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COMMUNIQUÉ

FOR THE

SEA POWER FOR AFRICA SYMPOSIUM



HELD VIRTUALLY AT THE

NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

CONFERENCE HALL

30 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2021

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNIQUÉ FOR THE VIRTUAL SEA POWER FOR AFRICA SYMPOSIUM 2021 HELD AT THE NAVAL HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE HALL ABUJA FROM 30 NOVEMBER TO 2 DECEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

1. The virtual Sea Power for Africa Symposium (SPAS) 2021 was held at the Naval Headquarters Abuja from 30 November to 2 December 2021. The theme of the 3-day Symposium was, “**Integrating Africa’s Maritime Domain Awareness Infrastructure towards Effective Ocean Governance**”. The primary objective of the Symposium was to promote the integration of Africa’s maritime security surveillance structures in the context of a sustainable Blue Economy, based on a thorough common understanding of the dynamics of maritime security threats in Africa. This is also in line with the vision of the SPAS which was to create a platform for shared solutions and a common approach to address the continent’s maritime challenges.

2. The theme of the Symposium inspired the presentation of 6 thought-provoking thematic papers by selected resource persons. These presentations laid bare some key issues in the existing regional maritime security initiatives in a bid to formulating a structure to preserve continental equilibrium and prosperity. There were panel discussions for each presentation whereby some very distinguished resource persons provided complementary perspectives. The interactive sessions that followed each presentation further provided the avenue to clarify grey areas, make contributions or challenge some lines of thought. The frank interchange of ideas has given the participating countries some interesting directions, possibilities and preferential options which have been collated as resolutions emanating from this symposium. Hence, the purpose of this brief is to present the Communiqué for the Sea Power for Africa Symposium 2021.

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3. In a short while, I shall be presenting the Communiqué for this Symposium. The Communiqué is an articulation of all the resolutions and decisions reached from the presentations, interactions and deliberations made during the Symposium. Before I proceed, however, I must not fail to once again thank our host, the Nigerian Chief of the Naval Staff as well as the Chiefs of the Naval Staff/Heads of Navies of other participating countries.

AIM

4. The aim of this brief is to present the Communiqué for the Sea Power for Africa Symposium 2021.

PAPERS PRESENTED

5. The Symposium formally commenced at 0900 on 30 Nov 21. A total of 6 thematic papers were presented by the representatives of some selected navies. The following papers were presented:

- a. National Hydrographic Capacities as Catalyst for Credible Ocean Governance.
- b. Tackling Emerging Maritime Security Challenges through Collaborative Regional Framework.
- c. Ocean Governance and the Blue Economy: The Critical Nexus.
- d. Integrating Maritime Domain Awareness in Africa Maritime Security Architecture.
- e. Legal Imperative of Delimiting African Waters.
- f. African Regional Maritime Cooperation: Challenges and Future Perspectives.

RESOLUTIONS

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6. Having considered a wide range of options for integrating Africa's maritime domain awareness infrastructure towards effective ocean governance, this Symposium has therefore arrived at the following resolutions by affirming the need to:

- a. Sustaining the conduct of the Seapower for Africa Symposium annually with the aim of developing stronger collaborative efforts to improve maritime security in African waters.
- b. Optimizing hydrographic capacity for ocean governance through adequate sensitization on hydrographic capabilities, improved funding, investment in human resources and prioritization of specific locations for survey.
- c. Exploring new and emerging technologies in the field of hydrography for the survey of internal waters to reduce the overall cost of hydrographic survey.
- d. Optimizing hydrographic capacities by training mid-level hydrographers at regional hydrographic institutions and senior-level hydrographers at world-renowned hydrographic institutions.
- e. Developing framework for effective resource sharing through joint utilization of survey infrastructure and manpower to increase synergy towards optimizing hydrographic capabilities.
- f. Exploring satellite technology to support ocean governance framework on the continent.
- g. Working towards the integration of unmanned aerial vehicles capabilities into the MDA architecture to assist in target identification and classification.

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- h. Adopting Ship Rider agreement, whereby maritime law enforcement agents from one country board another country's vessel for interdiction operations.
- i. Developing and ratify formal agreement framework for the transfer and prosecution of pirates arrested in the course of maritime law enforcement.
- j. Pursuing peaceful resolutions of boundary disputes through bilateral and regional conflict resolution mechanism such as the Joint Development Zones (JDZ) between São Tomé and Príncipe and Nigeria.
- k. Committing efforts to implementing existing Strategic Objectives in support of "Ocean Governance" as contained in the Regional Economic Communities' (REC) Integrated Maritime Security Strategies (IMSS).
- l. Supporting the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) 2050 Regional Maritime Operation Centres to improve both situational awareness and the effectiveness of the African Standby Force.
- m. Ensuring Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) region establish MDA central coordination centres similar to those available in other RECs on the continent.
- n. Seeking the inclusion of a Regional Maritime Operation Centre within the Great Lakes region to ensure Fresh Water Governance.
- o. Engaging in multilateral training activities in order to jointly develop tactics, techniques and procedures that improve their interoperability in governing their maritime spaces.

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- p. Reviewing periodically the provisions contained in the agreements setting up various regional maritime security architecture towards identifying capability gaps and areas requiring improvement.
- q. Sensitizing relevant stakeholders including the political class on the importance of the sea to national development.
- r. Sustaining cooperation with international partners to develop capacity through participation in multinational exercises such as Exercise OBANGAME EXPRESS and Exercise NEMO.
- s. Enacting common laws to deal with maritime crimes across zones or regions in the continent in order to facilitate unhindered prosecutions of maritime criminals.
- t. Designating specialized centres to provide training at subsidized rates for African hydrographers.
- u. Designating African nations with higher level of hydrographic capabilities as regional charting authorities and to allow unrestricted conduct of hydrographic surveys for the production of nautical charts and publications.
- v. Establishing Hydrographic Survey Agency that would facilitate the pooling of resources from both public and private maritime stakeholders.
- w. Formulating robust and all-encompassing National Maritime Strategy which will improve ocean governance.
- x. Embarking on advocacy to create awareness on the importance of hydrography to maritime activities, maritime security and growth of blue economy.

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- y. Facilitating the development of mechanism to detect and prosecute cases of toxic waste dumping in African maritime space, with emplacement of stringent sanctions and penalties.
- z. Supporting the Joint Implementation Mechanism of the Nairobi 2 and Abidjan 3 Conventions in implementing the marine and coastal environment component.
 - aa. Implementing the International Ship and Facility Security (ISPS) Code.
 - ab. Joining the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) in order to promote maritime safety, efficiency, protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.
 - ac. Advocating for the inclusion of the studies of the sea in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools in order to develop the knowledge of the oceans from the basic educational level.
 - ad. Signing existing global maritime treaties and protocols with Executive Bills to domesticate their provisions for local implementation.
 - ae. Developing African oriented model under the auspices of the AU and other RECs for the conduct of sea exercises towards reducing over-reliance on foreign nations to organise such exercises for the Continent.
 - af. Establishing special maritime desk at the AU Headquarters to facilitate the implementation of AIMS 2050 to harmonize and synergize regional efforts.
 - ag. Optimizing the use of fleet charts in the conduct of maritime security operations in both internal and international waters.

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- ah. Developing legal framework for releasing arrested vessels on bond during prosecution.
- ai. Broadening the concept of maritime security beyond state boundaries.
- aj. Developing continent-wide maritime security architecture in Africa.

CONCLUSION

7. The virtual Sea Power for Africa Symposium 2021 provided the much-needed opportunity for the participating countries to discuss and deliberate on matters of strategic concern to the continent. The event accommodated 6 presentations, in line with the theme of the Symposium, delivered by selected resource persons. At the end of the 3-day event, a total of 36 resolutions were reached. These resolutions have, once again, put the entire continent to task towards exploring additional options for achieving the SPAS vision. I am confident that, as we look forward to the next SPAS, there will be valuable lessons learnt in the quest to address the resolutions reached today. These lessons could then be improved upon for a better, more secured and sustainable continent. I thank you all for your inputs, contributions and overall actions towards the success of the Sea power for Africa Symposium 2021. ONWARD TOGETHER.

Dec 21

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