

ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCE MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND THE SEA OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, DR. VICTORIA DE BARROS NETO.

HIGH-LEVEL GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE BLUE ECONOMY AND THE  
GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2030

NAIROBI, KENYA, 26-28, NOVEMBER 2018

EXCELLENCY MR. PRESIDENT

MINISTERS

DIPLOMATIC CORPS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

On behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Angola, João Gonçalves Lourenço and the delegation accompanying me, I would like to thank His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, for his invitation to participate in this great event and I would like to extend as well our cordial greetings to all the delegations present here.

As is well known, the oceans play an important role in meeting the world's need for nutrition, contributing to the economic and social development of the populations. If we look at global population growth, the challenge in the coming years will be to feed nine billion people by 2050 in the face of climate change, economic and financial uncertainties and increasing competition for access to and use of natural resources.

MR. PRESIDENT,

The health of the oceans, their conservation and the sustainability of their resources depend on a multiple, inclusive, integrated and global approach in which the various stakeholders must create synergies and demonstrate territorial competitiveness in order to establish a balance between exploration and conservation.

This great event is of the utmost importance for raising international awareness of the sustainable use of the seas and oceans, which requires instruments and actions integrated in the concept of the Blue Economy, based on fundamental premises such as prevention, reduction, reuse, recovery and the recycling of materials and energies.

With the implementation of these premises it is possible to diversify the economy with the generation of more jobs, creating social welfare for the present and the future generation.

MR. PRESIDENT,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Angola has a vast ocean with a potential still underexploited but that contributes approximately 60% to the National Gross Domestic Product, of which about 40% comes from the oil industry. Apart from the oil and gas industry, the fishing industry and maritime transport are other activities that have a significant impact on the national economy.

In view of the sharp decrease in the price of Oil and the strong dependence of the country on this product, the Angolan Government established as a strategy the "Promotion and Diversification of the National Economic Structure" and the development of the Blue Economy should be part of this process. Under this path, conditions are being created for better coordination of all activities at sea and in the oceans in order to ensure their sustainable use and exploitation, including increased awareness and inclusion of the private sector operating in these areas.

Areas such as mariculture, construction, naval maintenance, tourism, nautical sports, the development of renewable energies, the exploitation of minerals the biological resources of the seabed and the development of marine sciences and technologies should be encouraged and should foster the emergence of sustainable business

Angola is developing the National Strategy for the Sea, which will aim to identify programs and projects that improve the knowledge of the sea and its ecosystems in a way that allows for sustainable exploitation and preservation in accordance with the objectives of Agenda 2030, for Sustainable Development, "focusing on objective 14 which addresses

issues related to the sustainable protection, conservation and use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and defines national priorities.

The increase in knowledge of the sea is based on the formation of specialized cadres and Scientific Research, and it is in this context that Angola is investing in adequate infrastructures such as the Academy of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and the acquisition of an Oceanographic Research vessel, which will allow the establishment of time series of data, the results of which will serve as a basis for the management of marine resources, pollution assessment and the definition of Marine Protected Areas as tools for the recovery of species and ecosystems.

#### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

The development of the Blue Economy increasingly presupposes the need for the establishment of maritime surveillance and safety systems to mitigate or eliminate the illicit acts taking place in our seas in particular on the African continent where drug and human smuggling, unreported, unregulated and illegal Fishing, piracy, among other wrongdoing are felt more heavily. In this area, the international community should step up efforts to find effective and efficient global solutions.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the Government of Kenya and to the organization of the Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy and to reaffirm Angola's commitment to the Blue Economy as an instrument for the socio-economic and cultural development of our countries.

Thank you very much!