



SADC Executive Secretary has commended the Republic of Seychelles for spearheading the Blue Economy Initiative, and called upon SADC Member States to evaluate the Blue economy initiative and come up with focused strategies which will embrace the Blue economy attributes.

Speaking at the Blue Economy Summit in Abu Dhabi on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2014, Dr. Tax said that it was high time for SADC to enhance the synergies which are likely to emerge from the implementation of SADC's own development agenda while embracing the Blue economy development initiative. She said the objectives of the Blue Economy initiative are in line with SADC development priorities and in this regard, SADC will align the deliberations of the Blue Economy Summit into SADC's policies and development programmes and strategies, in order to maximise benefits towards the achievement of a sustainable pattern of development and utilisation of oceanic resources.

The SADC Executive Secretary said “ ***the concept of the Blue Economy, by focusing on coastal and oceanic states and emphasising sustainable development of oceanic resources, brings about an important dimension in the whole process of conceptualisation, strategy development, planning and monitoring of regional integration and development, in particular vis-à-vis when considering our coastal and oceanic Member States***”.

She said, this was particularly true for areas such as effective utilisation and management of natural and marine resources, and as such science and technology, infrastructure development, tourism, marine resources management, as well as environment and climate change management, through inclusive strategies and programmes.

The Blue Economy Summit brought together many oceanic and coastal states, international organisations and civic groups to discuss how to utilise the Blue Economy as a tool to shift development in small island development states (SIDS) and coastal states towards a sustainable development trajectory. Eight of the 15 SADC Member States are coastal or oceanic states. The Republic of the Seychelles organised the Summit with the support of the United Arab Emirates.

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