



Youth & The Blue Economy Conference

ENHANCE YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO
OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BLUE ECONOMY

23rd November 2018
United Nations, Nairobi, Kenya

REPORT

Activity supported by the
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales





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Foreword

I want to take this opportunity to thank The Youth Congress, High Commission of Canada and the UN Habitat for hosting the Youth and Blue Economy Conference.

Blue Economy portends immense potential and opportunities especially for Kenya and the rest of Africa. Our oceans and lakes have vast untapped resources that we must accord adequate attention.

According to the United Nations, 38 of Africa's 54 states are coastal and maritime zones under Africa's jurisdiction total some 13m sq km. However little attention is given to the huge economic oppprtunities - job creation, government revenue and entrepreneurship.

Youth must be at the centre of tapping these oppprtunities - youth must be at the front of the opportunities that we create.

Resources from the seas, oceans and lakes should be utilized in a way that is inclusive and benefit everyone especially the youth.

Most important, youth must be seen as an asset and supported with the required capacity, technology and resources to participate in the Blue Economy. We must continue to tap into the creativity and talents of young people if we are to succeed as a society.

As a ministry we commit to work and include the youth in our endeavours to harness the opportunities that the Blue Economy offers.



Amb. Monica Juma
CS Foreign Affairs & International Trade-Kenya

Introduction

On November 23rd 2018, The Youth Congress in collaboration with the UN Habitat and the Canadian High Commission in Kenya hosted a one-day Youth & Blue Economy conference, prior to the global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) that was held in Nairobi, Kenya from November 26th to 28th 2018.

The Youth Blue Economy conference held at the United Nations focused on opportunities for young men and women in the Blue Economy. The 300 Youth participants from across the world at the #YouthBlueEconomy Conference adopted a creative and action-oriented document dubbed, the Youth Declar-Action. Download: <https://bit.ly/2RnPLow>

The Declar-Action on youth demands, concerns and aspirations was shared with the duty bearers, Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) Secretariat and other stakeholders to inform the agendas and resolutions of the conference.

The youth conference served as a platform for knowledge exchange, skills development with a

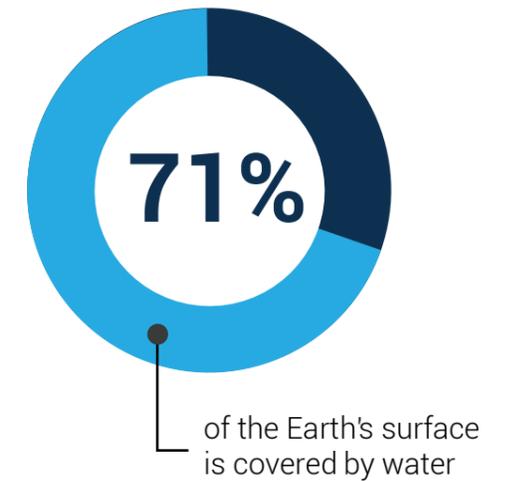
strong focus on strengthening partnerships and enhancing informed participation of young men and women and access to opportunities in the blue economy. Also, the conference created a platform for youth to engage with policy makers and other stakeholders for inclusion and meaningful participation in the blue economy.

The conference was structured around smaller facilitated working groups and presentations to allow all participants to engage in practical discussion. There were inputs from key speakers from the Government, Canadian High Commission, and United Nations that provided insights on how youth can get involved and drive the blue economy .

The conference was a key activity for The Youth Congress, Canadian High Commission and the UN Habitat as part of their work aims to empower learning, develop skills and support opportunities for the youth. Feedback from the conference was very positive-participants saw great value in working with like-minded people from different parts of the world, the opportunity to network and to learn from one another, and the chance to explore ideas.

Most important the youth conference gave an opportunity to meaningfully engage the youth to push an important global agenda.

This report provides an overview of the conference, background information and objectives, a summary of presentations and discussions and suggestions for next steps. Copies of the presentations, declar-action and support material can be found on The Youth Congress website: www.theyouthcongress.org



Discussions focused on 4 key areas of the Blue Economy

1

Employment, Job Creation & Poverty Eradication

2

Management and sustaining Marine life, conservation and sustainable economic activity

3

Sustainable energy, mineral resources and innovative industries

4

People, culture, communities & societies: the inclusive Blue Economy



Conference Objectives

The primary objective of the conference was to bring together youth representatives in order to;

- i. Develop a framework to strengthen youth participation in the blue economy at the national, regional and global levels
- ii. Champion and provide evidence for enhanced policy and programme development
- iii. Promote effective practices in improving youth outcomes in the blue economy
- iv. Strengthen networks and partnerships for effective collaboration with stakeholders across sectors and regions

Message from Conveners



Raphael Obonyo
Convener, The Youth Congress

The Youth Congress with support from Canadian High Commission and UN Habitat hosted a one-day pre-conference on youth and the blue economy, ahead of the global summit that was held in Nairobi, on November 26-28, 2018.

The youth conference focused on opportunities for young men and women in the blue economy.

The blue economy refers to sustainable use of the ocean and its resources for economic growth and to create jobs. It encompasses fisheries, tourism, maritime transport, waste management, climate change and renewable energy.

The agenda of the conference was to promote the inclusion of the youth in decision-making, particularly in projects that have a direct impact on them and future generations.

The youth conference helped to bridge the information gap among the youth on blue economy and opportunities for conservation of the environment and economic development. It explored programs by governments and other stakeholders that youth can take advantage of to create employment.

The outcomes of the conference saw the development of a Declar-

Action on youth initiatives and work in the blue economy for conservation and livelihoods, which was presented to Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) Secretariat and other stakeholders.

Blue economy can create jobs for the youth. Real development can only be achieved if youth are put at the centre.

Full engagement of youth, women, indigenous communities and other marginalized groups will help economies reach their full potential thus creating room for holistic inclusivity of communities in implementing SDGs

To achieve the 2030 global agenda we must connect young people with opportunities: skills, training, and education, to "create a new generation of problem solvers"

UN Habitat stands ready to receive innovative ideas from young people and looks forward to the opportunity to work with youth on galvanizing the full and sustainable potential of the Blue Economy



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
United Nations Under Secretary-General
Executive Director, UN Habitat

Blue economy has great potential to create jobs, end poverty and hunger and create wealth. Youth are key to the socio-economic transformation in Kenya and with gender equality exponential growth can be achieved.

Fresh thinking & renewed vision from today's youth is essential. No one is ever too young to contribute to the sustainable development of aquatic resources to improve the lives of all.

To realize the blue economy, Canada will continue to support youth to develop capacity and strong voice.

Meaningful youth employment is critical for the success of our economies. The blue economy offers real opportunities to create good jobs, and harness the creativity, energy, and innovation of young minds.



H.E. Lisa Stadelbauer
Canada's High Commissioner to Kenya
and Permanent Representative to UNEP
and UN Habitat

Speeches



Dr. Francis Otieno Owino
Principal Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs

Blue Economy is a critical area which, if well managed and harnessed, can create limitless opportunities for the young people. I therefore, urge you all to deepen your understanding of the Blue Economy, share best practices globally with other youths on the sustainable use of the Blue Economy, and identify existing opportunities in the sector for economic growth.

The Government will continue to develop and build capacity for the youth in Maritime Sector. This entails educating and motivating the youth to get into the study of maritime domain, that in turn will ultimately increase the output value of the industry.

The Government will further, foster development of partnerships to facilitate capacity building of Youth and financing youth innovations/enterprises for economic purposes and sustainable management of these water bodies resources.



Grace Wanjiku Matu
Youth representative

Youth must be ready to be informed and inform the future of Blue Economy, the change is in our hands



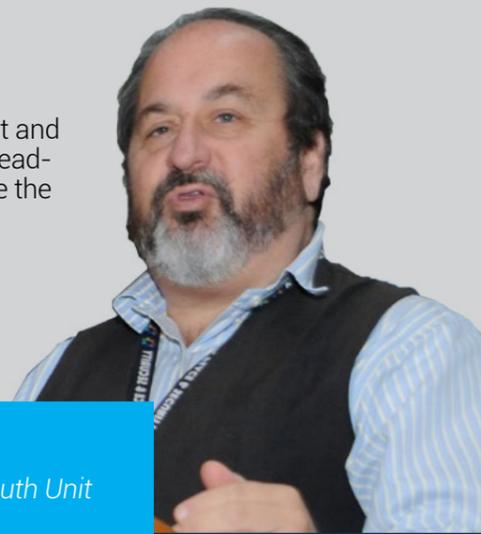
Siddharth Chatterjee
United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

Blue economy is a new frontier for Africa's economic renaissance. Women and youth must be at the center in order to reap the multi trillion dollar potential of blue economy

"Youth have an intense & integrated role in the growth of the blue economy

"One of the biggest opportunities for the youth in the Blue Economy is in aquaculture

UN Habitat recognizes youth as a development catalyst and our work is guided by the principles that youth are the leaders of today and tomorrow. Youth have a voice in where the Blue Economy is going"



Doug Ragan
Chief, UN Habitat's Youth Unit



Mumbi Ndung'u
Youth representative

Youth have so much untapped potential and government should make lasting commitments to harness the opportunities in the Blue Economy



Amb. Erastus Barine
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

We need to think differently and engage everybody, to maximize on the benefits of blue economy. We have to envision a different future and a different model for the blue economy"



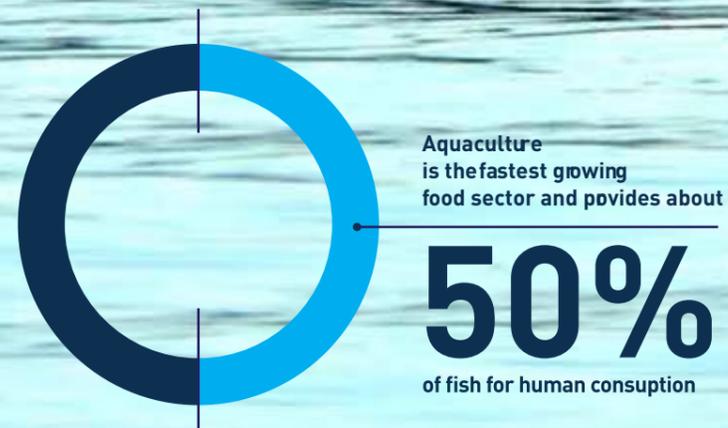
Elizabeth Wakesho Marami
The first female marine pilot in Kenya

One of the things I feel is paramount towards making the youth aware of the blue economy is if the education system could put in maritime as part of a subject into the primary and secondary education making them aware of the opportunities available

There are endless opportunities for youth in the Blue Economy

Blue Economy

Measures proposed by delegates



350 Million
JOB
S
Worldwide are linked to Fisheries

- 1 Develop mechanisms to enable youth engage in the blue economy
- 2 Identify skill needs in the blue economy
- 3 Sector, regional and global level support providers to map their support against youth needs
- 4 Develop partnerships and collaboration to support youth in blue economy
- 5 Share concrete examples of good practices models on youth in blue economy
- 6 Engage different stakeholders in development of action plans and implementation strategies on youth and blue economy
- 7 Build capacity of youth to effectively engage in the blue economy
- 8 Ensure promotional campaigns on the importance of youth in blue economy
- 9 Through a range of mechanisms, encourage governments and other stakeholders to understand the benefits of youth in the blue economy
- 10 Provide youth with information that enable them to engage in blue economy
- 11 Ensure legislation and funding supports meaningful youth engagement in blue economy
- 12 Encourage and develop mechanisms for key stakeholders to work together

"Youths are today's
leaders"

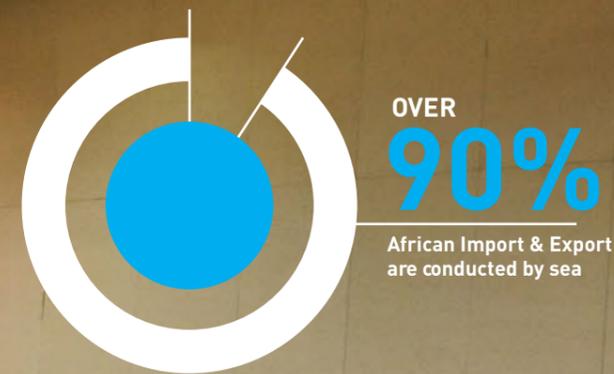
Key Results

- Informed youth participation and representation at Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) and engagement in Blue Economy.
- The youth conference became a launch pad for engagements with participants who collectively developed action plans to be followed up and monitored beyond the conference.
- The conference brought together 300 youth and stakeholders, and gave young people an opportunity to be heard on issues of blue economy.
- The Declar-Action, a comprehensive memorandum on youth demands, concerns and aspiration was developed and shared with the duty bearers, Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) Secretariat and other stakeholder to inform the agendas and resolution of the conference.
- Partnerships and networking between youth organization and other stakeholders working on Blue Economy.

Youth are the
**BLUE
FUTURE**

Emerging Issues

- 1 Growth of the Blue Economy requires participation of all segments of society including women, youth and the vulnerable.
- 2 The exploitation of the blue economy will mark a great milestone in the effort to diversify the economy and is going to create employment for many youth.
- 3 Youths must be ready to be informed and inform the future of Blue Economy.
- 4 Young People have immense potential to contribute to a Sustainable Blue Economy through innovations. They should be involved.
- 5 The Blue Economy has so much untapped potential and government should make lasting commitments to harness the opportunities in the sector.
- 6 Youth are innovative and adopt to new technology very fast thus their inclusion towards sustainable Blue Economy will create platform for them to utilize their creativity.
- 7 It is important to promote a stronger role and voice for youth and women in the blue economy.
- 8 It is important to harnesses the potential of our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to improve the lives of all, particularly people in developing states, women, youth and Indigenous peoples.
- 9 Youth in coastal areas are assets and they can lead the way for development of blue economy.
- 10 It's crucial to do capacity building for the youth. Youth need education about the blue economy.
- 11 There is need to conserve resources, eliminate pollution of waters, and protect aquatic life. This requires progressive policies.
- 12 Investments in the blue economy should ensure that the benefits are equally distributed, including amongst the most vulnerable and marginalised people.



- Maritime zones under Africa's Jurisdiction total **13M sq km**
- African's lake zone covers Approximately **240,000 sq km**
- Total Annual economic value of maritime related activities in Africa **Euro 1.5 Trillion**
- By **2025** its estimated that **34%** of crude oil production will come from offshore fields

"Young People have **immense potential** to contribute to a Sustainable Blue Economy through **innovations**"

Group work



1 Employment, Job Creation and Poverty Eradication

- 1 The Blue Economy is an emerging frontier that aims to make sustainable use of ocean resources and the maritime to foster improved livelihood and jobs creation.
- 2 The biggest opportunity for the youth in the blue economy is in the Aquaculture, which is the fastest growing food sector and provides about 50% of fish for human consumption.
- 3 Countries should create serious measures that would tap this goldmine that is Blue Economy to address high rate of unemployment among the youth.
- 4 Ensure maritime sector receives a fair share of budgetary allocation
- 5 Invest in the industry even on basic infrastructure such as having vessels and other tools that can be used to carry out ocean surveys to understand all the resources underneath.
- 6 Enhance capacity to offer surveillance on the ocean-based resources to stop exploitation by foreigners who do illegal fishing.
- 7 Invest in modern fishing gears, to exploit high potential of seafood to create thousands of jobs for youth.
- 8 Involve many other stakeholders to create consciousness among the youth that just as in other sectors of the economy, maritime is of equal importance.
- 9 Target youth empowerment in maritime education and training so that they can build skills in order to participate meaningfully in a sector that has most of its workforce past 35 years of age.
- 10 Lack of appropriately qualified instructors coupled by inadequacy of simulation equipment and other training equipment is one of the main challenges holding back the growth of training maritime personnel.
- 11 Finance youth innovations, ocean studies and scientific exploitation to enhance the commercial benefits of oceans resources.
- 12 Make blue economy very attractive for young people.

2 Management Sustainability of Marine Life Conservation and Sustainable Economic Activities

- 1 Understanding marine life from breeding patterns to migration so as to ensure a sustainable marine life throughout the year.
- 2 Controlled fishing and conservation of breeding grounds. Coral reefs also play a huge role in safe guarding the marine life. Communities have to be made aware on why they must protect and conserve the coral reef.
- 3 Setting up of fish ponds both inland and in the ocean will also promote blue growth and protect marine life.
- 4 Ensuring healthy and productive waters through regulated fishing not over exploitation of the resources.
- 5 Having literacy programs on marine life every now and then in order to continuously make the communities aware of the importance of marine life.
- 6 Investment in youth and women in the blue economy as they are actively working towards blue economy growth.
- 7 Public engagement is achieved from awareness forums where the understanding of marine life, its importance and why it must be conserved as well the proper way to utilise it's resources.
- 8 Have workshops and training programs put in place that can be used to improve the skills of the people working in the blue economy.
- 9 Setting up of exchange programs between counties, communities and regions is also helpful towards achieving the goal.
- 10 Most fisherman don't have basic education but this should not mean for them to be exploited but rather empowered like having them in groups such as beach management units along the coast. This allows them the opportunity to be heard and have issues addressed as well as having easy access to them on matters that concern them.

- 11 Knowing and understanding the current policies and programs and oversee implementation.
- 12 Ensure that policies are created and the right stakeholders involved and their voices heard.
- 13 Communities play a huge role in conservation of marine life as they are at the frontline.
- 14 Having cleanups near and along water bodies to reduce the amount of human waste in the water.
- 15 Recycling of waste materials so they don't end up in the water.
- 16 Having conservation methods thought and implemented by the communities.
- 17 Growing of coral reefs as they are a source of food and breeding ground for marine life.
- 18 Having the ban on plastic include plastic bottles.

3 Sustainable Energy, Mineral Resources and Innovative Industries

- 1 Government should run a community energy peer-mentoring project which aim to increase young adults' skills and understanding of sustainable energy for the benefit of the community energy movement.
- 2 Develop a curriculum for teaching renewable energy in technical and vocational schools in Kenya.
- 3 Use of both waste water sludge and food waste to generate biogas.
- 4 Connect all constituencies across the country with Wi-Fi, in an effort to set up Constituency Innovation Hubs, which will enable youths to access tools for innovation. Innovation is an expensive undertaking. The government is lagging behind in promoting it and fostering it among the youth. Innovation hubs exist but they are all privatized. This casts doom to an average young innovator who has nothing but an idea.
- 5 Create the necessary systems to encourage innovations or else we'll be left behind by the rest of the world. As KENIA, NRF and NACO-STI, are still operating under the Ministry of Education and so due to the bureaucracies, it takes a long time to get things done.
- 6 Expand the scope of minerals survey to capture other facets of the country's geophysics. This will ensure that key sectors of the economy benefit from the process.
- 7 Technology should be harnessed to enable, and improve service and utilisation blue economy resources.
- 8 Blue economy- requires to be regulated to create sustainable Blue ecosystems - mainly Lakes and oceans.

4 People, Culture, Communities and Society: Inclusive Blue Economy

- 1 Access to maritime education and training as well as investment on TVETs to provide appropriate courses of study for the youth and women that are related to blue economy.
- 2 Issues of boundaries – communities around Migingo Island are overexploited, no market for their products.
- 3 Beach Management Unit Model should be developed properly. The BMU empowers communities and it helps regulate fishing activities.
- 4 Develop cultural activities to support fishing such as festivals that focus on harnessing blue economy.
- 5 Sensitization of the youth on opportunities available in the blue economy and proper saving habits.
- 6 There is need for integration plans to bridge the gaps especially around maritime boundaries.
- 7 Communities around water bodies are more poor than those far from water bodies.
- 8 Scale up idea of boat making.
- 9 Counties to develop transport infrastructure and promote local fishing industries and local markets. Importation of fish interferes with local markets.
- 10 Sex for fish – this is a culture that needs to be addressed properly.
- 11 Have more conversations around fish eating. Around Mt Kenya, eating fish is becoming a norm.
- 12 Community empowerment/ awareness creation on blue economy is very important.
- 13 Need to conserve water bodies – Water hyacinth menace that affects fishing.
- 14 Communities don't get full potential of the natural resources in the water systems.
- 15 Effective public engagement on policies around the blue economy.
- 16 Opportunities in the Blue economy should be accessed using the legal framework - 30% should be to the youth and special groups.
- 17 Participation in the blue economy especially in fisheries has been at mercy of fellow men who are mostly doing fishing. Women roles need to be defied and enabled to access support. The BMUs- Beach Management Units should have 1/3 Gender rule, where no gender should dominate 2/3 of the committee membership.
- 18 Blue economy extends beyond the normal fisheries - other opportunities that can be exploited in the Blue Economy with the aim of creating employment and poverty eradication include Tourism, Water transport, Water Sports, Marine etc.



18 Youth and blue economy conference



Youth and blue economy conference 19

Gallery







Recommendations

- 1 Leverage on present technologies that help the youth share, network, have knowledge exchange and empower themselves to create more employment opportunities in the blue economy.
- 2 Strengthen collaboration between governments, the private sector and development partners.
- 3 Link youth to various stakeholders engaged in Blue Economy.
- 4 Involve the youth to exploit their creativity and provide avenues where they can take part in policy making.
- 5 Conduct research related to maritime industry and develop training programmes to build capacity of the same.
- 6 Support educational visits and exchange programs for youth to learn, share experiences and build networks.
- 7 Set up writing competitions and other activities to encourage the youth to share ideas on blue economy.
- 8 Train the youth to be better engaged in the blue economy especially in improving marine life, shipping and businesses on blue economy.
- 9 Provide youth with career guidance on blue economy.
- 10 Encourage traversal and cross-sectoral policy making and implementation on youth and blue economy.
- 11 Create and support bold and transformative initiatives to accelerate youth economic empowerment and leadership in the Blue Economy.
- 12 Present best practices to put blue economy projects into practice, and to provide guidelines and draw up regulations to help ensure that economic growth, jobs and wealth are not being created at the expense of the environment.
- 13 Governments should prioritize blue economy in their development plans.
- 14 Support entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators and facilities that provide the required infrastructure for youth to participate in the blue economy.
- 15 Forge strategic partnerships to harness the opportunities that the Blue Economy presents for the youth.
- 16 Bridge information gap the information among youth on Blue Economy.
- 17 Adopt appropriate policies, strategies and mechanisms to harness the blue economy and benefit the youth.
- 18 Set up innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms to fund ideas and plans by youth for developing the blue economy.
- 19 Push for a more robust global ocean governance system to ensure sustainable and equitable utilisation of ocean resources and to address harmful practices that damage the ocean's capacity to provide long-term sustained benefits to people.
- 20 Develop a comprehensive action plan and implementation strategy for the Youth Declar-Action.



DeclarACTION

PREAMBLE

The participants of the Youth and Blue Economy conference congratulate the Government and people of Kenya in its hosting of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference – the first ever global conference on the blue economy. We are humbled by thousands of participants from around the world who will convene in Nairobi to share ideas on the critical issue of harnessing the potential of our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to improve the lives of all, particularly for the people in developing countries such as women, young men and women and Indigenous peoples; while seeking to leverage the latest innovations, scientific advances and best practices to build prosperity while conserving our waters for future generations .

We thank the Governments of Kenya and the co-sponsors of the conference the Governments of Canada and Japan, for recognizing the potential of young men and women as a demographic dividend, especially those young men and women who live in Africa. Africa has the largest number of young men and women in the world with 42% of the global population under the age of 25 living in Sub-Saharan Africa.

To assure the voice of young men and women are heard and acted on, over 300 young men and women drawn from coastal communities globally have come together at the United Nations compound in Nairobi to discuss the roles and opportunities of young men and women in the Blue Economy.

Under the banner “Enhancing Young Men and Women’s Participation and Access to opportunities in the Blue Economy”, the participants examined international, regional, national and local best practices on how young men and women can best engage in the Blue Economy, with the goal of creating sustainable and prosperous communities globally.

YOUTH AND THE BLUE ECONOMY DECLARATION

The Youth and the Blue Economy promotes the sustainable development of aquatic resources for the benefit of communities who rely on them for their livelihoods and food security. It seeks to maximize economic and social benefits while minimizing environmental degradation from activities within the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

This declaration contains substantive policy and action oriented recommendations that have been informed by reports of fact-finding missions undertaken by the Youth Congress, and global responses from over 2,000 online respondents.

The communique has been reviewed and adopted by the conference participants.

The final call to action to the Blue Economy Conference and the governments and experts gathered there is to recognize young men and women as leaders of today and tomorrow in the Blue Economy.

General findings from the Youth and Blue Economy Conference

- 1 The participants of the Youth and Blue Economy conference recognize the importance of the Blue Economy and its positive impact on sustainable local and global development.
- 2 Special consideration must be given to the people living along the shores of oceans, lakes and rivers. In the African context that is predominantly young men and women.
- 3 While 120 million young people reach working age every year, the Blue Economy workforce in many developing countries is ageing. The need for access to investment resources and skills development is critical to assure the survival of fishing communities and the young men and women who live within them.
- 4 Women must be central to Blue Economy policies and practices. Traditionally, fisheries policy has focused on the role of men in harvesting, with less attention paid to the women.

Recommendations to National Governments

- 5 The focus on the Blue Economy as the world’s next frontier of economic growth i will only yield the desired results if education and training to boost marine-based economic development is fully embraced.

- 6 The Blue Economy should prioritize policies and incentives that unlock the potential of young men and women and empower them to safeguard natural resources while enhancing opportunities to access decent work.
- 7 The long-term viability of the Blue Economy and the sectors it supports depend on promoting young men and women and establishing policies that support the Blue Economy and facilitate their pursuit of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- 8 The Blue Economy can help drive Africa and the world’s economic growth to soaring height. If properly managed, the Blue Economy can create the much-needed opportunities for employment for young men and women and other groups and their communities.
- 9 Ensure that the young men and women benefit from Blue Economy through creation of job opportunities in the lakes and its tourism resources. Investing in young men and women can result in better resource management, greater decent work opportunities and reduced waste, as young people are more inclined to adopt new technologies and techniques.
- 10 Young men and women require access to credit. Innovative financing is an integral component of the Blue Economy.
- 11 Create community-based microfinance systems that benefit young men and women and help communities diversify livelihoods, reinforce local resilience, and contribute to poverty reduction.

- 12 Capacity building in business development and entrepreneurship help unlock new livelihood opportunities for young men and women by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their work.
- 13 Governments should allocate funds towards the initiation of programs to strengthen the use of Blue Economy in enhancing livelihoods.
- 14 Free studies tailored for seamen and such which is to achieve curb both unemployment and also ensure total use of the ocean economy.
- 15 Investment in fisheries and aquaculture ensure that they are prioritized in national development plans.
- 16 Programs must be created to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity
- 17 A level economic and legislative playing field that provides incentives to engage in the Blue Economy must be promoted.

Recommendation to Local Governments

- 18 Cities and towns in coastal areas are expanding faster than in non-coastal areas of the world. It is estimated that over 50 per cent of the world's population lives closer than 3 kms to a surface freshwater body, and only 10 percent of the global population lives further than 10 kms away.
- 19 Informal settlements and slums area often in environmentally-fragile locations near water such as floodplains, coastal shores and river banks.
- 20 Coastal cities play a vital role in the Blue Economy when adequately planned and managed. About 80 per cent of global tourism is placed

on the coast. Shipping will grow dramatically over the coming decades and much of which is channeled through coastal cities.

- 21 The planning for spatial and economic development of coastal areas – including planning considerations for the waterbodies – is crucial, especially in view of enhancing sustainable development and reducing the negative footprint on natural resources and ecosystems.
- 22 In order to appropriately respond to the opportunities and challenges of the Blue Economy, cities require adequate urban planning and design, governance and legal structures. Only by taking into consideration resilience – both on land and in water – can cities and communities develop sustainably.

Recommendations to Regional Bodies

- 23 In Africa, develop a continental framework for managing and sustaining marine life conservation and sustainable economic activities.
- 24 Sensitize and educate the young men and women about the Blue Economy at Regional Levels
- 25 Bringing the voices young men and women into policy making and planning through Blue Economy growth dialogue.

Recommendations to the United Nations and development partners

- 26 The Blue Economy linkage to the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically to SDG 14 on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources, and SDG 7 on Decent work on Economic Growth, is critical. It is as well important to link the Blue Economy to other key environmental and social SDGs .

- 27 In line with SDGs, the Blue Economy must have social inclusion and leaving no one behind as a key pillar of environment and social sustainability on which it rests.
- 28 These goals are closely aligned with the three pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which pay special attention to traditionally marginalized groups.
- 29 Any development of the Blue Economy should not abrogate human rights nor harm local communities.
- 30 The regulation of the Blue Economy should be conducive to the protection of the rights of women and children, indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees, and other at-risk and marginalised groups. Promote the conservation of waters for future generations as well.
- 31 The support of climate action is critical to the Blue Economy.
- 32 Initiatives that seek to end hunger, secure food supplies and promote good health and sustainable fisheries are important actions to be supported.
- 33 The support of frequent clean up exercises is an excellent way to engage young men and women and the communities they live within

Recommendations to Regional Bodies

- 34 Increase initiatives that make good use of water bodies to create job opportunities for jobs to young men and women.
- 35 Discourage activities that could lead to environmental degradation ie. cutting trees, burning charcoal instead of environmentally friendly activities such as starting a greenhouse project for women groups, fish rearing project for young men and women etc. Increase support to planting more trees around the water catchment areas to reduce soil erosion and flooding
- 36 Support capacity building in business development and entrepreneurship. This will help to unlock livelihoods opportunities for young men and women by improving the efficiency and viability of their activities.
- 37 Make efforts to encourage direct investment in the Blue Economy as it has the potential to solve many of the young men and women's issues.

- 38 The support of innovation accelerators and supporting new technology and market based solutions is critical to the Blue Economy.

Recommendations for Governments Supporting Indigenous Peoples as equal partners in the Blue Economy

- 39 Today there are more than 370 million indigenous peoples living in some 90 countries. The Blue Economy must consider indigenous peoples as equal partners in the development decisions that affect them.
- 40 Indigenous peoples are often disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, political and economic marginalization and development activities that negatively affect their ecosystems, livelihoods, cultural heritage and nutritional status.
- 41 The Blue Economy addresses the most pressing challenges facing indigenous peoples, including improved livelihoods and decent work, food security, environmental degradation, tenure rights, equitable access to natural resources and cultural renewal and survival.
- 42 Indigenous peoples are valued as custodians of biodiversity and ecosystem management through their traditional knowledge, culture and practices.

Partnership Recognition

- 43 The participants of the conference recognize the importance of the Government of Kenya's co-hosting the first ever conference on the Blue Economy.
- 44 The Government of Kenya's Vision 2030's recognizes young men and women , a key and largest constituency in its country, and as a key partner and leader in the Blue Economy in Kenya, in Africa and globally
- 45 The participants recognize the Government of Canada, as a co-host of the conference and a country which is bound by the Pacific, Arctic, and North Atlantic Oceans, as a leader in the blue economy. The GOCs recognition of women and indigenous peoples as key constituencies in the Blue Economy is to be commended.
- 45 The participants also recognize the Commonwealth's role in the inception of the Blue Economy conference, and commend its Commonwealth Blue Charter which is a blueprint for the development of the Blue Economy.

Presented By; The Participants of the Youth and the Blue Economy Conference



Fresh water and Ocean fish Contributes to the food of over 200M Africans and provide Income for over 10M

Song on Youth & Blue Economy

By Robert Matumbai

Twende Fishing (Lets Go Fishing)

INTRO

Crises Napitia
Why me sitalia
Plus ka tears ndio solution basi cry me a river

Mimi si mselfish
Natry tu ku sell fish
Take a selfie

BRIDGE

Twende fishing twende fishing
Twende fishing twende fishing
Twende fishing twende fishing
Twende fishing twende fishing

CHORUS

Ni declaration inaweza change nation
Si kwa sasa tu but generations, twende fishing

VERSE 1

Ocean breeze
Wimbi safi kwa sea
Boat na samaki
Ni life ya lakeside
Marine ni pesa
Shida ni poaching
System za sea transporting
Zimebaki kua loses kwa nchi
Na plastic pia
Policies zinadai changes through leaders
Dry rivers
Ni stormy weathers zinadai tuvae sweater
Tu take measures
Sisi si omena
Hata kama big fish ndio kusema
Ma youth ni treasure todays investors wa future better

CHORUS

Ni declaration inaweza change nation
Si kwa sasa tu but generations, twende fishing

VERSE 2

Usi wish ni drown
Nipe power instead
Ukinipea credit nitakua the change
Nasaka za rent manze,
Stakeholders nadai stake
Ukinipea fish nitadish but ukinitrain nitafish more
Kazi ya kuji sustain ndio declaration na ni simple.
Kama hai benefit women the youth na interest za the people,
Nikuchota maji na net ama ukitumia kijiko.
Niliandika hii kando ya lake nikifikiria nini next
Plus mi si mselfish
Natry tu ku sell fish
Take a selfie

CHORUS

Ni declaration inaweza change nation
Si kwa sasa tu but generations, twende fishing

BRIDGE

Twende fishing twende fishing
Twende fishing twende fishing
Twende fishing twende fishing
Twende fishing twende fishing

CHORUS

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