



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. PHILIP ISDOR MPANGO,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO
BE DELIVERED DURING THE UNITED NATIONS OCEAN
CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LISBON, PORTUGAL,
27 JUNE 2022**

Excellences Heads of State and Government;

Distinguished Delegates

I bring to you all warm fraternal greetings from Her Excellency, **Samia Suluhu Hassan**, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the people of my country. I wish to commend the Government of the Portuguese Republic and the Republic of Kenya for co-hosting this important Conference and for the excellent arrangements by the United Nations.

Excellencies,

Tanzania attaches great importance to conservation and utilization of oceans and marine resources for sustainable development. We are endowed with a long coastline of about 1,450 kilometers and an Exclusive Economic Zone reaching 223,000 km². Our territorial waters cover 64,000 km², thus making the country rich in biodiversity with a huge blue economy potential which supports, livelihood for millions of our people including food security and mode of transportation. However, exploitation of this ocean-based sector is compromised by marine pollution, loss of biodiversity and aquatic habitat, climate change related impacts and beach erosion.

Excellencies,

As a country we are fully committed to conserving and using oceans and marine resources sustainably, focusing on achieving SDG-14 targets. Apart from ratifying international conventions for managing marine pollution, we have developed policies, strategies and plans to manage pollution and taken measures including a total ban on single-use plastic carrier bags. We have also enacted laws that guide the management of coastal and marine resources. In addition, we have undertaken projects which relate to managing, protecting, conserving and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems, including dedicating 6.5% of our part of the Indian ocean into Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), controlling blast fishing by almost 99% and strengthening surveillance and monitoring of deep sea fishing activities.

Excellencies,

The Government is committed to modernizing the fisheries sector targeting to enhance its contribution to GDP. To this end, we adopted the National Fisheries Policy in 2015, which has the overall objective of developing a robust, competitive, and efficient fisheries sector that contributes to food security and nutrition, growth of the national economy and improvement of the wellbeing of stakeholders while conserving the coastal and marine environment. At global level, we have adopted the **Nairobi Convention 2017** on the Protection, Management and Development of the Western Indian Ocean, and we are also an active member of the **International Seabed Authority**.

Excellencies,

It is almost five years now since the First United Nations Ocean Conference was held. Sadly, the commitments made have not been implemented as envisaged. The world is still witnessing increased destruction of marine ecosystems as well as marine pollution. The world's oceans and seas continue to suffer from increased acidification; coral bleaching; eutrophication; marine litters and climate change effects. This indeed endangers the planet's largest ecosystem and billions of livelihoods depending on them. Tanzania applauds all regional and global efforts put in place to address the challenges we face in our oceans and seas. However, more needs to be done.

Excellencies,

Science, innovation and partnerships are key in finding solutions to the challenges that our oceans and seas face. However, we need to join forces and invest in innovative technologies to fight and combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and also involve respective local communities in preventing marine pollution. Furthermore, there is need for an all-inclusive Marine Spatial Planning; cage culture in marine waters; and possibly allowing access to sonar satellite data to monitor the marine ecosystem.

Excellencies,

To conclude, I thank all partners who have been working with Tanzania to address the challenges facing our ocean and coastal belt in implementing SDG 14. In the same spirit, we invite those with appropriate technologies, know-how and financial capabilities to partner with us especially on technology transfer, capacity building and research in order to develop sustainable means to deal with challenges at hand. Together we have the responsibility to ensure our oceans and seas remain pollution free and allow biodiversity to flourish once again.

I thank you!

Obrigado!