Mombasa Declaration

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, 15 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific have *adopted the Mombasa Declaration.*

- **Mombasa declaration** – It urges governments to increase transparency by improving public access to information on fishing vessels, their ownership, and licensing.
- It also emphasizes enhanced data sharing among countries to better monitor fishing activities and enforce regulations effectively.
- Named after the Kenyan city of Mombasa, which hosted the 11th *Our Ocean Conference,*
- **Signatories** – Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, the Dominican Republic, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and South Korea.
- **Objective** – To tackle *Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing*, a major threat to marine biodiversity and the livelihoods of communities that depend on fisheries.
- **Other support** – The declaration also reinforces support for the *Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency*,

> ***Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency****, outlines ten policy principles aimed at improving fisheries governance through practical and cost-effective measures such as modernizing vessel registries and making fishing authorizations publicly available.*

Quick facts

Our Ocean Conference

• **Launched in** – 2014.
• **Launched by** – The *United States Department of State* under the leadership of former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.
• **2026 conference** – Held in Mombasa, marking the first time the summit took place on African soil.
• **Theme of 2026 conference** – "**Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future."**
• **Function** – It serves as a leading global platform that brings together governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions to advance ocean conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.
• **6 Priorities** – The conference focuses on six priority areas:
  - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
  - Sustainable Blue Economy
  - Climate Change
  - Maritime Security
  - Sustainable Fisheries
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  - Marine Pollution
• **Achievements** – Inspired more than 2,600 commitments worth over $160 billion, making it one of the most influential international forums for ocean sustainability.

Reference

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