



**AFRICA  
EUROPE  
FOUNDATION**



**IOC Sub Commission for Africa  
and the Adjacent Island States**

## **UN Ocean Decade Conference Africa-Europe High-Level Working Lunch**

### **Mainstreaming Ocean Governance and Blue Economy in the Africa-Europe Partnership**

10 April 2024 from 12:15-14:00pm CET  
Venue *TBC*, Barcelona, Spain

**Hosted by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF), together with the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance and the Africa Task Force of the UN Ocean Decade**

This activity will be jointly organized by the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance and the Africa Task Force of the UN Ocean Decade. The Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance is an initiative under the steering authority of the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), in partnership with the African Union Commission. It is facilitated by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF).

#### **Context**

The African continent is endowed with vast marine resources, yet its potential for fostering economic growth through sustainable ocean governance remains largely untapped. Recognising the mutual benefits of cooperation, Africa and Europe have the potential to collaborate and unlock investment opportunities in blue economy sectors for shared prosperity. This includes fisheries and aquaculture, shipping and port infrastructure, renewable energy, tourism, and blue biotechnology, all leading to employment opportunities, economic growth, and revenue generation.

Investment in ocean governance and the blue economy presents a compelling opportunity for substantial financial returns, while concurrently advancing sustainable development, preserving the environment, and promoting social inclusivity and equity. In elevating ocean governance and blue economy politically and financially, Africa and Europe can embark on a transformative journey towards economic diversification, simultaneously reaping climate and biodiversity co-benefits.

Regrettably, unsustainable human activities and harmful impacts continue to degrade the ocean leading to profound changes and hampering the much-needed achievement of the UN 2030

Agenda and its ocean-related goals. The UN Ocean Decade Conference marks a pivotal moment in leveraging cross-continental and multilateral level action, recognizing the intricate potential of ocean action to chart a course towards stronger partnerships.

It remains key to inform decision-makers across Africa and Europe, and globally on the necessity to invest in the blue economy as a tool to enhance cooperation, employment opportunities, revenue generation, and climate and biodiversity positive growth, as well as to position Africa and Europe as drivers of a sustainable global ocean agenda.

In view of this, this Working Lunch, to be hosted in the sidelines of the UN Ocean Decade Conference, will build on the progress under the leadership of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), and provide a space for a limited number of representatives from the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance and the Africa Task Force of the UN Ocean Decade to meet.

The meeting working will serve as a key moment for the two strategic projects to share objectives, state-of-play, and expected results. The meeting will also serve as a critical juncture on the road towards the third United Nations Ocean Conference in 2025 (UNOC3) and the 7th AU-EU Summit in 2025, to seek partnership opportunities and amplify outreach and communication.

## Objectives

It remains fundamental for the two continents to align, work jointly, seek mutual understanding, and unlock opportunities to mainstream ocean and blue economy across their Partnership. As such, the meeting will focus on the following objectives:

1. Present the preliminary outcomes of the work conducted by the Africa Task Force of the UN Ocean Decade and Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance;
2. Acknowledge African and European leadership on ocean and blue economy and highlight opportunities for maintaining ocean governance and blue economy high on the agenda for the two continents, especially in view of the UN Ocean Conference in 2025 (UNOC3) and the 7<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit in 2025;
3. Provide a platform to advance a mutually beneficial visions and a set of common priorities for Africa and Europe on ocean policy and blue economy action, including on the global stage, towards strengthened cooperation and greater mutual understanding;
4. Stimulate joint work intended at strengthening Africa-Europe leadership on ocean governance and blue economy.

## Agenda:

12:00 – 12:15:pm | Arrival of participants

12:15-12:20 | Introduction and round of introduction

12:20-12:30 | Welcome remarks

- **Amb. Nancy Karigithu**, Co-chair of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, Kenya’s Ambassador and Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy and former Principal Secretary for Shipping and Maritime Affairs for the Government of Kenya
- **Amel Chaffai**, Vice President of the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Decade Task Force on African and Adjacent Island States. Member of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts. Professor and Marine Ecotoxicology Expert, Ecole Nationale d’Ingénieurs de Sfax

12:30-14:00 | Interactive Discussion between the two strategic groups

- Objectives, State-of-Play and Expected Results
- Contribution from members, ideally by thematic areas
- Opportunities for joint cooperation

## Guiding Questions:

1. What mechanisms could be developed to ensure the work of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance and the Africa Task Force are aligned and mutually supportive?
2. How can the two groups improve their working relationship to drive a just and equitable blue economy Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership?
3. What are areas of critical importance that require the two strategic groups to work together to address pressing challenges?

### Tentative list of participants to the Working Lunch:

1. **Amb. Nancy Karigithu**, Co-chair of the Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance, Kenya's Ambassador and Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy and former Principal Secretary for Shipping and Maritime Affairs for the Government of Kenya
2. **Amel Chaffai**, Vice President of the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Decade Task Force on African and Adjacent Island States. Member of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts. Professor and Marine Ecotoxicology Expert, Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Sfax
3. **Edwin Mawashinga**, Programme Associate, IOC UNESCO
4. **Dr. Jacqueline Uku**, Chair of the IOC-UNESCO Ocean Decade Taskforce on African and Adjacent Island States
5. **Juliet Hermes**, Manager and Oceanographer, South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
6. **Alexis Grosskopf**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of OceanHub Africa, replaced by **Herland Cerveaux**
7. **Jaco Stemmet**, Regional Business Line Director Land EUAF, Fugro
8. **Dr. Kwame Koranteng**, Fisheries and Agriculture, FAO
9. **Sylwia Lyskawka**, Member of the National Development Council, Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, and former President of the Polish Youth Climate Council
10. **Steffen Knodt**, Head of the Deepblue Earth – The Ocean Impact Agency
11. **Arthur Tuda**, Secretary General, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association – WIOMSA
12. **Torsten Thiele**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Global Ocean Trust
13. **Guillermo Ortuno**, Co-Lead of the IUCN WCPA High Seas Specialist Group Research Consultant & Director of Keystone Ocean S.L
14. **Alessandra Sensi**, Environment, Green and Blue Economy, Head of Sector, UfM Water Environment and Blue Economy Division
15. **Raphael Danglade**, Lead Portfolio Manager for Climate and Development at the Africa-Europe Foundation
16. **Thomas Sberna**, Senior Fellow for Ocean at the Africa-Europe Foundation
17. **Paul Walton**, Executive Director at the Africa-Europe Foundation

Additional members of the two strategic groups may have been omitted and can be added.



### About Africa Europe Foundation (AEF)

AEF is an independent platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue, frank debate and strategic analysis. During the inception phase of AEF, multistakeholder Strategy Groups and dialogue platforms were set up and mandated to offer a safe space for exchange on complex issues of the partnership and to catalyse untapped domains of cooperation. As part of its multi-annual programming AEF aims to also complement existing mechanisms to track and facilitate the effective implementation of the commitments of the AU-EU Partnership. Find out more at [africaeuropefoundation.org](http://africaeuropefoundation.org).

### About African Task Force of the UN Ocean Decade

The Taskforce, a multistakeholder group, was nominated in October 2022 with a mandate of spearheading the implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap. The Taskforce is composed of 14 individual members and six institutional/organisational representatives from the African Development Bank, African Union Commission (AUC), NORAD, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, and Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA).