
STATEMENT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION
COP 11 -20- 22nd August, Antananarivo Madagascar
Partners' Meeting

It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Commission.

IOC has a long working relationship with the Nairobi Convention and working mainly with the islands of the Western Indian Ocean. Much has been achieved through our joint efforts which paved the way to strengthen regional cooperation in the area of Ocean governance, marine pollution from oil spills, integrated coastal zone management, ecosystem management amongst others...;

IOC is particularly pleased with the outcome on the Integrated Coastal zone management protocol. IOC contributed towards the development of the ICZM protocol through its Sustainable coastal zone management project (RECOMAP). We believe that this protocol offers numerous opportunities for countries especially the island States to address the environmental and development challenges in a holistic manner. We encourage Parties to consider signing and to ratify the Protocol. In the meantime, IOC is putting in place through its Coastal resilience project (RECOS), a tool to follow up on its implementation, of course anticipating that the protocol becomes operational. This fits in very well with the area of works on knowledge management and capacity building

Environment, climate change and Ocean Governance occupy an important space in the Strategic Development Plan of the IOC for the next 10years. (23-33) and it cuts across all the components of the Nairobi Convention Work program

The Maritime Architecture of the IOC provides opportunities for continued collaboration and synergies for the implementation of the Ocean Governance Strategy, again anticipating its endorsement by the COP. The Maritime architecture addresses circular economy, marine pollution from all forms of waste and pollution eg. Oil spill, all forms of illegal marine transboundary crimes, Greening of Ports ,sustainable management of fisheries. The work undertaken by the IOC within the framework of the Maritime Security Program serve as base to enhance the implementation of the Ocean Governance Strategy

Addressing marine litter and plastic pollution which is a concern for the islands of this region and IOC in collaboration with IRD is implementing the Plastic Expedition program (EXPLOI) in conducting scientific research on the impact of plastics in fisheries,

ecosystems and health. This program provides opportunities to enhance scientific knowledge and provide information to inform policies. The IOC has developed a draft Action Plan on plastic pollution which would be useful to consider for the revision of the regional plastic pollution action plan and the work program of the Convention leading up to the Plastic treaty which is in preparation.

Addressing Marine and Coastal ecosystems, link to climate change, IOC is working with several partners and countries in the region eg; 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.

Ladies and gentlemen, the portfolio of the IOC governing environment and ocean is continuously growing, bridging the gaps and connecting all the sectors and it is aligned to the areas of work of the Nairobi Convention.

We look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration with the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention and partners for a prosperous, healthy and clean Western Indian Ocean.

IOC is preparing for the 3rd UN Conference next week. It is again an opportunity for the Convention, Parties and Partners to join forces and showcase the partnership between the Nairobi Convention and its partners as a model and a driving force to advance ocean actions.

I thank you