

IMLI ALERT

15/2025-2026

IMLI WORKSHOP: “THE BLUE ECONOMY AND THE LEGAL ARCHITECTURE OF OCEAN GOVERNANCE”

The Institute is pleased to announce its upcoming Workshop entitled “*The Blue Economy and the Legal Architecture of Ocean Governance*” which will take place on 13 March 2026.

Bringing together diplomats, academics, policymakers, and representatives from international and regional organisations, the event will examine how legal frameworks can better support sustainable and equitable use of the oceans. As the Blue Economy becomes an increasingly important model for ocean-based development, the workshop provides a forum to explore how governance structures and legal systems can evolve to address emerging environmental, economic, and regulatory challenges.

The Workshop will explore the legal foundations of the Blue Economy within the law of the sea framework while examining regional implementation models and governance challenges faced by developing States. By fostering dialogue among different stakeholders, the event aims to identify pathways toward greater institutional coherence and more effective implementation of Blue Economy policies.



Workshop Programme

09.00 - Opening Remarks

Inaugural Address and Welcoming Remarks
Professor Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez, IMLI Director
*Constructing the Legal Architecture of the Blue Economy and
the Transformation of Ocean Governance*

09:15 – 10:00

Session I - *The Legal Foundations and Framework of the Blue Economy*

Key Themes:

- UNCLOS as a constitutional framework
- Sovereign rights and sustainable use
- Precaution, ecosystem-based management, and emerging principles
- From political concept to normative structure

Speakers:

Dr. Kofi Mbiah, Maritime Law Consultant,
Member of the IMLI Academic Committee

Ms. Alessandra Sensi, Head of Sector, Environment & Blue Economy,
Union for the Mediterranean

10:00 – 10:45

Session II – *Regional Blue Economy Implementation*

Key Themes:

- Regional maritime governance strategies and institutional reform
- Capacity-building for effective ocean governance
- Alignment of national Blue Economy frameworks with international law
- The diplomatic dimension of advancing sustainable ocean development

Speakers:

H.E. Ambassador Nancy Karigithu,
Kenya's Special Envoy and Advisor on Maritime and Blue Economy Affairs,
Member of the IMLI Governing Board

Dr. Marcin Kalinowski,
Gdynia Maritime University, Poland

10:45 – 11:00
Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00

High-Level Roundtable – *Toward a Coherent Legal Architecture for a Sustainable Blue Economy*

Moderator:

Dr. Rafael Prado,
The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMLI

Moderated exchange among all speakers, addressing, with audience participation:

- Normative fragmentation
- Regional vs global governance
- Corporate accountability
- Capacity asymmetries
- The future evolution of ocean governance

12:00 – 12:30 - *Concluding Remarks*

Speaker:

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja,
IMLI Chief of Administration

Please register here.



