



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HON. KERIAKO TOBIKO, EGH, SC  
CABINET SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY,**

**DURING THE CLOSING OF  
THE 2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE  
1<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2022, PORTUGAL, LISBON.**

*Please check against delivery*

**Your Excellency, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Republic of Portugal;**

**Your Excellency, Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations;**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of States and Governments;  
Honourable Ministers and Representatives of Governments;  
Heads of Delegations;**

**The Secretary General of the Conference, Liu Zhenmin;**

**The Special Envoy for the Ocean, Amb. Peter Thompson;  
Participants from UN Member States;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Afternoon!

1. We have now come to the conclusion of the Second United Nations Ocean Conference.
2. On behalf of H. E. President Uhuru Kenyatta and the people of Kenya, I express our deep gratitude to **H.E, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Republic of Portugal who has been a great co-host, H.E Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General for the exceptional support** and all delegations for their immense contributions towards the success of this Conference.
3. The World has spoken; Intergovernmental organizations, scientists, captains of industry, civil society, philanthropists, the youth as well as our women have spoken. **We are all in agreement that we cannot have a healthy planet without a healthy ocean.**
4. Our leaders have also expressed tremendous political willingness to have the outcomes of this Conference prioritised and implemented.

5. **The message is clear: we have to move from talk to action!**
6. We have all agreed that there is **unequivocal evidence** that **human interference has resulted in rapid change of the biological, physical, and chemical properties of the ocean in an unprecedented manner**. We therefore have a collective responsibility to urgently reverse this trend and actualize the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.
7. During this Conference, member states and stakeholders reported **back on progress on commitments made during the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Ocean Conference in 2017**, and some undertook even more commitments. We urge those that have not made commitments to do so in the spirit of solidarity for our Ocean and our future.
8. We must appreciate that the ocean is a **shared resource and needs coordinated and cooperative action from all of us**. We must therefore converge to protect and sustain the use of marine resources.
9. In this regard, the wide **gap and disparity in capacity, finance, and access to technology** that is required for sustainable ocean action between developed and developing countries **must be closed**.
10. Further, the **transition to sustainable ocean action** must be **just** and **inclusive** and take cognizant of the important role of **indigenous communities, knowledge, innovations and practices; women; youth and children**, ensuring that **no one is left behind**.
11. Similarly, the transition to a blue climate resilient and low carbon development pathway **must be equitable, fair and just**, and take into account common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities of parties.

12. **In-terms of the work ahead, we must:**
- i) Keep the **Glasgow spirit of 1.5** alive to keep our **BLUE PLANET** alive; and stop plastic pollution by adopting a **Legally Binding Global Treaty on Plastics as agreed at UNEA5.2;**
  - ii) Conclude the overdue Treaty on Protection, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ); and
  - iii) Give serious consideration to the plea to impose a moratorium on deep sea mining, as we seek to understand more through scientific research and data, its potential ecological ramifications.
13. Lastly, it is our sincere hope that the outcomes of this Conference will be fed into the deliberations of **UNFCCC COP 27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh**, and **UNCDB COP15 on post -2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in Montreal.**

**I thank you**