



## **International Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy in the Gulf of Guinea**

**Dates:** 9–10 July 2025

**Location:** Yaoundé, Cameroon

### **AGENDA**

#### **Day 1 – Technical and Ministerial Working Sessions**

*(Experts, Ministers, Regional Bodies)*

##### **09:00–09:30 | Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Opening remarks by H.E. Mbella Mbella, Minister of External Relations, Republic of Cameroon
- Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

##### **09:30–10:30 | Setting the Scene – Building a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Gulf of Guinea's Geopolitical Context**

- *Opening remarks:* WTO Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- H.E. Amb. Tommo Monthe, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the UN
- Amb. Fathallah Sijilmassi Director General of the AUC African Union *or* Mr. Moses Vilakati, African Union representative (Eswatini)
- Amb. Nancy Karigithu, Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy, Kenya
- Prof. Martin Ndende, CDMO, University of Nantes
- Rym Benzina Bourguiba, President, La Saison Bleue (Tunisia)
- OOC Kenya representative (H.E. Hassan Ali Joho, Cabinet Secretary)

##### **11:00–12:30 | Panel: Marine Conservation and Climate Resilience**

- *Opening remarks :*

- H.E. Pierre Hélé, Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, Cameroon
- H.E. Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Minister of Environment, Nigeria
- H.E. Jean-Luc Assi, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Côte d'Ivoire
- Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO and Chairperson, GEF or Susan Gardner, Director, Ecosystems Division, UNEP (TBC)
- David Obura, Chair, IPBES
- Representative from WWF or IUCN West Africa
- Pr. Victor Djomatchoua, Economist

#### **14:00–15:30 | Panel: Sustainable Fisheries and Coastal Livelihoods**

- Opening remarks: Prof. Fabien NKOT, PGA Special Adviser
- H.E. Dr. Taïga, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, Cameroon
- H.E. Mavis Hawa Koomson, Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ghana
- H.E. Gaston Dossouhoui, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Benin
- H.E. Edem Kokou Tengue, Minister of Maritime Economy, Fisheries and Coastal Protection, Togo
- Mr. Honma Ken, Advisor on Fishery and Aquaculture, JICA
- Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa (TBC)
- Dr. Rashid Sumaila, University of British Columbia
- Gulf of Guinea Commission Representative

#### **16:00–17:30 | Panel: Maritime Security and Blue Economy Governance**

- H.E. Moudouma Ndinga Dieudonné Loïc, Minister of Transport, Merchant Marine and the Sea, Gabon
- H.E. Francisco Medina Catalán, Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources, Equatorial Guinea
- H.E. Daniel Neto Vaz, Minister of Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment, São Tomé and Príncipe
- ICC Yaoundé Representative
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), regional coordinator
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ghada Fathi Waly
- Prof. Maurice Kengne Kamga, Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

**18:00 – 19: 00: Review of the Yaoundé Ministerial draft Declaration by Experts from official delegations.**

## **Day 2 – High-Level Segment and Ministerial Declaration**

*(Heads of State, PGA Office, Ministers)*

### **09:00–9:30 | Opening of the High-Level Segment**

- H.E. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon or Representative
- H.E. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the UN
- Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean
- Senior Representative from the President of the UN General Assembly (PGA)
- Reflections on outcomes of Day 1

### **09:30–11:30 | Ministerial Roundtable – Accelerating Regional Action**

*Ministers from: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, São Tomé & Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Togo*

### **11:30–12:30 | Adoption of the Yaoundé Ministerial Declaration and Closing Ceremony**

- Government of Cameroon
- Ambassador Peter Thomson
- Senior representative from the Office of the PGA
- Official endorsement of the declaration

### **14:00–15:30 | Dialogue on Finance, Innovation and Partnerships**

- African Development Bank
- Oceans 5
- Private sector leaders: Ørsted, Maersk, TotalEnergies, OceanHub Africa
- Innovation and community-led voices: ABALOB
- Cameroonian business leaders: Célestin Tawamba, President of GECAM

### **15:30–16:30 | Press Briefing and Media Engagement**

- Key messages from the Ministerial Declaration
- Media (Government of Cameroon and PGA Office)