



## **ACCELERATING INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND PROMOTING THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AFRICA'S OCEANS AND SEAS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OCEAN DECADE**

**Wednesday 29 June 2022  
11:30-12:45 | Side Event Room 1**

**Inside the Conference venue (Blue Zone)  
Altice Arena: Parque das Nações, Rossio dos Olivais, Lote 2.13.01A, 1990-231  
Lisboa, Portugal**

### **1. Overview**

The UN Ocean Conference is being organised as the most important event on oceans in 2022, after a hiatus of 5 years. It serves as a platform to address the major challenges facing our oceans, while developing partnerships to tackle these challenges. In view of the growing interest in Africa's seas and oceans, it is proposed that a side event be organised to showcase Africa's blue economy. The particular focus would be on identifying and accelerating partnerships for unlocking the potential of innovative and high-revenue sectors of the ocean economy, with a particular focus on engaging youth, women and the private sector. The event will be held under the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development - the Ocean Decade and the Africa Union Decade of Seas and Oceans- and will explore ways in which key actions identified during the event can be implemented in the context of the Ocean Decades

The side event will be co-organised by the African Union and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

### **2. Background and Rationale**

The UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) being co-organised by Portugal and Kenya from 27 June – 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, is the landmark ocean event regrouping decision makers, innovators, private sector actors and stakeholders to the implementation of SDG

Goal 14: 'Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development'. And Aspiration 1 goal 6 of the Agenda 2063, *the Africa we want*

The Conference, which will place emphasis on partnerships and innovation, will be the world's main platform for discussing the health of the ocean, identifying pathways to ocean-based sustainability and prosperity, and engaging with stakeholders on ocean economy endeavours.

As such, it is imperative to showcase and promote Africa's blue economy and send a strong signal on Africa's readiness to protect and sustainably develop its ocean resources as well as contribute to the global conversation on oceans.

In view of the ongoing UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, overlapping with the African Union Decade for Oceans and Seas, under the theme, 'Harnessing the Blue Economy in Achieving the African Union Agenda 2063', it is proposed that a side event be organised focusing on unlocking Africa's potential for innovative, knowledge-based and high-revenue sectors while fostering sustainability and private sector activity.

Addressing the challenges of our planet including ocean sustainability, which is central to the presidency of Hope, can only be achieved through collective work. This means involving and empowering all stakeholders to take care of the oceans, especially the women and the youth who are often neglected in the decision-making processes. The Global Ocean Science Report, published by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in 2020 reveals that women in ocean science continue to be under represented, particularly in the highly technical categories.

The blue economy cannot be achieved unless we understand our oceans and seas, and commit to protecting them, and reaching a common understanding on how to utilise them sustainably. The UN Oceans Conference is the most important, action-oriented platform to engage with a range of stakeholders in various sectors relating to our oceans and seas, and to unlock political momentum on the SDG14, and Agenda 2063 and its subgoals.

Against this background, the African Union Commission and IOC-UNESCO is keen to advance the integration of women, youth and Africa's scientific community within the blue economy by hosting a side event.

The specific objectives of the side event are:

1. Promote Africa's Blue Economy agenda specifically the Africa Blue Economy Strategy ;
2. To promote new initiatives on Blue Economy ;
3. Promote the integration of Women and youth in Ocean Science;
4. Identify sustainable partnerships, tools and entry points to promote innovation and sustainability in the blue economy including via the framework of the Ocean Decade;

5. Lay the foundations to discuss ocean-based climate solutions at COP27 and ocean finance for a just transition.

## Draft Agenda

<b>OPENING SESSION- 11h30-11h45</b>	
11h30-11h37	Welcome Remarks- Amb Josefa Sacko, Commissioner, DARBE
11h37-11h45	Opening statement - Representative from IOC-UNESCO
11h45-11h55	Presentation of the African Blue Economy Strategy
11h55-12h05	Presentation of the UN Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap
<b>PANEL INTERVENTIONS- 12h05-12h20</b>	
<i>The panel discussion will be to highlight key initiatives in Africa intended to secure the future of Blue economy (Oceans and Inland water bodies). Areas of discussion will be on the role of women, youths and the scientific communities in advancing the Blue economy on the continent, opportunities for collaboration on advancing Ocean Science.</i>	
<p>–current status, challenges and opportunities</p> <p>–tools and mechanisms to address challenges and opportunities identified in previous session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gender and Ocean Science</li> <li>▪ Contribution of women in Fisheries and Aquaculture/Mariculture</li> <li>▪ Gender Equity in the Maritime and Shipping Industry (Dr Nancy Karigithu, Principal Secretary, State Department for Shipping &amp; Maritime Affairs, and Special Envoy for Blue Economy Kenya)</li> <li>▪ Gender and Poverty Perspectives in Marine Spatial Planning (Dr. Jacqueline Uku, President, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association – WIOMSA)</li> <li>▪ Engaging women and youth in technology and Innovation for the development of the Blue Economy, Dr Sara Andreatti, SharkSafe Barrier Pty Ltd 9working with , OceanHub Africa)</li> <li>▪ Inès Boujmil (Tunisia), a Fisheries and Environmental Engineer at the National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies of Tunisia,(BLUEMED)</li> <li>▪ Dr. Zhen Sun (Research Officer   WMU - Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute): on technology, innovation and the involvement of women and youth in the Ocean Decade</li> </ul>
12h20-12h35	Looking to 2030 - solutions to move to action via the Ocean Decade: Comments and Q&A
12h35-12h45	Summary and Closing