The **Heads of Africa Maritime Administrations and Ship Registrars** at their first meeting held in Mombasa, Kenya from the 3rd to 5th of October 2012 representing, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe;

In conjunction with the representatives from the following bodies: African Maritime Policy Advisory Centre (AMPAC), Inter-Governmental Standing Committee on Shipping (ISCOS), Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA), African Ship-Owners Association (ASOS), Kenya Shippers Council (KSC), Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), Container Freight Station (CFS) and Northern Corridor Transit Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA):

PREAMBLE

INSPIRED by the objectives of the African Maritime Transport Charter, particularly Article 3;

CONSIDERING Article 5 of the African Maritime Transport Charter that advocates the establishment of an Association of African Maritime Administrations to ensure effective continental coordination of maritime transport policies and programmes;

RECOGNIZING the specific profile of maritime transport as a regional, continental and international activity;

RECOGNIZING the role of maritime transport in the facilitation and development of trade between Africa and other parts of the world and the need to implement an effective maritime transport policy with a view to promoting trade between African States and other continents;

RECOGNIZING the essential obligations of African States to strengthen maritime governance structure in Africa;

CONSIDERING the importance of co-operation in the implementation of maritime conventions and regulations, particularly in the areas of safety, security, protection of the marine environment and maritime labour;

CONSCIOUS of the interdependence between economic development and a sustainable policy for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

RECOGNIZING the importance and the role of efficient transport infrastructure and services in the political, economic and social integration of Africa;

CONSIDERING further the roles of United Nations agencies and other International and Regional Organizations in maritime transport;

CONSCIOUS of the need to establish and strengthen cooperation in order to coordinate efforts to harmonize shipping, ports and inland waterways policies, regulations and procedures in intra-Africa relations;

CONCERNED by the divergence and disparity of maritime and inland waterways policies, regulations and procedures between and within Member States;

CONSCIOUS of the importance of the role of maritime transport in the promotion of economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable maritime development;

CONSCIOUS of the need to develop African merchant fleets to ensure development of maritime transport in Africa;

RECOGNIZING the support which has been provided by International Maritime Organization (IMO) to the African Continent through the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP), the IMO Regional Coordinators and Regional institutions;

NOTING the reform and review being undertaken by the IMO and support received from the IMO Council and the Technical Cooperation Committee;

NOTING ALSO the desire of African Maritime Administrations to give effect to IMO instruments and to participate in the Voluntary IMO Member States Audit Scheme;

NOTING further that the maritime administrations in Africa need special attention for the safety/security and protection of maritime environment of their countries; and

ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPRECIATING the IMO Secretary General's initiative to develop an additional ITCP tool through the country maritime profile for effective need-driven technical assistance to Member States:

HEREBY MAKE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

1. To support the bold resolutions of the Africa's Ship Registrars appended hereto as **Annex 1** at their inaugural Forum meeting, aimed at facilitating the development of the African indigenous fleet, fostering a competitive regulatory and operating environment and improving the member states Flag State capabilities.

2. To initiate the process to establish the Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) operating, for the period leading up to the launch of the Association, through an interim Secretariat led by and based in South Africa, supported by a Correspondence Group made up of African Union member states Maritime Administrations Focal Points.

3. To improve the capacity, capabilities and performance of Africa's Maritime Administrations, with emphasis on human resources development (continuous training and development), technology and information sharing.

4. To facilitate the improvement of member states levels of compliance with international treaties.

5. To acknowledge the support from the IMO that African Member States have enjoyed and express gratitude to the IMO Secretary General in this regard.

6. To request support from IMO through the ITCP to further enhance capacity building, development of human resources and institutional resources in the maritime sector and appended hereto as **Annex 2** are the overall resolutions taken in respect of the IMO.

7. To develop and coordinate the program to harmonize maritime, port and inland waterways policies, regulations and procedures across the African Union members landscape.

8. To ensure that well resourced safety and development programs on Africa's vast Inland Waterways are developed and implemented.

9. To ensure the interests of the landlocked countries are promoted in all the maritime transport programmes which impact them.

10. To encourage the establishment of the African Maritime Advisory Council made up of African experts to provide support and guidance to member states maritime bodies on technical, legal and policy matters.

11. To position the African Maritime Administrations as the strategic facilitators and resources in the overall development and implementation of the member states, regional economic communities and African Union maritime programs.

12. To provide the lead in promoting maritime skills, research and innovation programs in conjunction with role players including the academia and industry.

13. To encourage and promote the establishment of multi-stakeholder maritime development clusters at National, Regional and Continental levels, aimed at coordinating and fostering a competitive and effective African maritime development program.

14. To engage the African Union Commission on establishing interface mechanisms and setting up other relevant structures and programs envisaged primarily in the African Maritime Charter and the Draft Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050.

15. To express support for the leadership that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Region has demonstrated through MOWCA, encouraging other regions to learn and establish similar regional maritime development programs and structures.

16. To support the resolutions and efforts of ECOWAS/MOWCA to sset up an African Maritime Fund and the African Maritime Development Bank, calling in the interim, upon the existing continental, regional and national Finance Development Institutions (FDI) to establish dedicated specialised maritime funding and financing facilities to support Africa's maritime sector.

Furthermore, at the end of the Conference of the Heads of Africa's Maritime Administration which was attended by many stakeholders and held on the 4 - 5th October 2012, back to back with the Conference of Africa's Ship Registrars (held on the 3rd October 2012), the Heads of Africa's Maritime Administration convened at their inaugural session meeting to consider the resolutions and outcomes of both Conferences.

The meeting of the Heads of Africa's Maritime Administrations resolved as follows:

i.   To endorse the resolutions and outcomes of both Conferences.

ii. To establish the Association and endorse its interim structures, as follows:

    ✓ Set up an Interim Secretariat.
    ✓ South Africa to Chair the Secretariat until the follow up Conference in 2013.

      ✓   The Interim Secretariat to be supported by a Correspondence Group made up of African Union member states Maritime Administrations Focal Points.

iii. To call for a sense of urgency and timelines based delivery commitment.

iv. To hold a follow-up Conference in 6 months (around April 2013) in South Africa to consider primarily:
   - ✓ The Terms of Reference/Constitution of the Association
   - ✓ The official launch of the Association
   - ✓ The work programme

South Africa accepted the nomination to serve as the Interim Chair and the tasks as outlined, including the organising of the follow-up Conference to be held in South Africa within 6 months.

The meeting expressed gratitude to the people of the Republic of Kenya, the government as represented by the Minister of Transport, as well as the host institution and its stakeholders for their hospitality during the delegates stay in the country.

South Africa was congratulated for the appointment and the meeting ended.

Friday, 05 October 2012
Republic of Kenya

RESOLUTIONS AT THE INAUGURAL HEADS OF AFRICAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATIONS AND SHIP REGISTRARS' CONFERENCE HELD AT SAROVA WHITESANDS BEACH HOTEL 3-5 OCTOBER 2012

We at the Ship Registrars Forum affirm the following:

[Africa Ship Registry Turnaround Programme – Strategy, Plan and Projects]

Establishment of Ship Registration Office

- Establish an Africa Ship Registrars Forum with a Permanent Secretariat.
- Implement project plans to develop a Model which streamlines Ship Registration processes.
- Conduct audits of the Ship Registration Offices (RMOs) in Africa.
- Urge our various Governments to consider aligning immigration, customs and excise regulations.
- Encourage Ship Registrars to broaden their knowledge on maritime policy, financial and immigration matters.

Policy and Regulatory

- Ratifying of International Conventions.
- Encourage the need for innovation and use of modern technology.
- Updating of laws and regulations.
- Engage the relevant strategic institutions and conduct studies of various models on cabotage and coastal shipping.
  - Engage with best practices from a few member states which already have policies on cabotage;
  - Engage a consultancy to provide services on the development of cabotage policy;
  - Urge all the African countries to ratify the African Maritime Transport Charter as it is central to the implementation of coastal shipping.

Training

- Encourage Ship Registrars to undergo training and continuous professional development.
- Encourage the harmonisation of training for Ship Registrars.
- Collaborate with the partners for training of Ship Registrars.
- Set-out minimum qualifications standards for Ship Registrars.
- Appropriate training for the support staff for the Ship Registrar's Office.
- Encourage succession plans for Ship Registrars.
- Encourage the training in maritime courses.
- Encourage workshops and forums to share knowledge and best practises.
- Encouragement the development of the training for Seafarers.

Stakeholder Relation

- Urge Ship Registrars to maintain regular dialogue and consultations with Ship Owners.

- Request Government support among the key role players in the promotion of Ship Registration.
- Request consideration of the formation of a focal point and government institution dealing with maritime issues.
- Encourage collaboration between the Shippers Council and Ship Owners in Africa.

Customer/User Service (Service Delivery Improvement)

- Provide adequate and satisfactory customer/user services.
- Ensure effective assistance including diplomatic and international assistance to ship-owners.
- Encourage the provision of quality services after ship registration.
- Encourage online Ship Registration.
- Encourage the need to have a one stop shop of a fully-fledged Ship Registration Unit.

Competitiveness

- Explore the development of a marketing strategy for the African Ship Registry.
- Identify and explore possible favourable fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.
- Conduct benchmark studies to develop best practices on Ship Registration.
- Engage stakeholders in exploring possible areas of optimisation of charges and costs related to the Ship Registration.

Ship Support Services

- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis on the establishment of Classification Societies in Africa.
- Explore the possibility and modalities for setting up an African marine insurance policy.
- Expand the maritime law, ship brokering and policy service capacity.
- Identify and develop other essential ship registration support services.

Fleet Development

- Promote and support ship ownership by Africans.
- Promote and encourage the development and employment of African Seafarers.
- Encourage the carriage of African trade by African ships.
- Consolidate efforts by Maritime Authorities, National Shipping Lines, Shippers Council, and African Banks in securing financing and funding of the fleet acquisition and operations programme.
- Encourage the development of African Ship financing instruments and capacities.
- Encourage the establishment of National Ship Owners Association in every country.
- Ensure representation and active participation by Africans at the international Ship Owners fora.

RESOLUTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

The **Heads of Africa Maritime Administrations and Ship Registrars** at their first meeting held in Mombasa, Kenya from the 3rd to 5th October 2012, representing, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe:

PREAMBLE

RECOGNIZING the support which has been provided by International Maritime Organization (IMO) to the African Continent through the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP), the IMO Regional Coordinators and Regional institutions;

NOTING the reform and review being undertaken by the IMO and support received from the IMO Council and the Technical Cooperation Committee;

NOTING ALSO the desire of African Maritime Administrations to give effect to IMO instruments and to participate in the Voluntary IMO Member States Audit Scheme;

NOTING further that the maritime administrations in Africa need special attention for the safety/security and protection of maritime environment of their countries; and

ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPRECIATING the IMO Secretary General's initiative to develop an additional ITCP tool through the country maritime profile for effective need-driven technical assistance to Member States:

HEREBY MAKE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

1. To acknowledge the support from the IMO that African Member States have enjoyed and express gratitude to the IMO Secretary General in this regard.

2. To request support from IMO through the ITCP to further enhance capacity building, development of human resources and institutional resources in the maritime sector.