

DECLARATION

8TH MEETING OF OACPS MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR OCEANS, INLAND WATERS AND FISHERIES



DAR ES SALAAM,
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



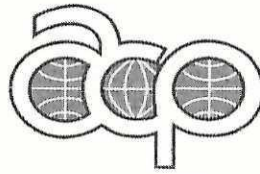
11 SEPTEMBER 2024



Advancing Sustainable Oceans, Fisheries and
Blue Economy for Present and Future Generations



Organisation of African,
Caribbean and Pacific States
(OACPS)



Organisation des États
d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et
du Pacifique (OEACP)

REFERENCE: ACP/84/230/24

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RESPONSIBLE FOR OCEANS, INLAND WATERS AND
FISHERIES**

DAR ES SALAAM

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**8TH MEETING OF OACPS MINISTERS
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Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 11 September 2024

DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

We, the Ministers responsible for Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries of the member states of the Organisation of African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 11 September 2024.

Mindful of the utmost importance of oceans and inland waters for the livelihoods and well-being of our peoples, sustainable development, economy, trade and food production, and emphasising the need to conserve, restore and sustainably use the oceans, inland waters and their resources for our present and future generations.

Reaffirming our commitment to support the attainment of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Concerned about the threats impacting oceans, fisheries and aquaculture, such as Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU), overfishing, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and their devastating consequences on aquatic ecosystems, marine and inland fisheries, food security livelihoods, health, well-being and the sustainable development of dependent communities and countries of the OACPS.

Stressing the significance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in marine and fresh water ecosystems for national and regional development, as well as to ensure food security to a growing global population, and reaffirming the importance of those sectors and their actors for the development of the sustainable blue economy.

Committed to unity and solidarity and bringing the influence of 79 members and six regions of the OACPS speaking with one voice, to shape and advance our collective interests for good ocean governance, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management, use and conservation.

Committed to taking actions to accelerate the sustainable use and conservation of the Ocean and inland waters, to promote thriving fisheries and aquaculture sectors;

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HEREBY DECLARE;

ON IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF THE OACPS STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE 2030 AND COMPANION PRIORITY ACTION AGENDA 2022-2025.

Note the report of implementation in ACP/84/124/24 against the *Accra Declaration* adopted by the 7th Meeting of OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Reaffirm the OACPS Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture - 2030 as a shared vision for promoting the implementation of coherent actions for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture at national and regional levels and welcome its three-year *Prioritised Action Agenda*.

Authorise the Secretariat of the OACPS to work closely with national authorities, intergovernmental organisations, OACPS Regional Fisheries Bodies/Organisations and relevant fisheries and aquaculture networks in OACPS member states to ensure regular monitoring of the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan, including through qualitative and quantitative data collection.

ON SMALL-SCALE AQUATIC FOOD SYSTEMS

Reaffirm the critical role of small-scale fisheries as the mainstay of OACPS' fisheries sector with longstanding and enduring roots in local communities, traditions, and values.

Express grave concerns about the vulnerability of the small-scale fisheries sector toward the adverse impacts of climate change and the consequences on the livelihoods and wellbeing, the culture, and economies of dependent communities.

Reaffirm the commitment to effectively implement the "*OACPS Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture – 2030*" and its three-year "*Prioritised Action Agenda*", and **call** on member states and development partners to support its effective implementation.

Recognise the ambitious Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and acknowledge the importance of inclusivity, capacity building and knowledge exchange and a people centred approach to sustainable use and conservation of aquatic biodiversity, to advance the momentum of its implementation.

Urge development partners to support actions that strengthen small-scale fisheries, including conservation, sustainable use and management, to meet the global biodiversity objectives and build resilience to risks and shocks by increasing their preparedness and adaptive capacities in the face of environmental degradation, disasters from natural hazard risks and climate change.

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Agree to advocate for the inclusion of small-scale fisheries concerns in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Loss and Damage Fund to address, at scale, the needs of communities at the frontline of climate change.

Agree to improve the policy and regulatory environment to support small-scale fisheries and their specificities at national, regional and international levels, including securing access to fishing grounds for small-scale fishers, ensuring effective co-management in accordance with the best available science, and promoting compliance.

Encourage the establishment of artisanal stewardship areas by effectively closing inshore or wider shelf areas, where small-scale fishers operate, to industrial fishing and other industrial activity.

Call upon members to promote the effective co-management of 100% of artisanal stewardship areas with small-scale fishers, thereby improving the sustainable management of the small-scale fisheries sector, maintaining healthy fish stocks, securing livelihoods and substantially contributing to conservation targets, including Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Emphasise the role of women and youth throughout the small-scale fisheries value chain and enhance actions to remove barriers to women's engagement and involvement through providing opportunities to improve women's working conditions and participation in the value chain.

Encourage the participation and organisation of women in management and trade in small-scale fisheries with particular attention to investments in services, infrastructure, access to land and credit and removing barriers to trade and market access - including sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Call on member states to develop and accelerate the implementation of participatory and gender-equality initiatives, national Small-Scale Fisheries strategic plans of action, guided by national and regional policies, plans and roadmaps, the OACPS Strategic Plan of Action for Fisheries and Aquaculture - 2030 and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF-Guidelines), to ensure support for small-scale fisheries communities and co-management of the fisheries resources.

Encourage effective fisheries management through co-management systems for 100% of all coastal areas, putting in place enabling policy and legal frameworks that clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the authorities and fishers, and providing the appropriate support for fishers to engage in implementing management measures, including for participatory surveillance and closed fishing seasons.

Request the Secretariat of the OACPS to establish a Technical Support Group to assist in scoping national situations and preparations for implementing Artisanal Stewardship Areas, or similar arrangements, to promote the effective and inclusive co-management of small-scale fishing areas and to contribute to the global targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Stress the need to act in solidarity and to speak with one voice at multilateral levels, to advocate for small-scale fisheries priorities, including with the regional development banks (African Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank and Asian Development Bank) of the OACPS, the FAO Subcommittee of Fisheries Management, and promote the sharing of good practices and lessons learned.

ON TRANSFORMING AQUACULTURE FOOD SYSTEMS

Highlight the importance of transforming food systems to ensure food and nutrition security and contribute to reaching the objective of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and SDGs.

Reaffirm the Outcome declaration of the OACPS Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture held in Accra, Ghana, 5-8 April 2022, highlighting the vital role of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in fighting poverty, hunger and malnutrition, promoting inclusive growth and well-being.

Highlight the importance of the aquaculture sector for food and nutritional security and **call** for development financing, increased investments and public-private partnership in the aquaculture sector, including supporting the growth of the commercial small-scale aquaculture sector, which is critical to poverty alleviation and increasing family incomes.

Call on member states and partners to support initiatives to promote an enabling environment, address aquaculture value development barriers, promote the exchange of innovative good practices, improve data collection, increase scientific research and innovation and enhance the productivity of commercial small-scale aquaculture.

Call on partners to enhance technical support and investment in small-scale freshwater and marine aquaculture development, including tilapia, catfish and seaweed cultivation, particularly in strengthening the participation of women, youth and other marginalised/vulnerable groups, improving access to export markets, promoting research and innovation for value chain enhancement, and multi-trophic aquaculture, and driving sustainable development to improve disaster risk resilience within the sector.

Underline the importance of genetic improvement to ensure high-quality and affordable seeds, feed and feeding technology, value chain improvement and financing as critical enablers of the growth of an inclusive, vibrant commercial small-scale aquaculture sector.

Call for mainstreaming aquaculture in local, national, and regional development strategies and provide incentives to encourage the development of a sustainable, competitive, and resilient aquaculture sector.

Call for special attention to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for targeted solutions to support SIDS, including prioritisation of needs through long-term commitment, funding, and technical assistance in creating the necessary policy environment, human and institutional capacities, and investments for aquaculture and mariculture to flourish.

Acknowledge the FAO Guidelines on Sustainable Aquaculture as a critical framework for sustainable aquaculture development and **highlight** the importance of consulting all stakeholders along the aquaculture value chain and in the relevant policy domains involved in their implementation.

Recognise the FISH4ACP Programme as an important initiative to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture value chains in 12 member states of the OACPS and express the need for scaling up and scaling out to other OACPS countries.

Recognise the opportunities arising from the seaweed sector and **encourage** OACPS members to put in place the relevant policies and incentives to boost the sector's sustainable growth.

Recognise the importance of aquatic products to provide low-carbon healthy sources of protein to a growing global population and to contribute to the attainment of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs, in particular, SDG 2, "Zero hunger", SDG 3 "Good health and well-being", SDG 12 "Responsible consumption and production", SDG 13 "Climate action" and SDG 14 "Life below water".

Call on the OACPS Secretariat to work with development partners to provide guidelines on market-based mechanisms that incentivise aquaculture and mariculture activities, including seaweed farming.

Express concern about the increasing invasive species from aquaculture systems and shared aquatic ecosystems and acknowledged the need for support, research and improved management and control of invasive and exotic species, including in transboundary waters.

ON COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Recognise that IUU fishing is one of the main threats to the Ocean and inland freshwater ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal, lacustrine and riparian communities, and has disastrous impacts on fisheries resources, marine habitats, and the socio-economic development of coastal communities and countries.

Recognise that there are other forms of illicit activities associated with IUU fishing, such as drug, human and small arms trafficking, illicit oil bunkering, trade-in contraband goods, document fraud, and money laundering, which use fishing as a cover that requires a comprehensive approach.

Reaffirm the commitment to end IUU fishing as enshrined in SDG 14.6 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Note that the EU Fisheries Control Framework is introducing, amongst other measures, the CATCH - a fully digital and paperless system of checks and

verifications of catch certificates for fishery products entering the EU market, which will be mandatory for EU operators, effective 10th January 2026.

Reiterate the call for structured dialogue with the European Union and other relevant entities concerning IUU fishing, especially regarding the implementation of the EU fisheries control measures catch certificate and the pre-identification process.

Welcome the increased level of support for the implementation and enforcement of international instruments to combat IUU fishing and **encourage** additional efforts, including implementing appropriate local solutions to curb IUU fishing in shared inland water bodies.

Welcome the adoption of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and **encourage** OACPS countries to sign and ratify it in a timely manner.

Welcome the ongoing national, regional and global initiatives to implement measures to effectively combat IUU fishing and **encourage** member states and regions of the OACPS to further enhance cooperation and collaboration to enhance compliance and fight against IUU fishing.

Encourage the review of national legal frameworks and policies to align with regional and international requirements, and establish and enforce a system of deterrent sanctions for IUU fishing offences.

Call on development partners to support the ratification and implementation of international frameworks to combat IUU fishing, including through funding and capacity-building.

Strongly remind member states of their commitment to take measures to update and implement national legislation requiring reporting of ultimate beneficial owners of fishing vessels and companies whenever flagging or granting authorisation to fish, and maintain a register of beneficial owners of fishing vessels at the national, regional and international levels.

Strongly urge development partners to support effective monitoring, control, and surveillance measures to combat IUU fishing and other illicit activities related to IUU fishing and encourage the exchange of information.

Encourage genuine and durable partnerships with relevant actors to ensure effective controls of the imports and exports of seafood to guarantee legality, thereby ensuring fully traceable and transparent seafood supply chains.

ON IMPROVING FISHERIES GOVERNANCE.

Commit to promoting effective fisheries governance with empowered and strengthened community, national and regional institutions that promote compliance with management measures to achieve management objectives.

Underline the importance of co-management institutional arrangements built on trust and shared responsibility with empowered and legitimate community institutions as essential for successful fisheries governance outcomes.

Reaffirm the commitment to enhance regional and international cooperation and partnerships, including in relevant fisheries management organisations, to promote the sustainable management of fisheries, effective conservation of marine ecosystems, and to promote best practices.

Recognise the importance of stakeholder engagement in fisheries and aquaculture management and commit to establishing an inclusive fisheries and aquaculture governance framework, taking into account the specificities of the small-scale producers.

Call on partners to provide capacity-enhancing initiatives to strengthen fisheries governance institutions, invest in research and development, engage in technology transfer, provide technical support and direct investments in strengthening fisheries data and information systems, enhance and strengthen regional and intra-regional cooperation and collaboration, to improve fisheries governance outcomes in the member states and regions of the OACPS countries, taking into consideration the financial and human resources requirements.

Recognise the importance of transparency and multi-stakeholder collaboration for responsible fisheries management as a concrete benefit and contribution to building resilience and sustainability of the fisheries sector at local, national and regional levels.

Recognise the importance of integrating socio-cultural nuances that define our communities, by ensuring that traditional knowledge, local practices and the unique cultural heritage of small-scale fishers are valued and preserved.

Emphasise and strengthen the multi-stakeholder approach and initiatives, consistent with SDG 17.16, for improved fisheries governance through a collective partnership of

governments, businesses, civil society, international partners, and financial and technical assistance providers.

Call upon the relevant OACPS member states to enhance the transparency of national fisheries management information, drawing from the lessons learned and successful experiences of other OACPS member states through voluntary initiatives, such as the internationally recognised framework of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

Commend Cabo Verde, Madagascar, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles for their exemplary leadership in increasing transparency and stakeholder collaboration in fisheries management, and **acknowledge** efforts by Comoros, Ghana and Guinea for their commitments towards enhancing transparency in fisheries management.

Reiterate our call on development partners to support local and national actions to strengthen and facilitate enhanced transparency in fisheries governance.

Welcome the assistance of development partners in supporting national efforts to enhance the accessibility, credibility and usability of national fisheries management information within and between OACPS member states.

Further welcome assistance provided by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Ireland to FiTI, to support voluntary initiatives of OACPS member states to enhance transparency in fisheries management.

Stress the importance of raising the awareness of applicable laws and policies by simplifying and translating fisheries and aquaculture legislations and frameworks into workable language to promote better understanding by all stakeholders.

ON THE AGREEMENT ON MARINE BIODIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (BBNJ)

Welcome the finalised and adopted Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which opened for signature and ratification in September 2023.

Note the BBNJ Agreement is crucial for the attainment of ocean-related global goals and targets, such as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, SDG 14, "Life below water", and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its Target 3, to effectively conserve and manage at least 30% of marine and coastal areas through a system of protected areas by 2030.

Note that the BBNJ Agreement is open for signature and ratification by all UN member states and regional economic integration organisations and **encourage** member states to swiftly ratify the Agreement.

Encourage relevant stakeholders to take immediate steps to raise awareness at the national, regional, and intra-regional levels, and promote an improved and better understanding of the BBNJ Agreement to enhance its acceptance and ratification.

Call on partners to provide capacity-enhancing actions to facilitate early ratification, including through legal, policy and institutional framework assessments, and awareness raising.

Welcome the support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to allocate \$34 million in dedicated funding for activities towards the ratification and implementation readiness of the BBNJ Agreement, and **call** on GEF implementing agencies to urgently support member States of the OACPS in this regard.

Welcome the support of the European Union to the interim Secretariat of the BBNJ to enhance OACPS member states capacities to implement ocean governance frameworks, with an emphasis on processes related to BBNJ and other related ocean governance instruments, as well as its intention to provide further support through the proposed Global Ocean Governance Programme.

Underline the critical role of capacity building and the transfer of marine technology for equitable use and conservation of biological diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), and the successful implementation of the BBNJ Agreement for the majority of member states of the OACPS, particularly small island developing states (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs) and land-locked developing countries (LLDCs).

Call on partners to support member states in assessing national, regional and intra-regional capacity building and technology transfer opportunities and assist efforts to secure the much-needed means, including targeted financial support, as early as possible.

Call on partners to facilitate the effective participation of member states of the OACPS in the BBNJ preparatory meetings in April and August 2025, and to replenish the special funds under UNCLOS for developing countries.

ON IMPLEMENTING RELEVANT FISHERIES-RELATED CITES DECISIONS

Highlight the significance of fish and fishery products exports in the foreign earnings of member states and **express concern** about the increasing listing of commercially exploited aquatic species on the CITES Appendices, which has an impact on OACPS member states' aspirations to achieve sustainable development.

Note the outcomes of CITES COP 19, held in Panama in November 2022, which listed 47 requiem shark species, 6 Hammerhead sharks, 37 species of rays, and three species of sea cucumbers in CITES Appendix II.

Express grave concern that listing commercially exploited aquatic species on the CITES Appendices compounds the existing capacity challenges of mandated institutions in establishing coherent and appropriate regulatory, monitoring and enforcement measures to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of the species and associated ecosystems.

Encourage the establishment of national mechanisms to promote effective cooperation and coordination between sectoral agencies, which are necessary to support national focal points and designated management authorities to deliver on the national CITES obligations in coordination and collaboration with other mandated national institutions and existing national legislation and policy for commercially exploited and managed CITES-listed aquatic species.

Call on partners to provide adequate support to address the financial and capacity needs of mandated national institutions, to effectively comply with the obligations related to aquatic species on CITES Appendices, including establishing robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Call on partners to provide adequate funding to facilitate the effective participation of OACPS countries in the CITES meetings, including relevant sector authorities such as forestry and fisheries representatives.

Urge that all new amendments to the CITES Appendices be based on the best available science through an inclusive consultative dialogue between the national environment, and fisheries management and forestry sectors of member states of the OACPS, including the dependent communities and fisheries management organisations.

Promote inclusive implementation of CITES regulations, including enforcement of CITES regulations, which must take into account the often complex artisanal and industrial fisheries value chains and seek to minimise impacts on the livelihoods of vulnerable coastal communities that depend on listed fish species for food and income.

Encourage awareness raising and involvement of the fisheries practitioners, local communities, fishers, and other stakeholders on the legal implications of the CITES regime to the fisheries sector, and promote collaborative and innovative arrangements to implement CITES holistically.

ON THE WTO ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AND UPDATES ON THE ONGOING MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

Reaffirm SDG 14 (Life below water) Target 14.6 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain

from introducing new such subsidies, recognising that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations.

Note and welcome the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies granted to (i) Vessels or operators engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing; (ii) Fishing or fishing-related activities regarding stocks that are overfished; and (iii) Fishing or fishing related activities on the unregulated high seas.

Recognise the 23 member states of the OACPS that have ratified the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and **encourage** the remaining member states to swiftly ratify the Agreement so it comes into force, to deliver for people and the planet and unlock the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism necessary for its implementation.

Emphasise that special and differential treatment should be effective and appropriate in line with the WTO mandate to provide policy space for OACPS countries to sustainably develop their fisheries and promote the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 14.6.

Recognise and commend the efforts and important work of the OACPS Geneva-based Ambassadors and negotiators to advance and secure a negotiated outcome that reflects the interests of OACPS members in the ongoing negotiations for a comprehensive Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, including through further disciplines on certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.

ON THE 2025 UN OCEAN CONFERENCE

Note that the 3rd UN Ocean Conference will be hosted jointly by France and Costa Rica and will be held in Nice, France, from 9-13 June 2025, focussing on "Accelerating action and mobilising all actors to conserve and sustainably use the Ocean".

Note the invitation by the co-Hosts to member states of the OACPS to join the "100% Alliance" as a commitment to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction so that by 2030, all ocean areas under national jurisdiction are sustainably used and conserved.

Encourage the use of the Outcome declaration of the 8th Meeting of OACPS Ministers responsible for Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries as OACPS' key advocacy and engagement tool on the issues relevant to the 3rd UN Ocean Conference and at other UN-related meetings.

Encourage the OACPS and its member states to actively participate in the preparations toward and at the 3rd UN Ocean Conference, by taking a leadership role in the 10 (ten) Ocean Action Panels, to ensure concrete outcomes that reflect their priorities.

Highlight and raise awareness, during the 3rd UN Ocean Conference, of the challenges faced by the member states and regions of the OACPS, especially the SIDS, regarding capacity building, financing and the specificities of their fisheries and aquaculture sectors to implement SDG 14 (Life below water), as well as to ratify and implement relevant, related multilateral ocean governance agreements.

ON THE OCEAN-CLIMATE NEXUS

Express grave concern about the visible and growing impacts of climate change on the oceans and inland waters of OACPS countries, such as rising Ocean and sea-water temperatures, acidification, rising sea levels, shifts in the abundance and distribution of aquatic species, including fish, and a decrease in marine biodiversity, noting the Ocean's ability to adapt to climate change depends heavily on its ability to build-up and build-back its resilience.

Note the Climate Change 2023 - Synthesis Report (IPCC, 2023) and its recommendations to take urgent integrated climate actions for scaled-up mitigation measures, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to take urgent actions to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Encourage strong partnerships and cooperation at the global and regional levels to tackle climate change and its adverse effects, especially on the Ocean and fisheries, recognising the specific needs and special circumstances of LDCs, SIDS and African countries in addressing its impacts.

Call on partners to take into consideration the vulnerabilities of member states of the OACPS towards the adverse effects of climate change and provide necessary support and capacity-building and technology transfer, to put in place adaptation and mitigation measures.

Call for sustainable funding and technical support for grassroots, responsive and innovative interventions for climate-smart fishing and aquaculture and to strengthen tailored insurance schemes and financial literacy capacities of our vulnerable fisherfolk, including women, youth, and Indigenous people, to increase the adaptive capacity of people and their livelihoods.

Encourage plans and programs to increase the economic empowerment of small-scale fisheries, including capacity building in financial literacy aimed at bolstering financial resilience and social protection to reduce threats to vulnerabilities, including climate change.

Note the considerable efforts of OACPS members in promoting locally context-specific solutions to address climate change impacts and **request** the OACPS to establish a platform for knowledge sharing, providing relevant tailor-made solutions for member states.

Highlight the benefits of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and the restoration of marine ecosystems as critical in contributing to reaching international climate objectives, such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Emphasise the adverse effects of climate change on the Ocean, fisheries and other blue economy sectors, and highlight OACPS members' increasing vulnerabilities to climate change at the UNFCCC COP 29 that will take place in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 11- 22 November 2024.

Call on partners to support the advancement of energy-efficient practices within the fisheries sector, particularly through adopting sustainable technologies and systems that reduce dependency on vulnerable fuel supplies. These efforts should focus on innovative solutions that decrease fuel consumption, enhance vessel efficiency, and promote alternative energy sources, ensuring the sector's resilience against fluctuating fuel availability and prices while contributing to environmental sustainability.

Reaffirm the critical importance of the ICJ advisory proceedings for advancing the interests of OACPS member states in the global climate justice discourse.

Commend the strong participation of OACPS members in the written phase and encourage even greater engagement in the upcoming oral proceedings.

Strongly urge a strong and coordinated OACPS presence at the public hearings, starting 2nd December 2024, to present a unified-front and maximise the impact of member states' arguments and testimonies.

Establish an OACPS Climate Justice and Ecosystem Protection Task Force to coordinate member states' contributions to the ICJ proceedings, ensure continued alignment of positions, and develop strategies for leveraging the advisory opinion in future climate negotiations.

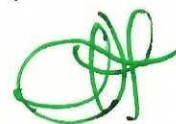
Urge member states to compile and share robust scientific evidence and case studies demonstrating the severe impacts of climate change on their territories, economies, peoples, and ecosystems.

Emphasise the need for increased financial and technical support to ensure the effective participation of all OACPS member states in the oral proceedings and subsequent climate justice initiatives.

Encourage greater participation of OACPS member States in the ICJ advisory proceedings on the right to strike, recognising its relevance to just transition policies for climate-affected sectors such as fisheries and other blue economy sectors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commends the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for its strong and exemplary leadership for successfully hosting the 8th Meeting of OACPS Ministers responsible for Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries.



Done in DAR ES SALAAM on 11th SEPTEMBER 2024 in English.

Honourable Abdallah Hamis Ulega

Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, United Republic of Tanzania, and

Chair, 8th Meeting of OACPS Ministers responsible for Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries

