

Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development for Madagascar

Honourable ministers,

Permanent Secretaries,

Ambassadors

Representatives of Partner organisations, Academia

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great honour and pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Union commission and the following RECs

- The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- East African Community (EAC)
- IGAD,
- Indian Ocean Commission
- Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), and the
- Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

Honourable ministers, excellencies, distinguished delegates,

As we gather here today, we are reminded of the critical importance of our shared ocean and the need for collective action to protect and sustainably manage its resources. The Western Indian Ocean, with its rich biodiversity and vital ecosystems, plays a crucial role in the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the region. It is our responsibility to ensure its health and resilience for present and future generations.

Through regional collaboration, innovation, and commitment, we can address the challenges from marine pollution to overfishing, climate change to habitat destruction and achieve our shared goals of a healthy, productive, and sustainable ocean. **(Planetary Crisis)**

Honourable ministers, excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The Nairobi Convention serves as a vital platform for regional cooperation and collaboration in addressing the challenges facing our oceans and coastal areas. COP 11 thus marks a significant moment in our collective efforts to protect and preserve the marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean region.

I am therefore pleased to highlight some of the ongoing efforts at the African Union and at the Regional Economic Communities and Commissions that contribute to our shared goals.

The African Union Commission, continues to support directly or indirectly the implementation of some of the CoP decisions through various policy frameworks

including - the ABSAP, CEAP and the Climate Change Strategy which has a large component on blue economy and ocean governance. The commission has also been engaged in the conservation of Africa's wild fauna and flora through engagement with AU member States and CITES.

The Commission continues to strengthen the Blue Economy Division and continues efforts to implement the AU Blue Economy Strategy. The office aims to be able to support AU member States and RECs to operationalise the strategy.

SADC with its 6 coastal mainland states, and 4 Island states have a regional Blue Economy Strategy is implementing a Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan, which is aligned with the Nairobi Convention COP Decisions. Through its strategy SADC has committed to: 1. Promote the development of sustainable, inclusive, equitable and climate-resilient blue economies at the national levels and 2. Promote sustainable production and utilization of aquatic (marine, freshwater and aquaculture) resources.

COMESA

COMESA has developed the COMESA Blue Economy Strategy to guide the Blue Economy of the COMESA region. It aims to harness the benefits of the Blue Economy for its 21 Member States

In partnership with African Union Commission and with the financial support from French Development Agency through Expertise France, COMESA supported formulation of National Blue Economy Strategy Frameworks and Implementation Plans for Eswatini, Malawi and Zambia - The Validation of the Blue Economy Strategy, for the Republic of Zambia took place on 16th of January 2024.

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

Amended the EAC 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

Regional Blue Economy Strategy seeks to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms for equitable, inclusive and sustainable management of the aquatic and marine resources in the region.

PAMESA

PAMESA's key highlights include the organization of 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 this commemorative 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.

IOC

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.

RECs have BE Frameworks Strategies and Action Plans. These frameworks provide the necessary tools for:

1. Strengthening coordination, collaboration and partnerships in managing marine and aquatic resources,
2. Mobilizing resources in support of conservation and management in the region
3. Supporting capacity building and Research and Development (R&D) in aquatic and marines management.

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. We do hope that COP 11 will consider and endorse

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The AU, RECs and Commissions, would like to reaffirm our commitment to work with all relevant stakeholder groups for the sustainable management and use of the maritime and costal environment towards a brighter and more sustainable future for our shared ocean.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the government and people of Madagascar for the warm hospitality accorded to delegations since our arrival in this beautiful city.

We are also grateful to the Nairobi Secretariat and partners that have supported in one way or another to the organisation of this conference of parties and look forward to strengthened partnerships between the different stakeholder groups present today,

exchange best practices, and mobilize resources to support the implementation of our agreed actions.

Honourable ministers, excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I thank you all for your kind attention, Merci beaucoup, Muito Obrigada, Asante Sana, Misaotra betsaka