

4. The Commission wishes to underline the importance of investing in climate mitigation, adaptation,

process in national strategies and plans, development programs, and youth-led community-based activities.

9. The Commission recognizes the importance of national and regional ownership and enhanced capacities to investigate, interdict, intercept, arrest, prosecute, convict and extradite suspected pirates. In this regard, the Commission welcomes the positive impact of recent piracy convictions in the region, as well as the deterrent effects of increased naval patrols, coupled with improved cooperation with regional counterparts, on reducing piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea and urges support to the Regional Coordination Centers to improve their capacity to collect evidence to aid in the interception, arrest, and prosecution as well as conviction of suspected pirates. The Commission encourages the ratification of the 2016 African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter).

10. The Commission reinforces the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General urging countries of the Gulf of Guinea Commission to translate the Yaoundé Code of Conduct provisions into their respective national frameworks, strengthen their maritime security enforcement capabilities, and implement their respective national maritime security strategies, including addressing the root causes and drivers of piracy. In this regard, the Commission commends ECCAS for preparing its first Maritime Conference to be held in Kinshasa, DRC, later this year to discuss maritime governance in the ECCAS space, maritime security, and the development of a sustainable Blue Economy, which could provide a best practice for economic empowerment. The Commission also welcomes efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to enhance maritime law enforcement and prosecution capabilities of States to combat piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and commend the adoption by member States of ECOWAS of the Supplementary Act on the Conditions of Transfer of Persons Suspected of having Committed Acts of Piracy and their Associated Property and/or Evidence. In this respect, the Commission welcomes the first convictions of piracy in West Africa in 2021 following the strengthening of national legal frameworks

partners, the marine industry, and the centers of the Yaounde maritime security architecture. The Commissions calls on Gulf of Guinea States to further revitalize regional cooperation on maritime security and strive for the full operationalization of the maritime architecture set out by the Yaoundé Code of Conduct. The development of a clear roadmap and milestones help galvanize further support from partners, permits progress on monitoring and evaluation, and holds stakeholders mutually accountable.

12. The Commission welcomes efforts by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Caribbean (UNORCA), the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWAS), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to enhance political advocacy and coordinate efforts among regional stakeholders as well as cooperation between regional and international partners in addressing piracy and maritime security in the region. The Commission also recognizes the catalytic investments for peacebuilding and prevention initiatives in countries along the Gulf of Guinea by the PBF and encourages more support to strengthen community resilience and socio-economic conditions in coastal communities. The Commission further emphasizes the importance of extending support to the inland communities as well with a view to maintaining harmony and cohesion between the communities.

13. The Commission recognizes the importance of broad consultation and engagements with all relevant stakeholders on the design and implementation of counterpiracy measures. In this regard, the