

## #MASE Programme

*A Strong Partnership Towards a Safe and Secure Maritime Domain*



This project is funded by the European Union

---

*Press release*

**Sustainable Blue Economy Conference]**

### **France and Kenya sign two regional maritime security agreements**

**November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Nairobi, Kenya** – Maritime Security appears to be one of the main unifying theme during the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, that leads to firm commitments from regional States. The Cabinet Secretary for Defence of Kenya, Amb. Raychelles Omamo, and the Ambassador of France in Kenya, Mrs Aline Kuster-Ménager, signed this 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 two Regional Maritime Security Agreements developed under the EU-funded MASE programme that create substantively the conditions for the emergence of a genuine blue economy in Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Region.

The Agreement for the Setting-up of a Regional Information Exchange and Sharing Mechanism and the Regional Agreement on Coordination of Operations at Sea give the basis of a modern, efficient and solid security architecture in the Western Indian Ocean. These two agreements also allow for the operationalization of the Seychelles-based Regional Coordination of Operations Center and of the Madagascar-based Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center.

“These Agreements will transform the lives of so many people, especially women who are vulnerable to insecurity”, said Amb. Raychelle Omamo. She also insisted on the fact that these agreements represent a clear commitment of Kenya to be added to the positive outputs of the SBE Conference.

For Aline Kuster-Ménager, Ambassador of France in Kenya, it is obvious and necessary for France, as a Member State of the Indian Ocean Commission, to be part of the impetus of cooperation for security and stability. In signing these Agreements, France expresses its commitment to jointly secure maritime areas of the Western Indian Ocean, she added.

Charles Bastienne, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture of Seychelles, representing the Seychelles Presidency of the IOC Council, welcomed the signing of these Agreements by France and Kenya. “These adhesions deepen our cooperation for security and sustainable development in the region and I express also our gratitude to the European Union which is giving additional € 5 million to the MASE programme for the operationalization of these Agreements”.

## #MASE Programme

*A Strong Partnership Towards a Safe and Secure Maritime Domain*



This project is funded by the European Union

---

The Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission and Depositary of the Agreements, underlined the value addition of the adhesion of both France and Kenya: “it appears all the more positive that France is a permanent member of the UN Security Council that also is part of the EU missions such as EUNAVFOR Atalanta and that Kenya plays a crucial role in the stability of the region while strengthening its maritime capabilities”.

The signing ceremony of the MASE Agreements was marked by the presence of Wallace Cosgrove, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate of Seychelles, representatives of Signatory States (Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles), the European Union, funder of the MASE programme, and regional economic communities co-implementing MASE Programme (IGAD, EAC, COMESA, IOC).

---

### Contacts

#### **#MASE Programme**

**Pascaline Alexandre, Communications Specialist**

[pascaline.alexandre@coi-ioc.org](mailto:pascaline.alexandre@coi-ioc.org) – T. : (230) 4026100

MASE Programme sur [Twitter](#)

#### **Indian Ocean Commission**

**Gilles Ribouet, Head of Communications**

[gilles.ribouet@coi-ioc.org](mailto:gilles.ribouet@coi-ioc.org) – [communication@coi-ioc.org](mailto:communication@coi-ioc.org) – T. : (230) 402 61 00

[www.commissionoceanindien.org/](http://www.commissionoceanindien.org/) Suivez-nous sur [Facebook](#) et [Twitter](#)