



KENYA STATEMENT FOR USE DURING THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 2020 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14: CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, 4 February 2020, United Nations New York

Prof. Micheni Japheth Ntiba, PhD, DBA, CBS

Principal Secretary, State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy,

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation.

H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th session of the General Assembly;

H.E. Mr. Ricardo Serrão Santos, Minister of Sea of the Portuguese Republic, co-host of the 2020 United Nations Oceans Conference;

Mr. Stephen Mathias, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs;

Amb. Peter Thomson, Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean;

Distinguished Co-facilitators,

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. I am delighted to join you today for this important preparatory meeting that should help us to achieve consensus on an action-oriented outcome document for the UN 2020 Oceans Conference that Kenya and Portugal will co-host in June 2020. As co-hosts of the Conference, we have hosted several important and significant ocean meetings to discuss required ocean actions which complement other ocean meetings held in Nairobi for the SBEC, Washington 2017, Indonesia 2018, Oslo 2019 among others.

We are very proud of the achievements as we continue to champion the global conversation around the sustainable utilization of the living and nonliving marine resources. We need to maintain and accelerate this momentum to keep the oceans high on the global agenda.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

2. The first UN Ocean Conference held in June 2017 was a game changer in that it raised global awareness on the challenges facing the international community in maintaining healthy oceans and led to an inter-governmentally agreed declaration, a “Call for Action”. Kenya’s aspiration for the UN 2020 Ocean Conference is that it will go beyond the restatement of political commitments and deliver the action necessary to achieve healthy productive oceans. We believe the 2020 Conference will be bigger, better and deeper than the first one, and will make systemic changes to the world’s approach to conservation and sustainable use of oceans. This is because it will accord all stakeholders an opportunity to bring about a new generation of specific and time bound commitments with a view to forge new, inclusive and effective partnerships to support implementation of SDG 14. Members are aware that past meetings have produced many voluntary commitments which have not been honored: The Nairobi meeting came up with 191 such commitments, Oslo 370 and SDG 14 meeting in 2017, 1000.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

3. The overarching theme of the Ocean 2020 conference “*Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, partnerships and solutions*”, envisions that the conversations, discussions and agreements reached during the conference will be backed by reliable scientific information and data to back up solutions to problems and innovations. We are happy that in the 2020 UN ocean conference, ocean science will be given prominence which will feed into the UN decade of Ocean science for sustainable development.

4. The linkage between SDG 14 and other SDGs, and the nexus between the blue and green economy will be an important conversation for us to hold in Lisbon 2020. This will provide more avenues for consolidating efforts being made in achieving targets set for the other SDGs and reinforce the linkage with achieving targets of SDG 14. Our understanding

of the link between SDG 14 and other SDGs will play critical role in elimination of hunger, reducing extreme poverty and growing world economies In this regard, the UN 2020 Oceans Conference should aim to promote multi-stakeholder engagement including encouraging stronger involvement of the financial and philanthropic sector, civil society and youth in the conversations regarding the conservation and sustainable use of the Ocean.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. As mentioned earlier, various initiatives have been held/are ongoing/or will be held, whose outcome we would like to see feed into/inform the outcome of the UN 2020 Ocean Conference. For instance, I recall that in December 2018, Prime Minister Erna Solberg of the Kingdom of Norway launched the High-Level Panel (HLP) for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. The HLP which comprises 14 Heads of State and Government (including Kenya and Portugal), and the UN Secretary General has galvanized the much-needed political impetus to prioritize accelerated actions towards the conservation oceans. I'm pleased to note that the HLP is unique in that it is the only Ocean related initiative that is anchored on science and driven by political leaders at the highest level. HLP charts a new policy driven course for sustainable exploitation of the ocean that will enable countries to produce and prosper and to do so equitably. I applaud our member states for this important initiative.

6. Further to these crosscutting initiatives, Kenya convened a regional meeting for West Indian Ocean Countries from 2nd to 3rd December, 2019 in Mombasa to come up with a common position in tackling issues of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and harmful fisheries subsidies. Furthermore, Kenya hosted consultations for African and adjacent small island states on the regional consultations for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ('the Decade') from 27-29 January 2020 at Nairobi. The outcomes of these regional meetings will be shared with the African Union and it can form part of an African

Position. We would like to see more regional agreements/initiatives, taking into consideration that the oceans are a shared resource thus a regional approach to tackling the challenges will be more effective.

5. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya is confident that the UN 2020 Ocean Conference will be pivotal in advancing the implementation of SDG 14. We look forward to co-hosting the upcoming Ocean Conference with Portugal and I welcome all of you to assist in finalizing the outcome documentation to make the Lisbon meeting successful for the benefit of the world.

We thank Palau and Denmark for accepting to co-facilitate this important meeting.

I THANK YOU!

FEBRUARY, 2020