

HIGH LEVEL STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY (FISHFORCE)  
SPEECH BY NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR  
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DAR ES SALAAM

- Habari za Asubuhi
- I am honored and pleased to be invited to this meeting on a subject that Norway attaches great importance to.
- What has the **blue economy** meant for Norway?
- **Norway is a fishing nation.** For more than a thousand years, Norwegians have lived by the sea and relied on the resources from the sea for subsistence and income. We have a long experience of management of the fisheries sectors and would like to share this with others. The fishing industry has played a major role in our economic development. In 2017, Norway exported 2,5 metric tons of fish from deep-sea fishing and aquaculture to a value of more than 1 billion USD. Technological development, research and innovation are important for continued development in the fisheries sector in Norway. We continue to learn and we **continue to share this knowledge with other countries.**
- Norway has for many decades played a strong role in supporting international cooperation and multilateral organizations, like the UN. As a small country, we rely on a ruled based international order. We believe in the **rule of law, in accountability, transparency, and the protection of Human rights.** Therefore, we work closely with organizations like FAO, UNODC and Interpol.
- We also support **regional cooperation**, particular in Africa. In 2015, Norway signed an MOU with AU on closer cooperation in three fields; peace and security, human rights and good governance and sustainable development, including the blue economy based on the AU's Agenda 2063. AU Chairperson at that time, Madame Dlamini Zuma, was a champion in promoting blue economy. So far, Africa as a continent, although surrounded by oceans, has not been utilizing the full potential of its marine and maritime resources. In order to succeed in achieving the SDGs and provide new jobs for growing populations, this had to change. One of the challenges that has been highlighted in many discussions on how to promote the blue economy is the **need to fight illegal fishing and fisheries crime.**

Ladies and men,

- **Fisheries crime**, or "multicrimes" affecting the fisheries sector, range from illegal capture of fish to human trafficking and forced labor, fraud, forgery, corruption, money laundering and

tax and customs evasion. These crimes pose a challenge to fisheries law enforcement agencies in developing countries across the world.

- Many developing countries are unable to effectively enforce fisheries laws and are therefore unable to manage their coastal zones. The result is fish stocks in sharp decline, instability, food insecurity, and the loss of livelihoods and state revenue.
- This is some of the background for Norway's cooperation with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa.
- Norway is proud to support the **Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy (Fish FORCE)** in South Africa since 2016.
- The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy is a unique institution not only in South Africa, but also in the wider region. It is helping to **build fisheries law enforcement capacity in developing countries to meet emerging threats and build adequate and resilient law enforcement responses**. The aim of our support to the Academy has been to establish a 'FISHFORCE' that can handle the increasingly complex **investigations and prosecutions** of fisheries crime throughout Africa and the world.
- Fisheries crime law enforcement requires traditional policing methods and tools, but these must be adapted to the specific circumstances affecting the fisheries sector and the political context in each country. It is a **cross-disciplinary field**, and includes aspects related to law, criminology, police science, but also fisheries management and conservation. The aim is to achieve knowledge and intelligence led investigations and prosecutions of criminals engaged in fisheries crime.
- A cornerstone of the Fish FORCE initiative is to facilitate **research, training and innovation** in the field of fisheries crime law enforcement. The training is cutting edge and evidence based, giving fisheries law enforcement officers the advantage of the most updated information, techniques and tools available.
- (Therefore, Fish FORCE is employing a number of research associates and students at Masters and PhD level to carry out research projects in the fisheries crime and fisheries law enforcement field. These research projects will be multi-disciplinary and include law enforcement gap analysis and evaluation, as well as a focus on the development of national and international law and policies.)
- The Fish FORCE Law Enforcement Academy is an exciting example of how research and training can lead to real world results that potentially will improve the lives of millions of people.
- (One aspect of fisheries crime that many people may not be aware of concerns **port security**. Ports are actively used by organised crime in a way, which also involves threats to marine living resources. Ports are without doubt key points of entry and exit for commodities associated with fisheries crime e.g. the export of marine living resources and the import of drugs and firearms, including other aspects such as human trafficking.
- Port security officers are tasked with the control of goods entering and leaving harbors and they are on duty 24 hours per day. However, they are not trained to differentiate between species and to identify whether fisheries products that are leaving the country are illegal or

not. They are also not trained to detect tampering (and possible smuggling) with vehicles and containers or to identify illicit substances such as drugs that are often associated with the poaching of marine living resources.

- Norway is proud to support Fish FORCE in these efforts! The training of port security officers is a means towards reducing the fishery crime problem by increasing detection capabilities. It is a way of stopping a gap in the way we fight fisheries crime.)

Ladies and men,

- The challenges related to fisheries crime are growing and no country can succeed on its own. That is why international awareness and international and regional cooperation is needed. Norway has taken a lead in issues related to the Oceans. In 2018, our Prime Minister initiated the **High Level Panel for a sustainable Ocean Economy** in order to bring world leaders together to discuss how to ensure healthy Oceans where economic production and Ocean protection are mutually supportive. This year, our Foreign Minister has invited several of the countries present today to participate in the sixth **Our Ocean Conference in Oslo 23-24** October. The aim is to put oceans on the foreign policy agenda, and create a platform where leaders from government, business and civil society meet on an equal footing to promote action and innovation for clean, healthy and productive oceans.
- The Oslo conference will highlight the importance of knowledge as the basis of our actions and policies to ensure sustainable future economic growth. We will emphasize integrated management of sea and coastal areas as the key to protection and sustainable use of the oceans.
- Key issues at the conference will be action to meet the main challenges facing the oceans – **climate change, over-fishing and marine pollution**. The conference will also look at how we use the resources in the ocean, in particular how we can build a food value chain that delivers from healthy oceans to healthy people, and how we can shape a sustainable ocean economy for the future. Finally, we would like to inspire discussion on how to **address the implementation gap on ocean governance and management**.

Finally,

- Norway is supporting the Fish FORCE Law Enforcement Academy because Norway seeks to be at the forefront of international efforts to promote sustainable use of our oceans and to ensure that we have **clean and healthy oceans and to support the blue economy** in developing countries. Fighting fisheries crime is one component towards achieving this!

Asenteni Sana!