



Background briefing note for the Africa Program “Africa@Nor-Shipping” during Nor-Shipping 2019



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1. About Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019

- Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 will through the Africa Conference on 5th June 2019, provide an arena to match Norway's ocean and BE expertise with the enormous growth potential and forward leaning business climate of the African continent in these areas.
- The Africa Exhibition Pavilion will provide a strong platform to showcase Africa's leading companies and institutions in the Ocean and Blue Economy (BE) sectors. The pavilion will open windows of opportunity to identify, explore and strengthen collaborations between Africa and Norway/the Nordic region in the BE.
- Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 will also create meeting spaces - at the bilateral/inter-state and B2B levels - for African delegations and companies to engage with Norwegian and international actors to jointly identify and promote mutually beneficial collaboration opportunities.
- The lead organizers for Africa@Nor-shipping 2019 are AO Blue Economy & Energy Consulting (AOBEEC) Oslo and the Norwegian-African Business Association (NABA) in collaboration with Nor-Shipping.
- The key collaboration partners include: The African Union Commission, the International Maritime Organization, Nor-Shipping and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. What are the objectives?

Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 will have the following objectives:

- To assemble African and Nordic/global players to explore business and investment opportunities in Africa's Ocean and BE sectors.
- To showcase ongoing activity in Africa's BE through a 100sqm Africa Exhibition Pavilion. that will be allocated to African countries, organizations and private companies.
- To profile and discuss issues relevant to the development of Africa's BE and its contribution to Intra-African trade.
- To provide a platform for bilateral meetings between delegations from African countries and their Norwegian/Nordic counterparts on issues related to the BE.
- To provide a platform for B2B meetings and the development of sustainable business opportunities in Africa's BE.

3. Themes for Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019

Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 will adopt the following core themes:

3.1 Overriding theme:

- Unlocking the full potentials of Africa's Blue Economy (BE).

3.2. Underlying themes:

- Obtaining high-level commitment for Africa's BE,
- Improving maritime safety and security in Africa's BE,
- Promoting inclusion, equity and gender balance in Africa's BE,
- Ensuring environmental and economic sustainability in Africa's BE,
- Reinforcing the implementation of policies, strategies and regulations pertaining to Africa's BE,
- Mobilizing the private sector to play a key role in the sustainable development of Africa's BE (notably in maritime transportation. One example of this is the nascent African Shipping Line).

4. The program for Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019

The program during Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 will feature the following five key aspects:

4.1 The Africa@Nor-Shipping Conference

- The Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 conference will provide an arena to match Norway's ocean and BE expertise with the enormous growth potential and forward leaning business climate of the African continent in these areas.
- The conference will cover insights from leading profiles across a span of segments and fields, and from various regions within the African continent. It will provide an excellent platform to explore current hot topics within the African and global maritime and ocean sectors, as well as in the energy industry.
- The conference will also provide an arena for introducing the African Union's Blue Economy strategy and for exploring areas of co-operation between the AU and Norway on the Blue Economy, in alignment with the strategic partnership agreement signed between the AU and Norway in 2015.¹
- A draft conference program is attached to this proposal.
- Below are pictures from the Africa@Nor-Shipping conference in 2017 - © Nor-Shipping:

¹ The strategic partnership agreement between the African Union and Norway was signed on the 26th of January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Borge Brende. The agreement broadened the existing cooperation between the AU and Norway and strengthened Norway's engagement with the AU, particularly in matters relating to peace and security. The agreement covers three main areas of cooperation: (1) Peace and security; (2) Democracy and governance; and (3) Sustainable development and job creation. Norway and the AU will also cooperate on the challenges identified in Africa's own development strategy - Agenda 2063.

Source: https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/strategic_partnership/id2363711/.

Consultations are also underway to strengthen cooperation between the AU and Norway on the Blue Economy and maritime issues.

Source: <https://www.norway.no/en/ethiopia/norway-ethiopia/news-events/news2/statement-to-the-african-union-prc/>.



4.2 The Africa Exhibition Pavilion

- The Africa Exhibition Pavilion will provide a platform to showcase Africa's leading entities and countries in the Ocean and Blue Economy (BE) sectors. The exhibition pavilion will open windows of opportunity for industry actors to identify, explore and strenghten collaborations between Africa and Norway/the Nordic region in the Ocean and BE sectors.
- There is a total space of 100sqm allocated to the Africa Pavilion and this will be allotted to interested parties on a first-come, first served basis.
- Exhibitors in the Africa pavilion during Nor-Shipping 2017 were: the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA); the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSAs); the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA); VTT Maritime and Bollre Logistics.
- Below are pictures from the Africa Pavilion during Nor-Shipping 2017 - © Nor-Shipping:





- Information on how to book a stand in the Africa pavilion during is available via the following link: <https://www.aoec-norshipping.com/book-a-stand/>

4.3 The Africa@Nor-Shipping meeting spaces

- The Africa@Nor-Shipping meeting spaces will facilitate meeting opportunities at the bilateral/inter-state and B2B levels. It will create an enabling environment for African delegations and companies to engage with Norwegian and other international actors from the public and private sectors, thereby opening for the joint identification and promotion of mutually beneficial collaborations.
- The deliberate creation of spaces for bilateral meetings as part of the Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 program is motivated by the following considerations:
 - i. Norway is rightfully viewed in many parts of the world to be a leader in the competence and know-how about how to sustainably develop and harness Ocean and BE resources for the benefit of current and future generations. This competence will be beneficial to the recently established BE division of the AU and to other AU member states that wish to establish similar divisions/units;
 - ii. Norway, along with the EFTA States of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland signed a Joint Declaration on Cooperation with Nigeria in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 12, 2017. Notable amongst the Areas of Cooperation outlined in the declaration's Article II were: *"(f) Trade and Sustainable Development; and (i) any other areas of cooperation as may be mutually agreed upon by Nigeria and the EFTA States."* This declaration therefore provides ample room for follow-up discussions between Norwegian and Nigerian actors with regards to exploring joint initiatives to promote trade and the sustainable development of the Ocean and BE sectors. The bilateral meetings during Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 will provide an opportune space for this purpose.
 - iii. Against the backdrop of the [African Continental Free Trade Area](#) (AfCFTA) framework, signed on March 21, 2018 by 44 African heads of state and government in Kigali, Rwanda on the initiative of the African Union (AU), Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 will provide an initial or exploratory space for expanding the EFTA agreement with Nigeria to include the entirety/portions of the AfCFTA.

- iv. In addition to meetings between sovereign actors, bilateral/multilateral meetings between public and private sector organizations from Norway, the Nordic region and other geographies, with African counterparts or potential collaborators, will also be accommodated.

4.4. The Nor-shipping Africa Evening reception/party:

This will showcase Africa's diverse culture and warm hospitality in a Nordic setting.

4.5. Side Events:

These will allow partners and other interested parties to organize themed events, seminars or meetings that are aligned with the objectives of Africa@Nor-shipping 2019. One proposed side event theme is: Gender mainstreaming in the maritime sector, organized by International Maritime Organization (IMO). A second side event will profile Nigeria's transport, shipping and maritime sectors. This will be organized by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Authority (NIMASA).

5. Guidance behind the program

The Africa@Nor-Shipping 2019 program will be guided by an existing body of work and international agreements that are relevant to the sustainable development of the BE and maritime sectors in Africa and globally:

- The United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals;
- The African Union Agenda 2063²;
- The 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy) and its plan of action³;
- The Durban Plan of Action for Maritime Transport covering the period 2009 – 2012;⁴
- The Revised African Maritime Transport Charter of the African Union towards the development of the BE, adopted in Kampala 2010⁵;
- The African Maritime Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development, (commonly referred to as the Lomé Charter)⁶;

² Agenda 2063. The Africa We Want - Framework Document, see: <https://au.int/en/agenda2063>

³ For further details on the 2050 AIM-Strategy please see: http://cggrps.org/wp-content/uploads/2050-AIM-Strategy_EN.pdf, accessed on 04/5/2018, 13.32.

⁴ A Plan of Action covering the period 2008 – 2010 was initially adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, on 23 February 2007 by the African Ministers responsible for Maritime Transport, at their First Conference organized by the African Union. This Plan of Action constituted a road map primarily aimed at outlining the global objectives pursued in the bid to improve African maritime transport, the major activities or actions identified for attaining the objectives, the measures of output, and the lead and other institutions responsible for the implementation of the activities detailed in the Action Plan. The Plan of Action was reviewed and updated in the Conference of Ministers responsible for Transport held in Algiers, Algeria from 21 – 25 April 2008, and was further reviewed to cover the period 2009 – 2012 at the Second African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for Maritime Transport held in Durban, South Africa from 12 – 16 October 2009.

⁵ See the revised African Maritime Transport charter, <https://au.int/en/treaties/revised-african-maritime-transport-charter>, accessed 04/5/2018, 13.34.

⁶ The Lomé Charter is a new strategic guideline with the view to coordinating specific actions between AU member States across the continent to secure the oceans and seas by combating piracy, arms trafficking and the smuggling of human beings on the Africa's coastlines.

