



resources in Africa, member States are to continuously prioritize the mapping and assessment of marine resources and to build databases about their resources. The essential role that scientific and technical information plays in facilitating informed decision-making and contract negotiation was recognised by the Antananarivo Communiqué. Member States would also need to coordinate their actions to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU fishing), through the sharing of information on fishing vessels engaged in those illegal activities, through the implementation of joint monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement as well as through the adoption of port-based measures against such vessels.

6. The Antananarivo Communiqué emphasizes the priority to achieve and maintain peace and security and underscores the overarching importance of the need to balance economic interests with adherence to the highest environmental and social considerations, as encapsulated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document, “The Future We Want”. Member States are encouraged to establish the necessary institutions and build the relevant capacities to better harness the potential represented by the Blue Economy. Of particular relevance is the need to build research and development capacities and centres of excellence in such areas as oceanographic mapping, fisheries management, integrated development planning, port competitiveness and tourism connected with the Blue Economy.
7. UNECA is also closely partnering with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat with a view to contributing to its work. The Nairobi Convention Secretariat is supporting among others (1) the implementation of the Cairo Declaration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and Agenda 2063 on ecosystem-based management approaches for marine resources in the exclusive economic zones and adjacent waters;
8. (2) the facilitation of development and implementation of new transboundary initiatives for management of shared resources; (3) the preparation of regional