



Remarks by Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Huyam Salih

**3RD AWARENESS ENHANCING WORKSHOP ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE
AND BLUE ECONOMY IN AFRICA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
07-09 April 2025, Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA**

- Representatives of the CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, Dr Ildephonse Musafiri
- Representative of the Government and People of South Africa, Belemane Semoli
- Representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- Permanent Secretaries/Representatives of Government Ministries;
- President of the South African chapter of AWFISHNET;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;
- All Protocols Duly Observed

I bring you a very warm greetings and complements from our Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Huyam Salih who could not be here with us in person due to other engagements. I am indeed very glad to make this opening statement on her behalf as she asked me to do so by expressing her profound gratitude to you for honouring our invitation to participate in the 3rd Session of this Awareness creation event for our continental call for increased investment and funding in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

It is important to emphasize the need to harness the potential of the fisheries, aquaculture and blue economy sectors to accelerate blue growth and development in the AU member states. However, low public investment in these sub-sectors have hindered the realization of the envision full potential.



Over the years, AU-IBAR has been implementing various initiatives that are aimed at sustainable development and management of the fisheries, aquaculture and blue economy sectors in Africa, including formulating and implementing fisheries and aquaculture strategies and policies. Recently the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and related policies are being articulated to drive the development of the sub-sector and there is high hope to gainfully popularize these initiatives.

It is imperative that member states commit significant resources and invest in developing and managing their fisheries, aquaculture and blue economy sectors. Hence, the purpose for this meeting is to raise awareness and visibility of the fisheries, aquaculture and blue economy sectors in order to leverage public financing in line with the Malabo Declaration for realisation of Agenda 2063.

I would therefore appreciate that you utilize this opportunity to take home some cardinal messages that will propagate the value of fisheries and aquaculture in your country to the extent that decision makers are collectively aware of the important contribution of sector, impact, visibility and attention it requires. This will hopefully generate deliberate and collective efforts for impactful resource mobilization towards sustainable development and profitable utilization of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Africa that will in turn guarantee the continents' food security, improved livelihood and wealth creating for our population and to realise the Africa we want.

I would like to thank our development partners here present, the RECs, RFBs RFMOs for their overwhelming partnership and collaboration that has always kept the momentum for this campaign growing so far. My special gratitude goes



to the European Union for their continuous and inspirational support particularly in funding the Fisheries Governance Projects that have brought all of us here together for a unifying effort to sustainably manage our endowed aquatic resource for Africa's benefit and growth.

I wish you successful deliberations that will dovetail to treasured outcomes.

Let's keep our flag flying high. Thank you, God Bless you, Asanteni Sana.