



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

**REPORT ON THE 2022 NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE**

THEME:

***"Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs
Implementation in the Decade of Action"***

30TH NOVEMBER - 2ND DECEMBER 2022



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Against Hunger
ADSE	Aerospace, Defence and Security Expo
AFA	Agriculture and Food Authority
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
ARFSD	Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CAF	County Assemblies Forum
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CEC	County Executive Committee
CGD	Citizen Generated Data
CIDPs	County Integrated Development Plans
COAST	Creating Opportunities and Alleviating Poverty through Sustainable Trade
CoG	Council of Governors
COP 27	27 th Conference of Parties
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CPMIS	Child Protection Management Information System
CREAW	Center for Rights Education and Awareness
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission Status of Women
DHS	Demographic Household Survey
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
EABL	East African Breweries Limited
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ENNDA	Ewaso Ng'iro Northern River Basin Authority
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibilities
EPS	Economic Planning Secretary
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEF	Generational Equality Forum
GIS	Geographic Information System
GROOTS	Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IATWC	Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFF	Integrated Financing Framework
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IPJ	Institute for Peace and Justice

IVLP	International Visitor Leadership Programme
IWPG	International Women's Peace Group
KAM	Kenya Association of Manufacturers
KBC	Kenya Broadcasting Cooperation
KCB	Kenya Commercial Bank
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KFS	Kenya Forestry Services
KHF	Kenya Healthcare Federation
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNHREC	Kenya National Human Rights and Equality Commission
KPHC	Kenya Population and Housing Census
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LHHA	Large Household Appliances
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NCPD	National Council for Population and Development
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NETFUND	National Environment Trust Fund
NGEC	National Gender and Equality Commission
NSO	National Statistical Office
ODK	Open Data Kit
PDP	Polycom Development Project
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PWDs	Persons With Disability
SDEP	State Department for Economic Planning
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SIB-K	Sustainable Inclusive Business Kenya
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
SzM	Sauti za Makueni
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
UHC	Universal Health Care

UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNON	United Nations Office in Nairobi
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
USA	United States of America
UTIs	Urinary Tract Infections
VLRs	Voluntary Local Reviews
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
WEL	Women Empowerment Link

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

September 2015 remains a pivotal moment in sustainable human development history that culminated into the 193 United Nations (UN) member states adopting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda offers a global vision of a fairer, more peaceful world, in which no one is left behind. The SDGs not only sets out to build on the 'unfinished business' of the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that preceded the SDGs, but also represent a shift in the world's vision and approach to development processes. The universal nature of the goals makes the Agenda 2030 relevant to the developed and developing nations. It is an ambitious call to action on sustainable development, seeking to integrate all the three (3) dimensions of sustainable development – Economic, Social and Environmental (ESE) by envisioning to end poverty and hunger while sustainably managing the natural resources. The indivisible nature of the goals – no one goal is separate from the others, calls for a more urgent and comprehensive participatory approach in order to realize the aspirations of Agenda 2030.

Since the adoption of the SDGs in Kenya, the Country has achieved various milestones towards the implementation of the goals. To kick start the SDGs process, the Country developed the SDGs roadmap that identified seven (7) thematic areas, which highlighted action points that placed the Country on SDGs implementation trajectory. This included mapping of stakeholders and establishing partnerships, advocacy and sensitization, domestication/localization, mainstreaming and accelerating implementation, resource mobilization, tracking and reporting, and capacity building of the stakeholders. At the heart of the SDGs domestication in the Country, stakeholder engagement and participation has been a critical ingredient, even as the Government takes the driving seat in the implementation of this transformative and universal Agenda 2030.

According to the UN, the success of the SDGs is a collective journey. The multi-stakeholder nature of the Agenda demands an enabling environment for participation by all, as well as new ways of working in partnerships to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources at all levels. In recognition of this fact, the Kenyan Government has endeavored to forge stakeholder engagement and participation, in a move to guide and enrich decision making with a view of achieving its strategic development agenda. Amongst the many initiatives in which such partnerships and engagements has played out, is the recognition of outstanding stakeholders' efforts through SDGs awards where outstanding stakeholders' efforts on the implementation of SDGs are awarded. The Government, through the State Department for Economic

Planning, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC) on SDGs initiated the annual SDGs Multi-Stakeholders' Forum (MSF) in 2018. The forum brings together SDGs stakeholders from national and county governments, UN system in Kenya, development partners, civil society, academia, private sector, media, youth, women and Persons with Disability (PWDs).

By bringing together a myriad of stakeholders, the forum is a manifest of high levels of engagement that boasts of positive outcomes for governance, transparency and accountability. Where stakeholders are engaged in decision-making, decisions are more likely to be sustainable in the lens of economic, social, and environmental perspectives. Such multi-stakeholder partnerships involve more than just collaborating and conducting ad-hoc projects; span beyond responsibility for independent results, to relationships that involves co-creation, shared responsibilities, inter-dependency and the potential to create the much-needed transformations to achieve the SDGs.

In recognition of the critical role played by the various stakeholders in the implementation of SDGs, the State Department for Economic Planning through the SDGs Coordination Directorate in collaboration with members of SDGs Inter-Agency Technical Working Sub-Committee organized the 2022 annual national SDGs multi-stakeholders conference on SDGs. The Conference was held in Mombasa, **Nyali Sun Africa Beach Hotel & Spa** from **30th November - 2nd December 2022**.

1.2 Participants

The Conference drew participants from national government (Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), parliamentary caucus on SDGs and business, UN agencies, Council of Governors (CoG), County Governments, the private sector, development partners, academia, media, and marginalized groups including PWDs, representatives from Uganda, Tanzania, and Finland, among others.

1.3 Main Objective

The purpose of the 2022 annual national SDGs multi-stakeholders conference was to provide an opportunity to all stakeholders to share good practices and experiences in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the context of recovering from multiple crises and accelerating implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives were to:

- i Cascade the various strategies, policies and publications on SDGs implementation;

- ii Discuss strategies to accelerate implementation of SDGs during the Decade of Action and explore resource mobilization strategies and setbacks for SDGs post COVID-19;
- iii Discuss data gaps and availability for SDGs tracking and reporting;
- iv Discuss collaboration and complementarity with key stakeholders on SDGs implementation; for example, domestic financing for the SDGs;
- v Disseminate SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (2022-2030); and
- vi Recognize and award outstanding stakeholders' efforts in the SDGs implementation.

1.4 Methodology

The Conference was held in a hybrid (physical and virtual) mode through an open participatory process. This was achieved through experts' presentations, panel and plenary sessions. This approach enabled an inclusive process and achievement of anticipated outputs. The Conference culminated in an awards ceremony where outstanding stakeholders' efforts were recognized and awarded.

2. OPENING STATEMENTS

2.1 Remarks by Partners

2.1.1 SDGs Kenya Forum

Towards the implementation of SDGs, there is urgent need to eradicate poverty, address climate change, and end inequalities. Despite progress made since 2016, numerous setbacks have occurred, and the COVID-19 pandemic, climate tragedy, Russia-Ukraine war, and rising economic and political insecurity have reversed progress in most SDGs targets. Moreover, consecutive failed rains and locust infestations have led to food insecurity in Kenya's urban and rural areas, making it difficult for the common citizen to sustain their usual three meals daily.

The National Government has developed the Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP) and counties have subsequently developed the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) to outline efficient and effective strategies to tackle multiple crises and deliver the Country from poverty. Failure to address these key issues poses the risk of eroding all gains achieved since the implementation of Agenda 2030. There is need to reach the furthest left behind, as one of the key fundamental guiding principles in the implementation of SDGs is "Leave No One Behind (LNOB)".

The SDG Kenya Forum stressed the importance of quality, reliable, and timely data in SDGs reporting. The Forum has been championing the use of Citizen Generated Data (CGD) as an alternative source of data on national SDGs reporting. If properly harnessed, CGD can complement official data sources and close data gaps. The Forum has been conducting community dialogues to create awareness and sensitize citizens at the grassroots level on the SDGs process in collaboration with various local SDGs champions.

A multi-stakeholder partnership framework is essential towards the achievement of SDGs as CSOs cannot do it alone. While CSOs have grassroots experience and domain knowledge, the private sector has corporate social responsibility, and the Government must allocate adequate financial resources and provide an enabling environment to deliver on SDGs. However, financing for SDGs remains a challenge for most countries, with resources often only covering recurrent expenses and leaving little for development activities. The National Government should, therefore, unlock ways to increase county allocation and encourage counties to boost their own source revenues to support SDGs financing.

2.1.2 Kenya Private Sector Alliance

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) acknowledged, the impact of multiple crises, including the pandemic, climate crisis, and desert locust infestations, among other challenges, on Kenya's journey to sustainable development. The ongoing drought in the Country was a significant threat to the Country's sustainable development vision, with millions of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

The private sector has made a commitment to accelerate actions and delivery of SDGs and green recovery in key pillars, which include enhancing inclusiveness and private sector coordination around the 5Ps of People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnerships. Hence, KEPSA underscored the progress made in tackling the triple planet crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and addressing the adverse effects of human activities on sustainable development. Among the specific actions taken include launching of a private sector strategy on climate change solutions; contributions to national tree planting and forestry restoration campaigns; implementation of sustainable waste management policies; and establishment of a public-private dialogue platform for inclusive economic growth. In addition, there is the Kenya Plastics Pact (KPP) to address pollution from plastics as well as partnering with other countries to amplify the role of the private sector in climate action.

The private sector is committed in leveraging digital disruption and innovation for value chain resilience and service delivery. The Ajira Digital Programme (ADP), which focuses on digital skills and the creation of digital job opportunities has seen over 1.9 million young people working online. The programme has linked over 101,000 young people to working opportunities in the public and private sectors, and partnerships have been developed to aid job linkages for young people in the private sector.

There is need for all stakeholders to not lose sight of the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic and the various crises present an opportunity to rebuild better and more sustainably. It is important to continue working together as stakeholders to implement the SDGs and create a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

2.1.3 United Nations Resident Coordinator Office

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) congratulated Kenya for keeping the spirit of leading the world in adopting the SDGs since 2015. The cumulative and amplified impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and climate change have set back SDGs progress globally. Achieving the SDGs requires action that can maximize synergies across policy domains and minimize trade-offs, with targeted initiatives for populations most in need using LNOB lens, even as collective resilience is built.

The digital transformation has the potential to further improve access to and the delivery of services including education, health, finances, and public transfers. Inequality, already exacerbated by the pandemic stands to be further worsened by the rising prices making SDGs achievement a huge challenge with barely seven years to 2030 timeline. There is need to work together to implement interventions that are more impactful and better targeted while harnessing new opportunities for accelerated SDGs progress.

The UN's Sustainable Development Corporation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2026) has been drafted with LNOB lens, which ensures that the 17 SDGs are well covered. The framework has two priority areas, namely People and Peace, and Prosperity and Planet, which are supported by the strategic enabler. The ongoing Integrated National Financial Framework (INFF) can help Kenya align its financing policies and strategies with sustainable development plans and connect holistically to the full range of domestic and international financing sources.

The UNRCO underscores the importance of clear plausible data to track success and challenges, in order to create opportunities for improvement. The importance of data collection, analysis, storage, and sharing in the SDGs process cannot be overemphasized. It is in this light, and particularly for the under-represented groups such as women and girls, youth, people in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), and urban informal settlements, that the UN has taken ambitious strides to support statistical deepening capacities especially at the lower levels.

2.1.4 County Assemblies Forum

The county legislatures were affected by the COVID-19 crisis, where the traditional nature of assemblies required convening to enact laws, undertake oversight roles, and play the representative role, including public participation on all proposed agendas before approval.

The Constitution under Chapter 11, and Article 174 provides for the objects of devolution, including promoting democratic and accounting exercises of power, self-governance, and enhancing public participation in making decisions affecting them, social and economic development, and provision of accessible services throughout Kenya. Kenya has two levels of government national and county governments which, are expected to cooperate in performing exercises of their powers under Article 189(2). County assemblies have the legislative authority vested in them under Article 185 of the Constitution.

The county assemblies can participate in realizing the SDGs, including reviewing and relooking at specific actions and gaps in legislation, provision of platforms for communication and sensitization at the grassroots level, enhanced local action to harness

efforts in localization and realization of SDGs at the sub-national level, and enactment of relevant legislation across devolved functions in sync with the 17 SDGs.

Some of the challenges faced by county assemblies in realizing the SDGs, include inadequate finances due to the lack of financial autonomy resulting from capacity to raise own source revenue; misappropriation of funds at the national and county levels; and natural disasters. To overcome these challenges, there is need for an end misappropriation of funds, which would help mobilize more resources for development, and provision of financial autonomy to county assemblies. Despite facing operational and other challenges, County Assembly Forum (CAF) remains committed to partnering with the National Government and other SDGs stakeholders to ensure the localization and implementation of the SDGs at the grassroots level.

2.1.5 Council of Governors

The multi-stakeholders conference provides a platform to take stock on the SDGs progress amidst the various crises that affected the Country. The progress is not fast enough, and more needs to be done to increase the momentum, especially in the Decade of Action.

Currently, the CoG is supporting the incorporation of SDGs recovery and acceleration strategies into CIDPs, to hasten the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, the County governments are undertaking local reporting of the SDGs through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), and CoG is in the process of developing a second report on the status of localization of the SDGs in the counties. On the innovative front, the CoG has developed a knowledge sharing platform (Maarifa Center) to facilitate documentation and sharing of SDGs best practices. Maarifa Centre has documented several best practices from counties in SDGs implementation and enabled their replication.

As an affirmation to its continued commitment to the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs agenda in County Governments is an integral component of the Performance Management Framework (PMF) and SDGs mainstreaming is measured as one of the key components of performance contracts. The CoG reaffirmed their commitment to accelerating the implementation of SDGs and emphasized the importance of partnership in the realization of SDGs.

2.2 Official Opening by the Economic Planning Secretary - State Department for Economic Planning.

The main objective of the Conference was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share good practices and experiences for replication in SDGs implementation process. In

order to fast track the implementation of the SDGs, amidst the interlocking challenges, The National Treasury and Economic Planning in collaboration with other stakeholders developed an SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy, SDGs awards guidelines, SDGs good practices guidelines, and INFF to address the challenges with SDGs financing and is on track in finalizing the SDGs communication strategy to enhance communication on SDGs, which has been missing.

The Country has made modest progress on the implementation of the SDGs. Despite the progress on a number of goals, there are notable challenges, such as gaps in SDGs financing; inadequate monitoring and evaluation tools on SDGs; data gaps in terms of quality, timeliness, and level of disaggregation as well as absence of baseline data. COVID-19 together with the ongoing drought situation in the Country has had significant effects too. There is need for rapid assessment of the level of SDGs progress in the Country to inform policy adjustment.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Effects of the Multiple Crises on Agenda 2030: Opportunities for Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals by United Nations Development Programme

The UNDP underscored the convergence of Kenya's development blueprint, Vision 2030 with the SDGs. The reduced international resource support as a result Kenya's attainment of low middle income status, coupled with multiple crises and shocks, SDGs implementation in the Country is more challenged than ever.

The effects of the crises include the sharp deterioration in socio-economic indicators of public health, unemployment and rising poverty, disproportionate effects on the vulnerable groups, as well as overall declining outlook across the SDGs. As a spinoff effect on the financing landscape, declining public revenue, reduced private spending, and increased demand for public spending, raises the risk of debt distress.

There is a need for urgent action with emphasis on sustainability, inclusivity and resilience. Of importance, however, is the process to be robust and holistic in addressing the challenges. On the opportunities, the UN encourages countries to adopt a multilateral system of cooperation, innovation on data collection, focus on research, digitization amongst others, in order to build back better.

3.2 Key Highlights from the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (Economic and Social Council and United Nations General Assembly) by Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) focused on the theme of "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The Forum was attended by heads of state and government, ministers, and representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society. Discussions focused on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs and emphasized the need for integrated and interlinked approaches. It highlighted setbacks faced by the global community and concerns over losing ground on SDGs implementation.

The HLPF held in-depth reviews on five SDGs, including SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals). The reviews highlighted the negative impact of the pandemic on education, gender equality, and ocean conservation and emphasized the need for

reopening schools, addressing domestic violence, and investing in ocean conservation and the Blue Economy. Kenya called for strengthening multilateral systems to be more inclusive and responsive in order to achieve accelerated progress on the SDGs.

Attainment of the SDGs in this decade of action requires decisive actions, increased coordination and focused financial investment as well as the collaboration of all stakeholders. Stakeholders are called upon to leverage on the new administration's focus on its priority areas namely agriculture, manufacturing, the digital super highway, housing, and others to achieve the SDGs in Kenya

3.3 Key Highlights of Sustainable Development Goals Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (2022-2030) by State Department for Economic Planning

The aim of the strategy is to stimulate economic recovery and accelerate progress in the implementation of the SDGs in Kenya. The strategy was developed due to slow and uneven progress on the SDGs across the Country and that was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and other socio-economic shocks.

The strategy focuses on strengthening and sustaining structural economic transformation, addressing disparities, and leveraging on policy, legal and institutional frameworks as well as developing capacity for SDGs implementation. The strategy includes entry points such as partnership and stakeholder engagement, coordination and institutional framework, technology and innovation, capacity development and knowledge management, citizen engagement and advocacy, and financing and resource mobilization for the SDGs. It is important to note that this strategy is not a replacement of existing policies but a complimentary action plan, and its success will depend on decisive actions, increased coordination and focused financial investment, collaborative effort and monitoring of progress.

3.4 Civil Society Organizations Context in Sustainable Development Goals Implementation in Kenya by Sustainable Development Goals Kenya Forum

The CSOs play an important role in the implementation of the SDGs in Kenya. They contribute to the SDGs through service delivery, representation as the voice of the voiceless, and regulation through monitoring and review. In Kenya, CSOs are supporting the SDGs process through participation in various processes, building and strengthening partnerships, and advocating for citizen-driven decision making. The CSOs participation in SDGs reporting promotes coordination, mutual accountability, data provision,

awareness raising, peer learning and best practices sharing, as well as internal learning and organizational change.

In order to enhance CSOs participation in SDGs reporting, CSOs are encouraged to align their activities with relevant SDGs targets and indicators, cultivate the values of 'LNOB', participation, and policy coherence in their work and partnerships with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and other stakeholders in order to align donor expectations with evaluation processes.

4. PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND PLENARY

4.1 Sustainable Development Goals Integration into Private Sector Strategy: A Change Driver

The private sector in Kenya, through partnerships with organizations such as the UN Global Compact has made progress in integrating the SDGs into their daily activities. These includes implementing water treatment and recycling measures to reduce waste and pollution; managing industrial waste products; promoting education and technical skills training; and developing a sustainability strategy with four pillars, which are business, people, community, and environment. The private sector believes that by achieving these goals, it can attract funding from development partners and improve the overall efficiency of doing business in Kenya. The Kenya Government is encouraged to support the private sector in this effort by streamlining regulations and eliminating multiple licensing requirements.

4.2 Opportunities in Media Space to Accelerate Sustainable Development Goals implementation

The role of the media is as important as any other stakeholders in the SDGs process. This is clear on the critical role of educating and communicating on issues affecting the people, including the SDGs. The opportunities include riding on the media's ability to produce and disseminate content on SDGs, linking role, ability to enhance public participation, as well ability to advance capacity building initiatives in partnership with other stakeholders on SDGs.

Despite the huge potential in the media to advance the SDGs agenda, the media faces various challenges along with discharging their role. The issue of capacity building the media staffs on packaging and reporting on the SDGs; financial constraints pausing a tough balancing act between business profits and development reporting; allegations of bribery, as well as other global issues such as war, COVID-19 amongst other topical issues that hamper effective dissemination of information. The media is recommended to undertake SDGs conversations, working in partnership with other stakeholders to the local level.

4.3 Financing Sustainable Development Goals Amid Multiple Shocks and Reduced Fiscal Space

The panel focused on innovative ways of financing the SDGs to accelerate their implementation amidst multiple crises. The external debt repayment in Kenya stands at 62% against a target of 55% of the Country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This implies a shrinking fiscal space to support sustainable development. The challenge in the Country,

with the current situation, has been to mobilize adequate resources from both local and external sources, not just for SDGs but also to sustain livelihoods, health and welfare.

Faced with this situation, the Kenya Government embarked on mobilizing domestic resources to reduce the burden of external debts. Among the measures taken and recommended include the development of IFF by The National Treasury in collaboration with UNDP to strengthen planning processes and overcome obstacles to financing sustainable development at the national level. In addition, The National Treasury has established a Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) directorate that helps to finance development programmes in collaboration with the private sector. Furthermore, climate finance has been established to help accelerate the implementation of SDGs.

Charged with the responsibility of ending poverty, fostering people centered developments, promoting democratic governance and catalyzing government development programmes, the UN systems are urged to consider increasing their budget allocation to further catalyze development programmes. The UNSDF that redefines development corporations in contemporary terms will foster collective support to achieve the SDGs priorities. Of equal importance are non-financial factors like good governance and strong institutions will hasten the achievement of SDGs. The Kenya Government was urged to develop and implement policies that enhance domestic resource mobilization, effective utilization of public funds, effective monitoring and evaluation system, and prevent resources draining out of the Country.

4.4 Experiences and Good Practices in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from Counties

Vihiga County

Vihiga is one of the smallest counties with a high population density. The area has 35% tree cover which has contributed to good rainfall hence has helped in attainment of food security in the County. It has an operational Geographic Information System (GIS) data lab which has helped in the tracking, monitoring and reporting on SDGs; planning and resource management; and has facilitated the process of CIDPs public participation. The lab also does soil testing for farmers to enable them to access the right fertilizers. In addition, it has significantly contributed to the expansion and improvement of the health sector.

Baringo County

Baringo is one of the ASAL counties in the Country and hunger and poverty are very prevalent in the area. The poverty level stands at 42% which is above the national poverty

line. The county depends mainly on livestock keeping and has established a milk processing plant to improve community livelihoods, reduce poverty, provide nutrition and food security.

The County is also affected by the high level of insecurity and conflicts which is as a result of scarce resources like water and grazing land. The challenge is shared by several counties like Isiolo, Samburu and Laikipia. These counties came up with the Amaya triangle initiative to restore peace among conflicting communities and reduce conflict between wild animals and the people. The County came up with programmes to encourage co-existence and enhance resilience in the community, expand water points and solve the underlying issues on Gender based violence which is on the rise in the area.

Nyamira County

Nyamira county is one of the counties with good arable land and farming is mainly rain fed and tea farming is dominant in the County. The County is encouraging farmers to diversify to other agricultural activities, such as fish farming, in order to contribute to the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2.

The County has also invested more in dams construction in order to harvest rain water for irrigation purposes. Nyamira county has a lot of food which at times goes to waste due to post harvest losses and lack of value addition. Thus, the County needs to invest more in value addition as well as identifying new markets for the excess food. Just like most counties, Nyamira county also suffered due to the adverse effects of COVID-19, thus eroding most gains in SDGs implementation.

Nakuru County

Nakuru county was recently awarded the City Charter Status in 2021. It has a mixture of urban and rural settlements, with a population of about 2.2 million. The County has a poverty rate of 29% which is less than the national rate. In order to achieve SDGs 1 and 2, the County has been involved in a lot of crop diversification and on SDG 3 it seeks to improve curative and preventative health programmes. According to current statistics, Nakuru county has a forest cover of 9.2% which it hopes to improve in the near future.

The County also has a flagship project in partnership with other stakeholders of turning solid waste into fertilizer, energy and fuel. To solve the issue of solid waste management, Nakuru County has adopted, in the last 3 to 5 years, a model to zone counties into waste management zones (77), and advertised for private collectors to reduce burden on public sector thereby creating efficiency.

Nakuru County has been expanding rapidly so, each urban area is expected to come up with its own urban development plan and urban spatial plan. In SDGs implementation, the County, Nakuru is looking to strengthen planning, implementation and tracking of SDGs so that sector players can report on a quarterly and annual basis and update the statistical abstract on an annual basis.

4.5 Innovative/Creative Solutions to Fast-track Sustainable Development Goals from Youth Perspectives

In Kenya, youth involvement in the SDGs processes is minimal. The panelists called for more believe in youth as this will not only build their confidence but also bring their voices to the table, regarding the SDGs implementation. Cited as the major challenges with the youth coming up with innovative solutions is lack of awareness on SDGs; political culture of not trusting the youth; sidelining of the youth in decision making; and gender inequality.

Kenya is doing well in technology development and this needs to be enhanced through creation of youth innovation centers to enhance youth capacity in starting enterprises such as the Isiolo and Tana River innovation centers. This can be further enhanced through sharing of good practices in the youth development space. The Kenya Government is supporting young people and since there are many young people, calls for support from the wider stakeholders' spectrum. The youths are encouraged to seek for mentors or opportunities in the development space.

Climate change is not only a planet issue; it is also a justice issue. Young people are doing well in climate change issues as compared to the last decade. Currently, young people are being engaged in the decision-making process, therefore, forums should strengthen youth engagement. Young people are running projects in environment protection however, there is need to bring the youth together and have a coordinated approach in the tree planting exercise in support of the project by His Excellency the President. Tree planting needs to be maintained sustainably for the planted trees to mature and this can be supported by home based tree nursery beds.

It was recommended that the youth need to be innovative in fighting unemployment in the Country. Youth are called upon to be proactive and engage in development and review of policies that affect them. There was also a call to introduce the youth to aspects of food security at a tender age, with a focus on the entire value chain in agriculture.

4.6 Innovative Ways of Filling the Data Gaps in the Sustainable Development Goals National Indicator Framework

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

Some of the innovative ways Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) is maximizing in filling data gaps include conducting specialized surveys and censuses; strengthening administrative sources of data (MDAs and counties); further analysis of existing data sets, for example Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Kenya Continuous Household Survey Programme (KCHSP), and free access. The aim of this is to disaggregate, aggregate, show trends; combining data from various sources, for example geospatial data with census data to provide information on SDGs, exploring methodologies such as Small Area Estimation (SAE) to get estimates at grassroot levels. In addition, there is exploring of alternative sources of data such as CGD; big data; and commercial data. The purpose is to build statistical capacity in the National Statistical System (NSS) for MDAs and Counties in order to strengthen administrative data, ensure that all the counties produce the annual county statistical abstracts, benchmarking with best practices in other countries and strengthening partnerships in data for SDGs with MDAs and counties; civil society; academia; and private sector.

The KNBS is faced by challenges such as limited resources to conduct capacity building; advocacy and awareness creation; lack of awareness on the importance of investing in data for SDGs; lack of capacity in some areas such as data science which can support processing of data to fill data gaps; and work required in ensuring the quality of data from non-official sources.

Some of the areas that KNBS wishes to partner with other stakeholders include conducting a highly consultative Data Gap Analysis (DGA) on SDG indicators and an inventory of possible data sources; developing an SDGs data portal with a dashboard and interactive interface; and capacity building and engaging academia in Hackathons. The KNBS recommends integration of the SDGs website to have a portal of SDGs statistical data.

Makueni County

Makueni County introduced some programmes aimed at filling the data gap which is a crucial tool in planning, budgeting, and other processes within the County. In that regard, Makueni introduced a one-year data internship for 30 economists, it also empowers 60 community SDGs champions and community resource volunteers who are the focal persons within the County.

The County collaborated with CSOs and other Non-State Actors (NSAs) to help in data production and has identified the ward as the basic planning and project implementation unit within the County. The continued engagement/partnership with data producers/users has also strengthened the automation of processes like operationalization of GIS lab and the data portals.

Makueni like any other county is faced by challenges like inadequate staffing and resourcing of statistics units; lack of disaggregated data from KNBS for specific areas; lack of political goodwill and limited capacity of resources for the County Assembly plans and budgets; limited data in many indicators hence not able to plan efficiently; lack of local engagement and further decentralization at lower levels; and lack of enough knowledge on adapting the goals, targets and indicators.

Some of the ways the County uses to produce data include use of administrative data like the production of annual County Statistical Abstracts (CSA); preparation of SDGs indicators handbook aligned to CIDPs (2018-22). Currently, the County is working on preparation of Ward Statistical Profiles (WSPs) which helps in localizing data segregated to sub-location level; preparation of county statistics policy; operationalization of the GIS lab; and the introduction of the Twaweza East Africa and six rounds of Sauti za Makueni (SzM) household surveys from 2019 to 2022 done collaboratively with the county statistics unit.

Some of the areas the county can collaborate with other partners include Climate Change Mainstreaming (CCM) like the Aerospace, Defence and Security Expo (ADSE)/adaptation consortium to help in forming the baselines survey and mainstreaming climate change in CIDP III. Other areas include continuous dialogue with local CSOs and participation in Sector Working Groups (SWGs) on plans and budget; formation of a multi-stakeholder SDGs localization taskforce to help in holistic approach to SDGs mainstreaming; and strengthening community dialogues to inform plans/interventions by providing local solutions. Moreover, the County is working on data needs assessment for all data producers both national and county data dashboard like International Centre For Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) - Makueni Resource, and open a budget portal.

Makueni County recommends preparation of lower-level plans to mainstream SDGs to make easier in developing a framework to track SDGs; use of CGD strategy, data to inform policies, plans and budgets; utilization of geospatial data like developing a GIS based monitoring and evaluation system; and empower citizens to prepare localized SDGs tracking reports (citizen score cards). In addition, the County recommends institutionalization of SDGs process like formation of cabinet sub-committee and county assembly SDGs caucus; harmonization of the various data portals/dashboards to plug in

to a comprehensive SDGs dashboard; and collaboration with academia/research institutions and KNBS to develop and strengthen county statistics function.

Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood Kenya

The Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) Kenya is an organization of over 3,500 women-led grassroots groups and Community based organizations in 21 counties. They collect both quantitative and qualitative data on Gender Based Violence (GBV). The GROOTS Kenya is passionate about SDG 5 and it involves using grassroots women as responders and they report on the people that they rescue/support. The women are trained on the open-source data tools like Open Data Kit (ODK) and Kobo Collect.

The GROOTS has invested in collecting data on the number of women in decision making spaces at local level such as Land Boards Climate Change Committees (LBCCC), and Water Public Service Committees (WPSC). Impact of unclean cooking and barriers in clean cooking energy transition data on barriers on adoption of clean energy techniques is collected and these include attitudes and culture, and it allows for reorientation of programmes to address the identified barriers to women and land.

The GROOTS is keen on tracking land rights in different contexts especially on communally owned land collects secondary data on how many women are included in community land registers and time used on unpaid care work. The GROOTS invested on tracking how women use their time at micro level and the data collected is used in programming, advocacy, and fundraising

Open Institute

Open Institute aggressively promotes government transparency and active citizenship by providing cutting-edge tools, ideas, knowledge, and policy support to everyone that supports this cause. The organization like any other has faced challenges like COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine War, and climate change related crises. It has also faced issues of fragmentation and duplication and this calls for the need to work together and synergize more.

Open Institute recommends building the capacity of local governments to be more responsive to citizen needs, engaging local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and citizen groups to be the frontline of the development agenda and getting artisanal miners to count. They also advocate for building the functional literacy of those citizens and bringing the invisible to light as well as getting them registered.

Paris 21

The CGD is data produced by NSAs under the consent of citizens with the purpose to monitor issues that directly affect them. The primary purpose of CGD production is to monitor, demand or drive change on issues affecting citizens or their communities, and not the production of official statistics. It offers an important complement to data collected by NSAs and it help fill the data gap. The CGD also helps in localizing indicators from international frameworks like SDGs and provide updated and detailed data at lower costs than official data collected. The data produced can be used in areas where official data is unavailable.

The KNBS has taken an active role in creating an enabling environment for collaborating with CSOs who produce CGD data through the development of CGD guidelines and scoring matrix to domestication of Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). The CGD has faced challenges due to lack of clear alignment of SDGs to the data that CSOs produce. The data does not fit the common standards, concepts, sampling frames, questions, definitions, statistical units, coding standards and geographic referencing in monitoring and evaluation. The other challenge has been low coverage of data.

Paris 21 recommends KNBS to review the applicability of the CGD quality criteria on qualitative data; develop a research report template, and approve CGD for official reporting stamp. In addition, establish a Technical Working Group (TWG) on CGD and develop a data literacy guideline with supportive examples and illustrations for NSAs as well as develop a platform to support submission of CGD for review.

Stronger collaboration and partnerships among data producers like learning from each other on the best ways to produce data is needed. This will also help CSOs to leverage on ways to fill the data gaps (blended), which can be used for official reporting with greater coverage.

4.7 Solutions in Realization of Sustainable Development Goal 2: Productivity and Value Chain

The land use policy in Kenya is negatively skewed and leads to hunger, and changes are needed to address land aggregation to enable economies of scale. Fertilizers were identified as a cause of unproductive land, and increased investments in soil research is recommended. Heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture and post-harvest losses were also identified as causes of food insecurity in the Country.

Solutions included land use policy reforms; increased investment in water; commercialization of farming; leveraging technology; and capacity building for farmers to improve the entire agriculture value chain from farm to fork. Additionally, there is need

for micro damming to manage agriculture downstream and increase possibilities of food production. Emphasis was made on the need for efficient and effective storage and logistics facilities to cater for low seasons and reach low food sufficient regions. It is important for syndicate investment on the aggregated land to enable economies of scale on the production side.

4.8 Accelerating Innovative Approaches for Implementation of Existing Commitments to Achieve Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Kenya

Fourteen out of the seventeen SDGs are concerned with the gender commitments due to, adequacy to measure country-wide achievement, and their consideration offer to ease in comparison against other jurisdictions as countries and regions. However, COVID-19 has been the main challenge towards achievement of gender equality and gender related goals.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) engagements include mainstreaming issues of special interest groups; auditing and monitoring issues to do with mainstreaming, and considerations of the special interest groups; and sensitization and capacity building of stakeholders and partners working with SIG population. Some ways of achieving these include promoting equality; using data to address issues on community Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV); developing policies towards SGBV response; and working with the National Police Service through PoliCare. Some challenges faced include access to information by the target population; data disaggregation due to minimal sexual disaggregated data; and low budgets due to minimal resource allocation directed towards gender equality and related issues. Opportunities like utilization of adult education in empowerment interventions targeting the group of interest, economic resilience towards crisis recovery interventions should be improved, and male inclusion on gender related matters have been identified.

Plan International's engagements include safeguarding women and children; empowerment initiatives to curb poverty, sexual health and rights; and gender equality and SGBV. They take responsibility for holding accountable country and county authorities on the funds, and the areas it has been utilized on. As much as resources are directed majorly towards COVID-19, there is need to focus on the secondary "pandemic effects" caused by the COVID-19 for instance teen pregnancies. Around GBV and teen pregnancies, opportunities like empowering small-scale holders towards resilience, creating awareness on issues of unpaid care work, creating opportunities for funding for groups towards empowerment and poverty reduction has come up.

The Center for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), from their implementation, has made the observation that since counties are yet to take up the Generational Equality

Forum (GEF) commitments, more effort needs to be invested to ensure realization of the commitments before review period. The challenges faced include justice process and ends; reduction of the minimal sentence on guilty sexual and gender offenders; and activism encouraged to cause rescind of the decision by the judicial organs. The CREAM and its donors have raised KSh 0.5 million towards the initiative to fund Kenya Women Microfinance Bank, GROOTS, and others. Some opportunities around data and reporting include partnership with KNBS to come up with data that can be used to inform change and be adopted into national statistics, enacting Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies in areas of work and public places to create safe spaces, for example breast feeding areas.

PolyCom as an organization targeting women and girls, have reached the girls through schools using an innovative intervention “talking boxes”. They have reached the women through organized groups via Community Women Led Resilience Programmes (CWLRP) and five informal settlements (Mathare, Mukuru, Kiamumbi, Kibera and Kawangware). Some of the milestones that Polycom have been able to achieve are collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Womankind Worldwide; and engagement and mentoring of 9,000 adolescent girls on sexual reproductive health and life-skills programmes. PolyCom is working with 50 schools to run the mentorship programme targeting adolescent girls; they have engaged 5,000 women and girls in thematic sports and coaching in Kibera and 5 other slums; over 8,000 girls have received sanitary towels and panties; partnering with Commission Status of Women (CSW) New-York, Urban Thinkers Campus, and Commonwealth Development; and they have engaged the voices of girls from Kibera

Pamoja CBO has some engagements concerning adolescent girls and young women, which include enhancing the capacity of communities to assess their strengths, capabilities, and resources; assessing and prioritizing their needs; leveraging additional resources to meet their needs; planning, implementing and evaluating interventions; strengthening community leadership; and facilitating linkages, collaboration and coordination between individuals, organizations and relevant government departments. They are able to reach their target population with interventions responding to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention, economic empowerment, GBV, and application of gender inclusivity for optimal impact. A noted barrier being faced is that justice is too slow to be effective. Some of the opportunities include stakeholders need to unite and harmonize data structures to increase geo-coverage and utility through generalization of findings; and creation of more awareness in the community on issues affecting Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW).

The GBV Management Information System (MIS) has incorporated data from both the police and the health sectors. On teen pregnancies, community inclusion on sexual

education should enlighten the young girls on the consequences of early sexual engagement and practices as well as increasing mentorship programmes to reach the young girls in schools and enhancing Youth Friendly Services (YFS) at health centers.

4.9 Demographic Diversity as a Sustainable Development Goals Accelerator: Challenges and Opportunities.

Despite the progress achieved in demographic and health-related indicators, achieving targets in the SDGs by 2030 remains a demanding task. There is a need to advance the right sources of data and cutting-edge tools for measuring and monitoring progress. The efforts to reduce regional disparities in demographic and health-related indicators are hindered by the lack of adequate funding to programmes and the absence of reliable micro-level evidence-based policy.

National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) involves coordination of the implementation of population and development activities being carried out by various stakeholders in Kenya and is the focal point on all matters relating to population and development policies and programmes in the Country. The NCPD operates in 12 regional offices in Kenya

The Kenya population structure is broad-based and is largely composed of a youthful population which can contribute to economic development by harnessing the youth demographic dividends. The benefits that can be realized include reduction of dependency ratio and increasing tax net by creating employment. The Action Against Hunger (ACF) has come up with programmes that focuses on how to make lasting positive transformation and impact in their community aiming to change the narratives and helps in harnessing elder's knowledge.

The Kenya Government has come up with some programmes to ensure older persons participate in SDGs implementation and some of the initiatives are cash transfer programmes that began in 2017 targeting the elderly, this has however been met with challenges of financial constraints. The programme has about 33,000 beneficiaries' country-wide through five banks. However, for increased collaboration with private sector and other stakeholders, there is need to come up with guidelines for involvement of older persons and also come up with compliance reports. As Kenya is a party to various national, regional, and international treaties and reports on matters concerning elderly has provided a platform to share experiences, discuss challenges and identify areas of collaboration on matters relating to elderly people and their place in Agenda 2030.

To sustain sexual health education as a way of achieving SDGs there is need to create awareness on the impact of sex, formation of organized groups that can be funded and

involve youths in the preparation of CIDPs to ensure their issues are represented and lastly, train health service providers on youth friendly services.

The CSOs play a very critical role in achieving demographic transition and some of the interventions are to create synergies and avoid duplication; leverage on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to ease data accessibility; and to enhance multi-stakeholder engagements.

The NCPD has established a National Technical Working Group (NTWG) which key milestone is the implementation of national commitments (17) made during the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPPD+25). Progress towards these commitments is reported every year through a report published by the NCDP. The NCPD holds bi-annual stakeholder engagements to share population concerns.

The NCPD observe that census data has not been fully dis-aggregated for special population groups such as widows, widowers, elderly, PWDs. The street families were estimated at 46,000 as per the 2017 census. There is need, therefore, to re-socialize and re-integrate street families back into society and leverage on technology to ensure that data is available such as Child Protection Management Information System (CPMIS) and replicate the same to other categories.

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AWARDS

In the last day of the Conference, there was an SDGs awards ceremony presided over by the Economic Planning Secretary (EPS), State Department for Economic Planning. Key SDGs award nominees from identified categories were awarded based on a set criterion. The nominees under each category were as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Sustainable Development Goals Kenya Awards 2022 Finalists

CATEGORY 1: NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		
a) State Departments		
Position	Criteria	Names
Winners	Criteria: State Departments that have made outstanding efforts in mainstreaming of SDGs in policy, planning, budgeting, performance contracting and reporting frameworks, and have embraced partnerships in implementation of its programmes	The State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs
First Runners Up		The National Treasury
Second Runners Up		Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation
b) Parastatals		
Winner	Criteria: Parastatals that have made outstanding efforts in mainstreaming of SDGs in policy, planning, budgeting, performance contracting and reporting frameworks, and have embraced partnerships in implementation of its programmes	Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Board
First Runners up		Women Enterprise Fund
Second Runners up		National Environment Management Authority
CATEGORY 2: PARLIAMENT		
Winner	Criteria: Members of Parliament who are championing the localization and implementation of the SDGs Agenda	Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, Member of Parliament, Samburu West
First Runners up		Hon. Gladys shollei, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly

Second Runners up		Hon. Mohamed Ali, Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, Member of Parliament, Nyali
CATEGORY 3: COUNTY GOVERNMENT		
Winner	Criteria: County Governments that showcased appropriate budget allocation towards various SDGs, held SDGs training and meetings, and formed taskforce on SDGs	Makueni County
First Runners up		Marsabit County
Second Runners up		Vihiga County
CATEGORY 4: MEDIA		
Winner	Criteria: Stories published, reported in line with SDGs implementation, monitoring and review in 2021 as well as mainstream and digitized media programmes seeking to advance SDGs	Raquel Muigai - Citizen TV
First Runners up		Mercy A. Owino - Identity Newsroom
Second Runners up		Juliet Akoth - Nakuru Times Newspaper
CATEGORY 5: CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS		
a) National Organizations		
Winner	Criteria: Civil Society Organization that is innovative and creative in SDG 5 implementation, has reasonable budget allocation towards SDG 5 implementation, monitors, reviews and showcase leadership in advancing SDG 5 targets	Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network
First Runners up		Centre for Multiparty Democracy
Second Runners up		Ageing Concern Foundation
b) Special Sub-Category National Organizations Focused on SDG 5: Gender Equality		
Winner	Criteria: CSO that is innovative and creative in SDG 5 implementation, has reasonable budget allocation towards SDG 5 implementation, monitors, reviews and	Center for Rights Education and Awareness
First Runners up		Women Empowerment and Girl Child Welfare Organization (POLYCOM)

Second Runners up	showcase leadership in advancing SDG 5 targets	Women Empowerment Link
b) Community Based Organizations Focused on SDG 5: Gender Equality		
Winner	Criteria: Community Based Organization that is innovative and creative in SDG 5 implementation, has reasonable budget allocation towards SDG 5 implementation, monitors, reviews and showcase leadership in advancing SDG 5 targets	Pamoja Community Based Organization
First Runners up		Homa Bay Paralegals and Networking Community Based Organization
Second Runners up		Big Vision Community Based Organization

6. WAY FORWARD

The Conference way forward is as presented in the Table 2 below.

Table 2. Way Forward

S/No.	Activity/Item	Timelines	Responsibility/ Lead Agency
1	Finalize the Conference report and share with stakeholders	By end January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Department for Economic Planning - SDGs Coordination Directorate Inter-Agency Technical Working Sub Committee
2	Disseminate/share information learnt during the Conference with respective stakeholders	Continuous	All Stakeholders
3	Finalize and disseminate SDGs Communication Strategy	By end June 2023	State Department for Economic Planning
4	Identification, documentation and sharing of good practices in implementation of SDGs	By April 2023	State Department for Economic Planning
5	Establishment of grassroots assemblies (Bunge Mashinani) and replicate in all 47 counties	July 2023 - October 2023	County Assembly Forum
6	Enactment of relevant legislation, across the devolved functions that are in sync with the 17 SDGs	Continuous	County Assembly Forum
7	Ensure incorporation of climate change issues in the CIDPs and strategic plans 2022-2027 and strengthen localization of SDGs in the counties	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council of Governors County Assembly Forum All Stakeholders
8	Build statistical capacity in NSS for MDAs and counties to strengthen collection of administrative data	Continuous	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
9	Conduct a highly consultative data gap analysis on SDGs indicators and an inventory of possible data sources	December 2022	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
10	Automation and operationalization of data collection and management systems such as GIS labs/data portals/data dashboards	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenya National Bureau of Statistics MDAs Counties

7. CLOSING REMARKS

In his closing remarks, Principal Secretary (PS), State Department for Economic Planning Mr. Saitoti Torome appreciated the support provided by UNDP, UNFPA, SDGs Kenya Forum, KEPISA, Media Council of Kenya, and CoG both technically and financially towards the success of the Conference. The PS equally appreciated the State Department for Economic Planning team led by EPS, Ms. Katherine Muoki, for their efforts, towards the success of the Conference.

The deliberations made in the conference, particularly the issues of data, and the commitment of the State Department for Economic Planning to continue working closely with KNBS on matters CGD and ensuring quality data for monitoring SDGs was emphasized. The key message from the conference was that youth, women and grass-root stakeholders' engagement is crucial in the implementation of the Agenda 2030. The conference recommendations will go a long way in strengthening partnership as well as addressing the challenge of resource mobilization earmarked for development.

8. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Programme

*Theme: "Recovering from Multiple Crises
and Accelerating SDGs Implementation
in the Decade of Action"*

2022 **SDGs NATIONAL**
Multi-Stakeholders
CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME:

30th November To 2nd December, 2022

Venue: Nyali Sun Africa Beach Hotel & Spa, Mombasa

TIME	ITEM	FACILITATOR	MODERATOR
Departure to Mombasa: Tuesday, 29 th November 2022			
DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 2022			
08:00 - 08:30	Registration	Secretariat	SDGs Coordination Directorate & SDGs Kenya Forum
08:30 - 10:20	Remarks from Partners	Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business, KEPSA, SDGs Kenya Forum, UNRCO, CAF and COG	Mrs. Katherine Muoki - EPS
	Official Opening	Cabinet Secretary – The National Treasury and Economic Planning	
	Launch of the SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy 2022-2030 and SDGs Coordination Directorate Website		
10:20 - 10:30	Conference Objectives	Mr. William Komu – Chief Economist, State Department for Economic Planning	
10:30 - 11:00	TEA BREAK	ALL	---
11:00 - 11:30	Key Highlights from the 2022 HLPF (ECOSOC and UNGA)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Mr. Bheki Bhembe – Economic advisor UNDP
11:30 - 12:00	Key Highlights of the SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy 2022-2030	Mr. Samuel Kimote – Principal Economist, State Department for Economic Planning	
12:00 - 12:40	Plenary	Moderator	



12:40 -13:40	LUNCH		
13:40 -14:10	Effects of Multiple Crises on the Achievement of SDGs: Opportunities to Accelerate SDGs	Mr. Bheki Bhembe, Economic Advisor, UNDP	Dr. Rose Ngugi – Executive Director - KIPPRA
14:10 – 14:30	Plenary	Moderator	
14:30 -15:00	CSO SDGs Context Analysis	Ms. Florence Syevuo - SDGs Kenya Forum	Mr. Benson Kimani - UNDP
15:00 – 15:20	Plenary	Moderator	
15:20 – 16:00	Innovative/creative solutions to fast-track SDGs from Youth perspectives <i>Panel Discussions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth Enterprise Development Fund• Champions for SDGs• Kenya Youth Biodiversity Network• Mr. Tonny Olela, Youth Champion• Mr. Stephen Gichochi, UNRCO	CEO, National Youth Council
16:00 – 16:20	Plenary	Moderator	
16: 20 – 17:00	Accelerating Innovative approaches for implementation of existing Commitments (GEF, WEE, ICPD) to achieve Gender Equality and women empowerment in Kenya <i>Panel Discussions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NGECE• Ms. Hellen Apila, SDGs Kenya Forum• Ms. Annah Katuki, Plan International• Ms. Jane Anyango, Polycom Development• Ms. Angelina Cikanda, CREAMW• Ms. Judith Owuor - Pamoja CBO	Ms. Hellen Apila, SDGs Kenya Forum
17:00 – 17:20	Plenary	Moderator	
EVENING BREAK			
DAY 2: THURSDAY, 1 ST DECEMBER 2022			
8:30 - 9:00	Recap of Day one	Rapporteurs	
9:00 – 10:10	SDGs integration into private sector strategy: a change driver <i>Panel Discussions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safaricom• Equity Bank• Riley Falcon• Astra Aviation	KEPSA
10:10 – 10:40	Plenary	Moderator	



11:10 – 12:30	Innovative solutions in addressing data gaps in SDGs <i>Panel Discussions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sarah Omache - KNBS • Mr. Michael Koech, Airtel • Mr. Ezekiel Ngure, UNFPA • Mr. Boniface Mutua, Director Economic Planning, Makueni County Government • Mr. Benjamin Charagu - Open Institute 	Mr. Festus Odingo, SDGs Kenya Forum
12:30 – 13:00	Plenary	Moderator	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	ALL	---
14:00 – 14:40	Demographic Diversity as an SDGs Accelerator: Challenges and Opportunities. <i>Panel Discussions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Department for Social Security and Protection • National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) • AFIDEP • DSW • Ageing Concern/Voice of a Young Woman (<i>Plan International</i>) 	Mr. Ezekiel Ngure, UNFPA
14:40 – 15:00	Plenary	Moderator	
15:00 – 16:20	Opportunities in Media space to accelerate SDGs implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KBC • Royal Media – Radio Citizen • Nation Media Group - NTV • Standard Media Group - Print • Open Institute/Citizen Network for Rural Development • Mr. Augustine Karani, UNRCO 	Mr. David Omwoyo – CEO, Media Council of Kenya
16:20 -16:50	Plenary	Moderator	
EVENING BREAK			
DAY 3: FRIDAY, 2ND DECEMBER 2022			
8:30 – 9:00	Recap of Day one	Rapporteurs	
9:00 – 10:10	Solutions in realization of SDG 2: Productivity and value chain <i>Panel Discussions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kiringai Kamau – CEC for Agriculture, Murang'a County Government • Agriculture and Food Authority • National Drought Management Authority • Ewaso Ng'iro Northern River Basin Development Authority • Ms. Pauline Maingi FAO/WFP 	Prof. Gituro Wainaina - UoN
10:10 – 10:30	Plenary	Moderator	
10:30 – 11:00	TEA BREAK	ALL	---



11:00 – 12:30	Experiences and Good Practices in the implementation of the SDGs from Counties <i>Panel Discussions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAF • Mr. George Sigutta, SDGs Champion, Vihiga County • Mr. Cyrus Kahiga, SDGs Champion, Nakuru County • Ms. Roxana Kandie, SDGs Champion, Baringo County • Ms. Nova Mokua, SDGs Champion, Nyamira County • Mr. Francis Lokwar, SDGs Champion, Turkana County 	Mr. Ken Oluoch - CoG
12:30 – 13:00	Plenary	Moderator	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	ALL	---
14:00 – 14:40	Peer to peer learning-Sharing experiences & lessons on localization of SDGs. <i>Panel Discussions</i>	Tanzania, Uganda, Finland & Kenya (Mr. Robert Papa)	Ms. Florence Syevuo - SDGs Kenya Forum
14:45 – 15:15	Plenary	Moderator	
15:15 – 16:00	Financing SDGs amid multiple shocks & reduced fiscal space <i>Panel Discussions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Treasury • UNDP • KEPSA • Mr. Paul Okumu - Africa Platform • Mr. Gilbert Onyango - Universal Periodic Review Process • Danish Embassy • WWF Kenya 	Mr. Julius Chokerah - UNRCO
16:00 – 16:30	Plenary	Moderator	
16:30 -16:40	Way Forward	Mrs. Katherine Muoki - EPS	Mr. William Komu -CE
16:40 -17:00	Closing Remarks	PS – State Department for Economic Planning	Mrs. Katherine Muoki - EPS
EVENING BREAK			
18:00 - 20:00	Kenya SDGs Awards 2022 - Awards and Dinner	PS – State Department for Economic Planning	Mrs. Katherine Muoki - EPS Ms. Florence Syevuo -SDGs Kenya Forum
DAY 4: SATURDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 2022 - DEPARTURE			

Annex 2: Speeches

SDGS KENYA FORUM OPENING REMARKS DURING THE 2022 ANNUAL MULTISTAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, ON 30TH NOVEMBER 2022 NYALI SUN AFRICA BEACH HOTEL & SPA, MOMBASA

Theme: Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs Implementation in the Decade of Action

**Hon. Members of Parliament;
Economic Planning Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning, Mrs. Katherine Muoki;
National Government Officials present;
Representatives from CoG and County Governments.
Representatives from County Assemblies Forum;
Representatives from United Nations Agencies;
Representatives from Finland, Uganda, and Tanzania;
Development Partners Present;
Representatives from Private Sector;
Representatives from Civil Society Organizations;
Representatives from Academia;
Representatives from Media;
Distinguished Guests;
All Protocols observed.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the SDGs Kenya Forum, I welcome you all to the 2022 Annual National Multi-Stakeholders Conference, whose theme is “Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs Implementation in the Decade of Action”. I am glad to join you during this high-level forum, convening the National and sub-national Governments, Civil Society Organizations, UN representatives, Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business, private sector, academia, media, youth, and other development partners to reflect on and adopt best development practices to accelerate impact in the remaining period of the Decade of Action.

Being a membership Platform that coordinates over 500 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the country, the Forum is responsible for facilitating structured and coordinated CSOs engagement, with not only the national and subnational governments but also citizens, the private sector, media, academia, and development partners, to implement, report and monitor on Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya. With the aim

of creating a better, fairer world by 2030, we reiterate the urgent need to eradicate poverty, urgently address climate change, and end inequalities. Thus, forums such as these provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our journey so far, share experiences, learn from one another, and find ways to recover from the ongoing multiple crises while endeavoring to accelerate the implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

With only 8 years left in the Decade of Action to meet the Agenda 2030, we have experienced numerous setbacks to the much progress we had made since 2016. Amid the traversing crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate tragedy, Russia-Ukraine war, and rising economic and political insecurity, progress on most SDG targets have begun to reverse. On top of all these emerging issues, consecutive failed rains and locust infestations are at the core of food insecurity in Kenya's urban and rural centres. The high cost of staple foods and other consumables has made it difficult for the common citizen to eat their usual three meals daily. Meanwhile, in the ASAL regions, the situation is dire with an increased number of people and animals dying daily.

The just-ended COP 27 Summit on Climate Change, did not provide the much-needed solutions to the ravaging effects of climate change. African countries are still grappling to find ways to mitigate and create resilience within communities. It is important to take note of the fact that Climate action is an ongoing process not an event and it requires extraordinary collaborations between Governments, Corporations, Financial Institutions, Academia, Media, and Civil Society. All stakeholders need to double down on their climate action goals, forge new collaborations, and collectively develop innovative solutions.

As the current new government work on the Medium-Term Plan IV and County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) we expect them to outline efficient and effective strategies to tackle these multiple crises and deliver us from the pits of poverty. If these key issues are not addressed, we pose the risk of eroding all gains achieved since the implementation of Agenda 2030. This calls for a concerted effort among the various stakeholders in coming up with solutions to the challenges facing the implementation of the SDGs in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all know that one of the key fundamental guiding principles of the implementation of the SDG Agenda is "LNOB". Thus, it endeavors to reach the furthest left behind. In Kenya today it is disheartening to note that several vulnerable and marginalized groups are still left behind in the development process. These marginalized and vulnerable groups include women and girls, youth, the elderly, indigenous communities, and persons living with disabilities. The Forum in collaboration with various local SDG champions has been

conducting community dialogues to create awareness and sensitize citizens at the grassroots level on the SDGs process. These dialogues provide an opportunity for these groups to be an integral component in monitoring and implementation of SDGs in Kenya by holding their duty bearers accountable, hence, fostering increased social accountability of key stakeholders to trigger responsive action for a more inclusive and equitable society thus enhancing the realization of SDGs.

It is also important to note that quality, reliable and timely Data is key to achieving SDGs by 2030. With the improvements in technologies and the ability of Non-State Actors to harness data, the Forum has also been championing the use of Citizen Generated Data (CGD) as an alternative source of data on national reporting on SDGs. CGD is data produced by people or CSOs to directly monitor, demand, or drive change on issues that affect them. If properly harnessed, it can complement official data sources and close data gaps. Good friends and partners, I am happy to report that last week the Forum in collaboration with KNBS organized a two-day workshop to sensitize and train CSOs on Citizen Generated Data as well as the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KESQAF) guidelines; thus, introducing them to this new possibility. This is not a one-off event but an opportunity for other partners to come on board to ensure that no data is left behind.

We are all aware of the fact that a lack of financial resources and capacity has resulted in a lack of progress in SDGs. So as civil society we took it upon ourselves to raise financial resources locally, nationally, and internationally to work with marginalized communities at the grassroots level. Such delivery of service in relation to nutrition, food, access to education, and health among others helped communities to be better equipped to realize the SDGs. In a bid to actualize SDG 5 (Gender equality and women empowerment), we the Forum have been working on strengthening platforms and capacities of CSOs and governments in gender-responsive planning & budgeting, gender mainstreaming, gender data and public participation, just to mention a few strategies to empower women and vulnerable groups to participate in sustainable development processes at all levels.

Your Excellencies,

We all know that despite the Systemic power and resources at their disposal, the government alone will not be able to realize SDGs at all levels. The participation of the private sector, civil society and other national and international non-government actors is crucial to the realization of Agenda 2030. Such a multi-stakeholder partnership approach requires a governance perspective and is key to accelerating development in the little time left to reach 2030.

As a civil society, we commit to playing our role in ensuring that the implementation of SDGs in Kenya is accelerated. Thus, we will;

- i. Hold the Government and other development partners accountable to the commitments they make.
- ii. Bring the government closer to the people on the ground where development happens.
- iii. Bridge the gap to address issues that the government alone cannot address
- iv. Strengthen the demand side through public education/capacity building citizens
- v. Foster inclusive participation
- vi. Public engagements and advocacy for relevant policies and legal frameworks
- vii. Localize SDGs in the various counties
- viii. Strengthen the livelihoods economic and social resilience of communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude let me also reiterate that we as civil society cannot deliver on sustainable development alone. So, a multi-stakeholder partnership framework is vital for realizing the SDGs. While civil society organizations are more innovative with grassroots experience and domain knowledge, the private sector has financial resources as a part of their corporate social responsibility. The government on the other hand needs to allocate adequate financial resources and enable the environment to deliver on SDGs. The financing for SDGs is a challenge with most counties' resources only covering recurrent expenses with little left for Development activities. Thus, there is a need for the National Government to unlock ways to increase the county allocation in addition to counties BOOSTING their Own Source Revenues (OSR).

I am George Awalla SDGs KE Forum CO Chair/ VSO and with these few remarks ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to this year's Forum and look forward to interactive and insightful deliberations for a sustainable and resilient world.

Thank you!

KEPSA's OPENING REMARKS DURING THE 2022 MULTI- STAKEHOLDER FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON 30th NOVEMBER 2022 AT NYALI SUN AFRICA BEACH HOTEL & SPA, MOMBASA

THEME: Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs Implementation in the Decade of Action.

The National Treasury and Economic Planning Cabinet Secretary – Hon Njuguna Ndungu

The Principal Secretary, State Department of Planning – Mr. Saitoti Torome

The UN Resident Coordinator Resident Representative- Mr. Julius Chokerah

The Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business-

The Council of Governors

The Country Director of SDGs Kenya Forum

Members of the National SDG Interagency Technical Committee

County Governments SDGs Champions,

Private Sector Members,

Academia,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good Morning

1. I take this opportunity to thank you all for joining us in the 2022 SDGS National Multistakeholder Forum that provides us an opportunity to reflect on our journey so far since the year 2016 when we began the journey to adopt and implement SDGs in Kenya as well as reflect on recovery and acceleration measures against the multiple crisis including the pandemic, the climate crisis that has brought drought in the country, desert locust infestations among other challenges that we have to confront as a country in our journey to sustainable development.
2. The ongoing drought in the country demonstrates that the impacts of climate change are real and affect all of us directly or indirectly and significantly threatens our sustainable development vision. about 3.5 million people (24% of the ASAL population) are facing high levels of acute food insecurity with about 2.7 million people in a food crisis and 785,000 people in a food emergency. This is a 10% increase from the same period in 2021 when 2.1 million people were categorized in food crises and food emergencies.
3. As a critical player in the realisation of a resilient sustainable development. In 2018, through this Multistakeholder Partnership, the Private sector made a commitment

to accelerate action and delivery of SDGS and Green Recovery in key pillars, allow me to share the progress made so far.

- (i) We reaffirmed our commitment to the decade of action in enhancing Inclusiveness and Private Sector Coordination around the 5Ps of People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships. So, our progress in tackling the triple planet crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and addressing the adverse effects of human activities on sustainable development is as follows:

- On climate change: On 1st of November 2022, in the precincts of UN Conference on Climate Change, COP 27, and in full appreciation of the role of private sector in delivering for impact for people, planet and profits and sustainable economies, we launched the Private Sector Strategy on Climate Change Solutions 2022 – 2030, which is a national guide for private sector on business climate action both adaptation and mitigation. It provides for a harmonized and coordinated framework of private sector participation and investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation for resilience.
- On biodiversity loss: KEPSA has contributed and continues to contribute to accelerated landscape and forestry restoration for the 10% national tree cover. Through a tripartite collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Development Partners, specifically UNDP, we have contributed to NETFUND and Kenya Forestry Services (KFS), cash and in-kind contribution valued at over 6.4 billion Kenya Shillings towards the National Tree Growing, Forestry and Landscape restoration Campaign.
- On pollution: We continue to accelerate the transition of business models to Green Growth and Circular Economy Pathway: Through close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, we now have the Sustainable Waste Management Policy and the Sustainable Waste Management Act 2022. A first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa.
- On the people pillar: through Sustainable Inclusive Business Kenya- SIB-K we have involved the Mombasa in addressing poverty through the Creating Opportunities and Alleviating Poverty through Sustainable Trade (COAST Project). We have supported women and youth in developing business cases that integrate the waste-to-value concept to support the creation of alternative livelihoods. This speaks to SDG 1 No Poverty, and Goal 13, Climate action; as we know, waste is one of the greatest contributors to Green Gas Emissions
- The ongoing drought is disrupting people's livelihoods and health. KEPSA has joined hands in raising resources to ease the burden of the people in

our communities most affected by the ravaging effects of the current drought. The "Pamoja Tuungane" Initiative runs from October 2022 to March 2023, aims to raise 1 billion as a short-term measure.

- (ii) Our second commitment was on Leveraging the Digital Disruption and Innovation for value chain resilience and service delivery. The Ajira Digital Program is a program that is disrupting the traditional job model by focusing on digital skills and creation of digital job opportunities by KEPSA and partners. Currently in Kenya, over 1.9 million young people are working online. The Ajira digital program has seen a total of 101,673 (97%) young people linked to work opportunities in the public and private sector. A total of 164 partnerships have been developed to aid in job linkages of young people in the private sector. One of the Ajira Digital online work platforms, Bingwa Services that connects professional services technicians with households, has just emerged winners in the Top Mid-Sized Awards 2022 under the Digital Transformation category.
- (iii) Our third commitment focused on Advancing Policy Coherence for Competitiveness and Ease of Doing Business through the established Public Private Dialogue Platforms at KEPSA. KEPSA and the private sector as a whole continues to engage government and development partners through our Public Private Dialogue Platforms. We have just launched our partnership with UNDP in November 2022: KEPSA and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) work to Operationalize private sector roundtables and economic diplomacy sessions with National and County Governments, with an objective of enhancing and fostering inclusive economic growth, promoting SDG investments opportunities and securing a more stable and predictable business environment and financing instruments that promote youth employment for achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs and resilience building).
- (iv) On Accountability and Reporting of the 2030 Agenda for both Corporates and SMES: many companies continue prepare their sustainability reports. To name but a few, we have Bio Foods, Safaricom, ABSA Bank, EABL, KCB, Today Base Titanium who will join us later in the day are publicly presenting their Sustainability Report.
- (v) The fifth commitment was on Increasing Awareness and Capacity Building of Private Sector in integrating SDGs and Green Growth in their business models:
 - Through the Climate Business Information Network – Kenya, we have organized workshops for our members in mainstreaming climate change and green considerations in their business models and strategies. We have undertaken four workshops on green business environment reforms, ecosystem-based restoration for business, the built environment and green principles among others. The Sustainable Inclusive Business Kenya (SIB-K), a knowledge centre under the Kenya Private Sector Alliance

(KEPSA), was started as a response to the need from the private sector to increase its positive impact on People, the Planet, and the reduction of carbon footprint through adoption of business value chains and the reduction of negative impact on the planet.

- Under the knowledge centre the Kenya Plastics Pact has been established to address the pollution of plastics to the environment by bringing together brands, recyclers, CSOs, and the government to contribute to SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production. The recent research in e-waste by SIB-K aimed to develop an action plan to improve the circularity of large household appliances (LHHA) in Kenya. The Sustainable inclusive business continues to advance the capacity of our members in matters sustainability and development.
- (vi) The Sixth commitment on Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships through The Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals and the National SDG interagency Technical Working Committee has been delivered in the last one year as follows:
- The Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals Kenya National Platform continues to catalyzed innovative business models for SDG's. We have catalyzed a total of 15 partnerships implementing market-based approaches for SDGs in SDG 2, SDG 6, SDG 12, SDG 7, SDG 13.
 - This year we have also partnered beyond Borders under the Initiative, Africa Business Climate Care, with the South Africa's National Business Initiative, Federation of Egyptian Industries, KEPSA and the Nigerian Economic Summit in amplifying the role of private sector in climate action. We held a series of regional dialogues on climate action and just transition across Africa which is very much aligned to the SDG principle of LNOB.
 - We are happy to partner with the Multi-stakeholder Forum through SIB-K in printing the National Strategy on Recovery and SDG Recovery 2022-2030)
 - We are indeed very pleased to have played a key role in the development of the SDG Recovery and Acceleration Strategy 2022 – 2030 that we will be launching today. We affirm our commitment to the strategy in fast-tracking priority programs and projects aligned to national priorities and will continue to pursue the creation of an enabling environment for job creation through value addition, diversification, and increased trade and manufacturing.

As you can see, a lot has happened since last year when we met at a time like this, but we still have a lot ahead of us. I am glad this forum today is a demonstration of the

power of partnerships and power of coming together in addressing multiple crisis but also drawing on our strength to recover and accelerate action for sustainable development. Rest assured that we will continue to provide leadership and coordination of private sector progressive contribution to full recovery and accelerated realization of the 2030 agenda in Kenya.

With those remarks, I welcome you all to this forum and look forward to insightful deliberations.

I thank you!

REMARKS BY DR. STEPHEN JACKSON, UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR TO KENYA, DURING THE SDGs ANNUAL MULTI- STAKEHOLDER FORUM MOMBASA, 30TH NOVEMBER - 2ND DECEMBER 2022

**Madam Katharine Muoki, Secretary, Economic Planning,
Friends from Uganda,
Government Officials (both county & national),
COG representatives,
CAF representative,
Representatives from the Bilateral Organizations,
SDGs, Kenya Forum,
Members from the Civil Society Organizations,
Private Sector representatives (KEPSA),
Representatives from the Academia,
Media Council of Kenya,
SDGs Champions,
Colleagues from the UN family.**

Habari ya asubuhi! Nina furaha kuwa nanyi uku Pwani kwa hii mkutano wa mlengo wa maendeleo endelevu.

Thank you for extending the invitation to join you in this year's SDGs Multi-stakeholder Annual Forum. I note the timely theme "***Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs Implementation in the Decade of Action***" which is well thought out. I hope discussions, deliberations and recommended actions will candidly talk to the theme. I take this opportunity to congratulate the organizers led by the Government for consistently holding SDGs annual forums since 2018. Kenya has kept SDGs spirit since leading the world in adopting the SDGs in 2015. The commitment to achieve SDGs in the country has been tremendous.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Like other regions and countries across the globe, SDGs progress has been set back by cumulative and amplified impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and climate change. COVID-19 is estimated to have caused nearly 15 million deaths globally and brought the economy and people's lives to a standstill for long periods in many parts of the world. The crises impact all countries albeit unequally. Developing countries remain vulnerable to global shocks and within countries, the poorest are disproportionately impacted by higher prices.

The overlapping crises have led to cumulative backsliding in SDGs progress, with deprivations particularly concentrated in poorer regions and countries. Multiple crises reduce the capacity of countries to respond and recover, creating greater vulnerability to subsequent shocks. Achieving the SDGs in such a context requires action that can maximize synergies across policy domains and minimize trade-offs, with targeted initiatives for populations most in need using LNOB lens, even as collective resilience is built. We noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, incentives were created to invest in social protection, health and infrastructure investments, which should be sustained in order to build resilience and capacity to respond to future unexpected events.

Ladies and Gentleman;

Inequality, already exacerbated by the pandemic stands to be further worsened by the rising prices making SDGs achievement a huge challenge barely 7 years to 2030 timeline. This is happening when the need for investments in the SDGs is rising, as the fiscal space available in the country shrinks. We need to work together and implement interventions that are more impactful and better targeted while harnessing new opportunities for faster SDGs progress. For instance, the digital transformation has the potential to further improve access to and the delivery of services including education, health, finances and public transfers. Broadly, digitalization offers an opportunity to bypass a traditional structural transformation pathway anchored in the rapid expansion of a highly polluting manufacturing sector to one with a lighter environmental footprint and greater emphasis in services.

We need to support young people who are at the forefront of a global movement calling for changing lifestyles to combat the impact of climate change and environmental degradation. The initiative has strengthened social awareness and norms aimed at reducing energy use, eating less meat and dairy, cutting consumption and recycling waste.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Together with partners, the UN's Sustainable Development Corporation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2026) has been drafted with LNOB (women and girls, youth, ASALs, urban informal settlement) lens. The new framework which is aligned to Kenya's Vision 2030 ensures that the 17 SDGs are well covered. The framework has two priority areas namely;

- i. People and Peace, and
- ii. Prosperity and Planet which are supported by Strategic Enabler. This is in line with the 5 Ps covering all goals.

At the UN, we have given priority to strengthening multilateral cooperation for universal progress and resilience. This is because official development assistance, though shrinking is an important component of international financing for development. We also note that improving governance and public financial management would help Kenya expand fiscal space by increasing domestic resource mobilization and lowering borrowing costs. The ongoing Integrated National Financial Framework (INFF) can help Kenya align its financing policies and strategies with sustainable development plans and connect holistically to the full range of domestic and international financing sources.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Management thinker Peter Drucker is often quoted as saying that “you can't manage what you can't measure.” Drucker means that ***you can't know whether or not you are successful unless success is defined and tracked***. We need to have clear plausible data that will help us track success and challenges, which will offer opportunities for improvement. This brings in the question of having disaggregated data not only at the national level but at the county and ward level to ensure we are well targeted in interventions to accelerate SDGs in this country. UN Kenya has taken ambitious strides to support deepening capacities on data collection, analysis, storing and sharing at all lower levels especially on the four LNOB groups (Women and girls, youth, ASALs and urban informal settlements) lens. As you discuss and share best practices/lessons, I hope you will reflect on those 4 groups who were identified by a study done by the UN prior to coming up with the UNSDCF 2022-2026. We are convinced that working together in the implementation of the framework will go a long way in accelerating SDGs' achievement and transform our country and uplift the welfare of Kenyans.

Thank you very much

REMARKS BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FORUM

THE 2022 SDGs NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

*Theme: Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs
Implementation in the Decade of Action.*

**The Honorable Chief Guest, Ms. Katherine Muoki,
All protocols Observed:**

It is indeed a great honor and pleasure to give brief remarks on this very important meeting of minds, of stakeholders that have kept conversations and actions alive on a subject that can easily be forgotten if left untouched; the Sustainable Development Goals!

The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) is duly registered Society under Societies Act, CAP 108 Laws of Kenya. Its objects are to coordinate the 47 County Assemblies in Kenya through institutionalization of the law-making process in the Counties, representation, advancement of the oversight capacities of the County Assemblies in Kenya and creation of linkages between County Assemblies, the national government and stakeholders who include the general public, all with a view to enabling the County Assemblies to discharge their constitutional mandate effectively and efficiently.

This being the very first conference that the County Assemblies Forum is participating in, it gives us an opportunity to share some reflections on the experiences of county assemblies in the progress and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, this being guided strictly by the theme of the Conference: “*Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs Implementation in the Decade of Action*”.

Allow me to speak on the very recent example on the Covid19 Crises! Having caught the whole world unaware, the county legislatures were not spared of this pandemic and the ravages that came with it. This is basically with regards to the traditional nature of assemblies that requires convening in order to deliberate and enact laws, undertake their oversight roles as defined by law; the Constitution, and continue to play the representative role not forgetting to provision to ensure public participation is undertaken on all proposed agenda before approval.

Chapter 11 of the Constitution provides for devolved government. Devolution is one of the national values and principles laid down under article 10 of the constitution. Article 174 provides for the objects of devolution including to promote democratic and accounting

exercise of power, give powers of self -governance to the people and enhance the participation of people in the exercise of powers of the state in making decisions affecting them and to promote social and economic development and the provision of easily accessible services throughout Kenya.

Kenya is divided into two levels of government; national and county governments which are expected to cooperate in the performance of exercises of their powers as provided in article 189 (2). The legislative authority of county assemblies is vested in county assemblies. Article 185 of the constitution outlines the roles of county assemblies to include:

1. Make laws that are necessary for the effective performance of the functions and exercise of powers of the county government in the fourth schedule.
2. They may receive and approve plans and policies for:
 - i The management and exploitation of the county's resources
 - ii The development and management of its infrastructure and institutions.

The fourth schedule provides for the distribution of functions between the national government and county governments. The functions of the county governments under part 2 of the schedule include agriculture, county health services, control of pollution and public nuisances, cultural activities and public entertainment, county transport, animal control and welfare, transport development and regulation, county planning and development, pre-primary education, village polytechnics and child care facilities, implementation of specific national government policies on natural resources and environment conservation, county public works and services, disaster management and control of drugs. These functions are very integral in the realization of the SDGs in the country.

County Government Act 2012 Section 5, provides for the functions of county governments to include:

1. County legislation in accordance with article 185
2. Exercising functions provided in article 186 and assigned in the fourth schedule of the constitution.
3. Any other function that may be transferred to the county government from the national government under article 187.
4. Any functions agreed upon with other county governments under article 189(2).

HOW CAN COUNTY ASSEMBLIES TAKE PART IN REALIZATION OF SDGs

Some of the approaches county assemblies can embrace to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals are realized in this decade of action include:

A few notable actions, that may need strengthening in the decade of action;

- i. Review & re-look at specific actions and gaps in legislation that facilitate the implementation of specific goals and policies: e.g., climate action and Disaster Risk Reduction. Are there adequate policies and legislations to facilitate these? And their implementation?
- ii. Provision of platform for communication, education/sensitization on the SDGs at the grassroots level through the Members of County Assembly to ensure we embrace the spirit of leave-no-one-behind. Introduce grassroots assemblies (Bunge Mashinani) to allow decision making processes take shape in the lowest level of governance and development.
- iii. Enhanced local action to harness efforts in localization and realization of the achievements of SDGs at sub-national level.
- iv. Enactment of relevant legislation, across the devolved functions that are in sync with the 17 Goals.

CHALLENGES COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FACE IN REALIZATION OF SDGs.

- i. Inadequate finances: the lack of financial autonomy for the county assemblies make it difficult to offer the much-needed oversight over the functions and so injures the monitoring processes and measurement of achievement of these goals. Corruption at both the national and county level that hinder realization of most of these goals. End to corruption will help in mobilizing more money for development.
- ii. Natural disasters like drought, COVID 19, just to mention, have impacted on the progress and gains already made on achievement of the SDGs. Lack of legislation due to the lack of understanding and laying down Early Warning Systems to address effects of drought, floods and other disasters, is quite wanting. E.g. There is need to
- iii. Climate change is one of the greatest crisis facing the world today due to its adverse effects. To combat climate change, the county assemblies can come up with forums like educating and capacity building initiatives to educate the public on climate change mitigation. They can incorporate climate change issues in the county policies and strategies. But majorly, what we all must think about it to "Bring the conversation on climate to the ground"! for all to participate in addressing it and adaptation.

- iv. Climate change and its impact on security has become a reality in many counties. Insecurity example banditry in Pokot and Samburu that interferes with education; it has had its effects on Health: effects on trade; effects on access to social amenities; effects on education; etc....its time to bring the conversation down to the local level...
- v. Inability to raise Own Source Revenue...a fact that we must address.

I hope that this conference will try to highlight some of the gaps caused by the crises the globe has experienced and tools to beginning tightening and closing any gaps created so that e can report adequately on achievements as we approach the of the life of the SDGs. Moreso, lets not forget the oversight institutions of the county assemblies in this. Last year/2020, CAF together with COG released publication on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals... we also were able to document experiences in implementation under what we can Voluntary Local Reporting... we hope that we can escalate our partnership and make it more concrete with the State Department of Economic Planning....

Simply to say...We cannot talk about "Leave-no-one-behind when we don't have the representatives of the people, the oversight institutions, on table...let bring all to table to achieve these goals!

I THANK YOU!

Judy Oduma,
Chief Executive Officer.

TALKING POINTS FOR THE CEO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS AT THE ANNUAL NATIONAL SDGS MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM NYALI SUN AFRICA BEACH HOTEL & SPA 30TH NOVEMBER 2022

PS State Department for Economic Planning; Saitoti Torome
Members of Parliament Present,
Development partners representative,
Private Sector Representative,
Civil Society Organizations Representative,
Distinguished participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I am delighted to join you today in this very important forum bringing together all the stakeholders in SDGs implementation in Kenya. The theme for this year ***"Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs implementation in the Decade of Action"*** is very relevant as it will allow us to take stock on the progress of implementation of SDGs in the last one year amidst the various crises that have hit us as country.
2. 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.
3. The SDGs require our commitment to the three pillars of sustainable development i.e., economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, while fostering peaceful societies through a new global partnership

Ladies and Gentlemen

4. The organization of this annual National multi-stakeholder forum demonstrates the strong partnership between different stakeholders in Kenya. Indeed, we can only realize the SDGs if we embrace partnership and cooperation at global, regional, national and local level. Strengthening partnership is one of the 17 Global goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Seven (8) years now since the unveiling of the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations and about eight (7) years remaining to the lapse of the period of implementation, it is evident that the progress being made is not fast enough. The decade of action inaugurated by the UN Secretary General António Guterres in 2020 is envisaged to increase the momentum. The Council of

Governors together with the State Department for Planning and other stakeholders have developed the SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy. The Council is currently supporting Counties to incorporate the strategies as they develop their County Integrated Development Plans 2023-2027. The Council of Governors' new strategic Plan for the period 2022-2027 seeks to strengthen localization of the SDGs in Counties.

6. 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

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. 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.
11. 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.

Thank you and God bless you all

TALKING NOTES BY MRS. KATHERINE MUOKI, EBS, ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING THE OPENING SESSION OF 2022 SDGS NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE HELD ON 30TH NOVEMBER - 2ND DECEMBER 2022 AT NYALI SUN AFRICA BEACH HOTEL & SPA, MOMBASA.

**Hon. Members of Parliament;
National Government Officials present;
Representatives from COG and County Governments;
Representatives from County Assemblies Forum;
Representatives from United Nations Agencies;
Development Partners Present;
Representatives from Private Sector;
Representatives from Civil Society Organizations;
Representatives from Academia;
Representatives from Media;
Distinguished Guests;
All Protocols observed.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

First, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to this important conference. I am honoured by your presence today at this important engagement between the Government and the key stakeholders in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. This conference is the fifth in a series of annual conferences since 2018. The theme of this year's conference is *"Recovering from Multiple Crises and Accelerating SDGs Implementation in the Decade of Action."* It comes at a time when the World is focusing on strategies to recover and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs amidst **the** COVID-19 Pandemic, on-going Russia- Ukraine War and the ravaging drought which has adversely affected their implementation.

The main objective of this conference is to provide an opportunity to all stakeholders to share good practices and experiences which can be replicated and scaled up in the effort to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in the context of interlocking challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am grateful to the many stakeholders who have overwhelmingly come to share their good practices, ideas, knowledge, and experiences in SDGs implementation during this Decade of Action. It is through your continuous and collaborative efforts that we will be able to realize the SDGs and transform Kenya into a more prosperous and inclusive society, providing a high-quality life to all its citizens by the year 2030.

In order to fast track implementation of the SDGs and ensure their attainment by 2030, the National Treasury and Economic Planning has developed an SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (which will be launched today) to stimulate economic recovery and accelerate progress in the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, the Ministry has developed SDGs Awards Guidelines to enhance transparency and accountability in the annual SDGs Awards process. The Guidelines are intended to promote sustainability of the Awards process and motivation of outstanding stakeholders' efforts in the implementation of SDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Kenya has recorded progress in a number of goals. According to the UN Sustainable Development Report 2022, Kenya is on track in the implementation of SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 13 (Climate Action), and there is moderate improvement on SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 14 (Life Below Water). The Report also points out that SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 15 (Life on Land) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) are not progressing fast enough and are stagnating while SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) challenges remained and is decreasing.

Despite the good progress in a number of SDGs Targets Kenya faces a number of challenges in the implementation of SDGs. Some of which include; resource gap in financing SDGs, inadequate tools to monitor and evaluate on SDGs; and data gaps in terms of its quality, timeliness and level of disaggregation as well as absence of baseline data for some of the indicators among others.

Moving forward, more concerted efforts will be required to accelerate the SDGs that are stagnating, decreasing and are not progressing fast enough, and come up with solutions to address the various challenges we are facing in the implementation of SDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Russia – Ukraine war coupled with the negative effects of COVID-19 Pandemic and ongoing nationwide drought have precipitated socio-economic challenges that disrupted national supply chains, businesses, and eroding the consumer purchasing power. With these challenges still raging nationwide, the SDGs have been knocked further off track. It has greatly affected the lives and livelihoods particularly of the poor and vulnerable groups including women, older persons, youth and children, low wage earners, informal sector workers, Persons with Disability (PWD) among others.

Therefore, we must make commitments to assess the level of SDGs progress through carrying out rapid assessment or real time monitoring. There is therefore the need to develop a government led platform that will help to track the SDGs. This is critical in ensuring that we adjust policies in time to mitigate the impact of the challenges we are facing.

We call for all stakeholders' cooperation and support in building capacity of our national statistics office to strengthen production, collection and analysis of data for SDGs monitoring.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Measures are needed that are inclusive, sustainable and resilient that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development by building an inclusive and efficient path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This will require a collaborative effort involving extensive consultations, input within and outside the Government, and utilize the institutional framework for coordination and implementation of Government programmes and projects at the national and county levels.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In collaboration with SDGs Stakeholders, the State Department for Economic Planning will continue with the identification, documentation and sharing of SDGs good practices which makes selected practices systematically available to other stakeholders in the SDGs process. These practices from different stakeholders are hence replicated and scaled up in accelerating implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action.

The last year's conference recommended enhancement of capacity building to key stakeholders on SDGs good practices identification, documentation and sharing. In this regard, the Ministry has undertaken various capacity building initiatives with different

stakeholders on SDGs good practices. These include the State Departments, Parastatals and Council of Governors.

Inadequate financial resources to implement SDGs was also identified as a critical challenge in implementation of SDGs. Towards this, you are all aware that the Government has developed the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) which provides a holistic framework that extends beyond traditional public sector budgeting to include resources mobilized by all actors, including the Private Sector, CSOs and Development partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Forum also recommended strengthening of partnerships in SDGs implementation. To this end, the Ministry has had a number of meetings with various stakeholder on engagement on SDGs matters and this can be witnessed today by the great number of stakeholders present today from Parliament, County Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Media and the Youth among others.

To enhance Communication on SDGs which has been recommended a critical in realization of SDGs, the Ministry has initiated development of SDGs Communication Strategy and our intention is to conclude its preparation by June 2023.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Finally, let me state that the Kenyan Government through the State Department for Economic Planning remains fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We will continue promoting open engagement with all stakeholders as well as creating an enabling environment towards implementation of the Agenda.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Inter Agency Technical Working Committee on SDGs co-chaired by the Government through the SDGs Coordination Directorate, SDGs Kenya Forum, and KEPSA, and all other stakeholders who have worked tirelessly and provided support for making this conference a success.

I wish you fruitful deliberations during the three (3) days of the conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with these few remarks, I now declare this conference officially opened.

God Bless You All

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING, MR SAITOTI TOROME, CBS, REMARKS DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF 2022 SDGS NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE HELD ON 30TH NOVEMBER - 2ND DECEMBER 2022 AT NYALI SUN AFRICA BEACH HOTEL & SPA, MOMBASA.

**National Government Officials present;
Representatives from COG and County Governments;
Representatives from County Assemblies Forum;
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Representatives from Civil Society Organizations;
Representatives from Academia;
Representatives from Media;
Distinguished Guests;
All Protocols observed.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon!

It gives me great pleasure to join you here today during the official Closing Ceremony of the 2022 Annual SDGs Multi-stakeholder Forum.

I would like to start by expressing my appreciation to all the participants for participating in this conference and to all your organizations for facilitating you to attend. Your vibrant participation has enriched the discussion on matters of SDGs in Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objective of the conference was to provide an opportunity to SDGs stakeholders to share their experiences in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the context of multiple challenges. In particular the conference aimed at addressing pertinent issues related to data gaps, resource mobilization, stakeholder engagement and innovative ways of addressing the SDGs implementation bottlenecks in order to accelerate SDGs in the decade of action.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These are some of the issues stressed in the SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy 2022-2030 which was launched on Wednesday. Am happy to note that the Strategy has various innovative ways across all the sectors to address the above issues to ensure

Kenya attains SDGs by 2030. All Institutions represented here have a responsibility to ensure implementation of whatever relates to their mandate in the Strategy. The State Department for Economic Planning plans to prepare biennial reports in implementation of the Strategy.

Looking at the program, for the last three (3) days, I am convinced that you have had engaging discussions on the important roles the young people and women play in implementation of SDGs. Promoting gender equity and empowerment of women and youth remains a priority to the Government and cannot be underplayed.

You have also deliberated on the innovative ways to address the SDGs data gaps and sources and especially on Citizen generated data; As the Department charged with implementation of SDGs, we will continue working closely with KNBS which is an Agency under the State Department to ensure quality data for monitoring SDGs is available.

The key message from the conference is that youth, women and grass-root stakeholders' engagement is crucial in the implementation of the Agenda 2030. The Agenda cannot be achieved without partnership of the CSOs, media, private sector and all other stakeholders. I reiterate the key role of the counties in the implementation of the goals at the local level.

Resources for targeted development to achieve the SDGs remain a challenge, and therefore the recommendations from the conference to strengthen partnerships is highly welcomed.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we have just heard, adequate and sustained resourcing is absolutely critical to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. It is now time to reverse the significant underinvestment in SDGs, if we want to see real progress in achieving the SDGs and ensure that development gains and achievement of rights are equally enjoyed by all without LNOB.

Apart from these, am aware that there were good discussions on innovative ways of achieving SDGs in other sectors not mentioned above. We will package these and share with relevant Institutions for implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At this juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the SDGs Awards Ceremony that will be held later in the evening. We will recognize, honor and celebrate SDGs champions in different sectors for the achievement and excellence in the implementation of SDGs.

As I conclude, I would like to express my appreciation to UNDP, UNFPA, SDGs Kenya Forum, KEPSA, Media Council for Kenya, CoG, University of Nairobi and Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business for their support both technically and financially towards the Conference. To the State Department for Economic Planning led by EPS, Katherine Muoki, we acknowledge your hard work in ensuring success of this Conference. To all other partners not mentioned above, we appreciate your support in preparation of the Conference.

With these few remarks, I officially declare the conference closed.

THANK YOU

Annex 3: Presentations and Photos

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h3nIVdgPwv6Nu_FEU6uIicst9XtI2CTO