



## Strategic Dialogue on the Africa-Europe Ocean Economy

Peace Boat, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town

27 February 2024

### Organisers:

OceanHub Africa is an ocean-impact catalyst with the mission to connect, inspire and support entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, businesses and other stakeholders to accelerate the development and adoption of new sustainable ocean solutions across Africa.

Peace Boat is an international NGO with a consultative status with UN ECOSOC working to promote peace, human rights, and sustainability. Guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Peace Boat's Global Voyages offer a unique programme of activities centered on experiential learning and intercultural communication. With over 40 years of experience, Peace Boat has organised around 80 around-the-world voyages, visiting more than 200 ports in 80 countries.

The Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) is an independent platform for multistakeholder dialogue, frank debate and strategic analysis is founded by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and the Brussels-based think tank, Friends of Europe, in partnership with the African Climate Foundation and ONE Campaign. The AEF aims to empower a narrative shift about the relations between Africa and Europe and acknowledges the importance of the exchange of ideas and experiences and the creation of opportunities for dialogue and cooperation to be at the heart of the partnership between Africa and Europe.

### Context

Oceans have been described as the quintessential sustainable development issue, as they sustain the global economy and are a critical resource, fundamental to human survival. Africa's ocean economy offers massive opportunities for socio-economic upliftment. This transformation requires alignment at the speed and scale of the continent's environmental and developmental needs.

The purpose of the convening is to connect young leaders, practitioners and policymakers for knowledge exchange and partnership-building, providing a platform to reinforce ocean governance and blue economy as a central pillar of cross-continental and international cooperation. It is high time to shape a new phase of programming for the next United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2025 and will catalyse a new coalition of partners including the Africa-Europe Foundation, OceanHub Africa and international NGO Peace Boat. The convening is a stepping stone for bringing together partners for enhanced international cooperation on Ocean Governance and Blue Economy.

The convening will centre on:

- A **Strategic Dialogue** focused on the opportunities, challenges, and innovative practice when it comes to working at the nexus of climate/environment, development, and ocean
- A **Networking Reception** involving partners and young ambassadors and award-winning project leaders from across the African continent

2024 represents a critical year to open up and dive deeper to accelerate joint climate action. As we pause to reflect and celebrate the advancements and achievements over the past 13 months, the ocean can lay the foundation for a concrete sustainable Africa-Europe partnership, raising the visibility



and vital role of the ocean, on the global agenda, as well as the recognition for our climate, biodiversity, economy, cultures and communities.

The establishment in 2023, by the African Union and the European Commission, of an Africa-Europe Strategy Group on Ocean Governance facilitated by the Africa-Europe Foundation, with experts from both continents, is a valuable opportunity to take this mutually beneficial agenda forward with the advancement of a clear roadmap for joint action, aimed at strengthening the Africa-Europe Ocean Partnership.

#### Objectives and Outcomes:

- Bring together key actors and stakeholders in the ocean and blue economy sector to present their work, discuss synergies and possible upcoming opportunities for joint advocacy.
- Open fresh thinking on climate-ocean nexus, explore opportunities for more investment in sustainable solutions, and inspire ocean-conscious innovation
- Learn from diverse experiences and share best practices

#### Questions will include:

- How can Africa and Europe work jointly to leverage the huge potential of blue growth in Africa?
- What opportunities exist for youth to lead projects in their own communities towards a unified, sustainable, blue future?
- How can Africa and Europe work jointly to untap investment opportunities associated with ocean and the blue economy?
- What are the key emerging lessons to guide the sustainable development and use of aquatic resources in Africa, contributing to the continent's transformation and growth?

#### Format of the event

The convening is taking place onboard of the Peace Boat ship which will be visiting Cape Town in February as part of a global voyage for peace and sustainability, to be docked at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront.

Please note that external participants are recommended to arrive onboard the Peace Boat by **16.45** and will vacate the Boat by **18.45** prior to its sail from South Africa.

Online registrations must be completed by **23 February 2024** as a requirement by the port authorities for security purposes. The link is provided below:

[https://bit.ly/blueinnovation\\_capetown](https://bit.ly/blueinnovation_capetown)

**Date:** Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Location:** Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, De Waterkant, Cape Town

**Time:** 16:30– 18:45 (South African Standard Time)

**Format:** snacks and drinks

#### Run of show:

**Strategic Dialogue on Africa-Europe Ocean Economy**

<p><b>Date and time:</b> 27 February, from 16:30 – 18:45 pm, SAST time</p> <p><b>Concept:</b> Reinforcing the Climate-Ocean Nexus: A focus on Africa and Europe</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> On board Peace Boat’s ship docked at the Victoria &amp; Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa</p>			
16:30-17:00	30 min	<b>Welcoming on board and registration</b>	
17:00-17:05	5 min	<b>Introduction from Peace Boat</b>	<p>Facilitated by :</p> <p><b>Emilie McGlone</b>, Director of Peace Boat US</p>
17:05-17:40	30 min (8min each max)	<p><b>Panel debate on ‘Opportunities and Challenges working at the Climate-Ocean Nexus’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Alexis Grosskopf</b>, Founder and Chief Executive Officer</li> <li>○ <b>Dr. Gilbert Siko</b>, Director of Marine and Polar Research at the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa</li> <li>○ <b>Paul Walton</b>, Executive Director at the Africa-Europe Foundation</li> <li>○ <b>Saliem Fakier</b>, Executive Director at the African Climate Foundation</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitated by:</p> <p><b>Simone Phoré</b>, Programme Executive for Climate and Development at the AEF</p>
17:45-18:15	30 min (5min each)	<p><b>Presentations of the Youth-led Action on Ocean and Blue Economy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Kevin Lunzalu</b>, Co-founder, Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network</li> <li>○ <b>Laurencia Mayilla</b>, Secretary General at TechHub Tanzania</li> <li>○ <b>John Kennedy Onyemaechi</b>, Founder and Project Leader, Marine Debris Clean-up Project, Nigeria</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitated by:</p> <p><b>Simone Phoré</b>, Programme Executive for Climate and Development at the AEF</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Christopher Nwafor</b>, Project Leader, Coastal Resource Centre, South Africa</li><li>○ <b>Hellena Sailas</b>, Project Lead and Managing Director of Arena Recycling Industry, Tanzania</li><li>○ <b>Louisa Battioui</b>, Project Manager, Je m'engage Pour L'Afrique, France and Madagascar (online)</li></ul>	
18:15-18:45	<b>Close of Ceremony and networking reception</b>		

**Contact person:**

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