



2024

# Report of the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention



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## BACKGROUND TO THE ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES

1. The Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment for the Western Indian Ocean region holds its Conference of Parties after every two years in line with Article 18 of the Convention. The eleventh Conference of Parties (COP 11) was hosted by the Government of Madagascar as the Chair of the Convention Bureau for the period 2011-2024 from 20 to 22 August 2024 in Antananarivo, Madagascar.
2. It was divided into three segments: a partners meeting on 20th August 2024, the National Focal Points meeting on 21st August 2024 and a meeting of the Heads of Delegations from Contracting Parties on 22nd August 2024.
3. The aim of COP 11 was to take stock of progress made since the 10th COP which was held virtually in November 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. It was attended by Contracting Parties, international organizations, regional organizations, UN Agencies and donors
4. The 11th COP was held against a backdrop of major global policy developments including the adoption of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (High Seas Treaty), Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, the Decade of Ocean Science and the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and Global Framework on Chemicals among others.
5. A new regional integrated programme for the period 2025-2035 for the Nairobi Convention was developed from which a Work Programme for the period 2025-2028 was derived from.
6. At the end of COP 11, the regional integrated programme for the period 2025-2035, Work Programme for the period 2025-2028 and fifteen (15) decisions were adopted.

## COP 11 Day 1

### Partners Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

#### A. Session I: Opening of the Meeting

##### Introduction

##### Opening Remarks by Government of Madagascar

7. The Partnership meeting was officially opened at 0925 hours by the Government of Madagascar, as the Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention. Mr. Andry Fidiniaina Moise Rasmoelina, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment delivered the welcome remarks and extended a warm welcome to all participants.

##### Opening Remarks by Dr Jared Bosire, Head, Nairobi Convention Secretariat

8. Dr. Jared Bosire welcomed all participants on behalf of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and highlighted the conference theme: “Regional Collaboration for a Sustainable Blue Economy: Enhancing Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean.” He emphasized the importance of transnational and multisectoral collaboration and partnerships in addressing the environmental challenges facing the WIO region. He noted that the socio-economic development and livelihoods of local coastal communities rely heavily on the protection of coastal and marine resources which necessitates concerted efforts to reduce costs associated with environmental damage in Africa.
9. He highlighted the impact of the Convention's work for the intersessional period between COP 10 and COP 11 stating that it reached an all-time high thus the need for integration and synergy across various sectors. Dr. Bosire also discussed the development of the 10-Year Integrated Programme for the period 2025-2035 which was prepared with substantial input from Focal Points and Partners elaborating that it aims to promote a synergetic approach in delivery throughout the region. He added that the Integrated Programme had informed the new Programme of Work of the Nairobi Convention for the period 2025-2028, particularly focusing on strengthening the Regional Seas Programme and enhancing support for existing Regional Strategic Action Plans.
10. He concluded by recognizing the essential contributions of partners towards the delivery of COP 11, particularly the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), in supporting the Convention's initiatives over the years.

### **Opening Remarks by UNEP- Elizabeth Mrema Deputy Executive Director UN Environment**

In her statement, UNEP Deputy Executive Director Elizabeth Mrema emphasized the critical need for partnerships and collaboration to protect and manage the region's marine and coastal environments. She highlighted the efforts made since COP-10, including the development of strategies and frameworks aimed at sustainable development and encouraged delegates to support the broad-based Programme of Work for 2025-2028. She stressed the importance of meeting the goals laid out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly the target to effectively conserve and manage at least 30% of coastal and marine areas by 2030, given the alarming rates of species threatened with extinction in the Western Indian Ocean. She further highlighted the existence of 143 marine protected areas in the WIO and the need for improved management to combat the effects of climate change, particularly rising ocean temperatures and other threats on the region's biodiversity. In addition, she acknowledged the role of the Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO-C) in fostering collaborative initiatives and building capacity among local NGOs and government institutions.

11. In concluding, she urged participants to be practical and ambitious in their discussions and actions to ensure a sustainable blue economy and protect marine resources for future generations; as the region prepares for the upcoming UN Ocean Conference in June 2025.

### **Opening Remarks by the Secretary General of Environment, Madagascar, Mr. Andry Fidiniaina Moise Rasmolina**

12. Mr. Andry Fidiniaina Moise Rasmolina, Secretary General for Environment, Madagascar expressed his appreciation to all participants for their unwavering commitment and active engagement in the implementation of the Nairobi Convention. He extended his gratitude to the Contracting Parties as well as the various partners and organizations for the significant progress achieved under the Convention to date. He highlighted the Convention as a shining example of international cooperation and emphasized the importance of feedback in decision-making to enhance the Convention's effectiveness. The Secretary General reaffirmed Madagascar's dedication to the Nairobi Convention and encouraged all participants to actively contribute to the meeting, stressing that the Partners' meeting presents a valuable opportunity for partners to influence the decisions of the COP.

13. The Partners meeting was declared officially open by Mr. Andry Fidiniaina Moise Rasmolina at 10.00 am.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

The Chair of the Bureau, supported by the Secretariat, guided the meeting through the draft agenda, which was adopted without any modifications.

## **B. Session II: Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of Workplan and Budget (2022-2024) and Financial Reporting**

### **Presentation of UNEP Executive Director Report**

14. Dr. Jared Bosire presented the Executive Director's report, highlighting the progress made in implementing COP 10 decisions and the Programme of Work for 2022-2024. He stated that the Programme focused on reinforcing the Nairobi Convention as a platform for fostering synergies and coordinating regional initiatives, while also supporting countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda, with a specific focus on Sustainable Development Goal 14.
15. He reported that a lot has been achieved during the period 2021-2024 with a focus on different complementary themes addressing the triple planetary crises of biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, and climate change. These include: ongoing amendments to the 'Biodiversity' Protocol; development of a Regional Ocean Governance Strategy; development of Regional Information Management Strategy; completion of a toolkit for Green Port Development for Blue Economy; progressive development of an ecosystem indicator monitoring framework; strengthened strategic partnerships; and investments in regional capacity building such as marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, information management, and many others in different domains relevant to the broad mandate of the Convention.
16. In his presentation, he elaborated the progress in implementing COP 10 decisions as below:
- **Decision CP.10/1: Approved Programme of Work for 2022-2024:**
17. Significant progress was made in implementing the 2022-2024 Work Programme including discussions and results from eight meetings attended by National Focal Points and partners. A ten year Regional Integrated Programme (2025-2035) aimed at the comprehensive execution of the Convention's Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) was developed in 2023, which has significantly informed the structuring of a new work programme for the period 2025-2028, to build on the 2022-2024 Work Programme and also ensure linkages to emerging global policy developments.
- **Decision CP.10/2: Ratification, accession, and implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land-based Sources and Activities.**
18. Progress has been made on ratification and implementation of the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol on Land-based Sources and Activities as five contracting parties have ratified the Protocol. Additionally, Kenya has expressed its commitment to ratifying the Protocol during COP-11 which would enable the Protocol to come into force.
- **Decision CP.10/3: Adoption of the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).**
19. The ICZM Protocol was adopted by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries held in Antananarivo in September 2023. The government of Madagascar was thanked for the successful hosting of the Conference and Contracting Parties urged to expedite their efforts to sign and ratify the Protocol.
- **Decision CP.10/4: Review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region and its annexes.**
20. The decision mandated the Secretariat to convene an ad-hoc legal and technical working group tasked with preparing a revised Protocol and its annexes for negotiation and adoption. The working group

members were nominated by Contracting Parties and two negotiation meetings were conducted in Antananarivo in September 2022 and September 2023. Additionally, a policy and technical session took place in Mombasa in 2023 to refine the second draft of the revised Protocol which will be circulated to National Focal Points for review followed by a third negotiation session after COP 11.

▪ **Decision CP.10/5: Ocean Governance Strategy.**

21. The decision had requested the development of an ocean governance strategy for the Western Indian Ocean through a collaborative process with partners and aligning it with the African Ocean Governance strategy. It also requested enhancing collaboration with the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities. Towards this end, extensive consultations were held through 10 thematic technical dialogues and 4 information sessions on ocean governance through which a draft Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS) was developed for approval at COP 11. The ROGS development process was high participatory and spearheaded by a Task Force with membership by Contracting Parties, RECs, and the African Union Commission. In addition, a draft Regional Information Management Strategy was developed for adoption by COP 11. This was also done through a participatory process spearheaded by a Multistakeholder Working Group comprising of Contracting Parties and partners through thematic webinars on information management including hosting five capacity-building sessions on marine spatial planning and information management.

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

22. Decision CP.10/6 focused on enhancing oil spill preparedness and response by improving regional response centres and coordination mechanisms and the review of national oil spill contingency plans, identifying capacity gaps, and creating sensitivity maps for countries needing assistance. A review of National Oil Spill Contingency Plans (NOSCP) was completed in 2023 with action plans developed for all countries except South Africa. Additionally, a regional training on incident command systems for oil spill response was held to strengthen preparedness efforts. The Secretariat is actively supporting the Contracting Parties in updating their NOSCP, with processes for Mauritius and Seychelles occurring in 2022-2023 and 2024 respectively.

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

23. Decision CP.10/8 focused on implementing area-based planning tools to promote a sustainable blue economy and requested the Secretariat to finalize a regional marine spatial planning (MSP) strategy for adoption at COP 11. The Regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy was developed, and the WIO Symphony tool was deployed in February 2023. Additionally, in October 2023, capacity development for marine protected area management effectiveness was conducted in collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM).

▪ **Decision CP 10/9: Monitoring of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems.**

24. The decision tasked the Secretariat with developing a regional monitoring framework for coastal and marine ecosystem indicators, aimed at supporting Contracting Parties to assess the state of their marine and coastal environments periodically. The draft Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring Framework is

currently under preparation and has been informed by the Marine Ecosystems Diagnostic Analysis conducted in 2020.

▪ **Decision CP.9/11. Development of marine protected areas and critical habitats outlooks**

25. The decision addressed the periodic development of thematic outlooks on the state of the marine and coastal environment, specifically focusing on marine protected areas and critical habitats. The Marine Protected Areas Outlook was developed and launched in 2021, while the Critical Habitats Outlook is currently under embargo awaiting final input from Contracting Parties.

▪ **Decision CP.10/10: Water Quality and Marine Litter**

26. The decision focused on the establishment of a regional task force on water quality to support the development of a water quality monitoring framework and guidelines on national interventions. Additionally, the decision requested the finalization of a regional action plan to address marine litter and plastic pollution.

27. In implementing this decision, four reports on marine litter in the WIO region were developed jointly with WIOMSA. Additionally, the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter has been completed in collaboration with the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of Dar es Salaam. With regard to water quality, several initiatives were accomplished in partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) including the development of a policy brief, a situation assessment on marine pollution and coastal water management, guidelines for establishing water and sediment quality targets and the formulation of a strategic framework for coastal and water quality management. It was reported that five countries have commenced the development of their water quality monitoring frameworks, indicating a proactive approach to managing water quality in the region.

▪ **Decision 10/11: Science-Policy Dialogue.**

28. The decision focused on organising regional and national science-policy dialogues for scientists and policy makers to support decision making for improved ocean governance. Dr Bosire reported that the WIO science to policy platform series 1 had been published with WIOMSA and Macquarie University and launched at the 12<sup>th</sup> WIOMSA Symposium in 2022. The Science to Policy Platform meeting was held in Maputo in December 2023 and made recommendations on decisions to be considered by the national Focal Points and COP 11.

▪ **Decision CP.10/12: Projects and Partnerships.**

29. The decision related to establishing partnerships and programs for ocean action by leveraging existing climate change financial mechanisms and for the development of new projects to address marine challenges effectively. A Private Sector Engagement strategy was developed to enhance private sector partnerships. The Secretariat also strengthened existing collaborations with Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and CSIR, while exploring MOUs with regional economic communities. Additionally, MOUs with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), WIOMSA, Port Management Association of Eastern & Southern Africa (PMAESA), Macquarie University, and Benguela Current Convention, are being updated.

▪ **Decision CP. 9/9: Climate change adaptation and mitigation**

30. Part 3 of decision CP.9/9 emphasized developing programs and projects focused on resilient blue growth for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) has been adopted by numerous partners. National assessments in Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Tanzania have documented local communities' social-adaptive capacities. Additionally, a synthesis report completed in 2022 provided recommendations to enhance adaptive capacity and decrease vulnerability to climate change in these countries.

▪ **Decision CP.9/13. Enhancing cooperation, collaboration and support with partners.**

31. The decision tasked the Secretariat, in collaboration with the International Maritime Authority (IMO), PMAESA and other partners, to conduct a baseline study and scenario analysis to develop a toolkit for green, sustainable port development in the Western Indian Ocean region. Multiple partners, led by the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC Africa), CSIR, and PMAESA contributed to the implementation of this decision leading to a situation assessment, scenario analysis, toolkit, and policy brief titled "Towards Sustainable Port Development in the Western Indian Ocean: A Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development in the Blue Economy." PMAESA, CSIR and the Nairobi Convention, have begun rolling out the toolkit in the WIO region, with the Transnet Ports Authority in South Africa and Seychelles Ports Authority serving as the pioneer ports for implementation.

32. Dr. Bosire concluded the presentation of the Executive Director's report by expressing gratitude to the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention for effectively overseeing the implementation of COP 10 decisions and the 2022-2024 work programme. He commended the significant achievements realized during the intercessional period and emphasized that these accomplishments would not have been possible without the vital support of all partners. He extended his heartfelt thanks to everyone for their contributions.

**Presentation of the Proposed Programme of Work for 2025-2028 for the Implementation of the Nairobi Convention**

33. Dr. Tim Andrew presented the proposed Programme of Work for 2025-2028, noting its strategic shift in structure compared to the 2022-2024 programme. The changes stem from Decision CP 9/1.3, which called for an integrated programme to fully implement the existing Strategic Action Programmes (WIOSAP and SAPPHERE). The new programme is based on a 10-year Integrated Programme for the WIO region developed in 2023 and aligns with Global Commitments, including Agenda 2030 on SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2063, and the UN Decade of Ocean Science. He emphasized that this new work programme builds on the momentum of the previous one and incorporates insights from the merger and update of the two Strategic Action Programmes. The development process was consultative, drawing from the 2023 WIO Science-Policy dialogue and discussions on plastics and associated chemicals.

34. Dr. Andrew's presentation detailed the conceptual framework of the new integrated programme, outlining its five components, projected outcomes for each, accompanying activities, and progress indicators for implementation. He also addressed the programme's funding, highlighting secured and upcoming resources, including: the Trust Funds for Operations and resource mobilization (US\$ 1.2M),



the Sida Partnership with FAO (US\$ 15M), the EU WIO Project (US\$ 10M of US\$ 58M), the GEF 8 WIO-Blue Programme (US\$ 15M), the BMZ Partnership with GIZ (€ 15M), and the International Climate Initiative (IKI) for Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) (€20M).

## Statements and discussions by Partners on the proposed Programme of Work 2025-2028

35. The Chair invited partners to share their contributions to the proposed Programme of Work. The partner statements provided to the Secretariat are included in the website of the Nairobi Convention at [the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention \(COP 11\) | Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism](#).

36. The key points from these statements are summarized in the section below:

### ▪ Wetlands International

37. Wetlands International's contributions to the 2022-2024 work programme include the development of the WIO Mangrove Atlas and the WIO Mangrove Management Action Plan. It was highlighted that there is a potential role for use of wetlands in the implementation of Component IV of the proposed programme of work, focused on improved Biodiversity Conservation. The key areas of collaboration proposed include the use of remote sensing and GIS for monitoring mangrove health in Eastern Africa, providing policy and planning support to countries in implementing the Regional Mangrove Action Plan, and assisting in the revision and implementation of mangrove management plans. Other areas of potential contribution are capacity building for ecological mangrove restoration, fostering partnerships in the WIO region, and collaborating with the Nairobi Convention on a Source to Sea approach to utilize tools developed for key deltas.

### 38. CORDIO

39. CORDIO, a leading authority on coral reef research and monitoring in the region, expressed its commitment to aligning its activities with the Nairobi Convention's 2025-2028 programme of work. Their initiatives include coral reef monitoring, particularly in reporting bleaching events, and supporting the development of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania, with a focus on fisheries research and community-based conservation. CORDIO promotes sustainable financing and capacity building by helping communities identify long-term financial solutions and training local trainers for fisheries management. Additionally, CORDIO's Blue Tourism Initiative aims to enhance governance in coastal tourism by promoting sustainable practices and regional cooperation. CORDIO also advocates for improved ocean governance through research and stakeholder engagement and contributes to policy development at local and regional levels, including in its role as chair of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), thus enhancing science-policy dialogue on biodiversity.

### ▪ WIOMSA

40. WIOMSA's "Sustainable Blue Future in the Western Indian Ocean - Institutional Strengthening through Science, Capacity, and Assimilation for a Sustainable Blue Future" (SCALABLE) programme aims to support the Nairobi Convention's Programme of Work by advancing knowledge and policy through

research, enhancing capacity for integrated ecosystem-based management with Marine Spatial Planning tools, and promoting ocean science that informs policies on the Global Biodiversity Framework, fisheries, and climate action. The initiative will strengthen partnerships within regional blue economy programs, emphasizing gender inclusivity and community engagement. Key areas of focus include sustainable marine resource management, integrating blue carbon into policies, strengthening governance frameworks, ensuring equitable outcomes, supporting greening ports initiatives, and fostering sustainable blue energy development. WIOMSA is also working to establish transboundary marine conservation areas, particularly in Tanzania.

▪ **The Nature Conservancy**

41. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) outlined its ongoing initiatives aligned with the new work programme, including a project aimed at strengthening the blue economy in the Western Indian Ocean through ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation in Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius, and Seychelles to further sustainable development goals. TNC is also collaborating with the Nairobi Convention/UNEP on the Go Blue project in Kenya, which focuses on mangrove ecosystem mapping, restoration, and establishing a carbon credit project in Lamu County. TNC highlighted the alignment of the work programme's components, such as integrated ocean governance and biodiversity conservation with its Africa Oceans Strategy and expressed its intent to collaborate with the Convention. Additionally, TNC mentioned sustainable financing opportunities like the Blue Bonds and Nature Bond Facility, urging Contracting Parties to leverage these mechanisms.

▪ **East Africa Wildlife Society**

42. The East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS) outlined key projects and initiatives that will support the implementation of its new Programme of Work, including the Blue Carbon Project. In collaboration with Fauna & Flora and funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, this project aims to integrate seagrass and mangrove ecosystems into national climate policies, enhance public awareness, address policy gaps, and build the capacity of local civil society organizations. Over the course of 27 months, the project will prioritize Blue Carbon conservation, improve awareness and capacity for national climate reporting, establish a Blue Carbon Working Group to enhance stakeholder coordination, and integrate these ecosystems into the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for climate action. Additionally, EAWLS is developing a strategy to tackle marine plastic pollution, further bolstering its marine conservation initiatives.

▪ **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**

43. WWF expressed its support for the adoption of the new Programme of work and its implementation in the coming years. It has a regional programme backed by five country offices in Southern Africa (South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, and Madagascar) that focuses on Integrated Ocean Governance (IOG), Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE), Fisheries and Coastal Communities. Under the IOG pillar, WWF is collaborating with the NC Secretariat on conservation efforts in the ecologically significant Northern Mozambique Channel by developing a Marine Spatial Planning Vision and Roadmap with technical support from Nelson Mandela University (NMU), alongside a natural capital assessment for transboundary management. Additionally, the SBE pillar includes a commissioned study revealing over

US\$20 billion in financial flows from 2017 to 2023, predominantly to energy and resources, highlighting lack of Environment Social Governance (ESG) among assessed financial institutions and insufficient regulatory frameworks to mitigate environmental risks. The study recommends adopting Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles and enhancing ESG disclosures while urging financial regulators to create a sustainable finance taxonomy and enforce mandatory ESG requirements. WWF and its partners will launch the study report on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in South Africa and will invite participation of partners and the Contracting Parties.

▪ **The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**

44. The representative of the WCS highlighted the organization's contributions to the proposed 2025-2028 Programme of Work, emphasizing biodiversity conservation in Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. WCS plans to enhance decision-making through applied research on marine species, improve area-based management, and develop sustainable financial mechanisms linked to the blue economy. The organization aims to address the environmental impacts of the oil and gas industry in the Northern Mozambique Channel and mitigate underwater noise pollution from shipping. WCS advocates for incorporating important shark and ray areas into marine spatial planning and urges governments to implement best practices from recent policy drafts, particularly regarding amendments to the Nairobi Convention's Protocol on Biodiversity. Through collaboration with stakeholders and governments, WCS remains committed to advancing marine conservation, improving governance, and fostering sustainable development in the region.

▪ **Birdlife International**

45. BirdLife International is dedicated to strengthening collaboration and contributing to the new Work Programme, particularly in biodiversity conservation through a science-to-policy approach. In the WIO, BirdLife partners with national organizations under the Nairobi Convention, using seabirds as flagship species for marine protection; gathering critical data to identify and manage marine Key Biodiversity Areas, prioritize conservation efforts, and promote sustainable fisheries management with organizations like the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. By ensuring that science informs policy, BirdLife International aims to protect the region's invaluable marine ecosystems for the benefit of nature and local communities.

▪ **IUCN**

46. IUCN noted that it is actively contributing to the new Work Programme by implementing key decisions from the 10th Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention, focusing on improved ocean governance, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource management in the WIO. IUCN has collaborated on developing regional strategies, mobilizing over USD 60 million for conservation actions, and launching initiatives like the Regenerative Seascapes project to enhance equitable ocean governance. Additionally, IUCN is addressing challenges such as ocean acidification and plastic pollution through partnerships and targeted programs. Through the Great Blue Wall initiative, IUCN is committed to fostering partnerships and mobilizing resources to support a regenerative blue economy and resilient marine ecosystems.

## Statements and discussions by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union Commission (AUC) on the proposed Programme of Work 2025-2028

47. The chair invited the RECs and AUC to share their contributions to the proposed Programme of Work. The statements provided to the Secretariat are included in the website of the Nairobi Convention at [the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention \(COP 11\) | Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism](#).

48. The key points from these statements are summarized in the sections below:

### ▪ **The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**

49. The IOC acknowledged its longstanding partnership with the Nairobi Convention, particularly in the WIO islands, highlighting significant achievements that have strengthened regional cooperation in ocean governance, marine pollution management, integrated coastal zone management and ecosystem management. Notably, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol developed through its RECOMAP project offers island states comprehensive strategies to tackle environmental and development challenges. The IOC is also advancing the Coastal Resilience (RECOs) project to support the Protocol's implementation, with a focus on knowledge management and capacity building. Additionally, IOC's Maritime Architecture promotes synergies in ocean governance by addressing circular economy and marine pollution, exemplified by initiatives such as the Plastic Expedition program, which enhances understanding of plastic pollution, and the development of a state of the coast report for Tanzania aimed at restoring marine ecosystems. Furthermore, the HYDROMET project seeks to bolster climate service capacities in island states. Collectively, these initiatives reflect the IOC's commitment to a healthy, prosperous, and clean WIO and align with the objectives of the Nairobi Convention.

### ▪ **African Union Commission (AUC)**

50. The AUC reaffirmed its commitment to the work of the Nairobi Convention through prioritizing policy harmonization. In doing so, the AUC has implemented the AU Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the Climate Change Strategy. Further, a dedicated division for strengthening the blue economy has been established and it aims to provide support to eight member states.

### ▪ **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**

51. COMESA Blue Economy Strategy aims to harness benefits of the Blue Economy for member states and combines economic, environmental and social aspects to achieve inclusive results. In partnership with AU, blue economy strategy frameworks for Eswatini, Malawi and Zambia have been developed.

### ▪ **East African Community (EAC)**

52. The EAC Secretariat affirmed its commitment to enhancing economic, political, social, and cultural integration to improve the quality of life in East Africa, while acknowledging the potential negative environmental impacts of development activities. To this end, the EAC has developed several instruments to promote sustainable environmental and natural resource management which align with the goals of the new Work Programme. Key initiatives include amending the EAC Protocol on

Environment and Natural Resources to address contemporary issues, adopting policies on forestry and climate finance, and ongoing revisions of the climate change policy and development of the Blue Economy Strategy. These efforts focus on fostering regional cooperation, resource mobilization, and capacity building in managing aquatic and marine resources sustainably.

▪ **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**

53. The IGAD statement emphasized the organization's efforts in blue economy, notably the establishment of the IGAD Blue Economy Desk in 2020 and the development of the Blue Economy Strategy for 2021-2025, which focuses on good governance, environmental sustainability, and social resilience in the face of climate change's impacts on aquatic systems and food security. Recognizing the critical role of RECs in coordinating ocean governance and aligning with the Nairobi Convention's Regional Ocean Governance Strategy, IGAD aims to harmonize national policies with international standards while enhancing compliance and enforcement mechanisms. The Strategy prioritizes sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices to secure food and livelihood for coastal communities. The statement also highlighted significant milestones achieved since 2023, including the endorsement of a Regional Blue Economy Strategy, validation of national baseline reports, various training initiatives, and pilot projects like plastic pollution management in Djibouti, all reflecting IGAD's commitment to promoting a sustainable blue economy and maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems.

▪ **Port Management Association for Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA)**

54. PMAESA highlighted the shared goals of the PMAESA Secretariat and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, as outlined in their initial partnership agreement in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Both parties are now seeking to renew the MoU to ensure it reflects the evolving trends in their respective areas of influence. Additionally, PMAESA highlighted its contributions to the development, validation, and piloting of the Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development in the Blue Economy across the WIO region. Further, PMAESA played a crucial role as a key stakeholder in the Shipping, Ports & Maritime Transport Technical Dialogue for the development of the ROGS. The organization also facilitated engagement between selected member Port Authorities and training facilitators in water quality management training.

▪ **The Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

55. SADC reiterated its commitment to supporting current and future decisions of the Nairobi Convention COPs, highlighting that its member states recognize the urgent need for a regional Blue Economy Strategy. They are actively implementing a strategy and action plan that align with the Nairobi Convention COP Decisions, focusing on sustainable, inclusive, equitable, and climate-resilient blue economies while promoting responsible use of aquatic resources. Furthermore, the SADC Secretariat collaborates with UNEP and the Nairobi Convention on blue economy initiatives and has contributed to the development of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean.

## Statements and discussions by Intergovernmental and Multilateral Agencies on the proposed Programme of Work 2025-2028

56. The chair invited the intergovernmental and multilateral agencies partners to share their contributions to the proposed Programme of Work. The statements provided to the Secretariat are included in the website of the Nairobi Convention at [the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention \(COP 11\) | Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism](#).

57. The key points from these statements are summarized in the sections below:

- **GIZ**

58. GIZ reaffirmed its commitment to collaborating with the Nairobi Convention through the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative (WIOGI) project, funded by BMZ, to enhance regional coordination and support the implementation of the NC Work Programme, particularly in Mozambique and Tanzania. GIZ hosts the secretariat for Our Blue Future (OBF) Initiative, which aims to advance coastal and ocean stewardship for an inclusive and sustainable blue economy in the WIO region. The initiative promotes capacity building, impactful partnerships, resource mobilization, and advocacy. Key achievements include expanding OBF membership to 26 partners, establishing sector-focused innovation teams, engaging the private sector, supporting the ProAzul fund in Mozambique, and launching the Friends of Maputo National Park Club. Moving forward, GIZ aims to sustain the OBF's impact while implementing regional governance strategies and strengthening intermediary organizations to support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. GIZ urges Contracting Parties to endorse the WIOGI and OBF initiatives to further operationalize the Regional Governance Strategy.

- **South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)**

59. SWIOFC is fostering regional collaboration through a partnership with the Nairobi Convention, formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2019. This partnership has led to the SIDA-funded project “A Partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and Fisheries Management for Sustainable Blue Growth,” which aims to enhance fisheries-environment governance and improve food security for coastal communities in Madagascar, Mozambique, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Key achievements include spatial management planning and joint governance frameworks. The ongoing second phase expands activities in Kenya and emphasizes capacity development, sustainable resource management, and community involvement. The SWIOFC remains committed to strengthening these partnerships and initiatives for sustainable coastal and marine governance in the region.

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

60. The UNDP has instituted institutional reforms through the Strategic Action Programme for Policy Harmonization and Institution Reforms (SAPPHIRE) project. UNDP has supported marine spatial plans for the continental shelves of Mauritius and Seychelles which was initiated by the department of the Continental Shelf of Mauritius. The UNDP is also working on a 90 million dollar project on climate resilience, as well as a 10-million-dollar project on blue economy transformation which begins in September 2024 and will be implemented by African island states. The UNDP works with the African Union to support Member States in managing chemicals and hazardous wastes, and has also

supported source-to-sea initiatives for transboundary coastal management in Maputo. The UNDP is committed to working with UNEP to support ratification of the BBNJ treaty.

▪ **Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)**

61. SwAM is dedicated to implementing ocean governance policies in Sweden and regional sea organizations like HELCOM and OSPAR. Key responsibilities include marine spatial planning, adaptive environmental management, blue economy initiatives, and freshwater management. SwAM collaborates with the Nairobi Convention on capacity building and sharing ocean-related experiences in the WIO. Recent initiatives include the ITP MSP program, aimed at enhancing capacity in blue economy and MSP, and the development of the WIO Symphony tool, which aids in assessing environmental impacts and facilitates marine spatial planning. Additionally, SwAM focuses on capacity development for marine protected areas (MPAs) in Tanzania, Comoros, and Madagascar, working closely with regional organizations. Ongoing collaboration with NC and support for international negotiations, including the BBNJ framework, emphasizes SwAM's commitment to strengthening ocean governance and promoting sustainable ocean use for the benefit of communities and ecosystems alike.

▪ **Blue Nature Alliance (BNA)**

62. BNA and WIOMSA have partnered since 2021 to help Nairobi Convention Member States achieve the Global Biodiversity Framework's goals. The statement focused on the establishment of a regional conservation financing mechanism, such as a conservation trust fund, to support key conservation priorities outlined in the WIO regional ocean governance strategy. This mechanism aims to enhance integrated ocean governance, area-based planning, environmental quality, biodiversity conservation, and regional collaboration, ultimately providing flexible funding for marine projects. BNA requested the Nairobi Convention's support in exploring this financing approach, facilitating improved collaboration among governments and stakeholders, and addressing conservation challenges in the WIO region.

▪ **High Seas Alliance Africa**

63. The High Seas Alliance, representing over 60 global conservation organizations, is dedicated to the preservation of the High Seas, particularly through the implementation of the BBNJ agreement adopted in 2023. The Alliance is actively collaborating with countries in the Western Indian Ocean, including Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Seychelles, and Mauritius, to ensure effective ratification and implementation of the BBNJ agreement, with Seychelles and Mauritius already serving as exemplary models by ratifying the treaty. The Alliance emphasizes the importance of collective action among Nairobi Convention parties and welcomes the proposed Programme of Work 2024-2028, particularly its focus on accelerating the BBNJ agreement's signature and ratification, urging contracting parties to aim for 60 ratifications by the Third United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2025. The submission includes recommendations for harmonizing targets, expanding the BBNJ database, and securing funding through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support developing nations in their conservation efforts. The High Seas Alliance reaffirms its commitment to collaborate with the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and member states to protect marine biodiversity, recognizing

the inclusion of the BBNJ agreement in the proposed work programme as a significant milestone for global ocean conservation efforts.

### **The Forum for Academic and Research Institutions**

64. FARI reported on its vital role in supporting the Nairobi Convention by facilitating information sharing among institutions, providing scientific and technical advice on management priorities, enhancing cooperation among regional universities and research institutions, and coordinating collaborative research opportunities. FARI has significantly contributed to the Nairobi Convention's COP decisions and the new Integrated Regional Programme for 2025-2035 by strengthening the interface between science and policy, supporting the development of key frameworks, and offering technical support for project proposals, including the GEF 8 proposal. Furthermore, FARI members have actively participated in various projects and initiatives aimed at improving knowledge dissemination, executing significant projects such as WIOSAP and SAPPHERE, and producing important regional reports. FARI expressed its commitment to continue supporting the Convention's proposed 2025-2028 Programme of work.

### **C. Session III: Partners inputs on draft decisions for consideration by the Contracting Parties at the Eleventh Conference of Parties**

65. Dr. Akunga Momanyi of the University of Nairobi, on behalf of the Secretariat, gave an overview of draft decisions that included the preamble and 16 decisions.
66. The Partners, under the guidance of the Chair provided input to the draft decisions. The main elements of these discussions, and the rationale for these decisions are highlighted in the sections below.

### **The Preamble**

67. Partners discussed the paragraph “*Acknowledging* with appreciation the support provided by partners, including regional and international organisations the Global Environment Facility, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the European Union, for their contribution and collaboration on the implementation of the work programme of the Nairobi Convention”. Concerns were raised about the exclusivity of naming only a few partners, which could imply that others were overlooked. To address this, it was proposed that the paragraph be framed more generically to ensure inclusivity, with alternative text suggested as follows: *Acknowledging* with appreciation the support provided by partners, including regional and international organisations, [ towards implementation of the work programme of the Nairobi Convention.

### **Draft Decision CP 11/4: Combating plastics pollution in the coastal and marine environment based on a full life cycle approach for human health and the environment**

68. Partners discussed Point 3 and proposed the inclusion of text related to the Indian Ocean Plastics Action Plan. Alternative text was suggested as follows: “To request the Secretariat, with the support of partners, to revise the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter to integrate actions to address plastic



pollution, including on plastic additives, problematic and avoidable plastics, microplastics and associated chemicals, and transboundary movements of plastic waste [taking into account the Indian Ocean Plastics Action Plan].

#### **Draft decision CP 11/8: Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface**

69. Partners discussed Point 1 and proposed the inclusion of text related to arts. Alternative text was suggested as follows: “To urge Contracting Parties to ensure that policy making integrates the use of science and arts”;
70. Partners discussed Point 3 and proposed the amendment and the inclusion of text. Alternative text was suggested as follows: “3.To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen the participation of government, private sector, academia and civil society in science-policy platform dialogues to promote research, business and investment decisions”
71. Partners discussed point 4 and proposed the inclusion of text on practitioners as part of the stakeholders. Alternative text was suggested as follows: “To request the Secretariat to continue organising regional and national science-policy dialogues for scientists, [practitioners] and policy makers to support decision making for improved ocean governance and share the outcomes of such dialogues

#### **Draft decision CP 11/10: Mainstreaming climate change concerns in marine biodiversity protection**

72. Partners discussed Point 4 proposing the addition of text on “Loss and damage”. Alternative text was suggested as follows: “To urge Contracting Parties to address climate change through their Nationally Determined Contributions, [loss and damage] and mainstreaming climate change in integrated coastal zone management in support of, as well as through engagement at the level of Africa Union Climate Change and Resilience Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032) implementation and the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action and the 2023 Moroni Declaration.

#### **Draft decision CP 11/11: Conservation, Restoration and Management of Critical Habitats and Species**

73. Partners discussed paragraph 4 and proposed the addition of text on [To request the Secretariat to finalize the Regional Vision and Strategy for Mangroves]

#### **Decision CP 11/13: Strengthening Marine Spatial Planning**

74. The Partners discussed the addition of text to Paragraph 2 on the systems thinking approach and to paragraph three on the WIOSymphony tool as follows:.
  - ❖ To request Contracting Parties to mainstream ecosystem-based marine spatial planning into national development plans, carry out ecosystem and social baseline assessments, and apply systems thinking approaches for purposes of designing marine spatial plans and sustainable blue economy.
  - ❖ To request Contracting Parties to use marine spatial planning tools, such as, WIO Symphony to assess the strategic, cumulative environmental impacts of human activities for evidence-based decision making.

### **Outcomes of the Partners meeting**

75. The Chair expressed gratitude to the Partners for their contributions and active participation in the discussions on the draft decisions and invited the Secretariat to outline the next steps.
76. Dr. Bosire acknowledged the Partners' valued contributions, highlighting their statements, commitment to collaborating with the Convention on the implementation of the new Work Programme, and input to the draft decisions. He noted that the recommendations from the Partners meeting would be addressed at the Focal Points meeting, alongside presentations on the Programme of Work and the Executive Director's report.

### **Closing of the meeting**

77. There being no other business, the Chair closed the partners meeting at 1830 hrs.

## Annex 1- Speeches Given during Opening Plenary

### Speech by Dr. Jared Bosire, Head of the Nairobi Convention during the 11<sup>th</sup> COP of the Convention: Partners Segment: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Mr. , Secretary General Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, The Republic of Madagascar for hosting the COP; Ms Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP, Ms Susan Gardener, Director Ecosystems Division, UNEP; Ms Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma, Chief of the Marine Ecosystems Unit, UNEP, Focal Points of the Convention, Forum of Academic and Research Institutions (FARI); Consortium for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean region (WIO-C), Regional Economic Commissions and Communities (RECs), Private Sector representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen...

Welcome to the 11th COP of the Nairobi Convention themed: Regional Collaboration for a Sustainable Blue Economy: Enhancing Ocean Governance in the Western Indian Ocean. The theme for the COP is timely as it emphasizes on the need for transnational and multisectoral collaboration and partnerships to address the pressing challenges of our time, which pose an existential threat on humanity.

The Convention countries hugely depend on natural resources for their socio-economic development and continued degradation of these vital resources has already had profound impacts not only on the environment but dependent economic sectors and community livelihoods.

The loss and damage costs in Africa due to climate change are projected to range between US\$ 290 billion and US\$ 440 billion, depending on the degree of warming, according to the UNECA's Climate Policy Centre.

Consequently, projected annual food imports by African countries are expected to increase by about a factor of three, from US\$ 35 billion to a whopping US\$ 110 billion by 2025, just next year thus diverting much needed resources for national development and yet Africa has 60 percent of arable land with potential for food sufficiency and security.

More than 110 million people on the continent were directly affected by weather, climate and water-related hazards in 2022, causing more than US\$ 8.5 billion in economic damages. There were a reported 5 000 fatalities, of which 48% were associated with drought and 43% were associated with flooding, according to the Emergency Event Database. But the true toll is likely to be much higher because of under-reporting.

And yet “Africa is responsible for less than 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. But it is the continent which is the least able to cope with the negative impacts of climate change.

Municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and run-off account for as much as 80 per cent of all marine pollution. Sewage and wastewater, persistent organic pollutants (including pesticides), heavy metals, oils,

nutrients and sediments - whether brought by rivers or discharged directly into coastal waters - take a severe toll on human health and well-being as well as on coastal ecosystems.

During this 11th COP, Contracting Parties will take stock on interventions they have taken since the 10th COP in 2021 to address some of these challenges towards turning the curve on biodiversity loss for a healthy environment and improved socio-economic development.

The footprint of work supported by the Convention and implemented by various partners reached an all time high during this intersessional period with about 40 projects funded focusing on various thematic areas ranging from ecosystem restoration and management, protected area management, pollution reduction and prevention, sustainable management of priority river basins, marine spatial planning and climate change related interventions among others. A number of key strategic guiding documents have also been produced with the support of deepened partnerships including RECs, FARI, WIO-C, Private sector and various development partners, a number of who are represented in this COP.

Buoyed by the need for integration and synergy across various strategic interventions, the Parties during COP 9 in 2018 asked the Secretariat to work with partners and develop an integrated regional programme and depart from a siloed approach. This new regional integrated programme will be one of the major celebrations during this COP to guide the work of the Convention for the next 10 years from 2025 to 2035. This ambitious and forward-looking programme is not only aligned to regional priorities but is congruent with recent global policy commitments including the Global Biodiversity Framework, BBNJ Treaty, Agenda 2030, Decade of Ecosystem Restoration among others.

UNEP as the Secretariat of the Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans of which the Nairobi Convention is one of them is committed to continue strengthening the RSP as amplified during UNEA 6/15 on Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution, which requests the ED to strengthen the Regional Seas Programme in order to further support the regional seas conventions and action plans among other obligations.

The strong presence of UNEP Leadership at this COP is indeed a clear demonstration of this endeavour. For instance, the Convention partnering with the Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Unit at UNEP has submitted a 20M Euro project to the Government of German under the IKI call to support ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Treaty among other collaborative interventions and support from the mother Agency. GEF IW at UNEP has been hugely instrumental in supporting resource mobilization towards government identified priorities in the region and many of the achievements up for celebration at this COP are as a result of this support.

When we meet as WIO partners, we are friends with a shared heritage and destiny. The partnerships which have been forged over the years are not only material but deep and have a lot to show for it. It is indeed a family reunion and gathering and may we celebrate this during the next 3 days of our being here.

There has been unprecedented interest in this COP as evidenced by the many requests the Secretariat received for side events and requests for participation by many delegates, which had to be limited to ensure

equity across Contracting Parties and Partners. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of many Contracting Parties and partners who have supported some of their delegates to attend this COP. Side events will be proposed as an agenda to the new Bureau for consideration in COP 12. We also acknowledge financial support towards the convening of this COP from some of our key partners including WIOMSA, GIZ, IOC and USAID.

We are glad indeed to have you all here as we look forward to a productive 3 days of engagements both in formal and informal sessions.

### **Statement from the Government of Madagascar**

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers collègues,

C'est avec un immense plaisir que je vous souhaite la bienvenue à la onzième Conférence des Parties de la Convention de Nairobi, ici à Madagascar. Nous sommes rassemblés pour un événement d'une importance capitale, qui marque une nouvelle étape dans notre engagement collectif pour la mise en œuvre des objectifs de cette convention.

Je tiens à exprimer ma profonde gratitude à chacun d'entre vous, représentants des différentes organisations et institutions partenaires. Votre engagement continu et votre soutien indéfectible ont joué un rôle essentiel dans les avancées que nous avons réalisées jusqu'à présent. Votre implication active a un impact tangible sur le terrain, et c'est grâce à vous que la Convention de Nairobi continue d'avancer dans sa mission.

Aujourd'hui, nous aurons l'occasion d'examiner ensemble les réalisations des partenaires qui ont contribué à la mise en œuvre de la Convention. Ces activités, menées avec dévouement et persévérance, sont le reflet de notre engagement commun à faire de cette convention un modèle de coopération internationale.

Nous aurons également l'opportunité de présenter et de discuter des documents de travail, qui serviront de base à nos discussions au cours de cette session. Vos retours et contributions seront essentiels pour peaufiner un document étoffé des idées multi-acteurs que nous puissions présenter à nos décideurs pour la session de haut niveau du 22 Août.

Enfin, nous présenterons le nouveau programme de travail pour la période 2025- 2028. Ce programme ambitieux, conçu pour renforcer nos actions et maximiser l'impact de nos efforts, nécessite votre soutien et votre collaboration pour être pleinement efficace.

Je vous invite donc à participer activement aux discussions, à partager vos idées et vos expériences, et à continuer de contribuer à la réussite de notre mission commune.

Encore une fois, je vous souhaite la bienvenue et vous remercie de votre présence. Je suis convaincu que les échanges de ces prochains jours seront fructueux et qu'ils nous permettront de faire progresser nos objectifs communs.

Nous vous remercions.

## COP 11 DAY 2

### Focal Points Meeting

21 August 2024

#### Session 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. Dr Jared Bosire, Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, delivered welcoming remarks and welcomed the Focal Points to the meeting and acknowledged the many experts and partners at the meeting who had provided inputs to the draft decisions at the Partners meeting held the previous day.
2. He invited the Chair of the Bureau of the Nairobi Convention, represented by the Secretary General of Environment, Mr. Andry Fidiniaina Moise Rasmolina to moderate the meeting.

#### Opening Remarks by Susan Gardner, Director Ecosystems Division, UN Environment

3. In her statement Susan Gardner, expressed gratitude to the government of Madagascar for hosting the eleventh Conference of Parties (COP 11), acknowledging that it is a biodiversity hotspot. She welcomed the significance of meeting in person for the first time since 2018 and noted progress made since COP 10, including completed regional policy processes awaiting approval. Ms. Gardner emphasized the need for collective action among Contracting Parties, international organizations, and civil society to advance a common ocean agenda for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), particularly in light of recent developments in international ocean policy and governance.
4. Ms Gardner congratulated the Contracting Parties for the progress made in implementing various programmes since COP 10, as noted in the UNEP Executive Director's report, including the adoption of the legally binding Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in September 2023. She reinforced UNEP's commitment to assist in the ratification of the ICZM Protocol and acknowledged the vital role of Nairobi Convention Focal Points in ensuring country-level ownership of initiatives. Concluding her remarks, she conveyed UNEP's readiness to support the Western Indian Ocean countries in fostering healthy coastal and marine ecosystems for future generations.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Chair led the Focal Points through the adoption of the Agenda: Seychelles proposed the adoption of the agenda and Mozambique and Tanzania seconded it. The Chair made reference to the working documents of the meeting on the Nairobi Convention website and welcomed presentations on the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of COP

10 decisions, workplan and budget (2022-2024) and financial reporting as well as the Proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the Nairobi Convention for the 2025-2028 period.

### **Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of Workplan and Budget (2022-2024) and financial reporting**

6. Dr. Jared Bosire presented the Executive Director's report, highlighting the progress made in implementing the decisions from COP-10 of the Nairobi Convention and the Programme of Work for 2022-2024. The report emphasized the programme's objective to reinforce the Nairobi Convention's role as a platform for fostering synergies and coordinating regional initiatives, while also supporting countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda, with a specific focus on Sustainable Development Goal 14. The presentation is available at: [the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention \(COP 11\) | Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism](#).
7. Mr. Martin Okun, a finance officer at UNEP, delivered a comprehensive report on the financial management of the Nairobi Convention, addressing key components such as the status of Trust Funds, internal controls, financial regulations, and audit recommendations. The report detailed the Assessed Voluntary Contributions Trust Fund and the Voluntary Contributions Trust Fund, showcasing expenditures over recent years and emphasizing the importance of maintaining compliance with donor agreements. It noted challenges in project implementation linked to staffing delays and legal issues, while underscoring the significance of timely contributions from Contracting Parties, which currently stand at over \$2.8 million in unpaid pledges. In a commendable recognition, the presentation acknowledged those Contracting Parties that have consistently met, and in some instances exceeded, their financial contributions, demonstrating a strong commitment to the Convention's objectives.
8. The proposed budget for the years 2025-2028 was also presented, ranging from approximately \$390,980 to \$551,440, which accounts for personnel and operational costs and aims to ensure financial sustainability. Recommendations were made for enhancing liquidity management, and it was emphasized that improving project implementation as well as diligent follow-up on unpaid pledges are vital for the Convention's ongoing financial health and operational efficiency.

### **Presentation of the Proposed Programme of Work for 2025-2028 for the Implementation of the Nairobi Convention**

9. Dr. Tim Andrew presented the proposed Programme of Work for 2025-2028. The presentation detailed the conceptual framework of the new integrated programme, outlining its five components, projected outcomes for each, accompanying activities, and progress indicators for implementation. He also addressed the programme's funding, highlighting secured and upcoming resources. The presentation can be found at [the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention \(COP 11\) | Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism](#).

## Comments on the Executive Director's Report, the Financial Management Report and the Proposed Programme of Work for 2025-2028

10. The Focal Points expressed their gratitude to the Secretariat for the reports and affirmed their commitment to the new Work Programme for 2025-2028. The Government of Mauritius acknowledged the presentations, while Seychelles committed to discussing its unpaid pledge and finding a payment solution. Tanzania thanked Madagascar for hosting COP 11 and expressed its intent to fulfil its financial commitments. Somalia acknowledged its pending pledge, citing economic challenges, but committed to exploring payment modes. Mozambique expressed its support for the Work Programme, citing its alignment with national priorities and aimed to resolve its financial obligations. Madagascar confirmed its contributions and commitment to implementing the new Work Programme, while Comoros and South Africa expressed their support for the Work Programme and budget, with France also endorsing the Work Programme and budget.

### Session III: National Focal Points discussion on proposed decisions for consideration by the Contracting Parties at the Eleventh Conference of Parties

The session for deliberations on the draft decision was chaired by the Focal Point for Madagascar, Jacques Rasoanaina who invited the Secretariat to present the draft decisions to be discussed at the meeting before the Heads of Delegation segment of COP11. The process was led by Mr. Robert Wabunoha, Environment Governance Coordinator at the UNEP Regional Office for Africa.

11. 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.
12. A summary of the discussions is presented in the next section:
  - The Preamble
    - ✓ Somalia proposed adding text to the second paragraph of the preamble to emphasize the involvement of diverse stakeholders and equitable access to resources: Noting with appreciation the progress made in implementation of the work programme for the period 2022-2024, and cognizant of the need for a work programme for 2025-2028, as well as the need for a new Integrated Regional Programme 2025- 2035 [that includes diverse stakeholder perspective and equitable access to resources]. However, Kenya, France, Tanzania, South Africa, Mauritius, and Comoros expressed that Somali's proposal introduced a level of detail that diverged from the overall tone of the paragraph. Ultimately, the Contracting Parties decided to retain the original text.
    - ✓ Madagascar proposed deleting the word "implementation" from paragraph 3 of the preamble, arguing that it was already implied and therefore redundant. The Contracting Parties agreed to this deletion. The revised text now reads: "Recalling that the 2022-2024 work programme was funded through regular payments of assessed and voluntary



contributions to the Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region by the Contracting Parties, along with contributions from partners through collaborative projects and activities."

- ✓ The Contracting Parties reviewed a proposal from partners to revise paragraph 12 for greater inclusivity. Partners had suggested alternative wording: “Acknowledging with appreciation the support provided by partners, including regional and international organisations, [towards implementation of the work programme of the Nairobi Convention].” After extensive discussion, a contact group comprising representatives from Somalia, South Africa, and France proposed the following text: “Acknowledging with appreciation the financial and technical support provided by partners, including regional and international organisations, towards the implementation of the work programme of the Nairobi Convention.” The Contracting Parties agreed to this revised text from the contact group.
- ✓ The Contracting Parties agreed to the text for the Preamble.
- Draft Decision CP.11/1. Approval of the Integrated Regional Programme 2025- 2035 and Programme of Work for 2025-2028
  - ✓ Somalia proposed adding text to Clause 2: “To approve and implement, with the support of partners [and ensuring equitable representation and benefits], the 4-year Programme of Work for the period 2025-2028.” The Contracting Parties, including Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, and Tanzania, discussed the proposal and agreed to maintain the original text, arguing that the inclusion of partners was sufficient to ensure inclusivity and that adding benefits would alter the original meaning. Ultimately, the Parties decided to retain the original text.
  - ✓ Kenya proposed adding “and adoption” to clause 3, resulting in the following text: “To request the Secretariat to finalize the Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring framework for the Western Indian Ocean region and present it for endorsement by the National Focal Points [and adoption] during the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties, in order to guide effective national and regional reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Work.” South Africa supported the addition of “adoption” but questioned the need to include “endorsement by National Focal Points,” viewing it as a procedural step not necessary for the decision text. France, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Mozambique concurred with South Africa. As a result, the text was modified to: “To request the Secretariat to finalize the Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring framework for the Western Indian Ocean region and submit it for adoption at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties, in order to guide effective national and regional reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Work.”
  - ✓ Comoros highlighted a discrepancy between the English and French translations of Clause 4, which was supported by Madagascar and France. The French version was subsequently modified.
  - ✓ Somalia proposed adding a reference to accountability in Clause 5. The Secretariat clarified that it is accountable to the Contracting Parties concerning all matters, including decisions

and the work programme, and thus felt it unnecessary to emphasize accountability in the decision text. Somalia accepted this clarification, and the original text was retained.

- ✓ The Contracting Parties endorsed the draft text for Decision CP.11/1.
  
- **Draft Decision CP 11/2: Financial matters**
  - ✓ The text for Decision CP 11/2 was endorsed with no modifications.
  
- **Draft Decision CP11/3: Contributing to the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction**
  - ✓ France proposed to amend Clause 1 by commending contracting parties that have signed and ratified the agreement and urging others to do so before the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC 3) in Nice in 2025 to stress the urgency of the matter.
  - ✓ Somalia offered an alternative urging all parties to expeditiously sign and ratify the agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea regarding marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.
  - ✓ However, Mozambique, Kenya, South Africa, Madagascar, and Tanzania opposed the inclusion of the commendation and deadline, arguing it impinged on state sovereignty. They highlighted that the existing Agreement on Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) already sets a signing deadline of September 2025, rendering the proposed amendment unnecessary. The Secretariat reminded parties that under international law, nations voluntarily enter agreements, emphasizing their right to decide when and how to ratify.
  - ✓ Linking the signing to a specific event was deemed imprudent. Consequently, the parties agreed to retain the original text. Additionally, Comoros requested a revision of the French translation of “urge” to clarify that it should not imply an obligation for states to act, and the text was revised accordingly.
  - ✓ The text for Decision CP 11/3 was endorsed.
  
- **Draft Decision CP 11/4: Combating plastics pollution in the coastal and marine environment based on a full life cycle approach for human health and the environment**
  - ✓ Kenya proposed removing the descriptor "full" from "full life cycle," citing a lack of consensus on its definition. The parties agreed to this deletion.
  - ✓ France expressed that including text on the African position in paragraph two of the decision was not feasible, as it is a member of the European Union. However, Kenya and South Africa advocated for retaining the text, emphasizing that the Nairobi Convention's scope pertains to Africa and that the text referred to the position of the African group of negotiators. In response, Kenya proposed new wording to replace paragraph 2 : “To encourage contracting parties to support the common positions of their respective regional groups in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to advance their region’s interests.” The parties agreed to Kenya’s suggestion.

- ✓ Kenya proposed deleting the text in paragraph 3 that specifies “including on plastic additives, problematic and avoidable plastics, microplastics and associated chemicals, and transboundary movements of plastic waste,” arguing that these issues are still under global discussion. Seychelles supported this proposal and suggested adding the text, “taking into account the draft Regional Action Plan to Combat Marine Plastics Pollution developed by the Indian Ocean Commission.” The Contracting Parties agreed to these modifications.
- ✓ The text for CP 11/4 was endorsed.
- **Draft CP 11/5: Implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**
  - ✓ Parties reframed paragraph 1 to include text on “and regional biodiversity frameworks as appropriate” and reached an agreement on the revised paragraph, stating: To urge Contracting Parties to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and regional biodiversity frameworks, as appropriate, by aligning their policies and laws to the framework, including updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to include marine and coastal biodiversity.”
  - ✓ The Contracting Parties agreed to revise paragraph 3 to include references to additional tools as appropriate. The updated paragraph now reads: “To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the development of regional and national policy and legal frameworks and other tools, as appropriate, for effective, inclusive, and equitably governed seascapes that encompass networks of ecologically representative and connected marine protected areas, other effective conservation measures and locally managed marine areas.
  - ✓ Madagascar proposed adding text about Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) to the decision urging Contracting Parties to confer legal status to LMMAs and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), develop networks of LMMAs, and collaborate with the Secretariat and partners to catalyze and support implementation. However, some Parties raised concerns about restricting the text exclusively to LMMAs and OECMs, noting that these points are already addressed in Paragraph 6 as “area-based management systems that are co-managed with local communities”. The Contracting Parties agreed to retain the text as drafted in Paragraph 6
  - ✓ The text for CP 11/5 was endorsed.
- **Draft Decision CP 11/6 Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region**
  - ✓ Tanzania noted that while the drafting of the decision was well done, it lacked a reference to a financial mechanism. Tanzania proposed text that was amended by South Africa as follows: “To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the Contracting Parties in exploring long-term financing mechanisms to ensure the sustainable implementation of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy (ROGS).”
  - ✓ This amendment received support from Kenya, Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, France, and Somalia.

- ✓ The Secretariat informed the Contracting Parties that Section 8.2 of the ROGS already includes a reference to a financing mechanism—specifically, blue finance—and suggested that this could still be emphasized in the decision to give it further impetus.
- ✓ Ultimately, the Parties agreed to the revised text: “To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners and Contracting Parties, to develop a long-term financing mechanism to ensure the sustainable implementation of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy.”
- ✓ The text for CP 11/6 was agreed upon.
  
- **Draft decision CP11/7: The Information Management Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region**
- ✓ The text for CP 11/7 was endorsed following minor editorial revisions.
  
- **Draft decision CP 11/8: Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface**

The Contracting Parties discussed the amendments as proposed by partners as follows:

- ✓ Paragraph 1: “To urge Contracting Parties to ensure that policy making integrates the use of science and arts”. South Africa expressed concerns, stating that art is a tool rather than a mechanism and that it is a broad concept whose inclusion could lead to ambiguity. South Africa also noted that art is not part of the Convention's framework. Seychelles, Mozambique, Somalia, and Tanzania backed South Africa's position, resulting in the deletion of the proposed text.
- ✓ The Parties accepted the suggestions from partners for paragraphs 3 and 4 of the decision, leading to the endorsement of the text for CP 11/8.
  
- **Draft decision CP 11/9: Ratification of Amended Nairobi Convention and its Protocols**
- ✓ Kenya proposed the removal of the word “domesticate” from Paragraph 1, arguing that it referred to a procedural process managed at the national level. The original text read: “To urge Contracting Parties that have yet to sign, ratify or accede to and [domesticate] the Amended Nairobi Convention, the Protocol on Land-based Sources and Activities in the Western Indian Ocean region, and the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management to do so in a timely manner.” The Parties agreed to the deletion.
- ✓ The text for CP11/9 was endorsed.
  
- **Draft decision CP 11/10: Mainstreaming climate change concerns in marine biodiversity protection**
- ✓ The Parties proposed modifying Paragraph 4 to incorporate the African Union Climate Change and Resilience Development Strategy and Action Plan, along with the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action. The Parties agreed to the following revised text: “To urge Contracting Parties to address climate change through their Nationally Determined Contributions and mainstreaming climate change in integrated

coastal zone management in support of, as well as through the Africa Union Climate Change and Resilience Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action and the 2023 Moroni Declaration”

- ✓ The text for CP 11/10 was subsequently endorsed following minor editorial revisions to Paragraphs 1 and 3.
  
- **Draft CP11/11: Conservation, Restoration and Management of Critical Habitats and Species**
  - ✓ Paragraph one was modified to include a reference to sustainable management and the addition of salt marshes. The agreed revised text now reads: “To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen measures for the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of blue carbon ecosystems, including seagrass, mangroves, and salt marshes.”
  - ✓ Contracting Parties discussed Paragraph 4 and the rationale for listing only certain species, as this could be interpreted as exclusive. The Parties agreed to include species that were critical to livelihoods, noting that the inclusion of "but not limited to" addressed the concerns of exclusion. The amended text, "To urge Contracting Parties to continue protecting highly threatened species including, but not limited to, sharks, rays, seabirds, dugongs, marine turtles, and coelacanths," was agreed upon.
  - ✓ Contracting Parties discussed the partner’s suggested text for paragraph 5: “[To request the Secretariat to finalize the Regional Vision and Strategy for Mangroves].” Dr. Bosire provided context for the discussion, indicating that there was already a decision from point (d) of COP 10/12 on Projects and Partnerships stating, “to develop and implement a regional mangrove action plan through the Western Indian Ocean Regional Mangrove Network.” He noted that this decision remains open as the process has not yet been completed. He added that, going forward, progress on the implementation of this decision will be tracked through the monitoring mechanism for the integrated work programme, and therefore, there was no need to repeat the decision unless the suggested text added value. The Contracting Parties agreed that it would be prudent to enhance the process by requesting the finalization of the report. The agreed text now reads: “To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties, to finalize the development of the Regional Mangrove Vision and Action Plan.”
  - ✓ The text for CP 11/11 was endorsed.
  
- **Decision CP 11/12: Improving environmental quality through Source-to-Sea approaches**
  - ✓ Seychelles proposed the addition of a paragraph on contingency planning, submitting the following text for consideration: “To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties and partners, to finalize and implement the regional contingency plan for preparedness and response to major marine pollution incidents within the region.”
  - ✓ Tanzania supported the proposal, suggesting the deletion of the term “major.” South Africa, Mozambique, and Mauritius expressed support for the introduction as proposed by Seychelles and amended by Tanzania. The revised text, “To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties and partners, to finalize and implement the Regional

Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution Incidents within the Region,” was agreed upon.

- ✓ The text for CP 11/12 was endorsed.

- **Decision CP 11/13: Strengthening Marine Spatial Planning**

- ✓ The Contracting Parties discussed the proposed additions from the partners regarding the decisions. The partners had suggested adding text to Paragraph 2 on the systems thinking approach and to Paragraph 3 on the WIOSymphony tool.
- ✓ The Contracting Parties agreed to the suggestions, and the amended text read as follows:

Paragraph 2: “To request Contracting Parties to mainstream ecosystem-based marine spatial planning into national development plans, carry out ecosystem and social baseline assessments, and apply systems thinking approaches for the purposes of designing marine spatial plans and a sustainable blue economy.”

Paragraph 3: “To request Contracting Parties to use marine spatial planning tools, such as WIOSymphony, to assess the strategic and cumulative environmental impacts of human activities for evidence-based decision-making.”

- ✓ Mozambique proposed the addition of text regarding the Northern Mozambique Channel, emphasizing its significance as a key learning tool on MSP: “To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the partners, to encourage the finalization of the Northern Mozambique Channel MSP process to inform the regional MSP Strategy.” Madagascar noted that the NOCAMO project was already included in Decision CP 11/16. Following this clarification, Mozambique withdrew the proposal.
- ✓ The text for CP 11/13 was endorsed.

- **Decision CP11/14: Economic valuation and ocean accounting**

- ✓ Tanzania proposed the deletion of text regarding tracking the implementation of the sustainable blue economy and ocean governance, arguing that it was not necessary to include ocean governance since the title of the decisions focused on “economic valuation and ocean accounting,” and that ocean governance was already covered in Decision CP 11/16 on the regional ocean governance strategy.
- ✓ In response, Madagascar argued for the retention of the original text, emphasizing that the decision addressed ocean governance from the perspective of valuation and ocean accounting.
- ✓ Ultimately, the parties agreed to retain the ocean governance text in the decision, which reads as follows: "To request the Secretariat to collaborate with partners in developing tools and methodologies on ocean accounting and natural capital accounting with the

purpose of increasing knowledge, capacity development, and harmonizing the use of these tools in tracking the implementation of the sustainable blue economy and ocean governance."

- ✓ The text for CP11/14 was endorsed.

- **Decision CP11/15: Environmental impacts of large infrastructure projects**

- ✓ France proposed the addition of the word “avoid” to paragraph one of the decision, which received support from Somalia and Madagascar. The parties agreed on the following text: “To urge Contracting Parties, in planning and executing large infrastructure projects with potential transboundary environmental, social, and health impacts, to take necessary measures to avoid or mitigate them in a collaborative manner.”
- ✓ The text for CP 11/15 was endorsed.

- **Decision CP 11/16: Support for Projects and Partnerships**

- ✓ The Contracting Parties discussed the text for CP 11/16 and proposed the addition of the word “biodiversity” to paragraph one of the decision. The revised paragraph now reads: “To urge Contracting Parties to establish partnerships and programmes with partners on ocean action and take advantage of the opportunities under the climate change and biodiversity financial mechanisms and arrangements.”
- ✓ The Chair requested the Secretariat to cross-check the version of the decisions against the listing of partners and projects, organized from the oldest to the newest, due to discrepancies noted between the version displayed on the screen and the link shared as part of the meeting documentation.
- ✓ The text for CP 11/16 was subsequently endorsed.

### **Administrative matters, any other business and closing remarks**

13. The Chair invited Dr. Bosire to provide closing remark who expressed gratitude to the Focal Points for their extensive input to the draft decisions, noting that a clean version with the endorsed text would be circulated to the Focal Points. This would enable them to brief the Heads of Delegations in advance of the adoption of the decisions on August 22, 2024.

## Annex 1

### Speech by Jared Bosire, Head, Nairobi Convention Secretariat

#### Talking Points by the Executive Secretary Nairobi Convention on the Focal Points Day - 21 August 2024

Mr. Director General Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mr Rivosoa Rabenandrianina; Ms Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP, Ms Susan Gardener, Director Ecosystems Division, UNEP; Focal Points of the Convention, Ms Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma, Chief of the Marine Ecosystems Unit, UNEP, Hartwig Kremer Chief GEF International Waters Portfolio UNEP, Forum of Academic and Research Institutions (FARI); Consortium for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean region (WIO-C), Regional Economic Commissions and Communities (RECs), Private Sector representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen...

I thank the Government of Madagascar for successful chairing of the Partners Meeting yesterday which saw extensive partners input into the discussions and commitments on possible areas of contribution into the 10-year Integrated programme and 4 year programme of work.

The Convention appreciates the value that the strategic partnerships established bring into broader ocean governance in the WIO region. The integrated programme and programme of work address key priorities identified by the Contracting Parties and partners are welcome to find possible areas of investment to support governments in fulfilling their priority commitments. Once approved by Heads of Delegations tomorrow, the Secretariat will prepare a matrix and share with partners for more specific details on their anticipated and/or planned areas of investments in alignment to the identified priorities.

Additionally, during preparation for the next COP, the Secretariat would like to use a different approach in the compilation of the Executive Director's report by working on a mechanism of consultatively compiling in good time the contribution of partners into the programme of work and COP Decisions to form part of the substantive ED's report.

Today is the Focal Points meeting when they directly engage with the working documents and review input from Partners and give their direct guidance in readiness for the High-Level Segment of the COP tomorrow.

The commitment from the Contracting Parties in supporting implementation of the programme of work and COP Decisions of the 10th COP has been steadfast. The Focal Points have engaged throughout the various processes executed during this intersessional period, which have actually led to the production of the working documents being discussed at this COP. The Focal Points have often reiterated from time to time that we are a family and this is indeed so true.



While as a region and shared humanity we share a common heritage gravely threatened by existential challenges of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, a meeting like this reminds us of what is possible and the unflinching hope that together we can work hard, direct our energies and the best of what we have got to make our world a better place. This is indeed what is reflected in the 10 year integrated programme, its subsidiary 4 year programme of work and the contemporary and responsive draft decisions the Parties will consider today. We always have a moment in history to determine what legacy we would like to leave behind and which footprints if any we will imprint on the sands of our time.

Let us make this historical gathering memorable by arriving at actionable policy and technical commitments and make our hands positively dirty to execute them in an ambitious and collaborative manner for together and by capitalising on the best among us, we will fondly remember that we seized the opportunity offered us and we left our place better than we found. This is as much an individual and collective responsibility. The amazing capacity we have dispersed across different countries in the region, should be mobilized and mobility facilitated like the Convention as been doing to make each other better to contribute to the change we desire.

While it is the Focal Points day, experts in the room may be given time where necessary to provide any necessary technical input to aid the Parties in their deliberations. I now remind the Focal Points and any Heads of Delegations who are here that we are in the formal phase of the 11th COP and kindly submit your credentials to my colleague Sylvia Bankobensa

May the high spirits and enthusiasm we shared yesterday fill the room today as well.

Wishing all of us a productive 2nd day of the COP.

### **Speech by Government of Madagascar**

Mesdames et Messieurs les Points focaux,

C'est avec une grande reconnaissance que je vous souhaite la bienvenue à la onzième Conférence des Parties de la Convention de Nairobi, ici à Madagascar. Je suis particulièrement honoré de m'adresser à vous, points focaux de la Convention, dont l'engagement indéfectible et le leadership dans vos pays respectifs ont été déterminants pour notre succès collectif.

Votre rôle, en tant que principaux relais de la Convention de Nairobi, est essentiel pour la mise en œuvre des engagements que nous avons pris ensemble. Votre travail sur le terrain, vos efforts pour coordonner les actions, et votre capacité à mobiliser les parties prenantes au niveau national sont au cœur de notre mission commune.

Lors de cette session, nous allons aborder plusieurs points cruciaux. Tout d'abord, nous travaillerons sur le projet de déclaration des chefs de délégation. Cette déclaration est non seulement une expression de nos engagements communs, mais aussi un outil stratégique qui guidera nos actions futures. Vos

contributions seront essentielles pour assurer que cette déclaration reflète fidèlement les priorités et les réalités de chaque pays.

Ensuite, nous procéderons à l'affinage des documents de travail, que les partenaires ont déjà revus lors de la session précédente. L'objectif est d'aboutir à des documents clairs et précis, qui puissent servir de base solide à nos décideurs. En émettant vos observations et remarques, vous contribuerez à l'amélioration de ces documents, pour qu'ils répondent aux besoins et aux attentes de toutes les parties prenantes.

Enfin, nous aurons l'opportunité de discuter du nouveau programme de travail pour la période 2025-2028. Ce programme vise à renforcer notre action collective et à maximiser l'impact de nos efforts. Pour qu'il soit couronné de succès, il nécessite votre soutien, votre expertise, et votre engagement continu.

Je vous encourage vivement à participer activement aux discussions, à partager vos expériences, et à proposer des solutions innovantes. Ensemble, nous pouvons faire en sorte que cette conférence soit une étape décisive dans la réalisation des objectifs de la Convention de Nairobi.

Encore une fois, je vous souhaite la bienvenue et vous remercie de votre engagement continu. Je suis convaincu que nos échanges seront riches et constructifs, et qu'ils nous permettront de continuer à avancer ensemble sur la voie du succès.

Merci.

### **Speech by Susan Gardner, Director Ecosystems Division**

Thank you, Chair;

Excellencies, delegates, friends,

Our gratitude, Secretary General, to you and the Government of Madagascar for hosting this COP, in this beautiful country and biodiversity hotspot of such unique and profound importance.

How wonderful it is to be together in person, for the first time since 2018 and to take stock of how far we have come.

Since COP 10, there has been good progress on a number of fronts, important regional processes have been completed and will be presented to the COP for approval tomorrow.

This meeting provides an opportunity for connection on our shared goals. Secretary General said yesterday coming together for “Collective action on common objectives;” Contracting Parties, international and regional organizations, civil society,

For us all to, once again, connect on a common ocean agenda for the Western Indian Ocean region.

And now, is a critical moment.

International ocean policy and governance is undergoing rapid evolution, with a number of important agreements recently reached or in progress, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ); Progress on a legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution

And with this progress, the work of the Nairobi Convention has evolved with it to stretch to the ambition of these multilateral advancements, serving as the foundation of the next Programme of Work that will be considered this week for adoption.

The Nairobi Convention and the RSCAPs can play a critical role in implementing these agreements, leveraging our long experience of regional cooperation on ocean governance, and applying what we have learned from Regional Seas over 50 years in areas of national jurisdiction, to areas beyond national jurisdiction.

We note that the Programme of Work is informed by a new and ambitious regional integrated programme running for 10 years from 2025 – 2035 responding to the request from Contracting Parties at COP 9 to develop a more integrated approach out of the two Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA) and their respective Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs).

We congratulate the Contracting Parties and partners for the significant progress made in implementing the decisions taken at COP 10. Progress that has been reflected in the UNEP Executive Director's report on areas including: Guidelines on critical habitat restoration; The Marine Protected Areas Outlook; Strategies on: Marine Spatial Planning, Ocean Governance, Information Management; The Framework for Marine Ecosystem Monitoring; The Water Quality Management Framework and guidelines; and the Toolkit for Green Ports Development.

And we congratulate Contracting Parties for the latest milestone, the adoption of a legally binding Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management of the Western Indian Ocean in September 2023 in Antananarivo, Madagascar and becoming the 4th protocol of the Nairobi Convention.

UNEP is committed to supporting Contracting Parties to build their capacity to fast-track ratification and entry into force of this new protocol.

We understand that all of these products have involved extensive country level consultations, largely through the system of invaluable Nairobi Convention Focal Points.

Today's proceedings present an opportunity for further discussions with Focal Points in preparation for the Heads of Delegations meeting tomorrow.

The Focal Points are the entry points into countries of the region. They provide the vital function of ensuring ownership of Nairobi Convention activities at country level.

We thank the focal points for their dedicated work throughout the intercessional period, enabling the Convention to evolve into one of the leading Regional Seas Programmes globally.

I am delighted to join you and the entire Nairobi Convention family at this COP 11, and on behalf of UNEP, we stand ready to support countries of the Western Indian Ocean in your efforts to ensure a healthy and productive coastal and marine ecosystem in this region and beyond Today, and for the next generation.

Thank you.

## COP 11 DAY 3

### HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING

22 AUGUST 2024

#### Welcome and Opening Remarks

1. The Heads of Delegation meeting was held on the 22nd of August 2024 at the Ivato Conference Centre in Antananarivo, Madagascar.
2. The Bureau Chair, His Excellency Max Andonirina Fontaine, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development (Republic of Madagascar), opened the session at 10:00 a.m and welcomed all Parties and observers.

#### Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks by the Nairobi Convention

3. The Chair invited Dr. Jared Bosire, Head of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to make opening remarks. Dr. Bosire invited all delegates and participants to COP 11 and thanked the Government of Madagascar for the successful organization of the COP. He also thanked all the partners that provided financial support for the conference including the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and GIZ.

#### Adoption of the Agenda

4. The provisional agenda was presented for adoption by the Chair of the Bureau. It was proposed by the Government of Kenya and seconded by the Government of Comoros with three modifications: a) the removal of the post-COP II roundtable discussion; b) the addition of the UNOC-3 discussion session; and c) the opening of the Heads of Delegation dinner to all participants.
5. The adopted agenda was as follows:
  - a) Opening remarks by UN Agencies
  - b) Opening Remarks by Development Partners and Organizations
  - c) Opening Statements by Heads of Delegation
  - d) Election of Officers
  - e) Report by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
  - f) Financial Report
  - g) Programme of Work 2025-2028
  - h) Adoption of decisions of the eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention
  - i) Dates and Place of the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP12)
  - j) Any Other Business
  - k) Closure of the Meeting

## Opening statements by UN Agencies

### Statement by Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director UN Environment

6. In her opening statement, Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment, underscored the urgent need to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. She emphasized the crucial role of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in transforming global commitments into effective regional solutions and cited UNEA resolution 6/15 that advocates for enhanced actions in these areas. She further outlined UNEP's Integrated Programme for Work from 2025 to 2028, which encompasses five key components: a) improved ocean governance; b) area-based planning and the circular economy; c) enhanced environmental and water quality; d) biodiversity conservation; and e) regional coordination and information Sharing.
7. Additionally, she highlighted the significant economic value of the Western Indian Ocean's ecosystems and the importance of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement for the high seas. She concluded by expressing gratitude to the government of Madagascar and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for organizing a successful event and to all Contracting Parties for their commitment to evidence-based decision-making. In closing, she conveyed optimism on fostering a sustainable blue economy, calling for collaborative efforts to achieve mutual environmental objectives while acknowledging Madagascar and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for their successful event organization.

## Opening Statements by Development Partners and Organizations

8. The Conference of the Parties also heard general statements by representatives of United Nations entities, development partners and major groups and other stakeholders.
9. Statements were made by representatives of Western Indian Ocean Consortium, Africa Circular Economy Network (ACEN) Foundation, Plastics Alliance South Africa, Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Forum for Academic and Research Institutions, GIZ, USAID and GEF International Waters,
10. The full statements that were submitted to the Secretariat are available at [the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention \(COP 11\) | Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism](#). The summaries of the statements are as below:

### Statement by Western Indian Ocean Consortium (WIO- C)

In his statement on behalf of the WIO-C, Dr. Arthur Tuda highlighted key achievements of the Consortium since its inception the at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention held in November 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa. WIO-C provides a framework for NGOs working in the WIO region to harmonize and advance efforts to protect, conserve, and manage the coastal and marine environment of the WIO region while working to alleviate poverty and attain sustainable livelihoods for the most vulnerable segments of its population. He also highlighted that WIO-C supports synergy in programmes of work on marine and coastal ecosystem management and promote knowledge and information sharing amongst stakeholders in the WIO region, as well as provide a mechanism for non-governmental entities to anchor

activities in the Nairobi Convention and other intergovernmental processes, thus strengthening their implementation.

#### **Statement by The African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) and the ACEN Foundation**

11. In his statement on behalf of the ACEN network and foundation, Chris Whyte highlighted key achievements of the network since its inception in 2016 and establishment of the Foundation stating that the network has grown to over 500 members across 42 countries, with more than 23,000 global followers. He highlighted key achievements of the network as the development of Circular Economy Roadmaps and Action Plans for 12 African nations, with plans for 5 additional countries underway. He stated that ACEN Foundation has fortified North-South relations and facilitated the ratification of a Circular Economy Action Plan by 45 African countries. Furthermore, ACEN is engaged in various initiatives, including the Rwanda Circular Food Systems project, significantly advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. He concluded by reiterating the organization's commitment to driving measurable impact in partnership with stakeholders like the Nairobi Convention.

#### **Statement by the Plastics Alliance South Africa**

12. Douw Steyn, Director Sustainability at Plastics SA thanked the Nairobi Convention for including the industry as an expert partner in the Nairobi Convention activities eg. in the development of the Western Indian Ocean Regional Ocean Governance Strategy

He stated that plastics does not belong in the environment and in our oceans hence the need to enhance collaboration at multiple levels to find the best solutions to address this environmental problem. We also need enabling actions by all stakeholders in the value chains including governments, plastics makers and converters, financial institutions, brand owners and retailers, waste manager sand recyclers and scientific and academic institutions.

In closing, he offered the pledge of the plastics industry to support governments to complete negotiations at INC-5 in Busan, Republic of Korea, on an international legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution, especially in the marine environment. In this regard, he stated that the industry supports a workable global agreement, increased transparency on the use of chemical additives in plastics, and provisions to accelerate the transition to a more circular economy for plastics such as national targets to drive innovations in product design, improve recycling rates, and sustainable financing mechanisms.

#### **Statement by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)**

13. The representative of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers expressed gratitude to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for facilitating private sector participation at COP 11. She emphasized the importance of collaborative solutions in addressing environmental challenges, noting that businesses are increasingly recognizing the need to innovate for sustainability amid climate change and

biodiversity loss. She highlighted the development of a fact-based Plastics Action Plan that has led to Kenya's transition to a circular economy, supported by government policies on promoting extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes. She reaffirmed KAM's commitment to the Nairobi Convention and pledged to collaborate with the government and the Secretariat to enhance biodiversity protection.

#### **Statement by the Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI)**

14. Dr. Margareth Kyewalyanga, the interim chair of FARI stated that FARI members have played a crucial role in implementing the Nairobi Convention's current Programme of Work (2022-2024) by strengthening the science-to-policy interface and participating in various Science to Policy meetings which informed COP decisions. She noted that FARI contributed to the development of the new 2025-2035 Integrated Regional Programme through active participation in meetings and document reviews, while also ensuring quality control in regional frameworks, like the Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development. FARI provided technical support for project proposals, including GEF 8, and engaged in exchange programs for knowledge sharing and capacity building. Looking ahead to the 2025-2028 Programme of Work, FARI emphasizes the necessity of research inputs and invites academic and research institutions in the WIO Region to join in collaborative efforts for regional advancement.

#### **Statement by GIZ**

15. The representative of the German Development Cooperation expressed gratitude to the Government of Madagascar for hosting the meeting, highlighting the region's rich biodiversity and vital ecosystems. She emphasized the importance of collaboration in fostering a sustainable Blue Economy and enhancing ocean governance, thanking all partners, stakeholders, and governments for their invaluable contributions and commitment to the Nairobi Convention. She reiterated GIZ's commitment to regional collaboration, strengthening capacities, and engaging communities to develop solutions that balance ecosystem preservation with socio-economic progress. Concluding, she underscored the importance of collective action for impact, urging all stakeholders to unite in addressing the region's complex challenges.

#### **Statement by USAID**

16. The representative from USAID stated that the Riake Project is dedicated to advancing the sustainable management of natural resources through marine protected areas (MPAs) and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs). The project focuses on promoting diversified, sustainable livelihoods; enhancing governance and anti-corruption measures in coastal resource management; boosting climate resilience for both communities and ecosystems; and reinforcing marine tenure policies and spatial planning. It was highlighted that the initiative aligns with Components 1 to 4 of the Nairobi Convention's Programme of Work, encompassing marine spatial planning (MSPs), the blue economy, and the global "30 by 30" conservation goal. The project emphasizes the connectivity of LMMAs and MPAs and contributes to the development of blue carbon and blue economy initiatives. It was also reported that USAID has established a longstanding partnership with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science



Association (WIOMSA) and anticipates positive outcomes from the adoption of key decisions. USAID shares the vision of Nairobi Convention parties and has demonstrated support by assisting the Government of Madagascar in organizing the Conference of Parties (COP), underlining a commitment to improving marine environments in Madagascar. USAID expressed its readiness to aid the Convention in the implementation of its Work Programme.

### **Statement by UNEP-GEF portfolio for International waters**

17. Dr. Hartwig Kremer in his remarks highlighted that: GEF has been actively supporting the region through projects like the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Western Indian Ocean (SAPPHIRE) and the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities (WIOSAP).

GEF's integrated programs address key connectivity challenges, such as source-to-sea linkages, Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), and river basin management, and are recognized for their innovative approach. GEF remains committed to extending further support to the Nairobi Convention's initiatives. Regarding the BBNJ Treaty, GEF is focusing on strategies for conserving and managing high seas biodiversity.

The GEF International Waters (IW) program serves as a financial mechanism to assist countries in the ratification of international environmental agreements, establishing early-stage support systems to address policy and capacity gaps for readiness. The funds will facilitate assessments of countries' preparedness for ratification, including identifying necessary policy adjustments and capacity-building requirements.

### **Statements by Africa Union Commission on Behalf of the Regional Economic Communities (COMESA, SADC, EAC, IGAD and PMAESA) and IOC**

18. AUC highlighted some of the ongoing efforts at the African Union and at the Regional Economic Communities and Commissions to support directly or indirectly the implementation of some of the CoP decisions. Various policy frameworks were highlighted including - the ABSAP, CEAP and the Climate Change Strategy, conservation of Africa's wild fauna and flora through engagement with AU member States and CITES.

The Commission continues to strengthen its Blue Economy Division and implement the AU Blue Economy Strategy by supporting member States and RECs to operationalize the Strategy. SADC and COMESA have developed Blue Economy Strategies. Further, COMESA has supported formulation of National Blue Economy Strategy Frameworks and Implementation Plans for Eswatini, Malawi and Zambia.

It was also reported that COMESA completed a Continental Review of Existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Documented Lessons, Best Practices and Formulated Guidelines for their

Sustainable Implementation and Governance in Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity Resources in the East and Southern African Regions.

EAC has amended the Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources to cater for emerging issues including Blue Economy, Circular Economy, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework on DRR. The Revision of the EAC Climate Change Policy and Strategy and development of the EAC Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan are on going.

It was further highlighted that PMAESA organized the Africa Maritime Cabotage and Blue Economy Conference (AMBEC) held in November 2023 in collaboration with the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), The Maritime Organization for Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA) - formerly ISCOS and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI). As PMAESA marks its 50th Anniversary, the Secretariat with the support of PMAESA Board Members and the broader PMAESA fraternity commissioned a publication which documents progress of over 5 decades in positioning African Maritime Gateways as important drivers for socio-economic development as well as regional economic integration.

Additionally, IOC is working with several partners and countries in the region to develop the state of the coast report for the United Republic of Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar) on restoration of the marine and coastal ecosystems through its coastal resilience project (RECOS) eg: the LMMA in Madagascar involving non state actors. To scale up coastal resilience, IOC through the HYDROMET project will be reinforcing the capacity in the island states on climate services for the maritime sector enhancing the nexus between climate change and ocean.

The RECs continue to be a trusted partner in providing technical support to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat, and also supported the development of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean.

### **Opening Statements by Heads of Delegation**

19. Statements were made by Heads of Delegations of the following Contracting Parties: Comoros, France (Re Union), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania.

The full statements that were submitted to the Secretariat are available in the website of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat at: [the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention \(COP 11\) | Nairobi Convention Clearinghouse Mechanism](#). The summaries of these statements are as below:

### **Statement by Mr. Youssouf Elamine Mbechezi, Director General of Environment in Comoros**

20. The Head of Delegation for Comoros expressed gratitude to Madagascar for its warm hospitality and acknowledged the efforts of the UNEP and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat in organizing the 11th Conference of Parties. He emphasized the urgency of transitioning to sustainable development for the survival of humanity and the need for collective action to address challenges such as climate change,

sustainable coastal management, and integrated resource governance. He noted that the government of Comoros has prioritized environmental protection and the development of a blue and green economy since 2016, achieving significant milestones such as the proclamation of marine parks, mobilization of over 75 million Euros for environmental financing, and a strategy to combat marine plastic pollution. Notably, the Comoros is among the first countries in the world to develop its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), aiming for a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 23% and an increase in net CO<sub>2</sub> absorption by 47% by 2030. The country is focused on enhancing its biodiversity, exemplified by its designation as a global nesting site for sea turtles, and aims to increase renewable energy sources, including solar and geothermal energy. He highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in accessing innovative funding and fostering a regenerative blue economy that benefits the Western Indian Ocean communities.

**Mr. Ghousse Gaffar, Representative of the Minister of Environment in France**

21. Ambassadors, representatives of international organizations, Mr. Executive Secretary of the Nairobi Convention, ladies and gentlemen, partners, distinguished guests, observing all protocols, France is delighted to participate in this new conference of the Nairobi Convention. I would like to commend the organization of this important meeting by the Malagasy government under the leadership of Minister Max Fontaine. Our thanks also go to the Secretariat for its efforts in preparing the proceedings, particularly in drafting the strategic plan for this regional convention for 2024–2028.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear delegates, the process in which the parties have been engaged for several years has reached a critical phase with countless challenges that we must address.

As you know, the ocean, a source of biodiversity and a vital regulator of our climate, is currently threatened by human activities. Overfishing, plastic pollution, ocean acidification, and the degradation of marine habitats are plagues that endanger the ecological balance of our planet. Climate change significantly impacts biodiversity, as does the warming and acidification of oceans. These challenges are not merely environmental concerns, but also issues of food security, economic development, and social justice.

We are thus facing an urgent situation and increasing challenges. However...Sustainable Development Goal 14—conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development—remains the most underfunded of all global goals. It is estimated that an additional \$175 billion per year will be needed until 2030 to fully achieve this goal. In a regional context where climate change, biodiversity loss, and the plastic pollution crisis threaten ocean health, the Nairobi Convention is an essential instrument for promoting and strengthening regional cooperation.

As the French Ambassador to Madagascar—a country where marine wealth is both an invaluable treasure and a source of life for millions of people—I wish to emphasize the crucial importance of our shared commitment to ocean protection. France, as an Indian Ocean nation through its overseas

territories, shares this responsibility. We are fully aware of the need to act at all levels to protect our marine heritage.

No single power, no matter how strong, can alone address the global challenges we face. This is why we must strengthen our partnerships, share our knowledge, share our resources, and work together. France, as a party to the Nairobi Convention, will be fully engaged alongside other parties. That said, we would like to share several viewpoints regarding the agenda of our conference. Regarding the entry into force of the High Seas Treaty, the focus is primarily on the regional implementation of international commitments, particularly the international agreement for the protection of the high seas and marine biodiversity (BBNJ), adopted in June 2023, and the future treaty to end plastic pollution.

We believe that cooperation between the regional level (the Nairobi Regional Seas Convention) and the global level will be one of the keys to the successful implementation of the BBNJ and to contributing to the achievement of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Framework, namely the protection of 30% of seas by 2030.

In practice, this close coordination of actions in the region should be demonstrated notably through the identification of potential marine protected areas and the establishment of environmental impact studies. Beyond the framework of the Nairobi Convention, France urges all states to sign and ratify the BBNJ agreement adopted at the UN in June 2023 so that it can enter into force by 2025. Sixty ratifications are required for this. This ambitious goal is a collective responsibility.

Regarding the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of Mauritius, France is in the final stages of its ratification process, which should be completed before the end of the year. Regarding the importance of combating plastic pollution, one of the most severe threats we face: as you know, every year, millions of tons of waste end up in the seas, causing irreversible damage to marine fauna, habitats, and, consequently, human health. In the Indian Ocean and elsewhere, this pollution is an ecological and public health emergency.

France, for its part, is fully committed to the fight against plastic pollution.

**Statement by Mr. Festus Ng'eno, Permanent Secretary, State Department for Environment and Climate Change, Republic of Kenya;**

22. The Head of Delegation for Kenya expressed gratitude to the Government of Madagascar and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for their efforts in organizing a successful COP 11. He reported that Kenya has ratified the Amended Nairobi Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and Activities and is expediting the process of depositing with the depositary in accordance with Article 30 of the Nairobi Convention. He noted that Kenya is actively participating in negotiations for an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, advocating for a focus on prevention and reduction strategies, particularly regarding the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems. In alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global

Biodiversity Framework, Kenya is updating its National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan to incorporate marine and coastal biodiversity targets. The country supports the WIO Regional Climate Change Strategy and emphasizes regional cooperation in climate action, highlighted by its hosting of the 2023 Africa Climate Summit. He concluded by reaffirming Kenya's commitment to the Nairobi Convention through continued financial contributions and collaboration with partners, encouraging fruitful discussions aimed at strengthening regional cooperation.

**Statement by His Excellency Max Andonirina Fontaine, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Republic of Madagascar**

23. The Minister warmly welcomed participants to Madagascar and to COP 11, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation to effectively tackle environmental challenges while highlighting Madagascar's commitment to sustainable management of its marine and coastal resources. He underscored the significance of the Nairobi Convention in providing a framework for action, with Madagascar's government aligning its policies with the Convention's goals, including the protection of marine species and the fight against pollution. Notably, Madagascar, as a longstanding leader in the Convention since its ratification in 1985, has implemented successful initiatives such as marine protected areas and pollution response strategies. As Madagascar transitions the presidency to a new team, the minister encouraged member states to strengthen collaboration and pursue ambitious strategies for enhanced environmental protection, concluding with gratitude towards international partners for their support.

**Statement by Hon. Kavydass Ramano, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Republic of Mauritius**

24. Hon Ramano, the Head of delegation for the Republic of Mauritius expressed gratitude to UNEP and the Nairobi Convention Secretariat for the opportunity to participate in discussions vital for the future of marine and coastal environments in the Western Indian Ocean. He highlighted the oceans' importance to global economies and the unique and vulnerable ecosystems of the Western Indian Ocean, which face threats from climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Emphasizing Mauritius's commitment to marine conservation, the minister outlined several key initiatives, including climate change adaptation efforts, development of the Blue Economy, Marine Spatial Planning for sustainable resource management, combatting plastic pollution, oil spill preparedness, and the conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems. He noted that despite the progress made, significant challenges remain, necessitating regional collaboration and support. The minister affirmed Mauritius commitment to the Nairobi Convention, focusing on the need for a regional framework and enhanced capacity for effective implementation.

**Statement by Mr. Watela Paulo Jone, General Inspector, Ministry of Land and Environment Republic of Mozambique**

25. The Head of Delegation of Mozambique emphasized the country's vulnerability to climate change and its extensive coastline during COP 11. He acknowledged the US\$ 962,225 received from the Nairobi

Convention for projects such as a Seagrass Action Plan, mangrove restoration, policy harmonization, and marine ecosystem management. Key initiatives include launching a national Blue Economy Strategy, expanding conservation areas to 5.2%, and approving fisheries management plans. Mozambique also introduced the SIBMOZ biodiversity information system and revitalized its Marine Spatial Planning process. The delegation expressed gratitude to Madagascar for hosting the conference and reaffirmed its commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Western Indian Ocean region.

**Statement by His Excellency Flavien Joubert, Minister of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, Republic of Seychelles**

26. The Head of Delegation from Seychelles expressed gratitude to Madagascar for hosting the 11th Conference of Parties and commended the efforts behind the event's success. He reaffirmed Seychelles' commitment to the Convention's vision, highlighting the country's reliance on a healthy marine environment for its economy, which heavily depends on tourism and fisheries. Minister Joubert shared examples of successful projects supported by the Nairobi Convention, such as wastewater treatment initiatives and wetland restoration efforts. He noted that Seychelles has undertaken significant initiatives worth over US\$ 470,000 to enhance marine ecosystem management, including updates to its National Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses and Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Seychelles emphasized the importance of national actions aligning with Convention objectives, noting progress on the BBNJ treaty and the development of a Marine Spatial Plan. He pledged to protect seagrasses and mangroves and called for regional collaboration to achieve Convention goals while encouraging member countries to maintain an ambitious agenda for improving the health of the Western Indian Ocean.

**Statement by Her Excellency Khadija Mohamed Alмахzumi, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Federal Republic of Somalia**

27. Ladies and gentlemen and colleagues, it's a great honor to stand before you today at COP11. I extend my gratitude to the government of Madagascar for the hospitality and effort in hosting this event. Thank you to all partners and collaborators dedicated to Nairobi Convention initiatives. To my fellow Heads of Delegation, thank you for all your dedication and commitment. Your leadership is crucial as we navigate the challenges and opportunities to marine and environmental conservation. Special thanks to the Nairobi Convention focal points and all partners for the hard work in advancing the Proposed Decisions the last two days. Somalia remains committed to the Nairobi Convention initiatives, evident through the projects that enhance our sustainable development, environmental conservation, and resilience to climate change. Update to our National Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses and Capacity Enhancement for Environmental Fellow Assessment reflect this commitment. The alliances of the Juba-Shabelle River-basin has informed crucial policy, institutional, and legislative recommendations. Our mangrove restoration and coastal community livelihood project has begun to restore mangrove ecosystems and improve community livelihoods and resilience. These projects underscore our focus

on enhancing local knowledge, technical skills, and community participation in sustainable practices based on the proposed program of work 2025 - 2028 under the Nairobi Convention. We hope to further benefit in managing and restoring crucial, critical habitats.

The proposed program of work integrates approach to funding and partnership that could further aid Somalia by providing access to international funds and expertise. Somalia seeks to continue supporting the Nairobi Convention to fully leverage on the proposed program of work.

To end, I thank the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and all delegates for your collaboration in safeguarding our marine and coastal environment.

Thank you.

**Statement by Ms. Radia Razack, Chief Director, Oceans and Coasts Department of Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa;**

28. The Head of Delegation from South Africa expressed gratitude to Madagascar for hosting the COP 11 meeting and acknowledged the progress made since COP 10. She noted that South Africa endorsed the proposed 2025-2028 Work Programme and she called for continued commitment from partners to support its execution. South Africa highlighted the significant threats to its marine environments and emphasized the need for regional cooperation in addressing these challenges, while applauding the Nairobi Convention Secretariat's coordination efforts. She noted that the country is finalizing its Ocean Economy Master Plan to drive growth across ocean-related sectors and address issues such as biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063. South Africa underscored the importance of establishing a Regional Coordination Mechanism for managing transboundary oil spills and welcomed partnerships aimed at enhancing marine environmental protection. The delegation expressed optimism that the decisions made at COP 11 would unlock the potential of Africa's Blue Economy and ensure effective governance in the Western Indian Ocean region.

**Election of the Bureau Members**

29. The Chair expressed gratitude to the outgoing Bureau members for their leadership, acknowledging Tanzania (Vice Chair for Work Programme), Seychelles (Vice Chair for Resource Mobilization), South Africa (Vice Chair for Coordination), and Kenya (Rapporteur). He then initiated the election for the Bureau for the period between COP 11 and the next COP, calling for nominations for the roles of Chair, Vice Chair (Work Programme), Vice Chair (Resource Mobilization), Vice Chair (Coordination), and Rapporteur. Kenya nominated the United Republic of Tanzania for Chair, which was seconded by Mauritius. Somalia nominated Mauritius for Vice Chair (Work Programme), with Seychelles seconding the nomination. Comoros nominated South Africa for Vice Chair (Resource Mobilization), and the nomination was seconded by Mozambique. Madagascar proposed Somalia for Vice Chair (Coordination), with support from South Africa. The Contracting Parties upheld the Convention's practice of appointing the outgoing Chair as Rapporteur for continuity, resulting in Madagascar's appointment as Rapporteur

30. The new bureau of the Nairobi Convention was duly constituted as follows:

- ❖ United Republic of Tanzania: Chair
- ❖ Mauritius: Vice chair (Work Programme)
- ❖ South Africa: Vice chair (Resource Mobilisation)
- ❖ Somali: Vice chair (Coordination)
- ❖ Madagascar: Rapporteur

31. The Chair congratulated the newly elected Bureau members, and wished them success in their term. He invited Tanzania to deliver its national statement

**Statement by His Excellency Max Andonirina Fontaine, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Republic of Madagascar; the outgoing Chair of the Bureau**

32. H.E. Max Fontaine reflected on Madagascar's tenure as the outgoing chair of the Nairobi Convention, mentioning the significant achievements made during the intersessional period between 2021 and 2024 and highlighting the importance of collaboration and regional cooperation in advancing the protection of East Africa's marine and coastal environments. He expressed pride in the progress achieved through strengthened partnerships and innovative policies while acknowledging the supportive spirit that enabled overcoming challenges. As Madagascar steps down and Tanzania prepares to assume leadership under Her Excellency Dr. Ashatu Kachawamba Kijaji, the outgoing chair expressed confidence in the future direction of the Convention and entrusted the new chair with the responsibility to innovate and lead with the same collaborative spirit. He concluded by thanking colleagues on the Bureau and the Contracting Parties for their trust and support, urging a continued commitment to environmental stewardship for future generations.

**Statement by elected Chair of the Bureau, Her Excellency Hon. Dr. Ashatu Kijaji, Minister of State for the Vice President's Office in the United Republic of Tanzania,**

33. Dr. Kijaji began her remarks by expressing gratitude to the Contracting Parties for electing Tanzania as the Chair of the Bureau. She also extended her thanks to the outgoing Chair, Madagascar, for his exemplary leadership.

34. The Minister's statement underscored Tanzania's dedication to the protection and sustainable management of the Coastal and Marine Environment of the Western Indian Ocean. She emphasized that the Nairobi Convention plays a crucial role in safeguarding the marine environment and promoting sustainable development among the Contracting Parties. Expressing gratitude to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the Government of Madagascar, she highlighted key achievements of the Convention, including the promotion of regional collaboration, support for Sustainable Development Goal 14, and the enhancement of capacities for integrated coastal management. She stressed the vital importance of marine and coastal ecosystems to Tanzania's economy and culture while acknowledging challenges such as climate change and pollution. Additionally, Dr. Kijaji outlined Tanzania's commitment to sustainable practices through various national policies, including the National Blue Economy Policy and Marine Spatial Planning, as well as ongoing projects funded



by the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. In conclusion, she called for collective action among nations to reaffirm their shared commitment to the Nairobi Convention and implement concrete measures for the future health of the Western Indian Ocean region.

## **B. Session II**

### **Presentation of UNEP Executive Director Report**

35. Dr. Jared Bosire presented the Executive Director's report, highlighting the progress made in implementing the decisions from COP-10 of the Nairobi Convention and the Programme of Work for 2022-2024. The report emphasized the programme's objective to reinforce the Nairobi Convention's role as a platform for fostering synergies and coordinating regional initiatives, while also supporting countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda, with a specific focus on Sustainable Development Goal 14. This goal underscores the importance of conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. The presentation also outlined the objectives and the components of the work programme.

### **Presentation of the Financial Report**

36. Mr. Martin Okun, a finance officer at UNEP, delivered a comprehensive report on the financial management of the Nairobi Convention, addressing key components such as the status of Trust Funds, internal controls, financial regulations, and audit recommendations. The presentation underscored the significance of timely contributions from Contracting Parties, which currently stand at over \$2.8 million in unpaid pledges. In commendable recognition, the report acknowledged those Contracting Parties that have consistently met, and in some instances exceeded, their financial contributions, demonstrating a strong commitment to the Convention's objectives. Additionally, the budget for the years 2025-2028 was presented.

### **Presentation of the Proposed Programme of Work for 2025-2028 for the Implementation of the Nairobi Convention**

37. Dr. Tim Andrew presented the proposed Programme of Work for 2025-2028, noting its strategic shift in structure compared to the 2022-2024 programme. The changes stem from Decision CP 9/1.3, which called for an integrated programme to fully implement the existing Strategic Action Programmes (WIOSAP and SAPPHERE). The new programme is based on a 10-year Integrated Programme for the WIO region developed in 2023 and aligns with Global Commitments, including Agenda 2030 on SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2063, and the UN Decade of Ocean Science. He emphasized that this new work programme builds on the momentum of the previous one and incorporates insights from the merger and update of the two Strategic Action Programmes. The development process was consultative, drawing from the 2023 WIO Science-Policy dialogue and discussions on plastics and associated chemicals.
38. Dr. Andrew's presentation detailed the conceptual framework of the new integrated programme, outlining its five components, projected outcomes for each, accompanying activities, and progress

indicators for implementation. He also addressed the programme's funding, highlighting secured and upcoming resources, including: the Trust Funds for Operations and resource mobilization (US\$ 1.2M), the Sida Partnership with FAO (US\$ 15M), the EU WIO Project (US\$ 10M of US\$ 58M), the GEF 8 WIO-Blue Programme (US\$ 15M), the BMZ Partnership with GIZ (€ 15M), and the International Climate Initiative (IKI) for BBNJ (€ 20M).

### **Adoption of Decisions**

39. 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.
40. The following 16 decisions were adopted and are included in Annex 2:
- Decision CP.11/1. Approval of the Integrated Regional Programme 2025- 2035 and Programme of Work for 2025-2028
  - Decision CP 11/2: Financial matters
  - Decision CP11/3: Contributing to the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
  - Decision CP 11/4: Combating plastics pollution in the coastal and marine environment based on a life cycle approach for human health and the environmen
  - Decision CP 11/5: Implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
  - Decision CP 11/6 Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region
  - Decision CP11/7: The Information Management Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean regio
  - Decision CP 11/8: Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface
  - Decision CP 11/9: Ratification of Amended Nairobi Convention and its Protocols
  - Decision CP 11/10: Mainstreaming climate change concerns in marine biodiversity protection
  - Decision CP11/11: Conservation, Restoration and Management of Critical Habitats and Species
  - Decision CP 11/12: Improving environmental quality through Source-to-Sea approaches.
  - Decision CP 11/13: Strengthening Marine Spatial Planning
  - Decision CP11/14: Economic valuation and ocean accounting
  - Decision CP11/15: Environmental impacts of large infrastructure projects
  - Decision CP 11/16: Support for Projects and Partnerships

## **C. Session III**

### **Dates and Place of the twelfth meeting of the Contracting Parties**

41. The United Republic of Tanzania offered to host the twelfth COP. The specific date will be determined by the Government of Tanzania in coordination with the Secretariat and will be communicated in due course.

### **Administrative matters, any other business and closing remarks**

42. Hon Fontaine invited the Secretariat to handle administrative matters
43. Dr. Bosire expressed his heartfelt gratitude in a vote of thanks. He recognized the exemplary leadership of the outgoing Chair of the Bureau, Madagascar, noting the significant accomplishments achieved during the intersessional period. Dr. Bosire also thanked the Contracting Parties for their steadfast support of the Secretariat's work. He commended the local organizing committee for orchestrating an outstanding event and the facility managers for their excellent support. In addition, he acknowledged the contributions of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the WIO-C, civil society, and the private sector. He expressed appreciation for the guidance and support provided by senior UN leadership and thanked the dedicated staff of the Secretariat for their efforts.

**Closing Remarks from His Excellency Dr Paubert Mahatante, Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy of the Republic of Madagascar**

44. The Chair expressed gratitude to Parties for their hard work during the session and the adoption of COP 11 decisions as a basis for taking transformational action in the WIO region.
45. The Chair then declared COP 11 closed.

## Annex 1- Speeches

### FINAL SPEECH:

**Dr. Susan Gardner, Director Ecosystems Division**

### UNOC-3 discussion on 22 August 2024 in Antananarivo, Madagascar

Ambassador, Secretary General,

Excellencies, Friends,

It is a pleasure to share some remarks on behalf of UNEP, particularly at this moment, while there are so many ocean conversations currently taking place keeping our ocean in the spotlight; and keeping all of us accountable to stay on track.

UNOC-3, in particular, in 2025 is an opportunity to take a close look at what we need to accomplish, within the second half of the decade because we know what actions are essential; we know where we need to go the roadmaps already exist; KM-GBF is a road map, Paris agreement, Regional Seas Action plans, Decade on Ocean Science, Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, SDGs.

These are roadmaps that point the way forward to navigate our journey; they have a number of things in common.

For one thing: they each recognize that progress in this decade is critical they wouldn't have called for results by 2030 if we in fact had plenty of more time, if in fact we have the luxury of time, to just visualise commitments today and hand over the work to our children.

So they recognize the urgency of action now and another thing they all have in common:

The compass of all of these roadmaps leads us to the water. They recognize that to reach our destination requires progress on protecting and managing our ocean; they understand that we will not achieve any of these goals without a healthy ocean.

Now, while this is well understood by all of you, is it well understood by everyone who has a role to play? Are we reaching other Ministries and stakeholders? Are we doing enough to get the message to them?

The question before us today, is how far will we progress during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this critical decade? To find our common voice on action for our ocean; to respond to the ambition of the UN Environment Assembly Resolution adopted earlier this year; to strengthen ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution.

UNOC-3 is our moment to act decisively and urgently, encouraging countries, stakeholders, everyone - to engage; to engage on existing commitments; to advance on ratifying BBNJ, reaching our goalpost for BBNJ to enter into force by Nice; and to reach an agreement this year, to end plastic pollution;

Across all of these, we recognize the critical role of Regional Seas; these Conventions that have 50 years of experiences supporting global commitments through regional actions

It seems like just yesterday at the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, the UN Secretary General reflected on the Swahili proverb: *“Bahari ita – tufi - kisha popote.”* *“The ocean leads us anywhere.”*

A reminder that the ocean connects us all; it is a reminder that our ocean is an essential element of our success to combat all global challenges.

At UNOC-3, with only half the decade of action remaining, “Let’s Be Nice to the Ocean” means achieving SDG14 by 2030 because this progress is essential to all of the SDGs.

France and Costa Rica as our hosts, are bringing us all together, calling on us to arrive with ambition serious about getting it done, rapidly move from commitment to action,

And we need to continue inviting more people into the boat, learning from each other, Youth, women, indigenous peoples, all stakeholders; and empowering each other for progress, because: the path to Nice is a critical journey, our massive opportunity for ocean governance the critical moment for our planet,

THANK YOU

**Annex 2:**

**Adopted Decisions in English**



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English

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

Eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties  
Antananarivo, 22 August 2024

**Decisions adopted at the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention**

**Preamble**

*We, 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 referred to as the Nairobi Convention),*

*Noting* with appreciation the progress made in implementation of the work programme for the period 2022-2024, and cognizant of the need for a work programme for 2025-2028, as well as the need for a new Integrated Regional Programme 2025- 2035,

*Recalling* that the 2022-2024 work programme was funded by the 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,

*Aware* that we, as the Contracting Parties, have a shared common responsibility and concern for ocean health by addressing the emerging issues in the whole ocean space, including ocean governance,

*Appreciating* the progress made in implementing the decisions and programmes mandated by the meetings of Contracting Parties,

*Noting* the progress made in 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,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Western Indian Ocean region on 12 September 2023 in Antananarivo, Madagascar,

*Noting* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction,

*Further noting* the progress made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, as established by UNEP/EA.5.2/Res.14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,

*Committed* to further addressing the key environmental challenges facing the WIO region, including the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste,

*Further committed* to advancing sustainable blue economy in the WIO region, through the sustainable utilization of ocean resources, including by strengthening relevant frameworks, tools and approaches such as marine spatial planning, economic valuation and ocean accounting,

*Acknowledging* with appreciation the financial and technical support provided by partners including regional and international organisations towards the implementation of the work programme of the Nairobi Convention,

*Stressing* the need for further developing and enhancing strategic partnerships to advance the work of the Nairobi Convention especially in the implementation of the new and ambitious integrated regional programme,

*Appreciating* the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme, as the Secretariat of the Convention, and partners in the implementation of the work of the Nairobi Convention, its protocols, action plans and work programmes,

*Decide,*

***Decision CP.11/1. Approval of the Integrated Regional Programme 2025- 2035 and Programme of Work for 2025-2028***

1. To approve and operationalize the 10-year Integrated Regional Programme for the period 2025-2035 for the Nairobi Convention as the overarching framework to guide the Convention's work.
2. To approve and implement, with the support of partners, the 4-year Programme of Work for the period 2025-2028.
3. To request the Secretariat to finalize the Ecosystem Indicator Monitoring framework for the Western Indian Ocean region and submit it for adoption at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties, in order to guide effective national and regional reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Work.
4. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to report on the progress of implementation of the Programme of Work 2025-2028 at the regular meetings of the Focal Points as well as at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.
5. To request the United Nations Environment Programme, as the Secretariat of the Convention, to regularly report at the meetings of the Contracting Parties on its support in the implementation of the Programme of Work for the period 2025-2028 in line with UNEP/EA.6/Res.6 of the United Nations Environment Assembly on fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements.

***Decision CP 11/2: Financial matters***

1. To request the Secretariat to provide timely 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 expenditure of the Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region at the meetings of the Contracting Parties.

3. To request Contracting Parties and partners to support the Secretariat in mobilizing resources for implementation of the Programme of Work 2025-2028 as well as other projects and activities.

***Decision CP11/3: Contributing to the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to sign and ratify the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in a timely manner.
2. To request the Secretariat to facilitate development of a common regional vision and framework for the implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.
3. To request the Contracting Parties, with the support of the Secretariat and Partners, to carry out capacity and technology needs assessments, and support activities such as scientific research, raising awareness and outreach and preparation of environmental impact assessments that are essential to the implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.
4. To urge Contracting Parties to enhance regional cooperation through partnerships for the management of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction or development of area-based management tools.

***Decision CP 11/4: Combating plastics pollution in the coastal and marine environment based on a life cycle approach for human health and the environment***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to continue to participate in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legal binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment.
2. To encourage Contracting Parties to support common positions of their respective regional groups in the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee to advance their region's interests.
3. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the Contracting Parties to effectively participate in the ongoing Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee negotiations as well as in the implementation of the legally binding instrument when adopted.
4. To request the Secretariat, with the support of partners, to revise the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter taking into account the draft regional action plan to combat marine plastics pollution developed by the Indian Ocean Commission, to integrate actions to address plastic pollution.
5. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen regional networks and collaborations on plastic pollution research such as the Regional Technical Working Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics.

***Decision CP 11/5: Implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and regional biodiversity frameworks, as appropriate, by aligning their policies and laws to the framework, including updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to include marine and coastal biodiversity.



2. To request the Secretariat, with the support of partners, to strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties to implement their biodiversity commitments, especially the 30 by 30 targets.
3. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the development of regional and national policy and legal frameworks and other tools, as appropriate, for effective, inclusive, and equitably governed seascapes that encompass networks of ecologically representative and connected marine protected areas, other effective conservation measures and locally managed marine areas.
4. To urge Contracting Parties to conduct assessments and improve the effectiveness of existing and newly established marine protected areas.
5. To request the Secretariat to develop awareness initiatives on the role of other effective conservation measures in supporting the region in meeting its Global Biodiversity Framework targets.
6. To urge Contracting Parties to recognize and formalize area-based management systems that are co-managed with local communities.

***Decision CP 11/6 Regional Ocean Governance Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to adopt and implement the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy at regional level and align their national policy frameworks to the Strategy.
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the Contracting Parties to harmonize policy frameworks for effective ocean governance across transboundary areas.
3. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners and Contracting Parties, to develop a long-term financing mechanism to ensure sustainable implementation of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy.

***Decision CP11/7: The Information Management Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to adopt and implement the Information Management Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean region.
2. To request the Secretariat to enhance the Clearing House Mechanism of the Nairobi Convention by establishing a secure, centralized database infrastructure to accommodate data and information storage and exchange at both national and regional levels.

***Decision CP 11/8: Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to integrate the use of science in policy making.
2. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen the participation of government, private sector, academia and civil society in science-policy platform dialogues to promote research, business and investment decisions.
3. To request Contracting Parties and partners to enhance resources to support scientific research in marine and coastal environment in the Western Indian Ocean region, and uptake of the results to inform policy and decision making for effective conservation and management of coastal and marine resources.

4. To request the Secretariat to continue organising regional and national science-policy dialogues for scientists, practitioners and policy makers to support decision making for improved ocean governance and share the outcomes of such dialogues.

***Decision CP 11/9: Ratification of Amended Nairobi Convention and its Protocols***

1. To urge Contracting Parties that are yet to sign, ratify or accede to the Amended Nairobi Convention, the Protocol on Land based Sources and Activities in the Western Indian Ocean region, and the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, to do so in a timely manner.
2. To note the progress made in the negotiation of the revised Protocol on Protected Areas and Wildlife and request the Secretariat to organize the final negotiation sessions and convene a conference of plenipotentiaries to adopt the revised protocol before the twelfth Conference of Parties.

***Decision CP 11/10: Mainstreaming climate change concerns in marine biodiversity protection***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to operationalise the Western Indian Ocean Regional Climate Change Strategy at regional and national levels.
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties in the development of blue carbon projects and other climate change financing mechanisms.
3. To urge Contracting Parties to advance and support climate finance investments that support the resilience of local communities.
4. To urge Contracting Parties to address climate change through their Nationally Determined Contributions and mainstreaming climate change in integrated coastal zone management in support of, as well as through the Africa Union Climate Change and Resilience Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action and the 2023 Moroni Declaration.

***Decision CP11/11: Conservation, Restoration and Management of Critical Habitats and Species***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen measures for the protection, restoration and sustainable management of blue carbon ecosystems including seagrass mangroves and salt marshes.
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support the development of a regional seagrass strategy, vision, and action plan.
3. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen institutional arrangements to address knowledge gaps for blue carbon systems in their national ocean management frameworks and national institutions.
4. To urge Contracting Parties to continue protecting highly threatened species including but not limited to sharks, rays, sea birds, dugongs, marine turtles and coelacanths.
5. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with Contracting Parties to finalize the development of the Regional Mangrove Vision and Action Plan.

***Decision CP 11/12: Improving environmental quality through Source-to-Sea approaches.***

1. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support implementation of the regional Strategic Framework on Coastal and Marine Water Quality Management and the Toolkit for Sustainable Port Development.
2. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to support efforts to control, manage and prevent coastal and marine pollution through Source-to-Sea approaches.
3. To urge Contracting Parties to strengthen their Integrated Water Resource Management frameworks by incorporating Source-to-Sea approaches.
4. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with partners to establish a regional community of practice on Integrated Water Resource Management to support the implementation of relevant existing frameworks, processes, guidelines or strategies.
5. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with Contracting Parties and partners to finalize and implement the Regional Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution Incidents within the Region.

***Decision CP 11/13: Strengthening Marine Spatial Planning***

1. To request the Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to develop a regional vision and roadmap for marine spatial plan that will guide sub-regional, national, and local marine spatial plans through the implementation of the Regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy.
2. To request Contracting Parties to mainstream ecosystem-based marine spatial planning into national development plans, carry out ecosystem and social baseline assessments, and apply systems thinking approaches for purposes of designing marine spatial plans and sustainable blue economy.
3. To request Contracting Parties to use marine spatial planning tools, such as, WIO-Symphony to assess the strategic, cumulative environmental impacts of human activities for evidence-based decision making.

***Decision CP11/14: Economic valuation and ocean accounting***

To request the Secretariat to collaborate with partners to support the Contracting Parties in developing tools and methodologies on ocean accounting and natural capital accounting with the purpose of increasing knowledge, capacity development and harmonizing and use of these tools in tracking implementation of sustainable blue economy and ocean governance.

***Decision CP11/15: Environmental impacts of large infrastructure projects***

1. To urge Contracting Parties, in planning and executing large infrastructure projects with potential transboundary environmental, social, and health impacts, to take necessary measures to avoid or mitigate such impacts in a collaborative manner.

2. To request the Secretariat in collaboration with partners to assist the Contracting Parties to undertake studies and assessments to inform policy decisions on large infrastructure projects with potential transboundary environmental, social and health impacts and report to the twelfth meeting of the Contracting Parties.

***Decision CP 11/16: Support for Projects and Partnerships***

1. To urge Contracting Parties to establish partnerships and programmes with partners on ocean action and take advantage of the opportunities under the climate change and biodiversity 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) Consortium for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean region in Northern Mozambique Channel through the Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Resources of the Northern Mozambique Channel Project and development of a second phase of the project,
  - (b) European Union Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme focusing on ocean governance, business investments and nature-based solutions in the management of coastal and marine ecosystems in the region,
  - (c) Collaboration with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on work on plastics and associated chemicals,
  - (d) Ports Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa in the roll-out of the Toolkit for Green Port Development in the Blue Economy,
  - (e) Food and Agriculture Organization in the implementation of the Partnership for Resilient Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Livelihoods,
  - (f) Indian Ocean Commission in the development of a regional plastics and associated chemicals strategy through the plastics expedition programme (ExpLOI) as well as the implementation of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management through the Coastal Resilience Programme for the Western Indian Ocean (RECOS),
  - (g) Regional Economic Communities in the WIO and Indian Ocean Commission in the implementation of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy,
  - (h) Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association in the implementation of the Science, Capacity and Assimilation for a Sustainable Blue Future, to enhance Policy Action project,
  - (i) Operation and further development of the WIO Symphony tool in collaboration with Contracting Parties and the Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management (SwAM),
  - (j) *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development) and other partners through the BRIDGE Programme for the Western Indian Ocean region financed by France for the period of 2023-2032,
  - (k) *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) in the implementation of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development funded programme of the Western Indian Ocean Governance Initiative project and Our Blue Future Initiative to support operationalization of the Regional Ocean Governance Strategy,
  - (l) International Union for the Conservation of Nature in the implementation of the Great Blue Wall Initiative, and
  - (m) East African Community, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association in the implementation of the Transboundary Conservation Area between Kenya and Tanzania project.



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**Convention de Nairobi pour la Protection, la Gestion et l'Elaboration de  
l'Environnement Marin et Côtier de l'Océan Indien Occidental**  
Onzième réunion de la Conférence des Parties  
Antananarivo, 22 Août 2024

**Décisions adoptées à la Onzième réunion de la Conférence des Parties Contractantes pour la  
Convention Nairobi**

**Préambule**

*Nous, les Parties contractantes à la Convention de Nairobi pour la Protection, la Gestion et la Mise en valeur du Milieu Marin et Côtier de la Région de l'océan Indien Occidentale (ci-après la Convention de Nairobi),*

*Constatant* avec satisfaction les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du programme de travail pour la période 2022-2024, et conscient de la nécessité d'un programme de travail pour 2025-2028, ainsi que de la nécessité d'un nouveau Programme Régional Intégré 2025-2035,

*Rappelant* que le programme de travail 2022-2024 a été financé par les paiements réguliers de contributions statutaires et volontaires au Fonds Fiduciaire pour les Mers Régionales pour la Région de l'Afrique de l'Est par les Parties Contractantes et de contributions de partenaires par le biais de la mise en œuvre de projets et d'activités de collaboration,

*Etant conscients*, que nous, Parties Contractantes, avons une responsabilité et une préoccupation communes à l'égard de la santé des océans en abordant les questions émergentes dans l'ensemble de l'espace océanique, y compris la gouvernance des océans.

*Appréciant* les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre des décisions et des programmes mandatés par les réunions des Parties Contractantes,

*Constatant* les progrès accomplis dans la ratification de la Convention de Nairobi Amendée et du Protocole pour la Protection du Milieu Marin et Côtier de l'Océan Indien Occidental contre la Pollution due à des Sources et Activités Terrestres,

*Se déclarant* satisfait de l'adoption du protocole relatif à la gestion intégrée des zones côtières dans la région de l'océan Indien occidental le 12 septembre 2023 à Antananarivo (Madagascar),

*Prenant note* de l'adoption du Cadre Mondial Kunming-Montréal pour la biodiversité et de l'Accord au titre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le Droit de la Mer sur la Conservation et l'Utilisation Durable de la Diversité Biologique Marine des Zones situées au-delà de la Jurisdiction Nationale,

*Constatant* en outre les progrès accomplis par le Comité de Négociation Intergouvernemental, comme établi par l'UNEP/EA.5.2/Res.14 de l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement de l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, dans l'élaboration d'un instrument international juridiquement contraignant sur la pollution par les matières plastiques, y compris dans l'environnement marin,

*Engagé* à relever davantage les principaux défis environnementaux auxquels est confrontée la région de l'OIO, y compris les trois crises planétaires du changement climatique, de la perte de biodiversité et de la pollution et des déchets,

*S'engageant* en outre à faire progresser l'économie bleue durable dans la région de l'Océan Indien, grâce à l'utilisation durable des ressources océaniques, notamment en renforçant les cadres, outils et approches pertinents tels que la planification de l'espace marin, l'évaluation économique et la comptabilisation des océans

*Reconnaissant avec satisfaction le soutien financier et technique apporté par les partenaires, y compris des organisations régionales et internationales pour la mise en œuvre du programme de travail de la convention de Nairobi.*

*Soulignant* la nécessité de développer et de renforcer les partenariats stratégiques afin de faire progresser les travaux de la Convention de Nairobi, notamment dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du nouveau et ambitieux programme régional intégré,

*Appréciant* l'appui apporté par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, en tant que Secrétariat de la Convention, et par les partenaires dans la mise en œuvre des travaux de la Convention de Nairobi, de ses protocoles, de ses plans d'action et de ses programmes de travail,

#### *Décidons*

#### ***Décision CP.11/1. Approbation du Programme Régional Intégré 2025- 2035 et le Programme de Travail pour 2025-2028***

1. D'approuver et opérationnaliser le Programme régional intégré décennal pour la période 2025-2035 pour la Convention de Nairobi en tant que cadre global pour guider les travaux de la Convention.
2. D'approuver et mettre en œuvre, avec l'appui des partenaires, le programme de travail quadriennal pour la période 2025-2028.
3. De demander au Secrétariat de finaliser le Cadre de Suivi des Indicateurs Ecosystémiques pour la Région de l'Océan Indien Occidental et de le soumettre aux pour adoption à la douzième réunion de la Conférence des Parties, afin d'orienter l'établissement de rapports nationaux et régionaux efficaces sur la mise en œuvre du Programme de Travail.
4. De demander au Secrétariat de la Convention, en collaboration avec les partenaires, de faire rapport sur les progrès de la mise en œuvre du Programme de Travail 2025- 2028 lors des réunions régulières des Points Focaux ainsi qu'à la douzième réunion de la Conférence des Parties Contractantes.
5. De demander au Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, en tant que Secrétariat de la Convention, de faire régulièrement rapport aux réunions des Parties Contractantes sur son appui à

la mise en œuvre du Programme de Travail pour la période 2025-2028, conformément avec l'UNEP/EA.6/6/Res.6 de l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement sur la promotion de l'action nationale pour relever les défis environnementaux mondiaux grâce à une coopération accrue entre l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement et les accords multilatéraux sur l'environnement.

***Décision CP 11/2 : Questions financières***

1. De demander au Secrétariat de fournir en temps voulu des factures aux Parties Contractantes pour leurs contributions de l'année en cours au plus tard le premier jour de janvier, juin ou septembre de chaque année.
2. De demander au Secrétariat de continuer à faire rapport sur l'état et les dépenses du Fonds Fiduciaire pour les Mers Régionales pour la Région de l'Afrique de l'Est lors des réunions des Parties Contractantes.
3. De demander aux Parties Contractantes et aux partenaires d'aider le Secrétariat à mobiliser des ressources pour la mise en œuvre du Programme de Travail 2025-2028 ainsi que d'autres projets et activités.

***Décision CP 11/3 : Contribuer à l'entrée en vigueur de l'Accord au titre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le Droit de la Mer sur la Conservation et l'Utilisation Durable de la Diversité Biologique Marine des Zones situées Au-delà de la Juridiction Nationale***

1. D'exhorter les Parties contractantes à signer et ratifier l'Accord au titre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le Droit de la Mer sur la Conservation et l'Utilisation Durable de la Diversité Biologique Marine des Zones situées au-delà de la Juridiction Nationale en temps opportun.
2. De demander au Secrétariat de faciliter l'élaboration d'une vision et d'un cadre régionaux communs pour la mise en œuvre de l'Accord au titre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le Droit de la Mer sur la Conservation et l'Utilisation Durable de la Diversité Biologique Marine des Zones situées au-delà de la Juridiction Nationale.
3. De demander aux Parties Contractantes, avec l'appui du Secrétariat et des partenaires, de procéder à des évaluations des capacités et des besoins technologiques, et d'appuyer des activités telles que la recherche scientifique, la sensibilisation et la préparation d'évaluations d'impact environnemental qui sont essentielles à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord dans le cadre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le Droit de la Mer sur la Conservation et l'Utilisation Durable de la Diversité Biologique Marine des Zones situées Au-delà de la Juridiction Nationale.
4. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à renforcer la coopération régionale par le biais de partenariats pour la gestion de la biodiversité marine dans les zones situées au-delà de la juridiction nationale et/ou l'élaboration d'outils de gestion par zone.

***Décision CP 11/4 : Lutte contre la pollution par les matières plastiques dans l'environnement côtier et marin sur la base d'une approche fondée sur le cycle de vie pour la santé humaine et l'environnement***

1. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à continuer de participer au comité de négociation intergouvernemental pour élaborer l'instrument international juridiquement contraignant sur la pollution plastique incluant l'environnement marin.



2. D'encourager les Parties Contractantes à appuyer les positions communes de leur groupes régionaux respectifs dans le Comité de Négociation Intergouvernemental pour faire progresser leurs intérêts régionaux.
3. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, d'aider les Parties Contractantes à participer efficacement aux négociations en cours du Comité de Négociation Intergouvernemental ainsi qu'à la mise en œuvre de l'instrument juridiquement contraignant lorsqu'il sera adopté.
4. De demander au Secrétariat, avec l'appui des partenaires, de réviser le Plan d'Action Régional pour les Déchets Marins en tenant en compte la proposition du Plan d'Action Régional pour lutter contre la pollution plastique marine élaborée par la Commission de l'Océan Indien, afin d'intégrer des actions visant à lutter contre la pollution par les plastiques.
5. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à renforcer les réseaux régionaux et les collaborations sur la recherche sur la pollution par les plastiques, tels que le Groupe de Travail Technique Régional sur les Déchets Marins et les Microplastiques.

***Décision CP 11/5 : Mise en œuvre du Cadre Mondial de Kunming-Montréal pour la Biodiversité***

1. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à mettre en œuvre le Cadre Mondial de Kunming-Montréal pour la biodiversité et les cadres régionaux de biodiversité, le cas échéant, en alignant leurs politiques et leurs lois sur le Cadre, y compris la mise à jour de leurs stratégies et plans d'action nationaux pour la biodiversité afin d'inclure la biodiversité marine et côtière.
2. De demander au Secrétariat, avec l'appui des partenaires, de renforcer la capacité des Parties Contractantes à mettre en œuvre leurs engagements mondiaux en matière de biodiversité, en particulier les cibles 30 d'ici 30.
3. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, d'appuyer l'élaboration de cadres politiques et juridiques régionaux et nationaux et d'autres outils, le cas échéant, pour des paysages marins efficaces, inclusifs et équitables qui englobent des réseaux d'aires marines protégées écologiquement représentatives et connectées, d'autres mesures de conservation efficaces et des aires marines gérées localement.
4. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à mener des évaluations et à améliorer l'efficacité des aires marines protégées existantes et nouvellement créées.
5. De demander au Secrétariat d'élaborer des initiatives de sensibilisation sur le rôle des autres mesures de conservation efficaces pour aider la région à atteindre ses objectifs du Cadre Mondial pour la Biodiversité.
6. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à reconnaître et à formaliser les systèmes de gestion par zone qui sont cogérés avec les communautés locales.

***Décision CP 11/6 Stratégie Régionale de Gouvernance des Océans pour la région de l'Océan Indien Occidental***

1. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à adopter et à mettre en œuvre la Stratégie Régionale de Gouvernance des Océans au niveau régional et à aligner leurs cadres politiques nationaux sur la Stratégie.
2. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, d'aider les Parties

Contractantes à harmoniser les cadres politiques pour une gouvernance efficace des océans dans les zones transfrontalières.

3. De demander au Secrétariat en collaboration avec les partenaires et les Parties Contractantes de développer avec les Parties Contractantes un mécanisme de financement sur le long terme pour assurer la mise en œuvre durable de la Stratégie Régionale de Gouvernance des Océans.

***Décision CP 11/7 : Stratégie de Gestion de l'Information pour la région de l'Océan Indien Occidental***

1. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à adopter et à mettre en œuvre la Stratégie de Gestion de l'Information pour la Région de l'océan Indien Occidental.
2. De demander au Secrétariat de renforcer le Mécanisme d'Echange d'Informations de la Convention de Nairobi en établissant une infrastructure de base de données sécurisées et centralisées pour stocker et échanger des données et des informations aux niveaux national et régional.

***Décision CP 11/8 : Renforcement de l'interface « de la Science -à- la politique »***

1. D'exhorter les Parties contractantes d'intégrer l'utilisation de la science dans l'élaboration des politiques. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à renforcer la participation du gouvernement, du secteur privé, des universités et de la société civile aux dialogues sur la plateforme « de la Science à la Politique », afin de promouvoir la recherche, les entreprises et les décisions d'investissement.
2. De demander aux Parties Contractantes et aux partenaires d'augmenter les ressources pour soutenir la recherche scientifique sur l'environnement marin et côtier dans la Région de l'Océan Indien Occidental, et l'adoption des résultats pour éclairer les politiques et la prise de décision en vue d'une conservation et d'une gestion efficaces des ressources côtières et marines.
3. De demander au Secrétariat de continuer à organiser des dialogues « Science à la Politique », régionaux et nationaux pour les scientifiques, les praticiens et les décideurs afin d'appuyer la prise de décision pour une meilleure gouvernance des océans et partager les résultats de tels dialogues.

***Décision CP 11/9 : Ratification de la Convention de Nairobi Amendée et de ses Protocoles***

1. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes qui doivent encore signer, ratifier la Convention de Nairobi Amendée, ou qui n'y ont pas encore adhéré à la transposer dans leur droit interne], le Protocole sur les Sources et Activités Terrestres dans la Région de l'océan Indien Occidentale et le Protocole sur la Gestion Intégrée des zones Côtières, à le faire en temps opportun.
2. De prendre note des progrès accomplis dans la négociation du Protocole révisé sur les Aires Protégées et la Faune Sauvage et demander au Secrétariat d'organiser les séances de négociation finales et de convoquer une conférence de plénipotentiaires pour adopter le protocole révisé avant la douzième Conférence des Parties.

***Décision CP 11/10 : Intégration des préoccupations liées au changement climatique dans la protection de la biodiversité marine***

1. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à mettre en œuvre la Stratégie Régionale sur le Changement Climatique dans l'Océan Indien Occidental aux niveaux régional et national.
2. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, de renforcer la capacité des

Parties Contractantes à élaborer des projets de carbone bleu et d'autres mécanismes de financement du changement climatique.

3. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à faire progresser et à soutenir les investissements de financement climatique qui soutiennent la résilience des communautés locales.
4. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à prendre des mesures en faveur du changement climatique par le biais de leurs Contributions Déterminées au niveau National, et de l'intégration du changement climatique dans la gestion intégrée des zones côtières, à l'engagement à la mise en œuvre de la stratégie au niveau de l'Union Africaine sur le Changement Climatique et le Développement de la Stratégie de Résilience et du Plan d'Action (2022 – 2032), la Déclaration de Nairobi sur le Changement Climatique et la Déclaration de Moroni de 2023.

***Décision CP11/11 : Conservation, Restauration et Gestion des Habitats et Espèces Critiques***

1. Exhorter les Parties Contractantes à renforcer les mesures de protection, de restauration et de gestion durable des écosystèmes de carbones incluant les herbiers marins, la mangrove et les marais salés.
2. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, de soutenir l'élaboration d'une stratégie, d'une vision et d'un plan d'action régionaux pour les herbiers marins.
3. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à renforcer les dispositions institutionnelles afin de combler les lacunes en matière de connaissances sur les systèmes de carbone bleu dans leurs cadres nationaux de gestion des océans et leurs institutions nationales.
4. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à continuer de protéger les espèces hautement menacées y compris mais pas limitées aux requins, raies, oiseaux marins, dugongs, tortues marines et célanthes.
5. Demander au Secrétariat en collaboration avec les Parties Contractantes de finaliser l'élaboration de la Vision et du Plan d'Action Régional sur les Mangroves.

***Décision CP 11/12 : Améliorer la qualité de l'environnement par des approches « de la source à la mer »***

1. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, de soutenir la mise en œuvre du Cadre Stratégique Régional sur la Gestion de la Qualité des Eaux Côtières et Marines et de la boîte à Outils pour le Développement Durable des Ports.
2. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, d'appuyer les efforts de contrôle, de gestion et de prévention de la pollution côtière et marine par des approches « de la source à la mer ».
3. D'exhorter les Parties contractantes à renforcer leurs Cadres de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau en intégrant des approches « de la source à la mer ».
4. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, d'établir une communauté de pratique régionale sur la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau pour soutenir la mise en œuvre des cadres, processus, lignes directrices ou stratégies existants pertinents.
5. De demander au Secrétariat en collaboration avec les partenaires de finaliser et de mettre en place le plan d'urgence national et la réponse aux incidents majeurs de pollution marine de la

région.

***Décision CP 11/13 : Renforcement de la planification spatiale marine***

1. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, d'élaborer une vision et une feuille de route régionale pour un plan spatial marin qui guidera les plans spatiaux marins sous-régionaux, nationaux et locaux à travers la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie Régionale de Planification de l'Espace Marin.
2. De demander aux Parties Contractantes d'intégrer l'aménagement de l'espace marin basée sur les écosystèmes dans les plans de développement nationaux et de réaliser des évaluations de référence et d'appliquer les systèmes de la pensée systémique des écosystèmes et de la société dans le but d'élaborer des plans d'aménagement de l'espace marin et l'économie bleue durable.
3. De demander aux Parties Contractantes d'utiliser l'outil de planification marine WIO-Symphony pour évaluer les incidences stratégiques et cumulatives des activités humaines pour la prise de décision fondée sur des données probantes

***Décision CP11/14 : Évaluation économique et comptabilité des océans***

De demander au Secrétariat de collaborer avec les partenaires pour appuyer les Parties Contractantes à élaborer des outils et des méthodologies sur la comptabilité des océans et la comptabilité du capital naturel dans le but d'accroître les connaissances, le développement des capacités et l'harmonisation et l'utilisation de ces outils dans le suivi de la mise en place d'une économie bleue durable et la gouvernance des océans

***Décision CP11/15 : Impacts environnementaux des grands projets d'infrastructure***

1. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes, dans la planification et l'exécution de grands projets d'infrastructure ayant des impacts environnementaux, sociaux et sanitaires transfrontaliers potentiels, à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour éviter ou atténuer ces impacts de manière collaborative.
2. De demander au Secrétariat, en collaboration avec les partenaires, d'aider les Parties Contractantes à entreprendre des études et des évaluations pour éclairer les décisions politiques sur les grands projets d'infrastructure ayant des impacts environnementaux, sociaux et sanitaires transfrontaliers potentiels et faire rapport à la douzième réunion des Parties Contractantes.

***Décision CP 11/16 : Appui aux Projets et Partenariats***

1. D'exhorter les Parties Contractantes à établir des partenariats et des programmes avec des partenaires sur l'action océanique et tirer parti des opportunités dans le cadre des mécanismes et les accords financiers relatifs au changement climatique et à la biodiversité.
2. De demander au Secrétariat d'appuyer la mise en œuvre des projets en cours et d'accepter de développer de nouveaux projets, si nécessaire, notamment :
  - (a) Le Consortium pour la Conservation des Ecosystèmes Côtiers et Marins dans la région de l'océan Indien Occidental dans le Canal du Mozambique Nord à travers le Projet de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources Marines et Côtières du Canal du Mozambique Nord et le développement d'une seconde phase du projet,
  - (b) Le Programme de l'Union Européenne pour un Océan Indien Occidental Durable axé sur la

gouvernance des océans, les investissements des entreprises et les solutions fondées sur la nature dans la gestion des écosystèmes côtiers et marins de la région,

- (c) La Collaboration avec les conventions de Bâle, de Rotterdam et de Stockholm sur les travaux sur les plastiques et les produits chimiques associés.
- (d) L'association de gestion des ports d'Afrique orientale et australe dans le déploiement de la boîte à outils pour le développement des ports verts dans l'économie bleue,
- (e) L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans la mise en œuvre du Partenariat pour des Ecosystèmes Marins et Côtiers Résilients et des Moyens de Subsistance,
- (f) La Commission de l'océan Indien, dans le cadre de l'élaboration d'une stratégie régionale sur les plastiques et les produits chimiques associés et le programme d'expédition des plastiques (ExPLOI), ainsi que dans la mise en œuvre du protocole sur la gestion intégrée des zones côtières par le biais du programme de résilience Côtière pour l'Océan Indien Occidental (RECOS),
- (g) Les Communautés Economiques Régionales dans l'OIO et la Commission de l'Océan Indien dans la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie Régionale de Gouvernance des Océans,
- (h) L'Association des Sciences Marines de l'Océan Indien Occidental dans la mise en œuvre de la Science, de la Capacité et de l'Assimilation pour un Avenir Bleu Durable, afin de renforcer le projet de Plan d'Action Politique.
- (i) L'exploitation et le développement futurs de l'outil « WIO Symphony » en collaboration avec les parties contractantes et l'Agence suédoise pour la Gestion des Eaux et de la Mer (SwAM),
- (j) *L'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (Institut National Français de Recherche pour le Développement Durable) et d'autres partenaires à travers le Programme BRIDGE pour la Région de l'océan Indien Occidental financé par la France pour la période 2023-2032,
- (k) Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) dans la mise en œuvre du projet d'Initiative de Gouvernance de l'Océan Indien Occidental financé par le programme du Ministère Fédéral Allemand de la Coopération Economique et du Développement et de l'initiative « Our Blue Future » pour soutenir l'opérationnalisation de la stratégie de gouvernance régionale des Océans,
- (l) L'Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature dans la mise en œuvre de l'initiative "Grande Muraille bleue".
- (m) Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est, Association des Sciences de la Mer de l'Océan Indien Occidental dans la mise en œuvre de la zone de conservation transfrontalière entre Kenya et la Tanzanie.

### Annex 3: List of Participants

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