



28 APRIL 2023 — IN PERSON & HYBRID

# OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND BLUE ECONOMY: AN EMERGING AGENDA FOR THE AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP

High-level side-event at the Ibrahim Governance Weekend—Radisson Blu Upper Hill, Nairobi & virtual

PROGRAMME—28 April 2023 from 14:30-16:00



## CONNECTION DETAILS

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To join online, please use the following details to connect:

[https://africaeuropefoundation-org.zoom.us/j/86838528147?  
pwd=N2FWZVlpRTliMUt5UHdQY2U5bE1NUT09](https://africaeuropefoundation-org.zoom.us/j/86838528147?pwd=N2FWZVlpRTliMUt5UHdQY2U5bE1NUT09)

Passcode: 28042023

Webinar ID: 868 3852 8147

This high-level side event is co-organised by the Africa-Europe Foundation and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, with the support of the European Union



## CONTEXT

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Ocean governance and blue economy represents a strategic domain of cooperation which is not yet central to the AU-EU dialogue, as well as one of the most under-resourced SDGs.

There is an important constellation of opportunities in 2023 to reinforce cooperation on ocean governance from the follow-up of the 6th AU-EU summit to the mid-term review of SDGs and the preparation of COP28.

At the Ibrahim Governance weekend, the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) will facilitate an open dialogue on key, potentially contentious, issues between our Africa and Europe, demonstrating that cooperation on ocean governance and blue economy can contribute to climate action and human and economic development.

Building on the Paris Agreement, the UN 2030 Agenda, the conclusions of the Africa Union-European Union Summit of 2022, and the visions and aspirations of the African and European continents, this event will demonstrate that a stronger cooperation on ocean can serve as a key enabler of the green transition in Africa and Europe and a timely driver to strengthen the cross-continental partnership.

Since the conclusion of the Paris Agreement, several developments have occurred:

- First, **political priorities have been refocused around the fight against climate change and environmental degradation** at the core of international action with the ambition to lead the transition to a healthy planet;
- Second, the **ocean is gaining increasing traction politically, including through the outcomes of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference and COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh**; as well as the latest negotiations on the High Sea Treat (BBNJ);
- Third, **the decline of the ocean is accelerating**, as unsustainable human activities and their harmful impacts continue to degrade the ocean leading to profound changes. It is thus time to advance progress on climate action while considering economic and social opportunities that fit with different levels of development.
- And fourth, the **ocean is emerging as one of the world's foremost geopolitical arenas**.

This high-level side-event also builds on the outcomes of the COP27 Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan:

- *Encouraging Parties to consider, as appropriate, ocean-based action in their national climate goals and in the implementation of these goals, including but not limited to nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies and adaptation communications.*
- *Emphasizing the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through [...] marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and by protecting biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards.*

*This high-level side-event is part of a series of public outreach activities that was initiated in the context of the Africa-Europe Week in February 2022, with a first event on 'Fostering a cross-continental Africa-Europe dialogue on ocean governance'. This second event is organised as part of the communication activities related to the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, a project supported by the European Union and in partnership with the African Union.*

## PROGRAMME

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### 14:30-16:00 **OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND BLUE ECONOMY: AN EMERGING AGENDA FOR THE AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP**

Ocean governance and blue economy represents a strategic domain of cooperation which is not yet central to the African Union- European Union dialogue, as well as one of the most under-resourced Sustainable Development Goals.

Geographically, Africa and Europe are closest neighbours, giving the two continents a natural connection which is underpinned by vast maritime areas and ocean tradition.

Lately, the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) demonstrates that climate-resilient and sustainable development is only possible with immediate, drastic, coordinated and sustained action to address the unprecedented and enduring changes in the ocean and cryosphere.

It also emphasises the need for strongly reducing greenhouse gas emissions coupled with sustained and robust adaptation actions, and reveals the benefits of ambitious and effective adaptation action for sustainable development and, conversely, the escalating costs and risks of delayed action.

The fact that the 2022 UN Ocean Conference has been co-organised by Kenya and Portugal has brought focus on how Africa and Europe could build a transformative partnership on Ocean Governance and Blue Economy.

Time is ripe for Africa and Europe to work better together to conserve the biodiversity of the ocean and its ecosystems for climate and economic-related purpose.

#### **Questions will include:**

- How can political, technical and research cooperation be enhanced on ocean and blue economy in the context of the Africa-Europe renewed partnership?
- How can pockets of innovations on ocean and blue economy at the local, regional and continental level be given the visibility they merit to enhance the Africa-Europe cooperation?
- With 2023 being the year for the mid-term review of SDGs (2015-2030), how can Africa and Europe work closely to untap the opportunities that exist to meet the targets of SDG 14 ('Life below water') and SDG 13 ('Climate action')? How can Africa and Europe leverage the interlinkages between these SDGs?

## SPEAKERS

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14:30-16:00 **OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND BLUE ECONOMY:  
AN EMERGING AGENDA FOR THE AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP**

**Confirmed speakers already include:**

- **H.E Josefa Sacko**, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment
- **H. E Nancy Kirigithu**, Kenya's Ambassador for Maritime and Blue Economy, former Principal Secretary at the State Department for Shipping and Maritime in the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works
- **Charlina Vitcheva**, European Commission Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)
- **Pascal Lamy**, President of the Jacques Delors Institute, former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and High-Level Group member of the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF)
- **Jean-Paul Adam**, Director of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **David Obura**, Founding Director of CORDIO East Africa
- **Arthur Tuda**, Executive Secretary of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
- **Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy**, Chairperson of the Board of the MIHARI Network, and Madagascar's small-scale fisheries Ambassador
- **Brenda Kibiku**, Technical Advisor on Blue Economy at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

**Moderator:**

- **Thomas Sberna**, Senior Fellow for Ocean at the Africa-Europe Foundation

