9. **Regional State of the Coast Report: What next** (By invitation)

**Convener:** The Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA

The Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) was launched on 22 June 2015 in the Seychelles. Based on the media coverage and the continued download of the report from the Nairobi Convention website, there is no doubt the report has and is continuing to attract attention from a range of stakeholders from within and outside the region.

This report is very timely as it gives its main target audience of policy-makers at national and regional levels, scientific community, civil society and general public, a comprehensive document that is based on a sound, scientific and knowledge based assessment on the status and value of resources of the Indian Ocean as well as the opportunities that exist therein, to assist them in decision making, awareness raising and producing materials for educational and research purposes.

The Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention acknowledged that the Report will inspire countries of the region in their pursuit to take more concrete actions towards turning their dreams of developing blue economy into reality. The meeting also urged the Contracting Parties to consider the findings of the Regional State of Coast Report for the Western Indian Ocean Region in their decision-making processes.

With intention of assisting countries achieve these two complimentary objectives and also ensure the main findings and recommendations of the report are more accessible to a wider audiences, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and WIOMSA are organizing a Special Session, “Regional State of the Coast Report: What next?”, to discuss on how to generate different products from the Report.

The Session will:

i) Identify key messages from the Report and how to package them

ii) Identify products to be produced, targeted audience, their contents and timeframe to produce them

iii) Define roles and responsibilities of participating authors.