

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY HON. DR. ASHATU K. KIJAJI (MP), MINISTER OF STATE, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE (UNION AND ENVIRONMENT) OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AND CHAIR OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE NAIROBI CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGION (COP 11) ON 22ND AUGUST, 2024 AT ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR

Your Excellency Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

Hon. Ministers;

Permanent Secretaries;

National Focal Points to the Nairobi Convention;

Ladies and Gentlemen; (All Protocols observed).

Salaam and very warm greetings from the United Republic of Tanzania

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and my Delegation I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Madagascar for the excellent reception and hospitality since our arrival. I also like to thank the Nairobi Convention and UNEP for the well organized and coordinated COP 11. This is my first COP but I feel I have been around for long time because of the welcome by all of you and the way difficult topics have been made simple and easily understood by non experts.

Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I wish to thank the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for electing the United Republic of Tanzania to be a Chair of the Bureau to the Nairobi Convention. It is a great honour and that we will always cherish.

Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Government of Tanzania wishes to assure the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and Partners that we will do whatever is within our powers to ensure decisions adopted in this COP are implemented successfully and the Secretariat operate effectively. Please do not hesitate to contact my office whenever you feel you need our assistant.

Once again, I thank the Government of Madagascar, the Secretariat and Partners for a well organized COP. Our experience here we will remain in our memory for long time and we will try to have a better twelfth COP.

I thank you very much.