

## **CABINET MEMORANDUM ON THE MAINSTREAMING OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

#### **Purpose of the Memo**

1. The intention of this Memorandum is to inform and seek the approval of the Cabinet for the Mainstreaming of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into Kenya's Development process. The SDGs process was co-chaired by Kenya at the global level. The process entailed putting people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership at the centre of development. The SDGs are congruent with our national development aspiration as outlined in the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Medium Term Plans.

#### **Transition from Millenium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals**

2. The SDGs were adopted in September 2015 to succeed the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs). In September 2000, world leaders meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The declaration sought to free mankind from poverty and to spare no effort to achieve that goal. Expressing their commitment to global partnership, a series of time-bound targets were designed to reduce extreme poverty by 2015. These eight targets became known as the MDGs.

The MDGs became the Global Benchmark for development in developing countries for the period between 2000 and 2015. The MDGs represented the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. Although disparities were evident, the MDGs period represented the greatest reduction of poverty in the world in modern history. At the global level more children than ever before attend primary schools and the disparities between boys and girls in enrolment have narrowed. High malaria deaths were reversed and life prolonging drugs for HIV/AIDs patients became more readily available.

For Kenya over the MDGs period we significantly reduced the number of people living below the Poverty line, doubled the share of the poor's quintile in national consumption and attained Universal Primary Education. The number of women in public position rose sharply as a result of Kenya Constitution of 2010. New infections for HIV/AIDs reduced while Malaria and tuberculosis cases declined. The tree cover

rose significantly and is on track to achieve the recommended ratio. On the other side child and maternal mortality remained at high levels and the poverty levels didn't get to the intended levels. Like most of developing countries, the unfinished business of the MDGs has been carried over new Sustainable Development Goals.

### **The Sustainable Development Goals Process**

3. During the United National General Assembly Summit of 2010 the Secretary General of the United Nations (UNSG) was mandated by the 65th Session of the General Assembly to begin deliberations on the 'next' development agenda beyond 2015. In 2012, the Secretary General appointed a High Level Panel of Eminent persons to advice on the next development agenda. The panel finalized its tasks in 2013 and submitted its report ***"A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development"*** in which it recommended that the next global development agenda should carry forward the spirit of the Millennium Declaration. The new approach should leave no one behind, keep sustainable development at the core, transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth, Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all and finally forge a new global partnership.

The Secretary General further directed all organizations and agencies of the United Nations System to undertake internal consultations and advise on the development framework after the MDGs period. The United Nations Task Team Report recommended a transformative agenda, ambitious yet feasible, with potentially far reaching and long term positive implications for sustainable development. The agenda would set forth shared principles and goals to guide policy choices and mobilize action at all levels without being prescriptive and while recognizing differences in initial conditions, as well as interdependencies amongst objectives.

Also, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) was organized in 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. The Rio+20 outcome document, ***"The future we want"*** set out a mandate to establish an Open Working Group (OWG) to develop a development framework beyond the Millenium Development Goals. The Open Working group was co-chaired by Kenya and Hungary and it delivered the Sustainable Development Goals which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

## II. CONTENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations General Assembly herald a new development cooperation model for the next fifteen years. The Sustainable Development Goals also be referred to as Agenda 2030 and sometimes simply as Global Goals. The SDGs build on the success of the MDGs and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries put people at the core of development; promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 goals which are

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The goals further have 169 targets and indicators' setting is still on-going.

### III. NATIONAL EXPECTATION ON THE SDGS

5. Where as the SDGs are Universal Goals set at the Global Level, their formulation encompassed national and regional consultations among other broad stakeholder contributions. In adopting the “Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals” established pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/288, Member States are bound to:-
- i) Commit to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including by eradicating extreme poverty by 2030.
  - ii) Take primary responsibility of its economic and social development as a path towards attaining the SDGs.
  - iii) To take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the agenda and support the transition to the SDGs by building on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate.
  - iv) Follow up and review at the national, regional and global levels in relation to the progress made in implementing the goals and targets over the coming fifteen years.
  - v) To conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels which are country-led and country-driven.
  - vi) Promote accountability to our citizens, support effective international cooperation in achieving Agenda 2030 and foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning.
  - vii) Report to the United Nations General Assembly on the National progress of the goals at the agreed

#### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CABINET**

While the Sustainable Development Goals and their adoption by the United Nations General Assembly through resolution 66/288 are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals.

##### **6. The Cabinet is invited to:**

- i) Take note of the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals and appreciate the major opportunities and benefits that will be realised with the implementation and attainment of the new global agenda;
- ii) Direct Ministries, Departments and Agencies to mainstream the SDGs goals and targets into their policy, planning and budgeting processes;
- iii) Recommend the domestication and Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals in our planning systems
- iv) Consider the Creation of a Cabinet Sub-Committee of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- v) Task the Head of Public Service to form a National Steering Committee on Sustainable Development Goals and its subsequent Secretariat ;
- vi) Direct all Ministries, Departments and Agencies to participate and contribute to the preparation of the biennial Status Report on the Sustainable Development Goals;

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**Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Devolution and Planning**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **2016**