



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING**

**REPORT ON THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS 2023 SESSION**

28TH JULY 2023

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MICs'	Middle-Income Countries
NUA	New Urban Agenda
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ST&I	Science, Technology and Innovation
UN	United Nations
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
VLRs	Voluntary Local Reviews
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VSR	Voluntary Sub-National Review

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1. Introduction

As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is mandated to carry out regular reviews of the 2030 Agenda in line with the General Assembly Resolution 67/290 of 9th July 2013.

The HLPF is held annually and this year's session was convened from **10th – 20th July 2023** and included a three-day ministerial segment from **17th - 19th July**, and the High-Level Segment (HLS) of the Council on **20th July, 2023**. The Forum was attended by more than 120 ministers and vice-ministers, governors and mayors from various sub-national governments around the world as well as other representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society.

The theme of the 2023 HLPF was *"Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels"*. The Forum discussions focused on the effective and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of the multiple crises and explored actionable policy recommendations for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to the 2023 HLPF sessions, several side events, special events, Voluntary National Review (VNR) Labs, and exhibitions took place.

The 2023 HLPF opened with general views on the state of efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda. In her opening remarks H.E Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC noted that the 2023 HLPF is special because it serves as the Pre-Summit to the SDGs Summit in September 2023. The President called on members states to build political momentum for the Summit, as well as identify key policy priorities to be addressed towards the SDGs recovery and acceleration.

United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Mr. Li Jinhua echoed the President sentiments, further emphasizing that according to the UN Secretary-General's SDGs progress report only 12 per cent of the SDGs targets are on-track, and some targets are regressing below the 2015 baseline. In addition, persistent challenges such as data gaps and limited financial resources still exist with limited innovative strategies and policies adopted to overcome the challenges.

In recognition of the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, the Forum saw in-depth reviews on SDGs 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and interlinkages with the other goals. During the Forum, 38 countries and the European Union (EU) presented their VNRs: two

(2) for the first time, 36 for the second time, and one (1) for the third time. The VNRs including their key messages can be accessed through: hlpf.un.org/2023/vnrs. The VNRs presentation sessions facilitated sharing of experiences, including success stories, challenges and lessons learned.

2. In-depth Reviews of Goals

Five (5) SDGs were reviewed at the 2023 HLPF and their interlinkages with the other goals.

2.1 SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)

Progress towards achievement of SDG 6 is *"alarmingly off-track"*. The session speakers stressed on the need for strengthening greater transboundary cooperation on water, convening of more regular UN meetings on water and sanitation, UN system-wide water strategy and a process towards a UN Water Convention.

Many interventions highlighted new initiatives that tackle water scarcity as well as water-related natural disasters and foster greater transparency and accountability in water resources governance at all levels. Speakers further underlined the critical need for finance, technology transfer, capacity building, and other means of implementation of water related programmes.

Delegates lauded the UN 2023 Water Conference held in May, 2023 which produced a concrete action agenda, one-fourth of which could be considered "game changing". Member states were encouraged to take real action and not further postpone discussions on how to implement SDG 6.

2.2 SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)

Achieving SDG 7 by 2030 is *"an unprecedented challenge"* but still possible with scaled-up ambition and the right policies. The speakers noted disproportionate electrification between rural and urban areas and households across income-levels which calls for urgent interventions since energy is linked to achievement of two-thirds of the 169 SDGs targets. The session discussions focused on regional priorities, such as building green power infrastructure in Africa; greater renewables deployment in Europe; increased renewable-based power capacity in Latin America; funding for energy research in Western Asia; and increased investment in a just energy transition in Asia and the Pacific.

Delegates reported on national and regional efforts towards clean energy transition, with several focusing on the need for democratization and diversification of projects in the energy sector; creation of new jobs in the green energy sector; safeguards against greenwashing; promotion of energy efficiency and management of energy demand; and

adoption of innovative technologies and solutions such as green hydrogen, heat pumps and residual heat use, set to accelerate the transition.

2.3 SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)

For SDG 9 *"there is hope"* with progress on some targets such as mobile network access, but the implementation pace on other targets needs to be fast-tracked and more support for innovation and infrastructure is needed in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Innovation can be a "game changer" for many SDGs, and the far-reaching impact and roles of sustainable infrastructure, digital infrastructure and connectivity.

The session discussions highlighted among other issues: Fundamental structural challenges inhibiting SDG 9 achievement in many developing countries; need for green and sustainable industrial policies; development of technological and manufacturing capacities; reform of the current international frameworks to promote sustainable development; and focus on the potential role of partnerships in effectively closing gaps to achieving this Goal.

2.4 SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)

The discussions under SDG 11 noted that there is a growing urban divide, inadequate housing and only half of the world's urban population has access to public transport. The New Urban Agenda (NUA) offers a clear vision, targets and commitments, this has to be utilized with a focus on cities' growing leadership for combatting climate change and inclusion of migrants and local authorities must have a seat at the table.

In the subsequent discussions, delegates welcomed outcomes from the second session of the UN-HABITAT Assembly held in June 2023, Nairobi, Kenya, particularly the resolution on adequate housing for all, and continued support for the implementation of the NUA: unhabitat.org/governance/un-habitat-assembly/second-session-2023.

2.5 SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

While there has been advances in areas such as development aid, remittance flows, and access to technology, funding for development remains a major challenge, particularly in low-income countries. The discussion emphasized on the need for: Reform of multilateral financial institutions; secure additional pledges beyond the 100 million USD climate finance target; new ideas on how to stem "financial leakages" from developing countries and/or a "Marshall Plan for Africa"; investments in frontline communities; debt cancellation; exploring alternative funding options such as Islamic banking; and early warning and anticipatory action, social protection, and climate adaptation in fragile settings as examples of smart investments.

3. Ministerial Declaration

According to the President of ECOSOC, H.E Lachezara Stoeva, the world hunger has returned to 2005 levels, bridging gender inequality could take 300 years, and nearly 600 million people will still experience extreme poverty in 2030. This was echoed by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres who urged leaders to change course, describing the 2030 Agenda as the path “to bridge divides and rebuild trust”. He called for all nations to come to the SDG Summit with clear plans and pledges. The UN Secretary General noted that finance is the “fuel” to drive progress on SDGs and global financial and debt-relief architectures must be urgently reformed. The Secretary General’s SDGs Stimulus plan calls for unlocking 500 billion USD annually for developing countries.

H.E Csaba Kőrösi, President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) underscored the importance of spurring transformative change needed to realize the 2030 Agenda, including reducing negative externalities of SDGs investments, and urged participants at the SDGs Summit to be “courageous, ambitious and determined” in their promises.

Messages from United Nations Environment Assembly: The President of the sixth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), H.E Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco, noted that the world is at a critical and unique juncture, perhaps the last chance to recommit and accelerate action in time to realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs. She emphasized recovery from COVID-19 and rescuing the planet “are two sides” of the same coin. The President underscored the importance of improving the science-policy interface and engagement with the private sector. This calls for collaboration with UNEA to achieve the SDGs, noting “nothing is more powerful than everyone rowing together in the same direction.”

Messages from the Regions: According to the five (5) UN Regional Commissions, SDGs progress is off-track in all the regions. Therefore, there is need for accelerated implementation actions, and peace, stability and resilience for progress, with sustainable financing and transformative actions being essential driver for realization of the 2030 Agenda.

The messages from the five (5) regional forums on sustainable development were as follows:

- i. In Africa most countries are not on-track to achieving the SDGs by 2030 and therefore there is need for intensified transformative initiatives and increased resources for data related priorities;
- ii. Arab states emphasized on innovative strategies to support developing countries to sustainably manage debt and facilitate access to concessional credit and the need to address wasteful spending and corruption;
- iii. Asia-Pacific highlighted progress in the energy, food system, and urban development sectors, as well as efforts to strengthen social protection, and tackle rising indebtedness as quick wins towards the achievement of SDGs;

- iv. Europe highlighted regional commitments to, inter alia: Implement pledges made at the UN Water Conference; leverage digital solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy transition; and accelerate access to affordable housing; and
- v. Latin America and the Caribbean stressed on addressing growing drought and water stress, pollution and climate change; maintaining momentum on renewable energy; ensuring people-centered approaches to infrastructural development, industrialization, science and technology; and improving access to housing.

The Ministerial Declaration led to adoption of the draft report (E/HLPF/2023/L.1), while authorizing President of ECOSOC to finalize the report. The session called for: Unleashing of adequate financing, fight for true inclusivity, and pathways to more effective multilateralism.

4. Kenya's Participation at the Forum

Kenya's delegation to the 2023 HLPF comprised of representatives of National Government, County Governments, Council of Governors, Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) and, Permanent Missions to UN and UN-HABITAT (*List of delegation is attached as Annex I*). The Delegation participated in Forum sessions and side events as follows:

4.1 Week I: 10th – 16th July 2023

Monday, 10th July 2023

The Kenyan delegation participated in the opening session of the 2023 HLPF and three (3) other sessions/side events making the following interventions:

- a) HLPF Session on Overcoming the crises, driving transformation for the SDGs, and leaving no one behind*

H.E. FCPA Fernandes Barasa, Governor Kakamega County delivered a statement during the HLPF plenary session on *Overcoming the crises, driving transformation for the SDGs, and leaving no one behind*. In his statement, the Governor underscored proactive governments response to the emergence of COVID-19, Tripple Planetary Crises (*Climate change, Air Pollution & Biodiversity loss*) and other multi-faceted crises.

He highlighted the quick wins identified by the Government to accelerate the recovery and resilience to future shocks as: *Boosting Private Sector Productivity; strengthening ICT capacity; human capital development; policy, legislative, and institutional reforms; and strengthening both levels of Government preparedness and response to pandemics and disasters*.

The session speakers urged members states to focus on interventions on more efficient, resilient, inclusive and sustainable food production systems; placing children and young people at the heart of SDG efforts; risk-informed decisions that emphasize risk prevention

beyond disaster management; importance of country leadership in leveraging international partnerships; need to recognize the indivisibility of the SDGs in national and global responses; inclusion of refugees, the displaced, and other highly vulnerable groups to ensure that no one is left behind; and consider SDG data and data infrastructure as an investment rather than a burden.

b) HLPF Session on Science, technology and innovation: Triggering transformation and sustaining a science driven recovery

Hon. Innocent Mugabe, Member of Parliament, Likuyani Constituency delivered a statement during a panel discussion on *Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I): Triggering transformation and sustaining a science driven recovery*. In his statement, Hon. Mugabe noted that Kenya has identified ST&I as essential in implementing the SDGs adding that ST&I is key in addressing multifaceted challenges, fostering a sustainable and equitable future.

He indicated that Kenya made deliberate and transformative investments in support of ST&I. In June 2022 Kenya launched a ten-year ICT Digital Masterplan (2022-2032), in order to align with global technological advancements and enhance the rise of Kenya's digital economy. The masterplan identifies four (4) key pillars: Digital infrastructure; digital government services (Huduma centres); digital skills; and digital innovation, enterprise and digital business. In addition, Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) has identified development of Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy as one of the core thematic areas.

The session panelists and discussants called for: Development of ST&I for SDGs roadmaps; strengthen efforts to counter science skepticism; reorganization of ST&I infrastructure around major societal challenges; utilization of the possible contribution of nuclear power and neutron fusion energy to net-zero transitions; scientific collaboration at all levels in fostering peaceful and inclusive societies including private sector contribution to ST&I; and new technology-driven initiatives to connect youth globally and support their engagement in acceleration of SDGs implementation.

c) Side event on financing for sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems and food crises prevention and mitigation organized by FAO and Governments of Brazil and government of Pakistan

The session discussions focused on the need to improve agricultural productivity, build resilience and adaptive capacity of communities to shocks and disasters. In his intervention H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa noted that Kenya is strengthening value addition as a crucial pathway for climate change adaptation, bringing down producer level wastage, risk and enhancing overall value. Kenya has an agriculture growth strategy which has a strong focus on aggregation, commercialization and enhancing market

participation for farmers especially subsistence farmers, while boosting productivity through improved access to quality inputs and extension services.

The key message from the session was the need to improve market access and develop agriculture value chains for enhanced economic growth and employment creation particularly among the youth.

Tuesday, 11th July 2023

On day 2, the delegation coordinated the Kenya's side event and participated in other HLPF sessions including in-depth review of *SDG 6 and Screening of Water's Journey* - a documentary exploring the consequences of the loss of forests due to agricultural expansion to water resources, environment, and livelihoods in Taita Hills, Kenya and Discussion with Petri Pellinka among other sessions.

a) Kenya's Side Event on Localization of SDGs Amidst Multiple Crises

Kenya in collaboration with UNDP hosted a side event on localization of SDGs amidst multiple crises. The side event was officially opened by H.E. Amb. Martin Kimani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Kenya Mission to the UN and closed by Hon. Martha Wangari, Vice Chairperson, Kenya Parliamentary caucus on SDGs and Business.

The Event included a presentation on SDGs localization in Kenya by H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa, Governor Kakamega County and Chairperson of Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee at the Council of Governors and moderator-driven and interactive panel discussion moderated by Mr. John Olela, Director SDGs Coordination Directorate, State Department for Economic Planning. The session panelists included H.E. Patrick Ole Ntutu, Governor Narok County; Ms. Jaana Husu-Kalli, State Secretary for Agriculture, Government of Finland; Ms. Jennifer Slotin, Senior Director of Policy, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data; and Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Head of Urban Planning and Design, UN-HABITAT.

The Side event drew participants from various national governments, sub-national governments, Foreign Missions to the UN, UN Agencies, regional and global organizations and civil society organizations. The participants had a plenary session to raise questions and share inputs on the specific interventions made by panelists.

Towards attainment of effective SDGs localization, the Events speakers stressed on:

- i. Multi-stakeholder approach whereby Governments should play a pivotal role in creating an enabling environment through formulation of policies, provision of resources, and establishment of mechanisms for participatory decision-making;
- ii. The importance of data and evidence-based planning in the localization process which enhance effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of SDGs progress at the local level in addition to accountability and transparency in the SDGs process;

- iii. Strong linkages between local and global processes through ensuring that lessons learned, best practices, and innovative approaches from local contexts inform and inspire global policy dialogues and actions; and
- iv. A call to carry the momentum generated during the event forward, and seizing the opportunities to strengthen the role of sub-national governments in achieving the SDGs, with an aim of leaving no one behind and ensuring that the benefits of sustainable development reach the local communities.

The Opening and Closing Remarks are attached as part of *Annex II – National Statement and Various Interventions*.

b) HLPF Session on Transformation from the ground up: Acting at local level

The session discussions focused on the importance of local action in realization of the SDGs. It was noted that successful implementation of SDGs will happen in the context of local governments and that there is need for localization of SDGs and engagement of grassroots communities.

H.E Dr. Wilber Ottichilo in his intervention shared the Kenyan experience in localization of SDGs particularly the 'whole of society' and 'whole of government' approach adopted and the institutional framework for multistakeholder engagement.

The key message from the session was the need for engagement between the National Government, County Governments, private investors, civil society and the communities in implementation of SDGs

c) Side event on implementation of public policies for the 2030 agenda: Experiences of local and regional governments and the role of international organizations

The session facilitated sharing of experiences from various sub-national governments on how implementation of public policies has facilitated implementation of the 2030 Agenda. H.E. Hon. Dr. Paul Otuoma, was a panelist during the session and in his intervention, he noted that SDGs can only be realized with backing of a strong policy and legal framework. The session discussions also focused on the various approaches adopted by local and regional governments in implementation of SDGs and the challenges. The need for supportive sectoral policies was emphasized as well as the need for policies that promote equity and inclusivity in line with the SDGs principle of leaving no one behind.

The key message was that public policy should provide a framework for collaboration and synergy building among various actors and that the public policy should more than ever be reoriented to facilitate accelerated implementation of the SDGs.

Wednesday, 12th July 2023

The delegation participated in HLPF sessions *on SDGs 7 and 9 and their interlinkages with other SDGs*, as well as side events such as: *Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda; Towards the Summit of the Future - aligning Agenda 2030 to Agenda 2063; Delivering the SDGs in Cities and regions amid geopolitical uncertainty; Scaling Up to Phase Down - Solutions to Finance the Energy Transition in Developing Countries, organized by World Bank Group, Local 2030 Coalition; Culture as a Global Public Good - Towards a Culture Development Goal beyond 2030; and Public-private partnerships for regional sustainable development*. The delegation delivered the following statements:

- a) *The Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda - Dialogue 2 on Local public services to address inequalities, promote innovation and foster sustainability*

The local and regional governments forum was attended by Governors, Mayors and leaders of sub-national governments from across the Globe. The dialogue 2 session on Local public services to address inequalities, promote innovation and foster sustainability was chaired by H.E Dr. Wilber Ottichilo and enabled sub-national government leaders from different countries to share their experiences on the various initiatives they are undertaking to strengthen public service for enhanced service delivery.

Kenya's submission was made by H.E Patrick Ole Ntutu who noted that bringing service, decision-making and resources closer to the people is what local and regional governments are about. He further shared the experience from County Governments on performance management through performance contracting and on the Citizen's service delivery charters.

Key message from the session was the need to strengthen local multilateralism and multilateral localism. It was further emphasized that there is need to strengthen local and regional governments' capacities in data to support tracking and reporting as well as the need for national governments to provide additional resources to support SDGs implementation.

- b) *Side event on delivering the SDGs in cities and regions amid geopolitical uncertainty*

The session discussed the various coping mechanisms adopted by cities and regions from across the world to support delivery of SDGs despite the existing crises. Kenya was represented by H.E Dr. Paul Otuoma in the panel discussions. In his submission Dr. Otuoma noted that global crises have presented an opportunity to critically reassess, rethink and review the existing systems and structures for delivery of the SDGs in cities and regions. Establishing policies, institutions and safeguards that can effectively respond to and mitigate against such crises is vital. He added that cities and regional governments

are vital for the growth of the nation as frontiers for production and provision of investments. Cities and Regions therefore should be intentional in targeting the vulnerable groups while advancing the principle of leaving no one behind.

Key messages from the session included the need for cities and regional governments to transit from ambition to action, global financing for SDGs to have strong investment perspective, leverage opportunities for data and digital solution and capture global opportunities to tackle global priorities.

Thursday, 13th July 2023

On Thursday, the Kenyan delegation participated in HLPF sessions on: *introduction of the report on the 10-Year Framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns; SDG 11 and interlinkages with other SDGs; overcoming middle-income countries' challenges in advancing the 2030 Agenda; and African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries Turning the tide, regaining lost ground and embarking on the road to the SDGs.* In addition, the Team participated in side events on *Local and Regional Governments Day; Inclusive sustainable economic transformation; Country experiences of integrating policies and programmes; strengthening the Global Dialogue and cooperation towards the Global stock taking of SDGs 7 in 2024; and VSR-VRL days official launch* and delivered the following statements:

a) HLPF Session on SDG 11 and interlinkages with other SDGs

The session discussed issues on SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities. The discussions were based on the rapid urbanization and the need to accelerate the implementation of SDG 11 cities. Countries gave their interventions and the Kenya delegation was represented by Amb. Jean Kimani who emphasized the need for adequate housing for all. It was noted that SDG 11 is among the SDGs that are still lagging behind in implementation of its targets. It was also highlighted that the Government of Kenya has prioritized affordable housing as one of its key agenda with a view to eradicating slums and informal settlements through implementation of the Affordable Housing Programme.

It was underscored that the recently adopted resolution during the Second Session of the UN-HABITAT Assembly sponsored by Kenya was of great significance to fast-track the implementation of SDG 11 and this applied to all member states.

It was reported that Kenya is championing the Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor (BCRUP) through the Kenya Urban Resilience Programme that focuses on among other key areas, the establishment of economic stimulus projects. It was made very clear that sustainable cities are very much interlinked with climate change and there is need to align and implement the already adopted Multilateral Climate Agreements in-order to achieve the goals by 2030.

In conclusion the session emphasized on the need for local government to work in sync with the National Governments to ensure development of sustainable cities. It was also a common understanding during the end of the session that adequate housing goes way beyond a roof over our heads but also the need for good quality life.

b) Side Event on Local and Regional Governments Day

The session was attended by Governors, Mayors, and leaders of sub-national governments from around the world. The session discussed the role of local and regional governments in service delivery and implementation of SDGs.

The session was attended by H.E Dr. Wilber Ottichilo and H.E Patrick Ole Ntutu. In his submission H.E Dr. Wilber Ottichilo noted that Local and Regional Governments are responsible for bringing Service, decision-making and resources closer to the people. As such, realization of the SDGs will happen in the context of local and regional governments. Service oriented devolution presents Local and Regional governments with an opportunity to unlock economic potential and realize their development goals. He further shared the case of devolution in Kenya and how it is contributing towards implementation of the SDGs.

The key message from the session was the need for Sub-national governments to continually engage with national governments and advocate for increased resource allocation to turbocharge SDGs implementation.

c) Side Event on VSR-VRL days official launch, Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) Day

The session discussed the role of voluntary local Sb-national Reviews (VSRs) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in facilitating local policy dialogue and action to accelerate SDGs implementation.

Kenya was represented by H.E. Patrick Ole Ntutu, Governor Narok County. In his intervention H.E Ole Ntutu noted the critical role played by national association of sub-national governments such as the Council of Governors in coordinating the efforts of sub-national governments and in offering a collective and unified effort towards realization of SDGs.

The session highlighted the important role of VSR and VLRs in institutionalizing local commitments and promoting international accountability. It was also noted that a global movement is emerging on VLRs that needs to be supported and embraced by all stakeholders.

d) HLPF Session on overcoming middle-income countries' challenges in advancing the 2030 Agenda

Delegates held the first-ever HLPF session focusing on the challenges faced by middle-income countries' (MICs'), which often fall in a "trap" of no longer qualifying for concessional aid. The session panelists underscored that MICs' debt crisis has real human costs and causes socio-economic upheaval across borders. During the session H.E (Dr.) Wilber Ottichilo delivered a statement on Kenya's response to MICs' financial constraints.

At the mid-way point on our way to 2030, many MICs' are still burdened with unsustainable debts which reduces their ability to invest in SDGs. Poverty and hunger have worsened in many MICs', as income-earning opportunities at the national, household and individual levels, have been lost. This has led to widening of the **"middle-income trap"**.

The potential solutions to this trap include: intergovernmental process and the introduction of multidimensional poverty and vulnerability indices, in addition to gross domestic product (GDP), for better allocation of development financing; strengthening of the International Development Cooperation; development of fair-trade policies by developed countries and actualization of the UN Secretary General SDGs Stimulus. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) should develop graduation policies that are sequenced, gradual and phased to address challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of MICs'. Of importance is strengthening the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) which complements domestic resources and plays a catalytic role in the resource mobilization.

Friday, 14th July 2023

The delegation participated in HLPF sessions on: *perspectives from major groups and other stakeholders at the mid-point of the SDGs - Towards inclusive transformation; presentation of VNRs from 9 countries; side events on rescuing SDG 11 for a resilient urban planet; integrating South-South and Triangular Cooperation in VNRs to Support acceleration of the SDGs implementation; and the Quality-of-Life Initiative - At the heart of the SDG Rescue Plan for People and Planet.*

Kenya delivered the following interventions during the sessions:

a) Side Event on Rescuing SDG 11 for a Resilient Urban Planet

The side event was hosted by UN-HABITAT where the Kenyan representative to the UN-HABITAT Amb. Jean Kimani was a panelist. This side event focused on the urgent transformative shifts needed to embrace innovative and bold measures to accelerate SDG 11 progress. It considered new ways of thinking and working that can positively alter the way in which policies are designed, implemented, and financed to accelerate progress

with SDG 11 and recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.

Alarmingly, halfway into the implementation phase, the world is far from achieving the targets set out in SDG 11. It was reported that by 2030, we will not meet key SDG 11 targets without major shifts in urban policy and investments. The consequences of not achieving SDG 11 in particular are immense and directly impact billions of people's daily lives. When urban challenges are left unaddressed, they escalate into global threats that spill over across national borders.

On data issues, while data availability has improved since 2018, considerable gaps remain. This means that we still cannot assess global progress towards most of the SDG 11 targets. Only 6 out of the 15 indicators for SDG 11 have data available from more than half of the countries.

Ambassador Kimani gave Kenya's intervention during the discussions and emphasized that Sustainable Urbanization, safe and resilient cities play a central role with a higher multiplier effect to the attainment of the other SDGs. She noted that the demand for basic services is always accompanied by tremendous pressure on energy resources and the environment. How we perform, depends on the type and quality of decisions, choices, strategies and policies that we make and pursue. It was also noted that SDG 11 is interlinked with other SDGs and can drive economic growth, create jobs and reduce poverty rates, which are targeted in SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

In conclusion the side event heavily emphasized that adequate housing is central in promoting sustainable cities and communities and UN-HABITAT has a critical role to play in support by member states. The resolution adopted during the Second session of UN-HABITAT Assembly will help accelerate and fast-track implementation of SDG 11 before 2030 if countries commit to it.

b) Side event on Quality-of-Life Initiative: At the heart of the SDGs Rescue Plan for People and Planet

The session discussed various initiatives adopted in different countries to improve the quality of life and support the recovery of the SDGs from the impact of COVID-19 and other global crises. Kenya was represented by Mr. John Olela, Director SDGs Coordination Directorate. In his intervention Director Olela highlighted the SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (2022-2030) developed by Kenya aimed at positioning the Country back on track and accelerate progress in the implementation of SDGs.

The key message from the session was the need for actualization of the UN Secretary General's SDGs Stimulus, development of fair-trade policies by developed countries, and people centered reforms in international financial institutions. The session also emphasized the need for inclusive and right based approach development.

Sunday, 16th July 2023

Fourth Global Conference on Strengthening synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

A global conference to push for integrated and accelerated action on climate and the SDGs was held as a special event of the 2023 HLPF at the UN Headquarters on 16th July 2023. The conference brought together Ministers and high-level representatives from governments, business and civil society, among over 400 in-person and nearly 4,000 virtual participants from 140 countries. The event was co-convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Hon. Martha Wangari delivered a statement on behalf of Kenya during the event and reiterated the need for collective efforts in addressing the impacts of climate change and achieve the SDGs. The event speakers called for a rescue plan for people and planet, with "unprecedented" ambition and action through maximization of synergies between climate action and the SDGs which has never been more critical. The upcoming SDGs Summit would be an opportunity to "turbocharge" transformative actions towards the attainment of the SDGs.

The main actions recommended at the Conference to keep driving the "win-win" integration and acceleration of these two (2) key agendas, as highlighted in the outcome summary, were:

- i. Renew leadership and political commitment to speed up action on both the SDGs and Paris Agreement goals, using upcoming milestones such as the SDGs Summit, the Climate Ambition Summit, and the first global stock take under the Paris Agreement;
- ii. Continue deepening the evidence base and analytical work related to synergies and trade-offs across sectors, building on the report being prepared by the Expert Group, to be launched in September 2023;
- iii. Ensure integration of just transitions in countries' national climate plans and development strategies;
- iv. Take into account social equity and the empowerment of vulnerable groups in prioritizing financial and technical support to enable just transitions;
- v. Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and dialogue at all levels, including through the annual conference on synergies as well as UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks; and
- vi. Leverage the full range of intergovernmental processes on SDGs and climate to enhance integrated approaches and synergistic action.

4.2 Week II: 17th – 20th July 2023

During the second week of the Forum, the Kenyan delegation led by Ms. Susan Mang’eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development participated in the Forum sessions as follows:

Monday 17th July 2023

The Delegation participated in *opening session of the 2023 HLPF Ministerial Segment; Fireside Chat featuring GSDR scientists; general debate on building momentum towards the SDGs Summit; presentation of six (6) VNRs; and a High-level Reception for Ministers by United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs*. Further, the delegation participated in Side Events on *mainstreaming VLRs and localization of SDGs at the local level organized by Egypt, Brazil, Pakistan and UNDP, and Arkadag City’s Model for SDG 11: Paving the way towards the UNGA High-level Meeting on Sustainable Transport, organized by Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan to the UN and the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan*.

The opening session of the Ministerial Segment of the 2023 HLPF called for renewed commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs, and for countries to bring concrete plans and pledges to the SDGs Summit in September 2023. These sentiments were echoed frequently in national statements during the Segment’s general debates. The session also featured a “fireside chat” with scientists who supported development of the GSDR. The GSDR is intended support knowledge alliances across science, policy, and society.

The delegation delivered a statement in one (1) of the side events as follows:
Side event on mainstreaming VLRs and localization of SDGs at the local level

The side event discussed experiences from various regions on VLRs and how the VLRs are supporting SDGs localization and acceleration particularly at the local level. In his submission H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa, Governor Kakamega County shared the experience from Kenya and how devolution has contributed to acceleration of SDGs implementation.

The key message from the session was the need for all regions to adopt and strengthen a bottom-up economic development model to spur growth in the sub-national governments.

Tuesday, 18th July 2023

On Tuesday, the delegation participated in HLPF sessions on *messages from UN Environment Assembly and Regions, general debate and presentation of 11 VNRs, and side events on role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and*

The Kenya delegation made interventions on the following sessions:

a) General Debate

Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for MSMEs Development delivered Kenya's national statement on status of SDGs implementation in the Country and identified quick wins to spur attainment of the 2030 Agenda. The Principal Secretary noted that through a 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach, geared towards leaving no one behind, positive progress has been made across several goals before COVID-19 pandemic struck primary sectors of the economy, reversing most of the gains.

Towards attainment of an economic turn-around and ensure inclusive economic growth, the Government is implementing BETA aimed at stimulating economic participation towards job creation, equitable distribution of income, social security, expanding tax revenue base and increasing foreign exchange. The Bottom-up model is anchored on Agricultural transformation; renewed focus on MSMEs growth; affordable housing and settlement; universal healthcare; increased digital spread and monetization of the creative industry.

The key message from the Country's National statements is recognition of the setbacks faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflict, and debt. Members States called for strategies to mobilize public, private and international resources; securing a low-carbon future and commitment to achieving net zero emissions; crackdowns on corruption; and job creation towards SDGs recovery and acceleration.

b) Singapore VNR Presentation Session

Mr. John Olela, Director, SDGs Coordination Directorate, State Department for Economic Planning participated in the session and asked a follow-up question on how Singapore integrated the environmentalism in the implementation of SDGs and management of its trade-offs to other goals. In response, Hon. Grace Fu, Minister of Sustainability and Environment, Government of Singapore noted that Singapore has launched Whole-of-Nation approach and Green Plan 2030.

The process of preparing the plan integrated multiple SDGs and demonstrates the diverse stages involved, including mobilization and engagement, consultation, co-creation and co-ownership of outcomes. Among examples of how Singapore balance trade-offs, there

exist water recycling regulations, or requiring businesses to internalize environmental costs by paying for water treatment or substituting green spaces following construction projects.

c) Side Event on Role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs

The Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Parliament hosted a side-event on the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. The discussions during the event focused on innovative approaches and common challenges for national and supra-national parliamentary structures in ensuring SDGs are back on track, despite the many recent and current challenges, which have reversed most gains made in their implementation.

Hon. Martha Wangari delivered a statement sharing Parliament of Kenya approach to SDGs implementation. She observed that Kenya has a Parliamentary Association/Caucus on SDGs which pushes for SDGs localization through the parliamentary platform. The Caucus key interventions are focusing on legislation and policy formulation, budgetary allocation and oversight, policy coherence and integration, advocacy and awareness creation, and capacity building and knowledge sharing.

The key message from the event was a call for parliaments to enhance national ownership of development plans and budgets through domestication of SDGs priorities, improve the representation of all, particularly women and youth in parliaments, facilitate greater cooperation between UN Country Teams and strengthen oversight and legislative capacities.

Wednesday, 19th July 2023

The HLPF was concluded on 19th July 2023 and before the closing ceremony, the delegation participated in the *general debate and presentation of 13 VNRs*, and side events on *delivering on the Doha Programme of Action and SDGs: Increasing access to finance for SMEs to drive economic transformation in LDCs, and Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to provide Adequate Housing*.

The delegation delivered a statement in the following side event:

Side Event on Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to provide Adequate Housing

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain in collaboration with UN-HABITAT co-hosted a side event on the margins of the 2023 HLPF on innovative and sustainable solutions to provide adequate housing. The objective of the side event was to demonstrate pioneering experiences in transforming challenges into development

opportunities and explore innovative solutions to deliver adequate and affordable housing. The event panelists were Kenya, Singapore, UN-HABITAT and Egypt.

The event underscored the importance of Land tenure security as an essential part of the right to adequate housing. Access to land provides space for housing, the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing depends largely on having secure access to land. Without such access, people could be subject to displacement and forced eviction, which could violate their right to adequate housing.

In her remarks Amb. Jean Kimani, Permanent Representative, Kenya Mission to UN-HABITAT noted that the Government has developed interventions addressing key challenges in providing affordable housing which includes land banking, mobilizing affordable finance for housing through National Housing Development Fund, provision of bulk infrastructure for housing development, promotion of industrial and innovative building materials and technologies, promotion of saving towards affordable housing through Boma Yangu platform as well as promotion of Public Private Partnership through tax incentives such as V.A.T Exemptions, Import Declaration Fund and Railway Development Levy Preferential treatment, as well as 15 per cent corporate tax payment.

According to the event panelists, affordability of adequate housing is a global concern to governments around the world in both developing and advanced economies. The growing need for affordable housing has served to increase government allocations to existing subsidy programs, brought stakeholders from the private sector as key partners in the process, and stimulated creation of different innovative financing solutions.

Thursday 20th July 2023

The High Level Segment was held on 20th July 2023, before the closing of the High Level Segment of the Forum, the delegation participated in HLPF sessions on *Introduction of the Secretary-General's reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC; general debate-strengthening UN system institutions for resilient sustainable development; overcoming "short-termism" to secure a better future (Long term trends and scenarios on crisis response and recovery and the SDGs) ; Conclusion of the High-Level Segment*; and a side event on *celebration of African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) 20th Anniversary*.

The key messages from the High-Level Segment's broad-spectrum and in-depth substantive discussions included:

- i. Halfway to the deadline for the 2030 Agenda, more than half of the world is being left behind;

- ii. The world hunger has returned to 2005 levels, bridging gender inequality could take 300 years and nearly 600 million people will still experience extreme poverty in 2030;
- iii. Only 12 per cent of the SDGs targets are on track;
- iv. Progress on 50 per cent of the SDGs is weak and insufficient;
- v. There is need for mobilization of solid support for biodiversity and the environment, education, food systems, digital transition, decent jobs and social protection;
- vi. UN members states have to come together for action with clear long-term plans and pledges;
- vii. There is need for ambitious national commitments and interventions to reduce poverty and inequality; and
- viii. Need for an urgent call for clear long-term policies, investment plans and partnerships to drive progress across major SDGs transitions.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The 2023 HLPF marked the halfway point for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the 17 SDGs. The Forum presented a moment for recommitment to action for unity to turn the tide for a new, accelerated and transformational drive for SDGs achievement. The Delegates echoed the UN Secretary General Message that the world has to act now to save the falling SDGs implementation trajectory.

The Forum called for integrated and targeted policies to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, and end the war on nature; strengthened national and sub-national capacity, accountability and delivery institutions; recommitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; strengthening of the UN development system; and addressing of SDGs-related gaps and weaknesses in the international architecture that have emerged since 2015.

6. Way forward

- i. **SDGs Summit:** The Summit is a quadrennial meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly UNGA. The 2023 Summit will be the second since the adoption of the SDGs and will take place at the midpoint of implementation of the 2030 Agenda from **18th - 19th September 2023** at the **UN Headquarters, New York:** un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023;
- ii. Kenya's high-level participation in the Summit will be critical in adding the voice to the urgent call for action by all at all levels which will rescue the march towards achieving the SDGs;

- iii. Kenya intends to host a High-Level Side Event during the SDGs Summit on catalyzing sustainable development: Enhancing MSMEs investment to drive SDGs achievement. Preparation for the side event will be coordinated by the State Department for MSMEs Development in collaboration with the State Department for Economic Planning; and
- iv. Kenya presented her first and second VNRs in 2017 and 2022, and has expressed interest to present her third VNR during the 2024 HLPF (*July 2024*).

Annexes

Annex I: List of Delegation

S/No.	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Susan Mang'eni	Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development
2.	H.E. FCPA Fernandes Barasa	Governor, Kakamega County
3.	H.E. Patrick Ole Ntutu	Governor Narok County
4.	H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo	Governor Vihiga County
5.	H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma	Governor Busia County
6.	H.E. Mohamud Mohamed	Governor Marsabit County
7.	Hon. Beatrice Oyomo	Nominated Senator, The Senate, Republic of Kenya
8.	Hon. Martha Wangari, MP	Vice Chairperson, Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business
9.	Hon. Innocent Mugabe, MP	Member of Parliament, Likuyani Constituency
10.	H.E. Martin Kimani, PhD, CBS	Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Kenya Mission to the United Nations
11.	Amb. Njambi Kinyungu	Deputy Permanent Representative, Kenya Mission to the United Nations
12.	Amb. Jean W. Kimani, MBS	Permanent Representative, Kenya Mission to UN-HABITAT
13.	Mr. John Odira Olela	Director, SDGs Coordination Directorate, State Department for Economic Planning
14.	Ms. Monica Asuna	Director of Planning and Head, UN Agencies Division, The National Treasury
15.	Mr. Paul Mbuthi	Deputy Director, Renewable Energy, State Department for Energy
16.	Mr. Ken Oluoch	Senior Programme Officer, Council of Governors
17.	Ms. Zala J. Pinky	Senior Economist, UN Agencies Division, The National Treasury
18.	Mr. Emmanuel Kenga	Second Secretary, Kenya Mission to the United Nations
19.	Mr. Loriake Lemusi Domnick	Economist I, SDGs Coordination Directorate, State Department for Economic Planning

S/No.	Name	Designation
20.	Ms. Shelly Nyawira Macharia	Third Secretary, Kenya Mission to UN-HABITAT
21.	Mr. Bernard Mburu Njeru	Third Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs
22.	Ms. Halima Maalim Hussein	Clerk Assistant I, National Assembly of Kenya

Annex II: National Statement and Various Interventions

National Statement by Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development During General Debate of the Ministerial Segment of 2023 High Level Political Forum, UN Headquarters, New York, 17th July 2023.

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

1. *I'm greatly honored this afternoon to deliver a statement on behalf of the Republic of Kenya as we build up momentum towards the SDG summit.*
2. Kenya aligns with the **statements** delivered by Cuba and Tanzania on behalf of the G77 and China; and the African Group respectively.
3. Following the adoption of the Sustainable development goals agenda in 2015, Kenya embarked on mainstreaming the agenda into development plans at all levels of government and setting up appropriate institutions for implementation.
4. Through a '**whole of government**' and '**whole of society**' approach, geared towards **leaving no one behind**, we made positive progress across several goals before COVID-19 pandemic struck primary sectors of our economy, reversing most of the gains.
5. Whereas, the effects of the pandemic were most adversarial to children, youth, women, persons with disability and those in marginalized situations, pushing them **even further behind** and **deeper into poverty**; the admirable resilience to overcome, demonstrates great opportunities and potentials in our people, environment and renewed optimism for **building back better from the bottom of the economic pyramid**.
6. To bolster this resilience, turn around the economy and ensure inclusive economic growth, the Government is implementing a Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (**BETA**) aimed at stimulating economic participation towards job creation, equitable distribution of income, social security, expanding tax revenue base and increased foreign exchange.
7. The Bottom-Up model is anchored on Agricultural transformation; renewed focus on MSME growth; affordable Housing and Settlement; universal healthcare; increased Digital spread and Monetization of the Creative Industry.

8. Last December, His Excellency, President William Ruto launched a **Financial Inclusion Fund** to enhance access to easy and affordable credit by individuals and MSMEs, through mobile money technology. To date, over 250M USD has been disbursed to more than 21M Kenyans across the Country.
9. As we track the mid-way point on our way to 2030, Kenya like many other developing and middle-income countries are still burdened with unsustainable debts which hinders our ability to invest in enablers for SDGs.
10. We echo the sentiments by the Secretary General during the opening session of this forum, on the current global financial system as falling short in addressing the complex challenges including recovery from the pandemic, the climate emergency, and the debt crisis in the global south.
11. We call for reforms in the financial system that acknowledges our capabilities as developing nations and ensure a mutually beneficial outcome, provide affordable, sufficient and sustainable financing delivered in a timely manner.
12. We also support the push by Secretary General to actualize the SDGs Stimulus package proposal of **\$500 billion** to offset challenging market conditions faced by developing countries.
13. On Climate change, its impacts on food security and cost of living is being felt all over the globe. Our people are confronted with constant hunger and pains from higher prices of basic commodities, made worse by the current geo-political tensions.
14. Kenya has stepped up climate adaptation and mitigation efforts including green energy, smart agriculture, decarbonized manufacturing, e-mobility and green building, towards attainment of zero carbon by 2050.
15. We are also taking proactive steps towards establishing a unified African stance on climate change for COP 28. Kenya will therefore be hosting the Africa Climate Action Summit this September 4th to 6th, and on behalf of the President of Kenya I welcome you to Nairobi, to participate in this summit so that together we can advance climate actions that protects our planet.
16. In conclusion, the pandemic has taught us that our determination, solidarity, leadership and resilience can defeat worst hardships. We pray that the Summit

delivers a rescue plan for humanity and the planet through political actions that fosters partnerships and shared prosperity sufficient to TURBO CHARGE the implementation of SDG Agenda.

17. However, just like Turbo engine requires more fuel, developed nations should actualize their financing commitments, fuel the Turbo for impactful acceleration of the SDG Agenda.

Thank you.

Intervention by H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa, Governor, Kakamega County on Overcoming the crises, driving transformation for the SDGs, and leaving no one behind on 10th July 2023

Chair of the session

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

1. The emergence of COVID-19, Tripple Planetary Crises (*Climate change, Pollution & Biodiversity loss*) and other multi-faceted crises elicited a proactive response by a whole of the Government and whole of society approach to leaving no one behind. In Kenya, the leaders of the National and County Governments immediately came together and quickly established practical and effective responses that are geared towards safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of our people.
2. To cushion the citizenry from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of the Republic of Kenya expanded the healthcare infrastructure through installing new and more medical equipment, recruiting additional healthcare workers, training of healthcare labour force on COVID-19 mitigation and prevention measures.
3. The quick wins identified by the Government to accelerate the recovery and resilience to future shocks include: *Boosting Private Sector Productivity; Strengthening ICT Capacity; Human Capital Development; Policy, Legislative, and Institutional Reforms; and strengthening both levels of Government Preparedness and Response to Pandemics and Disasters.*
4. The sub-national governments have also developed COVID-19 Socio-economic Re-Engineering and Recovery Strategy 2020-2023 for each county that embeds the principles of response, recovery and thriving. In addition, the Government has developed an SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (2022 - 2030) to stimulate economic recovery and accelerate progress in the implementation of SDGs. All these measures are aimed at an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic and other uncertainties through building inclusive and effective pathways for achievement of the SDGs.
5. Moving forward, the Government of the Republic of Kenya through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda will focus on implementation of a Financial

Inclusion Fund, popularly known as the Hustlers Fund to provide access to affordable credit to individuals and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and encourage savings; Fertilizer subsidy programme targeting small scale farmers; establish the National Open University in order to make higher education inexpensive, affordable, accessible, inclusive and attainable to all; universal health coverage targeting the vulnerable; implementation of 15 Billion National Tree Growing Strategy among others. The Government will also invest in access to timely, high-quality and disaggregated data for SDGs tracking and reporting.

I Thank You.

Statement by Hon. Innocent Mugabe, MP on Science, Technology and Innovation: Triggering Transformation and Sustaining a Science Driven Recovery, UN Headquarters - New York, 10th July, 2023

The Chair

Excellences

Distinguished Delegates,

1. I thank the panelists for the presentations and ideas shared on the topic.
2. For Kenya, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I) have become essential in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ST&I are key to addressing multifaceted challenges, fostering a sustainable and equitable future.
3. In 2019, Kenya was identified as one of the five African countries to pilot the ST&I for SDGs Road Map, expediting the development of solutions aligned with the SDGs.
4. Since then, Kenya has made deliberate and transformative investments in support of ST&I. **First**, In June 2022 Kenya launched a ten-year ICT Digital Masterplan 2022-2032, in order to align with global technological advancements and enhance the rise of Kenya's digital economy.
5. **Second**, the masterplan identifies four key pillars:
 - 5.1 **Digital infrastructure** that will see the laying of **100,000 kilometers** of fiber optic cable under the Digital Superhighway project, installing **25,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots** and establishing **1,450 digital village smart hubs and studios** (all the 47-county headquarters have been connected to fibre);
 - 5.2 Digital Government Services (Huduma centres);
 - 5.3 Digital Skills; and
 - 5.4 Digital Innovation, Enterprise and Digital Business.
6. **Third**, in order to **create employment opportunities for the youth**, as well as **widen access to the digital economy**, GoK has established constituency innovation hubs to train youth on online jobs through the Ajira Digital Platform.
7. Kenya's **Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)** has the development of Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy as one of the core thematic areas.

8. In order to leverage on ST&I to trigger transformation and sustain a science-driven recovery, Member States and the International Community must prioritize and invest in ST&I so as to bridge the digital divide.
9. In addition, training and capacity building, technology transfer and sharing of best practices, remains fundamental.
10. The application of ST&I has ushered in a new wave of technological advancements which can assist in turbocharging the SDGs and Agenda 2030, however this **requires financing and investing in development.**

Thank you very much! Asanteni Sana!

Talking Notes by H.E. FCPA Fernandes Barasa, Governor Kakamega County During Side Event on Financing for Sustainable and Inclusive Agrifood Systems and Food Crises Prevention and Mitigation Organized by FAO and, Co-Organized by Government of Brazil and Government of Pakistan, UN Headquarters, Conference Room 11, Monday July 10th 2023

1. The agriculture sector continues to be central to economic growth and sustainable poverty reduction in Kenya, growing at about 4.8 percent and employing nearly 8.5 million Kenyans and providing 70 percent of rural employment.
2. Financial inclusion rate in Kenya has tripled in the last 13 years with 83 percent Kenyans having a formal bank account. The Government of the Republic of Kenya is deepening financial inclusion especially for those that are in the bottom of the economic pyramid.
3. The Government of the Republic is strengthening value addition as a crucial pathway for climate change adaptation, bringing down producer level wastage and risk and enhancing overall value
4. The Government of the Republic of Kenya is implementing an agriculture growth strategy with a strong focus on aggregation, commercialization and enhancing market participation for farmers especially subsistence farmers, while boosting productivity through improved access to quality inputs and extension services.
5. Women farmers face significant challenges at all stages including production, aggregation, and marketing.
6. The Government is implementing a focused approach to value chain development and agriculture commercialization to create new jobs in agriculture support services such as extension services, input supply, aggregation and marketing and new enterprises supporting value.
7. The Government of the Republic of Kenya is strengthening digital innovations by empowering the youth so as to connect small farmers to markets.
8. With 98 percent of agriculture being rainfed, the sector especially smallholder farmers are extremely vulnerable to climate change shocks.
9. The Government of the Republic of Kenya is developing climate resilient value chains and supporting transition to more productive systems that use inputs efficiently and have greater stability in their outputs.

Thank you.

Opening Remarks by H.E. Amb. Martin Kimani, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, During Kenya's Side Event on "Localization of the SDGs Amidst Multiple Crises" Held on 11th July 2023 on the Sidelines of the UN High Level Political Forum 2023 at Conference Room 3, UN Headquarters, New York

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this important event to share results-oriented perspectives on SDGs localization.
2. As we transition to the last half of the SDGs implementation period, meeting the ambitious goals of SDGs will depend on our progress at the sub-national level, as the forefront of delivering the SDGs targets.
3. It is within this context that the Government of Kenya in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has organized this event on '**Localization of SDGs Amidst Multiple Crises**'.
4. Kenya has a devolved system of government which comprises of two (2) levels of government, namely the National and sub national governments. Each are distinct and inter-dependent with functions and powers as defined in the Kenya Constitution 2010.
5. At the subnational level, SDGs have been mainstreamed into the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs) for all the 47 Counties. And therefore, forms the basis for planning, budgeting and performance management.
6. In addition, the sub national governments are allocated financial resources based on population size, geographical area and poverty rates, for the provision of basic services. Regional disparities are addressed through targeted funds from National Government to Counties being left behind.
7. County governments developed COVID-19 Re-Engineering and Recovery Strategy 2020-2023 to stimulate economic recovery and accelerate progress in the implementation of SDGs.

8. Moving forward, the Government is implementing the **Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)** which aims to achieve economic turn around and inclusive growth to cushion citizens from the adverse impacts of multiple crises through:
 - a) Supporting livelihoods and businesses as well as strengthening governance institutions;
 - b) Implementing Financial Inclusion Fund, popularly known as **the Hustlers Fund** to provide access to affordable credit; and
 - c) Reforming the National Health Insurance Fund to meet the urgent needs of Kenyans at the bottom of the socioeconomic structure.
9. The BETA will target investments in five (5) strategic sectors with the greatest impact and linkages to the economy as well as on household welfare. These sectors include:
 - a) Agricultural Transformation;
 - b) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Economy;
 - c) Housing and Settlement;
 - d) Healthcare; and,
 - e) Digital Superhighway and Creative Industry.
10. Special focus will be placed on the interventions that: reduce the cost of living; create jobs; achieve more equitable distribution of income; enhance social security, expand tax base for more revenues to finance development; and increase foreign exchange earnings.
11. These priorities will be implemented through the Fourth Medium Term Plan (2023-2027) of the Vision 2030 which incorporates international obligations and commitments including the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063. It informs the preparation of Sector Plans, County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Contracting for Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).
12. In conclusion, I welcome you to this side event. I wish you all fruitful deliberations and I hope that this session will enlighten all of us on various good practices for accelerating SDGs implementation at the sub-national levels.

Thank you.

Talking Notes by H.E. Hon. Patrick Ole Ntutu, Governor Narok County during the Kenya Side Event on SDGs Localization Amidst Multiple Crises, UN Headquarters, Room 3, 11th July 2023.

Question 1. In Kenya, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been mainstreamed in the County Integrated Development Plans, what are some of the key initiatives that County Governments have set in place to enhance implementation and creation of policy enabling environment for SDGs?

1. Kenya has embraced a whole society, whole government approach in implementation of the SDGs with emphasis on strong collaboration between National, County Governments and other stakeholders.
2. County Governments are responsible for delivery of critical services such as health, agriculture, early childhood education and development, trade among others and therefore they are pivotal in the implementation of the SDGs.
3. An institutional framework for coordination of SDGs implementation has been developed through establishment of SDGs unit at the Council of Governors and appointment and training of SDGs Champions across all the 47 Counties to support mainstreaming and tracking of implementation.
4. Counties have established their internal SDGs coordination structures domiciled in the County Department of Finance and Economic Planning and appointed departmental focal persons to ensure SDGs are part of the sectoral/departmental plans.
5. COVID-19 greatly slowed down and even reversed some of the gains realized. In response county governments with support from the council of governors and other stakeholders developed the Covid-19 socio-economic reengineering and recovery strategy to support sustainable and resilient recovery and strengthen community resilience. Counties have mainstreamed the strategy in their integrated development plans for the period 2023-2027 that are just being finalized.
6. Counties have put in place various strategies to enhance own source revenue such as automation so as to increase resources base to support implementation of the SDGs supplementing equitable share from National Government and support from development partners.
7. Counties are undertaking Voluntary Sub-national Review (VSR) to assess the progress of implementation of the goals and my County just recently finalized a VLR on the progress of implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.

8. In Narok County for example which host the Great Maasai Mara National Reserve our interventions in the water sector has increased community access to safe drinking water to an average of 60 per cent of the households from 50 percent in 2019 and reduced trekking distances to water points according to Kenya National Bureau of statistics.
9. To address Sanitation, we have developed Narok county Water and Sanitation Act which provides for the regulation, management and development of water and Sanitation services.
10. The main challenge in achievement of the SDGs however still remains inadequate financing with the competing needs for the available limited resources.
11. The increased occurrence of natural disaster such as drought and floods as a result of climate change especially for pastoralist communities like in Narok County pose a huge threat in realization of the goals

Question 2. Successful implementation of SDGs will happen in the context of sub-national Governments where citizens live, how are county governments strengthening public engagement in SDGs implementation?

1. SDGs are dependent on a multi-sectoral approach for effective delivery. Establishing effective partnership and collaboration is therefore critical. Counties have established forums to enable participation of citizens and others stakeholders so as to support decisions making processes in resource mobilization, allocation and utilization on identified prioritized projects/programmes.
2. County Governments have enacted legislations to provide for a framework for public participation in line with the Constitution and the County Governments Act which guarantees access to information by the public.
3. County Governments have also put in place public participation structures that are aligned to the devolved unit.
4. Counties have partnered with Civil Society organizations in strengthening advocacy and awareness creation on SDGs through community dialogues.
5. All County governments have a dedicated budget to support public participation and citizens have been engaged in planning, budgeting and implementation of programmes and projects.
6. The SDGs delivery mechanism at the County level establishes an inter-agency committee on SDGs which incorporates the Civil society organizations, private

sector, academia and the media. The platform therefore provides an opportunity for incorporation of public views in SDGs implementation.

Thank you

Closing Remarks by Hon. Martha Wangari M.P During Kenya Side Event on Localization of SDGs Amidst Multiple Crises Held on 11th July 2023 on the Sidelines of UN High Level Political Forum 2023 At Conference Room 3, UN Headquarters, New York on 11th July 2023

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. As we bring this side event on SDG localization to a close, I am filled with a profound sense of appreciation for the collective energy and commitment demonstrated by all of you throughout our discussions. The exchange of ideas and experiences over the past [duration of the event] has highlighted the crucial role of local action in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has underscored the significance of empowering local communities as drivers of change.
2. We have learned about the transformative power of bottom-up approaches, where local governments, civil society organizations, businesses, and citizens collaborate to address the unique challenges and opportunities in their respective contexts. By embracing the spirit of ownership and inclusivity, these initiatives have generated remarkable impacts, making progress towards the SDGs a reality at the local level.
3. We have also recognized that effective SDG localization requires a multi-stakeholder approach. Governments must play a pivotal role in creating an enabling environment by formulating policies, providing resources, and establishing mechanisms for participatory decision-making. Additionally, partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and international agencies are essential to leverage collective expertise, mobilize resources, and foster innovative solutions tailored to local needs.
4. The event has shed light on the importance of data and evidence-based planning in the localization process. Localizing the SDGs necessitates a robust understanding of local priorities, challenges, and progress. By harnessing the power of data, technology, and monitoring mechanisms, we can enhance accountability, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making, thereby enabling effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of SDG progress at the local level.

5. As we come to the close of this event, it is vital to emphasize that SDG localization is not an isolated endeavor. It is an integral part of the global agenda, connecting local actions with global aspirations. The SDGs are interconnected, and interdependent, and localized efforts contribute to the overall achievement of the goals. Therefore, let us foster stronger linkages between local and global processes, ensuring that lessons learned, best practices, and innovative approaches from local contexts inform and inspire global policy dialogues and actions.
6. Let me conclude by expressing my gratitude to each and every one of you for your active engagement, thought-provoking insights, and shared experiences during this side event. Your passion and dedication to SDG localization serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration as we work towards a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable world.
7. Let us carry the momentum generated during this event forward, seizing the opportunities before us to strengthen the role of sub-national governments in achieving the SDGs. Together, let us drive transformative change, leaving no one behind and ensuring that the benefits of sustainable development reach every corner of the globe.

Thank you.

Talking Notes by H.E. Hon. Dr. Paul Otuoma, Governor Busia County During Side Event by OECD on Implementation of Public Policies for the 2030 Agenda: Experiences of Local and Regional Governments and the Role of International Organizations, UN Headquarters, Conference Room D, Tuesday 11th July 2023

1. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can only be realized with backing of a strong policy and legal framework. The SDGs encourage all of us to take bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. It implies that all relevant actors must go beyond business-as-usual approach to achieve this change. This can only be supported by a responsive public policy.
2. Public policy should be anchored on the principles of leaving no one behind and anchored on the tenets of: participation and inclusion, non-discrimination and equality, accountability and participation.
3. Implementation of SDGs requires alignment to national planning and budgeting framework with clear institutional arrangements for coordination in government between various sectors and with other stakeholders like private sector, civil society organization, development partners, academia and the media.
4. In Kenya the Constitution provides an intergovernmental relations framework underpinned by the principles of distinctiveness and interdependence of the National and the 47 Sub-national governments (County Government). Thus, when discharging their devolved administrative functions, listed in the Constitution, each level of government is required to take cognizance of the said principles.
5. The National Government is charged with providing the overall policy framework for the sectoral developments while County governments are responsible for implementation of the various programmes and projects.
6. The Constitution, which is the overarching framework for the devolved system of government, recognizes the existence of both vertical and horizontal mechanisms for coordination, consultation and cooperation and lays the foundational aspects of the need for policy coordination between National Government and the 47 County Governments.
7. Let me share with you the Kenyan experience of localizing of SDGs at the County level. County Governments have mainstreamed SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) which are five-year blue prints detailing community priorities for development across various sectors and which form the foundation for budgeting. County Governments have also appointed SDGs champions and

sector SDGs focal persons to support mainstreaming of SDGs and to provide the link with the National Government.

8. SDGs agenda in County governments in Kenya is an integral component of the Performance Management Framework with SDGs mainstreaming being measured as one of the key components of performance contracting. Performance Contracting is an effective tool for promoting accountability and improving service delivery in the public service while ensuring the highest possible efficiency in the management and utilization of public resources at county level.
9. In conclusion let me state that improved public service delivery cannot be achieved through silo mentality. The public policy should provide a framework for collaboration and synergy building among various sectors. The public policy should more than ever be reoriented to facilitate accelerated implementation of the SDGs.

I thank you, Asante sana

Talking Notes by H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, Governor Vihiga County During a Panel Discussion on Transformation from the ground up: Acting at local level, UN - Conference Room 4 on 11th July 2023

Distinguished delegates,

I would like thank all the panelist for the insightful session.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide local and regional governments with an unprecedented opportunity to contribute to the achievement of global targets.

Localizing the implementation of the SDGs requires aligning and enhancing institutional arrangements in the sub-national governments.

In Kenya County Governments are responsible for service delivery and thus play a pivotal role in the implementation of the SDGs. Emphasis has been placed on the engagement between the National Government, County Governments, private investors, civil society and the communities.

The SDGs have been mainstreamed in the County Integrated Development Plans 2023-2027 (CIDPs) that are being finalized by Counties. The CIDPs contain the community development priorities and form the basis for budget allocation.

Mainstreaming and localizing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires aligning and enhancing institutional arrangements at the sub-national level.

In Kenya the Constitution has allocated County Government key functions practically touching on most of the 17 SDGs. County Governments are in charge of service delivery and thus are considered to play a pivotal role in the achievement of the SDGs.

I thank you.

Talking Notes by H.E Patrick Ole Ntutu, Governor Narok County During a Side Event on the launch of VLR and VSR, UN Headquarters, New York on 12th July 2023

1. In line with the SDGs review and reporting mechanism, the County Governments are undertaking local reporting of SDGs through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). At the same time, the Council of Governors (CoG) developed a report on the status of localization of SDGs in 2020, highlighting the progress made in SDGs implementation as well as the best practices at County level. The Council is in the process of developing the second report in 2023.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. SDGs agenda in County governments is an integral component of the Performance Management Framework and SDGs mainstreaming is measured as one of the key components of performance contracts. County Governments are required to demonstrate the linkage of the proposed programmes in the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) to the SDGs targets as they develop their CIDPs. The Council working together with State Department for Planning and KIPPRA and other stakeholders are currently providing technical support to County governments on CIDP development in Naivasha.
3. SDGs implementation has been hit by the difficult economic situations not just in Kenya but in the globe at large. With the Kenyan economy just recovering from the significant shocks experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic we have again been hit by severe drought that has greatly impacted particularly the Arid and Semi-Arid Counties. The global geopolitics occasioned by the Russia and Ukraine has further compounded the situation. More than ever, we require strong partnership and coordination to navigate the current situation and put the progress of implementation back on track.
4. The Council of Governors has developed a knowledge sharing platform (Maarifa Centre) to facilitate documentation and sharing of best practices in Counties. Maarifa centre has documented several best practices from Counties in SDGs implementation and enabled replication of best practices notable is the compendium on best practices from Counties in response to COVID-19.
5. I am glad to note that this forum will have a segment for awards to recognize various institutions that have undertaken exemplary efforts in implementation of SDGs including County Governments. We hope to document some of the emerging best practices for sharing in our Maarifa Centre portal.

6. In conclusion, let me reaffirm the commitment of the Council of Governors in accelerating the implementation of SDGs and also emphasize the importance of partnership in the realization of the SDGs.
7. The Council of Governors is undertaking continuous capacity strengthening for County officers to facilitate mainstreaming, tracking and reporting on the progress of SDGs implementation. The SDGs have a follow up mechanism through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) have emerged as a mechanism for Sub-national governments to report on localization, building on their communities' experiences and practices and involving their population in the achievement of the SDGs.
8. The VLRs have become instrumental in pushing for policy change at all levels. Five (5) Counties (Kwale, Busia, Kisumu, Marsabit and Taita Taveta) developed local voluntary reports (VLRs) on SDGs implementation in 2019. The reports were shared during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) held in New York in July 2019. The County voluntary reports highlighted the progress the County Governments were making towards the realization of the SDGs. This initiative is currently being replicated in many other Counties.
9. The present successful efforts in the localization of SDGs are attributed to the National and County ownership and leadership of the processes; Inclusive and participatory development approach bringing together various stakeholders; and a commitment to leaving no one behind based on a human rights-based approach.

Thank you.

Talking Notes by H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, Governor Vihiga County During a Side Event on Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda Dialogue 2 - Local public services to address inequalities, promote innovation and foster sustainability, UN - Conference Room on 12th July 2023

1. Bringing Service, decision-making and resources closer to the people is what local and regional governments are about. Service oriented devolution presents Local and Regional governments with an opportunity to unlock economic potential and to realize their development goals.
2. Public Service is a key contributor to economic development in any country. An efficient and effective public sector provides quality services and facilitates other sectors to perform optimally and improve the livelihoods of the citizenry.
3. The republic of Kenya has a two-tier system of government comprising the National Government and forty-seven (47) County Governments. The devolved system of governance has placed specific functional responsibilities on the national and county governments. County Governments have wider responsibilities; hence their contribution in the realization of the SDGs is much broader.
4. The Local Public Service in Kenya exists to translate and implement the County Government's policies, programs and projects to improve the livelihoods of its citizens. County governments are striving to optimize the output of its public servants to improve the quality of services provided to the citizens. The counties are amidst many challenges continually exploring ways of improving terms and conditions for staff to improve overall service delivery.
5. The National Government has introduced various initiatives to promote efficient and effective provision of services with a focus on impactful results and outcomes. Beginning with the Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS) of 2003 – 2007, the Public Service Reform Programmes (PSRP) of 2003–2013, and now the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda all contextualized in the country's long-term Vision 2030 whose focus has been on a performing public service that catalyzes economic growth and improving the livelihoods of the citizens.
6. Kenya has developed an integrated performance management policy to consolidate and integrate existing tools and approaches that are currently applied in managing public sector performance in Kenya, and to provide the organizational, operational and institutional framework for guiding performance management practices in the National Government, County Governments and all Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices, for improved service delivery.

7. County Governments have been developing their operational systems to improve service delivery to their customers. The citizens at the county level look upon their respective Governors and other managers for improved service delivery. Satisfying these diverse expectations require a multi-pronged approach and performance contracting is a critical tool in this regard.
8. County Governments in Kenya have embraced Performance management framework to enhance service delivery. The key tools that have been employed in performance management are **Performance contracting** and **Citizen service delivery charters**.
9. The performance contracting has enabled county governments to among others things: focus their resources to the identified priorities; increase revenue generation and collection; improve service delivery and implementation rate of their activities, projects and programmes; enhance efficiency of their processes and systems; implement specific affirmative actions for marginalized groups; foster savings; and promote collaborations and partnerships with the citizens and other stakeholders. In the long run, performance contracting is expected to nurture a self-driving culture of performance in the counties.
10. The incorporation of Citizens' Service Delivery Charters has also revolutionized service delivery by enhancing access to services, the quality of the service delivered, timeliness, courtesy, and clear publication of costs, thus eliminating aspects of corruption that had discouraged citizens from accessing certain services wrongly perceived to be expensive. In addition, every Government institution set up a customer service desk with a clear redress mechanism under the slogan: "**Huduma Bora ni Haki Yako**" (quality service is your right). This is intended to ensure that services are delivered to citizens with courtesy.
11. Innovation is central in public service reforms in Kenya with digitization of governments service through platforms such as e-citizen and huduma centres in all the 47 County governments. Further the government is digitizing performance contracting through the County government performance contracting information system to facilitate performance target setting and evaluation of the performance of public officers.

I thank you! Asanteni sana

Talking Notes by H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma, Governor Busia County During a Side Event on Delivering the SDGs in Cities and regions amid geopolitical uncertainty Organized by OECD, UN - Conference Room 12 on 12th July 2023

The global crises have presented an opportunity to critically reassess, rethink and review the existing systems and structures for delivery of the SDGs in Cities and Regions. Establishing policies, institutions and safeguards that can effectively respond to and mitigate against such crises is vital.

As part of building local resilience and preparedness to crises, there is need to build local capacity to produce basic commodities because of the impact crises on global commodity supply chains.

The geopolitical uncertainty arising from global and regional tensions and wars has demonstrated the importance of good government systems for continued provision of public service in difficult times, proper utilization of resources for longevity of our societies, and socio-economic sustainability in securing livelihood.

The global crises have also underlined the need to promote innovations and adopt modern technologies in the path to enhancing self-reliance. Cities and Regional Governments need to nurture innovations by re-energizing institutions of technical training, science, technology and engineering to maintain the momentum for innovation to the level of being commercialized.

It is important to note that when crises strike they strike disproportionately the vulnerable communities driving and widening the inequality. The global crises have revealed that without a strong value chain our resilience is greatly jeopardized.

Cities and Regional Governments are vital for the growth of the nation as frontiers for production and provision of investments. Cities and Regions therefore should be intentional in targeting the vulnerable groups while advancing the principle of leaving no one behind.

I thank you! Asanteni sana

Session Notes by H.E. Wilber Ottichilo, Governor Vihiga County Local and Regional Governments Day, Millennium ONE UN Plaza Hotel, Diplomats Room on 12th July 2023

1. Local and Regional Governments are responsible for bringing Service, decision-making and resources closer to the people. As such, realization of the Sustainable Development Goals will happen in the context of local and regional governments. Service oriented devolution presents Local and Regional governments with an opportunity to unlock economic potential and to realize their development goals.
2. In Kenya Devolution is one of the most transformative changes to Kenya's governance system. Significant milestones have been achieved in the devolved sectors with power finances and responsibilities being devolved to Counties. Even more important is the ability under devolution for communities to directly participate in decision-making on affairs that concern them.
3. County governments have taken government services closer to communities, promoting easier accessibility, effective service delivery, and customized services to meet the citizens' needs.
4. Strengthened devolution is key in delivery of the SDGs and the institutional framework for SDGs implementation should ensure the successful localization in the sub-national governments.
5. It is important to note that the implementation of devolution has not been without challenges especially around financing of devolved functions and the difficulty to access other forms of financing like loans and guarantees.
6. As we gather here today, it is therefore very important that we speak with a unified voice to push various financing mechanisms to design products that would suit the Local and Regional Governments.

I thank you! Asanteni sana

Session Notes by H.E. Patrick Ole Ntutu, Governor Narok County During a Side Event on VLR- VSR Official Launch, Local and Regional Government Day, Millennium ONE UN Plaza Hotel on 13th July 2023

Question 1: What is the added value of the national association of local governments such as the Council of Governors in advancing the SDGs? And what is the role of the VSR in this process?

1. The national association of local governments such as the Council of Governors play a critical role in coordinating the efforts of sub-national governments and offer a collecting and unified effort towards realization of SDGs. They also provide a platform for advancing the interest of sub-national governments in their engagement with National governments.
2. Council of Governors comprises the 47 Governors of Kenya and has a mandate of building capacity of county governments and facilitating peer learning among other functions. The Council of Governors has established an SDGs Unit to support mainstreaming, localization, tracking and reporting on the SDGs in Counties. The Council of Governors is undertaking continuous capacity building for County officers.
3. The Council of Governors is also facilitating tracking and reporting on the SDGs through the Voluntary Local Review Process and the Voluntary sub-national review (VSR) process. Five county governments have undertaken Voluntary Local review (VLR) in 2019 and 7 Counties have initiated the VLR process The Council of Governors has also undertaken two VSR in 2020 with the second being undertaken this year.
4. The Council of Governors is facilitating peer learning between Counties on implementation of SDGs and facilitating documentation of best practices through its the knowledge management platform dubbed Maarifa Centre.
5. Further the Council is part of an interagency technical working committee conduct annual SDGs awards ceremony every year to recognize institutions and Counties that have undertaken exemplary initiatives on SDGs implementation.

Question 2: Few Kenyan counties have already undergone VLRs in the past years and others are doing so as we speak such as Nakuru County that UN-Habitat has the honour to support. Among the issues that your colleagues have faced, the one of data and of mobilizing communities have been central. How can we learn for those experiences to overcome these challenges and are there any relevant initiatives in places that could be helpful in Narok, or other counties part of the Council?

1. SDGs reporting required quality, timely, granular, and disaggregated data needed. However, data remains a big challenge in the VLR and VSR process in Kenya due to the limited financial and technical capacity of many counties and longer period taken by national statistical office to release data.

2. To address this challenge the County Governments together with the Civil Society organizations through their umbrella body SDGs Kenya Forum and other stakeholders have engaged with Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in development of norms and standards for citizens generated data to supplement official statistics. County governments are also developing county statistical abstracts to provide county data. Despite these efforts County governments still require a lot of capacity in data management.

I thank you! Asanteni sana

Statement by Amb. Jean W. Kimani, MBS During a Panel Discussion on SDG 11 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Sustainable cities and communities, UN Headquarters - New York, 13th July, 2023

Excellences

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The aim of SDG Goal 11 is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Rapid urbanization has resulted in increased pressure on the environment and a higher demand for basic services, infrastructure, jobs, land, and affordable housing particularly for the growing population living in informal settlements.
2. In economic development terms, urbanization is a tremendous factor. Towns and cities are important economic nodes contributing significantly to the national GDP. Nairobi alone accounts for 21 per cent of Kenya's GDP. On the other hand, towns and cities are major consumers of resources and drivers of environmental degradation, leading to climate change.
3. Housing in Kenya has continued to face numerous challenges with majority of Kenyans being unable to access adequate housing particularly in urban areas and therefore end up in slums and informal settlements.
4. In this regard, the Government of Kenya has prioritized affordable housing as one of its key agenda with a view to eradicating slums and informal settlements through implementation the Affordable Housing Programme. The programme aims at delivering 200,000 housing units annually and increasing the mortgage uptake from the current 30,000 mortgages to one million mortgages. Because of its ripple effect, the programme will provide employment to many people who are at the bottom of the pyramid including the Jua kali artisans. This will also enable them to pay for the affordable houses and improve their living conditions.
5. We take note that the consequences of climate change have deep environmental, social and health impacts on the urban population, on women and children, older persons, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups. On the other hand, multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow Climate Act, and the Sharm-El-Sheikh Implementation Plan have increasingly highlighted the importance of cities for climate action, recognizing the need for multilevel and cooperative action beyond national level engagement.

6. To operationalize the National Climate Change Response Strategy, the first National Climate Change Action Plan (2013-2017) was prepared in 2013 for a period of five years. It established Kenya's baseline emissions projections up to 2030 and developed a low carbon climate resilient development pathway for the country outlining priority adaptation and mitigation actions. The actions are intended to contribute to the country's achievement of the low carbon climate resilient development pathway, poverty eradication and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target.
7. Kenya is championing the Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor (BCRUP) through the Kenya Urban Resilience Programme that focuses on among other key areas, the establishment of economic stimulus projects. Urban centers in Kenya have been facing a crisis for a long time, with issues such as inadequate housing, high unemployment rates, and poverty being major challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the vulnerabilities of urban areas, with the outbreak resulting in high job losses, loss of livelihoods, and increased poverty levels. In this context, it is essential to focus on urban crisis recovery to ensure that these areas can support the economic growth of the country.
8. Cities are particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters impacts due to their high concentration of people, infrastructure, housing and economic activities. Therefore, building urban resilience is crucial to avoid human, social and economic losses while improving the sustainability of urbanization processes is needed to protect the environment and mitigate disaster risk and climate change.
9. The rapid growth of cities is a result of rising populations and increasing migration that has led to a boom in mega-cities, especially in the developing world, and slums are becoming a more significant feature of urban life.
10. During the just concluded Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly that was held from 5th -9th June 2023 in Nairobi under the theme **"Sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises"** 13 resolutions were adopted in the aim to fast-track the implementation of the SDG including a resolution sponsored by Kenya - Adequate Housing for all and Co-sponsored by France, Malaysia, Bahrain and Jordan.
11. Among the challenges that Kenya is facing while implementing the aforementioned SDG include; Rapid urbanization, Limited supply of housing units majorly attributed to high cost of housing finance and building materials, High cost of land in urban areas, Insufficient land for slum upgrading and release of untreated or inadequately treated municipal sewerage.

12. However, the Government is very key in its Transformation Agenda to place adequate housing as a priority with its major key priorities including; Implementation of the Affordable Housing Program targeting 200,000 houses annually, Construction of social housing units for those living in the slums and informal settlements and Implementation of climate change action targeting local community led initiatives.
13. In conclusion my delegation believes a comprehensive transformation of the international financial and debt architecture is required to accomplish full implementation of the SDGs before 2030 to avoid developing countries being left behind.

I thank you. Asante Sana.

Statement by H.E (DR.) Wilberforce Ottichilo, Governor Vihiga County During HLPF Session on Overcoming middle-income countries' challenges in advancing the 2030 Agenda on 13th July 2023

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for collective responsibility of all develop and developing countries in the spirit of leaving no one behind.
2. At the mid-way point on our way to 2030, many middle-income countries are still burdened with unsustainable debts which reduces our ability to invest in SDGs. Poverty and hunger have worsened in many middle-income countries, as income-earning opportunities at the national, household and individual levels, have been lost. This has led to widening of the **"middle-income trap"**.
3. The SDGs financing gap in middle-income countries has significantly widened. It has not only reversed the gains toward the SDGs, but it has also deepened their pre-existing vulnerabilities.
4. In addition, loans to middle-income countries have become very expensive. This is limiting access to development financing for maximization of various means of SDGs implementation inform of quick wins.
5. Therefore, we call for strengthening of the International Development Cooperation, fair trade policies by develop countries and actualization of the UN Secretary General SDGs Stimulus.
6. Development cooperation should take into consideration the diversity and specific development needs for middle-income countries. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) should develop graduation policies that are sequenced, gradual and phased to address challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle-income countries. Of importance is strengthening the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) which complements domestic resources and plays a catalytic role in the resource mobilization.
7. In this spirit, the Government of the Republic of Kenya is scaling up implementation of policy priorities and structural reforms through the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda popularly referred to as "BETA" which aims at increasing investments in five (5) strategic sectors that have the largest impact and linkages

to the economy as well as on household welfare: *Agricultural Transformation; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Economy; Housing and Settlement; Healthcare; and, Digital Superhighway and Creative Industry.*

8. Special focus will be placed on the interventions that: reduce the cost of living; create jobs; achieve more equitable distribution of income; enhance social security, expand tax base for more revenues to finance development; and increase foreign exchange earnings.
9. To this far, the Government has *digitized and automated 3,570 Government services; implemented a financial inclusion fund popularly referred to Hustlers Fund to provide access to affordable credit to individuals and MSMEs and encourage savings; granted duty waiver for importation of key food products; reformed the National Health Insurance Fund to meet the urgent needs of Kenyans at the bottom of the socio-economic structure; and availed subsidized fertilizer to farmers among others.*
10. In conclusion, rescuing the SDGs implementation trajectory calls for inclusive national policies, solidarity, political commitment, strengthened resilience and structural changes to position the concerns and realities of middle-income countries towards building back better and achieving sustainable development by 2030.

I thank you. Asante Sana.

Intervention by Mr. John Olela, Director SDGs Coordination Directorate during a side event on Inclusive, sustainable economic transformation: country experiences of integrating policies and programmes on 14th July 2023

Kenya's Governance Structure

Kenya operates a devolved system of Government where there is the National Government and 47 County Government.

The two levels of Government are distinct with legislative and executive authority but highly interdependent.

The adoption of devolved system of government in Kenya was a desire of citizens who wanted access to public services closer to them.

The objectives of devolution was about promotion of democracy and accountability in the exercise of power, fostering national unity by recognizing diversity, enhancing people's self-governance, enabling communities manage their own affairs, protecting and promoting interests and rights of minorities and the marginalized and ensuring equitable sharing of resources.

Framework for Devolution

To achieve devolution objectives, there is a framework put in place and enabling environment provided to all stakeholders involved in implementation of devolution.

In overall, there is the Inter-Governmental Relations Act 2012 which establish a framework for consultation and cooperation between the national and county governments and amongst county governments;

It also establishes mechanisms for the resolution of intergovernmental disputes.

IBEC

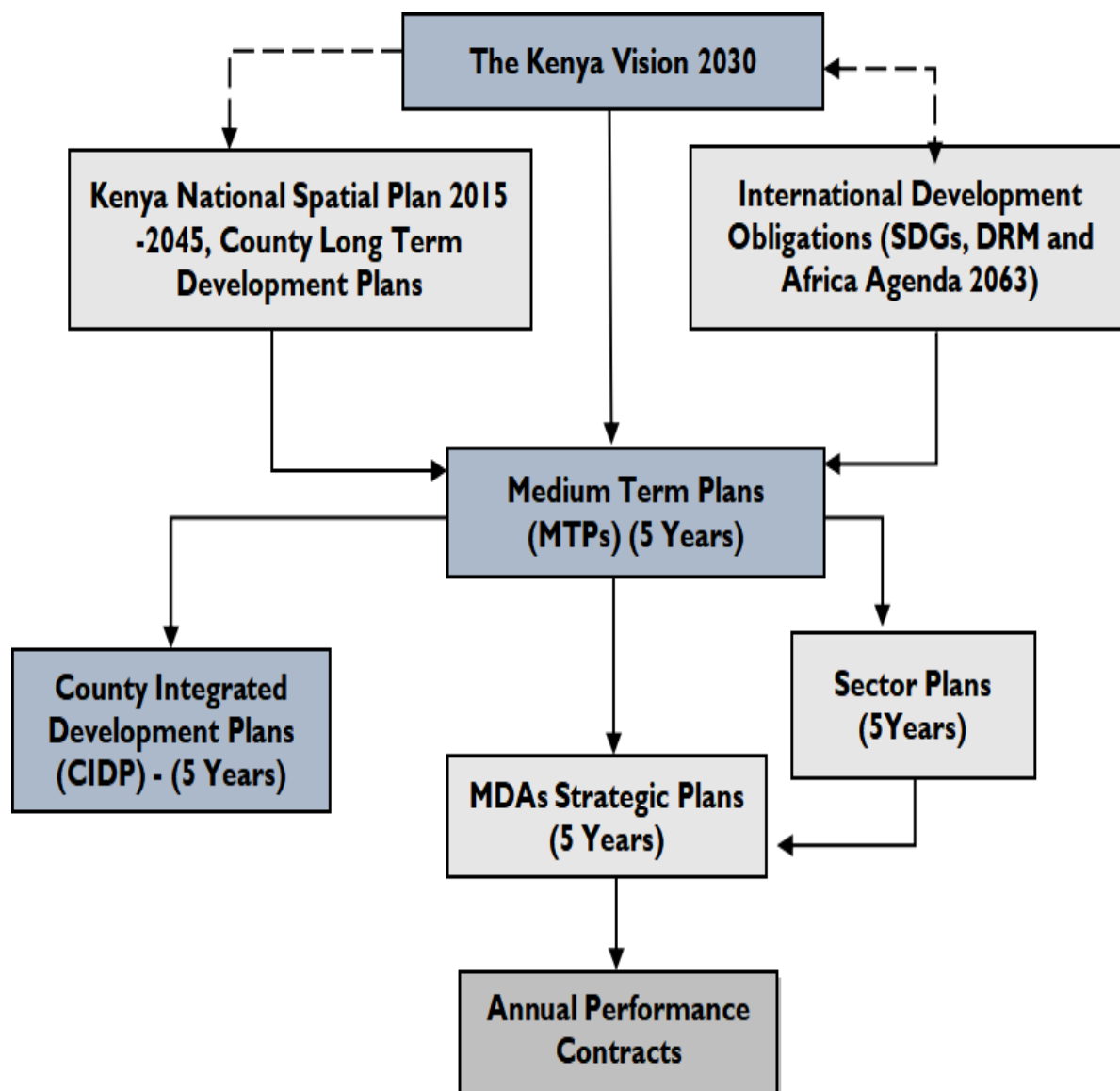
For Planning and Budgeting there is an Inter-governmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC) established under the Public Finance Management Act (2012) – Chaired by the Deputy President with all the 47 County Governors as members.

The forum is established for consultation and cooperation between the national government and county governments on matters related to:

- i. Budgeting, the economy and financial management and integrated development at the national and county level;
- ii. Borrowing and the framework for national government loan guarantees, criteria for guarantees and eligibility for guarantees;

- iii. Recommendations on the equitable distribution of revenue between and county governments and amongst the county governments.

Planning Framework for Both National and County Governments



Integration of the three Dimensions of Sustainable Development

The centrality of equity in sustainable development in Kenya is more explicit in the Constitution which provides that the State shall ensure the sustainable exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources and ensure equitable sharing of the accruing benefits.

Kenya uses a number of tools to ensure the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Firstly, through the enforcement of environmental impact assessment (EIA) to ensure that environmental management is integrated into project planning and decision-making with a view of achieving ecologically sustainable development.

Secondly, through Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) the opportunities of a policy, plan or programme as they relate to the environment are taken on board. This ensures sustainable implementation of all projects, policies, plans and programmes.

I Thank you.

Talking Points by Amb. Jean W. Kimani, MBS, During UN-HABITAT Side Event on Rescuing SDG 11 for a Resilient Urban Planet on 14th July 2023

1. I thank UN-Habitat for organizing this side event on Rescuing SDG11 for a resilient Urban future. The future is urban.
2. Since the adoption of the 2030 agenda and its SDG, the Government has committed to its domestication in the local setting in addition to its implementation. The 17 goals have been mapped to Vision and MTP II.
3. Kenya has placed SDG 11 targets among its key priority areas in the Bottom- up Economic Transformation Agenda. These include Housing which we consider a key driver of national and local Social Economic Development.
4. Sustainable and inclusive cities can drive economic growth and create jobs reduce poverty and unemployment, which are targeted in SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).
5. It is important to note Sustainable urban development is also closely linked to environmental sustainability. By promoting sustainable transportation and the use of green spaces, cities can improve air and environmental quality, and help to address climate change, which is targeted in SDG 13 (climate action).

Qn.1 - Kenya has prioritized affordable housing as one of its big four agenda items. Why is this important for rescuing SDG 11?

1. We can all agree housing is beyond a roof over your head. Kenya has prioritized adequate housing that is interlinked with other global goals in achieving SDG 11 that lead to improvements in housing and basic services, such as access to clean water and sanitation, as well as increased safety and security in urban areas. This has a direct. impact on the well-being of people and help to address other SDGs such as SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation). It is an investment in the quality of life for the People.
1. Under the Affordable Housing Programme, the Government intends to deliver over 200,000 homes annually. This could potentially increase homeownership rates in the Country.
2. Recently, Parliament enacted a law on affordable Housing – compulsory for Kenyans to put funds for this programme.

3. At the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly key resolutions were adopted which when fully implemented will accelerate SDG 11.
4. Among them was Resolution on adequate Housing which received wide support and in recognition that there is a global deficit of houses estimated to be 440 million by 2025.
5. A situation compounded by the high level of credit, cost of kind n urban areas, cost of construction is also high.
6. Adequate housing is central in promoting sustainable cities and communities UN-habitat has a critical role to play in supporting member states – scale up and provide policy.
7. Key building blocks on this resolution – commitment to a holistic approach to housing.
8. Multi-stakeholder involvement bringing together governments, authorities, and private sector.
9. Financing at appropriate levels, funding tools that support and promote investment in a range of hosing delivery models.
10. Establishment of working group that will advise the assembly.
11. Reporting on adequate housing.
12. As Kenya we look to its implementation and all other resolutions.

Qn. 2- The SDG 11 report sounds the alarm bell about a possible collective failure. It also calls for transformative shifts. In your view, what are the top priority actions to rescue SDG 11?

1. Financing- This is a very important aspect not only in rescuing SDG 11, but this applies to all SDGs since they are all interlinked one way or another – In the case of financing Kenya has found innovative ways to fund Housing through a whole of government, multisectoral approach to SDG policy to implementing need for involvement of SDG 11.

2. Need for increased capacity building especially for developing countries while doing the Voluntary Local Reviews. During the High-Level meeting on the New Urban Agenda in April 2022, only 37 countries had submitted their Voluntary Local Reviews. We need to see commitment.
3. Need for collective stakeholder engagement starting with sensitization of local governments on the importance of SDG 11 - Bottom-up approach.
4. Need for review of current policies and fully implement the already set out policies or create an environment that is policy efficient before adding new policies.
5. Need for timely collection and dissemination of data to ensure that data is not only collected but it is used to its full capacity.
6. Need for enhanced Science Technology and Innovation best practices and integration of going green while building sustainable cities for the future.
7. Need to maximize on the synergies between the different goals and minimize the trade-offs for example if you are building the infrastructure, you must ensure that the livelihoods of all are not negatively impacted.
8. In conclusion, SDG 11 is important for all as it addresses the foundation of human settlements, which is where the majority of Kenyans live. It is a cross-cutting goal that enables progress on other SDGs, including health, education, poverty, and economic growth, as well as the protection of the environment.

Thank You!

Statement by Hon. Martha Wangari, Member of Parliament during 4th Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held at the margins of the 2023 HLPF, on 16th July 2023 at the UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 4.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I take this opportunity, on behalf of Kenya, to appreciate UNDESA and UNFCCC for convening this 4th Conference.
2. Climate change remains the greatest concern of our time, posing significant challenges to the development aspirations of most developing countries, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
3. In the African context, the State of Climate in Africa report confirms that Africa is and will be impacted more than any other region. It is estimated that by 2050, climate impacts could cost African nations USD 50 billion annually. African governments are already bearing substantial costs for climate impacts, allocating approximately 10% of their GDP towards funding adaptation measures. Kenya's economy continues to be negatively impacted by the effects of climate change, decreasing between 2 to 2.4% of GDP per year.
4. To tackle the challenges posed by climate change, we have updated our National Determined Contribution plan that commits to abate greenhouse gas emissions by 32% by 2030. Additionally, we have developed several sector specific policies, Plans, Strategies, and Legislations aligned to our Constitution and our long-term development blueprint, Kenya Vision 2030 and its 4th Medium-Term Plan. The Government has adopted a Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda whose main objective is to improve the livelihoods and welfare of Kenyans.

Excellencies,

5. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are interconnected, and their achievement relies on integrated planning, coherent policies, and economic stimulus investments that address both the Sustainable Development Goals and climate challenges. Adequate provision of means of implementation, including financing, technological transfer, and capacity building, is crucial, particularly for developing countries.
6. Addressing the impacts of climate change and to achieve the SDGs will require collective efforts. This can be done through continued dialogue among Governments, policymakers and all relevant stakeholders.
7. It is for this reason that Kenya invites you to the African Climate Summit in Nairobi from 4th to 6th September 2023, hosted in collaboration with the African Union Commission. This Summit precedes the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Ambition Summit in September 2023 and the COP28 in December 2023. These meetings present a critical opportunity for the international community to come together, provide solutions-oriented approaches.
8. I look forward to a successful deliberation during this conference.

Thank you.

Session Notes by H.E. Patrick Ole Ntutu, Governor Nakuru County on Quality-of-Life Initiative: At the heart of the SDG Rescue Plan for People and Planet, Millennium ONE UN Plaza Hotel, Diplomats Room on 17th July 2023

The UN Secretary General's report issued on 24th April 2023 raised a red flag on the achievement of SDGs with startling figures like 575 million globally people will be living in extreme poverty and that 84 million children will be out of school among others. These figures call for renewed action and urgency amongst all of us in this Decade of Action aimed at fast-tracking the implementation of SDGs.

In Kenya since the adoption SDGs, the government has: mainstreamed the goals in policies, development plans and budgeting frameworks at both levels of government; created awareness; carried out capacity building programmes; and facilitated tracking and reporting among others.

COVID-19 Pandemic impacted on implementation of all SDGs undermining the progress made. The progress has been further compounded by the climate change related impacts such as drought and floods with Kenya experiencing its worst drought in 40 years in 2022.

The Government of Kenya in consultation with other stakeholders has developed an SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (2022-2030) aimed at positioning the Country back and accelerate progress in the implementation of SDGs.

The strategy focuses on: strengthening and sustaining structural economic transformation for inclusive and diversified competitive and resilient economy; Strengthening coordinating mechanisms to address disparities that include social inequalities and ensure intergenerational equality of opportunities to uplift populations left behind; and Leveraging on policy, legal and institutional framework and developing capacity for the mobilization of green finance for increased investment to address climate change and green growth.

Kenya has an inter-agency technical working committee drawing membership from National Government, County governments, Civil society organizations, Private sector, National Parliament, UN Agencies, academia and media to coordinate the acceleration of SDGs. The strategy has been integrated in the development plans of both levels of governments.

The Government has adopted the bottom-up economic transformation agenda which seeks to target those in the bottom of the economic pyramid with a view of the national economic turnaround.

The Government of Kenya is implementing the following initiatives: affirmative action funds targeting the vulnerable groups; enhancement of tax reforms; development of people centered resource allocation frameworks; enhance own source revenue collection at both levels of government, subsidy programmers for small scale farmers; universal

health care; free early childhood and primary education; and subsidized secondary and tertiary education.

Towards the rescue of the falling SDGs trajectory, Kenya call for actualization of the UN Secretary General's SDGs Stimulus, development of fair-trade policies by developed countries, and people centered reforms in international financial institutions.

I thank you! Asanteni sana

Talking Notes by H.E. FCPA Fernandes Barasa, Governor Kakamega County During a Side Event: Mainstreaming Voluntary Local Reviews and Localization of SDGs for SDGs Acceleration at the Local Level” Organized by Egypt, Brazil, Pakistan and UNDP, UN Headquarters, Conference Room 5, 17th July 2023

Distinguished delegates,

Question: Since the approval of the constitution of Kenya in 2010, your country has been taking major steps forward towards the devolution of authorities to its 47 counties, including political, administrative, economic, and fiscal power.

(We would like to know more about your experience in terms of the challenges and lessons learned on how such devolution empowered Kenya's county governments, as the local authorities, especially Kakamega County in Western Kenya, to take the lead as drivers of growth and development, and improving the overall localization efforts of SDGs in Kenya).

1. Kenya has embraced a devolved system of governance comprising the National Government and the 47 County Governments. The system entails the location of political power, responsibilities, and resources in the two levels of government that are distinct and interdependent.
2. The National Government is charged with providing the overall policy framework for the sectoral developments while County Government are allocated responsibility for delivery of critical services such as health, agriculture, early childhood education and development, trade among others. As such, County governments are pivotal in the implementation of the SDGs.
3. Devolution is one of the most transformative changes to Kenya's governance system. Significant milestones have been achieved in the devolved sectors with power finances and responsibilities being devolved to Counties. Even more important is the ability under devolution for communities to directly participate in decision-making on affairs that concern them. Strengthened devolution has been noted as key in delivery of SDGs in Kenya.
4. An institutional framework for coordination of SDGs implementation has been developed through establishment of SDGs unit at the Council of Governors and appointment and training of SDGs Champions across all the 47 Counties to support mainstreaming and tracking of implementation.

5. The County Governments have mainstreamed SDGs in their development plans, budgets, laws, policies and strategies. The Counties have also created awareness; carried out capacity building programmes; and facilitated tracking and reporting among others.
6. County governments are facilitating tracking and reporting on the SDGs through the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Process. Five county governments have undertaken Voluntary Local review (VLR) in 2019 and 7 Counties have initiated the VLR process in 2023.
7. It is important to note that the implementation of devolution has not been without challenges especially around financing of devolved functions and the difficulty to access other forms of financing like loans and guarantees. Consequently, SDGs implementation in Counties is hampered by limited resources. Capacity for data to support tracking and reporting has also been a challenge.
8. To address the challenges, the Counties have put in place various strategies to enhance own source revenue such as automation so as to increase resources base to support implementation of the SDGs. The Counties are also exploring other financing mechanisms such as Public Private Partnerships. County governments are also strengthening their statistical units and developing statistical abstracts to provide data to support tracking and reporting.

I thank you.

**Intervention by Mr. John Olela, Director SDGs Coordination Directorate During
Singapore VNR Presentation Session on 18th July 2023**

**The President of ECOSOC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. The Government of Kenya congratulates the Governments of France, Lithuania and Singapore for presentation of their VNRs and efforts towards attainment of the SDGs.
2. The Government of Kenya underscores Singapore's Whole-of-Nation approach and implementation of her Green Plan 2030, and directs the following questions to Singapore:
 - i. How does Singapore combine environmentalism and development to achieve its current level of economic growth and well-being?
 - ii. How does Singapore manage the trade-offs between development efforts and environmental goals?

I thank you.

Talking Notes by Hon. Martha Wangari, MP during a Side Event on the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs on Tuesday 18th July 2023

In Kenya, the role of Parliament in promoting SDGs has been crucial bearing in mind that Kenya co-chaired the negotiations and formation of SDGs. Kenya has a Parliamentary Association/Caucus on SDGs which pushes for SDGs localization through the parliamentary platform.

Other interventions include:

Legislation and Policy Formulation: The SDGs Caucus recently sponsored Children's Act of Kenya 2022 and Mental Health Amended Act 2022. Parliament also passed SDGs enabling laws such as: Sustainable Waste Management Act of 2022, Refugees Act 2021, Public-Private Partnerships Act 2021 etc. The Kenya Parliamentary SDGs Caucus sits at the SDGs National Interagency Steering Committee and also leads various Policy reforms sub-committees in other SDGs related sectors such as Mental Health. In Partnership with the Kenya Law Reforms, Parliament is expected to undertake review of the Penal Code aimed at decriminalization. Ongoing legislative work is on our website.

Budgetary Allocation and Oversight: Parliament has enacted annual Finance Bills, County Allocation Revenue Bills, Appropriations Bills, Supplementary Appropriations Bills, Division of Revenue Bills, Public Finance Management Bills to facilitate SDGs Financing. Further, Parliament has a Public Accounts Committee that oversees public expenditure. Departmental Committees also oversee relevant MDAs alongside the Budget and Finance Committees.

Policy Coherence and Integration: Through parliamentarians lobbying, the former president issued a directive to all MDAs to realign their strategies with SDGs and they complied.

Advocacy and Awareness Creation: Other than the SDGs Caucus where I am the Vice Chairperson, we have Parliamentary Caucuses on Youth, PWDs, Women, Climate, Human Rights who also champion SDGs. We are currently pushing for implementation of 2/3rd Gender Rule in Parliament, Harm Reduction, Identity Rights, Mental Health, Climate Mitigation etc.

Monitoring and Reporting: Parliament takes part in our National SDGs monitoring, tracking and reporting processes as well as this HLPF. We will table a report in Parliament after this review.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing: Parliament holds various trainings and programs where MPs and staff gain knowledge and information on SDGs. Further, the SDGs Caucus holds an annual SDGs Open Day in Parliament grounds where we invite other stakeholders to come share, network and partner with MPs towards SDGs

implementation, majorly government agencies, CSOs, UN agencies and Private Sector. Our SDGs parliamentary Open Day will be held later this year.

Representation and Inclusive Decision-Making: Parliament conducts public participation on bills while MPs also sponsor bills, motions, questions and petitions on behalf of their constituents.

Regional and International Cooperation: Inter-Parliamentary Union, African Parliamentary Union, Pan-African Parliament, Parliamentarians on Global Goals, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and East Africa Legislative Assembly are some cross-border inter-parliamentary forums for SDGs Cooperation Kenya is part of.

Implementation: MPs through the CDF and NGAAF, implement various SDGs projects at constituency and county level in consultation with the electorates.

Challenges: Limited Awareness and understanding of SDGs frameworks, fragmented approaches considering SDGs are cross-cutting, limited resources for allocation and advocacy, changing political priorities and short-termism, political polarization, illiterate constituents, implementation and monitoring gaps such as insufficient data, weak reporting mechanisms, and limited access to information just to mention a few.

Please note that Kenya has devolved governments whose County Assemblies mirror the role of the National Parliament. Kenya believes that by working with other nations we can accelerate SDGs realization by the year 2030.

I Thank you!

Talking Points by Amb. Jean W. Kimani During a Side Event on Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to provide adequate housing on 19th July 2023

1. From the onset let me thank the Government of Bahrain for organizing this event on **'Innovative and sustainable solution to provide adequate housing'**. I would also like to appreciate your Government for Co-sponsoring our resolution **'Adequate Housing for All'** that was recently adopted during the Second Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi.
2. The resolution was proposed by Kenya and cosponsored by seven other countries including France, Bahrain, Jordan, Malaysia, Egypt, USA, and Pakistan.
3. The resolution on adequate housing was informed by the recognition of the challenges we face globally in the provision of adequate housing with the global housing deficit estimated to be 440 million homes by 2025.
4. The situation is compounded by the ever-rising rate of urbanization, the high cost of credit, the high cost of land especially in urban areas, and the prohibitive cost of construction. Further, Private sector funds channeled into housing are profit-motivated and largely not within the purchasing power of low-income households.
5. Housing is a key priority for Kenya both under Vision 2030 agenda/ MTP11 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformative Agenda. We aim at reducing the number of our urban population living in slums/informal settlements.
6. The Government has set an ambition to bridge the gap in housing by building 200,000 housing units annually. This is targeted to the lower income housing segment in a financing and delivery framework that attracts funding from the private sector.
7. The Government with regard to prosperity and local finance, has invested in the Housing Fund, in which the government has allocated funds to support the Housing Levy in this financial year and recently parliament passed a bill to allow implementation of taxation of 1.5% house levy to ensure that the proposed building of 200,000 units comes to fruition. Through the Housing Fund, the government will be able to offer financing options and open the market to affordable building products to match the size of everyone's pocket while purchasing a house.
8. The Government also aims at increasing the mortgage uptake from the current 30,000 mortgages to one million mortgages by lowering the loan percentage to as low as 9%. The ripple effect of this policy, will provide employment to many people who are at

the bottom of the pyramid including the Jua kali artisans. This will also enable them to pay for the affordable houses and improve their living conditions.

9. Among the affordable housing projects that the Government of Kenya has completed include; Pangani affordable housing, Ruiru, Shauri Moyo, Mavoko Housing, Kibera Soweto B, and Bellevue Park Residences. These projects are aimed towards improving sustainable living conditions for the Kenyan citizens.
10. Further, our Government has developed interventions addressing key challenges in providing affordable housing which include Land Banking, mobilizing affordable finance for housing through National Housing Development Fund, provision of bulk infrastructure for housing development, promotion of industrial and innovative building materials and technologies, promotion of saving towards affordable housing through Boma Yangu platform as well as promotion of Public Private Partnership through tax incentives such as V.A.T Exemptions, Import Declaration Fund and Railway Development Levy Preferential treatment, as well as 15% corporate tax payment.
11. On Public-Private-People partnerships we consider it a significant force in driving economic growth and development in a Country. The Public- Private People partnerships has proven to be an effective means of bridging gaps between demand and resources, quality and accessibility, and risk and benefit. The ability to share risk with the private sector, tap into external financial resources, and profit from private-sector investments and intellectual capital gives public-sector policymakers greater flexibility in allocating both human and financial resources.
12. Kenya has also embarked on promotion of the principle of compact urban development in the planning process, planning for Special Economic Zones (SEZ) as designated areas that promote manufacturing, trade and services and produce for domestic or export markets.
13. Among the elements of providing sustainable and adequate housing includes ensuring good quality of life. Housing goes beyond a roof over our heads and building but impacts so many aspects in our lives.
14. The adopted resolution proposes the Establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental Expert working group to advise and assist the Assembly in the implementation of its mandate on adequate housing, and requests the Working Group to:
 - Assess the state of efforts to progressively realize adequate housing for all;

- Identify policy best practices for the progressive realization of adequate housing;
- Propose a framework for measuring and reporting on the adequacy of housing across diverse national and local contexts;
- Consider the progress made in implementing the UN-Habitat programme of work related to adequate housing;
- Map and evaluate existing multilateral and bilateral support for the development and implementation of effective housing policies, programmes and projects; and
- Report on its recommendations to the Assembly at its third session.

15. In conclusion I would like to encourage members to commit to the implementation of this resolution.


I Thank you.

Annex III: Programme of Participation

PROGRAMME FOR THE 2023 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT						
THEME: "ACCELERATING THE RECOVERY FROM THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) AND THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT ALL LEVELS."						
Monday, July 10, 2023						
No	Time	Event/Meeting	Venue	Responsibility /Logistics and Drafting	Officials who Participated	Status/ Remarks
1.	8:30am-9:45am	Planning Meeting	KMUN Office, 866 UN Plaza	All	Amb. Jean Kimani, DPR. Kinyungu, Gov. Kakamega County, Director SDGs & Hon. Innocent Mugabe.	The Meeting was successful and the side event preparation status reviewed
2.	10:00am-11:00am	Opening Session: President of ECOSOC Keynote addresses "Messages from ECOSOC"	UN - General Assembly	<i>DPR & Kingi</i>	Amb. Jean Kimani, DPR. Kinyungu, Gov. Kakamega, Director SDGs & Hon. Innocent Mugabe.	Kenya participated in the session
3.	11:00am-1:00pm	Townhall meeting: Overcoming the crises, driving transformation for the SDGs, and leaving no one behind	UN - General Assembly	<i>Domnick & Florence covered the session</i>	H.E. Fernandes, Amb. Jean Kimani, DPR. Kinyungu, Director SDGs, Hon. Innocent & Hon. Martha	H.E. Fernandes Barasa made an intervention on behalf of the Government

4.	1:00pm-3:00pm	<i>Lunch break and Meeting at KMUN from 1:30pm to 2:45pm:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the side event preparation and HLPF Day 2 participation programme. 				
5.	3:00pm-4:30pm	Panel Discussion - SDGs in focus: SDG 17 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Partnerships for the Goals Financing our crisis response and investing in the SDGs	UN – Conference Room 4	<i>Monica Asuna & Bernard Mburu covered the session</i>	Monica Asuna & Bernard Mburu	Kenya participated in the session
6.	4:30pm-6:00pm	Panel Discussion: Science, technology and innovation: Triggering transformation and sustaining a science driven recovery	UN – Conference Room 4	<i>Bernard, Pinky & Halima covered the session</i>	Hon. Innocent Mugabe	Hon. Innocent Mugabe made an intervention.
7.	6:30pm-8:00pm	Side Event: Financing for Sustainable and Inclusive Agrifood systems and Food Crises Prevention and Mitigation Organized by FAO Co-organized by the Government of Brazil and Pakistan	UN - Conference Room 11	<i>Ken covered the event</i>	Governor Barasa & Ken Oluoch	H.E Fernandes Barasa made an intervention

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

No	Time	Event/Meeting	Venue	Responsibility	Officials who Participated	Status/ Remarks
1.	8:00am 9:30am	 Kenya's Side Event Localization of SDGs Amidst Multiple Crises organized by Kenya and UNDP	UN - Conference Room 3	Director - Opening remarks & Ken - Presentation: Run of show: Director SDGs, Domnick & Kingi.	Amb. Kimani	The Side Event was successful with participants from national governments, sub-national governments, UN Agencies, regional and global organizations, and civil society organizations.
2.	10:00am- 1:00pm	Panel Discussion: SDGs in focus: SDG 6 and interlinkages with other / SDGs – Clean water and sanitation	UN – Conference Room 4	Shelly & Ken covered the session	Amb. J. Kimani, Governors, Director SDGs & MPs	Kenya participated in the session
3.	11:30am – 1:00pm	Side Event: Implementation of public policies for the	United Nations Headquarters	Ken covered the event	H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma (Panellist)	H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma made an intervention as a

		2030 Agenda: Experiences of local and regional governments and the role of international organizations <i>OECD and Province of Cordoba Argentina</i>	Conference Room D			panelist in the session
4.	1:00pm-3:00pm	Lunch				
5.	3:00pm-4:15pm	Panel Discussion: Transformation from the ground up: Acting at local level	UN - Conference Room 4	Ken & Florence <i>covered the session</i>	Hon. Ole Ntutu, Governors, MPs & Director SDGs	Hon. Ole Ntutu made an intervention
6.	4:15pm-6:00pm	Panel Discussion: Small Island Developing States From recovery to resilience in the face of multiple shocks.	UN - Conference Room 4	<i>Shelly & Domnick covered the session</i>	Shelly & Domnick	Kenya participated in the session
7.	6:30pm-8:00pm	Side Event: Screening of Water's Journey, a documentary exploring the consequences of the loss of forests due to	Scandinavia House 58 Park Avenue New York, NY 10016	Florence covered the event	Director SDGs, Ken & Florence	Kenya participated in the event

		agricultural expansion to water resources, environment, and livelihoods in Taita Hills, Kenya and Discussion with Petri Pellinka				
Wednesday, July 12, 2023						
No	Time	Event/Meeting	Venue	Responsibility	Officials who Participated	Status/Remarks
1.	10:00am-1:00pm	Panel Discussion: SDGs in focus: SDG 7 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Affordable and clean energy	UN – Conference Room 4	<i>Bernard covered the session</i>	Mr. Paul Mbuti & Bernard Mburu	Mr. Paul Mbuti make interventions
2.	11:00am – 12:30pm	Side Event: Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda: Dialogue 2 - Local public services to address inequalities, promote innovation and foster sustainability	Conference Room 1	Ken covered the event	H.E Dr. Wilber Ottichilo (Panelist)	H.E Dr. Wilber Ottichilo made interventions as a panelist

3.	12:20pm-1:30pm	Panel Discussion: Towards the Summit of the Future: aligning Agenda 2030 to Agenda 2063 Organized by Oxfam International AU ECOSOCC, the Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN), in partnership with other Civil Society Organizations	Bahai International Community 866 UN Plaza, Ground Floor	Kingi covered the event	Amb. Njambi & Florence	Amb. Njambi made remarks during the session.
4.	1:30pm-3:00pm	Private Lunch				
5.	3:00pm-6:00pm	Panel Discussion: SDGs in focus: SDG 9 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Industry, innovation and infrastructure	UN – Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	Director SDGs	Kenya participated in the session
6.	13:15-14:30	Side Event: Delivering the SDGs in Cities and regions amid geopolitical uncertainty <i>Organized by OECD</i>	Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York	<i>Ken covered the event</i>	H.E Dr. Paul Otuoma (Panelist)	H.E Dr. Paul Otuoma made interventions as a panelist

7.	3:30pm-4:30pm	Side Event: Scaling Up to Phase Down: Solutions to Finance the Energy Transition in Developing Countries, organized by World Bank Group	UNHQ Room S15-22	<i>Pinky covered the event</i>	Mr. Paul Mbuthi Ms. Pinky Zala, The National Treasury	Kenya participated in the event
8.	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Special Event: Local 2030 Coalition	Conference Room 6	<i>Ken covered the event</i>	Amb. J. Kimani All Governors	Kenya participated in the session
9.	6:30pm-8:00pm	Side Event: Culture as a Global Public Good: Towards a Culture Development Goal beyond 2030, organized by Greece and UNESCO	UN - Conference Room 3	<i>Emmanuel covered the event</i>	Amb. Njambi	Amb. Njambi made remarks during the event
10.	4:00pm – 6:00pm	Side Event: Public-private partnerships for regional sustainable development <i>Organized by Province of Córdoba</i>	One U.N. Plaza, 25th floor. ZIP Code, NY 10017. New York	<i>Ken covered the event</i>	H.E Governor Ole Ntutu & Ms. Monica Asuna	H.E Governor Ole Ntutu made interventions

Thursday, July 13, 2023

No	Time	Event/Meeting	Venue	Responsibility	Officials who Participated	Status/Remarks
1.	10:00am-10:10am	Panel Discussion: Introduction of the report on the 10-Year Framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns	UN-Conference Room 4	<i>Ken covered the session</i>	All Governors	Kenya participated in the session
	10:10am-1:00pm	Panel Discussion: SDGs in focus: SDG 11 and interlinkages with other SDGs –Sustainable cities and communities	UN-Conference Room 4	<i>Shelly & Domnick to cover</i>	Amb. J. Kimani, Governors, Director SDGs & Hon. MPs.	Amb. J. Kimani made interventions
2.	1:00pm-3:00pm	Private Lunch				
3.	10:00am - 1:00pm	Side Event: Local and Regional Governments Day	Millennium ONE UN Plaza Hotel, Diplomats room.	<i>Ken covered the event</i>	H.E Governor Ottichilo	H.E Governor Ottichilo made interventions

4.	1:15pm – 2:30pm	Side Event: Inclusive sustainable economic transformation: Country experiences of integrating policies and programmes (ODI)	UN Conference Room 9	<i>Domnick covered the event</i>	Director SDGs, Sen. Beatrice Oyomo & Florence Syevuo.	Director SDGs made a presentation as a panelist
5.	1:15pm – 2:30pm	Side Event: Strengthening the Global Dialogue and cooperation towards the Global stock taking of SDGs 7 in 2024	Conference Room C	<i>Paul Mbuti covered the event</i>	Mr. Paul Mbuti, State Department for Energy & Hon. Mugabe.	Mr. Paul Mbuti made interventions
6.	4.30pm - 5:45pm	Side Event: VSR-VRL days official launch, LRG Day	Millenium Hilton UN Hotel	<i>Ken covered the event</i>	H.E. Hon. Patrick Ole Ntutu (Speaker) & H.E Governor Ottichilo	H.E. Hon. Patrick Ole Ntutu made a presentation as a speaker
7.	3:00pm-4:15pm	Panel Discussion: Overcoming middle-income countries' challenges in advancing the 2030 Agenda	Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	H.E Governor Ottichilo, Sen. Beatrice & Director SDGs	H.E Governor Ottichilo made interventions
8.	4:15pm-6:00pm	Panel Discussion: African countries, Least Developed	Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	Amb. J. Kimani, Director SDGs, Governors & Hon. MPs	Kenya participated in the session

		Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries Turning the tide, regaining lost ground and embarking on the road to the SDGs				
Friday, July 14, 2023						
No	Time	Event/Meeting	Venue	Responsibility	Officials who Participated	Status/Remarks
1.	8:00am-9:30am	Side Event "Rescuing SDG 11 for a resilient urban planet". Organized by UN Habitat	Conference Room 11	<i>Shelly covered the event</i>	Amb. J. Kimani, Paul Mbuti, Governors & Hon. MPs	Amb. J. Kimani made interventions as a panelist
2.	9:00am-11:00am	Panel Discussion: Perspectives from major groups and other stakeholders at the mid-point of the SDGs: Towards inclusive transformation	UN - Conference Room 4	<i>Monica Asuna covered the session</i>	Sen. Beatrice Oyomo, Monica Asuna & Florence.	Kenya participated in the session

3.	11:00am-1:00pm	Voluntary national reviews (4 VNRs): Panel: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Liechtenstein, Zambia	UN - Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	Pinky, The National Treasury	Kenya participated in the session
4.	1:00pm-3:00pm	Private Lunch				
5.	1:00pm-2:30pm	Side Event: Integrating South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to Support Acceleration of the SDGs Implementation	Doha Conference Room – FF Building – 11th Floor, 304 E. 45th Street	<i>Monica Asuna covered the event</i>	Monica Asuna, The National Treasury	Kenya participated in the event
6.	1:15pm – 2:45pm	Side Event: The Quality-of-Life Initiative: At the heart of the SDG Rescue Plan for People and Planet	The Diplomat Ballroom, The Millennium Hilton New York One UN Plaza, United Nations Plaza, New	<i>Ken covered the event</i>	H.E Governor Ole Ntutu (Speaker) and other Governors	H.E Governor Ole Ntutu made interventions as a speaker

			York, NY 10017			
7.	3:00pm- 6:00pm	Voluntary national reviews (5 VNRs) 1 st Panel: Barbados, Rwanda, Viet Nam	Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick & Shelly covered the session</i>	<i>Domnick & Shelly</i>	Kenya participated in the session
		2 nd Panel: Burkina Faso, Cambodia				
Sunday, July 16, 2023						
1.	10:00am – 12:30pm	Special Event: 4 th Global Conference on Strengthening synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development	Conference Room 4	<i>Kingi covered the session</i>	Hon. Martha Wangari, Sen. Beatrice & Paul Mbuti	Hon. Martha Wangari made interventions
Monday, July 17, 2023 MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF HLPF / ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT						
No	Time	Event/Meeting	Venue	Responsibility	Officials who Participated	Status/Remarks

1.	8:00am-9:30am	Side Event: Mainstreaming Voluntary Local Reviews and localization of SDGs for SDGs Acceleration at the Local Level” organized by Egypt, Brazil, Pakistan, and UNDP	UN - Conference Room 5	<i>Ken & Domnick covered the event</i>	Governor Otuoma, Director SDGs & Kingi	Governor Otuoma made interventions
2.	9:00am-10:15am	Ministerial Opening: President of ECOSOC Secretary-General President of the General Assembly Keynotes Youth representatives	UN - General Assembly	<i>Domnick & Kingi covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Governor Barasa, Hon. Martha Wangari, Amb. J. Kimani, Director SDGs & Sen. Beatrice Oyomo	Kenya participated in the session
3.	10:15am-10:45am	Fireside Chat featuring GSDR scientists	UN - General Assembly	<i>Domnick & Kingi covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Governor Barasa, Hon. Martha Wangari, Amb. J. Kimani, Director SDGs & Sen. Beatrice Oyomo	Kenya participated in the session
4.	10:45am-1:00pm	General Debate: “Building momentum towards the SDG Summit” ** (Continuation)	UN - General Assembly	<i>Domnick & Kingi covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Governor Barasa, Hon. Martha Wangari, Amb. J. Kimani, Director SDGs & Sen. Beatrice Oyomo	Kenya participated in the session

5.	1:15pm-2:30pm	Side Event Arkadag City's Model for the SDG 11: Paving the way towards the UNGA High-level Meeting on Sustainable Transport, organized by Permanent Mission of Turkmenistan to the UN and the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan	UN - Conference Room B	<i>Shelly & Ken covered the event</i>	Shelly & Ken	Kenya participated in the event
6.	3:00pm-6:00pm	(Parallel meetings) General Debate: "Building momentum towards the SDG Summit" ** (Continuation)	UN - General Assembly	<i>Kingi & Domnick covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Governor Ole Ntutu, Hon. Mugabe, Amb. Njambi & Director SDGs	Kenya participated in the session
		Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs): 1 st Panel: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guyana, Romania	UN - Conference Room 4	<i>Shelly & Halima covered the session</i>	Shelly & Halima	Kenya participated in the session
		Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs): 2 nd Panel: Central African Republic, Chile, Uzbekistan	UN - Conference Room 4	<i>Shelly & Halima covered the session</i>	Shelly & Halima	Kenya participated in the session

7.	5:30pm-7:00pm	High-level Reception for Ministers, by United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Developments Affairs, The Rt Hon James Cleverley MP organized by Permanent Mission of UK	50 United Nations Plaza	<i>Kingi covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Governor Otuoma, Amb. Njambi & Director SDGs	Kenya participated in the session
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF HLPF / ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT						
No.	Time	Event/Meeting	Venue	Responsibility	Officials who Participated	Status/Remarks
1.	9:00am-9:15am	Messages from the UN Environment Assembly	UN – Conference Room 4	<i>Ken covered the session</i>	Governor Otuoma & Hon. Mugabe	Kenya participated in the session
2.	9:15am: 10:45 am	Messages from the Regions (Dialogue) (Mobilizing regional action and leveraging regional frameworks to support countries in overcoming crises and moving on to recovery)	UN – Conference Room 4	<i>Ken covered the session</i>	Governor Otuoma & Hon. Mugabe	Kenya participated in the session

		and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda)				
3.	10:45am-1:00pm	Voluntary national reviews (5 VNRs): Individual: Saint Kitts and Nevis Panel: Bahrain, Belgium, Croatia, United Republic of Tanzania	UN – Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	Director SDGs	Kenya participated in the session
4.	1:00pm-3:00pm	Private Lunch				
5.	1:15pm - 2:30pm.	Side Event: Role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs	EU Mission	<i>Kingi covered the event</i>	Hon. Martha Wangari, Sen. Beatrice & Florence Syevuo	Hon. Martha Wangari made interventions
6.	1:15pm - 2:45pm.	Side Event: Integration and Impact of digital technology in developing countries in the context of the Right to Development	NYCE Social Hall, 4 West 43rd Street, New York City	<i>Domnick covered the event</i>	Director SDGs & Domnick	Kenya participated in the event

7.	3:00pm-6:00pm	(Parallel meetings) General debate: "Building momentum towards the SDG Summit" ** (Continuation)	UN – Trusteeship Council Chamber	<i>Kingi & Domnick covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Amb. Njambi & Director SDGs	PS, MSMEs delivered Kenya's National Statement
		Voluntary national reviews (6 VNRs): 1st Panel: Brunei Darussalam, Iceland, Timor-Leste	UN-Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	Director SDGs	Kenya participated in the session
		2nd Panel: France, Lithuania, Singapore		<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	Director SDGs & Ken Oluoch	Director SDGs delivered Kenya's question to Singapore
Wednesday, July 19, 2023 MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF HLPF / ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT						
1.	8:00am-9:30am	Side Event: Delivering on the Doha Programme of Action and SDGs: Increasing access to finance for SMEs to drive economic transformation in LDCs. Organized by UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)	UN - Conference Room 8	<i>Kingi covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs	Kenya participated in the session

2.	9:00am: 1:00pm	Voluntary national reviews (8 VNRs): 1 st Panel: Canada, Poland	UN - Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	Monica & Director SDGs	Kenya participated in the session
		2 nd Panel: Saudi Arabia, Maldives Individual: European Union				
		3rd Panel: Ireland, Mongolia, Tajikistan				
3.	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Private Lunch				
4.	1:15pm-2:30 pm	Side Event: Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to provide Adequate Housing	Conference Room 2	<i>Shelly covered the session</i>	Amb. J. Kimani	Amb. J. Kimani made interventions
5.	3:00pm-5:30pm	(Parallel meetings) General debate: "Building momentum towards the SDG Summit" ** (Continuation)	UN - Trusteeship Council Chamber	<i>Kingi & Domnick covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs & Director SDGs	Kenya participated in the event
		Voluntary national reviews 5 VNRs:	UN - Conference Room 4	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	Director SDGs	Kenya participated in the session

		1 st Panel: Kuwait, Slovakia, Turkmenistan				
		2 nd Panel: Fiji, Portugal				
	5:30pm-6:00pm	Conclusion of the HLPF	UN - Conference Room 4	<i>Kingi & Domnick covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Director SDGs & Amb. J. Kimani	Kenya participated in the session
Thursday, July 20, 2023 ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT						
1.	10:00am-10:30am	(Parallel meetings) Introduction of the Secretary-General's reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC and on "long-term trends and scenarios: impacts on the realization of the SDGs" Introduction of the report of the Committee on Development Policy	UN - ECOSOC Chamber	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Director SDGs & Amb. Njambi	Kenya participated in the event
2.	10:00am-1:00pm	General Debate: "Building momentum towards the SDG"	UN - Trusteeship Council Chamber	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Director SDGs & Amb. Njambi	Kenya participated in the session

		Summit" ** (Conclusion)				
3.	10:30am-1:00pm	(Parallel) Strengthening UN system institutions for resilient sustainable development.	ECOSOC Chamber	<i>Kingi & Domnick covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Director SDGs & Amb. J. Kimani	Kenya participated in the session
4.	1:00pm-3:00pm	Private Lunch				
5.	1:30pm – 3:00pm	Side Event: Celebration of APRM 20 th Anniversary	AU Mission to UN (305 E 47 th St)	<i>Domnick covered the event</i>	PS, MSMEs, Director, SDGs & Monica Asuna	Kenya participated in the event
6.	3:00pm-5:30pm	Panel Discussion: Overcoming "short-termism" to secure a better future (Long term trends and scenarios on crisis response and recovery and the SDGs)	UN - ECOSOC Chamber	<i>Domnick covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Director, SDGs & Monica Asuna	Kenya participated in the session
7.	5:30pm-6:00pm	Conclusion of the High-Level Segment	UN - ECOSOC Chamber	<i>Domnick & Kingi covered the session</i>	PS, MSMEs, Director, SDGs & Monica Asuna	Kenya participated in the session

Annex IV: Photos - 2023 High Level Political Forum



H.E. FCPA Fernandes Barasa, Governor Kakamega County (R) leading Kenya Delegation at the Opening Session of 2023 HLPF on Monday 10th July 2023



H.E. Amb. Martin Kimani, PhD, CBS, (Middle), delivering his opening remarks during Kenya's side event on localization of SDGs on Tuesday 11th July 2023



Participants following a presentation during Kenya's side event on localization of SDGs on Tuesday 11th July 2023



Moderator of the Kenya's side event on localization of SDGs Mr. John Olela, Director SDGs (Middle) possess with County Governors, Members of Parliament and panelists after the side event on Tuesday 11th July 2023



Mr. John Olela, Director SDGs (L) making a presentation during a side event on inclusive sustainable economic transformation: Country experiences of integrating policies and programmes organized by Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on Thursday 13th July 2023



Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development (R) leading Kenya Delegation at the Opening Session of Ministerial Segment of 2023 HLPF on Monday 17th July 2023



Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development (R) with other delegates during the Opening Session of Ministerial Segment of 2023 HLPF on Monday 17th July 2023



Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development delivering Kenya's National Statement during the Ministerial Segment of 2023 HLPF on Tuesday 18th July 2023



Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development (2nd R) with Delegates from The National Treasury and Economic Planning during celebration of APRM 20th Anniversary at the Margins of 2023 HLPF on Thursday 20th July 2023



Ms. Susan Mang'eni, Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development (2nd R) leading Kenya delegation during the Closing Session of the High-Level Segment of 2023 HLPF on Thursday 20th July 2023