

## What Other Leaders Said.

As the sustainable blue economy conference comes to a close today, this is part of what some of the leaders said.

1. HE Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
  - I don't believe in International meetings. They waste a lot of our time. But this first Sustainable Blue Economy Conference. I said I must attend –because it's about water. And water is life. They should actually have called it Life Conference.
2. Commissioner Vella EU
  - My message to you is: The European Union is here to help build a Sustainable Blue Economy. In partnership, for progress and with sustainability.
  - The blue economy has a huge potential to drive sustainable growth. In the European Union, it generates 566 billion EUR and creates jobs for nearly 3.5 million people.
3. The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.
  - We are at a critical time. Key environmental challenges are becoming increasingly pressing. At the same time, addressing these challenges in a thoughtful manner can help us all create enhanced economic security and economic opportunity for the future. It is time for us to seize on the momentum generated by this gathering to push forward in concretely addressing these important issues.
  - Canada is very much looking to partner with countries from around the world to make progress in addressing key challenging and to pursuing significant opportunities. We are interested in dialogues where all parties bring their strengths - and collaboration can be for the benefit of all.
4. Hon.Nikolai Astrup, Minister for International Development -Norway.
  - 8 million tonnes of plastics end up in the oceans every year.
  - Norwegian scientists who are mapping fish stocks of the coast of Africa and Asia, report that almost every second catch is not only fish, but also plastic by 2050, there may be more plastics than fish in the oceans.
5. Dr B E Nzimande, Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Africa
  - We are also willing to collaborate, share knowledge and expertise from our experiences whilst learning from others, especially in our continent.
  - Agenda 2063 of the African Union to which all African countries have committed themselves to, clearly articulates the significance of the contribution of opportunities related to the “Blue Economy” in existing and emerging economic sectors.
6. Dr. Victoria De Barros Neto, Minister of Fisheries and The Sea of the Republic of Angola.
  - This great event is of the utmost importance for raising international awareness of the sustainable use of the seas and oceans, which requires instruments and

actions integrated in the concept of the Blue Economy, based on fundamental premises such as prevention, reduction, reuse, recovery and the recycling of materials and energies.

7. Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Sweden.
  - Sweden supports the transition to a sustainable blue economy at the national and international levels.
  - The implementation of SDG14 is critical. If we keep on destroying our ocean, the ecological, social *and* economic consequences will be catastrophic. As you are well-aware, climate change and carbon dioxide emissions have various negative effects on the ocean – sea-level rise, acidification and loss of marine biodiversity, to name a few.
8. Yuri Pimentel Foreign Affairs Vice Minister for Africa, Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
  - We consider the initiative of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference as the beginning of a necessary space to exchange ideas and encourage our governments and other factors of the international community to debate on the principles of an inclusive economy that, at the same time, allows the preservation of our planet.
  - with the purpose of making progress in preserving the planet life for the present and future generations, our country considers mandatory that initiatives such as the Blue Economy follow and serve the interests of the people.
9. Vera Songwe Executive Secretary United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
  - The Blue Economy is interlinked with the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063 in numerous ways. The Blue Economy calls for a multi-sectoral and integrated approach and supports the creation of value chains which can substantially contribute to the structural transformation of economies, job creation, fight against poverty, improvement of social conditions, among others.
  - The multiplier effects of the Blue Economy components are remarkable. Every dollar generated by a direct marine industry leads to an additional 82 cents generated by associated industries.
  - We will also work together with the African Union to set up a Regional Blue Economy Framework.
10. Amb. Xu Jinghu, special representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China.
  - China calls for Blue Economy partnership, the resolution of ocean related issues through cooperation and the development of Blue Economy.