THE PATNA INITIATIVE
The Professional African Technical Network Advisory Initiative

A REPORT ON

THE PATNA INITIATIVE AT THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2: AFRICA CLIMATE-OCEAN SOLUTIONS PAVILION

African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
8–10 September 2025



Theme:
"Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development"

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THE PATNA INITIATIVE AT THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2: AFRICA CLIMATE-OCEAN SOLUTIONS PAVILION

Event:
Africa Climate Summit II (ACS2), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date:
8–10 September 2025

Theme:
“Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa’s Resilient and Green Development”

Organised by:
The Professional African Technical Network Advisory (PATNA) Initiative in partnership with Ocean Vision and WiRE

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Disclaimer

This report documents the proceedings and outcomes of the Africa Climate Summit II (ACS2) sessions convened by The PATNA Initiative at the Africa Ocean-Climate Solutions Pavilion. The views expressed in this publication reflect the contributions of participants, panellists, and authors, and do not necessarily represent the official positions of the African Union, the International Maritime Organization, or any partner governments or organisations.

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About The Professional African Technical Network Advisory (PATNA) Initiative

The PATNA Initiative is a non-profit network of African marine and blue-economy specialists. Formed to amplify Africa's voice in global maritime decarbonization, PATNA leverages evidence-based research to promote policies that balance economic growth with environmental protection. Our initiative brings together academics, technical experts, government professionals, and private-sector cohorts to ensure that African perspectives are represented in international maritime policy and climate action.

Executive Summary

The Africa Climate Summit II (ACS2), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 8-10 September 2025, under the theme *"Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development"*, was a pivotal moment for the continent. The Africa Ocean-Climate Solutions Pavilion, in collaboration with the Professional African Technical Network Advisory (PATNA) Initiative, provided a platform for two critical sessions that reframed Africa's maritime decarbonisation and ocean-energy transition as opportunities for industrialisation, resilience, and inclusive growth.

Session 1, titled "Decarbonising Africa's Blue Economy – Ports, Shipping and Energy for a Just Transition", highlighted Africa's dual challenge: while the continent contributes less than 6% of global shipping emissions, it faces disproportionately high costs of compliance with the IMO's new Net Zero Framework. The session emphasised that Africa holds 45% of global renewable energy potential, yet only 6% of its electricity is renewable. This mismatch underscores a major opportunity to transform ports into renewable energy hubs. Speakers called for harmonisation between international frameworks (MARPOL Annex VI, Paris Agreement, IMO Net Zero Framework) and AU continental strategies (Agenda 2063, AIMS 2050, African Green Hydrogen Strategy).

Session 2, titled "Gender-Responsive Strategies for a Just and Inclusive Ocean-Energy Transition in Africa", highlighted that Africa's blue economy generates $300B annually and supports 49M jobs, projected to rise to $405B and 57M jobs by 2030, while women and youth remain severely underrepresented (e.g., only 1.2% of global seafarers are women). The session launched GENDA – a gender-disaggregated maritime data initiative – and secured commitments for women-led entrepreneurship financing, training pipelines, and partnerships (PATNA and WiRE). The session contributors framed gender inclusion not as charity but as Africa's competitive advantage in shaping global maritime and climate governance.

Cross-Cutting Takeaways

- Africa's ports and people are at the heart of the just transition.
- Without financing support, Africa risks food insecurity and economic strain from new levies; with redistribution and clean fuel production, it could gain up to 1.3% GDP by 2050.
- Evidence from PATNA's LEAP Project demonstrated that fewer than 10 gateway ports concentrate over 80% of Africa's maritime emissions.
- ACS2 consolidated momentum towards a continental roadmap, harmonised policy frameworks, and partnerships to ensure Africa is a rule-shaper, not a rule-taker, in ocean-climate governance.

1 Introduction

The Africa Climate Summit II (ACS2), held from September 8 to 10, 2025, at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, brought together governments, private sector leaders, civil society organisations, academia, indigenous peoples, youth, women, and technical experts. Convened under the theme "Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development", the Summit reaffirmed Africa's determination to lead in shaping global climate governance.

Within this dynamic platform, the Africa Ocean-Climate Solutions Pavilion showcased the pivotal role of the ocean-climate nexus in Africa's just transition. The Pavilion served as a collaborative space to highlight opportunities for maritime decarbonisation, renewable energy development, and gender-responsive approaches that advance both climate and development goals.

The Professional African Technical Network Advisory (PATNA) Initiative played a central role in convening two landmark sessions at the Pavilion:

I. Decarbonising Africa's Blue Economy – Ports, Shipping and Energy for a Just Transition

II. Gender-Responsive Strategies for a Just and Inclusive Ocean-Energy Transition in Africa

These dialogues reflected PATNA's core mission of combining technical evidence (through the LEAP Project), legal analysis, and inclusive approaches to strengthen Africa's position in international maritime and climate negotiations. The discussions also built upon continental frameworks such as Agenda 2063, the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy, and the AU Green Hydrogen Strategy, while aligning with global instruments including UNCLOS, the Paris Agreement, and MARPOL Annex VI.

Through its work at ACS2, PATNA demonstrated how Africa can reframe its maritime and energy challenges into opportunities for industrialisation, food security, and inclusive growth, ensuring that the continent emerges not only as a participant but as a credible leader and rule-shaper in the global ocean-climate transition.

2 Session 1: Decarbonising Africa's Blue Economy – Ports, Shipping and Energy for a Just Transition

Date: 8 September 2025
Venue: Africa Ocean-Climate Solutions Pavilion, ACS2, Addis Ababa
Session Lead: Dr. Dola Oluteye

2.1 Objectives

I. Position African leadership in linking maritime decarbonisation to the continent's wider renewable energy transition through effective governance frameworks and regional collaboration.

II. Assess the socioeconomic impacts of climate change on Africa's ports, trade, food security, and industrialisation, while reframing risks as opportunities.

III. Explore innovative financing models for Africa's just transition, including concessional finance, carbon levies/markets, blended finance, and the IMO Net Zero Fund.

2.2 Key Messages

Africa's maritime decarbonisation is an economic opportunity: The continent contributes less than 6% of global shipping emissions, yet holds 45% of the world's renewable potential, while only 6% of its power generation comes from renewables. Accelerating renewables by harnessing Africa's solar, wind, and critical mineral wealth resources presents Africa with an opportunity to leapfrog its reliance on fossil fuels and become a global hub for clean energy.

Ports as renewable hubs: Over 80% of Africa's maritime emissions are concentrated in fewer than 10 gateway ports. By transforming these into renewable energy and industrial hubs, Africa can anchor its transition, support green corridors, and drive industrialisation.

Private sector at the centre: Decarbonisation requires partnerships with African shipowners, energy investors, and port operators, ensuring that policies are scalable and projects are bankable. Speakers called on governments to collaborate with the private sector to ensure that accurate data is gathered for constructing policies related to climate change. Such collaboration will also ensure that private shipowners take responsibility for their activities, which may cause a negative climate impact.

Legal and governance reforms: Alignment of Africa's charters (AIMS 2050, AU Green Hydrogen Strategy) with MARPOL Annex VI and the IMO Net Zero Framework (2027) are critical. Without this, Africa risks becoming a "rule-taker" rather than a "rule-shaper".

Regional harmonisation: Regional commitments must start at the national level. There should be national consultations among key stakeholders across the shipping value chain, and no disconnection between technical personnel involved in negotiations and their national governments. Speakers posit that it is important for political leadership to understand the key issues that are at stake. Regionally, to have a common voice, there should be deliberate attempts to address the factors that divide the continent, especially language barriers. Regional bodies such as MOWCA, MOESNA, and AU need to act as a bridge in bringing countries together for a common course. Furthermore, these regional bodies could also act as a whip during negotiations on sensitive issues at global platforms, such as the IMO.

Financing is decisive: Africa's ports need $40–60B annually in upgrades, often at 10–15% cost of capital versus 3–5% in Europe. Bridging this financing gap is essential to competitiveness and resilience.

2.3 Run of Show & Contributions

Opening Remarks

Dr. Dola Oluteye (PATNA + UCL) set the stage by outlining Africa's maritime-climate nexus, introducing LEAP Project evidence, and framing Africa's ports as engines of the just transition.

Panel 1 (Moderated by Dr. Dola Oluteye)

- **Mdm. Funmi Folorunsho** (Secretary-General, African Shipowners Association) highlighted the challenges African shipowners face with compliance costs and called for risk-reduction instruments to support fleet renewal.
- **Amb. Nancy Karigithu** (Kenya Presidency) warned against Africa becoming a "rule-taker" at the IMO, emphasising food security framing and equitable revenue redistribution from the IMO Net Zero Fund.
- **Dr. Euan Low** (Green Climate Fund) explored conditions under which blended finance and concessional pathways could unlock investment in African ports and shipping.

Presentation 1

- *Mr. Fitzroy Meyer-Petgrave* (PATNA) presented data on Africa's trade vulnerabilities, financing gaps, and opportunities to embed just transition principles into legal frameworks.

Panel 2 (Moderated by Mr. Fitzroy Meyer-Petgrave)

- **Prof. Wisdom Akpalu** (EfD Ghana / Ghana Fisheries Commission) drew on LEAP findings to stress Africa's vulnerability to carbon levies on food imports and exports, calling for evidence-based policy safeguards.
- **Hon. Clifford Andre** (Seychelles Parliament, PATNA Board) argued for national parliaments to legislate food security and industrialisation targets into maritime law, ensuring long-term policy continuity.
- **Cpt. Ladi Olubowale** (CEO, Seamate Ltd; ASA Nigeria) spoke from a private operator's perspective, identifying opportunities in green shipbuilding and renewable bunkering, and committing ASA members to short-term pilot actions.
- **Ms. Elizabeth Nwarueze** (PATNA & Oxford University) highlighted the need for harmonised legal frameworks and regional model laws aligning African charters with MARPOL Annex VI before 2027.

Closing Remarks

- Session outcomes summarised the need for coordinated policy, private sector pledges, and a continental roadmap.

2.4 Highlights of Discussions

Financing Just Transition: Agreement that Africa must pursue innovative finance combining green bonds, carbon markets, blended finance, and access to IMO Net Zero Fund revenues.

Food Security at the Core: Panellists stressed that Africa's vulnerability to higher freight costs and carbon levies must be mitigated by earmarking revenues to food imports and essential goods.

Legal Tools: Calls for regional model laws through RECs to embed just transition principles into national maritime legislation, safeguarding commitments across political cycles.

Private Sector Role: ASA members pledged to pilot renewable bunkering hubs and green shipping initiatives, showcasing their preparedness if financing and policy frameworks are aligned**.**

Continental Voice: Consensus on the need for an African technical coordination group to influence IMO guideline negotiations before the IMO Net Zero Framework enters into force in 2027.

2.5 Session Outcomes

Policy harmonisation: African member states are encouraged to align Africa's maritime laws with MARPOL Annex VI, the Paris Agreement, and the AU renewable transition goals.

Continental roadmap: African member states are encouraged to develop and adopt an integrated roadmap that links maritime decarbonization with energy, food security, and industrialisation agendas.

Private sector commitments: African member states are encouraged to secure pledges for investment in green corridors, renewable port infrastructure, and clean fuel supply chains.

Financing models: Advancement on innovative pathways is required, including concessional finance, blended finance, carbon levies/markets, and IMO Net Zero Fund allocations.

Capacity partnerships: Develop the capacity to strengthen Africa-centred scientific and legal capacity through the LEAP Project and PATNA's technical network.

2.6 PATNA's Contribution

Moderation & Convening: Dr. Dola Oluteye and Fitzroy Meyer-Petgrave co-moderated the session, ensuring balanced interventions across technical, legal, financial, and operational perspectives.

Evidence Base: The LEAP Project provided critical data on emissions concentration, port vulnerabilities, and financing scenarios, shaping evidence-led discussions.

Legal Analysis: Elizabeth Nwarueze outlined gaps between Africa's continental charters and international frameworks, framing the case for regional model laws.

Knowledge Leadership: PATNA positioned Africa's narrative not as one of vulnerability but as a proactive reimagining of the blue economy as a driver of resilience, food security, and green industrialisation.

3 Session 2: Gender-Responsive Strategies for a Just and Inclusive Ocean-Energy Transition in Africa

Date: 10 September 2025
Venue: Africa Ocean-Climate Solutions Pavilion, ACS2, Addis Ababa
Session Leads: Dr. Dola Oluteye, Liz Mubari, and Elizabeth Nwarueze

3.1 Objectives

I. Centre women and youths in Africa's Ocean economy and renewable energy transition.

II. Unlock gender-responsive pathways for green shipping, ports, and renewable energy value chains.

III. Secure institutional and private sector commitments on gender data, financing, and capacity building.

3.2 Key Messages

Africa's blue economy generates $300B annually, supporting 49M jobs, and is projected to grow to $405B and 57M jobs by 2030. Unlocking this potential requires inclusivity.

Women and youth are catalytic drivers of resilience and transformation yet remain underrepresented. Women make up only 1.2% of global seafarers and hold just 25% of renewable energy leadership roles in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Gender-smart strategies are a competitive advantage, not charity. Research shows gender-diverse companies deliver stronger financial performance, greater innovation, and deeper community engagement.

Data gaps undermine progress. A lack of gender-disaggregated data on the maritime and energy sectors hampers policymaking and financing.

Financing must be inclusive. Women-led enterprises face persistent capital barriers, despite evidence of higher sustainability in women-driven energy projects.

3.3 Run of Show & Contributions

Opening Remarks & Presentation 1

- *Dr. Dola Oluteye* (PATNA + UCL) opened with evidence from the LEAP Project and framed the session around Africa's demographic dividend.
- *Ms. Liz Mubari* (WiRE Africa) underscored the importance of embedding women in renewable energy systems from design to implementation.

Panel 1 (Moderated by Liz Mubari)

- **Amb. Nancy Karigithu** (Kenya Presidency) shared insights from decades of shaping maritime policy, highlighting practical steps for gender inclusion in policy and implementation.

- **Dr. Paul Adalikwu** (MOWCA) discussed regional cooperation mechanisms, emphasising the importance of incorporating gender targets into green shipping projects.
- **Numbu Sumabe** (Ghana Maritime Authority) presented lessons from Ghana's national action plan on decarbonisation, including ways to integrate women into the value chain.
- **Ms. Nikol Hearn** (PATNA + Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme) focused on financing, exploring innovative instruments (green bonds, carbon markets, blended finance) to support women-led enterprises in maritime and renewable energy sectors.

Background Input

- *Ms. Elizabeth Nwarueze* (PATNA + Oxford) presented on gender data gaps and legal opportunities, introducing the GENDA initiative.

Panel 2 (Moderated by Elizabeth Nwarueze)

- **Prof. Wisdom Akpalu** (EfD Ghana / Ghana Fisheries Commission) explored the integration of community knowledge and the role local communities play in promoting climate resilience.
- **Hon. Clifford Andre** (Seychelles Parliament, PATNA Board) highlighted the role of parliaments in embedding gender equity in maritime and energy laws.
- **Dr. Helvi Petrus** (NUST, Namibia) introduced the climate change data gap perspective in Africa and shared how data required for the formulation of climate change policies could be generated across African institutions.
- **Mdm. Funmi Folorunsho** (ASA) shared experiences on women's representation in shipping, calling for stronger mentorship and leadership pipelines.

Call to Action & Closing Remarks

- A joint statement urged governments, DFIs, and private sector partners to mainstream gender equity in maritime and energy transitions, anchored by GENDA.

3.4 Highlights of Discussions

GENDA Initiative: Consensus on launching a gender-disaggregated maritime data initiative to systematically track women's participation across sectors. The discussion recognised the urgency for Africa to redefine the gendered roles traditionally assigned to women in the maritime industry. Speakers asserted that national action plans must deliberately target women to ensure they obtain the best training to participate in the green jobs market, particularly in areas such as seafaring, green energy/fuel production, and other renewable energy jobs.

Indigenous Knowledge: Speakers acknowledge the role indigenous people and communities play in achieving climate resilience in African society. Emphasise that ocean resources could be moderated and preserved if local communities are involved in the policy-making process and the government agenda on the preservation of the environment.

Financing Women Entrepreneurs: Speakers stressed the importance of channelling climate finance to women-led enterprises, supported by instruments such as concessional finance, green bonds, and blended equity models.

Capacity Building: Agreement on the need for scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships for women and youth to prepare them for roles in renewable energy, ports, and shipping.

Policy Integration: Calls for gender inclusion to be written into **regional and national maritime legislation** rather than treated as voluntary.

Private Sector Role: Recognition that inclusive port development reduces implementation challenges and strengthens community buy-in.

Data gap in climate change: Reaffirm that sufficient data on changing trends has been a concern and core challenge in Africa's step towards climate resilience. The government, the private sector, and academia must play a role in empowering young researchers to produce continent-specific data that Africa needs for informed decision-making on environmental protection, multilateral negotiations, and designing a more climate-resilient economic strategy. The speaker highlighted the clear gaps ranging from unfunded research institutions to poor collaboration between key stakeholders, which may result in a weak data repository. Furthermore, a lack of sector-specific research may result in difficulties in designing effective policies or weakening negotiations at global platforms.

3.5 Panel Outcomes and a Call to Action

I. **Launch of GENDA:** Gender-Disaggregated Maritime Data Initiative.

II. **Partnerships:** Formal collaboration between PATNA, WiRE, MOWCA, and governments on inclusive pathways.

III. **Financing Pledges:** New commitments to support women-led enterprises and educational programmes.

IV. **Capacity Pipelines:** Development of internships, scholarships, and apprenticeships for women and youth in the maritime and renewable sectors.

V. **Policy Call to Action:** Collective urging of governments, DFIs, and private sector actors to embed gender equity in climate and maritime governance.

VI. **Climate change data repository:** call to action, including providing capacity for African researchers with funding and mentorship, strengthening African universities and research centres, as well as building continental repositories which policymakers can leverage.

3.6 PATNA's Contribution

- **Convening Power:** PATNA co-led the session with WiRE, bridging technical expertise, policy insight, and advocacy.
- **Evidence Framing:** Introduced research on gender gaps in maritime and renewable sectors, grounding discussions in data.
- **Legal & Policy Input:** Highlighted opportunities to embed gender in maritime charters, AU frameworks, and REC laws.

- **Technical Network:** Mobilised experts across law, economics, finance, and engineering to ensure multidimensional perspectives.

4 Cross-Cutting Insights

Across both sessions convened by the PATNA Initiative at the Africa Ocean-Climate Solutions Pavilion, several common themes and insights emerged. These insights underline Africa's position at a critical juncture in global ocean-climate governance and its ability to transform risks into opportunities for resilience, food security, and inclusive growth.

4.1 Evidence as the Foundation

The LEAP Project provided essential data demonstrating that over 80% of Africa's maritime emissions are concentrated in fewer than 10 gateway ports.

This evidence base reframes Africa's maritime decarbonisation challenge as an opportunity by strategically upgrading a small number of ports. By doing so, the continent could significantly reduce emissions while creating renewable energy hubs and industrialisation anchors.

Evidence also revealed Africa's vulnerability: the IMO's Net Zero Framework, if implemented without equitable redistribution, could increase food import bills and worsen economic strain. With redistribution, however, Africa could achieve GDP gains of up to 1.3% by 2050.

4.2 Financing Gaps and Opportunities

Africa's ports require $40–60 billion annually for upgrades and green infrastructure, but financing costs remain prohibitively high at 10–15% compared to 3–5% in Europe.

Both sessions emphasised that financing models must be innovative and inclusive, combining concessional loans, blended finance, carbon levies, green bonds, and equitable allocations from the IMO Net Zero Fund.

Gender considerations in financing remain limited. Without deliberate design, women-led enterprises risk exclusion. Inclusive finance mechanisms are not just moral imperatives but also enhance project bankability and community adoption.

4.3 Ports as Anchors of Transition

Ports emerged as the central pivot in Africa's just transition. They are high-emission nodes but also natural hubs for renewable energy production, industrialisation, and logistics. Ports can anchor green corridors that link shipping decarbonisation to food security, trade competitiveness, and regional industrialisation. Inclusive port planning, with gender-responsive strategies, reduces resistance, ensures community ownership, and strengthens resilience.

4.4 Governance and Legal Harmonisation

Both sessions highlighted the urgent need to align Africa's regional frameworks (AIMS 2050, Revised African Maritime Transport Charter, and AU Green Hydrogen Strategy) with MARPOL Annex VI and the IMO Net Zero Framework. Without harmonisation, Africa risks fragmented approaches and diminished negotiating power in IMO and COP processes.

National parliaments were urged to legislate just transition principles, including food security, industrialisation, and gender equity, to ensure continuity across political cycles.

4.5 Gender as Competitive Advantage

A unifying theme was that gender inclusion is not a matter of charity, but a strategic approach. Women and youth must be central to Africa's $300B blue economy, not only for equity but because evidence shows gender-diverse leadership delivers stronger financial returns, innovation, and sustainability. The launch of GENDA (Gender-Disaggregated Maritime Data Initiative) marked a significant step toward building the evidence base needed to design effective, inclusive policies.

4.6 Just Transition as Africa's Narrative

The sessions underscored that Africa's just transition must rest on five pillars:

I. **Food security** – ensuring decarbonisation does not worsen import bills or hunger.

II. **Industrialisation** – leveraging clean fuels to shift from raw exports to high-value production.

III. **Ports as hubs** – transforming compliance risks into renewable energy and industrial opportunities.

IV. **Workforce empowerment** – reskilling and including women and youth to drive innovation.

V. **Equitable finance** – securing a fair share of revenues and finance flows to meet Africa's unique needs.

Together, these pillars create a holistic framework for Africa's voice in global climate negotiations and anchor PATNA's mission to provide **evidence, legal framing, and inclusive strategies** for shaping the maritime transition.

5 Emerging Commitments and Next Steps

The two sessions convened by the PATNA Initiative at ACS2 were not only forums for dialogue but also catalysts for action. Several commitments and forward-looking pathways emerged, setting the stage for Africa's continued leadership in ocean-climate governance.

5.1 Policy and Roadmap Development

Continental Roadmap: Consensus on the need for a roadmap linking maritime decarbonisation with Africa's broader renewable energy and industrialisation agendas. This roadmap will serve as a tool to guide the African Union (AU), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and national governments in harmonising their climate and maritime strategies.

Model Laws: Agreement to pursue the drafting of regional model laws through RECs that embed just transition principles, including food security, gender equity, and industrialisation, into maritime legislation.

5.2 Financing Commitments

Private Sector Pledges: African Shipowners Association (ASA) members committed to exploring pilot projects in renewable bunkering and green shipbuilding, with near-term milestones over the next 12 months.

Financing Pathways: Development partners, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), expressed readiness to scale blended finance models if African governments establish enabling regulatory frameworks.

Equitable Fund Access: A shared call to ensure Africa secures an "Africa Window" in the IMO Net Zero Fund, earmarking resources for port upgrades, food security measures, and resilience-building.

5.3 Gender-Responsive Action

GENDA Initiative: The launch of the Gender-Disaggregated Maritime Data Initiative (GENDA) was endorsed by speakers and participants. GENDA will systematically track women's participation across maritime and renewable sectors, providing the evidence base needed to inform inclusive policy and financing.

Capacity Pipelines: Commitments to establish training, internships, and apprenticeship programmes for women and youth across ports, renewable energy, and shipping value chains.

Partnerships: A two-year collaboration agreement announced between PATNA, WiRE, and MOWCA, supported by government representatives, to build inclusive pathways for Africa's just transition.

5.4 Technical and Capacity-Building Priorities

MRV Systems: Calls for a continental monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) hub to align Africa with IMO requirements (Data Collection System, CII, GFI Registry) while integrating gender and equity indicators.

Training Centres: RECs were encouraged to establish training hubs for handling alternative fuels (hydrogen, ammonia, methanol), IGF Code compliance, and bunkering safety, creating a skilled African workforce for the emerging energy economy.

Research Collaboration: Ongoing support for the LEAP Project and PATNA's technical networks to provide evidence for policymaking and Africa's negotiating strength in global fora.

5.5 International Engagement

COP30 (Brazil, 2025): African negotiators will present a unified voice linking maritime decarbonisation to food security, industrialisation, and gender equity.

IMO MEPC 84/85: Africa will pursue coordinated advocacy for equitable financing and support within the IMO Net Zero Framework guidelines due for adoption between 2026 and 2027.

Continued Partnerships: Engagement with development partners, the private sector, and research institutions will be prioritised to co-develop projects that are evidence-based and finance-ready.

5.6 PATNA's Next Steps

Advisory Role: Continue to provide technical and legal advisory services to AU, RECs, and national governments.

Knowledge Production: Expand the LEAP Project as a cornerstone for Africa's evidence-led positioning in maritime decarbonisation and just transition negotiations.

Convening Power: Use upcoming platforms, including ACS3, to track progress, mobilise new commitments, and strengthen Africa's leadership in shaping global ocean-climate governance.

6 Conclusion

The Africa Climate Summit II (ACS2), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 8-10 September 2025, under the theme *"Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development"*, provided Africa with a defining moment to reposition its role in global ocean-climate governance.

At the Africa Ocean-Climate Solutions Pavilion, the PATNA Initiative convened two landmark sessions: *(i) Decarbonising Africa's Blue Economy – Ports, Shipping and Energy for a Just Transition* and *(ii) Gender-Responsive Strategies for a Just and Inclusive Ocean-Energy Transition in Africa***.** Together, these dialogues reframed Africa's maritime challenges as opportunities. They underscored that Africa contributes less than 6% of global shipping emissions yet holds 45% of the world's renewable energy potential, a clear foundation for leadership rather than dependency. They also highlighted the transformative potential of gender inclusion, not as charity, but as a strategic advantage in driving innovation, resilience, and competitiveness.

Key outcomes included the launch of the GENDA initiative, private sector pledges toward green shipping, commitments to develop regional model laws, and consensus on the need for a continental roadmap linking ports, renewable energy, and industrialisation. These outcomes advance PATNA's mission to provide evidence, legal framing, and inclusive strategies that ensure Africa is not merely a participant, but a rule-shaper in international climate and maritime negotiations.

Looking ahead, the momentum from ACS2 will feed directly into COP30 in Brazil and the finalisation of the IMO Net Zero Framework (2027). For Africa, the stakes are clear: the maritime transition must deliver food security, industrialisation, gender equity, and equitable access to finance.

The Ocean Pavilion has therefore served as more than a platform for discussion; it has become a launchpad for Africa's just transition. With its blend of evidence-based research, inclusive partnerships, and technical expertise, PATNA stands ready to continue advancing Africa's leadership in shaping a resilient and equitable global ocean-climate future.

7 Annexes

Annex 1: Speaker Bios

Session 1 – Decarbonising Africa's Blue Economy

- **Dr. Dola Oluteye (Moderator)** – Co-chair & founder of The PATNA Initiative; PhD scholar at UCL Energy Institute; Principal Investigator for the LEAP Project; 25+ years' experience in engineering and construction management with a focus on equitable maritime decarbonisation.
- **Mr. Fitzroy Meyer-Petgrave (Moderator)** – Data scientist and Senior Research Associate at PATNA; MSc Data Science; background in petroleum engineering; specialises in digital innovation and data-driven solutions for climate and maritime transition.
- **Mdm. Funmi Folorunsho (Speaker)** – Secretary-General, African Shipowners Association; 40 years' experience in maritime law and governance; Principal Partner, Excel Law Chambers.
- **Amb. Nancy Karigithu (Speaker)** – Kenya's Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy; 39+ years in maritime governance; first DG of Kenya Maritime Authority; global advocate for seafarers and women in maritime.
- **Dr. Euan Low (Speaker)** – Green Climate Fund
- **Numbu Sumabe (Speaker)** – Senior Maritime Officer (Environment), Ghana Maritime Authority; national lead for Ghana's shipping decarbonisation plan and IMO negotiations.
- **Prof. Wisdom Akpalu (Speaker)** – Natural resource economist; Director of EfD Ghana; Chair, Ghana Fisheries Commission; Vice President, African Society of Ecological Economists.
- **Hon. Clifford Andre (Speaker)** – Member of Seychelles Parliament since 2007; PATNA Board member; Chair of Seychelles' Defence, Security & Intelligence Committee; LLM in International Maritime Law.
- **Cpt. Ladi Olubowale (Speaker)** – CEO, Seamate Maritime Integrated Services; President, ASA Nigeria; maritime strategist advancing Africa's strategic fleet and green shipping capacity.
- **Ms. Elizabeth Nwarueze (Speaker)** – PATNA member; researcher in international maritime law (Oxford); focuses on legal frameworks for decarbonisation.

Session 2 – Gender-Responsive Ocean-Energy Transition

- **Dr. Dola Oluteye (Co-Lead)** – PATNA & UCL; see bio above.
- **Ms. Liz Mubari (Co-Lead/Moderator)** – Electrical engineer; Kenyan Chapter Lead for Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE); specialises in solar, wind, and battery storage; advocate for gender inclusivity.

- **Ms. Elizabeth Nwarueze (Co-Lead/Moderator)** – PATNA & Oxford; doctoral researcher in international law; expert on maritime security and global treaty negotiations.
- **Amb. Nancy Karigithu (Speaker)** – Kenya Presidency; see bio above.
- **Numbu Sumabe (Speaker)** – See above.
- **Ms. Nikol Hearn (Speaker)** – PATNA + Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme; expert in green hydrogen and financing models for renewable energy.
- **Prof. Wisdom Akpalu (Speaker)** – See above.
- **Hon. Clifford Andre (Speaker)** – See above.
- **Dr. Helvi Petrus (Speaker)** – Transport Economist & Senior Lecturer, Namibia University of Science & Technology (NUST); focuses on financing transport infrastructure for sustainable development.
- **Mdm. Funmi Folorunsho (Speaker)** – See above.

Annex 2: Session Run of Show

Session 1 – Decarbonising Africa's Blue Economy

- **0–7 mins:** Opening Remarks & Presentation 1 – Dr. Dola Oluteye (PATNA + UCL).
- **7–45 mins:** Panel 1 – Moderated by Dr. Oluteye; speakers: Mdm. Funmi Folorunsho, Amb. Nancy Karigithu, Dr. Euan Low, Mr. Numbu Sumabe
- **45–52 mins:** Presentation 2 – Fitzroy Meyer-Petgrave (PATNA).
- **52–75 mins:** Panel 2 – Moderated by Meyer-Petgrave; speakers: Prof. Wisdom Akpalu, Hon. Clifford Andre, Cpt. Ladi Olubowale, Ms. Elizabeth Nwarueze.
- **75–80 mins:** Closing Remarks – Summary of outcomes.

Session 2 – Gender-Responsive Strategies

- **0–10 mins:** Opening Remarks & Presentation 1 – Dr. Dola Oluteye & Ms. Liz Mubari.
- **10–40 mins:** Panel 1 – Moderated by Mubari; speakers: Amb. Nancy Karigithu, Dr. Paul Adalikwu, Numbu Sumabe, Ms. Nikol Hearn.
- **40–45 mins:** Background Input – Elizabeth Nwarueze.
- **45–70 mins:** Panel 2 – Moderated by Nwarueze; speakers: Prof. Wisdom Akpalu, Hon. Clifford Andre, Dr. Helvi Petrus, Mdm. Funmi Folorunsho.
- **70–80 mins:** Call to Action & Closing Remarks – Joint statement by co-leads.

Annex 3: References

International Frameworks & Conventions

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982).
- Paris Agreement (2015).
- IMO MARPOL Convention (1973, Annex VI, revisions 1997–2023).
- IMO Net Zero Framework (2025, adoption expected 2027).

Continental & Regional Instruments

- African Union Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want* (2015).
- 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2012).
- African Maritime Transport Charter (2010, revised 2016).
- African Union Green Hydrogen Strategy & Action Plan (2024).

Evidence & Reports

- PATNA – African Ports Readiness for Ship Decarbonisation (LEAP) A Literature Review (2025).
- UNCTAD, *Maritime Transport Review* (2023, 2024).
- World Bank, *Africa Development Indicators* (2023).

Session Materials

- ACS2 Session Concept Notes (PATNA, 2025).
- Presentation 1: *Decarbonising Africa's Blue Economy – Ports, Shipping and Energy for a Just Transition* (PATNA, 2025).
- Presentation 2: *Gender-Responsive Strategies for a Just and Inclusive Ocean-Energy Transition in Africa* (PATNA; WiRE Africa, 2025).