

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words at this meeting about the need for global collaboration to address our common challenges.**

**Climate change has made us realize that we are all on the same planet and that we must face a global crisis together. We can only do this by building solidarity among people. This solidarity must be expressed at different levels, depending on the challenges.**

**One such challenge is the conservation of migratory waterbirds that travel between Europe and Africa twice a year, and whose populations are in decline. Indeed, they represent a common good - the conservation of which cannot be ensured without the close collaboration of all host countries. It requires the involvement of all the actors concerned, researchers, managers, communities, public authorities, civil societies, donors, each contributing to the interest of all.**

**This type of collaboration is a major objective of the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa (PRCM). We have been working for more than two decades to promote and strengthen collaboration among the countries of our sub-region and we are now working to establish more collaboration with other regions of the world.**

**The Partnership that I coordinate is a coalition of national and international actors committed to the conservation of the West African coast. It covers seven West African coastal countries, from Mauritania to Sierra Leone. Created in 2003, it now brings together more than 80 member organizations working at the local to regional level: national civil society, government institutions, local organizations, organizations active in research and education, the private sector, international NGOs and financial partners.**

**Beyond its symbolic significance on the nature of exchanges between Africa and Europe, the WSFI represents a model of virtuous cooperation that can serve as an example for all initiatives that require an international solidarity effort in the face of climate change and the global biodiversity crisis.**

**Thank you**

**Dr Ahmed SENHOURY,  
Executive Director of PRCM**

