

**The United Republic of Tanzania Opening Statement during the IWC67  
Plenary Meeting held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

The government of Tanzania wishes to express its appreciation to the Government of Brazil for hosting this 67<sup>th</sup> meeting of IWC and for the hospitality and cooperation we are receiving. We also extend our sincere thanks to the IWC Chairman, Secretariat and Bureau for their preparation and organization of this important meeting.

Tanzania's Indian Ocean is home to one of the least known populations of Humpback Whales and is a great place to go whale watching. These Whales which can grow up to 14 metres long and weigh a whopping 40 tonnes are found near Zanzibar and around the coast of Mafia Island on their migration route between August and the end of October each year.

The most breath-taking moments with these whales is watching them breach, throwing themselves out of the water with a tremendous splash. They also slap their fins and tails in a playful manner putting on a superb show. Therefore, the country benefits greatly from tourists visiting the whale-watching through more than 40 Tanzanian whale watching boats operating in the Indian Ocean.

Because of these benefits, The United Republic of Tanzania considers and recommends on conservation and management measures for Sustainable use of aquatic living resources which is the essential principle contributing to food security, job opportunity, income and livelihood of people all over the world including Tanzania. However, to achieve sustainable use of aquatic living resources, proper conservation and management should base on scientific evidence.

In view of this, The United Republic of Tanzania's position in this meeting is to support initiatives "way forward of the IWC on the sustainable use of whales basing on scientific information as availed by scientific committee of the IWC". In addition, The United Republic of Tanzania supports the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW), issues related to governance reform as well as Food Security.

The government of Tanzania wishes fruitful outcome from this meeting to all delegate members in terms of conservation and management measures for Sustainable use of aquatic living resources including Whales.

Thank you.