

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,**

It is with profound emotion that I speak to you today, as I prepare to pass the torch of the chair of the Nairobi Convention. This moment offers me both the opportunity to reflect on the past years and to look with optimism toward the future.

During my tenure, I have had the honor of working alongside dedicated and passionate colleagues, committed to advancing our common cause: the protection of the marine and coastal environment in East Africa. Together, we have made significant progress, strengthened partnerships, and launched initiatives that I am confident will continue to bear fruit in the years to come.

Among the achievements we can celebrate together, I am particularly proud of the efforts we have made to strengthen regional cooperation. We have worked tirelessly to harmonize our actions and develop innovative policies that address the complex challenges our region faces.

But beyond these accomplishments, what I appreciate most from these years is the spirit of collaboration and solidarity that has always guided our work. It is thanks to this collective spirit that we have been able to overcome obstacles and achieve our goals.

Today, as Madagascar prepares to step down from its role, I have confidence in the future of our Convention. We have a strong legacy on which to build, and I am convinced that the new chair, Tanzania, under the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Ashatu Kachawamba Kijaji, will continue to steer our organization forward.

Madam President, it is with great confidence that I entrust you with this responsibility. Your expertise, vision, and commitment are precisely what our Convention needs to continue its mission. I encourage you to innovate, to listen, and to lead with the same spirit of collaboration that has always been our strength. You have my full support, as well as that of all the members present here.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I thank you for your trust, your support, and your dedication. It has been an honor to serve this cause alongside you. Let us continue together, under new leadership, to strive for a better future for our environment and for future generations.

Thank you.