



COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 5TH BCC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE MEETING, SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA, 8 DECEMBER 2016

The 5th BCC Ministerial Conference meeting was held in Swakopmund, Republic of Namibia on 8 December 2016.

The meeting inaugurated Hon. Bernhard Esau, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Republic of Namibia as Chairperson for two years, taking over from Hon. Dr Victória de Barros Neto, Minister of Fisheries, Republic of Angola.

The meeting was attended by the following Ministers and Deputy Ministers:

- Victória de Barros Neto, Minister of Fisheries, Republic of Angola
- Anibal Silva, Secretary of State of Petroleum, Republic of Angola
- José João Kuvíngua, Secretary of State for Transport, Republic of Angola
- Alpheus G. !Naruseb, Minister of Works and Transport, Republic of Namibia
- Bernhard Esau, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Republic of Namibia
- Chief Samuel Ankama, Deputy Minister Fisheries and Marine Resources, Republic of Namibia
- Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa
- Dipuo Peters, Minister of Transport, Republic of South Africa
- Godfrey Oliphant, Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources, Republic of South Africa

The opening meeting was also attended by the BCC Development Partners including, UNDP-Namibia, FAO (Namibia, SA, and Zimbabwe), GIZ and various Members of Diplomatic Corps.

At the closure of the Conference, the Ministers issued the communique below:

1. We extend our gratitude to the Host Government and the town Swakopmund and its residents for the warm hospitality extended to the delegates;

2. We express our appreciation for the office accommodation that the Host Government continues to provide to the Benguela Current Convention and the commitment to the signing of the Headquarters Agreement;
3. We are committed to strengthen the operational capacity of the Secretariat including ensuring that it attracts all professionals of the Member States;
4. We commit to enhance joint research efforts including the pooling of research vessels between the countries for the co-management of both the living and non-living marine resources;
5. We commit ourselves to finding concrete self-funding proposals to make the Benguela Current Convention self-sufficient. The Commission is urged to urgently develop detailed self-funding mechanisms for the approval by the Minister Conference;
6. We are committed to strengthening capacity and enhancing training of professionals in the region;
7. We reaffirm the need for the region to work together to fight illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing to ensure maximum sustainable utilization of the resources for the benefit of the region;
8. We acknowledge that more studies need to be conducted on matters such as phosphate mining and other marine activities in order to understand the viability and impacts of such to the ecosystem, and the results should be shared;
9. We commit to mainstream the youth and women participation and empowerment in the region within the oceans space;
10. We commit to forging closer collaboration in the area of oil spill contingency planning including private sector involvement and establishment of the a regional oil spill preparedness and response center;
11. We acknowledge that the riches of the region need to contribute toward the sustainable funding of the BCC including the possible imposing of levies on the users of the BCLME resources and services.

DONE AT SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA, 08 DECEMBER, 2016.

Signed:


Hon. Bernhard Esau (MP)

Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Republic of Namibia and Chairperson of Benguela Current Convention