



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations**

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STATEMENT BY

**HONOURABLE DR. CHARLES J. TIZEBA (MP),
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
AT THE HIGH LEVEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14**

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Mr. President,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Secretary General of the UN,

President of the General Assembly,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania let me commend The Government of Fiji and the Kingdom of Sweden for their stewardship toward this conference. This Conference is one of its kind in that it could not be hosted in a better time than now. Since the Earth Summit in 1992, the world has never had an opportunity to deliberate on issues related to Ocean taking into account its sustainability potential in resource endowment, reservoir of both carbon and wealth including its ability to secure food security, medium of transport and reservoir of minerals, oil and gas just to mention few.

The United Republic of Tanzania is endowed with a long and rich coastline of about 1,450 kilometres long and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) reaching 223,000 km², and include larger islands of Zanzibar. All these have pristine biodiversity domains comprising of great ecosystems of corals reefs, diverse species of fish and other aquatic organisms. Its territorial water accedes 64,000 km² thus making the country a significant part of the regional fisheries powerhouse. The sector contributes about 2.6 % of the GDP

and provides substantial employment, income, livelihoods, foreign earnings and revenue to the country. The industry directly employs more than 200,000 people, while more than 4,000,000 benefit from the sector.

Mr President,

The management of these resources have been a major challenge, including the growing population along coastal zones; inadequate capacity to address land based sources of pollution, threats of marine dumping, inadequate fish stock assessment data, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, difficulty in providing appropriate alternative livelihoods to our artisanal fishers, over-exploitation of mangroves and destruction of coral reefs, and of course - Coral Bleaching resulting from the impact of climate change.

Mr President.

In addressing these challenges, we need to strengthen the enforcement of existing laws within our national and regional domains. We must strive to impart public education and awareness on coastal and marine ecosystems while strengthening surveillance on illegal fishing. Our capacity to develop reliable and scientific data on fisheries and marine resources need to be enhanced. Indeed, we need to continue to protect our marine resources in particular our fisheries, mangroves and coral reefs while committing to attract financing in conserving and expanding the declared Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Mr President,

Any intervention in the context of SDG need to consider national priorities and development strategies in eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Thus, Tanzania's priorities towards the implementation of SDG14 revolve around mobilizing policy, technical, human and financial resources to support improvement of ocean governance; again, build capacity to improve scientific knowledge and open up for technology transfer for relevant infrastructures towards achieving SDG14.

At national level, establishment of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism on implementation SDG14 in compliance with existing environmental, fisheries, maritime, minerals and oil and gas laws is crucial. In the process, it is important to enhance engagement with community, private sector and other partners in natural resource management.

Mr President,

Due to transboundary nature of the oceans, its governance cannot be done in silos. That is why we have decided to use regional approach under the Indian Ocean Rim Association to enhancing our capacity in governing the ocean.

The regional cooperation facilitates sharing of knowledge, information and expertise; and identifying areas of joint research for the Western Indian Ocean region. We come together under the Nairobi Convention Framework to strengthen participation in joint Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities, participate in developing joint contingency plans with our regional neighbours while exploring common approaches to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Therefore, we need support to implement the Program for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG) initiative under Nairobi Convention Framework and other sub-regional initiatives of this nature.

Mr President,

Under the Nairobi Convention framework a number of core areas of joint commitment and action have been made with a view to achieve the SDG-14 Targets. These include:

- Regional collaboration on combating pollution and contingency planning
- Sustainable management of shared fish resources
- Oceans and climate change: transition to a low carbon pathway
- Integrated ocean governance

We will also work to engaging additional cross-cutting themes including harmonization of policy, sharing research and knowledge, and developing innovative financing mechanisms for our Indian Ocean region. To achieve the SDG-14 Targets, my Government has committed to actively promote the implementation of the agreed areas

of commitment and action under the Nairobi Convention Framework. We welcome any existing partnership around the Western Indian Ocean that would guarantee benefits for our people, our environment and development, and not otherwise.

Mr President,

In his opening remarks, the President of the General Assembly that we are here to hear the truth. Therefore, before concluding, let me share the truth that the Indian Ocean Region has been given minimum attention in the race to meeting sustainable development objectives. We call for more investment in supporting the SIDS and LDCs of the Indian Ocean Region due to their contributory role in coastal and marine management.

Mr President.

As I conclude let me stress that SDG 14 targets will not be achieved by addressing each target individually but by identifying interlinkages among targets. Equally important, there is a need for balancing actions between developed and developing nations, for any asymmetry in actions will result to SDG14 not being achieved.

Tanzania wishes to join global partners to enhancement of implementation of goal 14 and believes through regional collaborative mechanism and international cooperation the achievement of SDG 14 will be realised.

I thank you for your kind attention