



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
VICE PRESIDENT OFFICE**

**OPENING REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. PHILIP ISDOR
MPANGO, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO BE DELIVERED DURING THE OPENING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS WORKSHOP ON REGULAR PROCESS
FOR THE GLOBAL REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING
SOCIOECONOMIC ASPECTS**

**JNICC- DAR ES SALAAM
19 JULY 2022**

Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corp;

Honourable Ministers;

United Nations Country Representative;

Permanent Secretaries & Other Government Officials present;

The Media Fraternity;

Distinguished Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very good morning to you all!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this vibrant commercial city of Dar es Salaam and to Tanzania, the beautiful land of Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro, Serengeti, and Zanzibar. It is indeed a great honour for Tanzania to host this timely and much needed workshop for the second time. I therefore wish to thank the United Nations through the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) for accepting and finding it worthy to organize this workshop in Tanzania and, equally important, I commend the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for its support and contribution to the workshops.

I also wish to thank the organizers for inviting me to officiate this particular Workshop which among other things, contribute to strengthening the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment, in order to enhance the scientific basis for policy making.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I was privileged to represent Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to the Second United Nations Ocean Conference that took place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 27 June to 1 July 2022. During the said Conference, I expressed Tanzania's commitment to protecting oceans and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

Therefore, for Tanzania to host this workshop, is yet again another expression of unequivocal attachment and commitment of the Government to the "ocean affairs" and the support to the work of the United Nations in addressing the dire state of the ocean and other issues related to environmental conservation.

Excellencies and distinguished participants

I share a special affinity on issues of environment because I believe, environment and in particular the ocean, connects us all. If we do not work together and commit to a sustainable use of marine resources, we all stand to lose! Tanzania has attempted to put forth appropriate measures including a total ban on single-use plastic carrier bags, 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 to protect the quality of the marine environment and livelihood just to mention a few. However, national interventions alone have proven not to be enough, which calls for integrated regional and international efforts. Exploration of the ocean-based sector, is still compromised by the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. In addition, our efforts are also being crippled by limited technological, financial capacities as well as governance issues.

Excellencies and distinguished participants

We are all aware of the potentials coming from the ocean and how vital it is for our existence in this planet. If I were to mention all the benefits of the ocean, I believe I will be preaching to the converted. The Ocean plays a role in almost every aspect of life on earth including food systems, climate stabilisation, transport, livelihood and health. However, it is sad to see that, despite the understanding of such potential, the ocean remains to be under-appreciated resource in the planet. We should not allow for this to continue. It is about time we find ways to properly regulate and responsibly manage our activities in the oceans. We have the responsibility to be pragmatic in our discussions on how best we can balance the economic, social, and environmental dimensions when harnessing ocean resources. The health of the sea and the wealth of the people must go hand in hand because we believe healthy oceans, coastlines and marine ecosystems are essential for a sustainable and resilient blue economy.

Excellencies and distinguished participants

The time to take actions is now. Currently, the world is witnessing an increased destruction of marine ecosystems due to the pollution of the marine environment. Marine pollution compromises, to a large extent, the contribution of the Ocean in attending to the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14. Furthermore, the world's oceans and seas continue to suffer from the increased acidification; coral bleaching; eutrophication; marine

litter and microplastics; and land-based sources of pollution along with climate change effects. This indeed endangers the planet's largest ecosystem and billions of livelihoods depending on them.

I am convinced that it is against these facts, we, the member states adopted the UN General Assembly resolution 57/141 of 2002 on Regular Process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic aspects, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Excellencies and distinguished participants

By protecting the ocean, we are also addressing the climate crisis. Records shows that if we do not take drastic measures now, plastic will overweigh the ocean by 2050. We must prevent and reduce marine pollution of all kind, both from land and sea-based sources. We need sustainable business models for ocean economy to be in harmony with marine environment.

It is a fact that, we need more actions driven by science, innovation and technology; and the involvement of all stakeholders, which includes engaging youths and women in the discussions because they are a part to the solution. There is an urgent need to scale up our actions towards improved governance of our ocean and related resources. Let us do what is necessary to make a difference for our ocean and in turn ourselves. One way contributing to this is through increase awareness and capacity building on ocean governance. If we manage the ocean sustainably it could produce more and help millions of people out of poverty.

I take this opportunity to thank all partners who have been working with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to address challenges facing our oceans and also implement SDG 14. However, I also wish to urge member states and you experts, to find innovative ways to fund the SDG 14 because the ocean deserves and needs more.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

It is therefore my expectation that, this workshop will, among other things:

First, reinforce the knowledge, legal and scientific capacities in the field of ocean affairs to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of ocean affairs;

Second, strengthen Ocean governance through knowledge sharing on issues related to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other related Agreements; as well as an overview of the legal and institutional frameworks for the management of oceans at the global, regional and national levels; and

Third, strengthening the intergovernmental organizational ties and to have the clear understanding of the concepts related to the Blue Economy and Ocean Finance, and associated institutional framework to strengthen governance issues.

With this understanding in common, I wish you all fruitful deliberations during the workshops.

I therefore have a particular honour to declare this workshop officially opened.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Asanteni sana