

## **WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS IN REALIZING “BLUE ECONOMY” AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS**

### **Barriers:**

1. Proliferation of regional economic commissions in the region with limited coordination EAC, COMESA and IGAD Tripartite Agreement being negotiated (Egypt). Countries are urged to join together towards harmonization.
2. Absence of Ministries of Finance and Planning in the blue economy discussions
3. No one- stop office in the government to coordinate discussions and development of programmes in blue economy
4. Lack of a framework for coordinating discussions on blue economy including a monitoring mechanism
5. Lack of understanding of what blue economy means and the benefits thereof for national economies. The AU has already defined blue economy. The message and argument has not been presented to the policy makers.
6. Inadequate balance among the various sectors of the economy (the Dutch disease) in development decisions (Development bias)
7. Inadequate political because the true potential of ocean resources has not been well articulated and recognition of the same (valuation, environmental accounting, etc) as well as lack of attribution of coastal economic activities to ocean economy.
8. Lack of comprehensive spatial planning that takes all the sectors into account.
9. Lack of mechanisms/structure for managing trade offs in ocean management smart decisions
10. Unbalanced participation of the governments vis a vis foreign companies in the ocean sectors leading to limited benefit to national economies

### **Way Forward**

1. Need to mainstream blue economy in national economies
2. Development needs to be sustainable to the effect that any new initiative should build on the current initiatives
3. There is need to link both blue economy and green economy
4. Need for framework for understanding aggregated benefits from ocean resources
5. The Nairobi convention to support countries in the development of ocean policies
6. The Nairobi Convention should encourage multisectoral collaboration at the national level
7. Develop a regional framework for blue economy in the region `