

**STATEMENT BY AMB. SALIM SALIM, DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE
DECLARATION FOR THE 2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN
CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14**

1 FEBRUARY 2022

Excellencies,

1. Kenya and Portugal are honoured to co-host the forthcoming 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon. We thank Grenada and Denmark for coordinating the intergovernmental consultations, and all delegations for their participation.
2. Today's deliberations will set the pace on what to expect in Lisbon. We must clearly communicate a sense of urgency in addressing the challenges facing our ocean, and identify the key issues that will galvanize global political impetus on fully achieving Goal 14.
3. We must go beyond the commitments made in the 2017 UN Ocean Conference and 2018 Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, raising our ambitions to develop innovative, tangible and measurable solutions that will reverse the decline in ocean health and ensure sustainable use of ocean resources.
4. Strong mobilization of multi-stakeholders will aid policy convergence and generation of new, inclusive and effective commitments.
5. **Excellencies**, on the draft declaration, we wish to highlight the following:
 - i. Inclusion of text on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the hard-hit ocean-based economy and call for fair and practical recovery efforts. Concerted policy and financial measures must be taken to improve the pace of global

economic and public health recovery to get us closer to holistically achieving the 2030 Agenda.

- ii. We support the emphasis on the adverse effects of climate change. Continuous dialogue on climate change adaptation, particularly for Africa and Small Island Developing States is critical. Implementation and monitoring of innovative mechanisms will help build climate resilience in our communities as we pursue just energy transitions. We hope that the ocean-based solutions drawn up during the conference will form part of the discussions in the forthcoming climate change deliberations at CoP 27 & 28.
- iii. We also support the focus given to reducing marine pollution, particularly plastic pollution. Promoting international collaboration will foster life-cycle approaches to reduce waste management and protect ecosystems.
- iv. We would like to see reference to blue foods and fishery value chains which significantly contribute to the global market economy and sustainable food systems. Improved international frameworks that complement local practices and strengthening small-holder fisheries will generate more value from blue foods.
- v. The effective implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is critical to address emerging issues in the management of ocean resources. We want to encourage all Member States to actively participate in UNCLOS and related international instruments to address the gaps in global oceans governance.
- vi. We also want to underscore the importance of monitoring previous commitments and deploying science-based ocean management solutions. Enhanced partnerships in multidisciplinary research, technology transfer, mobilization for resources, capacity building together with traditional and experiential knowledge will enable better understanding and effective implementation of the complex ocean-based interactions.

6. We must not forget that the oceans are about the people and the communities that depend on oceans for survival. No one must be left behind in the ocean's agenda. This too is important.
7. As I conclude, I wish to reiterate that Kenya and Portugal are committed to make the 2022 UN Ocean Conference a transformative moment for the ocean. We pledge to work with all partners and continue to count on all of you.

Thank You.