



Union for the Mediterranean
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20th UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy
Brussels, 14 -15 October 2026

***Annual reporting by Ministerial priority:
Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial
Declaration on SBE – Morocco***

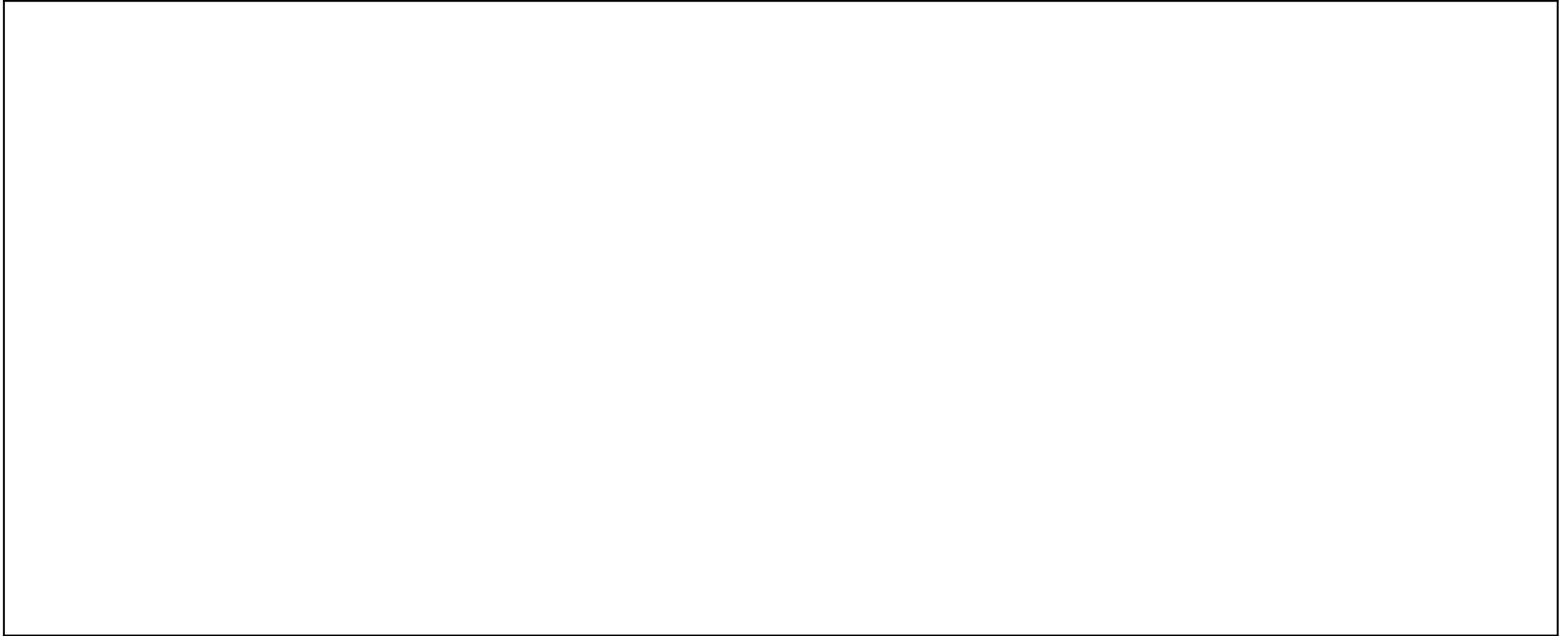
Country reporting template: aim and objectives

- This “country reporting template” has been created with the aim to gather data and information at national level to feed the **2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE Roadmap’s Monitoring, reporting and evaluation system**.
- As reflected in the “[Stand-alone document on the Monitoring system of the Roadmap / 2021 UfM Ministerial on SBE](#)” and its related Annex on “[Sector-specific indicators](#)”, the process kick-starts every year with the **delivery of presentations by the countries** (UfM Focal Points on Blue Economy) in the context of the **Regional Platform on SBE meetings**.
- By filling in this template, countries’ crucial inputs will feed current and future updates of the Roadmap and contribute to analyse progress over time in the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration.
- Instructions to fill in this template are provided in the next slide.

How to fill in this template

- This template contains **one slide for projects and one for initiatives, including different sections for each of the SBE Ministerial Declaration Priorities** and related progress. Three open questions have also been included at the end of the document.
- For each of the sections, a simple **table** should be completed by the countries.
- Please fill in these tables to the best of your knowledge and feel free to enrich with **hyper-links** to key documents, publications, videos, etc. as needed.
- In case of questions, please don't hesitate to send an email to: alessandra.sensi@ufmsecretariat.org and adriana.salazar@ufmsecretariat.org
- These presentations will be delivered orally by each Focal Point on the UfM Regional Platform Meeting, and should be submitted to the UfM Secretariat team **no later than October 07, end of day.**

Major updates on progress at national level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration



Initiatives at national (and sub-national) level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Initiatives at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	- The Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Roadmap (2025–2027), aligned with the Halieutis Strategy (2010–2020). - Morocco enforces annual biological rest periods (fishing moratoriums), particularly on its southern coasts (Agadir to Cap Blanc), to protect fish stocks, most notably sardines, during their spawning season. - The Aquaculture Development Roadmap 2025–2027 acts as a strategic blueprint to modernize Morocco's marine economy by empowering sector stakeholders, enhancing industrial competitiveness, and sustainable resource management. - Law No. 84-21 modernizes Morocco's marine aquaculture sector by establishing Aquaculture Spatial Plans (ASPs), creating the National Marine Aquaculture Council (CNAM), and securing long-term investments through competitive calls for expressions of interest.
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	- An updated strategy framework has been launched in June 2025, extending objectives toward 2035 to advance inclusive sustainable development. - The National Port Agency (ANP) has developed the 2035 Port Strategy to modernize Morocco's port infrastructure and reinforce national logistical sovereignty. - The ANP's Triennial Investment Program (2026–2028) is a 3.8 billion MAD strategic financial plan designed to modernize Morocco's port infrastructure, enhance operational performance, and reinforce the country's position as a key hub for international trade. - Engagement of Morocco in the Blue Ports initiative monitored by FAO. - Morocco has not yet officially ratified Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention but the country is actively engaged in implementation activities, such as working toward compliance with the Mediterranean Sulphur Oxide Emission Control Area (SECA) standards - Draft Law No. 62.25 on climate change and the organization of the carbon market complements the legal framework for climate action in Morocco
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	- Morocco's 2026-2030 Tourism Roadmap aims to expand visitor capacity through infrastructure modernization, upgrading transport corridors and regional airports near coastal hubs, while enhancing coastal promenades, marinas, and nautical sports facilities. - The National Ports Agency (ANP) has launched studies to evaluate and improve services in high-potential segments, including pleasure boating. The objective is to optimize the quality of port services and strengthen competitiveness.
Marine Renewable Energies	Morocco has submitted its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which sets out a path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 53% by 2035 and commits the country to carbon neutrality by 2050.
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	- The "Zero Mika" Law (Law No. 77-15) enacted in 2016 was a pioneering regional move to ban the production, importation, export, marketing, and use of plastic bags. - National Strategy for Waste Reduction and Recovery established in 2019 targets a 70% plastic recycling rate by 2030.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	- Morocco holds a seat on the executive council, having been re-elected for the 2026–2027 term. This membership places Morocco among the 40 member states tasked with supervising the organization's work, guiding its strategies, and shaping global maritime policies. - The Royal Navy continues to regularly host naval and bilateral exercises such as "FRONTIÈRE MER" as part of the 5+5 Defense Initiative or exercises with the US Navy and other partners aimed at improving interoperability and port security. - Morocco cooperates regularly with organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as part of the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), to strengthen maritime law enforcement (MLE) capabilities on the subject.
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	- Instigated by UNOC-3, the third edition of the African Blue Summit took place in Tangier from 9 to 10 October 2025.
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Anchored by the 2015 Coastline Law (No. 81-12), Morocco's ICZM initiatives combine a National Coastal Plan with multi-sectoral governance to balance sustainable coastal development and marine preservation.

Projects at national (and sub-national) level in the implementation of the UfM SBE Ministerial Declaration

Ministerial Declaration Priorities	Projects at national/sub-national level
Food from sea: fisheries and aquaculture	- The generalization of social security coverage, healthcare, and workers' compensation to artisanal fishing professionals. - The digitalization of first-sale fisheries auctions has been successfully rolled out nationwide. Initiated as a pilot project in Agadir in 2022, the system was expanded to a total of 76 sites including 22 fishing ports (PDA/VDP). - Finalization of the project titled "Support for the Development of Aquaculture Professions in Morocco," which was funded by Norway and the Netherlands and executed by FAO in coordination with the Secretariat of State for Maritime Fisheries and the National Agency for the Development of Aquaculture. The main goal of the project was to develop a skilled workforce and provide technical assistance to aquaculture. - A 2024–2027 Morocco-Japan partnership was established for small-scale shellfish and seaweed farming in Ras El Ma, Kaa Srass, and Sidi Ifni using the hands-on <i>Gemba</i> philosophy. - Inauguration of a new fishing port in Casablanca at a cost of 1.2 billion MAD (120 million USD), designed to improve safety, working conditions, and the marketing of seafood products. - Active participation in the Regional Copernicus Project related to Natural Capital Ecosystem Accounting.
Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution transport and ports	PortNet is Morocco's National Single Window digital platform that streamlines and accelerates commercial maritime operations. - Inauguration of a ship repair yard in Casablanca for an approximate investment of 2.5 billion MAD (250 million USD) to revitalize the shipbuilding and repair industry, featuring a 240-meter dry dock and a lifting platform. - Inauguration of a new cruise terminal in Casablanca with an annual capacity of 450,000 passengers, capable of accommodating cruise ships up to 350 meters long. Cost: 720 million MAD (72 million USD). - Integrating renewable energy and digital smart grids across 9 initial ports, alongside ongoing phase implementations through 2028. - Deploying sustainable clean transport solutions within port zones, alongside cold ironing (shore power electrification for docked ships). - Supporting energy efficiency certifications (ISO 50001) through targeted training programs and progressive studies.
Coastal and Maritime Tourism	Blue Tourism Initiative: Officially launched in September 2025 through the Izuran Odyssey project in the Al Hoceima National Park) to promote coastal ecotourism and structure sustainable nautical activities.
Marine Renewable Energies	- Morocco's National Low Carbon Strategy 2050 (SNBC 2050) - The Moroccan government preselected five investor consortia to develop six large-scale green hydrogen and derivative projects. Expected total investment: approximately MAD 319 billion (around \$32.8 billion). Scope of the projects: production of derivatives such as green ammonia, e-fuels, and green steel. Origin of investors: national and international companies from the US, Spain, Germany, UAE, China, and Saudi Arabia
Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy	- The primary anti-plastic initiative led by the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection (Plastic-Free Sea) campaign was officially launched in 2019 - The REMEDIES Project Anti-Litter Campaign: This campaign took place from May to August 2025 at the Saidia Demo Site.
Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities	Tanger Med deployed next-generation port management systems and traffic optimization tools to streamline calls and reduce emissions, with key phases concluding between 2025 and early 2026.
Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment	Joint oceanographic and pelagic recruitment surveys conducted by national research bodies, such as the National Institute for Fishery Research (INRH), in partnership with international research programs to continuously monitor and assess fish stocks
Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	- Under the World Bank's Blue Economy Program, a key pillar focuses on the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) utilizing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) methodology. - Morocco has hosted a number of events in the context of the MSPglobal and MSPMED programmes.

Open questions

1 – Related to the priority on Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region:
Is there any overarching blue economy strategy in your country? Or any process initiated leading to the elaboration of such a strategy?

Morocco's maritime and coastal activities rely heavily on individual sectoral strategies, such as separate, fragmented roadmaps for ports, fisheries, tourism, and energy, rather than a single, unified national framework.

The strategic framework for developing a blue economy strategy is supported by the World Bank through the "Morocco Blue Economy Program-for-Results" project, backed by a \$350 million loan, and this specific program is scheduled to officially end on July 31, 2027.

The National Blue Economy Strategy (SNEB) in Morocco is not yet fully finalized. However, it is currently in its final preparation phase. The latest key milestone occurred on July 22, 2026, when a consultation workshop, outlined in Rabat the consolidated draft of the strategy.

The feedback and recommendations gathered must first be fully integrated into the text. Once the document is fully updated, this final version will be submitted for formal review and approval to the Interministerial Commission for the Development of the Blue Economy (CIDEB).



Open questions

2 – Related to the priority on Sustainable investments in the blue economy: **is there any national funding/financing scheme related to the blue economy (or any of its sectors) promoted by your country? If yes, please specify.**

There is currently no single, unified national "Blue Fund" or dedicated blue financing scheme promoted by Morocco. Sustainable investments in the blue economy remain decentralized and heavily dependent on fragmented sectoral budgets, though there is a recent trend toward public-private partnerships.

It is recommended to prioritize the establishment of a "Blue Finance" mechanism aimed at developing innovative financing tools, such as blue bonds and blended finance prototypes.



Open questions

3 - What are the main challenges, issues or bottlenecks for the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration in your country?

- **Sectoral silos:** Maritime and coastal activities depend on fragmented, individual roadmaps.
- **Interagency coordination:** Operational alignment across various government entities needs a considerable endeavor.
- **Centralized funding:** The lack of a unified national "Blue Fund"
- **Early-stage MSP:** Developing ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning at national and regional levels is still ongoing

