



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



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

## **Provisional Programme**

### Background

UNEP is mandated to coordinate regional seas conventions and action plans and administers seven of them (Caribbean Region, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa Region, Mediterranean Region, North-West Pacific region, Western Africa Region). UNEP assists the regional seas member countries in pursuing regional ocean governance for regional sustainable development, and promotes partnership between/among the Regional Seas, Regional Fishery Bodies, Large Marine Ecosystem mechanisms, regional economic commissions and other sectorial and political mechanisms. UNEP is finalising a publication covering this topic, entitled “Regional Oceans Governance: regional seas programmes, regional fishery bodies and Large Marine Ecosystem mechanisms better work together”.

At the last meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) (March 2015, Cairo), the African Ministers agreed on the Cairo Declaration, including the following operation paragraphs:

“8. To reiterate our support for the regional seas programmes in Africa as regional platforms for the implementation of the Africa Integrated Marine Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on Ecosystem-based Management Approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters;”

“9. To urge member States to integrate green economy into development planning, use green economy to mobilise additional resources, create jobs, targeting in particular small and medium-sized enterprises and the informal sector, promote entrepreneurship and skills development and to call upon United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and development partners, regional organisations, stakeholders and civil society to promote social and environmental

entrepreneurship and to provide financial and technical support by fostering cooperation and knowledge-sharing on good practices;”

“14. to develop a governance strategy, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and regional seas conventions, on oceans and seas in Africa for the effective management of the region’s shared maritime resources and call for a regional conference to address the matter by 2016”.

In response to Ministers’ decision to develop an ocean governance strategy in Africa, which is supposed to be based on and in line with the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 (AIMS 2050) and Agenda 2063: Africa We Want, the current meeting is organised to discuss the modalities of developing such a strategy through the relevant regional seas programmes. As described in Cairo Declaration paragraph 9, regional seas programmes in Africa are the regional platforms on Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) for marine resources in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and adjacent waters. It is proposed that the African ocean governance strategy be developed based on a number of well accepted and widely agreed principles, such as ecosystem approach, precautionary approach and polluter-pay principle. Based on the ecosystem approach, as long as the regional seas programmes in Africa are the platforms on EBM for EEZ and adjacent waters, it is proposed that the strategy be developed by the African Union (AU) member states, through the regional seas programmes in Africa, in cooperation with regional fisheries bodies, regional and sub-regional economic communities and other regional and national bodies.

The current meeting is organised in English with documentation only in English. Regional Office for Africa will chair the meeting while DEPI will function as rapporteur.

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Timing	Activities	Responsible
19 October 2015		
0900-0915	Opening of the meeting Objective of the meeting Adoption of agenda and programme	UNEP ROA
0915-1000	Introduction of the AMCEN decision  AIMS 2050 and Agenda 2063  Discussion	UNEP ROA  AUC
1000-1045	Presentation of the proposed governance strategy development  comments	UNEP DEPI  Participants
1045-1100	Coffee/tea break	
1100-1230	Discussion of the possible outline of the strategy	Participants
1230-1400	Lunch break	
1400 – 1500	Organisation of the regional conference	UNEP DEPI

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	Comments	Participants
1500-1520	Coffee/tea break	
1520-1540	Presentation of draft conclusions	UNEP DEPI
1540-1620	Agreement of draft conclusions	Participants
1620-1630	Closure of the Meeting	