

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR,
H.E. DR. ALI MOHAMED SHEIN, AT THE LAUNCHING
OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN COASTAL CHALLENGE
(WOICC) AT APIA, SAMOA, 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2014**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to acknowledge with great pleasure the invitation to attend the launching of Western Indian Coastal Challenge. I accept this as an honour to my country, the United Republic of Tanzania. H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania is sending his best wishes.

I am pleased to inform you that the United Republic of Tanzania fully supports the objectives of this initiative to launch the WIOCC. We consider it as another important vessel for our countries in the promotion of sustainable development. Our challenges are identical and it is only proper that we combine efforts to address them.

I appreciate the fact that we are holding this event concurrent to the convening of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. It is clear that the international community now understands us. It is only appropriate that we, in the Small Islands groups, should stand together to make this assembly come up with firm foundation of genuine and durable partnership for us all. The WOICC is a suitable forum for us in this particular region to use. We thus give it our full support. I am encouraged by the participation of various stakeholders at this launching. It raises optimism for working together.

The WOICC in co-ordination with the other regional bodies, should articulate our programmes for sustainable development. At the same time, we must all accept that we have limited time to face the challenges of climate change. The sooner we start working on our action programmes the better for our salvation and prosperity.

I wish this meeting greater success.

Thank you for your attention.