



Att.: Africa-Europe Foundation
Mr. Paul Walton
Executive Director

Ref: R-13-22/ExCom

Madrid, 7th of December 2022

Subject: Consultation of the LDAC for the Blue EU-Africa Task Force

Dear Mr. Walton,

First of all, I would like to introduce the organisation I represent. The Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) is an European fisheries stakeholder-led body made up of more than 50 member organisations representing the European fish catching, processing and marketing sector, workers representatives (trade unions), environmental NGOs and other interest groups. Our main goal is to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of fishing resources beyond EU waters, and an effective implementation of the international dimension of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. This includes amongst other areas the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and the promotion of transparency and good governance in decision making processes in fisheries management in international waters and the high seas.

We have been recently informed that an EU-Africa Strategic Group on Ocean Governance is being set up, whose aim is to promote closer cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean-related matters, building on and complementing on-going initiatives and projects.



We have also been informed that its mandate will be two-fold: 1. to agree on common priorities and objectives as well as specific thematic work-streams; and 2. to define a plan of action so that the priorities and objectives are translated into concrete proposals and initiatives.

Considering that the Africa-Europe Foundation has been tasked to help the setting up of this strategic group, identifying potential members of the group as a first step, we would like to express our interest and availability to be part of this group. The LDAC has been working in the course of the last 15 years consistently to provide evidence-based advice to the European Commission and EU Member States on issues of ocean governance. It has also voiced the importance of fisheries in the context of the EU strategy on blue economy and the FAO strategy on blue transformation.

The LDAC is a strategic partner of African-based subregional organisations. Since 2013, we have had an active partnership with the Ministerial Conference of African Coastal States in the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT) to enhance capacity building in West Africa, fostering good practices at a regional level. We are also in the process of establishing a structured dialogue with the Pan African Platform of Fisheries Non state actors (AFRIFISH-NET), an organisation which is within the framework of African Union.

We remain at your disposal for any queries you may have and look forward to hearing from you regarding our proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Iván López van der Veen
Chair of the EU Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council