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**REPORT OF H.E. DANNY FAURE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SEYCHELLES AND LEADER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLUE
ECONOMY IN AFRICA**

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1. During the last Extraordinary Summit of the African Union, Seychelles through the person of President Danny Faure, was bestowed with the title of Champion for the Development of the Blue Economy in Africa. This was executed by the former President of our Union, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda.
2. Much as this is in recognition of the efforts of Seychelles in the Blue Economy, this is in fact a major responsibility that is given to Seychelles to give strategic direction and coordination to our organization's continental efforts throughout Africa.
3. It is our humble view that it was indeed a wise decision to appoint a champion for this subject as it highlights the prominence that our organization attaches to the Blue Economy, which is a cornerstone of our Development Agenda.
4. Africa's Agenda 2063, its 10-year Implementation Plan and Flagship Programmes and its 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy, all speak in varying degrees to the Blue Economy.
5. Our plans and programmes also have an interface with the Global Agenda 2030 and the Sustainability Development Goals.
6. Going forward, our responsibility is to build upon our achievements, to harness the potential of the vast ocean resources that surround us and the water bodies that run through our motherland.
7. We will need to work harder towards the smart implementation of our strategies, policies and programmes.
8. The new institutional reforms of the Union will certainly buttress our work. The streamlined Commission with a Commissioner who, amongst other responsibilities, will be in charge of the Blue Economy, will also assist to focus attention on the Blue Economy.
9. Seychelles will work with the Commission and with Member States and the Regional Economic Communities to develop synergies for the crystallization of the Blue Economy concept. This Summit has indeed provided us an opportunity to begin some real ground work on the subject. By the time of the next Summit, the Commission should be in a position to provide more detailed information on work in progress and that is planned out.
10. Similarly, our approach will be to steer the Union to work with the regions of Africa, the provinces, municipalities and cities (the decentralised poles of power) in order to bring

the Blue Economy to the grass roots. There is a very critical role for socio-economic operators, academia and civil society organizations.

11. As much as we will develop self-reliance, we will also continue to encourage global partnering in order to build alliances, share prosperity and to leverage on technologies that already exist in order to leap frog development.

12. We all need to work together to harness the potential of our oceans and waterways, to make them healthier, more secure and more prosperous for us now and for posterity.

13. We thus congratulate brothers and sisters who are advocating regionally and internationally for more to be done for the sustainability of the Oceans and water bodies.

14. Already, we can celebrate growing awareness on the Blue Economy in Africa. Only last November, many of us took part in the successful global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference. Kenya should be applauded for the role it played in hosting this Global Conference.

15. For us the African countries, we are all beneficiaries one way or another of the Blue Economy and so it is therefore imperative that Africa works together.

16. Whilst the Blue Economy presents an opportunity for Africa to achieve greater growth and prosperity for our peoples, we are also conscious of the challenges.

17. These include the capability to understand and better manage the many aspects of oceanic sustainability and, the realization that sustainable management of ocean resources requires collaboration across the public and private sectors and across nation-states.

18. We are also aware that ocean resources are limited and that the health of the oceans has drastically declined due to anthropogenic activities.

19. Therein lies the challenge facing the Small Island Developing States, the Least Developed Countries and Land-locked countries with water bodies, and coastal states as we turn to better management of our blue economies.

20. Seychelles has achieved much in developing the Blue Economy so far and we are eager to share our lessons learned so that they can be replicated by other islands, coastal and other ocean countries and communities in Africa.

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Report of H.E. Danny Faure, president of the republic of Seychelles and leader for the development of blue economy in Africa

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