

## **Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- Blue transformation is a vital agenda in the OACPS. Its transformation needs to cut across **production, management, trade and consumptions**.
- It needs to be **inclusive, equitable and sustainable**.
- The transformation is urgently needed given the fact that fishing is a vital source of **food and nutritional security, employment exports trade and livelihoods of our people**
  - ✓ ACP countries export as much as US Dollars 5.3 billion annually in fisheries products,
  - ✓ In some of ACP countries, fisheries products make up half the total value of traded commodities.
  - ✓ In some ACP countries, fisheries contribute 10% of GNP and 25 to 40% of budget revenue and 15% of the national employment,

## **Challenges limiting unleashing the potential**

- Overfishing and IUU
  - ✓ In West Africa alone, more than €1 billion is lost each year due to overfishing
  - ✓ in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, IUU claims at least €470 million annually,
- Production challenges and market access.
- Effects of Climate change and Environmental issues
- Mismatch between growing demand vs production level
- Policy issues, institutional constraints, technology limitation and low value addition.
- There are also issues of inclusiveness of private sector, local community, youth, women towards sustainability and resilience.

## **Actions taken and what needs to be done further**

### **At Tanzania National Level**

- Blue transformation has been adopted as a **government priority where a number of policies and legal instruments have been formulated with an increasing of almost six-fold budget allocation in the past four years**
- Investment in fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure
- Strengthening research, extension and training to build skills and capacity
- Building International collaborations; Thanks for our partners who have supported us on this ongoing transformation process including EU who have given us financial support for blue economy, FAO, other partners
- We call for more partners to work with Tanzania

## **OACPS level**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

- Blue transformation requires partnership and collective actions regionally and globally. At the OACPS level, we have formed a Ministerial Mechanism on Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries.
- We have adopted a **strategic plan** from 2021 to 2030 and its Three Year's Prioritised Agenda of Action from 2023-2025.
- We have also established a Food Systems Transformation Mechanism as a collaborative food governance arrangement for both green and blue foods.
- We thank our partners for sailing with us in this transformation process. Thanks for the projects like Fish4ACP financed by EU and implemented by OACPS in collaboration with FAO.

### **Forthcoming OACPS Ministerial Meeting**

- Tanzania is going to host the OACPS Ministerial Conference on Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries next year. I invite all our partners to include this meeting in your important agenda of which the dates will be communicated to you soon.
- I believe we all prefer fish in our menu, so let us join hands in transforming the aquatic food systems.

I thank you