



AFRICA TO UNOC 3

REPORT

AFRICAN CONSULTATION IN PREPARATION FOR THE 3RD UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE (UNOC-3)



UNITED NATIONS
OCEAN CONFERENCE
NICE, FRANCE 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The African Regional Consultations in preparation for the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) brought together ministers, scientists, and diverse stakeholders to share their perspectives, priorities, and recommendations for sustainable ocean governance. These consultations reflected Africa's unique challenges and opportunities in relation to ocean health and the blue economy.

Africa's oceans are under significant stress from overexploitation, climate change, and pollution, impacting ecosystems and the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on marine resources. At the same time, the continent is poised to harness immense opportunities from its coastal and marine assets, but only if it acts urgently and collaboratively. This report synthesizes the key insights and recommendations from both the African scientific community and youth leaders, emphasizing the need for science-based governance, capacity building, and long-term monitoring systems.

The event laid the groundwork for actionable outcomes through focused discussions on governance, science-based decision making, cooperation and financing, and capacity development. It reaffirmed Africa's commitment to advancing sustainable ocean management and playing a pivotal role in achieving the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals "Life below waters" (SDG 14). The collective voice emerging from this consultation will be instrumental in shaping international policies and mobilizing the necessary resources to secure a resilient future for the continent's oceans.

This report is a call to action to integrate African perspectives into ocean governance, strengthen local expertise, foster international partnerships, and invest in a sustainable, science-driven blue economy.



BACKGROUND

The ocean, covering more than 70% of our planet's surface, is the lifeblood of Earth. This vast and dynamic force sustains an incredible diversity of life and plays a critical role in regulating our climate. It is the largest biosphere, generating half of the oxygen we breathe, absorbing a significant portion of carbon dioxide, and acting as a vital buffer against the impacts of climate change. In many ways, the ocean represents both the abundance of natural resources and the fragility of our environmental balance. It serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility to protect and sustain it for future generations.

The 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), to be held in June 2025 in Nice, France, will bring together governments, intergovernmental organizations, scientific communities, civil society, and the private sector to confront the mounting challenges facing our oceans, including climate change, marine pollution, biodiversity loss, and the overexploitation of resources. Under the theme *“Accelerating Action and Mobilizing All Actors to Conserve and Sustainably Use the Ocean,”* this conference aims to create actionable partnerships and mobilize resources necessary for long-term ocean health.

This global event UNOC-3, is envisioned not only as a platform for dialogue but also as a launching pad for forging actionable partnerships and mobilizing the financial, technical, and political resources necessary to secure the long-term health of our oceans.

Africa's relationship with the ocean is both profound and indispensable. The continent's extensive coastlines and rich marine biodiversity are crucial for the livelihoods of millions of Africans, with approximately 38 percent of the population residing within 100 kilometers of the coast. These coastal communities rely on marine resources for food, employment, and economic stability. Despite this, African nations have often struggled to ensure that their distinct perspectives and urgent needs are fully represented in global ocean governance discussions. Therefore, this African consultation is paramount, offering a dedicated forum for African states to articulate their challenges, priorities, and recommendations, and ensuring that Africa's diverse realities are incorporated into the global dialogue on ocean conservation. In preparation for this international event, the Kingdom of Morocco, with substantive support from the United Nations, organized an African consultation on 9 October 2024 in Tangier to ensure Africa's voices are heard in the global dialogue.

This consultation marks a historic first for the African continent, as 30 African countries have united to address ocean governance challenges. For the very first time, ministers, high-level representatives, scientists, youth, and civil society across Africa have united to develop a cohesive and powerful continental message. This unified voice is critical as Africa prepares to engage globally at UNOC3. The consultation is a strategic platform for change that mobilizes resources, fosters innovative solutions, and builds partnerships tailored to Africa's unique socio-economic and environmental contexts. It acts as a catalyst for inclusive governance, acknowledging the disproportionate impacts of climate change and unsustainable resource exploitation on African coastal communities. By ensuring that traditional knowledge, local expertise, and the voices of marginalized groups are fully integrated into policy-making processes, the consultation reinforces Africa's commitment to developing governance frameworks that are both inclusive and responsive. Furthermore, as a pioneering event, it sets an important precedent for future regional and global engagements by demonstrating the potential of continent-wide collaboration and paving the way for more inclusive, participatory, and practical approaches to ocean conservation and sustainable development.

OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT

This historic consultation united African UNmember states in a unified effort to address the pressing challenges facing ocean governance. As part of the preparatory process for UNOC-3, it provided a vital platform for dialogue, collaboration, and formulating Africa's collective vision for sustainable ocean management. The event underscored the critical role of Africa's coastal resources and the need for inclusive, science-based policies. It fostered an environment where decision-makers, experts, and youth could share insights and strategies, and after the consultation, key messages were formulated and read out, encapsulating Africa's priorities and commitments. Ultimately, the consultation set the stage for Africa to assert its voice on the global ocean governance agenda.



DATE & LOCATION

*October 9, 2024
Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco*



OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the African Regional Consultation held in Tangier was to bring together diverse stakeholders across the continent to build a unified position on key issues surrounding ocean governance. The consultation ensured that Africa's unique perspectives, challenges, and priorities were effectively represented at the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference.

The key objectives were

- 1 To articulate a unified set of priorities, challenges, and recommendations for sustainable ocean governance in Africa
- 2 To strengthen partnerships among African nations, regional organizations, and international stakeholders
- 3 To mobilize capacity building, financing, and resource-sharing initiatives that support sustainable marine management.
- 4 To ensure Africa's unique perspectives and urgent needs are effectively represented at UNOC-3

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AND PARTICIPANTS



The consultation brought together diverse stakeholders, including: ministers and senior government officials, high-level representatives from the United Nations, the African Union, European Union, and FAO, and representatives of sub-regional and regional organizations from the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), academic and scientific experts, private sector leaders, philanthropic organizations, civil society representatives, and youth delegates.

NARRATIVE AGENDA

The day began at **10:00 AM** with a formal Opening Ceremony, bringing together government representatives, regional organizations, scientists, youth, and civil society to mark the start of a pivotal moment for Africa's Ocean future.

THE FIRST SESSION

11:00–12:00 focused on ocean governance and policy frameworks, highlighting the need for more coherent, inclusive, and forward-looking policies across the African continent.

At **12:00 PM**, a dedicated slot featured messages from African experts and scientists, emphasizing the importance of regional knowledge and evidence-based priorities in shaping sustainable ocean solutions.

THE SECOND SESSION

12:05–1:00 PM explored science-based decision-making and research, with discussions centered on strengthening Africa's Ocean science, data systems, and research capacity to inform better policy.

THE THIRD SESSION

2:30–3:30 PM addressed cooperation and financing mobilization, showcasing innovative partnerships and the need for increased and sustained investment in the blue economy.

At **3:30 PM**, the spotlight turned to the continent's younger generation, with messages from African youth expressing their bold vision and active engagement for the ocean's future.

THE FOURTH SESSION

3:35–4:30 PM focused on capacity development and stakeholder engagement, underscoring the need to empower local actors and ensure inclusive participation in ocean governance.

The day concluded with a Closing Session (**4:30–5:00 PM**), summarizing the key outcomes and reaffirming Africa's collective commitment to speaking with one strong and united voice at UNOC-3.

KEY THEMES AND DISCUSSIONS

Ocean governance and policy frameworks

Inclusive frameworks

The declarations emphasize the urgent need for governance frameworks that are inclusive and tailored to Africa’s unique challenges

Integrated knowledge

Policies should integrate traditional knowledge with robust scientific insights, ensuring that the voices of youth, women, indigenous people, and local communities are fully represented

Harmonized regulation

Harmonized regulatory frameworks at sub-regional, regional and international levels are essential for effectively integrating Africa’s priorities into global ocean governance

Science-based decision making and research

Investment in ocean science

The declarations consistently stress the critical role of scientific research in informing effective policy decisions and call for increased investment in marine research

Local capacity

There is a strong emphasis on developing local capacity to collect, analyze, and utilize data that reflects Africa’s specific environmental contexts

Innovative technologies

Innovative technologies, including artificial intelligence and citizen science initiatives, are advocated to bridge data gaps.

Research-policy linkages

Strengthening the connection between research institutions and government bodies is crucial so evidence-based insights can directly guide policy formulation and adaptive management strategies

KEY THEMES AND DISCUSSIONS

Cooperation and financing mobilization

Partnership building

The declarations highlight the necessity of fostering robust partnerships among African nations, regional bodies, and international stakeholders

Innovative financing mechanisms

Integrated approaches combining expertise, resources, and innovative financing mechanisms - such as green and blue bonds, public-private partnerships, and impact investments - are essential for supporting sustainable ocean initiatives

Technology transfer

There is significant emphasis on technology transfer and knowledge sharing, particularly through cooperative exchanges between the Global North and South, to mobilize the necessary financial and technical resources.

Integrated solutions

These collaborative efforts are pivotal in addressing the challenges of marine pollution and unsustainable resource use

Capacity development and stakeholder engagement

Empowering coastal communities

The declarations underscore the importance of enhancing capacity development to empower local communities and key stakeholders

Targeted training

Training, mentoring, and skill-building initiatives are essential for developing a knowledgeable base capable of driving sustainable ocean management

Ocean literacy

Increasing Ocean literacy through comprehensive educational programs is critical for fostering an informed and engaged public

Inclusive participation

Including a diverse range of stakeholders - including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, civil society, and private sector actors - in decision-making processes is vital for creating resilient, inclusive, and effective ocean governance frameworks

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE AFRICAN DECLARATIONS

Africa stands at the crossroads of challenges and opportunities when it comes to ocean governance. As a continent heavily reliant on its coastal and marine resources, it faces the dual pressures of climate change and unsustainable exploitation. Our oceans and Aquatic inland ecosystems offer immense potential for sustainable development, but they require urgent, collective action to protect their health and secure the future of oceans, water bodies and communities of United Nations African Member States.

The following key messages were developed by the United Nations African Member States during the consultation for the Third UN Ocean Conference held in Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco, on October 9, 2024 to be conveyed at the upcoming Third UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France, in June 2025.

01

Africa recognizes that its oceans and aquatic inland ecosystems are subjected to numerous stresses, particularly due to resource overexploitation, inadequate or insufficient regulation or governance, strong demand for development, rapid increases in coastal population, habitat degradation, and growing pollution. Addressing these challenges is vital for the health of marine ecosystems and the well-being of coastal and inland communities in Africa.

02

Africa emphasizes the need for integrated and inclusive governance frameworks that promote sustainable management of ocean resources. Collaborative efforts among United Nations African Member States, sub-regional, regional and continental organizations, and international partners are vital for effective governance.

03

There is a pressing need for enhanced scientific research, data collection, and data sharing along African coasts. This is particularly necessary within Africa's Large Marine Ecosystems. Collaborative research initiatives, along with the sharing of knowledge and best practices, will enable informed decision-making and policy development for sustainable development.

04

Effective governance and management of oceans and their resources, as well as the development of a sustainable economy, are inseparable from research. This research must be led by African experts who understand their local environments and the physical, biological, and socio-economic adapted to their regions. Investing in marine research is not just essential; it is a critical driver of economic development for United Nations African Member States.

05

Africa advocates for the sustainable development of the blue economy as a pathway to economic growth, job creation, food and nutrition security and human well-being. Investment in sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and eco-tourism, among others, can provide significant benefits for coastal communities.

06

The youth and the women of Africa are key stakeholders in blue economy development and ocean conservation. We urge increased opportunities for youth and women's engagement in policy design and decision-making processes, capacity building, and innovation in marine sciences and conservation efforts.

07

Recognizing the cultural significance of oceans to African communities is essential. Local knowledge and practices should be integrated into marine management strategies, ensuring that communities are active participants in conservation efforts.

08

Marine protected areas are a valuable tool for co-managing fisheries in Africa, helping to balance conservation with sustainable Ocean resource use. Protecting marine biodiversity is essential for maintaining ecological balance and supporting the livelihoods of millions of Africans. We call for stronger commitments to establish and effectively co-manage these areas, ensuring the conservation of essential habitats and species while promoting the sustainable use of fisheries.

09

Africa is the lesser contributor to the rise in greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, yet it disproportionately bears the burden of its consequences. Urgent action is needed to activate mechanisms for accessing climate funds, with a focus on adapting the fisheries and aquaculture sector, supporting the most vulnerable coastal communities, and safeguarding those who depend on fisheries resources for food and nutrition security.

10

Strengthening international partnerships is crucial for addressing transboundary marine challenges, such as illegal fishing and pollution. Africa calls for increased support and collaboration to enhance sub-regional and regional capacity for ocean governance and protection.

These messages reflect Africa's unwavering commitment to the sustainable use and protection of the ocean and its vital resources. They underscore the importance of global solidarity and collaborative action in fostering a healthy and resilient ocean, which is essential for the wellbeing of both current and future generations. As we engage all stakeholders to accelerate action towards conserving and sustainably using our oceans, Africa stands ready to contribute meaningfully to the shared vision of a sustainable ocean-based economy and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 14.

In the interest of amplifying Africa's voice on the global stage and promoting sustainable governance of our oceans, the United Nations African Member States gathered at the consultation for the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) endorse the effort of the Kingdom of Morocco to unify the African's voice and effectively communicate these key messages at the upcoming UN Ocean Conference, as well as at related events.

K Y M SSA S FROM TH AFRICAN SCI NTISTS AND YOUTHS

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE AFRICAN SCIENTISTS FOR AFRICAN CONSULTATION

The African continent is currently experiencing a pivotal moment in ocean governance, facing a dual set of circumstances: significant opportunities and pressing challenges. As a region with a high level of dependence on its coastal and marine resources, Africa is facing multiple challenges, including the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, the effects of climate change, and the issue of marine pollution, among other stressors. Scientists across the continent are increasingly sounding the alarm on the deteriorating health of our oceans, warning that without urgent action, the ecosystems and the communities that depend on them will face severe consequences. The potential of our oceans for sustainable development is immense however, immediate, coordinated action that places science and local expertise at the center is essential to safeguard the health of our oceans and the livelihoods of African coastal communities. A stronger focus on scientific research, data-driven decision-making, and capacity building is crucial to ensure that Africa's oceans can provide wealth and prosperity for its population in an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient manner.

1. SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVES ON KEY CHALLENGES

The oceans of Africa are experiencing severe stress as a result of a complex array of factors, including the overexploitation of resources, the absence of robust regulatory frameworks, the high demand for development, the rapid growth of coastal population, the degradation of habitat, and the rising levels of pollution. It is of the utmost importance to address these multifaceted challenges in order to ensure the health of marine ecosystems and the socio-economic well-being of coastal populations.

2. ADDRESSING CLIMATE VULNERABILITY

The continent of Africa is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on fisheries production and the overall health of the ocean. Immediate, science-based action must be taken to enhance the resilience of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and to provide support for the most vulnerable coastal communities. Historically, there has been an excessive focus on visible challenges, such as coastal erosion, which has overshadowed the critical issues affecting the marine environment within SDG14, "life below the water". We must adopt a more comprehensive approach and address the full spectrum of climate impacts on marine ecosystems in order to ensure sustainable resource management and community well-being.

3. THE ROLE OF LOCAL EXPERTISE IN RESEARCH

The governance and management of oceans and their resources are inextricably linked to robust scientific research. It is imperative that this research be led by African experts who possess comprehensive knowledge of the local environments, including their physical, biological, and socio-economic contexts. Investment in marine research is not only vital for understanding ocean dynamics but also serves as a fundamental driver of economic development for African nations.

4. ADDRESSING THE HUMAN RESOURCES GAP

Marine research centers in Africa are frequently confronted with a critical scarcity of proficient professionals. This dearth of human capital impedes the region's capacity to undertake vital research and contribute to sustainable ocean management. It is imperative to implement strategies that will encourage a greater number of young people to pursue careers in marine science and to facilitate the participation of women in this field. It is imperative that governments prioritize initiatives that provide opportunities for education, training, and professional development in marine sciences. This will create conditions that make these careers attractive and accessible to the next generation of African scientists.

5. ENHANCING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DATA SHARING

There is an urgent requirement for the advancement of marine scientific research, the implementation of comprehensive data collection, including cost efficient innovative technologies and the facilitation of effective data sharing along the African coastline. The sharing of data and best practices is still in its infancy. Nevertheless, they will facilitate informed decision-making, support the development of effective policies for sustainable ocean management, and accelerate the advancement of scientific excellence in Africa.

6. STRENGTHENING THE LINK BETWEEN RESEARCH CENTERS AND MINISTRIES

In numerous African countries, marine research centers are directly affiliated with the ministries responsible for fisheries and ocean governance, thereby facilitating effective communication and policy development. Nevertheless, in certain instances, research centers are not aligned with these ministries, which can result in a lack of coherence in decision making processes and the potential limitation in the ability of policymakers to base their decisions on the most current and reliable scientific evidence. It is crucial to establish or reinforce the connection between research institutions and government bodies in instances where such links are currently absent. By cultivating closer relationships, ministries can guarantee that research outcomes directly inform sustainable management practices, thereby facilitating the development of more effective policies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of marine resources. It is imperative that this connection be reinforced in order to achieve the long-term objectives of ocean governance.

7. LONG-TERM MONITORING AND OBSERVATIONS

The establishment of long-term monitoring systems represents a critical component of effective ocean governance. In Africa, the current deficiencies in scientific marine observations have a considerable impact on the scope of research that can be conducted. This raises the importance of providing support for the maintenance of long-term observation series, as well as facilitating the development of cost-effective monitoring systems tailored to the specific needs of the African continent. Such initiatives will facilitate a deeper comprehension of marine ecosystems and provide insights that can inform adaptive management strategies.

8. PROMOTING CO-MANAGEMENT

Top-down management approaches for fisheries and ocean resources have frequently been demonstrated to be ineffective in Africa. The strategy of co-management has been identified as a valuable approach that fosters collaboration between communities and authorities, thereby facilitating the alignment of conservation goals with sustainable resource use. By incorporating local stakeholders into the decision-making processes, this approach facilitates the effective management of marine resources and ensures the protection of essential habitats. Such endeavors are crucial for maintaining ecological balance and sustaining the livelihoods of millions of Africans who rely on these resources for their well-being.

9. ADVOCATING FOR SCIENCE-DRIVEN, SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

It is urgent to demonstrate a commitment to developing a sustainable blue economy, as this facilitates economic growth, job creation, food security, and overall human well-being. The relationship between blue economy initiatives and scientific research is inextricable. Any effort to develop sectors such as fisheries or aquaculture without a robust foundation of local scientific expertise is likely to be ineffective or even counterproductive. Investment in sustainable practices must be accompanied by robust scientific support to ensure long-term resource conservation and the well-being of coastal communities.

10. STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In the context of marine research, international collaboration is of paramount importance in addressing the multifaceted challenges that the marine environment presents, regardless of the specific subject matter under investigation. It is imperative that African scientists receive increased support and collaboration to reinforce sub-regional and regional capabilities for ocean governance and protection.

These messages demonstrate Africa's unwavering commitment to the sustainable utilization and safeguarding its marine resources. These messages highlight the vital necessity of bolstering scientific research, drawing in human resources to marine sciences, and fortifying the collaboration between research institutions and policymakers. The scientific community must be fully integrated into the governance process to ensure informed decision-making and the long-term success of blue economy initiatives. African scientists are prepared to make meaningful contributions to the shared vision of a sustainable ocean-based economy grounded in scientific principles and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14. It is imperative that collaborative actions and the empowerment of local expertise be prioritized to construct a healthy and resilient ocean that can serve present and future generations.

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE AFRICAN YOUTH FOR THE AFRICAN CONSULTATION

Outcomes of the official African Youth Consultation, facilitated by the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection and partners, held on October 7th, 2024.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I am Sophia Laarissa, a Moroccan and the ocean literacy coordinator member of the Early Career Ocean Professional Africa Regional Node. I am thrilled to be here with you today to share a message that reflects the perspectives of African youth.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
My name is Lewis Kimaru, a Kenyan and a project holder incubated by the African Youth Climate Hub. I'm honored to be here with you today to share a message that echoes the voices of African youth.

Two days ago, in preparation of today's meeting, a consultation was organized by the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, Patron of the Ocean Decade Alliance. Partners for this consultation included UNEP, UNESCO IOC, the Early Career Ocean Professionals, the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP and the African Major Groups and Stakeholders accredited to UNEP.

More than 700 people registered to discuss our hopes, opportunities, and challenges from our perspective as African youth in order to accelerate action and mobilize all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean which is the theme of the third UN Ocean Conference.

Today, we are here to present a summary of this consultation's outcomes, which will be made available online. Please listen to our views on the following four key themes.

FIRST, ON OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The African continent and all of us need to:

- Develop frameworks that ensure active and meaningful participation of African youth in ocean governance and blue economy, aligning with the recent Summit of the Future's pact to empower future generations.
- Acknowledge the unique perspectives of youth.
- Facilitate idea-sharing and provide access to simplified scientific data, capacity development and practical training, essential for increased understanding of the ocean and informed decision-making.
- Enhance collaboration among governments and academic institutions to improve data transparency, facilitating research and adaptive solutions tailored to Africa, with youth as a bridge.
- Create an inventory of Africa's marine resources, highlighting sustainable investment opportunities that meet African needs and capitalize on geographical advantages.

SECOND, ON SCIENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING AND RESEARCH

It is of prime urgency that we:

- Implement data analysis techniques to assess the cost and benefits of ocean-related initiatives, integrating sustainably impactful socio-economic, and environmental strategies.
- Formulate policies that promote economic development without compromising ecological integrity, ensuring livelihoods and environmental sustainability.
- Harness artificial intelligence for ocean exploration and engage local communities in citizen science initiatives to bridge data gaps, improving biodiversity monitoring and tracking pollution.
- Strengthen partnerships between scientists, academic institutions, and startups to enhance ocean sustainability research, facilitate innovation, employment opportunities while empowering young African researchers through funding and training.

THIRD, ON COOPERATION AND MOBILIZATION OF FUNDING

There is no time to lose when it comes to:

- Fostering cooperation among African Member States to the United Nations to amplify their influence on global ocean financing platforms, and their ability to secure resources for sustainable ocean management including through regional initiatives such as the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, the African Atlantic States Process, the Blue Belt Initiative, the Atlantic Initiative for Sahel Countries.
- Promoting advanced technology transfer and capacity building for African young professionals and students in ocean sciences through Triangular exchanges between Global North and South.
- Ensuring African youth projects are a priority for ocean financing by:
 - Scaling up international funding for youth-driven ocean sustainability initiatives.
 - Lobbying regional financial institutions to create dedicated funding for African youth in ocean management and environmental protection.
 - Supporting new financial models such as impact investments, green and blue bonds and public-private partnerships for African youth-led marine conservation projects.

FOURTH, TO ACHIEVE THE PREVIOUSLY STATED NEEDS, WE HAVE TO ADDRESS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Through:

- Offering training programs for African youth in blue economy and ocean sciences sectors, mentoring, and startup competitions, with interest-free or concessional loans and grants for marine innovations.
- Improve Ocean literacy across Africa through future-proof learning by:
 - . Training educators in ocean governance and studies, focusing on practical learning experiences and establishing partnerships with relevant stakeholders.
- 2. Leveraging the ocean as both a recreational space and a platform for awareness including workshops on ocean literacy and traditional and local practices, for example mangrove preservation.
- Facilitate youth access to ocean technologies, such as coastal hydrodynamics, shoreline monitoring, and paid internships within national, regional and international organizations.
- Create grants and micro-financing, for sustainably impactful youth-led projects.
- Develop general programs for the public, especially local communities and specific ones for Academia, offering skills training including for seaweed and aquaculture.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now that we shared our needs and priorities, it's time to act together for our continent Africa, our ocean and our communities.

Thank you.



AGENDA

10H00-11H00 Opening Ceremony

INTRODUCTORY MOVIE: SET THE SCENE, OPENING SPEECHES

HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. MOHAMMED SADIKI

Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Waters and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco.

HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. PETER THOMSON

United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean.

HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. OMAR HILALE

Morocco's Permanent Representative of Kingdom of Morocco to the UN.

HER EXCELLENCY
MRS. JOSEFA SACKO

Commissioner of agricultural food and blue economy of the African Union.

11H00-12H00 Session 1: Ocean Governance and Policy Frameworks

Overview: Strengthening effective policies for sustainable Ocean management within the framework of the emerging blue economy in Africa.

Keynote speaker: His Excellency Mr. Omar Hilale, Morocco's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

HEAD OF DELEGATION DECLARATIONS



HE Dr. Michael Bizwick Usi, Vice President of Malawi and Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change



HE Mr. Jorge Pedro Maurício dos Santos, Minister of Communities and President of the National Assembly



HE Dr. Taïga, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries



HE Dr. Paubert Tsimanaoraty Mahatante, Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy



HE Mr. Gervais Mbata, Minister of Water and Forests, Hunting and Fishing



HE Mr. Juan José Ndong Tom, Minister of Agriculture



HE Mrs. Mavis Hawa Koonson, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

12H05-13H00 Messages of African experts and scientists

Mrs. Ndeye Coumba Bousso, PhD candidate, UCAD-ISRA/CRODT-IRD

12H05-13H00 Session 2: Science-Based Decision-Making and Research

Overview: Promoting research and data-driven approaches to inform policies and practices for ocean conservation and management.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Hassan Moustahfid, co-chair of the Africa and Adjacent Island States Ocean Decade Taskforce: How science-based decision making and research are important to Africa

HEAD OF DELEGATION DECLARATIONS



HE Mrs. Fatima Camara, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy



HE Mr. Mario Mussante Da Silva Loureiro, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy



HE Mr. Abdel Mohammad Suktam Hasan, Minister of Marine Resources



HE Mr. Youba Ba, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries



SE Mrs. Princess Dugba, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources



HE Dr. Fatou Diouf, Minister of Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructures



HE Mr. Abel da Silva Bom Jusus, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries



Mr. Fofana Bina, Director of Fisheries, Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources

13H00 - 14H30 Lunch break

14H30 - 15H30 Session 3: Cooperation and Financing Mobilization

Overview: Foster cooperation and partnerships, promote integrated solutions, and mobilize financial resources to support sustainable ocean best practices and prevent marine pollution.

Keynote speaker: Pr. Rashid Sumaila, in Oceans & Fisheries Economics of the University of British Columbia, Canada.

HEAD OF DELEGATION DECLARATIONS



Mr. Léonard Butoyi, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock



Mr. Buba Sanyang, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources



Mr. Dos Santos Alvaro Da Cunha Candido, Secretary of State for Fisheries and Marine Resources



Mr. Sidi Ali Sidi Boubacar, Secretary General for Fisheries, Maritime Infrastructures and Ports



Mr. Doussa Aguemou, Chief of Staff of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries



Mr. Branly Martial Oupolo, Ambassador of Gabon in the Kingdom of Morocco



Ms. Gugu Sibonakalisa Pearl Shabangu, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture



Burkina Faso: Mr. MOUSSA ZIDA, Director General of Agropastoral Development

15H30 - 15H35 Youth in Action: Messages from African Youth

Outcomes of the Official African Youth Consultation, facilitated by the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection and partners, October 7th, 2024.

Mr. Lewis Kimaru: Project leader of the African Youth Climate Hub Initiative.

Mrs. Sophia Laarisa: Member of the Early Career Ocean Professional Africa Regional Node.

15H35 - 16H30 Session 4: Capacity Development and Stakeholder Engagement

Overview: Enhancing skills, knowledge, and participation of local communities and stakeholders (including non-governmental organizations, Youth, etc.) in ocean-related initiatives.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Miguel Bernal, Executive Secretary of GFCM and FAO DG representative.

HEAD OF DELEGATION DECLARATIONS

 **Kenya: HE Mrs. Jessica Muthoni Gakinya**, Ambassador in the Kingdom of Morocco

 **Mr. William Y. Boeh**, Deputy Director General of Technical Services, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority

 **Mrs. Pascaline Mbangu Kikumbi**, Secretary General for Fisheries and Livestock

 **Mr. Omoragbon Osakpamwan Wellington**, Director General of Fisheries

 **Mr. Jean Samba**, Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisor

 **Niandou Mounkaila**, Managing Director, Société du Patrimoine des Eaux

16H35-17H00 Closing Session

PRESENTATION OF KEY MESSAGES FROM THE AFRICAN CONSULTATION TO UNOC3

Dr Amadou Tall, Economic Community of West African States consultant.

CLOSING REMARKS

HER EXCELLENCY, MS. GEORGINA GUILLÉN-GRILLO	HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. OLIVIER POIVRE D'ARVOR	HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. MOHAMMED SADIKI
Director General of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica Co-chair of UNOC-3	Special Envoy of the French President for the United Nations Ocean Conference Co-chair of UNOC-3	Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Waters and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The successful organization of this event was made possible thanks to the dedication and collaboration of all those involved. The organizers wish to express their deepest gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, whose visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to ocean protection continue to inspire national and international action. Appreciation is also extended to Mr. Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean; Mr. Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, France's Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues and Co-Chair of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference; and H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission, for their presence and valuable contributions.

ADVISORY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chair

- Dr Faraj Abdelmalek, previous General Director of INRH (in office at the time of the event)

Scientific members

- Dr Patrice Brehmer, IRD, and Scientific Advisor to the Permanent Secretary of SRFC
- Dr Hassan Moustahfid, USIOOS, and Vice-chair of the UN Decade Africa Taskforce
- Dr Hamady Diop, CEO and Founder of DnS Consulting

Coordination and outreach members

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- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of Morocco
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates
- National Institute of Fisheries Research, Morocco (INRH)
- National Office of Fisheries in Morocco (ONP)
- Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection and partners
- The Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco
- The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)

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Citation. You can use the following format for citing this document.

Faraj A., Brehmer P., Diop H., Moustaphid H., Belfaqih R., Hajji N. 2025. African consultation in preparation for the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3). Report, INRH, Casablanca. 23p.





AFRICA TO UNOC 3

