Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe that you have had fruitful deliberations through the last two days.

In this event whose theme is Pathways to Blue Economy I have been informed that the Private Sector, Government institutions and Civil society made presentations on the available opportunities for youth in the Blue Economy. You had frank deliberations on the strengths and weaknesses of the stakeholders involved and made clear recommendations on what young people can adopt to make careers in the sector.

This conference has highlighted sustainable jobs, innovation, entrepreneurship, competitive skills and careers in the blue economy. We want youth to understand that you have opportunities in the Blue Economy to improve your livelihoods and we need to seize the opportunities.

As you know, this conference is not just about discussions, but opportunities and commitments. Over the last two days you have been provided with a platform to strengthen partnership and open more opportunities in the Blue Economy.

I have received your Call to Action to create a Youth and the Blue Economy Taskforce, that will be delivering key outputs such as:

1. Creation of a Youth and Blue Economy Fund called “Youth Blue” – to support youth-led enterprises and startups.
2. Development of Youth and the Blue Economy policy guidelines, through a consultative process, and draw from the discussions held in the past two Youth and the Blue Economy conference,
3. Establishment of mechanisms for further engagement of the Blue Economy private sector to develop mechanisms in which they can be supported to hire youth.

My team together with Canadian High Commission, Youth Congress, Government of Kenya and indeed all of you will work together to establish this Taskforce and formulate a programme to address the areas highlighted. I remain optimistic that the programme will ably provide opportunities within the Blue Economy for the Youth to better their livelihoods.
I appreciate and thank all the stakeholders represented for your excellent presentations, and now the hard work begins, to make these recommendations into action.

Let me thank you, the participants for the active engagement. I’m told the participants are drawn from the coastal and lake sides of Kenya and across the continent. Youths as young as 18 years old are represented in the room, I salute YOU!

The Canadian High Commissioner H.E. Lisa Stadelbauer, thank you for your support that made this conference possible. I am aware you were here for the better part of yesterday and especially during the World Urban cafes where you visited all the 7 different working groups and shared your thoughts and insights. We count on you moving to the next phase.

Let me officially close Pathways to Blue Economy by wishing you all future prosperity.

ASANTENI SANA!