

MOROCCO 2023, HOST COUNTRY

DISCOVER TANGIER

TANGER MED GROUP, 2023 HOST PARTNER

ANNUAL MEETING DAY 1

ANNUAL MEETING DAY 2

SITE TOURS

ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY LOCATION
COVID-19 AND DISEASE PREVENTION

LODGING & ACCOMMODATION

15 TRAVEL

16 VISA GUIDELINES

GENERAL & SAFETY TIPS





Morocco 2023, Host Country

Morocco, the proud host of the *African Special Economic Zones Annual Meeting 2023*, emerges as an iconic destination where historical charm blends harmoniously with contemporary dynamism. Spanning approximately **710 850** square kilometers, this North African country presents a captivating geographical diversity, ranging from the Atlantic Ocean shores to the majestic Atlas Mountains, and extending to the vast expanse of the Sahara Desert. This multi-faceted land welcomes participants into an environment where modernity coexists with age-old traditions, creating a truly distinctive experience.

With a warm and hospitable population of around **37 Million**, Morocco reflects a mosaic of cultures, languages, and customs. The country is acknowledged for its political stability, sustained by a robust constitutional monarchy. Respect for religious and cultural differences, coupled with values of coexistence and tolerance, lie at the heart of Morocco's social fabric.

Moroccan art boasts an exceptional richness, reflecting the talent and creativity of local artisans. From the refined architecture of palaces to handwoven carpets, vibrant ceramics, and intricate Jewelry, Moroccan craftsmanship testifies to an ancient and flourishing artistic tradition. As a nexus of global discourse and exchange, Morocco embodies a realm of opportunities and innovation. This edition of the *African Special Economic Zones Annual Meeting 2023* promises a journey into the heart of the continent's strengths, all while nurturing international connections and promoting collaboration between African nations, for a more resilient economy, and a better environment for Investments. Tangier, an emblematic city of Morocco and the host of the Annual Meeting, provides a captivating backdrop for this international gathering.















Discover Tangier

The *African Special Economic Zones Annual Meeting 2023* will be organized in Tangier, Morocco. Renowned for its strategic location between continents, Tangier counts as Morocco's gateway to Europe. The city stands as a bustling metropolis with a population of over **1.3 million**, making it one of the most populous cities in the country.

Within its vibrant medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site, winding alleyways lead to bustling souks, offering an array of exotic treasures. The city's picturesque coastline boasts stunning vistas of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, making it a unique and enchanting destination for any discerning traveler.

Nestled at the northern tip of Morocco, Tangier is perched on the shores of both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, offering a blend of coastal allure and urban dynamism. Situated **240 km (149 mi)** north of Casablanca, **327 km (203 mi)** northeast of Rabat, and **246 km (153 mi)** northeast of Agadir, it plays a pivotal role in the nation's geographical landscape.

Tangier Map







History

Tangier boasts a storied past, characterized by its strategic significance as a crossroads of civilizations. With origins tracing back over a millennium, Tangier was initially established in the 5th century BCE. It served as a vital Phoenician trading post before evolving into a Roman and Byzantine stronghold.

In the 8th century CE, the city was integrated into the Islamic world, witnessing the reigns of various dynasties, including the Almohads and the Marinids. This diverse historical tapestry has woven together Berber, Arab, and European influences, culminating in Tangier' distinctive cultural fabric.



Climate

Tangier enjoys a Mediterranean climate, characterized by mild wet winters and warm dry summers. In November, participants can anticipate pleasant temperatures ranging from **15°** to **25°** Celsius.

Touristic Destinations















Historical Site Visits

Delve into Tangier' history with explorations of cultural landmarks such as the Kasbah, a testament to centuries of architectural evolution, and the Grand Mosque, an emblem of Islamic heritage.



Museum Tours

Tangier's museums, including the Kasbah Museum and the American Legation Museum, open their doors to offer insights into the city's cultural wealth.



Cultural Workshops

Engage with Tangier's vibrant arts scene through interactive experiences, like pottery-making and traditional cooking classes.



Scenic Excursions

Absorb panoramic views of the city and its coastal splendor with a visit to Cap Spartel and the Caves of Hercules. A day in Asilah, a quaint coastal town, further immerses participants in the region's rich maritime history.



Beach Activities

For those seeking seaside relaxation, Tangier's pristine beaches offer a serene retreat. The surrounding coastline assures an unforgettable experience, intertwining cultural exploration, outdoor adventures, and meaningful social engagement.



Day Trips

For those with a bit more time, perhaps a couple of days to spare, there are several exciting day trips not far from Tangier. You might venture towards the Atlantic coast to explore the enchanting town of Assilah, known for its captivating art scene and pristine beaches. Alternatively, for a taste of cultural richness, journey southeast to Chefchaouen, famously known as the "Blue Pearl" of Morocco, nestled in the picturesque Rif Mountains. Another enticing option is to head towards the historical city of Tetouan, renowned for its Andalusian architecture and vibrant markets. Each of these destinations offers a unique and memorable experience, all within a comfortable day's journey.



Tangier Restaurants

Tangier boasts an array of culinary delights, catering to a diverse range of tastes and preferences. Traditional Moroccan delicacies like tagine, couscous and pastilla can be savored in establishments such as Cafe Hafa, Le Saveur du Poisson and El Morocco Club, nestled within the historic Medina. Additionally, the city's culinary landscape has expanded to include a dynamic international scene, with restaurants like O Saveur, Le Simple Club, offering delectable fusion, or Casa d'Italia, serving up authentic Italian cuisine. For those seeking a taste of France, La Table du Marché is a delightful option, while El Morocco Club provides a Spanish twist. To ensure a seamless dining experience, it is recommended to reserve in advance.



Exploring Tangier' markets is an unparalleled experience, From exquisite Moroccan crafts and textiles to contemporary fashion and luxury items, there's something to captivate every visitor. Other favored shopping districts include the Souk Grand Socco, a treasure trove of textiles, clothing, antiques and vintage discoveries, and the Ensemble Artisanal, a sanctuary for top-tier handicrafts. Bargaining is a customary practice in Tangier's markets, so visitors should be prepared to engage in friendly negotiations.





Tanger Med Group, 2023 Host Partner

Operator and developer of ports, logistics and industrial platforms.

Tanger Med Group operates and develops port, logistics and industrial platforms. It manages Tanger Med Port Complex, the leading port in the Mediterranean and Africa. Through "Marsa Maroc", it also manages 24 container and bulk terminals. The total volume handled by the Group is **146** million tons of goods and **8.5** million TEUs.

The Group is also the planner and developer of more than **2,500 hectares** of economic activity zones which host more than **1,200** companies and generate a business volume exceeding **13 billion** Dollars in the automotive, aeronautics, textile, Agribusiness and logistics sectors.



146 M (T)
OVERALL TONNAGE



8,5 MTEUTOTAL CONTAINERS



2 500 HAOF DEVELOPED ZONES



13.3 b USD
BUSINESS VOLUME
GENERATED BY THE
ACTIVITY ZONES



1200 COMPANIES



100 000 JOBS CREATED



849 M USD CONSOLIDATED TURNOVER

For more information, please check Tanger Med Group's website: https://www.tangermed.ma/en/





Annual Meeting Day 1

For the inaugural day of our event we will gather on the outskirts of the historic city of Tangier, where a cutting edge industrial platform meets the region's renowned coastline. We promise a full agenda that will tackle key concepts and prompt discussion on subjects essential for the development of African SEZs.

With in depth knowledge of the African context, AEZO compiled a list of renowned experts to tackle future-defining questions concerning industrialisation, sustainability, go to market business value propositions, and digitisation. This will be followed by dedicated technical sessions for a more immersive learning experience.



Venue: Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa

All discussions and sessions will take place amidst the luxurious backdrop of the Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa. Its sophisticated amenities and serene surroundings are designed to enhance your experience and foster meaningful interactions.

Registration and Badging

A day prior to the event and on the morning of the first day, participants staying at the Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa will be able to complete their registration at their convenience.





Opening Remarks and Panels

The day's proceedings will kick off with opening remarks, setting the stage for two engaging panel discussions. These discussions will delve into crucial topics, providing valuable insights from esteemed experts in the field concerning African special economic zones, industrialization, and logistics. It's a unique opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge and engage in stimulating conversations that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on your understanding of the African economic landscape.

Lunch Break and Coffee Sessions

Recharge and network during our carefully curated lunch break and coffee sessions. Our culinary team is dedicated to offering a diverse range of refreshments and meals, catering to a variety of tastes.

Dinner

As the day draws to a close, participants will return to the Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa, where a delectable dinner awaits, providing the perfect opportunity to unwind and reflect on the day's enriching experiences.





Annual Meeting Day 2

The morning of the second day of the annual meeting will center on a series of dedicated consultation sessions led by key policy makers from across Africa. These sessions are a defining stepping stone in ensuring the development of African SEZs, especially within the AfCETA.

Following the AEZO general assembly, the afternoon is reserved for an exclusive tour of the Tanger Med Port and Industrial Complex.

To conclude this year's edition, AEZO will offer our participants the opportunity to unwind, reflect on meeting proceedings, and celebrate the achievements of African SEZs with a Gala dinner and AEZO awards ceremony.



General Assembly

We will hold the General Assembly, a pivotal gathering where collective wisdom will draw the path forward. This assembly marks a moment of significant collaboration, where decisions of consequence will be reached, and our shared vision for African economic progress will take its next steps.

Networking and Site Tours

Throughout the day, attendees will have the chance to connect and collaborate during coffee and lunch breaks, fostering meaningful exchanges and building valuable relationships.

A highlight of the day will be the comprehensive tour of the port, offering an in-depth presentation on Tanger Med's operations, a memorable group picture to commemorate the event, and an informative site tour of Tanger Med Port Complex.

Lunch Break and Coffee Sessions

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Exploring Tanger Med's Industrial Platform

Following the port tour, participants will divide into three groups, each embarking on an enlightening journey to Tangier Automotive City. Each group will have the privilege of visiting esteemed companies, including Valeo, TE Connectivity, and HANDS, gaining invaluable insights into their cutting-edge contributions to the industry.

Evening Gala Dinner: A Celebration of Culture

As the sun sets, we invite you to join us for an enchanting gala dinner, a celebration of cultural diversity and unity. The evening will be graced with a traditional Moroccan dinner, showcasing the rich and vibrant flavors of the region. We encourage all attendees to embrace this opportunity for cultural exchange by wearing their respective traditional attire, adding an extra layer of meaning to the occasion.



Awards and Honors

During the Gala Dinner, we will also have the honor of recognizing our esteemed guests with special awards, highlighting their invaluable contributions to the field. This momentous occasion promises to be a night of camaraderie, celebration, and cultural appreciation.





Site Tour Visits

Port Complex Visit

For the occasion of the African Special Economic Zones Annual Meeting 2023, we will have the honor of an official presentation concerning this remarkable port complex, followed by a group photo capturing this memorable occasion.

A guided tour of the port complex will also be generously offered, providing a special opportunity to witness firsthand the operations and infrastructure that make this port a true testament to maritime excellence. This immersive experience promises to be both enlightening and enriching, offering a unique insight into the dynamic world of maritime logistics.

Industrial Platform Visit

As part of our program, we have arranged an exclusive visit to Tanger Automotive City. This remarkable industrial zone, integral to Tanger Med's vision, embodies Morocco's ambitious automotive aspirations. It houses advanced production facilities for some of the industry's leading companies. Currently, Tanger Automotive City is home to a thriving community of major suppliers and subcontractors, including renowned names, such as VALEO, GMD, EUROSTYLE, SEALYNX, HANDS CORP, TE CONNECTIVITY, VARROC, KANSAI PAINT, MITSUI, JTEKT, and more.

One of the key advantages of this location is its highly competitive logistics cost, thanks to its close proximity to the Renault plant in Melloussa (just 7 minutes away, approximately 4 kilometers) and its strategic positioning, approximately **35 kilometers** from Tanger Med Port Complex.

During our visit, we will have the privilege of exploring three distinguished companies within Tanger Automotive City:

- 1 Valeo
- **2** TE Connectivity
- 3 Hands

As it won't be possible to visit all three companies in one go, we have arranged for three different buses, each heading to one of the companies. We will operate on a first-come, first-serve basis, so be sure to get on your chosen bus promptly on the day.





Tanger Automotive City | Industrial Sites Presentation

Valeo, a leading global automotive supplier, stands as a beacon of innovation and progress in the industry. With a workforce of 109,900 employees spread across 29 countries, bolstered by an impressive network of 183 production facilities and 65 research and development centers, Valeo's reach is truly global. Their cutting-edge technological solutions not only contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions and the advancement of intuitive driving but also make them a vital partner to automotive manufacturers worldwide. In Tangier, Morocco, their plant has not only revolutionized automotive production but has also been instrumental in the creation of over 300 jobs, emphasizing their commitment to local economic development. With a staggering revenue of 20.037 billion euros, Valeo's financial prowess is a testament to their enduring impact on the automotive landscape.

connectivity For over **75** years, TE Connectivity has been at the forefront of producing highly engineered connectivity and sensing products, pivotal in creating a seamlessly connected world. With an unwavering dedication to reliability and durability, TE Connectivity has forged enduring partnerships with customers, enabling both established enterprises and burgeoning innovators to translate concepts into transformative technologies. The scale of their operations with an annual production tallying is an impressive **236 billion** products. This feat is underpinned by TE Connectivity's substantial investment of over **\$715 million** in engineering research, and development, a testament to their commitment to advancing the boundaries of technological possibility. In 2022 alone, TE Connectivity achieved sales of a remarkable **\$16.3 billion**, underscoring their position as a global leader in the industry. This extraordinary success story is amplified by TE Connectivity's thriving presence in Tangier, where their cutting-edge plant has not only revolutionized the industrial landscape but also catalyzed the creation of over **1200** jobs, solidifying their role as a catalyst for socio-economic progress in the region.

Hands 8 SA, a distinguished Korean enterprise specializing in aluminum wheel manufacturing, has etched its mark on the automotive industry with an impressive annual production capacity of **4 million** units. With a relentless pursuit of excellence, Hands 8 SA has become a trusted partner to automotive manufacturers globally. Their state-of-the-art plant in Tangier, Morocco, not only symbolizes their commitment to cutting-edge technology but also their dedication to the local community. This facility, a beacon of modern manufacturing, has been pivotal in generating employment opportunities, with over **1500** jobs created, thereby bolstering the socio-economic landscape of Tangier.





Environment Friendly Location

We are dedicated to ensuring a positive environmental and societal impact of the *African Special Economic Zones Annual Meeting 2023*. Adopting a comprehensive approach, the host country takes into account ecological and social considerations. This entails the implementation of best practices aimed at minimizing the environmental footprint while also contributing to local well-being.

Environment friendly practices for event attendees

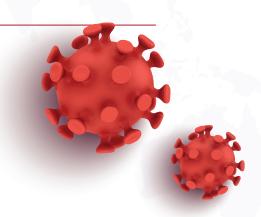
- Opting for sustainable transportation options like carpooling, cycling, or public transit.
- Going paperless by utilizing digital resources for schedules, maps, and information.
- Being mindful of energy consumption; turning off lights and electronics when not in use.

COVID-19 and disease prevention

It is important to note that, to date, people planning to travel to Morocco are not required to undergo COVID tests, nor to present proof of specific vaccination.

Attendees should not come to Meetings campus if they are feeling unwell, experiencing COVID related symptoms, or if they have close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID.

Individuals who have any symptoms of high fever, aches, upset stomach, and/or cough, should remain in their hotel, isolate from others, and contact the medical officer through the emergency number provided at the hotel.







Lodging & Accommodation

We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all participants of the *African Special Economic Zones* annual meeting 2023 event! We understand the importance of comfortable and convenient accommodation during your stay, and have partnered with the esteemed Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa in Tangier where our event will also take place to ensure a delightful experience.



Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa: A Beacon of Luxury

Located on the picturesque coastline of Tangier, the hotel stands as a testament to modern luxury and Moroccan hospitality. Boasting a rich heritage combined with contemporary amenities, this five-star hotel is set against the stunning backdrop of the Mediterranean Sea, offering breathtaking views and a serene atmosphere.



Room Rates

For your convenience, we have secured exclusive rates for event attendees. You can enjoy the unparalleled comfort of a room at Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa for just **160 dollars** per night from the **22nd** to the **24th** of November. This special rate ensures that you not only experience the epitome of luxury but also receive excellent value for your stay.



Reservation

For any additional information & hotel bookings please contact :



+212 6 77 87 06 06





Fine Dining Experience

We are delighted to announce that both exquisite dinners during the event will be hosted at the renowned Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa. This luxurious venue provides the perfect backdrop for an exceptional culinary experience, combining the finest Moroccan flavors with international cuisine. Set against a breathtaking Mediterranean backdrop, these dinners promise not only delectable dishes but also an enchanting ambiance that will undoubtedly elevate your networking and social interactions.



Activities and Leisure

Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa will provide an exceptional golfing opportunity that complements the event's networking and discussions perfectly until the **25th** of November. The resort boasts a world-class golf course designed to challenge and delight players of all levels. With meticulously manicured fairways and breathtaking ocean views, this course offers an unparalleled golfing experience.



Travel

We understand that seamless travel arrangements are essential for a successful and enjoyable event experience. To ensure your journey is as smooth as possible, we are pleased to offer comprehensive transportation services throughout your stay:

- Upon your arrival at Casablanca's airport, you will have eaasy access to the Casablanca train station, where you will embark to Tangier. Once you arrive in Tangier, we will be there to greet you and transport you to the luxurious Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa, ensuring a hassle-free transition.
- Finally, as the *African Special Economic Zones Annual Meeting 2023* draws to a close, we will ensure that you are transported safely to the Tangier train station, ensuring your onward journey.







Visa Guidelines

Morocco Visa Policy

Under Morocco's visa policy, any foreigner coming to the country must obtain a visa unless they are citizens of a country on the visa-exempt list. Eligible visitors can stay in Morocco for 30 – 90 days without visas, but if they wish to stay for much longer, then they will need to apply for visas. Currently, the visa-free list keeps changing as nations and territories are entered and taken off. Before embarking on a trip to the country, make sure you check the visa-free list for your country. If you are not eligible, apply to the nearest Moroccan embassy or consulate for a visa.

- Types of visas provided by the Moroccan Authorities: https://www.consulat.ma/en/types-granted-visas
 - https://www.acces-maroc.ma/#/
- Consult the visa-free list here:
 - https://www.consulat.ma/en/list-countries-whose-citizens-are-exempted-entry-visa-morocco
- For a step-by-step guideline on how to apply and the required documents, please visit the Moroccan consulate website: https://www.consulat.ma/en/ordinary-visas

Morocco Electronic Travel Authorization

The Moroccan government issues another entry document to foreigners called an electronic travel authorization. This document is only issued to nationals from a few countries before entering Morocco, including Guinea, Mali, and the Republic of the congo. It is issued online, and holders are granted access to Morocco for a limited time. Holders can visit for business or tourism or use it as a transit document to another country.

Morocco Electronic Visa

Another type of online travel document issued by Morocco is the electronic visa. King Mohammed VI launched the program to facilitate the issuance of visas to shorter term visitors coming to the country. The application for e-visas is fast and easy, and anyone who can operate a computer or smartphone can apply for it.

The electronic visa one is issued to ordinary passport holders from Thailand, Israel, Guatemala, Jordan, India, and Azerbaijan. The application is online and takes only a day or two to approve, with three days being the maximum duration. Apart from these countries mentioned, nationals with their country visas or resident permits may apply for it, too, even if the country is not on the visa-exempt list, as long as the documents are valid. However, these nations are selected, so check the list before deciding whether to apply for the visa.





Morocco ETA/e-Visa Eligibility

Here are the eligibility criteria for Morocco ETA or e-Visa.

- You must be from an eligible country.
- Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from your entry date.
- You must not have any intention to live in the country permanently.
- You must have financial sufficiency to cover your expenses.
- You must have reserved accommodation in advance.
- You must have a confirmed flight ticket for a return or onward trip.

Key Information/ Details About Morocco and The Online Application

Only Travel Through Approved Routes

Only travel to Morocco through approved routes. For instance, transit visitors can only enter through any of the approved international airports, not the local ones. The same is the case for approved seaports for ferries and sea travelers. Apart from the legal implications of using approved routes, you should also consider your safety too.

Be Sure Of Your Eligibility

Before you apply for an e-visa or an electronic travel authorization, be sure of your eligibility. The most important eligibility criteria is your nationality. For instance, ETAs are only open to citizens of the Democratic Republic of The Congo, Guinea, and Mali, while citizens of more than 70 countries can apply for e-visas. This list is always changing, so check your country before moving forward with the application.

Conversion From Single Entry to Multiple Entry

Your e-visa is always issued as a single-entry document, but you can change it to a multiple-entry document once you arrive in Morocco. Such conversions can only be done in the country. While the Single entry is only valid for 30 days, the multiple entry document can be extended to 180 days validity. Even so, you can only stay for 30 days maximum per visit.

Pay The Fee Online

The online application fee is mandatory and can only be paid using a credit or debit card. Note that this fee is not refundable and does not guarantee that you will be issued the e-visa or ETA. Also, without paying the fee, you cannot submit the form.

Not For Work

Let us add that neither the ETA nor electronic visa should be used as a work visa. This is prohibited as both permits are only meant for noncommercial engagements like tourism, business, and transit. If you have secured a job in Morocco, you should apply for a work visa by visiting the nearest embassy or consulate.





Safety Tips

- Visibly display your registration badge at all times inside event venues. Keep your Annual Meetings Registration badge in a secure place when outside the security perimeter, but readily accessible in order to display upon request at security checkpoints.
- If you lose your Annual Meetings Registration badge, immediately notify AEZO staff.
- Do not leave laptops, mobile phones, or other personal items unattended.

General Tips

Registration Information

A day prior to the event and on the morning of the first day on the 23rd of November, participants staying at the Hilton Tangier Al Houara Resort & Spa will be able to complete their registration at their convenience. This will ensure a smooth transition to the port, allowing everyone to fully immerse themselves in the day's activities.

All participants must be registered and accredited before the start of the annual meeting. Participants will be required to show their registration confirmation to collect their annual meeting registration badge, only persons with an annual meeting badge will have access to the event.

Local SIM Cards

For seamless communication during your stay in Tangier, acquiring a local SIM card is highly recommended. The process is straightforward and can be completed at various telecom providers' outlets, which are widely available throughout the city. You will need to present a valid passport for identification, and it's advisable to inquire about available data and call plans that best suit your needs. Popular telecom companies in Tangier include Maroc Telecom, Orange, and Inwi. These providers offer reliable network coverage across the city and provide options for both short-term and long-term plans. Remember to keep your passport and the purchased SIM card safely during your stay.





Currency and means of payment

The national currency is the Moroccan Dirham (MAD).

- €1 (EUR) is worth about 11 MAD.
- \$1 (US DOLLAR) is worth about 10 MAD.

Foreign currency can be exchanged into dirhams at the campus, exchange offices and most bank branches. Cash is preferred for amounts under MAD 100. Beyond that, bank cards are widely accepted.

Electrical Outlets

In Morocco the power plug sockets are of type C and E. The standard voltage is 220 V and the frequency is 50Hz. Type C outlets are recognizable by their two round pins, like those found in Europe. These are commonly used for devices with lower power requirements like smartphones, cameras, and chargers. Type E outlets are similar but have an added grounding pin. They are suitable for a broader range of devices, including those with higher power demands such as laptops and hairdryers. To power your devices or appliances, you might need a plug adapter that fits the Moroccan outlet configuration.

For Any Issues or Challenges

If you face further challenges during reservations or have any guestions related to the event, please do not hesitate to contact our team.

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