



SIDE EVENT

Eighth North Africa Development Forum

The blue economy in North Africa:
the efficiency of maritime transport in facilitating
international trade in the digital age

Background and rationale

Increasingly important in sustainable development strategies is the blue economy, whose guiding principles state that the economic exploitation of aquatic and marine resources, such as oceans, seas, rivers, lakes and other bodies of water, must be carried out in a sustainable and responsible manner.

In order to align with its purpose, the blue economy must therefore meet certain conditions. Such is the conclusion of the discussions on the blue economy held in various international forums, the most recent being the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, held in Nairobi from 26 to 28 November 2018, which brought together more than 18,000 participants, including Heads of State and Ministers, representing more than 180 countries from five continents. The participants affirmed their commitment to the sustainable and responsible exploitation of aquatic and marine resources, which has already been established as a vehicle for development in programmes such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the sustainable use and conservation of the oceans) and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want of the African Union, which includes the blue economy as a priority development issue on the African continent.

In order to contribute to this analysis, the Subregional Office for North Africa of ECA is convening the eighth session of the North Africa Development Forum, scheduled to take place in Marrakech, Morocco, on 24 March 2019. The Forum will focus on the challenges and opportunities of the blue economy in North Africa. By adopting a conceptual and methodological approach, participants will analyse the role of maritime transport in facilitating international trade within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Objectives of the Forum

The main objective of the Forum is to facilitate an in-depth examination of the integration of the blue economy into development policies and strategies, based on the analysis of maritime transport in North Africa and its impact on international trade. The Forum will also provide an opportunity for participants to review the practical guide developed by ECA to assist member States in developing a strategy on the blue economy and integrating it into their existing national development strategies.

Venue, date and time

- Palmeraie Room, Palmeraie Golf Palace, Marrakech, Morocco
- 23 March 2019, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contact

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