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P.O. BOX: 3243, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, TEL.: (251-11) 551 38 22 FAX: (251-11) 551 93 21
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org, situationroom@ausitroom-psd.org

**PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON MARITIME BOUNDARIES
AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME**

**ACCRA, GHANA
9 - 10 NOVEMBER 2009**

CONCLUSIONS

1. As part of the implementation of the Declaration on the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) and its Implementation Modalities as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7 June 2007, and subsequently endorsed by the AU Executive Council at its 11th ordinary session held in Accra, Ghana, from 27 to 29 June 2007, a Pan-African Conference on Maritime Boundaries and the Continental Shelf was organized by the AU Commission in Accra, [Accra Conference Centre], Ghana, from 9 to 10 November 2009. The Conference was opened by the Honorable Henry Ford Kamel, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources of the Republic of Ghana. Statement was also delivered by the Head of the AU Border Programme Unit of the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission.
2. The Conference was attended by the following AU Member States: Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, SADR, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda.
3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also in attendance: CEN-SAD and EAC.
4. In addition, the following institutions and structures working in the maritime field also participated in the Conference: Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), Department for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), European Union (EU), Kingdom of Norway, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), international Boundaries Research Unit (IBRU) and GTZ.
5. The Conference provided an opportunity to review the progress made in the overall implementation of the AUBP. In particular, the Conference focused its deliberations on the delimitation of the maritime spaces, the management of maritime resources and the development of capacities in these areas.
6. At the end of its deliberations, the Conference reached the following conclusions:
 - (a) **Delimitation of Maritime Space**
7. The Conference welcomed the significant progress made by Member States in the delimitation of their maritime boundaries and efforts made towards the determination of the outer limits of the Continental Shelf by some Member States. In order to consolidate the progress achieved thus far, the Conference made the following recommendations:
 - (i) Member States to expedite the delimitation of their maritime boundaries where such an exercise has not yet taken place, keeping in mind the deadline set by the African Heads of State and Government in the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) adopted at the OAU Summit held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, which provides for the completion of the exercise throughout the continent by

2012. In this regard, Member States are encouraged to regularly update the AU of the steps taken towards the realization of this objective;

- (ii) in order to facilitate the exchange of experience and expertise, AU Commission will expedite the establishment of a data base of African experts on maritime boundary delimitation. To that effect, Member States should expedite the completion and submission of the questionnaire on the status of African boundaries;
- (iii) encourage Member States to cooperate with each other to acquire up to date bathymetric, geodetic and other relevant data, published navigational charts, etc., to facilitate accurate delimitation of their maritime spaces;
- (iv) in cases of border disputes, Member States should explore all options as provided by UNCLOS, other organs of the UN, including recourse to African legal processes and conflict resolution mechanisms;

(b) Management of Maritime Resources

8. The Conference noted with satisfaction the initiatives of many Member States aimed at furthering their individual and collective capacities for the management of their maritime resources, including the joint exploitation and management of trans-boundary resources and other issues such as combating illegal migration, cross-border crime etc.

9. The Conference recommended the following:

- (i) collaboration between research institutions in and outside Africa and Member States' institutions for marine resource exploitation and management, including sharing of relevant data;
- (ii) coordination at regional levels of marine resource policies. Member States should work towards harmonization of their marine resource legislations;
- (iii) Member States with the support of the RECs and the AU to put in place the necessary security measures for the protection of their maritime spaces such as to create the enabling climate and safety for the sustainable exploitation of maritime resources.

(c) Capacity-building and partnership

10. The Conference stressed the critical importance of capacity building for the successful implementation of the AUBP, through, among others, training, exchange of experiences and research aimed at deepening the understanding of border-related issues on the continent and building a strong knowledge infrastructure, as well as collaboration with relevant structures in and outside of Africa. The Conference took note of the

existence of training and capacity building facilities relevant to Maritime delimitation and the management of resources available at the UN, Commonwealth Secretariat, International Foundation for the Law of the Sea, International Boundaries Research Unit, Rhodes Academy (Greece), etc.

11. The Conference recommended the following:

- (i) AU to undertake an inventory of all management, research and training institutions dealing with Maritime border issues in and outside Africa. In this respect, Member States will extend the necessary cooperation and support to the consultancy that the AU Commission is planning to undertake in due course, as part of the initial measures for the launching of the AUBP as spelt out in the Declaration adopted in Addis Ababa in June 2007;
- (ii) cooperation amongst training institutions in Africa and with their counterparts outside Africa, to secure training and other capacity building facilities and programmes for Member States in order to develop their capacities to delimit and manage their maritime spaces;
- (iii) development of boundary studies and border management curricula in the educational system, especially African higher educational institutions, with emphasis on delimitation of maritime spaces;
- (iv) the AU Commission and other relevant institutions to organize seminars and training workshops for authorities in charge of maritime affairs to sensitize them on the AUBP so as to further facilitate the delimitation of African maritime spaces and the management of maritime resources.

(d) Appreciation

13. The Conference noted with satisfaction the steps taken by the AU Commission to build the necessary partnership and mobilize the resources for the implementation of the AUBP, in accordance with the initial measures identified in the Declaration for the launching of the Programme, and expressed its gratitude to the partners who have so far provided technical and financial support (notably Germany, through GTZ). Similarly, the Conference expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Royal Kingdom of Norway for its technical assistance to and partnership with African countries. The Conference further encourages the AU Commission to pursue these efforts in order to mobilize further support both from within and outside Africa, in order to support the capacity building efforts for the delimitation of Maritime spaces and management of resources.

14. The Conference expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of Ghana for having hosted this meeting and for its support, which contributed greatly to the success of this event.