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