



**The Final report on the**

**Maritime Transport Side Event held**

**At the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference**

**On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**At the**

**Aberdares Hall, Kenyatta International Convention Centre –**

**Nairobi**

**Progressing Maritime Transport sector for the Blue**

**Economy**

## **Introduction-**

The objective of the maritime transport side event was: “integrate the over-arching theme of the Conference “Blue economy and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development”. The side event proceeded in tackling matters under the following sub-thematic areas:

- a) Smart Shipping, Ports, Transportation and Global Connectivity;
- b) Maritime safety, Security and Regulatory enforcement; and,
- c) Maritime Transport in Employment, Job creation, Poverty eradication and the Blue economy.

The session commenced with presentations made by various key speakers and panelists under the three sub-thematic areas. The moderators, key speakers and panelists are listed in the programme attached herewith marked as, “**KMA1**”.

## **Key messages**

International trade has been disrupted by myriad of factors thus requiring countries to re-think strategies for economic development. Ocean and sea resource exploitation strategies need to be all inclusive i.e. human resource training and development, financing frameworks, supporting investment policies, alternative resource exploitation methods, enhanced regulatory environment that promote orderly growth and participation in the sector. All this coupled with enhanced supply chain security, academia involvement in industry growth and combined efforts on the marine environment conservation will go a long way into realizing the blue economy agenda namely:

- 1) Strategic partnerships and collaborations in improving performance of the maritime sector;
- 2) Resource mobilization for investment opportunities in the maritime transport sector such as the viability of establishing a maritime cluster development fund;
- 3) Regulatory and oversight strategies and challenges for improved performance of the maritime sector and
- 4) Research and Development initiatives in the maritime sector and the implementation of research findings for improved development and growth of the sector

## **Challenges**

The discussions under the three sub-thematic areas identified the below:

- 1) The most expensive cost within the African continent are the indirect costs linked to time as a result of logistics chain inefficiencies and multimodal interface delays among other factors.

- 2) Silo mentality of agencies in execution of operations leads to delinked decision making in the exploitation of ocean resources leading to wastage and overlapping initiatives;
- 3) Inadequate measures in place in terms of law enforcement against maritime security threats and marine-living resources which leads to over-exploitation

### **Opportunities**

Knowledge sharing and interrogation on exploiting ocean and sea resources for sustainability development identified the below opportunities:

- 1) Synergy creation in terms of inter –agency cooperation and leverage on technology in undertaking cargo clearance processes. Technology could be used to realise a consolidated cargo and logistics planning software, centralized information sharing solution, container movement tracking applications and trade Logistics Information Pipeline (TLIP);
- 2) Investment in green port initiative e.g. cold ironing through use of higher quality fuel particularly for generating power in harbour. Cold ironing allows vessels to access land-based power for in-harbour needs. Kenya can achieve this through international public-private partnership;
- 3) IMO member States to adopt and legislate on the requisite conventions and codes to ensure that there is a sustainable legal framework to prevent, protect and address potential incidents and/or threats that may affect the marine environment including port operations;
- 4) Enhancement of access to the Vessel Management System that is able to detect illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and other illegal activities within the marine environment;
- 5) The Government to develop a strategic plan of action with the objective of a holistic approach in training and employment of seafarers and shore based personnel;
- 6) Undertake capacity building for the financial institutions on the blue economy activities owing to their capital intensive nature. This will enable the institutions to come up with products that will help exploit the blue economy;
- 7) The Government to understand the fiscal terrain for instance where certain interventions such as tax rebate, flexible tax regimes, among other incentives can be employed to invigorate the maritime sector and increase the rate of investment;

### **Commitments**

The participants registered the below commitments:

- 1) Republic of South Korean is keen to work with the Government of Kenya in development of maritime education and training facilities;
- 2) Republic Malaysia is keen on providing technical assistance in identifying skills gap and integration of seafarer employment activities through their program EDU-COR; and,
- 3) IMO pronounced their willingness to provide technical assistance in capacity building in the maritime sector upon member State's request;

## **Way Forward**

The commitments pronounced to be communicated to the GoK and official follow up to be made to the relevant partners immediately.

## **Rapporteurs:**

1. Ellah Kiyangu
2. Katherine Kithiki
3. Mwanaulu Issa
4. Josephine Nthia