THE PATNA REPORT

# JUST AND EQUITABLE TRANSITION IN MARITIME DECARBONISATION

A survey of key representatives of 25 African IMO member states, including regional and national organisations, at the Decarbonisation Workshop held in Dakar, Senegal, on the 5th of August 2025.

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# Introduction

This report is proudly presented as part of **The LEAP Project Series: Leading Effective Afrocentric Participation** in the IMO (www.thepatna.org, contact@thepatna.org). The LEAP Project Series is dedicated to empowering African nations with rigorous, research-based strategies and fostering unified continental positions to effectively advocate for equitable maritime policies within the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

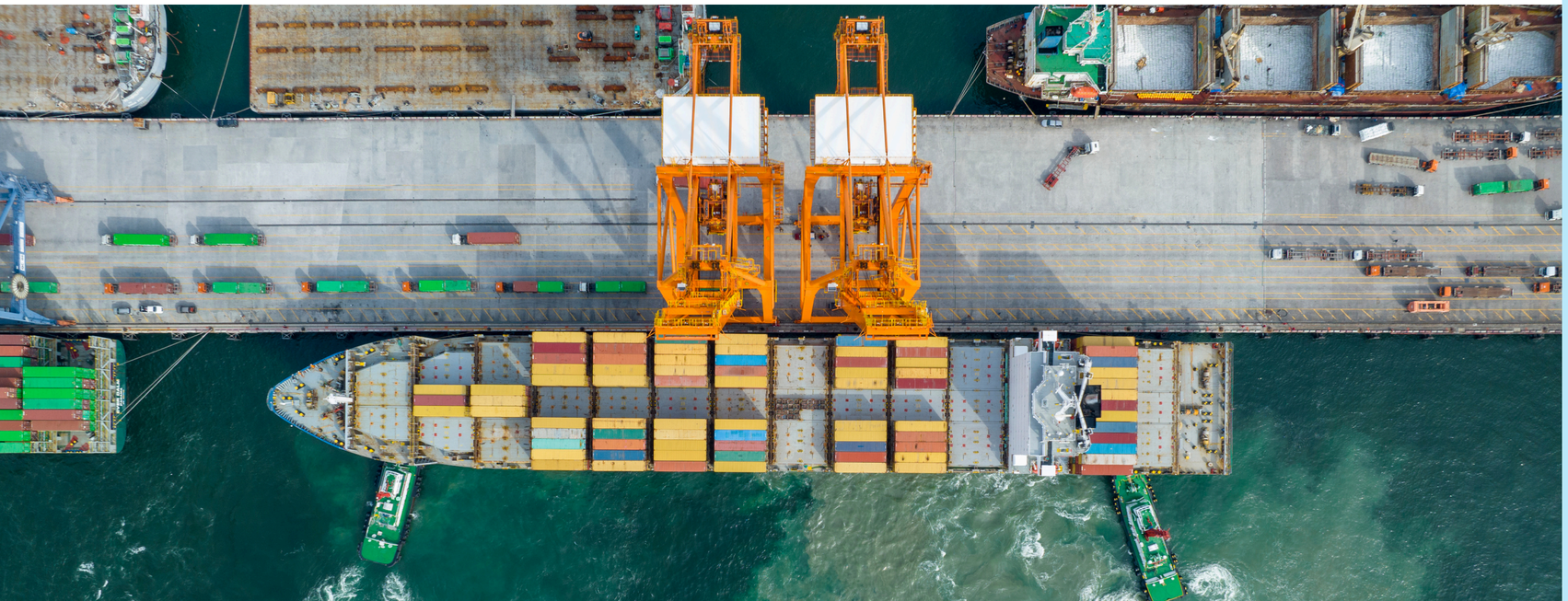
This report provides a comprehensive analysis of survey data and key insights derived from a Mentimeter poll conducted during the Decarbonisation Workshop held in **Dakar, Senegal, on August 5, 2025**. The poll gathered critical perspectives from key representatives across 25 African IMO member states, including participants from regional and national organisations, offering a unique snapshot of the continent's priorities and concerns regarding the **IMO's Net-Zero Framework**.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# A Survey of Just and Equitable Transition for Africa (Dakar Workshop, 2025)

This survey analysis captures African stakeholders' perspectives on achieving a just and equitable maritime transition. It was conducted during the Dakar Workshop in Senegal on August 5, 2025, with representatives from 25 countries spanning MOWCA (Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa), MOESNA (Maritime Organisation of Eastern and Southern Africa), and landlocked and land-linked nations. African stakeholders demonstrate strategic clarity, prioritising regional coordination, fair revenue distribution, and green infrastructure investment as pathways to equitable participation in global maritime decarbonisation.



**Key Findings:**

- The African definition of a just transition fundamentally emphasises inclusivity, equity, and broad participation.
- A critical lack of financial resources for green investments is overwhelmingly identified as the biggest barrier.
- A critically low confidence score (2.1/5) in fair African representation in IMO policies underscores the demand for fundamental reforms in global maritime governance.
- Capacity building emerges as the top IMO policy priority for Africa, supported by demands for equity and technology transfer.
- Strengthening regional coordination is ranked as the highest continental priority for achieving a successful and equitable transition.

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PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

# 25 African IMO Member State Participants

**Respondents** are critical maritime stakeholders from 25 participating countries, representing MOWCA (Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa), MOESNA (Maritime Organisation of Eastern and Southern Africa), land-linked nations, and islands.

**The participating countries** were Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Chad, Congo, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, and Togo.

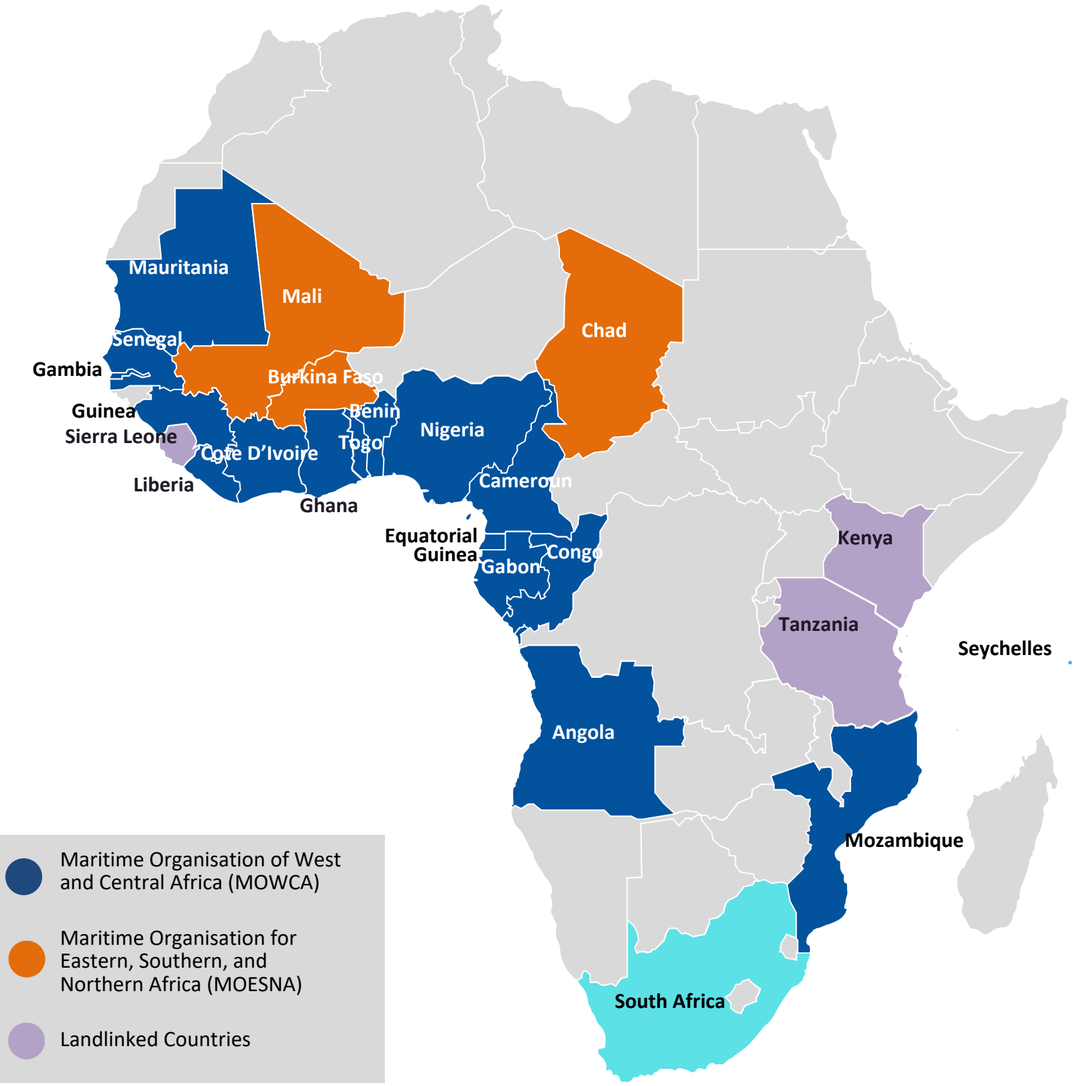



Figure 1: African Member State Stakeholder Survey Participants

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DEFINING AFRICA'S JUST AND EQUITABLE TRANSITION

# Fairness and Inclusivity Define Africa's Transition Vision

The interactive word cloud, generated from participant responses, reveals that African maritime stakeholders overwhelmingly prioritise "fairness", "inclusivity", and "justice" as the foundational principles for maritime decarbonization.

Supporting concepts like "equity", "development", "engagement", and "sharing" appear prominently, indicating a holistic view that encompasses social, economic, and developmental considerations alongside environmental goals.

This highlights that for Africa, a "just and equitable transition" is more than a technical shift; it's a call for procedural justice and shared benefits.




Figure 2: Key Concepts for Africa's Just and Equitable Maritime Transition (Dakar Workshop, 2025)

PRIMARY BARRIERS TO AFRICA'S MARITIME DECARBONIZATION

# Financial Resource Gaps Dominate Africa's Transition Barriers.

The survey clearly identifies "lack of financial resources for green investments" as the overwhelming challenge to a just and equitable shipping transition, receiving 11 responses.

This vastly overshadows other barriers, such as "high cost of compliance with IMO regulations" (3 responses) and "limited access to zero-carbon shipping technologies" (3 responses). "Policy misalignment and weak regional coordination" also stand out as significant challenges, with 8 responses.

Other concerns include potential unfair revenue allocation/distribution and a low percentage of ship ownership in the global fleet. These findings underscore the urgent need for substantial, accessible, and appropriately priced climate finance mechanisms tailored to African needs.

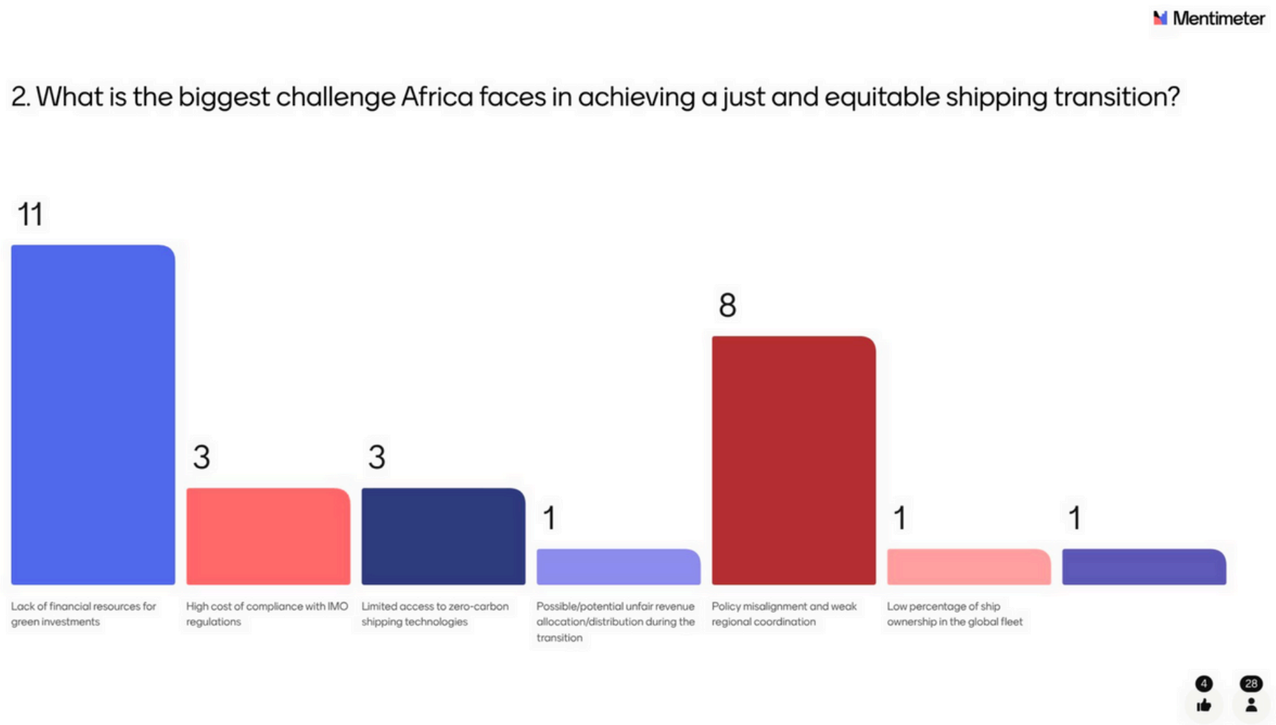



Figure 3: Primary Barriers to Africa's Maritime Decarbonization (Dakar Workshop, 2025)

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AFRICA’S CONFIDENCE IN IMO'S GHG STRATEGY REPRESENTATION

# Limited Confidence in Current IMO Representation.

The confidence slider results show an average rating of 2.1 on a 5-point scale, indicating critically low confidence levels among African maritime stakeholders.

This suggests a widespread perception that African interests are inadequately and unfairly represented in the development and design of the IMO's GHG Emissions Reduction Strategy and Net Zero policy.

This lack of confidence calls for fundamental reforms in global maritime governance to ensure meaningful inclusion of African perspectives.

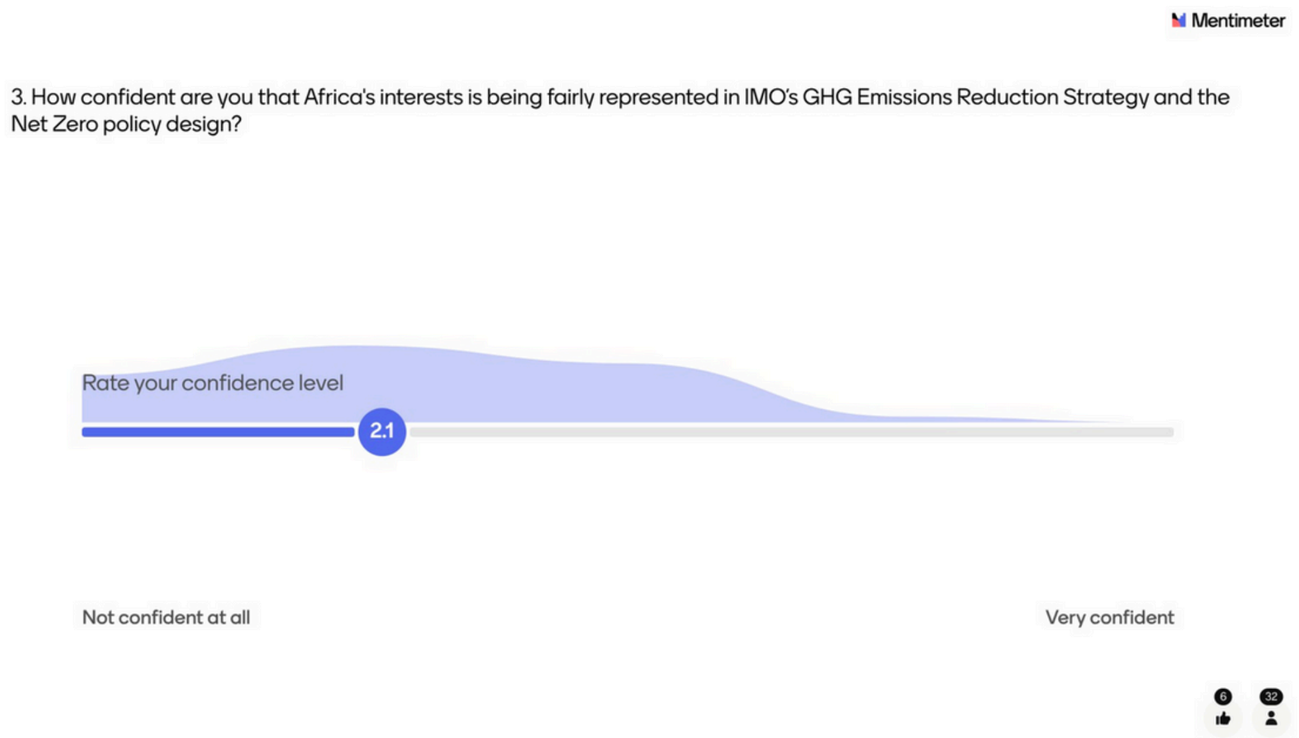



Figure 4: African Confidence in IMO's GHG Strategy Representation (Dakar Workshop, 2025)

KEY POLICY OR ACTION FOR THE IMO

# Capacity Building, Equity, and Technology Transfer top Africa’s Agenda.

When participants were asked to name one key policy or action Africa should push for at the IMO to ensure a just and equitable transition, their responses formed a word cloud heavily dominated by terms such as "capacity building", "equity", and "technology transfer".

Other significant themes included "cooperation", "awareness", "fair distribution of revenues", and "access to climate funds" (e.g., "access to green funding").

The diversity and interconnectedness of these terms suggest that African stakeholders have developed a sophisticated, multi-dimensional agenda for engagement with the IMO, prioritising foundational elements for a sustainable transition.

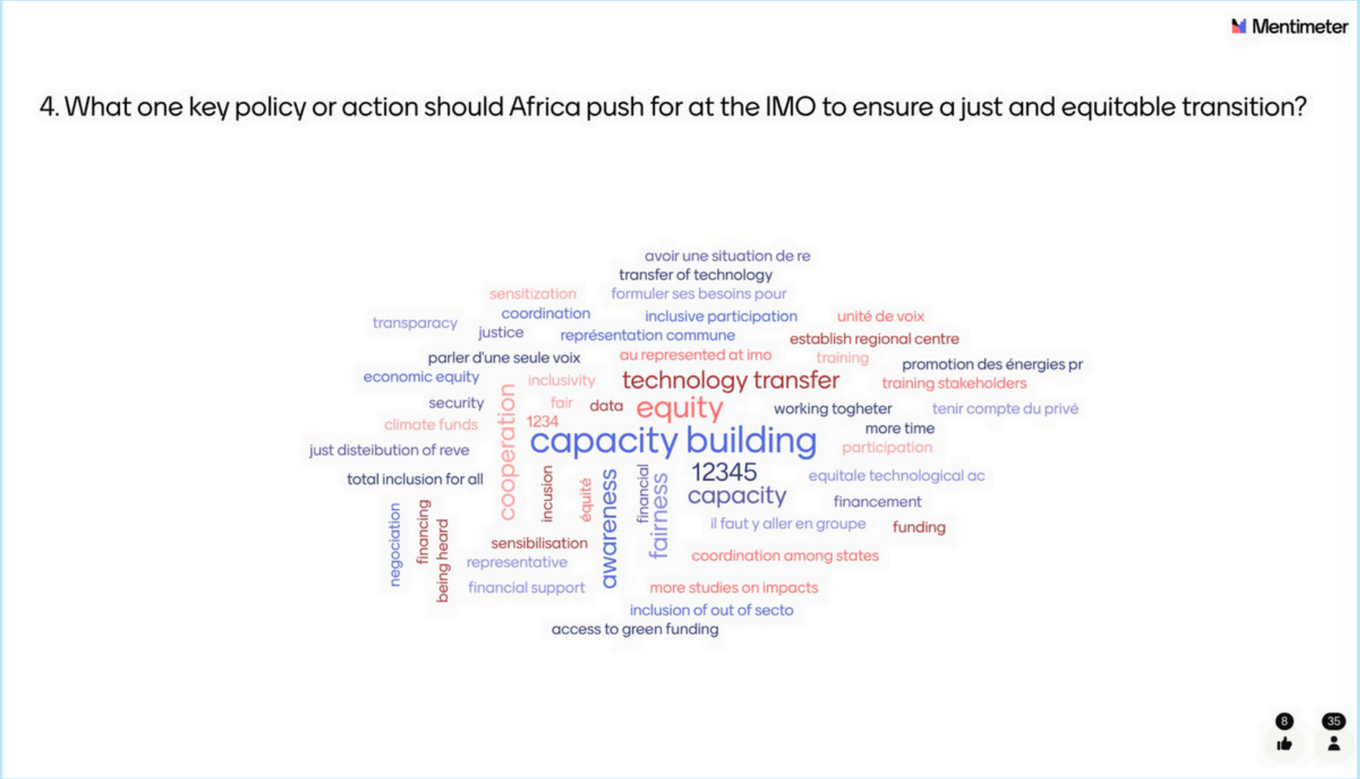



Figure 5: Key Policy or Action for the IMO (Dakar Workshop, 2025)

AFRICA'S RANKED PRIORITIES FOR MARITIME DECARBONIZATION

# Regional Coordination Tops Africa's Strategic Transition Agenda.

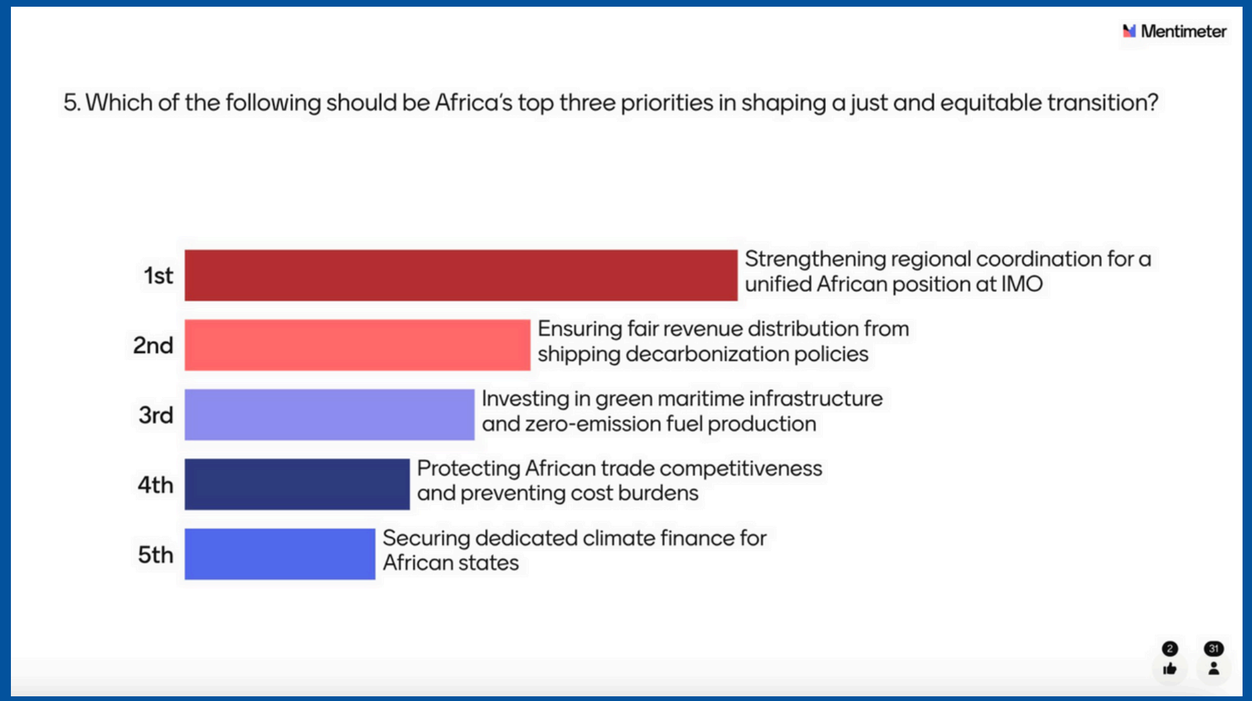



Figure 6: Africa's Ranked Priorities for Maritime Decarbonization (Dakar Workshop, 2025)

Participants were asked to rank their top three priorities for shaping a just and equitable transition. The results clearly indicate a strategic focus on collective action and equitable resource distribution.

**1st Priority:** Strengthening regional coordination for a unified African position at IMO. This was the highest-ranked priority, underscoring the continent's recognition of the power of a consolidated voice in international negotiations.

**2nd Priority:** Ensuring fair revenue distribution from shipping decarbonisation policies. This highlights the critical importance of economic equity and ensuring that financial benefits derived from global decarbonisation mechanisms are equitably shared with African states.

**3rd Priority:** Investing in green maritime infrastructure and zero-emission fuel production. This points to a practical, long-term vision for developing the necessary physical and industrial capacities for a sustainable maritime sector.

**The ranking also shows** "Protecting African trade competitiveness and preventing cost burdens" (4th) and "Securing dedicated climate finance for African states" (5th), reinforcing the economic and financial considerations at play.

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SUMMARY OF KEY INSIGHTS

# Key Insights from the Analysis of Maritime Stakeholder Survey.

## 1. Defining JET

African stakeholders prioritise procedural justice over technical solutions, establishing fairness and inclusivity as non-negotiable principles for maritime transition participation

## 2. Challenges

Financial constraints vastly overshadow other barriers, while coordination challenges rank second, indicating the need for both international financing mechanisms and continental unity.

## 3. Confidence

Critically low confidence in IMO representation demands fundamental reforms in global maritime governance to include African perspectives in policy design processes.

## 4. Strategic Priorities

Capacity building leads African IMO priorities, supported by equity and technology transfer demands, indicating a comprehensive approach to transition enablement.

## 5. Priority Ranking

Regional coordination leads strategic priorities, followed by revenue equity and infrastructure investment, showing a sophisticated approach to leveraging collective power for development.

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# Thank You.

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