**COMMUNIQUE**

**2ND  D -8 EXPERT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON SHIPPING**

**17 - 18 OCTOBER 2011, ABUJA, NIGERIA**

Desirous of reviewing and appraisal of the progress achieved thus far in the implementation of the resolutions reached at the 1st Expert Working Group Meeting (November 2010, Abuja), the 2nd Expert Working Group Meeting was convened to take stock of the state of implementation, and chart out concrete proposals for future implementation. In the course of the two-day interactive deliberations and frank exchanges between the delegations, including networking opportunities, the following are the highlights of the decisions taken at the Meeting:

1. That Member Countries should undertake in earnest to implement the resolutions of the 1st EWG Meeting, including capacity-building measures, e.g. TOTAR and other technical training programmes in the maritime sector;
2. That each Member Country should establish proper mechanisms for effective follow-up of the decisions made with respect to establishing benchmarks and timelines;
3. That Member Countries should explore the possibility of entering into Maritime Joint Venture Agreements (MJV), including establishment of Maritime Joint Commissions for collaborative ventures;
4. That the establishment of Automated Maritime Data Access (AMDA) would facilitate promotion of collaboration between Member Countries;
5. That the Meeting took note of the near absence of the private sector participation from the Member Countries in the Meeting and emphasized the imperative of the activation of their participation in future deliberations;
6. That the above situation should be urgently redressed towards the realization of the common objectives of facilitating private sector networking for sustainable maritime development among the D-8 Member Countries with a view to realizing the sector’s huge potential in promoting actual cooperation among the Member Countries for mutual benefits;
7. That Member Countries should pursue and conclude, as a matter of priority and preferably prior to the next meeting of the Working Group, their current bilateral exchanges and discussions.
8. The 2nd Working Group Meeting on Shipping expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the excellent arrangements and hospitality put in place for the event.

**ISSUED AT ABUJA THIS 18TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2011**