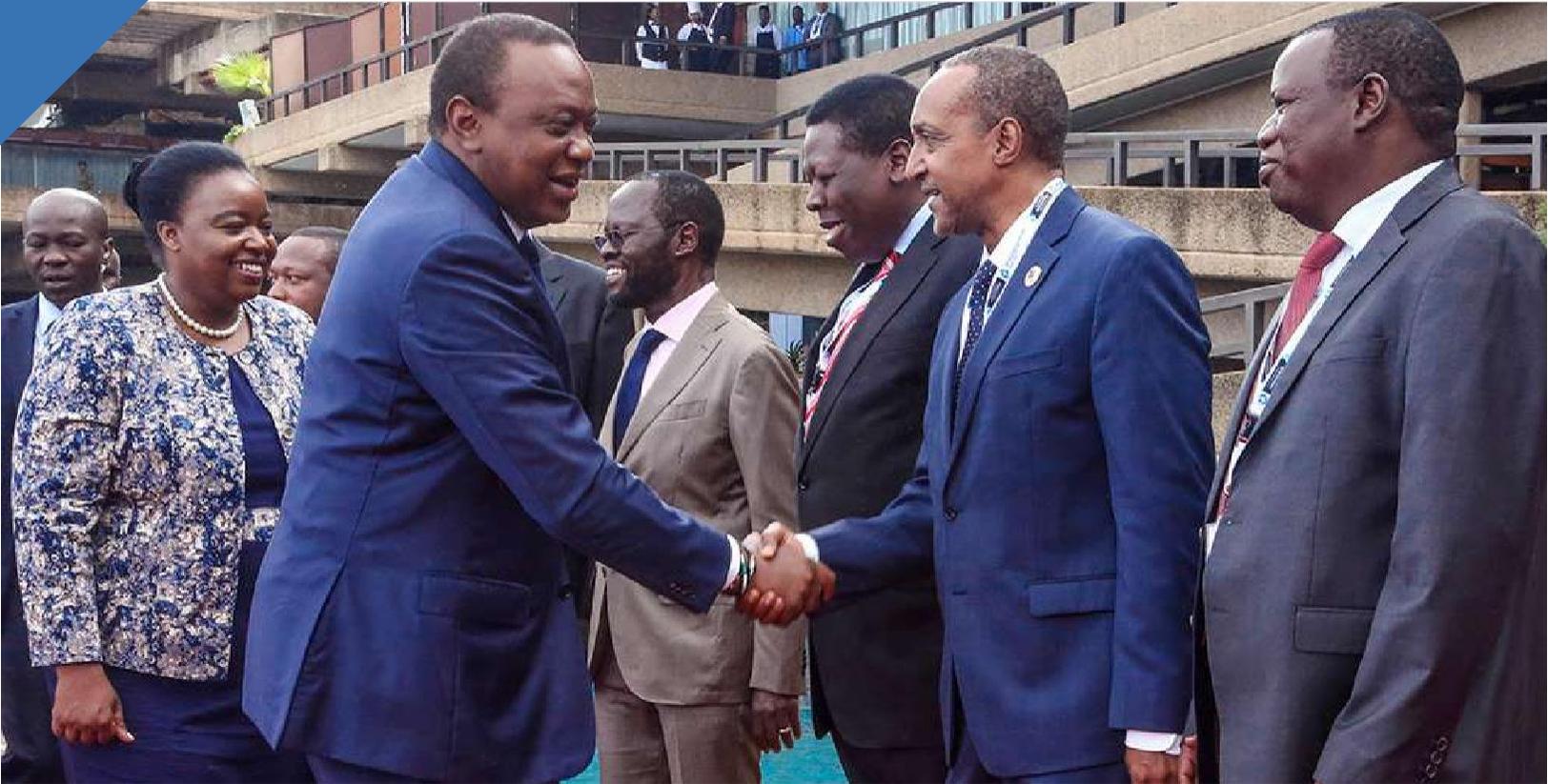




The Nairobi Statement of Intent on Advancing the Global Sustainable Blue Economy

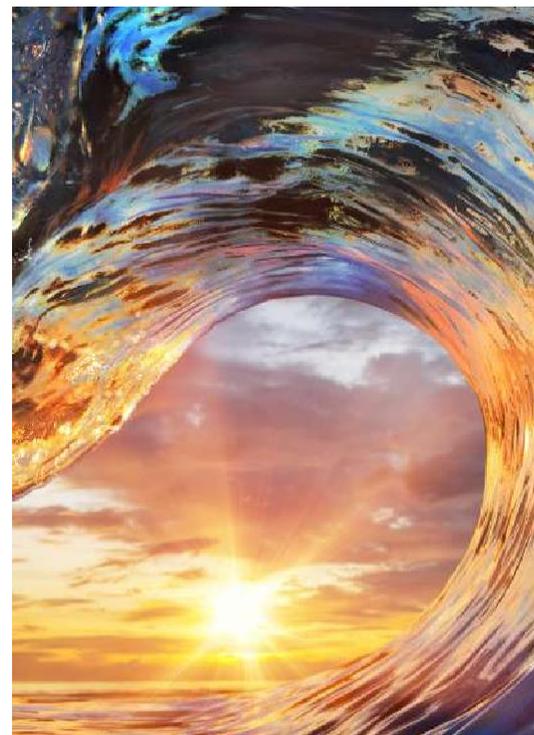


President Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya, and Monica Juma, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya, greet Macharia Kamau, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya, at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi ([Photo by IISD/ENB | Diego Noguera](#))

Our oceans, seas, lakes, rivers

and other water resources hold great promise for contributing towards the success of the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They can help drive economic growth, social prosperity and environment protection. While the world has not yet developed the full potential of these resources, unsustainable human activities are continuing to substantially threaten life under water and the resilience of aquatic ecosystems.

Inspired by the unique global opportunity to build greater prosperity for all while protecting these water resources for the present and future generations, over 18,000 participants from across the world including Heads of State and Government, Ministers and high level representatives, Mayors and Governors, representatives of international organizations, the business community, the private sector, women and youth, Indigenous peoples, community based organizations, philanthropic, **academic, scientific and research institutions, as well as civil society, had strategic conversations during the first ever global conference on the sustainable blue economy held in Nairobi, Kenya from 26th to 28th November, 2018.**





The conference convened at a time when the world population is at about 7.6 billion and growing to 9.8 billion by 2050. Participants recognized that with this population growth, demand for goods and services will also grow accordingly, and that this will exert additional pressure on land-based resources, which are slowly diminishing or already over exploited in many cases. Therefore, it welcomed the global interest in developing and conserving the resources of a sustainable blue economy to augment efforts aimed at poverty eradication and nutritional development.

With collective determination, and building on efforts at the local, national and international levels, the global community can intensify investments and harness the full potential of the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to accelerate economic growth, create **jobs and to fight poverty. Simultaneously, the world** can improve the health of the oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers and the ecosystems they support which are under increased threats and in decline in many countries and regions across the globe.

The development of a sustainable blue economy is possible with the full and effective involvement and participation of all relevant actors working together and is the primary purpose of SDG14. Collaborative initiatives such as the Commonwealth Blue Charter are encouraged.

The public sector has limited capacity to finance the scale of investments needed to realize a sustainable blue economy. The private sector should step in to **bridge the financing gap.**

Governments should offer the right incentives including by designing policy mechanisms to



encourage new and sustainable marine activities to succeed and by populating a pipeline of projects for willing investors, including small and medium enterprises. The private sector, in turn, can strengthen its social and environmental corporate responsibility in part through the development of knowledge and understanding of the value of the blue economy.

Science and research are crucial for policy development, implementation and evaluation. An interdisciplinary approach to science and research that includes bio-physical science, law and policy, **human geography, and accounting and finance is** required 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.

Cities and other human settlements are engines of economic growth powering social prosperity, cultural integration and tourism. Proper urban planning and management of coastal and lake-facing cities and towns will reduce vulnerability to disasters and risks including the negative impacts of climate change while waste management remains one the most urgent global challenges.

The survival of humanity, biodiversity and ecosystems depend on bold, innovative and collective vision and action. The desire to chart and develop a new paradigm for an economically vibrant, socially inclusive and environmentally resilient blue economy is now more relevant than ever.

The conference was an important platform for strategic deliberations on promoting the productivity, inclusivity and the sustainability aspects of the resources of a sustainable blue economy in an integrated, balanced and holistic manner.

Similarly, the conference contributed immensely towards a shared understanding of the elements of the concept, principles and building blocks of a sustainable blue economy (Annex I).



Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, representing Canada, the co-host of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference ([Photo by IISD/ENB | Diego Noguera](#))



Panel discussion on “Women and the blue economy” (Photo by IISD/ENB | Diego Noguera)

Key messages heard at the Conference include the importance of:

- Promoting action-oriented global strategies that places people and the blue economy resources at the center of sustainable development as a contribution to the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs;
- Promoting collaboration for sustainable partnerships and projects in the various sectors of the blue economy for economic growth, poverty alleviation and conservation of the resources for the present and future generations through a multi sectoral approach,
- **Promoting mobilization of finance from public and private sources, access to technologies and innovations** as well as capacity building among local, national and international stakeholders for the full realization of the potential of the blue economy;
- Promoting the role of women in the blue economy and identifying the barriers and opportunities to further empower women and encourage their role in positions of leadership;
- Recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women will build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world;
- Strengthening science and research to generate and disseminate evidence-based knowledge and information on advancing the sustainable blue economy;
- Strengthening science-policy interface of the blue economy resources to inform decision- making.
- Strengthening governance mechanisms for a sustainable blue economy including by raising awareness and ensuring stakeholder participation in policy and decision making.
- Promote synergies between local authorities and national governments in the implementation of decisions on blue economy including through the Governors and Mayors Global Forum for the Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE 1000).
- Sharing innovations, technologies, and best practices and experiences within and across regions.

9 priority areas

In the interim, special attention could be paid to scaling up productive and conservation activities in the nine priority areas deliberated at the conference:

- Smart shipping, ports, transportation and global connectivity,
- Employment, job creation and poverty eradication,
- Cities, tourism, resilient coasts and infrastructure,
- Sustainable energy, mineral resources and innovative industries,
- Managing and sustaining marine life, conservation and sustainable economic activities,
- **Ending hunger, securing food supplies and promoting good health and sustainable fisheries,**
- **Climate action, agriculture and fisheries, waste management and pollution-free oceans,**
- Maritime security, safety and regulatory enforcement and,
- People, culture, communities and societies – the inclusive blue economy



A sustainable blue economy builds on unlocking the full economic possibilities of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers

and other water resources through investments that involve effective participation of all relevant people while protecting the resources for present and future generation and ecosystem resilience. Countries and other stakeholders can work closely to promote a sustainable blue economy by building understanding and galvanizing further action at various international forums, including at the 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference and at the United Nations General Assembly.

Achieving tangible results in these areas will require new, bold **and ambitious strategies, mobilization of significant financial resources**, access to technologies and innovations, capacity building and effective governance arrangements. To mobilize **requisite financial resources, the possibility of establishing a Blue Economy Investment Clearing House and Monitoring Facility (BEICHAMF)** could be explored.

With the global community working individually and collectively, the pledges and commitments made during this conference can be implemented (Annex II).

The Conference expressed sincere gratitude to the primary host and convener, the Government of Kenya, and to the Governments of Canada and Japan for their generosity in co-hosting a very stimulating conference. It also expressed appreciation to co-sponsors for their support to the conference (Annex III).

NAIROBI, KENYA
November 28th, 2018



ANNEX I

Elements of principles of building a sustainable blue economy

- Promote economic activities consistent with conservation and long term capacity of the ocean, seas, lakes and rivers to remain healthy and resilient.
- Apply relevant data and science to inform policy and decision-making
- Engage relevant stakeholders in the development and conservation of blue economy resources.
- Strengthen social and environmental corporate responsibility
- Develop knowledge and understanding on the value of the market and non-market goods and services of the blue economy
- **Realign financing to support inclusive economic activities that enhance health of blue economy resources.**
- Support growth of small and medium enterprises in the blue economy.
- Create markets for emerging and innovative blue economy related industries.

Elements for the building blocks for a sustainable blue economy

- **A definition of the blue economy predicated on the conceptual pillars of productivity, inclusivity and sustainability of water-based and water-related resources.**
- **Mobilization of financial resources, deployment of relevant technologies and capacity building.**
- Governance arrangements that promote economic activities, inclusivity and healthy environment
- **Investment facilities including innovative financing for a sustainable blue economy. Strong research and development and teaching programs related to marine and coastal environments.**



ANNEX II

Commitments from around the world

Some of the commitments made during the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) 26 - 28, November 2018.

Marine protection

- Implementing a \$1.5 billion Ocean Protection Plan project on enhancing maritime safety and addressing protection of marine biodiversity (Canada)
- Protect 10% marine and coastal areas by 2020 (Canada)
- Restore mangrove forest to 5000ha by 2023 (Mozambique)
- Pledges to support conversion of 30% of oceans into marine protected area by 2030 under its '30-by-30 strategy'(UK)
- Allocate 5mn USD for marine protection and research (Namibia)
- Increase marine protected areas beyond 10% by 11 million acres (Bahamas)
- Designate 30% of EEZ as a marine protected area by 2030 (Tonga)
- Euros 40 mln to protect corals and reefs and Euros 60 mln for protection of marine areas in which African countries (EU)
- **US \$ 1.5 mln to build resilience to ocean acidification in the seafood sector by revolutionizing the technology to protect shellfish and other aquaculture farms (Ocean Foundation)**

Plastics and waste management

- US\$ 100 Mln earmarked for better oceans management and against dumping (Norway and World Bank)
- Commits US\$ 200 mln for the next 4 years for development of initiatives to combat marine litter and microplastics (Norway)
- Complete ban on plastic utensils and polystyrene to come into effect in 2019 (Antigua & Barbuda)
- Ban single use plastic bags, straws and cans by 2020 (Bahamas)

- Implement national zero plastic pollution campaign (Timor Leste)

- Commitment to sustainable plastic free tourism (Autonomous Region of Sao Tome & Principe)
- Committed to plastic free services in all its establishments (Java House Africa)
- Confront the challenge of waste management and plastic pollution (Kenya)

Maritime safety and security

- **In 2018, enhance maritime surveillance and fishery protection by completing a €250 million naval vessel replacement programme and purchasing two marine patrol aircraft (Ireland)**
- **In 2019/2010 €32 million for three Pilatus 12 aircraft to enhance patrolling capability (Ireland)**
- **Increase investment by €1.5 million to upgrade Naval Service ICT systems to support fishery protection regime in Ireland (Ireland)**
- Ensure safety and security in the high seas so that global trade, connectivity and all businesses can thrive unhindered and unfettered (Kenya)
- **Aggressively combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and take measures to enhance security and safety of our collective waters (Kenya)**

Fisheries development

- Construction of hatchery to produce 10,000MT which will make it sub-Saharan Africa's largest tilapia hatchery in 2019 (Victory Farms Limited East Africa)
- Support amounting to Euros 40 mln has been set aside to support aquaculture value chains in African countries (ACP-EU)
- **Ensure responsible and sustainable fishing to conserve the endangered species and high value fish stocks (Kenya)**
- **Accelerate the development of our fisheries, by increasing aquaculture, fish processing and storage capacities and related blue economy industries (Kenya)**

Financing

- Established Trust Fund with the World Bank (PRO BLUE) to help manage marine litter in developing countries (World Bank)
- EU's External Investment Plan aims to mobilise nearly 44 billion EUR of investment by 2020, including for the blue economy (EU)

- Contributing through SIDA US\$ 33.3 Mln into the World Bank Fund (PRO BLUE) to support transition into blue economy and realization of SDG 14 (Sweden)
- Develop a Blue Economy investment facility and strategy
- **Issued the first Sovereign Blue Bond to the magnitude of US\$15 Mln in collaboration with Global Environment facility (GEF) the World Bank and the Prince of Wales Trust (Seychelles)**
- Introduction of Debt-Swap for conservation to the magnitude of US\$ 21.6 mln in collaboration with the Paris Club (Seychelles)
- Establish a Blue Economy Bank to Support the growth and development of the blue economy Sector (Kenya)
- **Committed 10 million Euros to develop water financing facilities through the Global Lab to unlock finance for low carbon climate-resilient development (Netherlands)**
- **Support debt free financing through Blue carbon bonds and other means of debt swaps (Nature Conservancy)**

Infrastructure



- Revolutionize maritime logistics and port led developments in India, with 600 projects leading to investment of \$ 120 billion (India- Sagarmala Programme)
- **Promotion of blue value chain, incorporating fisheries and tourism sectors (Namibia)**
- Commitment to desalinate (its) sea water for agriculture, domestic and industrial use (Namibia)
- Take measures to revive Kenya's maritime transport, by building and expanding the ports, and shipping facilities and partnering with global shipping lines (Kenya)

Biodiversity and climate change



- **Committed US\$ 10mln investment in the Pacific Initiative for biodiversity, climate change and resilience together with EU, New Zealand and Australia (Canada)**
- Increase funding to climate cation fund (Sweden)
- **Protect fragile areas from climate change and unsustainable fishing poachers (Timor Leste)**

Technical assistance and capacity building



- US\$ 20 mln in increased technical assistance and capacity development to Small Island States (Canada)
- Help African countries in capacity building in exploitation of deep seas exploitation (AU)
- UNEP, UNHabitat and UNON will provide technical support to promote blue economy (UNON)
- Committed to support countries in evaluation of ocean resources (WWF)
- Implement programme for disseminating information on ISA operation to African Governments; (International Seabed Authority)
- Support the ECA to develop policy guidelines for exploitation of deep sea mining. (International Seabed Authority)
- An African Blue Economy innovation and research centre (Kenya)
- Establish the University of Nairobi Institute for blue economy and ocean studies (Kenya)
- Training of 5000 graduate seafarers through The University of Nairobi in partnership with global shipping lines (Kenya)
- An African e-learning centre on Maritime engineering for capacity development in Maritime engineering through the University of Nairobi in Partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) (Kenya)
- Establish shared facilities for upcoming entrepreneurs and mentorship of young entrepreneurs, bridge the gap between large companies and small and medium enterprises (Caribbean Development Bank)
- Enhance capabilities for Kenya sea farers to work on ships across the vast oceans by, inter alia, upgrading the Kenya Maritime School (Kenya)

Private sector support



- US\$150 mln dollars pledge by the Government of Canada and private sector (Oceans Supercluster) to build a knowledge-based ocean economy (Canada)
- Investing in renewable energy in Africa including generation of energy from waste in Mombasa (Toyota Tshusho, Japan)

Partnerships



- Enhance partnership to address key challenges in practical ways and pursue opportunities (Canada)
- European Commission President Juncker has recently proposed a new Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs between Europe and Africa. An Alliance that could help create up to 10 million jobs in Africa in the next 5 years. An alliance between equal partners (EU)
- Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements. The EU has such agreements with a number of **countries to provide financial and technical support in exchange for fishing on sustainable stocks (EU)**
- Deepen partnerships with international counterparts for safeguarding and developing ocean economies through Ireland Development Cooperation Programme (Ireland)
- Pledge to work with other countries to advance the sustainable blue/ocean economy (South Africa)
- Partner with other organizations in developing policies for harnessing the potential of the blue economy (OECD)



Participants watch a video on the blue economy (Photo by IISD/ENB | Diego Noguera)

ANNEX III

SBEC, 2018 convenor, co-hosts and main sponsors list

1. Kenya
2. Canada
3. Japan
4. Qatar
5. Norway
6. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
7. European Union(EU)
8. China
9. Portugal
10. Ireland
11. Oman
12. European Investment Bank
13. South Africa
14. Sudan
15. Afrexim Bank
16. Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency
17. Fiji
18. France
19. UNDP
20. Food and Agricultural Organization(FAO)
21. UNECA
22. African Union
23. Kenya Commercial Bank
24. The World Bank
25. Brand Kenya Board
26. Kenya Tourism Board

Other sponsors

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3. **Kenya Film Classification Board**
4. University of Nairobi;
5. Safaricom (K) Ltd
6. National Research Fund(Kenya)
7. Kenya National Shipping Line
8. Kenya Airways
9. Kenya Tea Packers Limited (KETEPA)
10. National Museums of Kenya
11. Kenya Consulate in Hong Kong and Macau
12. The Ocean Foundation;
13. The Java House Group

