



**COMMUNIQUE**  
**STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP TO DEFINE PRIORITY ISSUES**  
**FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGY FOR LIBYA**

**13 - 15 May 2024, Mombasa - KENYA**



**INTRODUCTION**

The workshop started with official opening session moderated by Mr. Rafik Nouali, Fisheries and Aquaculture Resource Management Officer of AU-IBAR. Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama, Fisheries Officer on behalf of the AU-IBAR Director, Dr. Huyam Salih provided opening remarks. She emphasized the role of AU-IBAR working in partnership with the Kingdom of Norway and in collaboration with the State of Libya to define priority issues for the development of Blue Economy Strategy for Libya and align to the Africa Blue Economy

Strategy (ABES). In 2019, The Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE), ENDORSED the Blueprint for Africa's Blue Economy Strategy; urging the *Commission to support adequate awareness creation, capacity building and sharing of best practices of the application of the Blue Economy concept; encouraging the Commission to support setting up Blue Governance mechanisms to ensure planning and coordination at continental, regional and national levels; and requesting the Commission to mobilize resources for the implementation of Blue-Print for Africa's Blue Economy Strategy* that was endorsed at AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2020 by the Heads of States. She wished the participants a fruitful deliberation that would culminate into a final draft of the National Blue Economy Strategy outline that would enable the national consultant to finalize the preparation of the Blue Economy Strategy for Libya.

Eng. Ali Mohamed Ageli Shagrune and Dr. Adel Ahmed Faraj, on behalf of the State of Libya, provided official opening remarks with emphasis on how blue economy should benefit Libya by providing economic diversity to utilize the 1,900 km coastline of Libya and minimize Libya's dependence on oil and gas, the main economic mainstay. There are potential opportunities in exploring underground water to support domestic, industrial, and commercial enterprises. During the meeting deliberations, additional remarks were provided by the Minister of Tourism Mr. Nassraalden Alffazani, Mr. Matteo Bocci from the European Commission- WestMED Initiative for Blue Economy, Dr. Masuada Aboarisha, General Director of Libya Project on Aquaculture, EU West Mediterranean Maritime Clusters Alliance, appreciating the work of AU-IBAR in advancing blue economy in Africa in general and supporting Libya in particular. They pointed out potential areas for blue economy diversification in Libya including Marine Tourism, Water Resources Management (including Desalination), Fisheries Aquaculture among others.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **Overall Objective:**

To Solicit views and inputs from stakeholders towards enriching and finalizing the development of National Blue Economy Strategy for Libya, and to ensure ownership, political goodwill and secure buy-in by all key relevant stakeholders.

### **Specific Objectives:**

1. Identify priority issues, challenges and actions that can be translated into key thematic areas in developing the National Blue Economy Strategy for Libya based on the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, Implementation Plan and Governance Coordination Mechanism.
2. Gather inputs from stakeholders to improve Key Issues identified by the consultant under different thematic areas towards developing the National Blue Economy Strategy Implementation Plan.
3. Set up Blue Governance and Coordination Mechanism at national level in the implementation of the National Blue Economy Strategy.
4. Create awareness, build capacity, and share lessons learnt and best practices in the Application of Blue Economy Concept.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The participants were drawn from Libya Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Economy & Trade, Ministry of Marine Wealth, Ministry of Transport, National Aquaculture Project, National Project of Aquaculture, Ports & Maritime Transport Authority, National Consultant, experts, AU-IBAR staff.

## **TECHNICAL SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE PRESENTATION**

The technical session 1 moderated by Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama, Fisheries Officer, AU-IBAR, the session started by Dr. Patrick Karani, Environmental Expert- FishGov 2 project making presentation on the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) on behalf of Dr. Mohamed Seisay. The ABES presentation set the scene by providing background issues highlighting the evolution of the BE strategy pegged on the recommendation of the 2018 World Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, and AUC Agenda 2063 among other key instruments. ABES was formulated through a consultative process, reviewed by the AUC Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE), and endorsed by Heads of States of AU-Member States in February 2020. Dr. Karani made additional presentations on ABES implementation plan based on the ABES five thematic areas (Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems; Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement; Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure; Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries; and, Polices, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing) and ABES governance coordination mechanism framework. The presentations provided an opportunity for national stakeholders to interrogate how the country could benefit from a continental blue economy strategy and the relevancy for policy making, capacity building, economic diversification, reduction of plastic pollution, waste management and getting political goodwill, buy-in and support.

## **TECHNICAL SESSION 2: INFORMATION SHARING ON BLUE ECONOMY SECTORS IN LIBYA**

The session was moderated by Dr. Patrick Karani. The discussions were based on the presentations by country perspectives by Dr. Fatima M. Hamad Saeed, Mr. Ragab Guma Algunni, Captain Emhmed S. Shlibta, Dr. Jauda R. Jauda Hamad, and Elmakki Ibrahim Alsodeg. The discussions related to fisheries and aquaculture, maritime transportation, maritime ports, environment, tourism, research, and development. The National Consultant highlighted issues raised in the discussions not limited to what he had captured in the draft outline of Libya National Blue Economy Strategy identifying the following thematic areas:

1. Fisheries
2. Aquaculture
3. Marine Environment Conservation
4. Maritime Transport and Marine Ports
5. Marine and Coastal Tourism
6. Water Resource Management (Desalination)

## 7. Energy and mining

Additional areas for consideration including innovative financing through blue bonds, PPPs.

### **EMERGING ISSUES FROM DISCUSSIONS**

During the discussions after the technical presentations, some issues were raised as follows:

- Oil & Gas is dominating sector in Libya economy and linkages for diversification from offshore and onshore for blue economy development and growth is critical.
- Pollution in particular plastic and solid waste is a problem in Libya and the Mediterranean Sea.
- Capacity building is cross-cutting and the need for human resource development, empowerment of youth and women, PPPs, climate change, innovative financing, Research and Development

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Some recommendations were provided to address some of the above emerging issues as follows:

1. The draft outline of the National Blue Economy Strategy will provide some details on how some of the above issues would be addressed.
2. The coastline of 1,900 km in Libya require protection and management solutions should be part of the blue economy in the country.
3. The strategy should take into consideration the overall Aquatic Ecosystem (marine and freshwater ecosystem) in the development of the Blue Economy
4. Waste management is essential to blue growth and blue economy considering disposal of plastics and should be harmonized.
5. There is need to have an integrated approach to enhance effective and efficient coordination for the stakeholders to work together in implementing blue economy activities.
6. There is need to get more background referenced data on blue economy sectors for contribution to national economy in Libya.

### **WORKING GROUP SESSIONS**

**Group 1:** National Blue Economy Strategy

**Group 2:** Implementation Plan

**Group 3:** Governance Coordination Mechanism

### **OUTCOMES OF THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**Group 1:** Draft Strategy

**Group 2:** Draft Implementation Plan

**Group 3:** Draft Governance Coordination Mechanism

### **NEXT STEPS**

1. The Outline of the National Blue Economy Strategy to be disseminated to all key stakeholders present and not present at the consultative workshop to get broader views, gain the political goodwill, support, and ownership. The National consultant will follow-up and obtain feedback on views and opinions and incorporate into the National Blue

Economy Strategy.

2. The Draft National Blue Economy Strategy to be finalized and validated either in a physical meeting to be held in Libya.

### **ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE**

The Communique was proposed, seconded, and adopted unconditionally by the workshop participants.

### **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

A representative of the participants Dr. Fatima M. Hamad Saeed provided a vote of thanks.

Mrs. Hellen Moepi-Guebama on behalf of AU-IBAR, Director Dr. Huyam Salih made the closing remarks.

Eng. Ali Mohamed Ageli Shagrune, on behalf of Libya provided closing remarks and declared the meeting closed.