

KENYA'S OPENING REMARKS ON 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 AT THE 67TH INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION MEETING IN FLORIANOPOLIS, BRAZIL. BY PROF. MICHENI JAPHET NTIBA THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY STATE DEPARTMENT FOR FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND BLUE ECONOMY/ COMMISSIONER TO IWC

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished Commissioners,

Kenya takes this early opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of Brazil for hosting this 67th Session of the Commission in this beautiful city of Florianopolis. We also acknowledge the work of the Chair and that of the Secretariat of the Commission in arranging for this meeting. Kenya wishes to note with appreciation the work of the Scientific Committee and several other Sub Committees during the inter-Session that will, undoubtedly, enrich the discussions in this meeting.

Kenya is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and therefore promotes the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations. Kenya is aware that the threats to the aquatic ecosystem and the living resources is great ranging from climate change, plastic waste, pollution, and fishing gear entanglements. This calls for multi-agency, multi-stakeholder approach to addressing these issues. To ensure sustainability, the Government has put in place mechanisms that will ensure that the aquatic resources are sustainably utilized for food and nutrition security, wealth generation and employment opportunity creation as stipulated the Blue Economy pillar of the Medium Term Plan III of Kenya's Vision 2030 long Term Development Plan.

Kenya is aware that many countries have embraced development of Blue Economy in their longer-Term Development Plans. To raise awareness on the importance of balancing development with the sustainability of the aquatic living and non-living marine resources as well as to strengthen Government commitment, Kenya will be hosting the "Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference" from the 26th-28th November, 2018 in Nairobi. Kenya wishes to invite Member Countries of the Commission to this Conference in Nairobi. Canada is cohosting this important Meeting with Kenya as a build up to The UN SDG14 Conference to be held in 2020 at Lisbon and cohosted by Portugal and Kenya. Those willing to register during the week can register and get their invitation letters from the Kenyan Commissioner of WC during this Session.

As you all are aware, Kenya will also be hosting the next Scientific Committee Meeting of WC in May, 2019 at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. Kenya takes the Scientific Committee as a very important Organ of the Commission toward the overall Management and Conservation of whales and other aquatic Resources and the environment that these resources live. Simply put the Scientific Committee is more like the "eyes" of the Commission and requires all the support to undertake the core mandates.

I take this opportunity to assure you all that Kenya is working very closely with the Secretariat to ensure a very successful, enjoyable and productive meeting in Nairobi next year. We are waiting to welcome you members of the Scientific Committee to this meeting.

The important thing to note about a meeting in Nairobi, especially about these two meetings, is that Nairobi is the Only City with a National Park within the City. This makes it enjoyable to mix work and leisure if the Chair of the meeting will allow.