



## TANGIER DECLARATION

3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE of the BLUE BELT INITIATIVE  
on  
“Boosting Africa’s Blue Economy for Food Security and Job Growth”

**We**, the undersigned Ministers and Representatives of African States, together with representatives from international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, gathered in Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco, on 7 and 8 October 2024, for the Third Session of the High-Level Conference of the Blue Belt Initiative, convened through the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Sadiki, Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Waters and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco.

**Express** our heartfelt **gratitude** to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for His gracious support, the warm welcome provided by the beautiful city of Tangier — the flagship of the blue economy — and the resources allocated to ensure the success of this important event.

**Acknowledging** the launch of the Blue Belt Initiative by the Kingdom of Morocco as part of the Action Agenda of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change during COP22 in Marrakech and its realization through the Blue Belt platform and the Agadir Declarations.

**Noting** the strategic framework of the Blue Belt Initiative, which builds on earlier high-level dialogues, including actions initiated during COP22 and guidance from the 2019 and 2023 Agadir Declarations. This initiative addresses the ocean’s essential role in ecosystem services — such as greenhouse gas sequestration and oxygen production — as well as its significance to food security, nutrition, livelihoods, global maritime trade, cultural heritage, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, the blue economy, and poverty eradication.

**Appreciating** the contribution of the Blue Belt Initiative to fostering constructive dialogue and enhancing mutual understanding and collaboration between African nations. We reaffirm our collective commitment to tackling key challenges and advancing our shared goals for sustainable coasts and oceans, as well as the sustainable development of Africa’s blue economy, blue food, jobs creation, and exchange of knowledge and scientific expertise.

**Valuing** the vital contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to advancing multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG14 (Life Below Water), the eradication of poverty and hunger, sustainable consumption and production, inclusive



economic growth, decent work, and the promotion of peaceful and accountable institutions.

**Acknowledging** the significant cumulative pressures facing marine and coastal ecosystems, including those from climate change, ocean acidification, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, pollution and the disproportionate impacts on less-developed, island and smaller African nations.

**Emphasizing** the importance of the upcoming UN Ocean 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference, "Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility," in underscoring the ocean's role in sustaining life and shaping our future.

**Recognizing** the necessity of integrating climate and ecosystem considerations into national economies to ensure blue food and job creation, human development, and sustainable use of ocean resources.

**Articulating** a vision for a resilient ocean and a sustainable, science-based seafood production system that fosters blue food and job creation.

**Highlighting** the urgent need to advance scientific research, expertise, innovation, ocean observation systems, and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement an integrated and ecosystem-based approach across all sectors of the blue economy.

**Recognizing** the crucial need to enhance Africa's contribution to global ocean science efforts within the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), in alignment with the African Union "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.";

**Recognizing** the necessity for strengthened regional strategic actions within the Blue Belt Initiative to secure the technical and affordable resources, as well as investments, for further development of blue food and blue jobs through an inclusive collaborative regional blue platform.

**Acknowledging** the opportunity presented by the Blue Belt Initiative to enhance regional cooperation and mobilize resources to address shared priorities and challenges.



**RECOMMEND** The establishment of a Blue Belt Initiative platform that serves as an inclusive and permanent stakeholder dialogue, supported by a dedicated secretariat. This Platform will engage African countries, relevant continental regional and sub-regional organizations, international regional and bilateral development partners, and representatives of the private sector to cooperatively develop a ‘roadmap’ for effectively mobilizing and leveraging the investments and resources necessary for sustainable oceans, blue food and sustainable blue jobs.

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS** the Blue Belt Initiative partners to support the core functions of the Platform in alignment with their respective strengths, resources and priorities. We urge all partners to actively engage with and collaborate through the Platform to ensure alignment with regional cooperation instruments and with shared national blue priorities.

Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco  
October 8, 2024