

**Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environments of the Western Indian Ocean Region (Nairobi Convention)**

*Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties*

Virtual

23-25 November 2021

Virtual, INTERACTIO

**REPORT OF THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE NAIROBI CONVENTION**



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## BACKGROUND TO THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. The Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region held its tenth Conference of Parties (COP10) from 23-25 November 2021 virtually on the INTERACTIO platform, which allows for multilingual interpretation in remote meetings. This was a follow-up to the ninth meeting, held from 29 to 31 August 2018 in Mombasa, Kenya. At the 2018 meeting, Heads of Delegation adopted fifteen decisions, including one scheduling COP9 to take place in Madagascar in October 2020. This was, however, postponed due to the outbreak of the global Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 and subsequent travel restrictions.
2. The tenth meeting was intended to reflect on the progress made by Contracting Parties in protecting the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region since 2018 and capitalized on opportunities to a) renew commitments to a multilateral process to take timely and effective action to protect, develop, and manage the WIO, and b) strengthen partnerships to boost recovery and resilience after the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was held in two segments: a partners meeting on 23 November and a national Focal Points meeting on 24 November 2021, followed by a high level segment comprising of Heads of Delegation meeting on 25 November 2021.
3. As part of preparations for COP10, a science to policy dialogue was held 23-25 March 2021 during which key proposals for potential consideration were made, including some that were of a technical nature for guidance to the Secretariat. The 2021 workshop was held under the theme '*Transition to a Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Blue Economy: Addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities*'. Its objectives were to a) review discussion papers on topical emerging scientific findings with potential policy implications for the management of coastal and marine resources in the region, b) share progress in the development of various regional strategies and frameworks and provide technical input thereof, and c) promote engagement and networking among various stakeholders engaged in the protection, management, and development of marine and coastal resources in the WIO. The workshop report can be found at the Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse [website](#).
4. To promote networking among various stakeholders in the WIO, a Partners meeting was held on 30 August 2021 with the theme of '*Enhancing resilience and the health of the Western Indian Ocean: 2022-2024 Partnership Programme*'. A background paper had been prepared ahead of the partners' meeting, containing a detailed exposition of the progress attained in the implementation of COP9 decisions.
5. The Partners meeting was followed by a meeting of national Focal Points to the Nairobi Convention on 21-22 October 2021. The meeting set the stage for many of the decisions presented to COP10. In preparation of the Focal Points meeting, initial recommendations for potential decisions were developed from technical/policy briefs, containing the scientific basis for justification of each proposed decision. Reports of the partners and Focal Points meetings are available at the Convention's Clearinghouse [website](#).



## SUMMARY OF COP10

1. The Partners segment of COP10, held on 23 November 2021, called for networking and close cooperation between actors from science and ocean policy making. Partners made presentations focused on the protection and conservation of ecosystems and habitats, promoting marine protected areas, climate change risks and vulnerabilities, research, protection of endangered species, ocean governance, enhancing industrial fisheries, combating IUU, improving management of small-scale fisheries, mainstreaming blue economy, promoting MSP, addressing threats from oil and gas, plastic pollution, and deep-sea mining. They provided valuable scientific, technical and policy recommendations for consideration by Contracting Parties. The Partners provided inputs and suggestions on strengthening the preambular statement of the draft decisions, as well as on the inclusion of a monitoring framework, climate refugia, the establishment of a task force on water quality, and a broadening of partnerships and initiatives in the requisite decisions.
2. The Focal Points segment of COP10 was held on 24 November 2021. The Focal Points appraised the progress made in the implementation of the Convention since COP9 and reviewed the financial health of the Convention and the proposed Programme of Work 2022-2024. The Focal Points dedicated considerable time to discussing the proposed draft decisions and carefully revised the decisions in line with proposals by country representatives and interventions received from partners.
3. The Heads of Delegation segment of COP10 delved into the achievements made by each Contracting Party to the Nairobi Convention during the challenging period of the Covid-19 pandemic. The new Bureau of the Nairobi Convention for the intersessional period between COP10 and COP11 was duly constituted and will be presided over by Madagascar (as chair of the Bureau), Tanzania as vice chair for the Work Programme, Seychelles as vice chair for resource mobilization, South Africa as vice chair for coordination, and Kenya as rapporteur.
4. With the approval of the 2022-2024 Programme of Work for the Convention, 13 decisions were adopted at COP10, after which Madagascar extended an offer to host the eleventh Conference of Parties.



## **COP10 DAY 1: PARTNERS AND EXPERTS MEETING 23 NOVEMBER 2021**

### *Session I: Opening of the Meeting*

5. The partnership segment was called to order at 9:39am by Dr. Lucy Ng'ang'a of Kenya, who served as chair, followed by brief introductory remarks by Dixon Waruinge, the head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat.

6. In his remarks, Mr Waruinge highlighted that decisions of the ninth meeting formed the basis for partnerships, the net value of which translates to the progress to be reported at the tenth meeting. Noting that with 61 participants a quorum had been achieved, he thanked Dr Lucy for accepting to chair the meeting and acknowledged the logistical support provided to the Secretariat in organising the meeting.

7. Mr Waruinge recalled that as early as 1998, when the Convention was based in Seychelles, a strategy was put in place for partners to work in tandem with the Convention. Seychelles had offered a pro-bono coordinator, Mr. Rolph Payet, who rolled out partnerships with government and non-government institutions. Several partners have since joined in the implementation of the Convention.

8. Mr Waruinge encouraged participation of partners in the Convention's proposed Programme of Work 2022-2024, and suggested ways of enhancing interaction and decisions necessary to enhance collaboration.

9. In her opening remarks, Ms Lucy Ng'ang'a noted the considerable recognition given to the role of partners over the last four years of Kenya's tenure as chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention, over a which a number of projects were put in place. As Bureau chair, Kenya has seen the power of partnership in achieving transformative change. Broad partnership was necessary with governments, academic and research institutions and with civil society. She highlighted the Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-C), formed in 2004, which comprises a group of international and regional NGOs and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) that have a presence and are active in marine and coastal ecosystem management in the WIO region. Through the WIO-C, a framework has been created around which key players have been working to enhance and advance efforts to protect and conserve the marine environment.

10. Ms Ng'ang'a concluded by stating that the region is fully cognisant of efforts to channel research findings to meaningful policy decision-making, through both the Science-Policy dialogue and the COP. Private sector player engagement in the attainment of SDG 14 is equally critical. In particular, private sector players need to be promoted to advance the blue economy, conservation, capture fisheries, tourism, shipping and ports, aquaculture, ship building and repair, oil and gas, desalination and bioprospecting.

11. The agenda of the meeting was tabled by the Chair and proposed by Peter Manyara of IUCN (South Africa) and seconded by Henna Ramdour from the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management & Climate Change of Mauritius. The agenda was adopted.

### *Session II: Report on implementation of COP9 decisions and Programme of Work*

12. The chair called upon the Secretariat to read out the documents for the meeting. Mr Dixon Waruinge pointed out three working documents, entitled (i) 'Progress in the implementation of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region: Report of the Executive Director- UNEP/EAF/CP.10/INF/1, (ii) Proposed Work Programme for the period 2022-2024 for the implementation of the Nairobi Convention - UNEP/EAF/CP.10/2, and (iii) draft Decisions to be submitted to the Contracting Parties for consideration - UNEP/EAF/CP.10/3.add1. He indicated that these and other information documents were available on the [COP10 webpage](#).



13. The Secretariat made a detailed presentation based on document [UNEP/EAF/CP.10/INF/1](#). In the presentation, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Convention's work was acknowledged extensively, ranging from the severe restrictions on face-to-face meetings and international travel to a slowdown in project implementation that affected the Secretariat, partners and stakeholders alike. To this end, the report recalled that the tenth meeting was supposed to have taken place in October 2020 in Madagascar, but was postponed at the request of the hosting government. This precipitated the delay that led to the current meeting coming roughly one year behind schedule and being held virtually.

14. The presentation appraised partners and stakeholders on a [briefing note](#) on the likely impacts and the anticipated scenario of Covid-19, and the ongoing initiatives of the UN Decade on [Ecosystem Restoration](#), the UN Decade of [Ocean Science](#) for Sustainable Development, the [fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD](#), and the implementation of the decisions of the ninth meeting (COP9).

15. Detailed in the [Report of the Executive Director \(UNEP/EAF/CP.10/INF/1\)](#):

- a. Decision **CP.9/1: Programme Work for 2018–2022** was implemented within the constraints of the COVID-19, focusing on four priority areas: (i) assessments and capacity building; (ii) management; (iii) coordination and legal aspects; and (iv) information and awareness. Strategic partnerships attained critical milestones in the assessment of trends and impact of Ocean Acidification (OA) – bringing together the IUCN, WIOMSA, the Ocean Acidification International Reference User Group (OA-iRUG) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Convention also supported observation systems in the field through a pilot project “OceAn pH Research Integration and Collaboration in Africa - ApHRICA”, to deploy ocean pH sensors intended to fill information gaps. Further progress was achieved in the implementation of the SDG 14.3.1 on indicator methodology through practical training courses on OA; Applied Training Course on OA Advanced Study; and WIOMSA-IOC/UNESCO OA funded projects. In addition, the Secretariat has been implementing key activities directly related to the strategic actions developed under various projects.
- b. Relating to decision **CP.9/2: Ratification, accession, and implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities**, the Secretariat, in March 2020, notified Parties of editorial and translation errors in the official French texts. Necessary corrections were subsequently undertaken on the texts and a revision was printed and circulated to the Contracting Parties in November 2021. The Secretariat also organized a regional workshop to sensitize countries on the merits of ratifying the LBSA Protocol on 11-12 December 2018, in collaboration with the Global Programme of Action (GPA) of UNEP for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.
- c. On decision **CP.9/3. Management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean**, the presentation reported the development of a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, completed in October 2018 in collaboration with the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), Zanzibar. This was followed by support to the domestication of the Action Plan, as demonstrated by the WIOSAP pilot projects in Madagascar and South Africa. The first meeting of the Group of Experts for Marine Litter and Microplastics was also held on 13-14 June 2019, in Cape Town, South Africa.
- d. Decision **CP.9/4: Development of a protocol on integrated coastal zone management**: Implementation of this decision involved finalization of the negotiations on the draft, which was completed on 27 March 2019. The ICZM protocol moves to the crucial adoption stage at the next Conference of Plenipotentiaries.
- e. Pursuant to decision **CP.9/5: Amendment of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region**, the Secretariat initiated the review of the protocol and the annexes thereto in October 2020.



- f. Decision **CP.9/6. Ocean Governance** saw the Secretariat work with partners to develop an ocean governance strategy for the region. Preparatory meetings were held with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in April 2019; a workshop on ocean planning and governance for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) on 10-12 June 2019; a Special Session of the Ocean Governance of the Marine Science Symposium (5 July 2019); Western Indian Ocean regional ocean governance workshop in Seychelles (4-5 September 2019) and the virtual launch of the assessment report on the State of Ocean Governance in the region (16 September 2020). In a virtual partnership [meeting](#) bringing together RECs, Commissions and other key players in April 2021, plans were put in place for the development of a regional ocean governance strategy.
- g. Recounting decision **CP.9/7: Developing and supporting implementation of projects**, the Secretariat noted that the Convention was implementing five projects, namely: [WIOSAP](#) project, [SAPPHIRE](#) project, [Partnership project](#) between the Nairobi Convention and SWIOFC for marine and coastal governance and fisheries management for sustainable blue growth; [ACP MEAs Phase 3 programme](#) on improving the management of coasts and oceans, and; the northern Mozambique channel integrated ocean management approach ([NoCaMo](#) project). Another noteworthy collaboration was established with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM), through the WIO Symphony (WIO Sym) project, to enhance the collation of spatial data on human activities and marine ecosystems.
- h. Implementation of Decision **CP.9/8: Environmental management for oil and gas development** included the following actions: (i) the promotion of sustainable port development; (ii) an assessment of environmental impacts of operational, planned and proposed ports; (iii) a strategic partnership with the IMO Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre, WIOMSA and WWF to develop a toolkit for green port development; and (iv) the development of MOUs with PMAESA and Macquarie University.

In collaboration with partners, the Secretariat implemented the regional oil and gas capacity-building programme through (a) a training on oil pollution on 6-9 November 2018 in Tanzania; (b) an oil spill emergency preparedness workshop in November 2019; (c) a background report on oil spill preparedness and a regional workshop on cooperation in preparedness and response to marine spills with IOC-COI in Zanzibar in March 2020; (d) a consultative meeting organised by IOC in May 2021; and (e) the creation of a database of contact points responsible for receiving alerts on oil spills in the region. Efforts to support the Contracting Parties to enhance partnerships in developing and harmonizing regional mechanisms for compliance, monitoring and response in oil and gas activities constitute another area of progress under this decision. A virtual ad-hoc meeting of Focal Points was organised in [August 2020](#) in response to the July 2020 grounding of *MV Wakashio* at Pointe d'Esny in Mauritius and the subsequent oil spill crisis offshore.

In September 2021, the Secretariat sought the services of a consultant to review national oil spill contingency plans of the Contracting Parties in preparation for a regional coordination and cooperation framework on oil spill preparedness.

- i. In Decision **CP.9/9: Climate change adaptation and mitigation**, several related activities are reported elsewhere. As noted, the March 2021 regional science – policy dialogue highlighted the hidden risk posed by ocean acidification to sustainable development in the WIO, with recommendations indicating a clear need for policymakers to recognize the threats and advocate for political support. Additionally, the Secretariat also completed a project concept on the transition to a Resilient Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean Region, to be further developed for submission to the Global Climate Facility (GCF). This is in addition to



the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (CCVA) toolkit developed for communities that are highly dependent on coastal and marine resources.

- j. For decision **CP.9/10: *Marine spatial planning for the blue and ocean economy***, progress has been recorded through the support to the development of a regional marine spatial planning (MSP) strategy in 2020. The WIO MSP Technical Working Group (TWG) became operational, with 21 experts nominated through the support of Focal Points from the ten Contracting Parties. The first meeting of the WIO MSP TWG took place in July 2020.
  - k. With respect to decision **CP.9/11: *Development of marine protected areas and Critical Habitats Outlooks***, the Convention has developed mangrove restoration guidelines, seagrass restoration guidelines and the environmental flows assessment guidelines, which were validated and launched in 2020. Other key interventions include the economic valuation guidelines and the climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit, developed under the WIOSAP project. The development of a regional framework for coastal and marine water quality monitoring will enter the adoption stage by the Contracting Parties. The [Marine Protected Areas Outlook](#) for the WIO was launched on 16 July 2021, documenting the progress made by countries towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14.5 target. The launch of the Critical Habitats Outlook is expected in 2022.
  - l. In relation to decision **CP.9/12: *Science-Policy dialogue***, the Secretariat co-organized a regional consultation workshop for Africa and the Adjacent Island States on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) from 27-29 January 2020. The workshop was held on 27-29 May 2019 in Mauritius, and the meeting of 23-25 March 2021 promoted evidence-based decision-making and provided timely technical advice and policy recommendations.
  - m. In implementation of decision **CP.9/13: *Enhancing cooperation, collaboration, and support with partners***, the Secretariat advanced several partnerships: (i) An MoU concluded with FAO/SWIOFC in March 2019; (ii) a financing agreement for the EU-funded ACP-MEAs 3 programme signed on 28 April 2020; (iii) MoU with the Ports Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA) in 2020 with regard to sustainable port development, (iv) MoU between UNEP and SADC in 2021.
  - n. In decision **CP.9/14: *Strengthening the operational functioning of the Secretariat***, national UN Volunteers (UNV) continue to be engaged to support implementation of projects. In addition, France has considered providing direct support to the Secretariat through the secondment of a national staff on a non-reimbursable basis. The WIOSAP project competitively recruited and directly supported a dedicated national project officer to provide coordination for project activities.
  - o. Decision **CP.9/15: *Financial matters*** was implemented through issuance of annual invoices for the assessed contribution to the Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region and prepared the financial performance report for the period 2018–2021.
16. Mr Waruinge made a presentation on the proposed 2022–2024 Work Programme as provided for in the agenda and laid out in working document [UNEP/EAF/CP.10/2](#). He began by outlining its background, foundational principles, four main objectives and activities. The overall objective of the Work Programme is to strengthen the role of the Nairobi Convention as a platform for promoting synergies and coordinating implementation of regional initiatives for the protection of the marine and coastal environment. The presentation outlined the main components that included: Management and operational support; Assessment, conservation and capacity building; Coordination and legal aspects; Information and awareness. The corresponding budget and envisaged activities were also outlined. At the end of the presentation, Mr Waruinge sent out a passionate appeal to Contracting Parties to continue to support the Convention’s work. He called upon governments to honour their contributions to the Eastern African Trust Fund in order for the Secretariat to effectively implement all that is required in



the proposed 2022–2024 Work Programme. Participants were informed that France, Madagascar, Mauritius and South Africa had updated their contributions.

### *Session III: Partners inputs and related draft decisions*

17. Mr Sebastian Unger, head of ocean governance research at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies ([IASS](#)) gave a presentation on the Marine Regions Forum (MRF). IASS advocates for regional ocean governance and enhances close cooperation between actors from science and ocean policy making. The MRF is planned to take place in the Western Indian Ocean during 2022 or 2023, as the COVID pandemic will allow. Mr Unger shared the [link](#) for registration for the Marine Regions Forum online workshop scheduled for 29 November 2021.

18. Ms Anca Leroy, the Focal Point of France to the Nairobi Convention, emphasised several important global processes and indicated a desire to see that the "UNCLOS negotiations on the future UN treaty relating to the protection and conservation of sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction are adequately captured," noting that the Nairobi Convention is a critical player in the region. She therefore suggested adding the proposed ABNJ treaty to the preamble of the decisions. She also proposed that all the projects that are under way and supported by France be taken into consideration.

19. Ms. Emelda Adam, the Focal Point of Tanzania to the Nairobi Convention, raised the issue of climate change, so far recognised in the preamble. She noted that the 2021 UNFCCC COP26 meeting had underscored the need to ensure integrity of ocean ecosystems. She requested the Secretariat to consider having a preamble mentioning the UNFCCC process on ocean ecosystems and the outcomes of COP26.

20. Mr Harifidy Ralison of WWF Madagascar presented on the main endeavours of WWF, i.e. enhancing industrial fisheries, combating IUU, improving management of small-scale fisheries, and mainstreaming the blue economy. WWF is also promoting MSP (with a special focus in Madagascar and Tanzania) to address threats from oil and gas, plastic pollution, and deep-sea mining. WWF is supporting mangrove conservation and advocated for a draft decision on mangrove conservation and management at all levels – local, national and regional.

21. Mr Thomas Sberna of IUCN noted the partnership on the WIO Mangrove Network by WWF and introduced the Great Blue Wall Initiative in the Western Indian Ocean to help countries achieve the 2030 SDG targets, the post CBD Global Biodiversity Framework for the achievement of 30% coverage of protected areas, comprising large-scale MPAs of level 6 category under IUCN classification. He indicated that IUCN would like to see the Great Blue Wall movement mentioned in the decisions of the Convention and hoped that the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) could play an instrumental role in driving the objective of achieving a net gain of coral reef cover by 2030.

22. Ms Nyawira Muthiga of WCS made a presentation touching on vulnerability of coral reefs and their role as climate refugia, giving examples of climate refugia in the proposed TBCA between Kenya and Tanzania, some of the areas between Tanzania-Mozambique and parts of north-western Madagascar. She emphasized the need to improve the effectiveness of MPAs across the WIO, with a focus on the MPAs in the areas identified as climate refugia. Identifying, mapping, designating and developing management strategies to protect the climate refugia in the WIO is also necessary. WCS noted that the status and roadmap for the conservation and management of sharks and rays had been established and that many species were recommended for listing in the protocol concerning protected areas and wild fauna and flora in the Eastern African Region. Citing technical and policy recommendations of the MPA and the Critical Habitats Outlook that would make MPAs more effective, she urged the implementation of binding commitments on CMS, CITES, IOTC resolutions, as well as voluntary catch restrictions.

23. Mr. Tony Ribbink from Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) highlighted the ongoing work on marine litter in the WIO. He mentioned the case of national marine litter action plans and enabling legislation by municipalities. SST will be holding a conference on marine litter in May 2022 to raise awareness on marine litter. SST has supported the development of the 'Africa Marine Litter Monitoring Manual', currently being used in countries of the region and elsewhere.



24. Ms Susan Taljaard of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in South Africa touched on two projects undertaken together with the WIOSAP project – the development of a strategic framework for coastal and marine water quality management; and sustainable port development in the WIO, including a toolkit for green port development. The main recommendations to Contracting Parties revolve around setting the foundation for improved water quality management by adopting the framework.

25. Ms Florence Galletti, a researcher with *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD, France) presented on the Dialogue Science-Decision Makers for Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Environments ([DiDEM](#)) program in some of the countries of the WIO (Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania). The program supported a decision on ocean governance and on science-policy dialogue for good management of ocean and marine areas. The project was cooperating with WIOMSA, the SAPPHIRE project, research centres and universities within the WIO.

26. Mr Arthur Tuda of WIOMSA made a brief statement focusing on ocean governance, marine pollution, fisheries, IUUs, MPAs, and ocean acidification and partners in these areas. On area-based tools, he reiterated continued commitment to MPAs and the strengthening of management effectiveness for MPAs and LMMAs, and conservation planning. WIOMSA would continue supporting the Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Management Network (WIOMPAN), work on marine litter monitoring and support the development of national marine diagnostic analyses together with the Convention. A science-policy dialogue training will take place in 2022, organised jointly with Macquarie University.

27. The Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Professor Vêlayoudom Marimoutou, noted the collaboration between the Convention and IOC, citing the work on the draft ICZM protocol, support to MPA work in the island states, enhancing national and regional capacity to combat oil spill and marine pollution and support to some countries in developing their capacity for the conservation and management of the coastal and marine resources.

28. Mr. Robin Farington, Project Manager with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), made a presentation on the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI), which is being implemented in partnership with the Convention. The 3.4 million Euro project focuses on strengthening regional policy dialogue around ocean governance and information management strategies; enhancing private sector engagement at the regional level, and establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships in Mozambique in support of the Convention's decisions and the Work Programme.

29. Mr David Obura spoke on the areas of CORDIO's work relating to the draft decisions of the Convention. He urged for the enforcement of fisheries regulation to stem unsustainable fishing practices while ensuring equitable and participatory processes among coastal communities in the WIO. He welcomed action on the area-based planning tools for a sustainable blue economy. He also informed participants about an ongoing NORAD project supporting engagement of stakeholders across the Kenya-Tanzania-Mozambique coastline. Mr Obura noted that the Regional Indicator Monitoring Framework would be useful to many programmes and initiatives, including IUCN specialist groups, the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN).

30. Ms Sibongile Mavimbela from the SADC Secretariat in Botswana described the SADC region as surrounded by two Large Marine Ecosystems - the Agulhas Current and Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystems, comprising 16 countries, six of which are coastal states and four of which are island states. She stated that SADC was aspiring to support a) blue economy development and the creation of an action plan; b) improvement in management and utilization of fisheries, aquaculture, mariculture, and trade corridors; c) operationalisation of the regional fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC); d) the strengthening of ocean governance for a sustainable blue economy, e) ocean accounting and f) the science-policy interface. SADC highlighted existing partnerships on blue economy and challenges to overcome – such as policy and regulatory gaps, impacts of climate change and vulnerability, inadequate technical and financial resources, and maritime security for peace, security and development. She encouraged more emphasis on addressing transboundary Marine Protected Areas like the one proposed between Mozambique and South Africa.



31. Ms Ulrika Gunnartz of FAO/SWIOFC highlighted several decision areas that the Nairobi Convention – SWIOFC partnership project was working on around area-based planning for blue economy, MSP capacity building, coastal fisheries and livelihoods and operationalizing the science-policy dialogue on the fisheries-environment nexus.

32. In her intervention, Ms Nancy Karigithu of the Kenya Ministry of Transport, State Department for Shipping & Maritime Affairs informed participants about the ongoing GloLitter Partnerships (GLP) project by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to reduce marine litter from fishing and merchant ships in the WIO; as well as the IMO GreenVoyage 2050 project that aims to transform the shipping industry towards a lower carbon future. She encouraged congruence between these two projects and the Convention's proposed decisions on marine litter and water quality.

33. Ms Nancy Ogonje from the East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS) highlighted that EAWLS was supporting capacity building and policy development in the East African coast (Kenya & Tanzania).

34. In her intervention, Sophie Benbow of Fauna & Flora International (FFI) requested the Parties to consider supporting the IMO to reclassify plastic pellets as 'hazardous' goods that required better handling practises to reduce leakage and associated marine pollution in line with the proposed 2022-2024 Work Programme of the Convention. She also informed Partners of a project by FFI supporting fisheries management at a global scale and promised to share the results of the project for consideration by the Convention.

35. In conclusion, the plenary revisited the draft decisions that had been revised in line with Partners' propositions. The various revisions reflected suggestions by Partners on strengthening the preambular statement, inclusion of monitoring framework, climate refugia, establishment of a task force on water quality, and broadening of partnerships and initiatives in the requisite decisions. The decisions were to be discussed further at the session by the Focal Points of the Contracting Parties. Mr Waruinge thanked Madagascar as the host of the meeting and appreciated the goodwill from Kenya as Chair of the Bureau. He also thanked delegates and Partners for their contribution and declared the meeting adjourned.



## **COP 10 DAY 2: NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS MEETING 24 NOVEMBER 2021**

### *Session I: Opening of the Meeting*

1. Mr. Dixon Waruinge, head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, delivered welcoming remarks and welcomed the Focal Points to the meeting. He acknowledged the many experts and partners in the meeting who had provided inputs to the draft decisions and appreciated their presence. He invited the chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention, represented by Dr (Ms) Pacifica Ogola, to moderate the meeting.
2. Dr Ogola expressed gratitude in chairing the meeting and noted the strides made by the Convention over the past over three years during Kenya's chairmanship, as well as the challenges since the March 2020 COVID-19 outbreak. She highlighted the direct impacts of the pandemic on fisheries, tourism, agriculture, maritime operations and ports, among others, and observed that the WIO region had nevertheless pulled through to hold four virtual meetings of the Focal Points.
3. The chair enumerated some of the achievements made at the national level. Comoros domesticated the marine litter action plan and is increasing its MPAs. France committed to funding the NoCaMo project and research on the sustainable Blue Economy, in addition to an ambitious partnership for promoting dialogue between science and decision makers for integrated management of the marine and coastal environment in the WIO. In Kenya, a national ICZM policy/ action plan has been developed and a national committee established, while a climate change act had been enacted. Madagascar is developing a national strategy on marine litter and updating its NBSAP; while Mauritius had established a new climate change act and updated its national oil-spill contingency plan.
4. The chair noted that Mozambique was developing a rehabilitation strategy for mangroves and Blue Economy strategy. Seychelles had designated 30% of its marine and coastal space to MPAs and recently committed at UNFCCC COP26 to protecting 100% of its mangroves and seagrasses by 2030. Somalia was developing a comprehensive report on the environment, climate, water and sediment load of the Jubba-Shebelle region. South Africa declared 20 MPAs in 2019 and is now developing new management plans for these areas, while Tanzania had developed a Blue Economy policy for Zanzibar and is strengthening its petroleum waste management law. The chair congratulated all states for the progress made since 2018.
5. Madagascar proposed adoption of the provisional agenda with a slight amendment to include a presentation by Seychelles on the WIO Resilience and Prosperity Initiative. South Africa seconded. The chair drew attention to the working documents of the meeting on the Nairobi Convention website ([UNEP/EAF/CP.10/INF/1](#) and [UNEP/EAF/CP.10/2](#)) and welcomed presentations on the two documents by the Secretariat.

### *Session II: Report of the Executive Director and Proposed Programme of Work*

6. Mr Waruinge made a summarized version of COP10 Day 1 presentations, incorporating inputs from partners. Key highlights included the following:
  - a. In decision CP.9/2, four Contracting Parties had ratified the amended Nairobi Convention. Two additional ratifications for the instrument are required for the amended Convention to come into force. Regarding CP.9/3, the regional action plan on marine litter awaited adoption, with pilot implementation being carried out by WIOMSA and Save the Sea Trust. Regarding CP.9/4, the final draft protocol on ICZM was ready, awaiting the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for its adoption, tentatively around the third quarter of 2022.
  - b. With reference to CP.9/5 on ocean governance, a detailed background paper on the state of ocean governance in the region has been prepared and a number of regional ocean governance



- workshops organized. The Secretariat was working closely with the AU, SADC, IGAD and the EAC to ensure that the Africa ocean governance strategy would take into consideration inputs from the WIO ocean governance strategy.
- c. Progress was noted on decision CP.9/6 on oil spill preparedness and response and the proposed decision following the July 2020 oil spill in Mauritius. Decision CP.9/7 listed the ongoing five projects of the Convention that are various stages of implementation. Further implementation of decision CP.9/8 on environmental management for oil and gas was amplified by the oil spill in Mauritius and ongoing activities had been captured in the 2022-2024 Work Programme.
  - d. On decision CP.9/9, the Nairobi Convention climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy had several fronts, with work by WIOMSA on ocean acidification, and the proposed GCF-type of project that was being developed being highlighted. Relating to MSP (Decision CP.9/10), trainings had been conducted and a strategy developed, awaiting adopted by Contracting Parties.
  - e. Referring to CP9/11, the MPA Outlook for the Western Indian Ocean had already been launched, while the Critical Habitats Outlook was near completion. Mangroves and Seagrass restoration guidelines were ready for adoption, including coastal and marine water quality guidelines, environmental flow guidelines, The ecosystems indicator monitoring framework was at an advanced stage The success of the Science-Policy dialogues (CP.9/12) in 2019 and in 2021 were mentioned, and these dialogues will continue into the 2022-2024 Work Programme.
  - f. Regarding strengthening cooperation with partners (CP.9/13), particular recognition was made on the Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Resources for their contribution to the execution of projects, as well as to the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) for the partnership in MSP and MPA work. Update on CP.9/14 and CP.9/15 were the same as the Partners and Experts meeting on Day 1.
7. In the short discussion that ensued, the French text of the revised LBSA protocol was requested by Mr. Jacquis Rasoanaina, the Focal Point for Madagascar, to facilitate ratification. Mr. Yamkela Mngxe, the Focal Point of South Africa re-emphasized the need for a physical meeting – the Conference of Plenipotentiaries – to adopt the ICZM protocol.
8. Mr Waruinge highlighted the 2022-2024 Work Programme detailed in the working document [UNEP/EAF/CP.10/2](#). The four components of the programme were outlined, along with the goal, objectives, and specific activities under each component. The partners for each component were briefly outlined. The chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau emphasized the importance of oceans in mitigating climate change and building resilience among local communities and supported the Work Programme as an opportunity to grow with knowledge and communication.
9. Mr Jean Vermot (France) seconded the proposition for 2022-2024 Programme of Work. Mr Alexandre Cornet (France), noted that under the component on coordination and legal aspects, there was need to incorporate linkages with the CBD COP15 outcomes around protection of MPAs and ongoing work in the ABNJ and High Seas.
10. Nanette Laure made a brief presentation on the Western Indian Ocean Resilience & Prosperity Initiative (WIO-RPI), proposed by the Government of Seychelles, as a project of the Nairobi Convention to strengthen existing regional initiatives and COP decisions on regional ocean policy. The initiative would be ready for ratification at the Nairobi Convention’s 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP11). Contracting Parties will establish a WIO Policy & Strategy to (i) enhance marine science, (ii) harness a sustainable blue economy (iii) strengthen natural resilience & restoration and (iv) advance ocean governance. The Seychelles requested parties to consider adopting WIO-RPI and to fit it into the Work Programme, given its two-year tenure.
11. Subsequent interventions included appreciation of WIO-RPI by Mr. Jacquis Rasoanaina, the Focal Point for Madagascar, and Ms. Emelda Adam, the Focal Point of Tanzania, noting the assurance



that the initiative was for the WIO region. Mr. Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed, the Focal Point for Somalia, further called for the WIO-RPI to consider priorities, needs, emerging trends and benefits of the initiative to the region. Mr. Yamkela Mngxe, the Focal Point for South Africa, supported the initiative and underscored a longstanding norm in the culture of the Convention, whereby members' pilot projects could then be up-scaled.

Mr Martin Okun, a finance officer at UNEP, presented the report of the Convention's budget. He outlined the expenditure for the period 2018-2020 and the core budget for 2021-2024, broken down into estimated total expenditure, programme support costs and working capital. He explained that budget allocations are made according to decisions of a given COP and specific agreements with donors. He reported that the full audit was available on the website of the UN board of auditors. Mr Okun then displayed a table of assessed contributions, showing unpaid pledges of about \$2.8 million, a current cash balance of \$1.5 million and \$2.4 million for counterpart contributions (QAW). For the management of liquidity, it was recommended to maintain a cash balance of \$2 million so as to ensure sustainability, which can be achieved over the coming four years by ensuring annual contributions are paid on time. UNEP noted with appreciation that some parties regularly paid their annual contributions, while others have cleared part of their arrears, and called on others to emulate this example.

12. Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles sought clarification on the variances in the invoices for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 and urged the Secretariat to provide a detailed reconciliation, noting that unpaid pledges for 2021 had already been settled. South Africa expressed concern over the high travel budget in the proposed Work Programme 2022-2024, for which the Secretariat explained that the amounts depicted were those earmarked for travel to COP11, which is hoped to be a physical meeting.

### *Session III: National Focal Points discussion on proposed decisions*

13. The Secretariat presented the draft decisions to be discussed at the meeting before the heads of delegation segment of COP10. The session was led by Mr. Robert Wabunoha, Environment Governance Coordinator at the UNEP Regional Office for Africa. The Focal Points spent considerable time discussing the draft decisions and revised the decisions in line with proposals by country representatives and interventions received from partners. Mr. Jean Vermot expressed thanks to the Chair of the meeting and to the Contracting Parties for tremendous work and concurrence on the decisions.



## **COP10 DAY 3: HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING**

### *Session I: Opening of the Meeting*

1. Mr Dixon Waruinge, the head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, thanked Kenya for leadership during the intersession period and recognized the presence of the Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention from Kenya – Hon Keriako Tobiko, the Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Environment and Forestry, Government of Kenya.
2. Mr Tobiko called meeting to order and expressed pleasure at seeing the distinguished delegates, colleagues and all other ministers virtually together at the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties. He noted that the intersessional period since COP9 in 2018 had its own share of challenges, mainly arising from COVID-19 pandemic. Countries experienced similar problems trying to contain the spread, leading to rescheduling of events, use of webinars and other novel means. He added that considerable progress had been achieved, thanks to the advent of technology. The chair observed that during this period, crucial work aiming to protect and restore critical habitats, improve water management, manage river flows, or enhance ocean governance were halted or delayed. Capacity building, so important to the work of Convention, was also put on hold. In addition, the Bureau had envisaged to visit project sites, but this could not happen due to curtailed local and regional travel. The minister recalled that COP10 Convention was supposed to be held in Madagascar in October 2020, which was postponed at request of the host government due to the pandemic. He also noted that the pandemic had required innovative ideas and patience to continue making progress and commended partners and fellow Contracting Parties accordingly.
3. Kenya had the pleasure to preside over the Convention Bureau and witnessed notable international action to protect the ocean during this times including two UN-Environment Assemblies (UNEA4 and UNEA5.1); the AMCEN meeting in which environment ministers helped to mobilize resources to accelerate COVID-19 recovery and tackle the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution; CBD COP15.1 meeting in October 2021 which agreed on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and the UNFCCC COP26 meeting in November 2021, in which a roadmap for updating nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) for addressing climate change was pronounced.
4. Reflecting on his tenure as chair, the minister observed that the Convention had attained its highest level of funding since its creation in 1985, mostly for the implementation of projects. These include the GEF funded \$10.8 million WIOSAP and \$8.7 million SAPPHIRE projects, the \$2.1 million capacity building project for MEAs in ACP countries funded by the EU, the \$8.6 million Nairobi Convention-SWIOFC partnership project funded by SIDA, and the 1.5 million euro NoCaMo project funded by FFEM. He thanked and appreciated the donors for this support. All these projects are working together to make the oceans and coastlines, economies and lives healthier and more sustainable. The strong partnership between and among Contracting Parties and their effectiveness was appreciated.
5. In March 2021, the Convention played an important role in securing funding for the 25 million-euro GoBlue project to be implemented in the coastal region of Kenya. In addition, Kenya is implementing WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE demonstration projects on wastewater in Mtwapa, developing Kilifi county spatial plan for coastal and marine resources, improving the management of Diani-Chale marine reserve, oceanographic data and research on the northern Kenya, and assessment of the potential of the marine sector to sustain the blue economy. The minister expressed satisfaction with the work being done to secure future funding under the Convention, including proposals being developed for submission to the Green Climate Fund for the implementation of a climate change strategy in the Convention area, and for creating the Transboundary Conservation Area between Kenya and Tanzania.
6. Looking into the future, the chair underscored the need to identify opportunities for impactful action to protect and develop the WIO. He cited global and regional events that informed the proposed



Work Programme 2022-2024, including the 2018 Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, the 2019 and the 2021 Growing Blue Conference, the 2021 World Ocean Assessment, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2025, UNEP's Regional Seas Strategic Direction 2022-2025, and the recommendations of the Nairobi Convention-organized March 2021 science-policy dialogue. Mr Tobiko outlined upcoming events relevant to the implementation of the Convention and its Work Programme, which included UNEA 5.2 from 28 February to 2 March 2022 and the celebrations of UNEP@50 on 3-4 March 2022. In June 2022, Kenya and Portugal will be hosting the UN Ocean Conference, and the 50th anniversary of Stockholm conference will be celebrated from 2-3 June 2022. In November 2022, Egypt will host the UNFCCC COP27. The Chair expressed his utmost pleasure and that of the government of Kenya for the honour of chairing the Bureau and looked forward to working with the new team.

7. On behalf of Ms Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of UNEP, Ms Mirey Atallah, UNEP's Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, delivered her opening statement to the Conference of Parties. She observed the healthy funding of the Convention as a demonstration of the change in paradigm and will to support the environment as the foundation of a prosperous economy and society. On the triple planetary crises, Ms Atallah expressed concern over the worrying trajectory between greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation gaps and the slow funding for adaptation for infrastructure-based response, and social, policy and nature-based responses to climate change. She assured parties of UNEP's continued investment of technical expertise, financial and administrative services to support countries in addressing the triple planetary crises and called on the COP to provide innovative and creative solutions for addressing the impacts of Covid-19 on livelihoods. She explained that over the years, the Convention had strengthened its role and reinforced its mandate and Programme of Work. She applauded this work and called it a clear signal and indication of the trust Contracting Parties have placed in the Convention. Ms Atallah extended an invitation to the UNEA 5.2 meeting in February 2022 in Nairobi.

### *Session I: Opening statements by Heads of Delegation*

8. The chair recognized and invited heads of delegations to deliver their national statements.
- a. **France:** Mr. Alexandre Cornet of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs spoke on behalf of the minister and stated that France was fully committed to the Convention and saluted the Secretariat. France has backed the Convention by hiring an expert to be seconded to the Secretariat and has advocated for the resilience of the ocean and sustainable ocean economy, negotiations for open seas, and an ambitious agenda for marine ecosystem. He mentioned and invited delegates to the One Planet Ocean Summit to be held in February 2022.
  - b. **Mauritius:** Hon Kavydass Ramano, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, conveyed heartfelt congratulations to Madagascar for organising the conference within the challenging context of Covid-19 pandemic and gratitude to UNEP and the Convention Secretariat for support to Mauritius during the Wakashio oil spill incident. The Government of Mauritius was developing the blue economy sector as an important pillar for sustainable economic development at a time when adaptation to climate change remains of utmost importance to Mauritius. To achieve the vision of a plastic-free Mauritius, the government has enacted the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 and legislation on the importation, manufacture, possession, sale, supply and use of non-biodegradable single use plastic. Following the grounding of MV Wakashio in July 2020, the national oil spill contingency plan had been updated, which included measures for long-term monitoring of coastal water quality and ecosystem health. In the face of financial constraints due to COVID-19, Mr Ramano called for support and expertise in ecosystem-based management and climate related nature-based solutions.



- c. **Seychelles:** Hon Flavien Joubert, the Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, affirmed his country's commitment to achieving the Nairobi Convention vision of a prosperous Western Indian Ocean region with healthy rivers, coasts, and oceans, already by designating 30% of its marine coastal area as protected. At UNFCCC COP26, Seychelles pledged to protect 100% of her mangrove and seagrass ecosystems by 2030 and laid progress on the development of a national marine litter action plan and strategy. The Minister also emphasized the potential of the WIO Resilience and Prosperity Initiative on ocean governance policy and strategy to support the aspirations of a sustainable blue economy and sought delegates' thoughtful contribution on the initiative.
- d. **South Africa:** Ms Judy Beaumont, the Deputy Director General (Ocean and Coasts) in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) gave the apology of the minister, Ms Barbara Creecy, and cited some of the critical threats to the coastal and marine environment in South Africa. On marine pollution, she reported that the Amended Nairobi Convention was tabled in the South African parliament and adopted in June 2021, while the LBSA Protocol is scheduled to be tabled in the next session. On ocean governance, Ms Beaumont acknowledged the efforts of the Nairobi Convention and the support of South Africa to ensure delivery of the Western Indian Ocean governance strategy.
- e. **United Republic of Tanzania:** Mr Faraja Ngerageza, the Assistant Director of Environment responsible for Conservation of Biodiversity in the Vice President's Office, delivered a national statement, calling on the parties to support implementation of the 2022-2024 Work Programme and related decisions in line with the sovereign rights of Contracting Parties and national circumstances for compliance, monitoring and development. He requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to continue capacity building in MSP and other area-based management tools, and to promote the science-policy dialogue at the country level. Mr Ngerageza announced that Tanzania will continue to fulfil her obligations under the Convention and called upon those who have not ratified or acceded the amended Convention and LBSA protocol to do so.
- f. **Somalia:** Mr Ahmed Yusuf Ahmed, Director General, Directorate of Environment, Office of the Prime Minister, delivered the national statement on behalf of the government. He noted that every effort was being made in providing incentives and policies crucial toward the realisation and growth of the blue economy. A national climate change policy and environmental policy have been in existence since 2020, and specific regulations were being developed. The government was keen on the assessment of the Juba-Shebelle river system and on adaptation to climate change.
- g. **Mozambique:** Ms. Emilia Fumo, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Land and Environment, delivered the government's statement to the Secretariat following a network interruption during the presentation.

## *Session II: Election of Officers*

9. The agenda was adopted with no amendment. The chair called for the election of members of the Bureau for the period between COP10 and the next COP. In accordance with the applicable rules and procedures, he requested that nominations be made for the offices of chair, vice chair (Work Programme), vice chair (resource mobilization), vice chair (coordination) and rapporteur. The chair, representing Kenya, nominated Madagascar as chair, and was seconded by Seychelles. Madagascar nominated Tanzania as vice chair (Work Programme) and was seconded by South Africa. Seychelles was nominated by South Africa for the position of vice chair (resource mobilization) and was seconded by Mauritius. Tanzania nominated South Africa for vice chair (coordination), seconded by France. Seychelles endorsed the practice of the Convention that the outgoing country Bureau member normally becomes rapporteur for the purpose of records and continuity. Kenya was nominated in the position of rapporteur, seconded by France.



10. The new Bureau of the Nairobi Convention was duly constituted as follows:

- Madagascar: chair
- Tanzania: vice chair (Work Programme)
- Seychelles: vice chair (resource mobilization)
- South Africa: vice chair (coordination)
- Kenya: rapporteur

11. The outgoing chair congratulated all members elected to the Bureau and invited Madagascar to deliver its national statement. Hon Ms Baomiaotse Vahinala Raharinirina, the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar, delivered the nation's address, appreciating the honour of assuming the mandate of chair of the Bureau. Ms Raharinirina explained that Madagascar was deeply committed to the mandate of the Convention and would spare no effort to collectively ensuring that the WIO remains a prosperous region. She outlined some examples of how Madagascar was meeting its commitments on the sustainable use of mangroves, management of river flows and wastes, and local communities' involvement in locally managed marine areas (LMMA). The minister observed that the government would continue to build on the progress made by Kenya to promote the Convention and extend collaboration for promoting prosperity in the region. The minister appreciated and requested that Kenya continued chairing the remaining sessions of the Heads of Delegation meeting of COP10.

### *Session III: Report of the Executive Director and Programme of Work*

12. The chair invited the Secretariat to present the report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the implementation of the Work Programme 2018-2022 and the proposed Work Programme 2022-2024 and budget. Mr Waruinge, the head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat made a presentation detailed in documents [UNEP/EAF/CP.10/INF/1](#) and [UNEP/EAF/CP.10/2](#). The progress in the implementation of the COP9 was followed by an elaboration of the four components of the Work Programme 2022-2024 around management and operational support, assessment and conservation, coordination and legal aspects, and information and awareness. The meeting proceeded with the presentation of the report on the budget by Martin Okun, highlighting the two funding sources of the Convention.

13. The chair observed that Focal Points had discussed matters contained the presentations and noted that the Secretariat had described the issue of UNVs, the French secondment and the call on other parties to second personnel as far as they could, as well as the need to meet their respective contributions to the trust fund. The request for additional support on several fronts was also noted and well taken. With no comment from delegates, the Programme of Work was declared approved.

### *Session IV: Adoption of Decisions*

14. Mr Robert Wabunoha presented the proposed decisions for consideration by the Contracting Parties. The final set comprised a preambular section and decisions. After the preamble, each decision was presented to delegates for comment, revision and/or adoption. The following 13 decisions were adopted.

- Decision CP.10/1. Approval of the Programme of Work for 2022-2024.
- Decision CP.10/2. Ratification, accession, and implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land-based Sources and Activities.
- Decision CP.10/3. Adoption of the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management.
- Decision CP.10/4. Review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes.
- Decision CP.10/5. Ocean Governance Strategy.
- Decision CP.10/6. Oil Spill Preparedness and Response.
- Decision CP.10/7. Regional Action Plan to address Ocean Acidification.
- Decision CP.10/8. Area-based Planning Tools for Sustainable Blue Economy.



- Decision CP.10/9. Monitoring of the marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Decision CP.10/10. Water Quality and Marine litter.
- Decision CP.10/11. Science-policy dialogue.
- Decision CP.10/12. Projects and Partnerships.
- Decision CP.10/13. Financial matters.

15. On the venue and date of the next meeting, Madagascar extended the offer to host the eleventh meeting. Mr Tobiko announced that COP11 would take place in Madagascar at a date to be communicated in due course.

16. South Africa appreciated Madagascar as the new chair of the Bureau and looked forward to COP11, requesting, if possible, that planning and documentation be done in good time – a six-month lead time would be appreciated.

17. Mr Dixon Waruinge thanked the chair, ministers and delegations that attended COP10, Focal Points for their rigorous inputs into the adopted decisions, all partners, donors and non-state actors who have continually shown unwavering support to the Convention, and staff of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. He hoped that COP11 would be held face-to-face and that the Bureau would have the opportunity to visit field demonstration sites. He sought further indulgence in asking each Contracting Party to meet their dues.

18. The chair thanked delegates for a successful conclusion of COP10. The meeting ended at 12:51 East African Time.



## Annex I: Decisions adopted at COP10

UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EAF/CP.10/3.add1



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### Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region Contracting Parties

Tenth meeting  
Virtual, 23 - 25 November 2021

#### Decisions Adopted by the Contracting Parties

##### Preamble

*The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region (hereinafter the Nairobi Convention),*

*Noting with appreciation* the progress made in implementation of the Work Programme for 2018–2022, within the constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and *cognisant* of the need for a Work Programme for 2022–2024 that addresses the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste, as well as post COVID-19 recovery, in the marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean region,

*Recalling* that the 2018-2022 Work Programme was funded and implemented through regular payments of assessed and voluntary contributions to the Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region by the Contracting Parties and with contributions by partners through implementation of collaborative projects and activities,

*Concerned* about current and emerging threats to the Western Indian Ocean region's marine and coastal environment, especially those affecting critical habitats and endangered species, including mangroves, coral reefs, sea grasses, shark and rays,

*Noting* that we share a common responsibility and concern for ocean health and that the emerging issues in the whole ocean space are closely interrelated and require improved ocean governance,

*Noting* the decisions of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that took place from 31 October to 13 November 2021 in Glasgow, and *further recognizing* the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems to deliver crucial services, including acting as net carbon sinks, reducing climate change vulnerabilities and supporting local community's sustainable livelihoods,

*Noting* the progress made on ratifying the amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities, the finalisation of the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Western Indian Ocean region and the need to review the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region,



*Appreciating* the progress made in implementing the decisions and programmes of the meetings of Contracting Parties, especially on oil spill preparedness and response, ocean acidification, marine spatial planning, the science-policy interface, marine litter and microplastics, shark and ray species, and the monitoring of the coastal and marine environment,

*Noting* the current global and regional processes, including on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the 2021-2030 United Nations decade on ecosystems restoration, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference, the *African Union Agenda 2063*, the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy, areas beyond national jurisdiction, marine litter and plastic pollution, blue economy and circular economy, and ocean governance in Africa,

*Acknowledging and thanking* partners, including the Global Environment Facility, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the European Commission Programme in the African, Caribbean and the Pacific on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, and the Consortium for the Conservation of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal and Marine Ecosystems, for their contribution and collaboration in supporting the work of the Nairobi Convention,

*Appreciating* the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the work of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols, action plans and Work Programmes,

*Decide,*

#### **Decision CP.10/1. Approval of the Programme of Work for 2022-2024**

1. To approve and implement, with the support of partners, the Programme of Work for the period 2022–2024, within the four priority areas as defined in annex A.
2. To request the Secretariat to report on the progress of implementation of the Programme of Work 2022-2024 at the regular meetings of national Focal Points and at the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties.

#### **Decision CP.10/2. Ratification, accession, and implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land-based Sources and Activities.**

1. To urge Contracting Parties that have not ratified or acceded to the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities to do so to enable the Amended Convention and Protocol to come into effect and request the Secretariat, where necessary and requested, to support them in the process of ratification.
2. To urge Contracting Parties that have ratified or acceded to the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities to strengthen their institutional capacity and develop or harmonize policies, laws, regulations, and standards for the effective implementation of the Convention and protocol.

#### **Decision CP.10/3. Adoption of the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

1. To request the Secretariat to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries before the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties to adopt and sign the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Western Indian Ocean region.

#### **Decision CP.10/4. Review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes**



1. To request the Secretariat to convene an ad-hoc legal and technical working group to prepare a revised Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes, with priority for conservation action on marine ecosystems and critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable species, for negotiation and adoption, and report progress at the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties.
2. To request partners, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to support the Contracting Parties in the process of the review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes.

#### **Decision CP.10/5. Ocean Governance Strategy**

1. To request the Secretariat to finalise the development, in a participatory process, with the support of partners, the ocean governance strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region as a contribution to the Africa ocean governance strategy.
2. To invite the African Union Commission and regional economic communities to enhance collaboration with the Nairobi Convention on ocean governance in the Western Indian Ocean region.
3. To request the Secretariat to strengthen national data centres, through capacity development on information and knowledge management, and in collaboration with partners, to develop a regional information management strategy and mechanisms to address common challenges and take informed decision-making for ocean governance.
4. To invite Contracting Parties to cooperate and collaborate in Ocean governance matters within existing institutional mandates and coordinate actions on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

#### **Decision CP.10/6. Oil Spill Preparedness and Response**

1. To request the Secretariat, as part of the efforts to strengthen the regional response centres and oil spill coordination mechanisms, to support the:
  - a) review of national oil spill contingency plans,
  - b) identification of capacity gaps in oil spill preparedness and response, and
  - c) preparation of oil spill sensitivity maps for Contracting Parties, that require such support.

#### **Decision CP.10/7. Regional Action Plan to address Ocean Acidification**

1. To request the Secretariat, with the support of partners, to develop a regional action plan to monitor and support national climate change intervention strategies to minimize the impacts of ocean acidification.

#### **Decision CP.10/8. Area-based Planning Tools for Sustainable Blue Economy**

1. To request the Secretariat to finalise the preparation of a regional marine spatial planning strategy for adoption at the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties.
2. To urge Contracting Parties to mainstream marine spatial planning and the ecosystems-based approach into national development planning processes, including the sustainable blue economy.
3. To urge Contracting Parties to establish a network of marine protected areas, and other effective conservation measures, such as, locally managed marine areas, community fisheries management areas, taking into account climate refugia for threatened habitats and species.

#### **Decision CP.10/9. Monitoring of the marine and coastal ecosystems**



1. To request the Secretariat to develop a regional coastal and marine ecosystem indicator monitoring framework, to support Contracting Parties to periodically assess the state of the marine and coastal environment and for adoption by a meeting of national Focal Points before the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties.

#### **Decision CP.10/10. Water Quality and Marine litter**

1. To request the Secretariat to establish a regional task force on water quality to support the development of a water quality monitoring framework and guidelines on national interventions, and for adoption by a meeting of national Focal Points before the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties.
2. To request the Secretariat and partners to finalise the preparation of a regional action plan to address marine litter and plastic pollution for adoption at the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties.

#### **Decision CP.10/11. Science-policy dialogue**

1. To request the Secretariat to continue organising regional and national science-policy dialogues for scientists and policy makers to support decision making for improved ocean governance.

#### **Decision CP.10/12. Projects and Partnerships**

1. To urge Contracting Parties to establish partnerships and programmes on ocean action taking advantage of the opportunities offered by climate change financial mechanisms and arrangements.
2. To request the Secretariat to support the implementation of ongoing projects and agree to develop new projects, where necessary, including:
  - a) strengthening existing partnerships for the implementation of 2022-2024 Programme of Work with the support of International Union for the Conservation of Nature, World Wild Fund for Nature, Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean, Wildlife Conservation Society, including support to large-scale multi-stakeholder initiatives,
  - b) partnership with Seychelles for the development of a regional resilience and prosperity initiative,
  - c) Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, in the development of an information management strategy, ocean governance strategy, and a regional multi-stakeholder initiative to enhance coastal and ocean stewardship and accelerate the transition to a sustainable blue economy,
  - d) develop and implement a regional mangrove action plan through the Western Indian Ocean Regional Mangrove Network, with support of Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, World Wide Fund for Nature, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Wetlands International and report progress at the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties,
  - e) transboundary marine protected area between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania;
  - f) partnership with the France through the French Facility for Global Environment (*Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial*) to support projects to strengthen coastal resilience and adaptation to climate change and initiatives on mangroves, and



- g) partnership with France to finance marine litter and plastic pollution through French Facility for Global Environment (*Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial*)<sup>1</sup>, including the dialogue between science and decision-makers for an integrated management of marine and coastal environments project 2021-2024.

### Decision CP.10/13. Financial matters

1. To request the Secretariat to provide invoices to the Contracting Parties for their current year's contributions by the first day of January, June or September of every year.
2. To request the Secretariat to continue reporting on the status and use of the Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region at the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
3. To request Contracting Parties to support the Secretariat in mobilising resources for implementation of projects and activities, including by providing staff and staffing resources within the provisions of the United Nations regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> projects by :2M€ in 2021 for marine litter projects, 5M€ additional for 2022 supporting various actions in many regional Conventions (Barcelona, Cartagena, Nairobi) 4M€ AFD and 1.7M€ FFEM project led by the Indian Ocean Commission (French presidency 2021 - 2022) to support the circular economy in the Western Indian Ocean region (initiated in June 2021) 0.5M€ project led by Earth wake to transform marine plastic waste into fuel in an island environment (technology low tech, low cost) 5M€ preparatory phase for several projects to be launched in 2022; French Sustainable Actions for Innovative and Low-impact Shipping initiative to encourage maritime companies to put in place actions to reduce their environmental footprint.



## Annex II: Agendas

### Tenth Meeting of Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region

#### Partners Meeting

Tuesday, 23 November 2021

Virtual: Interactio Platform

<b>Session I</b>		
<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		
09.30 – 10:00	Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
	Introductions	Partners
	Opening remarks	Representative – Government of Kenya
	Adoption of Agenda	Chair, Bureau
<b>Session II</b>		
10:00 – 10:20	Report of The Executive Director of UN Environment Programme on the Implementation of Workplan and Budget (2018-2021)	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
10:20 – 10:40	Proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the Nairobi Convention for the 2022-2024 period	
10:40 – 10:55	Discussions by Partners on the proposed Programme of Work 2022-2024	Chair of Bureau
<b>10:55 – 11:05</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
<b>Session III</b>		
11:05 – 13:00	Partners discussion on draft decisions for consideration by the Contracting Parties at the tenth Conference of Parties	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
13:00 – 13:15	Recommendations of the Partners meeting	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
13:15-13:30	Administrative matters, any other business and closing remarks	Chair of Bureau

#### National Focal Points Meeting

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

Virtual: Interactio Platform

<b>Session I</b>		
<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		
09.30 – 10:00	Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
	Introductions	Focal Points
	Opening remarks	Representative – Government of Kenya
	Adoption of Agenda	Chair, Bureau
<b>Session II</b>		



10:00 – 10:20	Report of the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme on the Implementation of Workplan and Budget (2018-2021)	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
10:20 – 10:40	Proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the Nairobi Convention for the 2022-2024 period	
10:40 – 10:55	Discussions on the proposed Programme of Work 2022-2024	Focal Points
<b>10:55 – 11:05</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
<b>Session III</b>		
11:05- 11:20	Financial reporting	NCS
11:20 – 13:00	National Focal Points discussion on proposed decisions for consideration by the Contracting Parties at the tenth Conference of Parties	Chair of Bureau
13:00 – 13:15	Recommendations of the Focal Points meeting	NCS
13:15 – 13:30	Administrative matters, any other business and closing remarks	Chair of Bureau

### Contracting Parties (Heads of Delegation meeting)

**Thursday, 25 November 2021**

**Virtual: Interactio Platform**

<b>Session I</b>		
<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		
09:30-9:45	Welcome and opening remarks	Nairobi Convention Secretariat
09:45 – 10:45	Opening statements by Heads of Delegation	Contracting Parties
<b>Session II</b>		
10:45 – 11:00	Election of Officers	Out-going Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention
11:00 – 11:10	<b>Health Break</b>	
<b>Session III</b>		
11:10 – 11:25	Report by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme	UNEP
11:25 – 11:50	Programme of Work 2022-2024 Financial report	Chair of Bureau , Nairobi Convention Secretariat
<b>Session IV</b>		
11:50 – 12:45	Adoption of Decisions	Nairobi Convention Chair of the Bureau
12:45 – 13:00	Dates and Place of the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP11)	Nairobi Convention Chair of the Bureau
13:00 – 13:30	Administrative matters, any other business and closing remarks	Nairobi Convention Secretariat



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### Day 3 Heads of Delegation Meeting

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## Annex IV: Opening statements by Heads of Delegation





**Statement by Hon Keriako Tobiko – Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya, and the Chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau.**

Distinguished delegates,

Excellencies and colleagues

Good morning.

It is a great pleasure to be present albeit virtually with so many friends and colleagues at this tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention.

As you know, Kenya has been serving as the chair of the Bureau of the convention since the 9th convention that took place in 2018, and it was a true honour, actually has been a true honour and privilege, for us as a country to have been given the responsibility to lead the group of contracting parties. Delegates, the intersessional period between the two COPs, COP9 and this one, has had its own share of challenges, and all of us are quite familiar with these because we experience similar challenges. As was mentioned yesterday during the focal points meeting, the focus of many of our countries, actually all of us, has been on the serious and immediate concerns - the economic and social impacts linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The member states of the convention are all at various stages of responding to this global health crisis, as they continue to monitor and institute measures to contain the spread of the virus. Since March of 2020, the containing measures have affected implementation of both regional and national level activities, and have resulted into delayed and lost time, the scheduling of events and the postponement or face to face meetings, and that is why we are meeting here today virtually. The convention and partners have undertaken most stakeholder consultation, meetings and launches, nonetheless, through webinars and other available web technologies, thanks the advent of technology.

Crucial work on demonstration projects aiming to restore our critical habitats, improve our water management, manage our river flows, or enhance our ocean governance, were halted or delayed. Capacity building workshops and activities, so important to improve the management of the Western Indian Ocean, were also put on hold. The Bureau had envisaged to travel and visit ongoing project sites in member countries, but COVID 19 curtailed local and regional travel. You will also recall that the 10<sup>th</sup> conference was to be held in Madagascar in October of last year. COP10 was postponed at the request of the host government of Madagascar, again due to the pandemic. This has required innovative ideas and a lot of patience to be made to continue to make progress in these areas, and for that I commend our Partners and the fellow Contracting Parties. Kenya has had the pleasure of presiding over the Nairobi Convention Bureau during this critical period, and in international action to protect our oceans.

Some significant events have taken place during the intersessional period. UN environment assemblies - UNEA 4 and UNEA 5.1 - were held at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, during which innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production were agreed upon. AMCEN meetings were also held, during which environment ministers from the continent mobilised or helped to mobilise resources to accelerate the post COVID recovery and the green and inclusive agenda. We further agreed to set up our Continent's response to tackle the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste.

Two of these crises - biodiversity loss and climate change -have also been in the spotlight recently for good reason. COP 15.1 of the CBD held this October agreed on the new set of goals for nature – the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which is set to be adopted during the resumed session of COP15 in May of 2022. The commitment of the Western Indian Ocean region, as home to some of the



most unique biodiversity in the world, to achieving this post 2020 global biodiversity framework would be crucial to its success.

Secondly, COP10 of the Nairobi Convention is coming fresh on the heels of COP26 of the UNFCCC that was held in Glasgow. At COP26, a road map for updating Nationally Determined Contributions for addressing climate change was pronounced. I am sure we will have an opportunity either now or later during the intersessional period, to discuss the outcomes of the Glasgow climate pact. Other key outcomes included a pledge from over 100 leaders to end deforestation by 2030, and additional funds for the Global Adaptation Fund. Within the Nairobi Convention, the development of the climate change vulnerability assessment toolkit, as well as its piloting in four countries, will be a crucial tool as we work towards achieving our commitment.

#### Distinguished delegates

During Kenya's tenure as chair of the Bureau, we are proud to note that the Convention has benefited from highest level of funding since its creation in 1985. Most of this funding has been to implement various projects including: the 10.8 million US dollars GEF-funded WIOSAP project to protect the marine environment against land-based sources of pollution; and the 8.7 million US dollars - GEF-funded - SAPPHERE project to improve the management of the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystem. More recently the Convention has received funding to implement the US dollars 2.1 million project under the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries capacity building of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), funded by the EU - and we thank and appreciate all those of our benefactors. It is worth mentioning the partnership project between the Convention and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) for marine and coastal governance and fisheries management for sustainable blue growth in the Western Indian Ocean funded by the Swedish International Development Agency at the cost of U.S. dollar 8.6 million. Finally the other project is on the integrated management of the marine and coastal resources of the northern Mozambique channel, funded by the French Facility for Global Environment, at 1.5 million Euros.

Just this past March, the Nairobi Convention played a critical role in securing funding for the Go Blue project to be implemented here in Kenya, funded by the European Union. The 25 million euro four-year project aims to harness important coastal and marine resources to achieve a sustainable blue economy and bring jobs to over 3000 youth and women in the coastal region of Kenya.

The breadth and scope of these projects, all working together to make our oceans, coastlines economies and lives healthy and more sustainable, are statements to the strong partnership between and among our Contracting Parties. We are again proud to have been part of this effective group of countries during our tenure as chair of the bureau.

Kenya is working diligently to ensure the aims of these projects are being achieved on the ground and translating into real results and meaningful impact. This includes through the implementation of several demonstration projects as follows: 1) a constructed wetland to prevent waste water at Shimo la Tewa prison from entering Mtwapa creek; 2) using integrated coastal zone management to help conserve the Malindi-Sabaki estuary, 3) developing a spatial plan to manage coastal and marine resources in Kilifi County and, 4) improving the management of Diani-Chale marine national reserve.

Moreover, we also we also embarked on oceanographic data collection and research in the Northern Kenya Bank and have undertaken a detailed assessment of the potential of our marine sectors to the blue economy. Kenya is also proud of the work being done currently to secure future funds for projects under the Convention. This includes proposals to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund to implement a climate change strategy for Nairobi Convention states, as well as another proposal for a project to create a transboundary conservation area between Kenyan and Tanzania.



#### Distinguished delegates

As we look forward to the future, we must identify many opportunities that are available to work effectively together for impactful action to protect and develop the Western Indian Ocean. The recent global and regional processes and events have informed the proposed work programme of the Convention for the period 2022–2024.

To start, you vividly recall the commitments made at the 2018 sustainable blue conference in Nairobi, and in 2019 and in the just concluded 2021 Growing Blue Conference in Maputo. Other consideration that have informed the proposed work programme of the Convention for the 2022-2024 period, have been the 2021 world ocean assessments under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the ongoing negotiations on development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity for the areas beyond national jurisdictions.

The 2022-2024 work programme further draws from emerging coastal and marine issues necessary to inform policy and decision making. It is set at the 2021-2030 UN decade on ecosystem restoration, the 2021-2030 UN decade on ocean science for sustainable development and against the backdrop of the post COVID-19 recovery. The work programme is also informed by the March 2021 Western Indian Ocean science-policy dialogue which investigated science policy interactions in several strategic and thematic areas as defined by partners. It is also aligned with the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025.

#### Distinguished delegates

There will be as you all know UNEA 5.2 in February of next year, followed by the celebrations of UNEP@50. Further, in June of next year, Kenya and Portugal will be hosting the 2022 UN oceans Conference, and thereafter, the celebrations of the Stockholm+50 Conference. Finally, Egypt will be hosting the UNFCCC COP27.

In conclusion, it has been my utmost pleasure on behalf of my Government as Bureau Chair. We again thank all of you and each one of you for giving us the honour to be your chair during this period. We look forward to working together with incoming Bureau and assure them of all our support.

I thank you.



**Statement by H.E Kavydass Ramano, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mauritius**

His Excellency Mr Tobiko, chairman of the Conference of Parties, excellencies and ministers of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention

Excellencies,

Partners of the Nairobi Convention,

Mr Dixon Waruinge, head of the Nairobi Convention secretariat,

Distinguished delegates,

A very good morning to all of you.

It gives me great pleasure to be in your midst remotely this morning for the high-level segment of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, allow me to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the government of Madagascar for organising this conference in the challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Allow me also to extend my profound gratitude to UNEP and the Nairobi Convention secretariat, for their unwavering support to Mauritius through its various projects, and more recently in the context of the MV Wakashio oil spill incident.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The western Indian Ocean to which our countries belong, is popular for settlement areas, attractive tourist destinations and important business hubs. Our security, our economy, our very survival, all are inextricably linked to the health of our ocean ecosystems. However, it is sad to acknowledge that the WIO region, as is the case for the other oceans, are being impacted severely by anthropogenic pressures. Pollution from land-based activities and overfishing, in addition to the adverse effects of climate change, are severely impacting the health of our oceans. As all other countries in the WIO region, the Republic of Mauritius with its vast maritime zone amounting to some 2.3 million square kilometres, is also experiencing the above pressures and risks.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The resounding message from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference COP 26 is that ocean protection is climate protection. The conservation and sustainable use of marine resources are two sides of the same coin, and requires strong political leadership and partnerships. We are strongly committed towards the protection and conservation of its marine and coastal environment which is one of the major assets of our economic development. tapping into the economic potential of the ocean, while at the same time, protecting this resource requires thoughtful policy planning and management.

With this in mind, the Government of Mauritius is developing the blue economy sector as an important pillar to sustain economic diversification and growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. In order to facilitate its sustainable development, my government is implementing **marine spatial planning** to address any potential economic and economical conflicts that may arise from human activities in the ocean. A coordination committee has been set up with various working groups to work on various aspects of marine spatial planning, including the development of a framework.

Ladies and Gentlemen,



My ministry is sparing no efforts in the protection and sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment. Let me highlight some of the important measures and initiatives being taken. Climate change is the top-most priority for the government. With impacts of climate change and sea level rise, beach erosion has accentuated over years. As a SIDS, adaptation remains of utmost importance. Fully aware of the potential impacts that beach erosion may have on our tourism industry and public leisure, my ministry is investing massively to address this growing problem, so as to increase the resilience of our beaches. In this perspective a continuous coastal rehabilitation programme, funded under the National Environment and Climate Change Fund of the national budget, is being undertaken at priority eroded sites based on the recommendations made under different expert studies.

Second, solid waste is a growing concern for all our countries. One issue that we absolutely cannot ignore is that of the increasing quantities of plastic waste in the marine environment. If poorly managed, wastes from land-based sources get into the marine environment through riverine transport, storm water discharges and other streams, thus causing serious impacts on the marine ecosystems, and also economic activities. The impacts of marine plastic pollution, are various, including on food security, stress to the coastal and marine ecosystems, water quality degradation, tourism and recreation, just to mention a few. To achieve the vision of a plastic-free Mauritius, my ministry has enacted the Environment Protection (banning of plastic bags) regulations 2020 and the Environment Protection (control of single use plastic products) regulations 2020 address the ban on the trade and use of non-biodegradable plastic bags and single use plastic products - such as plastic cutlery, plastic plates, plastic cups, plastic straws, among others. We are also working on new regulations for PET bottles and the elaboration of a road map for plastic-free Mauritius is underway.

Third, the MV Wakashio grounding in July 2020 in Mauritius, and the marine oil spill that resulted in August 2020, is a tragic reminder of the environmental threats and considerable social economic impacts posed by marine transport, and the urgent need for us to be prepared and adopt prompt measures to prevent such disaster. I would like to thank the Convention secretariat for convening an adhoc meeting of the Nairobi Convention Focal Points virtually in August 2020, in response to the July 2020 grounding of MV Wakashio in Mauritius and the marine oil spill that resulted. Following the incidents and lessons learned, the national oil spill contingency plan has been updated. Here again, with your support, awareness raising on the updated plan will be carried out early next year.

Fourth, as regards to the protection of coastal and marine biodiversity, my government is implementing the national sewerage programme to improve sanitary conditions and protect our freshwater and coastal waters. It is targeted to connect 80% of the population by 2030. Other efforts by the government include long term monitoring of coastal water quality and ecosystem health, planting of mangroves, coral and seagrass restoration. Given the close interconnections between land, freshwater and coastal systems, we are fostering the reef-to-reef approach towards sounds environmental management and biodiversity conservation while at the same time ensuring sustainable coastal livelihoods.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the constraints of resources, both financial and physical, that we are facing due to COVID 19, we need to ascertain that there is close regional collaboration and adequate funding available to address the emerging pressing environmental issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution and waste facing our region. Support and expertise are needed in fields such as ecosystem-based management and nature-based solutions, in building the resilience of our coastal and marine ecosystems in the face of climate change and its impacts. Accordingly, the government of Mauritius would like to reiterate its total commitment to this Convention as we continue through implementation of its ongoing and future work programmes, we will meet its aims and objectives.



With these words, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention and wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.



## Statement by Hon Flavien Joubert, Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, Seychelles

Honourable ministers

Distinguished delegates

Members of Nairobi Convention secretariat

Seychelles is honoured and pleased to participate in this 10th conference of parties alongside our fellow Contracting Parties. As an island state, Seychelles is clearly aware of the power and importance of the western Indian Ocean to our lives and to our livelihoods.

We are a country whose Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.3 million square kilometres dwarfs our land area which is only 435 square kilometres, meaning of our current and future prosperity is inextricably linked to our marine and coastal assets. As such the Seychelles is committed to achieving the Nairobi Convention's vision of a prosperous western Indian Ocean region with healthy rivers, coasts, and oceans. Since the last COP, we have worked hard to make this vision a reality including by designating 30% of our marine and coastal area as protected and that was done in 2020.

Moreover, as an island state we are keenly aware of the potential devastating effects of climate change on our way of life. As such, at the recent COP 26 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Seychelles pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 26.4% and to protect 100% of our mangrove and seagrass ecosystems by 2030, as these habitats store huge amounts of blue carbon. To mention a few of the highlights, the Seychelles is developing a marine litter action plan and strategy which will be presented to our cabinet in May 2022. We are also implementing two demonstration projects under the WIOSAP project, one on improving water quality by the use of constructed wetland with water treatment facility at a farm in the west of Mahe, and another on wetland rehabilitation on the island of Platte.

In an effort to further ensure sustainability of the Western Indian Ocean, the Seychelles is proposing a cross-sectoral regional project with her fellow Nairobi Convention states - the Western Indian Ocean Resilience and Prosperity Initiative or **WIO-RPI**. The RPI's goal is to create an ambitious new regional ocean policy and strategy to continue to support sustainable ocean development that is underpinned by science-based management and protection. The initiative will build on various interventions being implemented by the Convention such as the development of a regional ocean governance strategy and the establishment of a multi stakeholder initiative to support ocean governance and sustainable blue economy aspirations in the region, and those of other partners across the region for synergy and also enhanced impact. The four objectives of the Regional Prosperity Initiative are the following: to enhance marine science, harness a sustainable blue economy, strengthen natural resilience and restoration and, advance ocean governance. More details on each of these objectives can be found in the western Indian Ocean RPI project plan, which each Contracting Party should have received by now. During the sitting of this COP10, Seychelles seeks to secure endorsement from our fellow Contracting Parties for this initiative. With your endorsement we will then plan to develop the Regional Prosperity Initiative policy and strategy in detail for ratification and endorsement at the next Conference of Parties.

The Seychelles, Mr. Chair, remains eager to work with fellow Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties to ensure we have a sustainably managed Western Indian Ocean. We believe that regional coordination is the only way that this can become a legacy. We therefore look forward to hearing your thoughts on the Western Indian Ocean RPI initiative as well as your contributions to make this fruitful.

Mr. Chair I thank you.



**Statement by Baomiavotse Vahinala Raharinirina, the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar**

Excellencies,

Dear ministers,

Executive Director of UNEP,

The secretariat for Nairobi Convention,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Madagascar, I would like to express my appreciation for being here and I am thanking all Contracting Parties at this conference. Now that we are aware of what has happened since the last conference, Madagascar is honoured to assume the mandate of president of the Bureau after Kenya. I am more than certain that all Contracting Parties will be in agreement and join me in my thanking you Chair, and all Parties for the support you have provided all these years.

Madagascar is the biggest of all African islands and other islands complexes Madagascar is definitely a very player of marine activities in the Western Indian Ocean. More than 50% of our population lives within a very short distance from the coastline and for a country with very high biodiversity, we do acknowledge very dearly the benefit of the ocean whether in terms of food security, employment, health, tourism and so on.

Madagascar is under the threat of the loss of biodiversity and the pollution that happens as a result of land activities, overfishing, and the threats posed by the climate change and the changing temperature, and impacts the rising sea temperature.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

For Madagascar, the protection and management of the coastal and marine environment and raising awareness of the values of the West Indian Ocean is of major concern in our agenda. There are no alternatives. It is essential for our existence. Consequently, we are deeply committed to the mandate given to us by the Nairobi Convention and we will spare no effort to collectively try to make sure that the Western Indian ocean remains a prosperous region.

I would like to highlight some examples of how Madagascar makes good of its commitment. The implementation of demonstration projects on the restoration and sustainable use of mangroves; The environmental management of river flows and waste under the Nairobi Convention. We are also working with local communities where more than 200 coastal communities are involved locally managed marine areas (LMMA) in coordination with various government agencies. Under such co-management we are committed to halting all illegal activities.

We are now about to finalise the development of our national strategy and action plan on marine waste and plastics in conjunction with UNEP. And we are also working in parallel with the Convention on Biological Diversity, to update our national strategy and our action plan to protect the biodiversity of Madagascar. May I also assure you that we are adhering to the Glasgow resolution of UNFCCC COP26 to best manage our biodiversity. We have also set up a project which will be in charge of sectoral and cross sectoral seabed activities through an integrated approach.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to congratulate each one of us for the support in managing our natural resources and strong cooperation will be even more crucial post COVID for the realisation of very ambitious goals over the



next 10 years. Madagascar will no doubt use the great progress made by Kenya, as outgoing chair of the Bureau, to continue promoting the Nairobi Convention, foster collaboration and extend the impact and activities of the Nairobi Convention and its protocols. We hope that the decisions of the Conference of the Parties will feed into the necessary strategic goals of the Convention of a prosperous region.

Excellencies, thank you very much for your kind attention.



**Statement by H.E. Emilia Fumo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Land and Environment, Mozambique**

His Excellency President of the Nairobi Convention Bureau,

Yours Excellences Ministers and Heads of Delegations of States Parties to the Nairobi Convention),

Her Excellency, representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

Your Excellency the Executive Secretary of the Nairobi Convention,

Your Excellency the Technical Assistant of the Indian Ocean Commission,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great honor and esteem that I address you, on the occasion of the 10th Conference of the Contracting Parties, and on behalf of the Minister of Land and Environment, Her Excellency Ivete Maibaze, I would like to address our greatest satisfaction, for having given us the privilege of joining us in this event, to take the big decisions that will guide the next Work Program for the implementation of the Nairobi Convention in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for the life of the Oceans.

Excellences,

To face the Coastal and Marine Sustainable management, the Government of Mozambique is committed to finding solutions to prevent or reduce pressure on marine and coastal resources through the creation of intervention mechanisms, whether legislative, initiatives, and programs that demonstrate good conservation practices. And that, in turn, contributes to poverty alleviation through the establishment of partnerships with various national, regional, and international actors, including the creation of marine protected areas.

Our country has already passed diverse binding legislation and programs, with emphasis on

- Adopt the “Crescendo Azul” Conference to be held every 2 years.
- Established the Blue Economy Development Fund.
- Approved the Regulation on the Management and Regulation on the Control of Plastic Bag and Regulation on the Banning of Plastic Bag, which aim to prevent and reduce plastic scale on land and at sea.
- Approved the Regulation on the control of Illegal Fishing.
- Approved the Regulation that complies with the Legal Regime for the Use of the National Maritime Space.
- Approved the Maritime Spatial Planning Plan;
- Approved the National Territory Development Plan; among others!

In parallel, it is currently underway:

- an Establishment of the Mozambique Blue Economy Strategy in line with the Maritime Policy and Strategy and the instruments of the SADC and the African Union.



- the design of the Action Plan to combat Marine Waste and Plastic Pollution in line with the new Global Plan on Plastic Pollution.
- the preparation of the Pilot Project for the implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning Plan at the level of the Greater Area of Maputo within the framework of the partnership of the SWIOF Project-Nairobi Convention.

In the dialogue between Science and Policy Makers, the country has identified and mapped 29 Key Biodiversity Areas and given the commitments made in 5% by 2025 under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 7% by 2020 at the Oceans conference from 2019, 10% to 2020 for the Aichi targets and 30% to 2030 under the High Ambition Coalition initiative, the country designed three scenarios that will guide efforts to expand and/or create new Marine Protected Areas in the Economic Zone Exclusive, from 7 to 8%, from 10 to 12% and 30%.

We highlight the implementation of demonstration projects under the WIOSAP and SAPPHIRE Projects for the rehabilitation of mangroves in the Limpopo River estuary, restoration of sea grasses and promotion of mussel aquaculture on Inhaca Island and Inhambane City. These actions rely on the participation of communities and an assessment of ecological flows in the Incomati River. Finally, the demonstrative project dedicated to strengthening harmonization and political and institutional reforms in ocean governance.

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The oceans need us, and this year, which marked the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), we have an opportunity, through concrete and concerted actions, to make a reversal in regarding everything that is harmful to this collective and universal natural resource and it is essential to increase the level of knowledge about the oceans and mares and recognize the importance of healthy oceans for our planet, our society and our economy, in order to raise awareness and educate the public.

Between the 18th and 19th of November 2021, Mozambique hosted the Second Edition of the “Growing Blue” Conference, with a focus on Ocean Governance and Sustainability, Ocean and Innovation, Ocean Routes, and Ocean Energy. the platform for international dialogue, relevant matters at a regional and global level around the challenges of ocean governance.

In this sense, it appears to be a coherent effort to promote ocean literacy through formal education and awareness, conservation, and training activities and projects. Investing in scientific marine knowledge is investing in the search for solutions to face the males that ravage the ocean and, certainly, it is investing in the long-awaited sustainable future of our planet.

Mozambique’s interest in transforming the “Growing Blue Conference” a platform linked to the Nairobi Convention, for more structured and harmonized actions, given the objective (SDG14).

On behalf of Your Excellency the Ministry of Earth and Environment, and on my behalf, I reiterate my thanks for the opportunity to be part of this Plenipotentiary meeting, at a time when the world is facing the COVID-19 Pandemic, which requires, from US, Concrete actions to combat and eradicate it, from the correct management of waste prevention to highlighting gloves and masks that later end up at sea.

Thank you.



**Statement by Alexandre Cornet Whaling Commissioner | International Ocean Protection, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France**

Good morning. I will be making my statement in French, and I will let you connect to the virtual translation in English.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear colleagues

It is a pleasure for me to be here present in this distinguished meeting. Unfortunately, our minister has been unable to join because she is traveling. She asked me to share with you some specific points concerning France. It goes without saying that we remain fully committed to the mission of the Convention and we thank the secretariat for the excellent work ... so far within the context of our Convention, and we thank you and salute the commitment of all Parties.

You know that the Western Indian Ocean is a zone of particular interest for France and we remain fully aboard to this effort. It is an investment for France and dedication of resources and effort for example by way of our support of the secretariat and the Convention in the hiring of an expert to be seconded at the secretariat to support the operations of the Convention. France remains very committed, globally speaking, towards maintaining the resilience of oceans as well as to maintain a sustainable green economy. We remain very much committed to the negotiations for the Open Seas and keen on the Convention on the Biological Diversity (CBD) with respect to which we are in favour of very ambitious objectives for the marine ecosystems.

We are also committed to the negotiations on plastic waste and for the microplastic as has already been mentioned as well as the other events on oceans within the next three years. We know it is a heavy agenda. In that sense may I remind you and share with you the of One Planet Ocean Summit in February 2022.

May I also bring to your attention the very good work that is being carried out under the coalition for nature and people. Some of the Parties to this Convention have already committed and I am inviting the rest of the Parties to come on board towards serving the very ambitious purpose of preserving marine ecosystems within the next years, even on achieving the 30% target for marine spaces between now and 2030. Thank you all for being very much committed to this so important Convention. Thank you.



**Statement by Judy Beaumont, Deputy Director General (Ocean and Coasts) in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), South Africa**

Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,  
Incoming chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau from the Republic of Madagascar,  
Outgoing chair of the Nairobi Convention Bureau from the Republic of Kenya,  
Executive Secretary of the Nairobi Convention,  
Distinguished members from the Nairobi Convention ,  
Development Partners,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

My name is Judy Beaumont. I am the Deputy Director General of the Oceans and Coasts Branch in the Department (Ministry) of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. I would like to start by giving the apology of Minister Barbara Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment who is not able to be with us today.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to deliver these opening remarks at the tenth Conference of Parties of the Nairobi Convention, as the representative of the Republic of South Africa. I would also like to start by thanking the outgoing chair of the Bureau from the Republic of Kenya for the extensive work that has been done, and welcome and appreciate the incoming chair from the Republic of Madagascar.

Distinguished delegates,

As we grapple with the challenges of economic growth and unemployment in our respective countries, exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, countries are intensifying their efforts to find economic opportunities within the ocean space under their jurisdiction. At the same time there are growing concerns about exploitation of marine resources and increasing evidence of impact on the ocean environment. Some of the well-known critical threats include marine pollution, in particular plastics - with a land based source or from shipping - and microplastics, loss biodiversity, unsustainable fishing practises and illegal fishing, ocean warming, and acidification associated with climate change, mining and, increasing development in coastal areas. With respect to marine pollution, it is a well known fact that roughly 80% comes from land-based sources with at least half of that consisting of surface run off and effluent.

The challenge in respect of marine litter, including plastic litter, continues to be a matter of increasing global and national concern. With global plastic production reaching new highs at 380 million tonnes produced annually, it is expected that the cumulative input of plastic litter into our oceans will increase to more than 250 million tonnes by 2025. This staggering statistic is well known to all of us, more so because the international community has adopted the sustainable development goals, and SDG14 which is relevant in this case, and, among others, seeks to significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds by 2025. The challenge is obvious, more economic activity in an ocean that is potentially vulnerable means that we must dramatically ramp up strategies to ensure that these ocean and coastal resource are able to regenerate, able to recover from human use and impact and resilient to the impacts of climate change. Many of these pressures are transboundary in nature, thereby emphasising the need for consolidated regional cooperation in developing effective control measures.

The work under the Nairobi Convention is significant in contributing to efforts to address these national and transboundary impacts. Both the protocol and land-based sources and activities and protocol an



integrated coastal zone management are important instruments for regional ocean and coastal management. I am pleased to inform you that in South Africa, the amended Convention was tabled in parliament in June this year and adopted, and the protocol on land based sources of pollution is scheduled for tabling in parliament in the next session.

There is no doubt that we must continue to strive for increasing levels of collaboration and partnership. At the centre of such efforts should be realisation and acknowledgement of the world's longstanding socio-economic relationship with the ocean and how that interdependence continues to evolve. Global trade and commerce as well as utilisation of our oceans as a source of food, among others, are important facets of this interdependency. The reality is that as pressure on our ocean and coastal resources increases, we are also bound to implement the sustainable development goals.

The key challenge for all of us is, how do we respond collectively within the realms of the Nairobi Convention mandate and footprints. An environmentally sound governance framework is key to both national and collective action. This was recognised and highlighted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, AMCEN, which in recent years has urged African states to promote the growth and development of the regional ocean sector in a sustainable blue economy pathway. The Nairobi Convention has picked up this baton with an important contribution to the continental ocean agenda through the development of an African ocean governance strategy. In this respect, South Africa would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Nairobi Convention secretariat to ensure delivery on this target with consultations and negotiations proceeding through the years of the difficult pandemic.

With the sustainable blue ocean economy being an important contributor towards the success of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, as well as the realisation of the continent's agenda 2063 aspirations, the role of regional bodies such as the Nairobi Convention is critically important. In the context of the recent outcome of COP 26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it is becoming increasingly important for the climate change strategy for the western Indian Ocean region to be prioritised for implementation. Never before has there been more importance than now to foster regional cooperation in addressing the impacts of climate change through, among others, assessing both the degree of preparedness and vulnerability and adaptation options of communities within the Nairobi Convention area.

Therefore, it is envisaged that the decisions from this 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties will contribute towards providing an overarching governance framework for the sustainable management of the Western Indian Ocean region. South Africa commits to continue participating in the Nairobi Convention processes and to fostering regional cooperation and collaboration to ensure that these decisions are implemented as part of successful implementation of the Nairobi work programme for 2022-2024.

I thank you.



## **Statement by Faraja Ngerageza, Deputy Director of Environment, Vice President's Office, United Republic of Tanzania**

The Executive Director of UN environment,

Excellencies and Heads of delegation,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

Chairperson, on behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania allow me at the outset of this meeting to express our thanks and appreciation to the government of the Republic of Madagascar for hosting this important meeting. We also would like to extend our gratitude to the secretariat of the Convention for the support and the collaboration, and for the organisation of this meeting. This event is special in its own kind as it brings together not only member states of the Nairobi Convention, but also other partners as recognised by the Convention, to discuss and share information on the issues of common interests that threaten our coastal and marine environment and so, millions of livelihoods of our people.

Chairperson, the United Republic Tanzania welcomes the work programme for 2022-2024 and acknowledges the partnership approach of the Convention in the implementation of the programme of work. I therefore, on behalf of Tanzania, call on all organisations and Nairobi Convention partners to tirelessly support the implementation of the work programme. Chairperson, Tanzania also welcomes the draft decisions that will be discussed and adopted today at this meeting, and would like to see the implementation of the decisions that we are going to adopt today.

I would like to stress the place of collaboration with partners in the implementation of projects. Second, new projects should be considered and promoted at all times in order to guarantee the continuity and sustainability of the work programme. Third, sovereign rights of Contracting Parties should be respected when developing projects of transboundary nature, as this will ensure success of the project and the attainment of the intended objectives. Four, partnership in developing and harmonising regional mechanisms for compliance, monitoring and response in oil and gas activities, need to respect national circumstances and sustainable development of a member country party to the Convention.

Five, we understand that most of the Contracting Parties have taken measures to address impacts of climate change within their own framework. Therefore, we request secretariat to delineate actions that require the collaboration of the Contracting Parties when developing programmes and projects on the resilience of blue economy and blue growth in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Six, we would like to request the secretariat in collaboration with our partners to continue implementing the capacity building programmes on marine spatial planning and the other area-based management tools for sustainable ocean economy. And lastly Mr Chairperson, we request the secretariat and the partners to support the Contracting Parties to promote a science-policy interface, by holding regular dialogue between scientists and policy-makers at country level. Exchange of science-based information will facilitate in development of appropriate policies and innovative solutions to address the current and emerging threats to the coastal and marine involvement.

As I conclude my statement Chair, I am pleased to announced in this meeting that Tanzania will continue to fulfil its obligations under the Convention and urge Contracting Parties that have not ratified or acceded to the amended Convention and the protocol for the protection of marine and coastal environment of the Western Indian Ocean, to do so in order to enable the two instruments to enter into force at the earliest opportunity.



I thank you.



**Statement by Ahmed Yusuf, Director General, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change-Office of the Prime Minister, Somalia**

Your excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to join this meeting. On behalf of Somalia, allow me to extend my gratitude to the UNEP and Nairobi Convention secretariat, and the government of Madagascar for organising this virtual meeting of the Conference of Parties. Somalia has been party to the Nairobi Convention since 1988. It is also important to know that the Somalia has the longest coastline in continental Africa and has huge marine resources. It is to be noted that the two major marine ecosystems in Western Indian Ocean are Agulhas and Somalia currents. These ecosystems are characterised by the relatively high biodiversity, and by their huge and complex populations of marine plants and animal species. The region has over 2200 species of fish including rare and endangered species.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The coastal and marine ecosystems of Somalia face a host of pressures from both offshore and land-based human activities. The threats include acts of pollution, loss of my diversity, climate change and pressure and the sea and ocean arising from the land-based waste can be seen in the coastal areas of Somalia. In addition, criminal activities, illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, dumping of toxic waste, trafficking of weapons, representing a potential barrier to the sustainable use of our marine resources and to unlock blue economy.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Somalia government is making every effort in addressing the unfortunate challenges. The development of effective legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and ocean management policies are crucial steps toward conservation of marine ecosystems and guiding growth of the blue economy. In this regard, we have developed a national climate change policy and national environmental policy. Specific policies and regulations related to the marine ecosystems are currently being worked on. The government of Somalia is committed to put in place a mechanism for protecting marine life and sustainable exploitation of ocean resources. The Somalia government also is strongly being an advocate for a mechanism for regional cooperation to ensure maritime security, conservation and sustainable utilisation of marine resources.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Somalia is rebuilding its institutions. Legal and regulations frameworks are key in the Western Indian Ocean. The work of the Convention is vital and important. Somalia is developing a comprehensive report on the environment, climate, water and sediment load of the Jubba-Shebelle region, in cooperation with the Swedish Agency for Maritime and Water Management. In others areas the directorate of environment is addressing climate change and its impacts in the coastal and marine area to conserve our marine ecosystems and unlock the potential of blue economy in the Western Indian Ocean.

I thank you for your kind attention.