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UN Global Compact Network Ghana Hosts International Ocean Centres Initiative for Safer and More Sustainable Ocean Economies across the Global South.

UN Global Compact Network Ghana, Accra, 5 June 2025 – Ghana is among seven emerging ocean economies chosen to pioneer the implementation of the Ocean Centres initiative. The selection followed a comprehensive scoping phase conducted in 2023, which included analysis of UN Global Compact Ocean Stewardship Coalition strategy documents, academic research, benchmarking, and expert interviews across diverse national contexts.

Ghana faces relevant challenges in maritime safety, governance, and infrastructure – such as Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing, fragmented regulation, and limited investment. The government is beginning to allocate more resources to the blue economy, showing commitment to long-term development. Opportunities include improving safety in the trawler industry, raising ESG awareness, and embedding international standards. Despite constraints like limited environmental planning and a small maritime sector, strong climate awareness and public-private collaboration offer momentum.

The priorities of Ghana’s Ocean Centres across the four Action Areas are ranked as follows:

1. Shipping & Ports
2. Fishing & Aquaculture
3. Finance & Investment
4. Offshore Renewables

At the national level, the initiative aims to strengthen maritime safety, reduce accidents, and foster a culture of prevention. These improvements will enhance operational efficiency, sustainability, and regulatory compliance—supporting Ghana’s broader blue economy agenda.

Next Steps

The Ocean Centres will be officially launched at a high-level side event of the United Nations Ocean Conference on June 10 at Nice, France titled “*United by Ocean Centres – Global and Local Ocean Collaboration in Practice*”. This event will bring together international experts,

government leaders, and the Country Leads from each Ocean Centre to explore how local action can inform global progress.

Dr. Emmanuel Kofi, the Country Lead for the Ocean Centres in Ghana will participate in the United Nations Ocean Conference, attending various events, taking part in a workshop, and speaking at the official launch.

We believe that, at a global level, the Ocean Centres initiative will strengthen food security, port efficiency, clean energy development, and biodiversity protection. As hubs for sustainable ocean stewardship, they will drive long-term economic and environmental benefits through collaboration, innovation, and investment.

How to Get Involved

Stakeholders—across business, government, academia, and civil society—are invited to contribute to this unique initiative. Opportunities exist for partnership, technical collaboration, and participation in country-level working groups. More information can be found at: www.oceancentres.com

Notes to Editors

About the UN Global Compact

The ambition of the UN Global Compact is to accelerate and scale the global collective impact of business by upholding the Ten Principles and delivering the SDGs through accountable companies and ecosystems that enable change. With more than 20,000 participating companies, 5 Regional Hubs, 63 Country Networks covering 80 countries and 13 Country Managers establishing Networks in 18 other countries, the UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative—one Global Compact uniting business for a better world.

For more information, follow @globalcompact on social media and visit our website at www.unglobalcompact.org