

**The Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Nairobi Convention
August 20-22 2024**

**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.