

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY MRS. KATHERINE MUOKI, ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY, DURING THE WORKSHOP TO LAUNCH ACCELERATING THE PRIVATE SECTOR DECADE OF ACTION, DELIVERY AND RECOVERY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN KENYA ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021**

**United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr Stephen Jackson**

**UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Walid Badawi**

**Executive Director, UN Global Compact Ms. Judy Njino**

**KEPSA Chair, Ms Florah Mutahi**

**KEPSA CEO. Ms. Carole Karuga**

**KEPSA Sector Board Chair, Mr Hillary Onami**

**Vice Chair of Environment, Water and Natural Resources' Sector Board, Dr John Wandaka.**

**KEPSA Members in the respective sectors**

**Government officers present**

**Representative from Civil Society**

**All protocols observed**

1. I wish to welcome you to this important workshop that is jointly organized by the State Department for Planning, KEPSA and the UN.
2. As you are aware, the State Department for Planning coordinates the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3. To effectively domesticate the SDGs in Kenya, the State Department for Planning has an SDGs Coordination Directorate that is wholly dedicated to spearheading the SDGs process in the country.
4. The Directorate is supported by the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC) set up in 2016 and which draws its membership from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Council of Governors, KEPSA, , SDGs Kenya Forum, Parliamentary caucus on SDGs and Business, United Nations Country Teams, and the Academia.
5. The main mandate of this committee is to ensure that the SDGs are mainstreamed in development planning, to create awareness, spearhead the development of strategies for their implementation and track and report on progress among others.
6. It is a fact that no single sector will be able to deliver on the SDGs alone. Therefore, collective and individual efforts are required at the national and county levels by all stakeholders including the private sector, hence the multi-stakeholder approach where all the stakeholders are involved in the spirit of leaving no one behind.
7. The Government involvement of the private sector in the SDGs process is through KEPSA. In 2018, KEPSA was appointed as one of the co-chairs of the Inter Agency Technical Working Committee that coordinates the SDGs work. The other co-chairs are the State Department for Planning and SDGs Kenya Forum.
8. Through KEPSA, the private sector has contributed to the SDGs work specially in the preparation of the SDGs progress reports including the Voluntary National Reviews(VNRs)

9. The private sector being a key stakeholder and contributor in the achievement of the SDGs in Kenya, the Government is striving for its increased commitment in implementation , tracking and reporting of SDGs and hence the importance of this meeting.
  
10. Notably, the State Department for Planning in collaboration with KEPSA has been trying to hold this important forum since last year but due to unavoidable circumstances, it has not been possible. I am glad that this has finally come to fruition.
  
11. It is my expectation that the Private Sector will make a Resolution to accelerate integration and implementation of SDGs and building back better through their business strategies and models during the Decade of Action as well as increased participation in implementation, review, monitoring and reporting of SDGs in Kenya.
  
12. Finally, I would like to commend the three collaborating institutions; namely State Department for Planning, the UN and KEPSA for organising this forum. I would urge that such fora be held frequently given that the private sector is a key stakeholder in the SDGs process. I look forward to your constructive engagement in this forum.