

***The speech of His Excellency the President of the Presidential Council  
at the Ocean Conference***

*Lisbon 27 June 2022*

Your Excellencies and Highnesses,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the existence of humankind on planet Earth, human beings, like other species, have contributed to part of the balance of the planet's ecosystem. Their needs were limited and specific according to the available products and consumption conditions, which did not pose any threat to the resources and the ecosystem of the earth over thousands of years.

However, with the beginning of the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the emergence of an economic model that relies on economies of scale and maximizing production and prosperity, and using all chemical pesticides and fossil energy to push production possibilities to the maximum limits, which drained the natural balance of resources at rates that exceeded its natural compensation rate.

Distinguished participants,

More than two-thirds of the Planet Earth consists of water, which represents the largest economic resource and most important trade gateway for the population of the planet, and the 1<sup>st</sup> climate agreement that the world reached in 2015 was three decades behind its ideal time.

This is in addition to the fact that the regression that we have recently started witnessing regarding its recommendations has become threatening to what has already been achieved to stop the environmental losses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My country, Libya, has the longest coastline in the Mediterranean basin, which extends with an area of 1770 kilometers, it is the home to more than 95% of the population of Libya, and also relies on the maritime economy to a large extent as Libya is a country that is economically open by more than 90%.

Libya will be among the countries hardest hit by sea-level rise and ecosystem disturbance because of the facts I mentioned earlier. This is in addition to the fact that the security situation and the political fragility in my country have given more room for increasing the damage to the marine environment across our shores, including the criminal dredging of marine life and resources, erosion of beaches and waters with organic and chemical waste and using our beaches for illegal activities like smuggling of humans and the illegal entry of weapons into our lands.

From this podium, I call on all countries, especially those involved in the Libyan file, to play a greater role in the stability of Libya to restore its security and political unity, so that my country can fulfill its international obligations toward Environment and sustainable development, and adopt an environment and sea friendly measures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The scientific facts are not questionable, the future dangers have started to show, and the point of no return appears closer than many of us might think. It's time to set the protection of our blue planet as one of our top priorities, which is addressed by all laws and religions, thousands of years before the Paris Climate Accords.

And allow me here to quote a verse from the Holy Quran:

"Corruption doth appear on land and sea because of (the evil) which men's hands have done, that He may make them taste a part of that which they have done, so that they may return."

Allah Almighty is Truthful

Peace be upon you