

**Address By**  
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**On**

**The 2020 “Role of Women in Decarbonization in the Shipping and Maritime Industry”,**

**Organized by**

**The Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre for Africa (MTCC Africa)**

**Thursday October 29, 2020**

Dear participants,  
Organizers,  
Invited guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be part of this important gathering to give my address on a crucial topic – the 2020 “Role of Women in Decarbonization” webinar, organized by the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre for Africa (MTCC Africa).

I note with appreciation that this is an inaugural virtual webinar organized by the MTCC Africa dedicated to women. I would, in this regard, like to appreciate MTCC Africa for organizing this webinar and for a sustained effort and persistence in organizing milestone virtual events during the new normal resulting from COVID - 19 pandemic.

May I at this juncture take this earliest opportunity to thank the funding agencies behind the sponsorship of this event alongside MTCC Africa, namely; the European Union, the Implementation Agency, International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as Global MTCC Network (GMN).

For those who may not be in the picture, MTCC Africa is a regional centre that is in partnership with JKUAT, Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) and Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) on behalf of the African continent. Besides this partnership, there also exists five notable regional MTCCs in the world, forming one global network called Global MTCC Network (GMN). The five regions are Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific which were selected to represent developing countries, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States located therein.

With that clarity, Ladies and gentlemen, I am further happy to note that The Role of Women in Decarbonisation webinar is strongly aligned to the mandate of MTCC Africa centre that is, “*capacity building for climate change mitigation in the maritime shipping industry*”. Indeed, this is in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and is particularly captured in the 5<sup>th</sup> Goal, namely; “Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.”

I am equally delighted to realize that this forum focuses on five themes, namely; legal, technical/engineering, environmental, the blue economy as well as innovation and technology that women are involved in in the industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, Greenhouse Gas emissions from the Maritime Shipping Industry are expected to increase globally. For this reason, developing countries, which play a significant role in international shipping, can improve Energy Efficiency in their shipping sectors for sustainable development. In 2013, for instance, IMO adopted a Resolution on the Promotion of Technical Co-operation and Transfer of Technology relating to the Improvement of Energy Efficiency of Ships. This resolution enabled provision of technical assistance to developing countries in areas of capacity building and demonstrable pilot projects towards improving energy efficiency in the maritime sector. An additional co-benefit derived from this is a low-carbon future. It was thus deemed imperative to ensure that there are sufficient capacity building initiatives in Africa for climate mitigation in the maritime and shipping industry.

You will further be interested to know that MTCC-Africa is focused on the involvement of women in maritime in the following priority areas:-

- Encourage involvement of women in facilitating compliance with The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI).
- Inclusion of women in raising awareness about policies, strategies and measures for the reduction of GHG and other emissions from the maritime transport sector in the region, and
- Inclusion of women in developing and implementing strategies to sustain and impact the Blue Economy in Africa in relation to mitigation of climate change activities.

However, there are other two expected outcomes of this webinar that I would wish to highlight. We should;

- Identify and categorize opportunities for more women involvement in the African maritime industry in climate change mitigation.
- Build relevant capacity in the region in decarbonization efforts.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that my office recognizes efforts within the maritime sector in promoting the role of women in decarbonization. In particular, I wish to recognize the IMO Technical Cooperation Division that seeks to promote the women in maritime programme led by Mrs. Helen Buni. I also take note of the World Maritime University led by the President, Dr. (Mrs) Doumbia Henry, and the IMO-International Maritime Law Institute led by the director Prof. David Attard, two educational institutions of great repute in the global maritime space that have made

great strides in providing a platform for more women to benefit from unique maritime education and training.

Closer home, we acknowledge and appreciate the effort and support of the State Department of Maritime and Shipping Affairs led by the Principal Secretary, Dr. Nancy Karigithu, the Climate Change Directorate led by Dr. Pacifica Ogolla and the WOMESA Kenya chapter led by Ms. Fiona Mbadi. I also appreciate the wonderful support and effort of all MTCC Africa focal point partners and stakeholders.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to thank all those representatives of industry and educational institutions present here today. Your presence is a vote of your confidence in us.

With these few remarks, it is now my pleasure to officially open the virtual webinar on the Role of Women in Decarbonization.

Thank you.