



## GREEN TALKS – BRIDGES TO THE HIGH-LEVEL GREEN INVESTMENT FORUM EU-AFRICA

### EU-AU Partnership in Action: implementing Africa's Blue Economy Strategy

HORN OF AFRICA / ADDIS ABABA

Jointly organised by the Embassy of Portugal in Ethiopia, the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union and the European Investment Bank Representation to Ethiopia and the African Union

Virtual, 14 April 2021

#### **Thematic :**

*EU-Africa Partnership on Blue Economy; EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa, in particular the EU/AU Partnership on Green Transition and Energy Access.*

#### **Concept:**

Portugal, jointly with the European Investment Bank Representation Offices and the European Union Delegations, will host several "Green Talks" across Africa in the month leading up to the High Level Green Investment Forum to be held in Lisbon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021. The Green Talks aim at raising awareness, sharing experiences, innovative approaches, and opportunities to mobilise private and public capital and expertise towards the Green Transition in Africa and in Europe.

The Green Talks will maximise the outreach of our institutions' messages across Africa and Europe, building up momentum and enhancing the depth and quality of future discussions. By turning these events into a broad and crosscutting on-going dialogue, we aim to prepare the grounds for Europe and Africa to explore new ways and possibilities to work together for a greener future.

The event proposed by the Embassy of Portugal in Ethiopia, the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union and the European Investment Bank Representation to Ethiopia and the African Union on ***EU-AU Partnership in Action: implementing Africa's Blue Economy Strategy*** builds on several relevant political developments, such as the adoption of the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter) in October 2016; the launch of the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles in 2018 by the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Commission, WWF and the World Resources Institute, endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the UNEP Finance Initiative; the adoption of the Blueprint for Africa's Blue Economy Strategy

by the Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water And Environment (ARDWE) in October 2019 and its subsequent note by the Executive Council in February 2020; the launch of the European Investment Clean and Sustainable Ocean Programme in October 2018, comprising the €2 billion Clean Oceans Initiative together with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), KfW, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) and Instituto de Credito Oficial (ICO); and, finally, the EIB Blue Sustainable Ocean Strategy (Blue SOS) whereby the EIB committed to more than doubling its lending to sustainable ocean projects to €2.5 billion during 2019-2023.

The event's focus is fully aligned with the importance attached by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU to the development of Blue Economy for its vital role in sustainable development, as well as with the EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa, where blue economy falls under the broader EU-AU Partnership on Green Transition and Energy Access.

Against this background and the upcoming EU-AU Summit, especially the preparatory informal discussions being set up with AU MS on EU's proposals on the five partnerships as presented in the Communication "Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa", the Addis Ababa event is intended to provide inspiration for these partnerships and to generate inputs towards the Summit's discussions. In this sense, the panel ought to be political rather than technical, mobilising two African countries already established as champions of and first movers under the Blue Economy agenda. Discussion on the Blue Economy could spread across the following elements:

- Blue/ocean governance
- Clean oceans
- Marine energy
- Coastal tourism
- Green shipping
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture

#### **When:**

- 1.5 hours event – 15h00-16h30 EAT (14h00-15h30 CET)

#### **Modalities:**

- Virtual format
- Session will be open to public and recorded; subsequently all the Green Talks will be made available on the website of the HL Forum website
- Session to pursue a double format: online platform for pre-registered limited participants **and in parallel** livestream on Facebook dedicated webpage

#### **Register in advance for this webinar:**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SdpXFSu4QPmT-x87OMG\\_9A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SdpXFSu4QPmT-x87OMG_9A)



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Wednesday 14 April 2021, 14h00-15h30 CET / 15h00-16h30 EAT

Co-organised by the Embassy of Portugal in Ethiopia, the European Investment Bank Representation to Ethiopia and the African Union and the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union

### Programme

<b>Registration</b>	14h45-15h00 EAT
<b>Welcome Address</b>	Mrs. Helena Malcata, Ambassador of Portugal in Ethiopia
<b>Keynote Speech</b>	Mr. Ricardo Serrão Santos, Minister for the Sea, Government of the Portuguese Republic
<b>High-Level Panel</b>	Commissioner Josefa Sacko, African Union Commission Vice-President Ricardo Mourinho Félix, European Investment Bank Mr. Rodrick Kundu, Deputy Director - State Department for Fisheries Aquaculture & Blue Economy Ms. Gabriella Gonthier, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer - Ministry of Fisheries and the Blue Economy – Seychelles Mr. Socrates Segbor, Fisheries Manager of Ghana Environmental Justice Foundation – Ghana
<b>Moderator</b>	Mr. Jean Paul Adam, Director of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and former Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy (Seychelles)
<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
<b>Closing Speech</b>	Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commission
<b>Concluding Remarks</b>	Mrs. Birgitte Markussen, Ambassador of the European Union to the African Union