

Your Royal Highness,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The ocean is critical for the livelihood of millions of people across the globe and needs to be part of the climate and environment agenda.

We must work towards a sustainable ocean economy that contributes to the 2030 Agenda, and the achievement of all its goals, including SDG 14.

A sustainable ocean economy needs to integrate all dimensions of sustainability; economic, social, and environmental. A stronger focus in the “blue” agenda on gender equality, human rights-based approach and conflict perspective is needed to ensure sustainability. The ocean is key to poverty eradication and fighting hunger.

Development actors have a dual role in promoting standards as to avoid negative consequences of ocean investments, while also exploring and advancing policy instruments in support of a sustainable ocean economy.

It is important to include land-based pollution as well, and link both Green and Blue financing, for example with pollution linked to waste water treatment where both financing can apply.

Sweden has positive examples of sharing nationally developed tools and adapting them to the contexts in other regions.

In collaboration with the Nairobi Convention, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management is co-creating a regional data-comprehensive tool for measuring and forecasting cumulative environmental impacts in the Western Indian Ocean.

The tool, “Western Indian Ocean Symphony”, can be used for decision-making and aims at bringing science closer to policy. In combination with strong and long-term support to Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, regional capacity has been strengthened.

We are only starting to understand the full monetary value of marine ecosystems and the regulatory frameworks.

If managed sustainably, the ocean has the capacity to regenerate, be sustainably productive, resilient, and support equal societies.

Thank you for your attention!