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**NATIONAL STATEMENT FOR**

**THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**TO BE DELIVERED**

**DURING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> , 2022**

**Your Excellencies, Co-Presidents of the Conference,**  
**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,**  
**Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the conference,**  
**Honorable Ministers,**  
**Distinguished guests,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. I wish to congratulate the Government of Portugal, my Government and the United Nations for hosting this conference. The oceans agenda continues to remain a key pillar for states implementation for the realization of their national economies and materialization of the SDG 14 for delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Kenya's co-hosting of this Conference is a clear demonstration of our continued commitment of the realization of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. During the 2018 Sustainable Blue Economy conference co-hosted by Kenya and Canada in Nairobi, Kenya committed through the adopted Nairobi Statement of Intent on Advancing a Sustainable Blue Economy, to promote collaboration for sustainable partnerships and projects in the various sectors, promote gender equality and the role and participation of women and youth in the Blue Economy, mobilize finances from the public and private sources, strengthen science and research to generate and disseminate evidence-based knowledge and information as well as to inform policy and decision-making and promote access to technologies and innovations.
3. Towards this, Kenya is currently developing a National Blue Economy strategic plan that is inclusive and multi-stakeholder

oriented. In this vein, Kenya commits to further her pursuit in calling for global partnerships in the marine and aquaculture sector in order to enhance capacity building for the actualization of the strategic plan.

4. This Ocean Conference comes at a critical moment of “Building Back Better,” as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to ensure inclusive recovery, Kenya has employed a multi-stakeholder approach in promoting the eco-tourism industry to enhance global awareness on the critical role played by the tourism industry in ocean economy and services, so as to support the sector to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. I therefore wish to call on all Member States to continue providing support to the respective tourism sectors which are key pillars for national economies.

5. Similarly, further to prevent marine pollution which remains one of the threats in the conservation of our oceans, in 2017, Kenya banned the manufacture and use of polythene bags and extended the same in single use of plastics in protected areas. This has been a key milestone in regenerating our oceans health that was hugely affected by plastics. In this respect, Kenya co-sponsored the end of plastic pollution resolution which was a global landmark during the United Nations Environmental Assembly held this year, in Nairobi and in this regard, my Government commits to ensuring the actualization of the establishment of the Legally Binding Instrument by 2024 for complete elimination of marine plastic litter.

6. Recently, Kenya’s National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) developed a National Marine Litter Management action plan in fulfillment of the recommendation of UNEA 1 and Nairobi Convention Regional Marine Litter Management Action Plan. Further, the

Government has put in place multi-sectoral policies, legal, institutional, regulatory frameworks and implementation strategies to address marine pollution.

7. In addition to this, Kenya commits to developing a National Action Plan on Sea Based Marine Plastic litter which will be tailored to address gaps, priorities and needs, to more effectively prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from sea-based resources.

8. Similarly, Kenya is in her various stages in implementing commitments made during the 2017 1<sup>st</sup> UN Ocean Conference including providing a framework for supporting the development of smallholder aquaculture and prioritise fisheries value chains for small scale artisanal fishers for nutrition and food security, environmentally sound development and resilience building to climate change. Towards this, subnational committees have been constituted through rigorous employment of a whole sectoral governance approach to ensure coordination and coherence with the national ocean plans.

9. Kenya is still on course in the commitment made towards enhancing capacity building through establishing of the University of Nairobi Institute for Blue Economy and ocean studies as well as Train 5000 graduate seafarers through the University of Nairobi in partnership with global shipping lines. Despite the progress made, global partnerships and financial support remains a key challenge towards its finalization in which, I wish to call on Member States to offer any support to ensure its materialization.

10. Kenya further remains committed to enhancing maritime security and safety for global trade, connectivity and all businesses to thrive unhindered and unfettered nationally and also Combating illegal,

unregulated and unreported (UUI) fishing through taking measures to enhance the security and safety of our collective waters. Towards this, Kenya commits to developing a National Maritime Security Strategy, to establish a whole government approach for joint and active management of risks, threats and opportunities in and from maritime domain.

11. In the same breath, Kenya commits to develop a Maritime Spatial plan to enhance the rationale planning, management and governance of Kenya's ocean space and the marine resources therein.

12. Kenya remains cognizant of the need for funding for these commitments to be realized. Financial flow towards the Global South for implementation of the oceans agenda has been slow. Towards this, Kenya commits to establishing a Blue Economy Bank/Fund to Support the growth and development of the Blue Economy Sector. The National Ocean action fund will aim to enhance strategic partnerships with development partners in various sectors of the ocean management.

13. Lastly, in an effort to accelerate further action, Kenya further commits to continue to offer her support in development of global ocean management frameworks, coordinating and hosting conferences and meetings geared towards the realization of SDG 14 and the overall ocean management.

**I thank you all.**