and security in the high seas so that global trade, connectivity and all businesses can thrive unhindered and unfettered.

SEE ALSO : Uhuru's tax gamble that enraged Kenyans

President Uhuru Kenyatta committed to aggressively combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and take measures to enhance security and safety in the country's waters. On fisheries development, the President said he would ensure responsible and sustainable fishing to conserve endangered species and high-value fish stocks.

"My administration will accelerate the development of our fisheries by increasing aquaculture, fish processing and storage capacities, and related blue economy industries, Uhuru said at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre.

Victory Farms Ltd East Africa promised to construct a hatchery to produce 10,000 metric tonnes of fish, which will make it sub-Saharan Africa's largest tilapia hatchery next year.

Financial support amounting to 40 million Euros by the European Union and Africa Caribbean Pacific countries was set aside to support aquaculture value chains in African countries.

SEE ALSO :Stalled Sh18 Million Mogotio tannery

Uhuru also promised to establish an African e-learning centre for capacity development in maritime engineering through the University of Nairobi in partnership with the International Maritime Organisation and the International Association of Maritime Universities.

“We will also enhance capabilities for Kenyan sea-farers to work on ships across the vast oceans by upgrading the Kenya Maritime School and build an African blue economy innovation and research centre,” Uhuru said.

The President also committed to establish the University of Nairobi Institute for Blue Economy and Ocean Studies to train 5,000 graduate seafarers in partnership with global shipping lines. The country will also take measures to revive its maritime transport by building and expanding its ports and shipping facilities.

During the conference, the first sovereign blue bond of \$15 million (Sh1.5 billion) was issued in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank and the Prince of Wales Trust (Seychelles).

SEE ALSO :Uhuru calls for youth empowerment at UN meet

The conference also established a World Bank trust fund to help manage marine litter in developing countries

Sweden pledged \$33.3 million (Sh3.3 billion) to the World Bank fund to support the transition to the blue economy, help develop a blue economy investment facility and strategy, and realise sustainable development goal number 14 on the conservation of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

On plastics, Uhuru promised to confront the challenge of waste management and plastic pollution. Java House Africa also committed to plastic-free services in all its establishments.

Japan’s Toyota Tshusho pledged to invest in renewable energy in Africa including generation of energy from waste in Mombasa.

1 décembre 2018

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/African-countries-lack-ability-to-exploit-protect-resources/2560-4876768-b9xhqx/index.html>

African countries lack ability to exploit, protect resources



Fishermen unload a catch at Remba Island on Lake Victoria. Africa, unlike European and Asian regions, still needs huge financial inputs for the development of Blue Economy. PHOTO | BARACK ODUOR | NMG

Marine security, overfishing, dumping of toxic waste, piracy and unregulated mining topped the agenda of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi this past week, with participants saying fixing these issues would accelerate economic growth.

The over 15,000 delegates agreed that enhanced marine security will boost the Blue Economy, create jobs and help in the fight against poverty.

This calls for countries to act locally but think regionally and globally through new marine policies and laws on illegal fishing, pollution of water bodies and the sharing of water resources.

The conference recommended promotion of economic activities consistent with conservation around all water bodies; the formulation of maritime policies that are based on scientific data, support growth of small and medium enterprises in the Blue Economy, and embrace research and teaching programmes related to marine and coastal environments.

The African maritime industry — fisheries, marine transport, offshore mining and tourism — is estimated to be worth \$1 trillion a year worth, but is not fully exploited or protected.

For instance, the continent loses \$1.3 billion annually to illegal fishing, especially off the coast of Somalia.

Infrastructure development

Africa, unlike European and Asian regions, still needs huge financial inputs for the development of Blue Economy infrastructure and deal with challenges such as illegal fishing, insecurity, toxic dumping, unsustainable mineral extraction and the negative impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity.

Karmenu Vella, the European Union commissioner for environment and maritime affairs, said that the EU is ready to work with African coastal countries to fight illegal fishing and strengthen their control systems to increase healthier stocks, improve food security and provide more fishing opportunities for local fishermen.

The EU already has Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements with Morocco, Mauritius, Senegal and Seychelles that provide financial and technical support in exchange for fishing of sustainable stocks in the countries' territorial waters.

The EU is negotiating an alliance with at least 50 African countries. This is expected to create up to 10 million jobs in Africa in the next five years, according to Mr Vella.

In the EU, the Blue Economy generates 640 billion euros and creates jobs for nearly 3.5 million people.

Isabella Lovin, Swedish deputy Prime Minister and the minister for international development co-operation and climate, said that her country has offered \$33.3 million to fight the effects of climate change on the Marine environment such as rise in sea temperatures, depletion of oxygen in the oceans and the death of coral reefs.

International conventions

It emerged that most African countries lack the resources to implement the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (Marpol) because they cannot afford new, cleaner technologies.

But the biggest constraint for African countries is the inability to maintain marine security to deal with illegal fishing, piracy and toxic dumping.

Michelle Stallone, a maritime security expert who has worked in East Africa for the past 10 years, said that existing international conventions on maritime security have gaps in enforcement because of lack of infrastructure and resources.

She said that fishery strategies must be formulated in collaboration with law enforcement agencies and transport.

“Information sharing among different government agencies and among countries of the region is crucial to the implementation of maritime laws. But due to financial constraints, many countries don’t have enough vessels to patrol the waters. It means that joint patrols are the answer to overfishing, piracy, pollution, said Ms Stallone.

Raychelle Omamo, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Defence said that maritime security must be seen in relation to national, human and regional security as well youth employment.

She said that there are dozens of navies patrolling the Gulf Of Eden but thousands of youth along the East African coast are unemployed and idle, forcing them to resort to criminal activities.

“The Western Indian Ocean has the longest coastline and governments don’t have the capacity to monitor it. We need the private sector and regional co-operation, but we have to take into account foreign interests in our coastlines too,” said Ms Omamo.

28 novembre 2018

<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2018/11/kenya-signs-intelligence-sharing-pact-with-western-indian-ocean-counterparts/>

Kenya signs intelligence sharing pact with Western Indian Ocean counterparts



Defence Cabinet Secretary Raychelle Omamo says the agreement is a commitment to cooperate in operations to deal with threats/PSCU

By **KENNEDY KANGETHE**, **NAIROBI**, Kenya, Nov 28 – Kenya has signed an agreement to share intelligence on maritime security with Western Indian Ocean counterparts.

Countries that signed the agreement include Madagascar, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania with a few countries left to sign the agreement.

ADVERTISEMENT

Defence Cabinet Secretary Raychelle Omamo says the agreement is a commitment to cooperate in operations to deal with threats.

She says the approach will ensure the Western Indian Ocean economy is safeguarded.

“We will continue engaging with the western Indian Ocean countries further after the sustainable Blue Economy Conference, to learn about new practices on how to tackle **maritime security**,” she added.

Countries yet to sign include South Africa, Mozambique and the Comoros.

The 10 countries of the Western Indian Ocean are highly diverse, including small island states whose people and cultures are profoundly influenced by their large ocean territories and continental countries whose economies are only partially dependent on the sea.

The countries vary in their reliance on agriculture, fisheries, tourism, service industries and banking, their cultures, religions and histories.

But they all share one ocean, and this ocean realm is increasingly seen as a new frontier for development as a basis for economic growth and to lift lower-income countries out of poverty.

The conference that concluded on Wednesday saw about five commitments signed on maritime safety.

Over 16, 000 delegates from 184 countries attended the conference with about 62 corporate commitments made during the conference.

La France et le Kenya signent deux accords régionaux de sécurité maritime



De gauche à droite : représentant de l'Union européenne, ministre de la Défense du Kenya, ambassadrice de France au Kenya, ministre des Pêches et de l'Agriculture des Seychelles et Secrétaire général de la COI.

Communiqué 28 novembre 2018, Nairobi (Kenya)

A la Conférence internationale sur l'économie bleue durable qui se tient à Nairobi (Kenya), la sécurité maritime est apparue comme un thème fédérateur conduisant à des engagements fermes de la part des Etats. La ministre de la Défense du Kenya, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, et l'ambassadrice de France au Kenya, Mme Aline Kuster-Ménager, ont signé, le 27 novembre 2018, deux accords régionaux de sécurité maritime dont les Comores, Djibouti, Madagascar, Maurice et les Seychelles sont déjà signataires. Ces deux accords élaborés dans le cadre du programme régional MASE financé par l'Union européenne participent concrètement à l'émergence d'une économie bleue authentiquement durable en Afrique orientale et australe et océan Indien.

En effet, l'accord pour la mise en place d'un mécanisme régional d'échange et de partage de l'information maritime et l'accord régional de coordination d'actions en mer constituent la base d'une architecture moderne, efficace et solide de sécurité maritime dans l'océan Indien occidental. Ces deux accords permettent aussi l'opérationnalisation du Centre régional de coordination opérationnelle basé aux Seychelles et du Centre régional de fusion de l'information maritime basé à Madagascar.

La ministre de la Défense du Kenya, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, a souligné la portée de ces accords qui « vont transformer la vie de tant de personnes, et particulièrement les femmes qui sont vulnérables à l'insécurité ». L'adhésion du Kenya à ces accords est un ainsi un engagement concret de

l'Etat à ajouter à la liste des réussites de la Conférence sur l'économie bleue durable, a-t-elle souligné.

Pour Aline Kuster-Ménager, Ambassadrice de France au Kenya, il est naturel pour la France, Etat membre de la **Commission de l'océan Indien (COI)** au titre de La Réunion, de participer à cette dynamique de coopération régionale pour la sécurité et la stabilité. En signant ces accords MASE, la France exprime son engagement à contribuer activement à la sécurisation de long terme de l'espace maritime de l'océan Indien occidental, a-t-elle ajouté en substance.

Charles Bastienne, ministre de la Pêche et de l'Agriculture des Seychelles, représentant la présidence seychelloise du Conseil de la Commission de l'océan Indien, s'est félicité de la signature de ces accords par la France et le Kenya. « Ces accords amplifient notre coopération pour la sécurité et le développement durable de la région et je suis heureux de souligner également la contribution de l'Union européenne qui a indiqué un appui additionnel de 5 millions d'euros au **programme MASE** pour l'opérationnalisation de ces accords ».

Pour Hamada Madi, Secrétaire général de la Commission de l'océan Indien et dépositaire des accords, « l'adhésion de ces deux pays a d'autant plus de sens que la France est un membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies qui participe, de plus, aux missions régionales européennes comme EUNAVFOR Atalanta, et que le Kenya mobilise ses forces armées dans des opérations régionales de stabilité tout en renforçant ses capacités maritimes ».

La cérémonie de signature des Accords MASE a été marquée par la présence de Wallace Cosgrow, ministre de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et du Climat des Seychelles, des représentants des Etats signataires, de l'Union européenne, bailleur du programme MASE, et des organisations régionales chargées de la mise en oeuvre du programme MASE (IGAD, EAC, COMESA et COI).

COI et ses Projets

MSE

3 décembre 2018

<http://crfimmadagascar.org/en/others/conference-internationale-sur-leconomie-bleue-durable-au-nairobi-kenya-une-avancees-consequente->



- 12 - Others

International Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy in Nairobi, Kenya: Significant Progress in Regional Cooperation in Promoting Maritime Safety and Security

Nairobi, Kenya, 2018, November 26 to 28: Participation of the RMIFC in the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

The Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center participated in the International Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 28 November 2018 through the Regional Maritime Security Program (MASE Program) funded by the European Union to promote maritime safety and security in the Eastern, Southern and Indian Ocean Region (ESA-IO) for the development of the sustainable blue economy.

More than 18,000 people registered around the world to attend this conference, which saw the participation of eleven (11) Heads of State. Various activities were planned on the sidelines of the plenary sessions, including exhibition stands with the participation of 68 States and international structures.

Stands and exhibition



The 4 international organizations coordinating the 5 results of the MASE Program, were thus represented at the side events, including:

- **The Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD)** for the result 1 which consists in promoting alternative livelihoods in Somalia, advocating against piracy among the local population, and strengthening maritime coordination mechanisms, in partnership with the **Food and Agriculture (UN-FAO)**
- **The East African Community (EAC)** for result 2 for the enhancement of national and regional legal, legislative and infrastructural capacities for the arrest, transfer, detention and trial of individuals suspected of acts of violence and piracy, with the support of the **United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UN-ODC)** through its program on global maritime crime.
- **The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)** for result 3, consisting of regional capacity building in the fight against financial networks related to piracy and money laundering while acting on the structural actors to reduce the economic impact of illicit financial activities related to maritime insecurity, in partnership with the **International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**
- **The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** for results 4 and 5, consisting of the coordination of regional intervention operations at sea and the exchange and sharing of maritime information between all users of the shipping circuit of the ESA-IO Region, by setting up the Regional Coordination Operations Center (RCOC) located in Seychelles and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center (RMIFC) hosted by

Madagascar in partnership with the **European Union Project CRITICAL Maritime Routes in the Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO)**

Side Event on the activities of the 5 results of the MASE Program



Several activities were organized in the side of the plenary meeting by the MASE Program for the Promotion of Maritime Security and Safety in the ESA-IO Region. In this context, a side event was held on the morning of Monday, November 26, 2018 on the following topics at the University of Nairobi, TAIFA Hall:

- “The establishment of a regional mechanism to improve maritime governance in the ESA-OI region” led by the Project Coordinator of the Indian Ocean Commission
- “Strengthening legislative and infrastructural capacities in the process of arrest, transfer, detention and prosecution of suspects in acts of piracy” presented by the UNODC Director of Programs, the Coordinator of Outcome 2 to EAC and Regional Project Director at INTERPOL
- “Illicit finance and maritime insecurity, obstacles to economic and social development Blue economy development”, presented by The Director for Peace and Security and the COMESA Program Coordinator
- Presentation by the Coordinator of the MASE Program on “The Maritime Safety Coordination Committee: Key Elements of the Maritime Governance Improvement Mechanism in the Horn of Africa”

- “The promotion of alternative lively hoods” presented by the Coordinator of the Coastal Community against Piracy Project to UN-FAO.
- “Maritime security in the Horn of Africa, beyond piracy”, presented by the EUNAVFOR Political Adviser, from the CGPCS Working Group Operation
- “The importance of regional cooperation in promoting the blue economy”, presented by the Secretariat of the Regional Capacity Building Working Group

Meeting of the National Focal Points of the MASE program results 4 and 5

The afternoon of Monday, November 26, 2018 was marked by a meeting of the National Focal Points (PFN) of the MASE Program Results 4 and 5 held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi with the following agenda:

- Contracts for regional missions
- The acquisition of MASE equipment
- Update on the appointment of International Liaison Officers
- Update on the approval of the addendum for the MASE average increase

First meeting of the Steering Committee of the RCOC and the RMIFC



In addition, the conference on the sustainable blue economy was also an opportunity for the signatory states of the two regional agreements on the establishment of the RCOC and the rmifc, to hold the first meeting of the

Steering Committee, decision-making body of the two regional centers on the morning of Tuesday 27 November, to discuss the policy for implementing their missions. This first meeting of the Steering Committee was attended by the representatives of the five signatory countries of the two regional agreements in April 2018. The draft rules of procedure of the Steering Committee, its work plan and the respective presentation were discussed during the meeting and also , the RMIFC and the RCOC on the balance sheet of activities since their operationnalization. The representative of the Union of Comoros was elected President of the Steering Committee and the next meeting of the Committee will take place in Comoros.

Accession of France and Kenya to the regional agreements for the establishment of the CRCO and the CRFIM



Advocacy for the relevance of regional integration in the securing of the maritime domain resulted in the first day of the conference to the adhesions of France and Kenya to regional agreements for the establishment of a mechanism for exchange and Maritime Information Sharing and Coordination of Operations in the ESA-IO Region in the Western Indian Ocean, formalized by a signing ceremony at both Agreements by the Kenyan Minister of Defense and the Ambassador of France to the Republic of Kenya on November 27, 2018 in the evening.

After the signatures, France and Kenya became respectively the sixth and the seventh State Party to the two regional agreements. This membership is of paramount importance for the strengthening of regional maritime security in

the sense that patrols and operational interventions will be strengthened, and the exchange of maritime information and data consolidated through the collaboration of the seven States Parties to the two regional agreements.

Intervention of the RMIFC during the side event organized by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kenya on the role of the Coast Guard in maritime safety for the promotion of the blue economy



On the final day of the conference, November 28, 2018, the RMIFC was invited to speak at the side event organized by the Kenyan Ministry of Defense focusing on the theme "Coast Guard and the Blue Economy: The Role of coast guards in maritime security for the prosperity of the blue economy ". The RMIFC presented the regional approach to maritime security through the implementation of the RMIFC and the RCOC to strengthen national capabilities. He ended his speech by emphasizing the inseparability of maritime security and the blue economy, thus advocating for the improvement of the Coast Guard's intervention capacity and the importance of regional cooperation in the exchange of information and maritime data sharing.

The participation of the RMIFC in the international conference on the blue economy is therefore a perfect success. The RCOC and the RMIFC hope very much for the realization of the commitments of each State and each structure starting with the assignment of the International Liaison Officers who will support the team of the two centers, already operational for a long time, besides the increase of the grant for the operationalization of the two centers. The Kenyan Defense Minister also pointed out that Kenya's accession to regional agreements is one of the success stories of the conference.

Kenya pledges support for sustainable blue economy



President Kenyatta underscored the need to ensure responsible and sustainable fishing to conserve the endangered species and high value fish stocks, on which millions of people depend for their livelihoods

President Uhuru Kenyatta Monday pledged Kenya's support for the sustainable blue economy by highlighting key areas of focus as the first ever global blue economy conference opened in Nairobi.

President Kenyatta said Kenya will lead from the front in the adoption of appropriate policies, strategies and mechanisms to harness the blue economy so as to re-energize national economies and create greater opportunities and jobs.

"I am convinced that for the sake of the present and future generations, and for the continued viability of our ecosystems, we have to envision a different future and, therefore, a different model for the blue economy. I pledge to envision that future and do my part to promote it," President Kenyatta said.

President Kenyatta was speaking when he led global leaders in making pledges and commitments to the blue economy at the historic conference, co-hosted by Kenya, Canada and Japan, that was also attended by senior Kenya Government officials including Deputy President William Ruto.

The three-day gathering seeks to harness the promise and address the vulnerabilities of the blue economy.

President Kenyatta emphasized the need to confront the challenge of waste management and plastic pollution that is compromising the health of people and oceans, seas and rivers as well as threatening food security and the biodiversity on land and at sea.

President Kenyatta underscored the need to ensure responsible and sustainable fishing to conserve the endangered species and high value fish stocks, on which millions of people depend for their livelihoods.

The President expressed the need to ensure safety and security in the high seas so that global trade, connectivity and all businesses can thrive unhindered and unfettered.

As a move towards boosting the blue economy, President Kenyatta said his Government is taking steps to build on and expand institutional governance mechanisms that are already in place to enhance coordinated management of the blue economy.

"These include the Blue Economy Implementation Standing Committee as well as State Departments for fisheries and maritime logistics and transport," President Kenyatta said.

The Kenyan leader said his administration is taking measures to revive Kenya's maritime transport by building and expanding its ports and shipping facilities, and partnering with global shipping lines to extend its maritime reach.

"We are enhancing our capabilities for Kenya seafarers to work on ships across the vast oceans by, inter alia, upgrading the Kenya Maritime School," President Kenyatta said.

"We have adopted a programme to accelerate the development of our fisheries, by increasing aquaculture, fish processing and storage capacities and related blue economy industries, thereby creating employment opportunities for our people," he added.

As part of Kenya's efforts to revamp its blue economy, President Kenyatta last week commissioned the Liwatoni fisheries complex and jetty in Mombasa to enable docking of large fishing and patrol vessels and announced the establishment of a Fishing Corporation.

Kenya has also already ratified the Port State Measures Agreement that will ensure vessels flying the Kenyan flag comply with measures contained in that Agreement.

President Kenyatta last week launched the Kenya Coast Guard Service to police Kenya's territorial waters and resources as well as ensure that the nation fully benefits from its water resources.

"We are aggressively combating illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and have taken measures to enhance security and safety of our collective waters," President Kenyatta said.

The President cited the ban of single use plastics and the adoption of a housing programme to provide decent and affordable housing in the coastal cities as part of a broad programme for the greening Kenya's cities.

"We shall further re-develop lake front cities and towns and release their great touristic and sustainable industrial potential," President Kenyatta said. President Kenyatta called for the world to work together to secure success in managing the global aquatic resources for sustainable global development.

Other Heads of State and Government at the conference who included, President Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), Filipe Nyusi (Mozambique), Abdullahi Mohamed (Somalia), Dr. Ali Mohammed Shein (Zanzibar) and Danny Faure of Seychelles committed themselves to the preservation and protection of the marine resources saying if well harnessed, marine resources could contribute more than double the current global economy.

Over 18,000 participants from around the world are attending the global conference in which delegates are expected to come up with strategies to harness the potential of Oceans, Seas, Lakes and Rivers to improve the lives of all, particularly people in developing states.

The delegates will also learn how to leverage the latest innovations, scientific advances and best practices to build prosperity while conserving waters for future generations.

29 novembre 2018

https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/11/29/omamo-urges-states-to-share-water-resources_c1857677

Omamo urges states to share water resources

By GILBERT KOECH



Defence CS Rachel Omamo during the new greetings meeting with defence attaches in Kenya held at International Peace Support Training Centre in Karen yesterday. Photo/Monichah Mwangi

Illegal activities in waters shared by countries can only be wiped out if states share assets, Defence CS Raychelle Omamo said yesterday.

She said the coordination must be approached with caution as ‘foreign interests’ might interfere.

About \$1.3 billion (Sh132 billion) is lost each year in Africa through unregulated fishing. “Do we have convergence? Are we prepared to deal with illegal fishing? I do not think so as our interests are different,” Omamo said.

Kenya Navy Commander Levi Mghalu said his personnel is not in a position to patrol 240,000 square kilometres of ocean.

Omamo said policing coastlines is a hard task due to lack of capacity. “We have limited resources and we need to purchase assets together to surmount challenges,” she said. Madagascar, the fourth biggest island globally, has the longest coastline in Africa.

It is located on the eastern side of Mozambique and it covers 587,040 square kilometres. The coastline is 4,828 kilometres long.

Somalia’s coastline is second in length at 3,333 kilometres. The third longest coastline is that of South Africa at 2,798 kilometres long.

Omamo said there is an urgent need for collaborative and collective initiatives to secure coastlines.

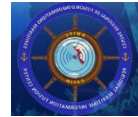
She said security experts must not be de-linked from the people.

The CS said Kenya's waters have immense fish stocks, hydrocarbons and other unique species. "Those in the competition may dump toxic waste or even do illegal fishing," she said.

Omamo spoke during the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference. Kenya signed two agreements.

In the first, Kenya joined six nations in the Western Indian Ocean on corporation, while dealing with maritime threats.

Kenya signed the agreement with Madagascar, Seychelles, Djibouti, France, Somalia and Tanzania. The other agreement is on sharing of maritime information.



28 novembre 2018

<http://crfimmadagascar.org/en/others/conference-sur-leconomie-bleue-durable-la-france-et-le-kenya-signent-deux-accords-regionaux-de-securite-maritime/>

Sustainable Blue Economy Conference] France and Kenya sign two regional maritime security agreements

By Kaloy Andrianarinosy



"Maritime Security appears to be one of the main unifying theme during the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, that leads to firm commitments from regional States. **The Cabinet Secretary for Defence of Kenya, Amb. Raychelles Omamo, and the Ambassador of France in Kenya, Mrs Aline Kuster-Ménager, signed the 27th November 2018 two Regional Maritime Security Agreements** developed under the EU-funded MASE programme that create substantively the conditions for the emergence of a genuine blue economy in Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Region. The Agreement for the Setting-up of a Regional Information Exchange and Sharing Mechanism and the Regional Agreement on Coordination of Operations at Sea give the basis of a modern, efficient and solid security architecture in the Western Indian Ocean. These two agreements also allow for the operationalization of the Seychelles-based Regional Coordination of Operations Center and of the Madagascar-based Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center. "These Agreements will transform the lives of so many people, especially women who are vulnerable to insecurity", said Amb. Raychelle Omamo. She also insisted on the fact that these agreements represent a clear commitment of Kenya to be added to the positive outputs of the SBE Conference. For Aline Kuster-Ménager, Ambassador of France in Kenya, it is

obvious and necessary for France, as a Member State of the Indian Ocean Commission, to be part of the impetus of cooperation for security and stability. In signing these Agreements, France expresses its commitment to jointly secure maritime areas of the Western Indian Ocean, she added. Charles Bastienne, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture of Seychelles, representing the Seychelles Presidency of the **IOC** Council, welcomed the signing of these Agreements by France and Kenya. "These adhesions deepen our cooperation for security and sustainable development in the region and I express also our gratitude to the European Union which is giving additional € 5 million to the MASE programme for the operationalization of these Agreements".

The Secretary General of the **Indian Ocean Commission** and Depositary of the Agreements, underlined the value addition of the adhesion of both France and Kenya: "it appears all the more positive that France is a permanent member of the UN Security Council that also is part of the EU missions such as EUNAVFOR Atalanta and that Kenya plays a crucial role in the stability of the region while strengthening its maritime capabilities". The signing ceremony of the MASE Agreements was marked by the presence of Wallace Cosgrow, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate of Seychelles, representatives of Signatory States (Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles), the European Union, funder of the MASE programme, and regional economic communities co-implementing **MASE Programme** (IGAD, EAC, COMESA, IOC)."

COI et ses Projets

MSE

03 décembre 2018

<https://ke.ambafrance.org/France-et-Kenya-signent-deux-accords-regionaux-de-securite-maritime>



France et Kenya signent deux accords régionaux de sécurité maritime [en]

En marge de la conférence internationale pour une économie bleue durable qui se tient à Nairobi, la France et le Kenya ont signé deux accords régionaux de **sécurité maritime** dont les Comores, Djibouti, Madagascar, Maurice et les Seychelles sont signataires.



Ces deux accords ont été élaborés dans le cadre du **programme MASE** mis en œuvre conjointement par la COI, l'IGAD, le COMESA et l'EAC sur financement de l'Union européenne.



(i) photo de groupe en présence (assis de g. à dr.) du représentant de l'Union européenne, de la ministre de la Défense du Kenya, de l'ambassadrice de France au Kenya, du ministre des Pêches et de l'Agriculture des Seychelles et du Secrétaire général de la COI.



(ii) Mme Kuster-Ménager, ambassadrice de France au Kenya, et Amb. Raychelle Omamo, ministre de la Défense du Kenya.



<https://ke.ambafrance.org/France-et-Kenya-signent-deux-accords-regionaux-de-securite-maritime>

29 novembre 2018

<http://www.maurice-info.mu/la-france-et-le-kenya-signent-deux-accords-regionaux-de-securite-maritime.html>

La France et le Kenya signent deux accords régionaux de sécurité maritime



29 novembre 2018 29 novembre 2018 Jean Claude Le Roy

A la Conférence internationale sur l'économie bleue durable qui se tient à Nairobi (Kenya), la sécurité maritime est apparue comme un thème fédérateur conduisant à des engagements fermes de la part des Etats.

La ministre de la Défense du Kenya, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, et l'ambassadrice de France au Kenya, Mme Aline Kuster-Ménager, ont signé, le 27 novembre 2018, deux accords régionaux de sécurité maritime dont les Comores, Djibouti, Madagascar, Maurice et les Seychelles sont déjà signataires. Ces deux accords élaborés dans le cadre du **programme régional MASE** financé par l'Union européenne participent concrètement à l'émergence d'une économie bleue authentiquement durable en Afrique orientale et australe et océan Indien.

En effet, l'accord pour la mise en place d'un mécanisme régional d'échange et de partage de l'information maritime et l'accord régional de coordination d'actions en mer constituent la base d'une architecture moderne, efficace et solide de sécurité maritime dans l'océan Indien occidental. Ces deux accords permettent aussi l'opérationnalisation du Centre régional de coordination opérationnelle basé aux Seychelles et du Centre régional de fusion de l'information maritime basé à Madagascar.

La ministre de la Défense du Kenya, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, a souligné la portée de ces accords qui « vont transformer la vie de tant de personnes, et particulièrement les femmes qui sont vulnérables à l'insécurité ». L'adhésion du Kenya à ces accords est un ainsi un engagement concret de l'Etat à ajouter à la liste des réussites de la Conférence sur l'économie bleue durable, a-t-elle souligné.

Pour Aline Kuster-Ménager, Ambassadrice de France au Kenya, il est naturel pour la France, Etat membre de la **Commission de l'océan Indien (COI)** au titre de La Réunion, de participer à cette dynamique de coopération régionale pour la sécurité et la stabilité.

En signant ces accords MASE, la France exprime son engagement à contribuer activement à la sécurisation de long terme de l'espace maritime de l'océan Indien occidental, a-t-elle ajouté en substance.

Charles Bastienne, ministre de la Pêche et de l'Agriculture des Seychelles, représentant la présidence seychelloise du Conseil de la Commission de l'océan Indien, s'est félicité de la signature de ces accords par la France et le Kenya. « Ces accords amplifient notre coopération pour la sécurité et le développement durable de la région et je suis heureux de souligner

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également la contribution de l'Union européenne qui a indiqué un appui additionnel de 5 millions d'euros au programme MASE pour l'opérationnalisation de ces accords ».

Pour Hamada Madi, Secrétaire général de la Commission de l'océan Indien et dépositaire des accords, « l'adhésion de ces deux pays a d'autant plus de sens que la France est un membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies qui participe, de plus, aux missions régionales européennes comme EUNAVFOR Atalanta, et que le Kenya mobilise ses forces armées dans des opérations régionales de stabilité tout en renforçant ses capacités maritimes ».

La cérémonie de signature des **Accords MASE** a été marquée par la présence de Wallace Cosgrow, ministre de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et du Climat des Seychelles, des représentants des Etats signataires, de l'Union européenne, bailleur du programme MASE, et des organisations régionales chargées de la mise en oeuvre du programme MASE (IGAD, EAC, COMESA et COI).

Pour en savoir plus sur la conférence cliquez sur les vidéos :



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ly99FanyABU>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOXtohK00DY>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz8AW2-eDSY>



<http://www.mod.go.ke/?p=10794>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bNah6KyBxI>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2ItJzQVZJE&t=5s>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4crR6DHJ30&t=1s>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmhqAztZzAE>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RW-UQW57_Vw



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRivs9w30Y0&feature=youtu.be>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ive3iDJ398o>

28 novembre 2018

<http://enb.iisd.org/oceans/blueeconomy/2018/>

Maritime Security and the Blue Economy: two sides of the same coin

On 28 November, in the margins of the Blue Economy conference, the EU hosted a side-event in coordination with the EU CRIMARIO project.



The EU-hosted side-event in coordination with the EU CRIMARIO project highlighted the crucial link between developing the Blue Economy and maritime security. The meeting was officially opened by Mr Bruno Pozzi, the EU Deputy Head of Delegation. Mr Pozzi underscored the importance of the EU comprehensive approach for the Horn of Africa and the issue of fighting Somali piracy. The Deputy Head of Delegation mentioned that there is a continued need to confront piracy, in addition to other forms of maritime crime, such as smuggling of migrants, trafficking in arms and environmental dumping. The panellists speaking at the side-event commended the EU and the EU member states for their interventions, including EU NAVFOR Atalanta, the EU development co-operation programme for Somalia and the EU maritime capacity-building projects, including CRIMARIO and MASE. It was pointed out that maritime security and the Blue Economy are two sides of the same coin. Without a sufficient degree of security, ocean resources cannot be developed. Whether we speak about tourism, wind farms, fishing or offshore oil platforms, these require a secure environment that is not threatened by piracy or other criminal activity. Maritime security is therefore a key enabler of the Blue Economy.

Sustainable Blue Economy Conference



L-R: President **Uhuru Kenyatta**, Kenya; **Monica Juma**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya; President **Danny Faure**, Seychelles; and **Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila**, Prime Minister of Namibia

The third day of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference opened with a second session of Leaders' Commitments. A series of side events were held throughout the morning. The side event on harnessing global action to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing emphasized the importance of joint efforts in combating IUU fishing, considering it involved other crimes such as corruption, money laundering, and drug trafficking.

In the afternoon, all participants gathered for the Ministerial and Heads of Delegation Leaders Circle and heard a summary of the conference report. Presenting highlights from the Nairobi Statement of Intent, Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, said that implementing the commitments would require investments that translate into bold actions.

Leaders' Commitments included pledges on:

- marine protection, €40 million to protect corals and reefs and €60 million for the protection of marine areas in African countries (EU);
- plastics and waste management, US\$100 million earmarked for better oceans management and against dumping, and US\$200 million over the next four years for the development of initiatives to combat marine litter and microplastics (Norway);
- maritime safety and security, €250 million for naval vessel replacement and the purchase of two marine patrol aircraft (Ireland);
- €40 million to support aquaculture value chains in African countries (ACP-EU);
- infrastructure, 600 projects leading to an investment of US\$120 billion (India - Sagarmala Programme);

- biodiversity and climate change, a US\$10 million investment in the Pacific Initiative for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience together with the EU, New Zealand and Australia (Canada);
- technical assistance and capacity-building, US\$20 million in increased technical assistance and capacity development in small-island developing States (Canada); and
- private sector support, US\$150 million by the Government of Canada and the private sector to build a knowledge-based ocean economy (Canada).

In a discussion on the enablers of the Blue Economy, Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Canada, identified leadership and political will as a fundamental prerequisite for finding technical solutions to end plastic pollution.

Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya, stressed that the truly global representation and the far-reaching and collectively beneficial outcomes of the conference demonstrated the transformative power of multilateralism. The conference was declared closed at 4:53 pm.

29 novembre 2018

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/WhatsNew/Pages/default.aspx>

Expanding technology centres - integral players in cutting maritime emissions



29/11/2018

The global network of Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres is expanding with a number of branch offices and becoming an integral player in implementing IMO's initial strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships. This is especially true when it comes to capacity building, technical cooperation and R&D. A 250-strong* crowd attended the MTCC-Africa side-event on Capacity Building for Climate Mitigation in the Maritime Shipping Industry (27 November), during the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya ([photos](#)).

The event was organized within the framework of the Global MTCCs Network ([GMN](#)), a network of five MTCCs established in support of IMO's Initial Strategy on GHG emissions reduction with the objective of assisting stakeholders and IMO member states through capacity building and technology transfer.

The GMN project is financed by the European Union and implemented by the IMO. In his opening remarks, Mr. Bruno Pozzi, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Kenya, emphasized the importance of the IMO strategy, which calls for a reduction in shipping emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008, whilst pursuing efforts towards phasing them out completely, consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals.

IMO's Mr. Fredrik Haag, elaborated on the MTCCs role in implementing follow up actions of IMO's initial strategy. The MTCCs (both now and in the future) will help ensure that over the next three decades emissions from shipping can be stabilized and reduced. This type of reduction is only possible with initiatives like the GMN and its activities, such as improving energy efficiency through retrofitting existing vessels, something which is currently being piloted by MTCC-Pacific.

The five MTCCs have begun the process of expansion, with MTCC-Asia establishing branch offices in Cambodia (in 2017) and more recently in Myanmar (November 2018), with a third planned for Bangladesh (to open in 2019). MTCC-Pacific is also expanding and is in the process of establishing its branch office in Samoa.

*Attendees included representatives from the European Union, IMO, the Ministry of Transport Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development of the Republic of Kenya, the host institution of MTCC-Africa (Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology – JKUAT), MTCC-Africa, MTCC-Pacific, as well as regional stakeholders and focal points of the Network from Ghana, Nigeria, Madagascar and Namibia.

26 novembre 2018

<https://www.rcmrd.org/1st-ever-sustainable-blue-economy-conference-held-globally>

1st Ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference Held Globally

The 1st ever global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) ends today in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference was held from 26 – 28 November 2018 at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC).

The SBEC has been co-hosted by Kenya, Canada and Japan. Kenya is leveraging on the high-level global event to harness and revamp its blue economy.

Held under the banner “Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the conference presents the countries with an opportunity to engender national debate on the blue economy. The “blue economy” concept refers to the use of seas, oceans and lakes and their resources for sustainable economic development.

President Uhuru Kenyatta and other heads of states and heads of government were present at the global meeting. At least five presidents headlined the three-day event. They were from Uganda, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Somalia and Mozambique. Eleven Heads of State and government were also there with 88 ministers representing their nations.



The SBEC focuses on two pillars namely: (a) Sustainability, Climate Change and Controlling Pollution and (b) Production, Accelerated economic growth, Jobs and Poverty alleviation. Blue economy deals with water bodies and the economic activities around them including fishing, marine transport, extraction of minerals under the sea, among many others. UN-Habitat is getting involved mostly because of urban centres based on water fronts.

The world's poorest continent hosted the blue economy estimated at \$1 trillion but loses \$42 billion a year to illegal fishing and logging of mangroves along the coast, according to UNECA estimates.

The conference heard that fishing communities along Africa's coastline are at a greater risk of extinction as countries eye oceans for tourism, industrial fishing and exploration revenue to jumpstart their “blue economies,” UN experts and activists said. The continent's 38 coastal and island states have in recent years moved to tap ocean resources through commercial fishing, marine tourism and sea-bed mining, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Globally (World Bank estimates), it is estimated that the Blue Economy contributes about US\$ 1.5 trillion per annum (3 per cent of global GDP) and creates approximately 350 million jobs in fishing, aquaculture, coastal and marine tourism and research activities. Kenya believes that with serious investments in the Blue Economy sector, there is the potential to double the GDP and more in the short and medium term periods. In a nutshell, it means

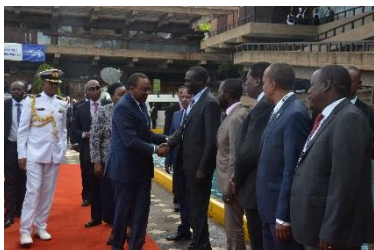
there is a lot of room to realize the full benefits of the Blue Economy from the other sectors in RCMRD member States.



The very overarching theme for the conference was, ‘Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’. The conference will brought together Participants from around the world, including Africa, to share ideas on how to transition to a Blue Economy that: Harnesses the potential of our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to improve the lives of all, particularly developing states, which fits in well with SDGs Goal 14 that is concerned with Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources. The conference is preparatory to the 2020 Ocean’s Conference which Kenya will be cohosting with Portugal. The goal of the Global Blue Economy Conference is to have action-oriented discussions pertaining to a sustainable blue economy strategy that is people-centric, with ocean-centric investments. The conference will provide an opportunity for both developing and developed countries to explore: The priorities and challenges of establishing a sustainable blue economy and its contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including maritime safety and security. The innovative role of various stakeholders, including national and local governments, private sector, civil society, regional and subregional groups as well as domestic and international financial institutions in investing and formulating sustainable ways of exploiting Blue Economy. This conference builds on the momentum of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris and the UN Ocean Conference 2017 ‘Call to Action’. The SBEC conference is predicated on the two conceptual pillars of: (i) Sustainability, Climate Change and Controlling Pollution and (ii) Production, Accelerated Economic Growth, Jobs and Poverty Alleviation. The conference was organized around nine central sub-themes grouped under three main categories: The nine (9) Sub-Thematic Areas were: Smart Shipping, Ports , transportation and global connectivity. Employment, Job Creation and Poverty Eradication. Cities, Tourism, Resilient Coasts and Infrastructure. Sustainable Energy, Mineral Resources, and Innovative Industries. Ending Hunger, Securing Food Supplies and Promoting Good Health and Sustainable Fisheries. Management and Sustaining of Marine Life, Conservation and Sustainable Economic Activities. Climate Action, Agriculture Waste Management and Pollution-free Oceans. Maritime Security, Safety, Regulatory Enforcement. People, Culture, Communities and Societies: the inclusive Blue Economy.



The four (4) cross - cutting issues were 1. New Technologies and Innovation for Oceans, Seas, Lakes and Rivers. 2. Challenges, Potential Opportunities, Priorities and Partnerships. 3. Financing for blue economy and 4. Women, Youth and the Blue Economy. Other attendees were: The International Maritime Organization, The World Wildlife Fund, International Seabed Authority, The World Bank, AFRIEXIM BANK, The Ocean Foundation and RCMRD among others was also represented. Kenya and other governments especially in should domesticate the various existing comprehensive international instruments that have been signed and ratified, and seriously commit to their implementation and enforcement at local (country), regional and international levels; and, continuously, collect, compile and analyse a wide range of economic, social, and environmental data and information on which the desired actions may be taken in order to tackle global problems of pollution; environmental degradation and climate change humans are experiencing now.



This is in accordance with the AU's 'Agenda 2063' which has the Vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in international arena". This vision envisages a prosperous Africa that is based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; a much more integrated continent that is politically united and driven by the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance. To say the least, these aspirations, include the ideals enunciated in the Blue Economy.