

SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

NAIROBI, KENYA
26th - 28th November 2018



REPORT ON THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE
26TH – 28TH NOVEMBER 2018
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1.0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC 2018) was held from 26th to 28th November, 2018 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The conference brought together 16,320 participants from 184 countries. They included 7 Heads of State and Government, 84 Ministers, several Heads of International Organizations, Mayors and Governors, the business and private sector, community leaders, the civil society, and women and youth organizations.

The following Heads of State and Government participated: H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, , H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo, President of the Republic of Somalia, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, (Representing the United Republic of Tanzania), and The Rt. Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia.

The theme of the conference was ‘the Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ broken down into nine distinct but mutually reinforcing sub-themes. These were smart shipping, ports, transportation and global connectivity, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, cities, tourism, resilient coasts and infrastructure, sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries, management and sustaining marine life, conservation and sustainable economic activities, ending hunger, securing food supplies, promoting good health and sustainable fisheries, climate action, agriculture, waste management and pollution-free oceans, maritime security safety and regulatory enforcement and people, culture, communities, the inclusive blue economy.

Participants had strategic discussions predicated on the two pillars of production; accelerated economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation, and sustainability; climate change and controlling pollution. These were held in the context of the Leaders Commitment Segment, nine Signature Thematic Sessions, Business and Private Sector Forum, Governors and Mayors Convention, Science and Research Symposium, Civil Society Forum, Side Events and the Leaders Circle and Closing segments. Partnerships for financing, access to new technologies and innovations; capacity building, integrating women, youth and people in vulnerable situations and opportunities, priorities and challenges in the blue economy sectors were discussed as cross cutting issues.

SBEC 2018 resulted in among others the **Nairobi Statement of Intent on Advancing a Sustainable Blue Economy** (annexed) which contains a number of key political messages. They include the need to; promote action-oriented global strategies that places people and the blue economy resources at the center of sustainable development; promote collaboration for sustainable partnerships and projects in the various sectors of the blue economy; mobilize finance from the public and private sources, promote access to technologies and innovations, share best practices, capacity building; promote gender equality, the role and participation of women and youth in the blue economy; strengthen science and research to generate and disseminate evidence-based knowledge and information as well as to inform policy and decision making; strengthen governance mechanisms; and promote synergies within and between different levels of governments.

Participants made numerous voluntary non-monetary and monetary commitments amounting to approximately USD172.2 billion in the various sectors of the blue economy. The commitments which are annexed to the Statement of Intent cover new partnerships and networks for joint investments in projects, financing, technology development and transfer and capacity building among others.

The outcomes are expected to galvanize and deepen collaboration between and among governments and stakeholders on blue economy, and to help align the blue economy with the needs of the society. If implemented in the needed scale, they can catalyze unlocking of the full potential of the ocean, seas, lakes and rivers and accelerate economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication. Correspondingly, they can amplify ongoing efforts at protecting and conserving the resources for the present and future generations. These are critical steps for a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable blue economy and the success of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the SDGs.



2.0. LEADERS COMMITMENT SEGMENT

The segment was held over one and a half days and afforded Heads of delegations and executives of international organizations the opportunity to deliver statements of commitment on sustainable blue economy.

The leaders emphasized the need to enhance global collaboration and create an enabling environment for investments in order to harness the full potential of the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers thus accelerate economic growth, create jobs and fight poverty. They encouraged an inclusive approach in the development of the blue economy sector and promotion of gender equality, the role and participation of women and youth in the blue economy.

Science and research were highlighted as crucial for policy development, implementation and evaluation. Leaders emphasized on an interdisciplinary approach to science and research in generating state-of-the-art evidence-based knowledge and information to inform policy and decision making. This must include the valuation of environmental goods and services in the blue economy.

The leaders were emphatic that the blue economy resources hold great promise and opportunity to build greater prosperity for all. Some of the opportunities highlighted include: deep-sea mining, fisheries development, smart shipping, aquaculture, training more women in maritime related sectors, blue financing, establishment of regional centers for ship owners, research and technology development, mainstreaming climate change and environmental sustainability in the blue economy, developing blue economy observatory mechanism, raising awareness on the importance and value of maritime resources.

They also addressed the need to improve the health of the oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers and the ecosystems which are under increased threats and in decline in many countries and regions across the globe. Some of the threats highlighted include climate change, pollution and waste management, illegal activities at seas including Illegal Unregulated and Unreported fishing, piracy and terrorism, destruction of marine ecosystems and management of resource in areas beyond national jurisdiction. All these challenges require concerted approach in dealing with them at national, regional and global level.

The leaders made commitments to marine and other water resources protection, financing, fisheries development, plastics and waste management, biodiversity and climate action, technical assistance and capacity building, infrastructure development, policy and regulatory measures, maritime safety and security and establishment of partnerships.

3.0. SIGNATURE THEMATIC SESSIONS

There were nine (9) **Signature Thematic Sessions** which ran during the entire Conference and had 70 speakers. The discussions were held in 15 panels which addressed the substantive issues pertaining to the themes. They also addressed the cross-cutting issues on opportunities and challenges, blue financing options, emerging technologies and innovations and inclusivity in the blue economy.

Below are the reports of the signature thematic sessions:

3.1 Smart shipping, ports, transportation and global connectivity

Introduction

In recognition of the immense contribution from maritime transport in the global economy, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development places the role of seaborne trade as a catalyst for sustainable and



inclusive development. Economies have invested heavily in infrastructural development, operations and capacity development. However, this is not without being faced with a myriad of challenges in the industry, and which this session endeavoured to address.

Objectives

- To devise ways on how countries can attract and maintain sustainable and climate change-proof investments in the underutilized areas of maritime transport;
- To deepen understanding on how economies can enhance environmental and social corporate responsibility and accountability measures;
- To understand how the transportation potential of inland waters can be developed to enhance connectivity in unchartered areas;
- To map out incentives needed to strike a balance between the use of fossil fuels and renewable energy to drive a sustainable maritime transport sector;
- To understand opportunities available for ports and shipping lines to enhance global maritime connectivity and how they can be enhanced;
- To draw measures that are needed to integrate women, youth and marginalized populations into mainstream maritime transport sectors;
- To seek ways of leveraging technology and innovations to promote safe, secure, efficient and sustainable maritime transport.

Key messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- Promote partnerships for an inter-Africa shipping system and development of African Shipping Lines to create opportunities for wealth creation, employment and income distribution;
- Strengthen cooperation and partnerships between coastal and hinterland countries, shipping lines and other players in order optimally harness the opportunities and enhance efficiency and sustainable global supply chains.
- Upscale technical support and capacity building for shipping and related services, port development and maintenance.
- Encourage sharing and adoption of best practices and promote development and transfer of technologies and innovation.
- Promote international cooperation initiatives and encourage low-emission development pathways in the shipping sector.
- Support LCDs, SIDs and developing countries in building capacity towards reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and factoring emissions from the shipping sector in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and implementation of the same.
- Promote interconnectivity between land and sea port through corridor development; avoiding land side congestion beyond container terminals.
- Promote corridor concept development and economic zones for intra-market trade (both imports and value addition to exports).
- Encourage Government and relevant stakeholders to prepare the ground for the development, testing and full-scale deployment of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS).
- Digitization and advancement in technologies such as robotics, automation and big data will usher structural changes and enable fully autonomous ports and unmanned semi-autonomous ships.
- Promote inter sector research exchanges and impact analysis for better leveraging on the ocean potential and the cohabitation of activities related to coastal and ocean management.
- Encourage more research with regard to engagement of private sector in port management to ensure a win-win situation and a balance between economic development and social impacts.
- Need for development of international framework to regulate and promote the adoption of block chain technology in maritime transport.

Challenges

The following challenges were highlighted:

- Low participation of African countries in the maritime and shipping industry.
- Over-reliance on manual application and paper trail, resulting in long procedures and numerous interveners which involve engagement of different agencies physically, thus creating inefficiencies and losses.
- Slow uptake of technology in shipping and maritime transport and logistics and lack of standard electronic systems.
- Land-based pollution.
- Disintegrated approaches in the maritime transport sector with Silo thinking mentality in shipping industry as a stand-alone sector instead of integrating into other sectors.
- Inadequate mechanisms to allow for effective incorporation of substantive maritime contract clauses within the block chain technology.
- Increased cyber security threats and risks that could cause disruption in the global supply chain.
- High road transport costs and port charges for land-locked countries.
- Non-involvement of all stakeholders in supply-chain discussions.

Opportunities

- Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) developments and implementation present a great opportunity to enable the integration and interoperability of all data points, thus fully supporting a sustainable ocean management approach.
- Close collaboration with IMO and other international partners.
- Cooperation and communication between shipping, ports and logistics to facilitate trade and foster economic growth and prosperity.
- Development of energy efficient technologies, adoption of renewable sources of energy, use of big data and artificial intelligence in the shipping and maritime sector.
- Development of inland waterways, including dredging in lakes and rivers to enhance connectivity.
- Expected growth of world maritime trade volume, due to globalization.
- Improved environmental friendliness and efficiency of shipping.
- Adoption of block chain technology.
- Increase volumes of shipment to attract huge ships at our ports.
- Developing and supporting cabotage to attract investment in national shipping fleet.
- Partnership between the coastal and land locked countries to maximize on benefits of blue economy and improved connectivity.
- Close collaboration with municipalities and cities to sensitize the players to address the challenges of marine pollution.
- Development and expansion of existing dry-docking and other maintenance facilities.

Way Forward

- Extend the discussions to International Maritime Organization committees' discussions, the 2020 UN Ocean Conference in Portugal and other forums including or table a resolution at forthcoming sessions of the UN Environment Assembly and UN General Assembly.
- Raise awareness to enhance understanding of the Blue Economy concept as well as the relevant international regulations, including recent IMO guidelines on maritime cyber security threats and risk management,
- Develop international framework and industry best practices to regulate and promote the adoption of block chain technology in maritime transport.
- Promote international initiatives and support developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing states in capacity building for adoption of low emission technologies and



development of national and regional strategies for low emission pathways, through support of the Global Maritime Network (GMN).

- Embrace private sector in port management while focusing on balance between economic benefit and social impacts.
- Develop inter-country land transportation systems (i.e. Rail/Road).
- Engage in regional or economic fora on maritime agreements and regulatory frameworks, with a view to enhancing efficient and sustainable maritime trade.

3.2. Employment, Job Creation and Poverty Eradication

Introduction

The blue economy creates employment opportunities across a variety of industries, contributing \$1.5 trillion USD to the global economy. The focus of the session was primarily on creating sustainable, environmentally-friendly jobs in the blue economy sectors towards poverty eradication. Issues that featured in the discussions include: gender equality; appropriate training for careers in the blue economy sectors; and, mainstreaming women and youth in blue economy sectors.

Objectives

- Identify untapped opportunities which can be leveraged to sustainably provide decent work and create wealth within the blue economy.
- Discuss challenges and make proposals for attracting the right labour force for highly qualified technical positions in the blue economy.
- Identifying the existing gaps in knowledge and skills and ways of bridging them.
- Identify existing inequalities and gender-bias in the blue economy sector and how to address them.
- Identify opportunities available and challenges of inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable groups in the blue economy sectors including access to affordable financing and technology.

Key Messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- Adopt measures, including policies and programmes that will increase the participation of women and youth in the blue economy sectors;
- Bridge the existing skills and knowledge gap by including blue economy in the education curriculum systems, career guidance and sensitization programmes at early levels of education to prepare and develop the interest of young people for careers in blue economy sectors;
- Development of maritime education and training is critical and should be based on comprehensive training, skills and career gap analysis and development of appropriate training policies;
- Improve the image of the industry and profession to attract interest among the youth and women;
- Avail affordable financing for the blue economy sector including for small and medium enterprises;
- Shift behaviors and attitudes with a view to addressing gender-based pay inequalities and current poverty levels – 82% of the wealth generated in 2017 went to the richest 1% of the global population;
- Governance of the blue economy should be people centered and implemented in a manner that ensures the local communities including women and youth are genuine stakeholders;
- Blue economy must be complemented by equal appreciation of the principles of the green economy as well as circular economy;
- Invest in easily accessible maritime information systems that include tools and capacity building mechanisms to allow planners and policy makers to analyze data and use them for informed decision making;
- Countries that have not yet done so to ratify the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).

Challenges



The following challenges were highlighted:

- Climate change, marine pollution, unsustainable extraction of marine resources and destruction of coastal habitats;
- Non-inclusivity, gender inequality and unequal pay for equal work done;
- Lack of proper education and training framework that promotes maritime education and skills for a sector that requires highly skilled labour force;
- Existence of gap between skills and knowledge due to lack of proper curriculum systems, career guidance and sensitization programmes in schools from early levels;
- Non-ratification and domestication of the STCW by some States making it difficult to address training and gender related issues;
- Lack of commitment from the private sector to support growth of young people in the sector;
- Lack of access to affordable financing for the sector;
- Limited use of technology to modernize the working environment and make it attractive for women and youth.

Opportunities

- With over 60% of Africa's population under 25 years, Africa has a goldmine of human capital that if appropriately sensitized, trained and mainstreamed, will enable the continent to sustainably reap the benefits of the blue economy through job and wealth creation;
- Women comprise half of the global fisheries workforce. If provided with critical tools of trade including modern technology, means of communication, affordable financing and market access the could drive a multibillion-dollar blue economy and lead to poverty reduction;
- Investment in inland water resources such as lakes and rivers which are underutilised in most least developed and developing countries;
- There is huge potential for future cooperation within the context of (Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and similar frameworks in such areas as; marine resource utilization, marine industrial park construction, ports and shipping, marine science research and technology, marine tourism, marine energy, marine environment protection, and information sharing and services to improve people's livelihood through job creation and poverty reduction;
- Putting in place a people-centred economy that prioritizes promotion of the interests of ordinary workers, small-scale food producers and vulnerable communities, we have an opportunity to employ blue economy to close the inequality gap.

Way Forward

- Developing and rolling out of maritime education and skills training policies based on comprehensive training, skills and career gap analysis;
- Ensuring inclusivity in policy making and implementation processes of blue economy by incorporating local communities including indigenous communities, women and youth as genuine stakeholders;
- Pursue cooperation regionally and globally for sharing of experiences, information and best practices;
- Invest in easily accessible maritime information systems to facilitate informed and inclusive decision making;
- Address the gender wage and opportunity disparities and mainstream youth participation in the blue economy sectors for sustainability; and Carry the conversation forward with regards to closing the existing gender gap, to the 3rd International Women's Conference on "Empowering Women in the Maritime Community" which will take place at World Maritime University from 4-5 April 2019;
- Create models to allow for affordable and easily accessible financing;
- Promote the transfer and adoption of advanced and easily accessible technologies for the blue economy sector;
- Strengthen cooperation between industry, education providers and public institutions to foster relevant knowledge, skills and capacities particularly among women and youth to facilitate their inclusion in the blue economy.

3.3. Cities, Tourism, Resilient Coasts and Infrastructure

Introduction

As the world continues to focus on the development of the blue economy for sustainable growth, coastal and lake facing cities continue to attract more population, tourism activities as well as other infrastructural developments. This session focused on resilient coastal and lake facing cities infrastructural developments as well as discussions on adoption of best practices on waste manage. New investments in infrastructure and job creation will be needed to keep up with such rapid growth and resource consumption.

Objectives

- To share ideas on sustainable planning for coastal and lake facing cities;
- To stimulating private investment in blue economy infrastructure along the coastal and lake regions;
- To discuss effects of development of coastal cities on different groups in society, such as women, youth and vulnerable people and how to involve them in the planning process;
- To assess the impact of coastal urbanization, tourism and poor waste management on the marine ecosystem;
- To discuss practical solutions to the current urbanization challenges

Key Messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- Highlighted that the blue economy will double in size between 2010 and 2030 to US \$ 1.5 trillion USD;
- Emphasized that the initiative of harnessing the sustainability of ocean-based economy of developing countries calls for partnerships and collaboration to share data, information and ideas; and to develop better policies;
- Need for sustainable and productive engagement among all blue economy sectors, including tourism - inclusive of cultural interactions, fisheries and transport, in order to foster economic development and job creation. This calls for cooperation and integrated policy-making;
- The realization of SDG 14 is highly dependent on realization of SDG 11. The role of cities/urbanization is clearly reflected in the SDG-agenda as central to the blue economy because 50% of the world's population lives within 50 km of water bodies;
- Ensure inclusivity in governance, urban planning, valuing and mapping blue economy assets and in marine spatial planning where all stakeholders are engaged;
- There are changing risk patterns and natural disasters along the coastlines from increasing population pressures and climate change. Therefore, there is need to implement resilience and mitigation measures, working closely with communities, industries, and academia.
- The world population is set to double by 2050. This offers an opportunity to promote development of smart cities where new technologies will enhance efficiency of infrastructure, industrial upgrading and effective city management of public services;
- There is need to explore diversification beyond land-based activities to blue economy;
- Enhance value addition for products in the blue economy sector and reduce import-oriented economies and raw commodities exports;
- Strengthen public-private partnerships for sustainable development;
- Priorities an all-inclusive approach for communities to engage in blue economy through training and education.

Challenges

The following challenges were highlighted:

- Increased population and the consequential increased urbanization leading to pressure in the cities and towns with the resultant poor urban planning, poor waste management, urban sprawl and resource scarcity, inadequate housing, high rates of unemployment, insecurity and inefficient transport systems;
- Impacts of climate change on the urban environment characterised by floods, sea level rise and salinization of coastal aquifers;
- Limited inclusion of all stakeholders in policy, decision making and governance matters of the blue economy, leading to limited awareness and participation of communities in the conservation and development of blue economy resources;
- Negative effects of human activities and environmental degradation on marine ecosystems which shrink the potential of the blue economy resources;
- Threat posed by insecurity to development in blue economy related activities;
- Inadequate requisite infrastructure needed to promote blue economy activities;
- Unplanned urbanisation causes serious challenges in harnessing the Blue economy.

Opportunities

- Enhancing diversification of tourism products including cruise ships and integrating coastal tourism and hinterlands as a way of generating spill over into landlocked countries;
- Harnessing the potential of the blue economy in creation of jobs, and in addressing food security, employment and poverty reduction;
- Development of urban and marine spatial planning through an ecosystem-based management to realise sustainable blue economy and to promote sustainable cities;
- Harmonization of existing and new policies and undertaking necessary institutional reforms that will enhance sustainable businesses and promote a circular economy for healthy rivers, lakes, seas and oceans;
- Education, capacity development, training, collaboration and partnerships inclusive of all stakeholders in the implementation of the blue economy agenda.

Way forward

- Conduct more research and develop innovation on the blue economy while empowering the youth through capacity building initiatives to realise the full potential of the blue economy resources;
- Implement sound urban planning including marine spatial planning to conserve marine ecosystems;
- Promote tourism through diversification of tourism products;
- Harmonise existing and new policies and undertake necessary institutional reforms to enhance sustainable development;
- Increase investments on infrastructure to enhance potential of blue economy sector;
- Develop early warning systems and resilient measures in coastal cities;
- Build partnerships and networks to enhance the potential in the Blue economy;
- Prioritise and address waste management in cities by promoting responsible use and disposal;
- Balance the productivity and conservation opportunities in the blue economy for sustainable development;
- Invest in education, capacity development, training, collaboration and partnerships inclusive of all stakeholders in the implementation of the blue economy agenda.

3.4. Sustainable Energy and Mineral Resources and Innovative Industries

Introduction

Blue economy can be leveraged to provide affordable, sustainable and reliable energy and meet mineral



resource needs through tapping into renewable energy sources as well as sustainable harvesting of mineral resources. This presents numerous opportunities for investments in the energy and minerals sector as well as establishment of innovative industries.

Objectives

- To discuss how the world can leverage on the blue economy to achieve sustainable energy goals through offshore energy resources;
- To share experiences and best practices on energy, mineral resources, technologies and innovations for sustainable Blue Economy;
- To evaluate appropriate energy technologies for developing countries to harness the potential of the Blue Economy;
- Provide understanding on the need to consider the balance between the energy and minerals demand and the impacts of resource mining on the environment;
- To explore opportunities for investment in energy efficient technologies and pollution reduction;
- To explore ways of mainstreaming women, youth and marginalized communities into sustainable Blue Economy Agenda as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and African Union Agenda 2063.

Key messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- The International Energy Agency estimates that Ocean Renewable Energy could provide up to 400% of the global energy demand, an opportunity which is yet to be fully exploited;
- There is need to plan for the expected increase in demand for critical minerals which is expected to grow by 60% by 2050 and to strike a balance between pursuit of economic development, social considerations and environmental sustainability;
- Interlinkages between the Blue Economy and other existing frameworks on sustainable development including climate change should be fostered;
- Research is necessary to inform policies and activities aimed at harnessing the potential of the Blue Economy;
- Oceans if sustainably managed and developed can promote local industrialization and value chain among member states;
- Investors should take responsibility for preventing and mitigating the risks and negative impacts their activities pose to oceans and other aquatic systems.

Challenges

From the session discussions, the following challenges were identified:

- Absence of interface between science, research and policy formulation to promote knowledge and evidence-based decision making;
- Inadequate capacity (human skills and technology) to tap into the energy and mineral resources within the blue economy sustainably;
- Opportunities under the Blue Economy have not been packaged in a bankable way to attract potential investors hence lack access to innovative and affordable financing for the sector;
- Inadequate or non-existing policy and regulatory frameworks to promote sustainable energy and mineral resources industries within the blue economy sector;
- Low financial resource allocations to support research and development are a major impediment to effective policy making in harnessing the Blue Economy;
- Blue economy offers a lot of opportunities in the deep sea, however no African country has taken up these opportunities.

Opportunities

- Several opportunities for investment in the energy and mineral resources in the blue economy were identified from the discussions. These include;
- The total annual economic value for maritime related activities stands at \$1.5 trillion and is forecasted to reach 3.5 Trillion in 2020 and offers an opportunity to investments.
- The Global Market for Marine Biotechnology is expected to reach 5.9 Billion by 2022. This will create additional demand for global marine bio-technology hence presenting an opportunity for further investments on the same;
- ISA has issued 29 contracts for deep sea mineral exploration, 12 of these to Developing countries and 5 to SIDS offer opportunities for private and public investors to take advantage of the unexplored mineral exploration resources as well as investments in related technology;
- The Blue Economy offers huge potential for renewable energy from wind, tides, waves, biomass sources, salinity gradients and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC); all which require technology to harness sustainably hence this offers opportunity for investment in technology that can support the exploration of these sources of energy;
- The Blue Economy has the potential to act as carbon sinks, bio-prospecting, and hydrocarbon sources, an opportunity which can be explored as an economic activity as well as serve to preserve marine biodiversity.

Way Forward

- Strengthen partnerships, synergies and collaborations between Governments and institutions (both National and International) to support informed decision making and policy formulation to promote sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries within the blue economy;
- Need for Governments to should strengthen mechanisms for regulating and monitoring Marine and other aquatic energy and mineral resources within the blue economy;
- Create necessary Blue infrastructure, invest in relevant technologies, strengthen Financing mechanisms, build human capacity and utilize talent, encourage Research and innovation in order to drive sustainable energy and mineral resources exploration and development of innovative industries within the blue economy;
- Empower women and Youth to play the critical role of championing development of sustainable energy resources and mineral exploration within the Ocean Economy as they account for close to 50% of the world population;
- Apply appropriate innovative technologies to minimize impact to the environment when exploring and exploiting marine resources and non-renewable resources (offshore minerals, oil, and gas)

3.5. Management and Sustaining Marine Life, Conservation and Sustainable Economic Activities

Introduction

The world's aquatic ecosystems provide a wide range of resources and services. They contribute to the livelihoods of humankind and socio-economic development around the world. It is from this that the session brought together scholars, research institutions, policy-makers, development partners, practitioners and private sector to address challenges affecting maximum utilization of aquatic ecosystems while safe-guarding the environment.

Objectives

- To create understanding on how blue growth and blue economy approaches can be used to promote sustainable use of aquatic life;
- To map out strategies for public engagement that are effective in supporting ocean-related education and raising awareness of the natural and cultural significance of marine life;



- To explore policies and programs that are needed to improve understanding on the status and trends of aquatic ecosystems, and incorporate this knowledge (including indigenous knowledge), into decision-making for the blue economy;
- To share knowledge on innovative financial instruments that can drive conservation, resilience and economic growth;
- To define the role that communities can play to help conserve, preserve and protect aquatic ecosystems and map out strategies for community engagement.

Key messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- Global Ocean Economy was the 7th largest in 2015 compared to the GDPs of countries and it is on its way to becoming the 6th largest;
- Fish provide about 3.2 billion people with almost 20% of their average intake of animal protein (FAO, 2018);
- Globally sixty (60) million people are employed in fisheries and aquaculture (FAO, 2018) out of which ninety (90%) percent are small scale fishers;
- Women make up about half of the workforce in the fisheries sector;
- Oceans absorb 93% of added heat from the atmosphere and 30% of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide and produces about half of the oxygen living things breath;
- An estimated 275 million people live within 30 km of a reef. For 100-year event the top most 1 m of reef provide flood reduction benefits that result in US\$ 130 billion in avoided damages. It is further estimated that 500 million people rely on reefs for food, coastal protection and livelihoods. Reef tourism is approximately worth U\$36 billion;
- The depletion of high-seas stocks negatively impacts economic growth and sustainability of marine species;
- Unsustainable fishing has tripled in the last 30 years and more than US\$80 billion is lost every year from the practice;
- Whereas overfishing is a big problem in some parts of the world, in some countries there is underfishing because of cultural beliefs;
- To ensure success of the blue economy, there is need for genuine collaboration on policy, science and markets.

Challenges

From the session discussions, the following challenges were identified:

- Unsustainable fishing practices driven by inadequate fisheries management mechanisms.
- Rapidly decreasing fish habitats, including coral reefs and mangroves,
- The number of freshwater species in lakes, rivers and wetlands has been declining. In 2018 the decline stands at 83% decline since 1970,
- Steadily rising ocean temperatures are causing species to migrate to cooler waters thus disproportionately impacting fishing in tropical areas,
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) remains a challenge,
- There is a decline in marine species due to inadequate marine protection measures. Only 2.4% of the Marine Area is protected. Over half of 50 Shark species are considered threatened. In addition, the yellow fin tuna stock is in danger of extinction in the next few years,
- It is estimated that at 1.5°C increase in global warming, 90% of global reefs will be lost. An increase to 2°C of global warming will lead to loss of 99% of global reefs. Coral reef crisis undermines coastal defences and food security.

Opportunities

- There are many innovative financing opportunities in support of blue economy e.g., World's first



sovereign Blue Bond in Seychelles. It raises financing from capital market investors for projects that support the sustainable use of blue economy resources;

- World Bank's "Sustainable Development Bonds" support SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 14 (life below water). The bonds aim to raise at least US\$3 billion;
- In 2015, the Western Indian Ocean economy was the 4th largest in the region with an estimated Gross Marine Product (GMP) of more than US\$ 20 Billion/year;
- Building collaboration between policy makers, researchers, communities and business sector to ensure policies and strategies promote sustainable management and harnessing of blue economy resources;
- Marine Spatial Planning in order to achieve sustainable ecological, economic and social outcomes.

Way Forward

- Adopt sustainable practices in fish production, wild-capture and aquaculture which are not only environmentally sound but also good for sustainable economic growth.
- For the blue economy to function sustainably, it is essential to build and transitions to mutually supportive systems through a collaborative framework in policy, science and market.
- A Sustainable Blue Economy needs to be planned. Developing new or intensifying use of existing capital or stocks requires assessing their current state, vulnerability to future change, and interactions with other stocks/users. This can be achieved through Marine Spatial Planning, Ecosystem-based approaches, as well as an inclusive approach.
- Another essential element for the sustainability of the Blue Economy is having quantitative data in order to inform policy making, monitoring and evaluation on the Blue Economy.
- There is need to put in place policies and actions to make sure that while we conserve oceans people's livelihoods are protected.
- Countries should support the World Trade Organization (WTO) to abolish harmful fishing subsidies.
- There is need to link fisheries to implementation of SDGs targets. This is because fisheries address a number of SDGs e.g. Food security, Poverty eradication, employment creation, etc.
- Sustaining marine life and conservation requires partnership between Governments, Civil Society, communities and private sector.
- Adopt an integrated approach in the development of the blue economy as it comprises of different interactive sectors such as transport, fishing, energy and mining.
- Adopt a precautionary principle in the management of ocean resources especially in situations where information for definitive decision making may be insufficient.
- There is need to have a global agreement among the community of nations to combat marine plastics pollution. This may include having alternatives to plastics.
- There is need to follow a ridge to Sea approach in the development of sustainable blue economy.
- To combat IUU, all countries should strive to meet the catch documentation requirements.
- There is need to build capacity for research in Blue Economy to ensure knowledge driven and cost-effective solutions and interventions.

3.6. Ending Hunger, Securing Food Supplies, Promoting Good Health and Sustainable Fisheries

Introduction

The UN's Sustainable Development Goal 2 seeks sustainable solutions to ending world hunger in all its forms by 2030 and achieving food and nutritional security. Sustainable fisheries, mariculture and aquaculture are well placed to meaningfully contribute to the achievement of this goal.

Objectives

The objective of the session was to:

- Discuss how to leverage the blue economy in ending hunger, promoting good health and sustainable fisheries,



- Explore strategies for boosting the productivity of marine and aquatic food sources,
- To explore ways of mainstreaming the role and contribution of women, youth and people in vulnerable situations in advancing the sustainable blue economy,
- Discuss new and emerging innovations and technologies for value addition, storage and processing fish and fish products.

Key messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- Ensuring food and nutrition security is a global challenge which should be prioritized through concerted efforts from the public and private sector,
- Appropriate technologies, innovations and sustainable strategies are needed to enhance diversified and sustainable food production within the blue economy sector,
- Restoration and conservation of mangroves, sea grasses is necessary to increase forest cover, reduce soil erosion, land degradation and to recharge water aquifers,
- Appropriate institutional frameworks and mechanisms to promote and protect the fisheries sector based on best practices should be encouraged,
- Effective participation of local communities, women, the youth and people in vulnerable situations should be prioritized as a way of building an inclusive and sustainable blue economy,
- Fisheries and aquaculture are vital components of food supply chain and income generation for local communities. There is need to improve the food chain management in order to reduce waste, enhance efficient supply and promote resource conservation,
- Underdeveloped infrastructure, market malfunctions and conflicts/violence pose threats and impedes efforts to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture,
- There is need to promote multi-sectoral synergies, for example, between fisheries and tourism in order to provide ready market for fish and related products,
- Proper planning and training of local people is required to promote sustainable aquaculture projects to safeguard ecosystems around such projects.

Challenges

The following challenges identified:

- Loss of aquatic habitats, bio-diversity and shrinking water levels due to pollution and climate change,
- Over-reliance on rain fed agriculture leading to unsustainable production,
- Lack of requisite technology, human capacity and capital to venture into largescale fish farming,
- Depletion of the fish stock due illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing practices,
- Unresolved transboundary disputes in aquatic spaces and porous coastlines,
- Weak or lack of national and regional legal and institutional framework to deal with crimes involving the marine ecosystem, including Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU),
- Uncontrolled expansion of aquaculture which has negative social and environmental impact.

4. Opportunities

- Sharing of new ideas, technologies, innovations and forming partnerships to attract investments and improve productivity in fisheries and aquaculture,
- Sharing of experiences, best practices on development of policy frameworks and implementation of strategies to enhance food security;
- Development and roll-out of innovative financing products for the fisheries sector;
- Leveraging on scientific research to develop evidence based policies and strategies for sustainably developing the fisheries sector,
- Investment in monitoring control and surveillance technologies to protect the marine ecosystem and prevent IUU;
- Projects that promote community-based management of marine and other aquatic resources,

- Replicate best world practices for local communities' economic empowerment e.g. the creation of a fishing village as tourist attraction in Morocco;
- Enhance resilience against natural disasters to protect coastal ecosystems.

6. Way Forward

- Establish effective policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks to safeguard the marine resources,
- Promote technology transfer and capacity building for the small scale fisher-folks to foster their engagement in sustainable fish production and processing,
- Adopt estimation methods such as fish stock assessments, resource system surveys, assessment of young fish, culture survey and frame surveys to achieve sustainability,
- Take measures to curb IUU (Illegal, unreported and regulated) including by implementing the Port State Measures Agreement, and employing monitoring and surveillance technologies,
- Enhance resilience against natural disasters to protect marine and aquatic ecosystems.

3.7. Climate Action, Agriculture, Waste Management and Pollution-Free Oceans

Introduction

Human activities contribute to climate change and pollution of marine and other aquatic resources. This shrinks the potential of blue economy resources to contribute to economic growth and regulation of the environment.

Objectives

The objective of the session was to:

- Discuss the impact of climate change and pollution on the blue economy resources,
- Propose concrete actions to mitigate marine and aquatic pollution
- Explore ways to collaborate with stakeholders in promoting productive and healthy blue economy resources,
- Explore waste management strategies including adoption of technologies that convert waste into resource,

Consider how to support small scale businesses to transition to sustainable enterprises.

Key Messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- Pollution and climate change constitute the biggest and most urgent threat to the survival of humanity and aquatic life,
- Raising awareness among stakeholders as well as enhancing financial and technical support is critical,
- New economic opportunities can be created by reversing marine pollution and adopting sustainable resource management mechanisms,
- The socio-economic impact of over-fishing by the large-scale fishing industry which is worth US\$3 billion per year may be ameliorated by removing subsidies thus leveling the playing field to enable for more sustainable small-scale fishers,
- Globally, only one-seventh of nearly 80 million metric tonnes of plastic produced each year is recycled. However, more than 12 million metric tonnes end up in the sea each year,
- Collective action by all is vital in addressing marine litter. A framework for action is necessary for waste management including trans-boundary waste management,
- Reducing, recycling and reusing waste has huge benefits. Through transfer of appropriate technologies and capital investments, the industry could be replicated where it is not in use.

- There is need to combat threats to marine ecosystems including but not limited to: invasive aquatic species; nutrient over-enrichment/hypoxia; overfishing; ocean acidification; atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions; biological pollutants; coastal habitat loss and degradation;
- Unsustainable agricultural practices continue to contribute to the deteriorating health of marine and aquatic ecosystems. There is need to change agricultural production practices in order reduce carbon dioxide emissions with a view to achieving the Paris Agreement targets.

Challenges

The Session highlighted the following challenges:

- More than 12 million metric tons of plastic waste ends up in the sea each year. There is evidence that the plastics enter the food chain with detrimental effects on human health,
- Unsustainable agricultural practices continue to contribute to the deteriorating health of marine and aquatic ecosystems. There is need to change agricultural production practices in order reduce carbon dioxide emissions with a view to achieving the Paris Agreement targets.

Opportunities

- New technologies and innovations can create new businesses and new opportunities for investment around agriculture and waste management solutions,
- Scaling up of proven mechanisms for waste management,
- Substitution of unsuitable subsidies with the right incentives that limit GHG emissions,
- Actualizing concepts such as 'circular economy,
- Partnerships and knowledge sharing towards the restoration of degraded ecosystems,
- Collaboration with the relevant stakeholders in key decision making processes on investment in the blue economy,

Way forward

- Forge effective partnerships including at regional and international levels to address threats facing marine and inland aquatic ecosystems, investing in science, technology and knowledge transfer, and setting up of regional and global legal and cooperation frameworks,
- Enhance the capacity through allocation of financial resources and technological support,
- Develop Sustainable Ocean Business Action and Principles, in the lead up to UN Oceans Conference in 2020;
- There is need for regulatory reforms to curb the impact of climate change, agriculture and other land-based pollutants on water bodies;
- Developing countries should consider tapping into global resources that can assist them in efforts to manage plastic waste;
- Restore coral reefs and mangroves to reduce climate disasters along coastlines and to improve resilience of the ecosystems.

3.8. Maritime Security Safety and Regulatory Enforcement

Introduction

A safe and secure maritime domain is essential for international sea borne trade, job and wealth creation as well as sustainable utilization of blue economy resources. There is need for states and non-state actors to work together to secure the maritime domain.

Objective

The objective of the session was to:

- Identify effective ways of promoting coordination among states and security agencies,



- Discuss legal and institutional frameworks needed to address various existing maritime threats,
- Assess the preparedness of the maritime industry to anticipate, adapt and respond to challenges presented by increasingly dynamic maritime threats
- Identify effective detection, response and enforcement mechanisms for enhancing the health, safety and protection of maritime zones.

Key Messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- It is imperative to promote multi-stakeholder approaches in responding to maritime safety and security challenges including the judiciaries, legislatures, private sector, civil society and local communities,
- Promote regional cooperation on maritime safety, security and regulatory enforcement,
- Acquisition of assets should be informed by needs assessments,
- It is important to comply with relevant regional and international instruments,
- Maritime safety and security management should balance competing interests and trade-offs in responding to new and emerging challenges arising from emerging technology, global trade expansion, and environmental developments,
- It is important to establish effective structures for enforcement of safety and security standards as well as preventive and protective measures in respect of marine environment at national regional and international levels,
- There is need to enhance regional cooperation within the Regional Coordination Operation Centre (RCOC) and Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) frameworks in building capacities to address maritime threats,
- Efforts should be made to strengthening ocean governance and regulation of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Challenges

The Session highlighted the following challenges:

- Wide range of maritime security threats including piracy, Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, smuggling of people, arms trafficking, narcotics and other illicit goods, terrorism, cybercrimes, proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), threats to freedom of navigation, environmental risks, and natural disasters,
- Inadequate implementation of obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other international and regional instruments;
- Inadequate collaboration among stakeholders in maritime security sector compounded by overlapping or uncoordinated institutional mandates,
- Lack of or weak law enforcement capacities,
- Increased innovation and sophistication of crimes committed at sea;
- Limited funding for the acquisition of necessary infrastructure, assets and equipment;
- Marginal involvement of the private sector and other stakeholders.

Opportunities

- National, regional, and international mechanisms for sharing knowledge and best practices including capacity building in addressing maritime threats,
- Private sector involvement through joint asset ownership and investing in Regional Security Systems,
- Development of new technologies in maritime space management;
- Collaboration among states to realize a rule based international order including for improved ocean governance;
- Financing maritime safety and security capabilities,

Way Forward

- Implement commitments made in maritime safety, security and regulatory frameworks,
- Strengthen structures/frameworks for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation,
- Maintain engagements within regional and international mechanisms such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia, Djibouti Code of Conduct, MASE Programme, African Union and IMO,
- Develop a global strategy that puts people at the center of blue economy partnerships,
- Enhance dialogue on access to new technologies, financing, capacity building and governance among stakeholders to address existing and emerging threats to maritime safety, security and regulatory enforcement.

3.9. People, Culture and Communities and Societies: The Inclusive Blue Economy

Introduction

The Session took cognisance from the outset that the skewed development of the blue economy, characterized by the marginalization of women, youth and indigenous communities is a major challenge that must be overcome for the positive effect of the blue economy to be realized globally.

Objectives

The objective of the session was to:

- Exchange ideas on how to grow a people-centred sustainable blue economy including through reforms, application of traditional knowledge to community challenges and diversifying economic activities.

Key messages

The following were the key messages delivered during the session:

- Inclusion of all segments of society is important for the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- The economic value generated from the Blue Economy makes it the world's 7th largest economy at USD 2.5 trillion hence the need to ensure its sustainability for the benefit of all,
- Promotion of inter and intra-generational solidarity in the development and utilization of blue economy resources is critical for poverty alleviation and maintaining of a healthy planet,
- Fisheries, mining, maritime transport and logistics are major employers of populations across the world. They should be designed to promote inclusivity and improvement livelihoods,
- There is need to promote local solutions as part of preserving cultural heritage of the local communities,

Challenges

- Inadequate inclusion of local communities and peoples in blue economy,
- Co-management of the blue economy hampered by disjointed and conflicting municipal and international legal frameworks regulating the use of blue economy resources,
- Inadequate and/ or absence of data on blue economy to inform knowledge and science-based decisions and policy interventions,
- Lack of capacity among local communities to participate in the blue economy,
- Destruction of marine habitats leading to loss of marine species,
- Maritime safety and security threats including piracy, illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, human trafficking, arms trafficking, terrorism, environmental risks, and natural disasters,
- Inappropriate subsidies that promotes extraction of resources without due regard to conservation.



Opportunities

- Building synergies between traditional blue sectors (fisheries and aqua-culture, tourism, Energy, maritime transport) and other emerging sectors (deep sea mining, bio-prospecting);
- Empowering local communities to diversify into other blue economy activities such as marine equipment repairs and servicing, maritime services, sea ports operations, recreational boating, inland navigation, offshore supply and maritime works;
- Promoting interface between the blue economy and cultural heritage (archeology and anthropological) such as shipwrecks, decommissioned ferries and bridges among others;
- Mapping and protecting shipwrecks has great potential to enhance tourism, create jobs and generate income for local communities;

Way Forward

- Promote people centered blue economy based on a multi-sectoral approaches,
- Strengthen technical assistance, capacity building and financial empowerment of communities to develop sustainable solutions to blue economy,
- Promote co-management models between local communities and relevant stakeholders to enhance ownership and mutual benefit,
- Harness indigenous knowledge in development of archeological maps of local historical sites,
- Promote shared commitment to social dimensions of development and equity,
- Promote community involvement in marine spatial planning.

4.0 FORUM REPORTS

4.1 BUSINESS AND PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM

Introduction

The Forum was held on 27th November 2018 under the Sub Theme *Investing in the Blue Economy: Promoting Responsible and Sustainable Business Practices* and attended by over 3000 participants. A side Business Exhibition was held in parallel from 25th – 28th November, 2018.

The forum explored how to increase partnerships especially in the fisheries, tourism, aquaculture, maritime transportation, renewable energies, marine biotechnology and seawater desalination amongst other products and services.

During the Forum, 35 Bankable Projects worth US\$ 14.3 Billion were packaged as well as 40 pipeline projects from 14 counties. This generated over 15 leads from various companies across the globe.

Objectives

- To explore and showcase investment opportunities in the blue economy sector
- To discuss innovative financing options for the blue economy
- To share ideas on how to build economic growth that is sustainable

4.1.1. New and Emerging Investment Opportunities under Blue Economy Sector

Key messages

- Governments and the private sector should align business plans to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14,
- Adoption of new technologies is critical to minimize disruption faced by traditional maritime industries,
- Partnership with the private sector on smart investments and technologies is necessary to generate employment to an increasing population,



- Investment risk in the blue economy should be made certain to attract more investments,
- Institute inter-disciplinary policies for good governance, innovative financing, reliable data, research and technology and dispute resolution mechanism for blue economy related activities,
- Develop and implement sound macroeconomic policies that inspire confidence in investors.

4.1.2. Economic Growth and the Sustainable Blue Economy

Key Messages

- Globally, fish is the most traded food commodity,
- There is need to invest in various marine projects like aquaculture value chains; protection of corals, reefs and marine habitats,
- There is need to invest in the blue economy to create full and decent employment and sustainable jobs,
- The ACP –EU announced financial support amounting to Euros 40 million to support aquaculture value chains; Euros 40 million to protect corals and reefs and Euros 60 million for protection of marine areas,
- Toyota Tsusho Corporation has direct investment in 36 African countries in renewable energy and offshore drilling for oil and gas,
- The role of the private sector in shaping the development of the blue economy is a new frontier to explore. There is need for access to technologies to mitigate risks to marine environment.

4.1.3. The Leaders segment

Leaders exhorted countries to engage in the blue economy especially in development of shipping, energy, offshore mining, tourism, fisheries. Innovation, technology, policy cooperation, science and research for development were identified as critical in the paradigm.

President **Uhuru Kenyatta** stated that Kenya could fast-track the development and integration of expanded ports facilities, invest in fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), promote aquaculture and invest in shipping.

President **Danny Faure** of the Seychelles committed to pursuing blue financing mechanisms. He informed that his country has issued the first Sovereign Blue Bond in the amount of US\$15 million in collaboration with Global Environment facility (GEF), the World Bank and the Prince of Wales Trust. He invited other countries to join the process.

He further informed that the Seychelles has introduced Debt-Swap for conservation amounting to US\$ 21.6 million in collaboration with the Paris Club. He committed to participate in all other regional and global processes on blue economy.

Mme **Saara Kuugongelwa**, Prime Minister of Namibia, committed to promote Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the blue economy engagement, promote blue value chain incorporating fisheries and tourism sectors.

She further informed that Namibia also seek to develop sustainable seabed mining (including mineral and fossil fuels) and diversity its tourism products to attract local and foreign visitors. Namibia also intends to desalinate its sea water for agriculture, domestic and industrial use. Namibia will join regional and global process with respect to the blue economy.

4.1.4. Investing in Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture



Key Messages

- There is need to invest in deep sea fishing, fish processing and associated industries – such as feeds, seed, and sea weed production. Aquaculture has provided new opportunity to implement technology (ICT),
- There is need for transboundary cooperation to share research information, innovative financing, and investment in human capital, harmonize policies and regulations, improve transparency, enhance security and determine stock traceability.
- Address unequal access to fisheries, unsustainable fishing, and inadequate data on fish stocks, climate change, inadequate financing, policy gaps and population pressure.

4.1.5. Maritime Transport and Seaborne Trade

Key Messages

- There is need for Africa to create partnership with the public and private actors to develop own shipping fleets to provide opportunities for employment,
- There is need to address carbon footprint in the shipping industry, marine pollution, safety and security, data and information sharing, biodiversity conservation and to develop an integrated global framework for blue economy governance,
- There is need to improve the connectivity between ports facilities,
- There is need to expand marine transport and seaborne trade to generate jobs including in the supporting services.

4.1.6. Innovative Financing Models and Financing Sources for Investment in the Blue Economy

Key Messages

- Traditional sources of financing projects have proven inadequate. Innovative and robust financing models must be adopted for a sustainable blue economy,
- Explore new and diverse sources of finance such capital markets, green bonds, blue bonds, venture capital, crowd funding, equities, faith-based financial institutions etc. to bridge the ever-increasing fiscal deficits,
- Strengthen direct funding mechanisms to support ocean-related environmental and social impact investments.
- There is need to formalize certain informal industries (small-scale fisheries) and spread the benefits of growth across different socioeconomic groups,
- Larger private sector firms should be encouraged to support informal sectors to avoid 'crowding-out' of vulnerable populations who engage in these activities.

4.1.7. Exhibitions

The business exhibition took place from 25th – 28th November 2018. 130 local and international exhibitors showcased technologies and various products under the blue economy sector.

4.2. GOVERNORS AND MAYORS CONVENTION

Introduction

Urbanization trends reflect that urbanisation is more rapid near large water bodies. It is projected that by 2050 70% of the global population will be living in cities and towns. This is because industrialisation leads to urbanisation and industries require large volumes of water for manufacturing and transporting their goods. Urban space accounts for 54% of the total global population and is forecast to rise to 66% by



2050. This growth needs to be factored in planning and development in order to avert pressure on water bodies and the environment and grow our cities and towns in a sustainable manner. around coastal communities. Discussions focused on creating enabling conditions for sustainable healthier cities, managing and financing cities, and on harnessing opportunities for investments.

Objectives

- To discuss how to build better and more sustainable towns and cities around the blue economy,
- To explore options for financing investments in the blue economy,
- To discuss management of challenges affecting cities and towns such as climate change and waste management,
- To share knowledge on new and emerging technologies and innovations to help accelerate sustainable development in the blue economy sector,
- To build partnerships that maximize the opportunities in the blue economy sector while protecting the environment,
- To share experiences and best practices on how better governance can improve the economic and social transformation of coastal communities

Key Messages

Key messages that emerged from the discussions:

- Explore options for innovative ocean financing such as blue bonds to fund the development of sustainable blue economy,
- Promote development of smart cities to enhance efficient public services,
- Promote inclusiveness in the governance, urban planning, valuing and mapping of the blue economy assets and in marine spatial planning,
- Promote public-private partnerships for enhancing the blue economy agenda at local, national and regional levels.
- Prioritise waste management to reduce pollution ion cities and related blue economy resources,
- SBE 1000 was launched as the premier Forum for Mayors and Governors to address the opportunities and challenges of blue economy.

Challenges

- Population pressure leading to challenges such as poor urban planning, poor waste management, urban sprawl and resource scarcity, inadequate housing, high rates of unemployment, insecurity and inefficient transport systems,
- Climate change leading to floods, sea level rise and salinization of coastal aquifers,
- Limited awareness of blue economy issues particularly at grassroots level,
- Competing and often overlapping roles and functions between local and national governments leading to confusion and duplication of efforts.

Opportunities

- Harness the potential of the blue economy to create blue and green jobs,
- Develop urban and marine spatial planning through an ecosystem-based management approach,
- Harmonize policies and institutional functions to enhance sustainable businesses and to promote a circular economy,
- Promote education, capacity building training, collaboration and partnerships at national, regional and global levels inclusive of all stakeholders from private sector, civil society organizations and local communities in the implementation of the blue economy agenda
- Adopt smart technologies for cities and encourage innovative financing mechanisms such as debt



swaps, blue trust funds and blue bonds to support implementation of the blue economy agenda.

Way Forward

- Identify champions for the Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE1000) to inter alia identify a mechanism or encourage use of existing mechanisms to enable local governments tap into the commitments made by various entities during the Convention;
- Share relevant information on the outcomes from the Convention,
- Conduct more research and develop innovations to empower people through capacity building initiatives on the blue economy resources,
- Implement sound urban planning including marine spatial planning to conserve marine ecosystems and enhance collaboration between governments and stakeholders,
- Promote tourism through diversification of tourism products
- Harmonise policies and undertake necessary institutional reforms to enhance sustainable blue economy,
- Increase investments on infrastructure to enhance efficient movement of people, goods and services, and to reduce pollution,
- Develop early warning systems and resilient measures in coastal cities.
- Promote partnerships with stakeholders to address waste management in cities,
- Invest in capacity building of relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the blue economy agenda.

4.3. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Introduction

Science and research plays a critical role in generating knowledge, information, technologies and innovation. The development of a sustainable blue economy requires evidence based science to inform policy and strategy formulation and implementation.

Objectives

- To share new and cutting-edge technological advances,
- To examine the contribution of academic and research institutions to sustainable blue economy,
- To identify areas of possible synergies in science and research pertaining to sustainable blue economy,
- To establish new networks, partnerships and collaborative programmes as well as to strengthen existing ones,
- To consider policy measures for strengthening research, technology, capacity and innovation in the blue economy sectors.

Key Messages

The following key messages were delivered:

- Developing solid science on blue economy requires building of relevant networks within and among the academia and industry players. A multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary approach backed with allocation of requisite financial resources is necessary,
- Building academic entrepreneurship and development capabilities should be encouraged to improve the success rates of proposals and scientific contributions to the sectors,
- There is need to invest in data revolution to improve social, economic and environmental conditions of all using the blue economy resources,



- Marine spatial planning is critical for enhancing a sustainable approach to adaptive management of marine ecosystems,
- A multilateral research infrastructure should be established to address common challenges, shape international partnerships and create monitoring systems for tracking baseline data in order to strengthen regional and specific country capacities,
- Policymakers and researchers need to work together in order to improve the success of policies and strategies on development of a sustainable blue economy,
- There is need to take social science and ecosystem-based approaches to restore marine ecosystems and to support community projects that enhance blue economy;

Challenges

- Lack of coordinated approach in planning and implementation of blue economy related matters,
- The ever evolving forms and scope of maritime insecurity including intrinsic definitional problems in the treaties, pose various challenges to existing mechanisms for addressing them,
- The negative impacts of climate change on blue economy resources is increasingly exerting further stress on marine ecosystems and loss of biodiversity,
- Limited sharing of data, information and intelligence and other outcomes of research processes,

Opportunities

- Partnerships for science and research in the various sectors of the blue economy,
- Developing simple innovations to address complex blue economy challenges such as pollution and climate change,
- Bottom up approaches in mainstreaming communities involvement in the blue economy
- Implementation of international and regional agreements related to Blue Economy.

Way Forward

- Invest in science, research and development to generate data, knowledge, information, new technologies and innovations for sustainable blue economy,
- Create of an international platform for blue economy data generation and sharing to address common challenges strengthen regional and specific country capacities,
- Develop appropriate models and incentives to drive research based industrial development,
- Create a blue economy facility to foster international partnerships and strengthen monitoring systems for tracking baseline data,
- Integrate the blue economy in the education curriculum to bridge the skills and knowledge gap on sustainable blue economy,
- Foster collaboration between relevant stakeholders to develop evidence based policies and market informed strategies,
- Develop simple innovations to address ecosystem stresses and other complex blue economy challenges such as pollution and climate change and overfishing
- Develop dynamic approaches to enhancing maritime safety and security and strengthen existing international collaborations in maritime safety and security enforcement.

4.4. CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Introduction:

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have a critical role to play in the blue economy agenda. The forum was convened to discuss how CSO can partner with governments and other stakeholders in the



development of a sustainable blue economy. The forum adopted the Nairobi Declaration of the Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Blue Economy Agenda.

Objectives

- Build a common understanding of the blue economy approach,
- Promote structured engagement between civil society organizations and various stakeholders in the blue economy,
- Build partnerships and synergies between and among stakeholders including the public and private sectors in the blue economy,
- Promote the role of Civil Society and their contribution in the implementation of the sustainable blue economy.

Key Messages:

Key messages during the engagement include the need to:

- Promote coordination, coherent linkages and synergies between Government, Civil Society Organizations, and private sectors on Sustainable Blue Economy,
- Encourage good governance to create job opportunities and develop trainings in the blue economy sector,
- Create awareness on the benefits of sustainable blue economy,
- Advocate for allocation of resources to support the related work of the civil society organizations,
- Promote inter sectoral and cross cutting research and impact analysis to better leverage on the potential of the oceans,
- Build knowledge and information sharing mechanisms and platforms should be established,
- Promote a sustainable eco-centered blue economy based on people and local community projects,

Challenges:

The following challenges were identified as hindering the work of the Civil Society Organizations in the blue economy sector:

- Inadequate financial resources to fund programs and projects,
- Lack strong governance and oversight structures,
- Lack of relevant technologies and capacity,
- Limited access to relevant information on status of the blue economy resources,
- Weak collaboration between Governments and civil society organizations,
- Absence of adequate policies and incentives for environmental conservation and sustainable use of oceans, lakes and rivers.

Opportunities:

The session identified the following opportunities for collaboration with stakeholders:

- To increase areas under marine and riparian protection,
- To increase participation of local and indigenous communities including in project formulation and execution,
- To engage the youth including through training in social values and sustainable use of inland waters and oceans,
- To work on sustainable business models for blue economy,
- To engage the private sector to facilitate access to resources and markets

Way Forward

- The Private sector should be engaged in the development of an international marine mitigation bank based on a concept of one-ton marine life. This would become a credit which can then be sold to anyone who impacts the marine environment,



- AU-ECOSOCC should help in co-ordination of country-level blue economy priorities by supporting the planning and coordination of activities of regional CSOs including at the upcoming UN 2020 Ocean conference and implementation of AU Maritime Strategy in line with the Agenda 2063,
- Country level CSOs should sensitize and actively engage communities in the participation of Blue Economy related activities such as primary school activities, community beach patrols etc.,
- Form thematic technical working groups with wide stakeholder membership to among others explore new forms of investments through innovative products such as blue bonds and impact funds,
- Establish a blue economy finance principle through the formation of *the first blue economy finance framework*,
- Form a Blue Economy working group for Indian Ocean Rim Association,
- Sensitize communities to embrace fish and sea food to improve on food and nutritional security as well as to diversify the sources of livelihoods,
- Undertake science, research and development to provide evidence-based data towards informed investment decisions,
- Encourage mechanisms to promote robust systems that connects the blue economy with communities,
- Collaborate with the government to promote transparency and accountability and inclusion of all through bottom-up approaches.

4.5. DIASPORA FORUM

Introduction

The Diaspora has a key role in advancing sustainable development including through investments, knowledge and technology development and transfer and through remittances among others. The blue economy is an area that this segment of investors can tap into.

Objectives

- To exchange ideas on the contribution of global diaspora to the development of a sustainable blue economy with specific focus on investment and business opportunities, skills and knowledge development, and promotion of good governance and leadership.

Key messages

The following key message emerged from the forum:

- The global diaspora should collaborate with stakeholders to promote development of a sustainable blue economy through investment and transfer of their unique expertise, knowledge and experiences,
- The global diaspora should utilise their networks to galvanize support within and beyond the countries of origin and residence in support of blue economy.

Challenges

The key challenges that were discussed include:

- Lack of coordinated engagement of the diaspora in support of national and global development,
- Lack or poor implementation of national diaspora policy frameworks to harness diaspora contributions to development



Opportunities

The following opportunities were identified:

- Partnership with the diaspora to exchange best practices, skills, knowledge, expertise, innovations and networks acquired in their countries of origin and residence,
- Create incentives for diaspora involvement in trade and investments in the blue economy

Way Forward

- The global diaspora should actively collaborate with stakeholders in the development of the blue economy including through investments and participation in forums that advance the blue economy agenda.

4.6. YOUTH FORUM

Introduction

The youth possess the energy, knowledge and talents that can be harnessed to drive the growth of sustainable blue economy. Their inclusion in the relevant processes that create full employment and decent work for all is even more critical especially in turning the potential youth bulge into youth dividend.

Objectives

- To deepen the understanding of the youth on Blue Economy related matters;
- To identify opportunities that are available for youth engagement in the Blue Economy;
- To share best practices globally with youth on the sustainable Blue Economy use;
- To explore challenges and threats to the Blue Economy.

Key messages

The Youth can be effective agents of change. They should be provided with enabling environment to tap into the blue economy resources and to innovate, create employment and jobs as well as to enhance their socialization and cross- cultural integration. These are important especially in the developing world where there is need to turn the potential youth bulge into youth dividend.

Challenges

- Inadequate opportunities for specialized training in the blue economy sectors,
- Limited access to investment resources,
- Limited inclusion of the youth in the development of policies and decision- making on blue economy,
- Limited capacity building in business development and entrepreneurship in the blue economy sectors

Opportunities

The following opportunities were outlined:

- To support the youth to generate new and innovative jobs
- To support the youth to apply dynamic approaches to enhance cross- cultural collaboration in the development of policies and decision-making on blue economy,
- To support the youth in capacity building especially in developing and implementing competency-based curriculum in the blue economy sectors,
- To encourage the youth to create awareness through the development of an information portal on



blue economy opportunities for the youth.

Way Forward

- Develop an inclusive and innovative youth-based education curriculum responsive to the productive and conservation demands in the area of sustainable blue economy,
- Governments should develop or strengthen as appropriate governance frameworks in support of sustainable blue economy,
- Governments should allocate resources to support youth affirmative action on the sustainable blue economy.

5.0. SIDE EVENTS

A total of 64 side events on various thematic issues were organized by governments, the private sector academia and the civil society organizations.

Key Messages

The following were some of the key messages:

- All stakeholders should be involved in planning and execution of blue economy policies and action plans,
- Coastguard services are critical to securing the maritime domain,
- Partnerships and capacity building are necessary to enhance maritime safety and security,
- As the second leading polluter industry in the world, the fashion industry should embrace blue fashion to address pollution,
- There is need to boost current initiatives on plastics management,
- The maritime industry should formulate sound business principles to guide the business community and help deliver the sustainable development goals,
- States should enhance implementation of policies and international frameworks for sustainable blue economy,
- Proper management of fisheries including through processing and storage is necessary to avoid post-harvest losses, and to end hunger, secure food supply and promote good health,
- Empower women to participate in blue economy through capacity building and financial support will reduce the gender gap and enhance inclusive economic growth.

6.0. COMMITMENTS

During the Conference several commitments were made in diverse areas as listed in the annex.

7.0. LEADERS CIRCLE AND CLOSING

The Segment was a wrap up of the conference.

Key Messages

- The sustainable development of the blue economy resources has the potential to galvanize the global community for a common course including achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and SDG 14,
- The ocean, seas lakes and rivers guarantee life. Collective efforts are critical to successfully enhance the opportunities as well as tackle the challenges of blue economy resources,
- There is need to strengthen global conversations and collaboration among all stakeholders,
- The connectivity of oceans, sea, lakes and rivers is evident. A comprehensive and integrated approach to the management of the blue economy resources is critical,
- Ecosystem changes are happening now and implications will be severe both for economic



- development and sustenance of healthy marine ecosystems. There is need for urgent action,
- Plastics pollution including microplastics have long-term impacts on marine life. Simple and bold actions with profound impacts are necessary. Governments leadership is critical,
 - Curbing illegal unreported and unregulated fishing is necessary to restore fish stocks and to produce maximum sustainable yields. There is need for states and stakeholders to comply with port state measures agreement.

During the segment, the summary of the **Nairobi Statement of Intent on Advancing the Global Sustainable Blue Economy** (annexed) was presented and endorsed.

8.0. CONCLUSION

There were consistent messages throughout the conference. Participants acknowledged the critical role the ocean, seas, lakes and rivers play in realizing the 2030 UN Agenda and the SDGs. At the same time, they expressed concern on the continued negative impact of human activities on the viability of these resources, the survival of the life they support and the need to take urgent action.