

## CONCEPT NOTE FOR NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SUMMIT 2022

### Introduction

This Concept Note is to provide an overview of the 2022 edition of the Nigeria International Maritime Summit ("NIMS 2022"), scheduled for 21-22 November 2022. The event is organised by a collaboration of the organised Nigerian maritime private sector together with the Federal Ministry of Transportation and its agencies. The theme is ***Igniting the Blue Economy***.

### Background

The blue economy is a concept that refers to the exploitation, protection, and regeneration of ocean resources for economic growth and national development. More than 90% of Africa's imports and exports are handled by sea, making the continent a crucial gateway for both regional and worldwide commerce. Towards the Agenda 2063 aspiration of a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, the blue economy is listed as one of the goals, with priority areas including marine resources and energy, ports operations and marine transport among others. Africa's future is therefore closely tied to the blue economy, with no doubt as to the ocean's critical role as a catalyst for socio-economic change. Given the strategic location of West and Central African states within the resource-rich Gulf of Guinea, they are positioned to optimize economic growth by developing a realistic plan for leveraging the blue economy's resources. Following the last summit at which strategies were shared on becoming a significant maritime nation, the focus is now on specific channels for achieving that target, with the result that the theme this year is, *Igniting the Blue Economy*.

### Needs Assessment

The seas and oceans that abound the continent are being exploited and depleted daily through the cross-cutting menace of illegal fishing, sea piracy, pollution and the impacts of climate change. This is as suboptimal growth still assails many African nations despite the wealth of resources inherent in the waters. As a result, there is a pressing need to protect and develop these resources. There is the need for Nigeria and the rest of Africa to fashion out a roadmap for the Blue Economy and this can only be achieved by collaborative action between governments, businesses, international institutions and the generality of stakeholders.

### Event Objective

NIMS 2022 strives to spark debates, ideas, and strategies for the development and sustainability of the Blue Economy. This year's goal, as the theme indicates, is to start dialogues that will ignite and unleash the potentials of the blue economy.

## **Modus Operandi**

NIMS will reach out to governments, development organizations, and private sector decision-makers to provide insights on carefully chosen sessions that focus on the many facets of the Blue Economy, strategies for its development and sustainability, as well as any challenges that may hinder such goals. It will encourage objective discussions on the aspirational theme of *'Igniting the Blue Economy'* which speaks to the sustainable use and development of the diverse blue economy vectors.

## **Summit Sub-themes**

NIMS 2022 will broadly anchor the achievement of its stated objectives on engagements around the summit theme, and more particularly on outcomes from discussions on the following focused sub-themes and sessions –

- a. Understanding the Blue Economy
- b. Wealth of the waters and diversity of the marine eco-system
- c. Financing Maritime Assets – Focus on Ports and Shipyards
- d. High seas to Hinterlands – Opportunities and Challenges in Harnessing the Blue Economy

## **Venue and Format of Summit**

The Summit will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual participation. In-person events will hold at the Lagos Oriental Hotel, Nigeria. There will be keynote presentations, high-level panel discussions, networking events and a trade and services exhibition.

## **Expected Participants**

Participants expected at NIMS include international organizations, policy makers, regulators, development organisations, operators, service providers and consumers in the maritime industry and other sectors that represent the blue economy.

## **Expected Outcomes**

At the end of the Summit, it is expected that an actionable roadmap for the sustainable use of the oceans and inherent resources will be in sight. This will include an identification of significant challenges and strategies for confronting them. It is also expected that the foundation for value-adding partnerships would have been laid for business-to-business, business-to-government and government-to-government interfaces. It is also expected to set in motion, a structured aggregation of all the capabilities and participants as a means of aiding government planning, instigating local collaboration and attracting external investment.

## **Indicators of achievement**

Signed partnerships, open commitments to positive change, firm policy statements on development strategies and clear, timebound schedules for implementation of national development goals on the continent and within national domains.

## **Conclusion**

NIMS has the ability to develop and implement a realistic plan for the protection of the marine ecology. It has the potential to stimulate more rapid action in support of the Blue Economy. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate.