

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY –
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE
2020 GLOBAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 13TH JANUARY 2021**

The Chief Administrative Secretary National Treasury and Planning;

The Principal Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry

The Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi;

The Resident Representative UNDP Kenya;

Invited guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am pleased to welcome you all to the launch of the 2020 Global Human Development Report whose theme is “*Human Development and the Anthropocene, expanding human freedoms in balance with the planet*”, which is a reflection of the pressures people put on planet Earth. These pressures have grown exponentially over the past 100 years and while humans have achieved incredible things, but we have taken the Earth to the brink.

As you are all aware, Human development is both a goal and a process of empowering people, by expanding their capabilities, freedoms and choices, to lead valued lives. Principles of human development are equity within and across groups, efficiency in the use of resources, empowerment in terms of provision of resources and opportunities for people to participate in the development process, and inclusiveness.

Human development reports in Kenya have been used by the Government to shape and initiate new policy debates and dialogues to address recognized real needs necessary to advance human development. Lessons from selected African countries indicate that human development reports remain pivotal in identification and development of relevant thematic initiatives for social economic development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The timing of the 30th Global Human development report is unique as the world rushes to seal the scars that have been inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Report highlights the unprecedented magnitude and speed of human pressures on the planet. These pressures are manifested in challenges ranging from climate change to biodiversity collapse. More importantly, the Report explores key aspects of identities and pressures and offers a new perspective on how to frame choices that can expand people's choices while easing planetary pressures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Kenya Climate Change Act of 2016 underscores the mainstreaming of climate change both in public and private sectors with emphasis on resilience in managing climate change. The acknowledgement is that climate change has become one of the most considerable environment challenges of our time. Climate change negatively affects ecosystems, water resources, food, health, coastal zones, industrial activities and human development. Climate change poses a serious challenge to Kenya's social and economic

development through the associated major economic challenges, human life disruption and mostly felt effect to the environment.

Kenya is most vulnerable to climate change since the key drivers of the economy (agriculture, livestock, tourism, forestry, and fisheries) are climate-sensitive. Coupled with the country's low adaptive capacity, the country experiences a high level of vulnerability. Climate change threatens to adversely affect economic growth in Kenya, and endangers our desire to become a prosperous country with a high quality of life for all our citizens. Climate change has the potential to abate the development gains made over the years, therefore, hampering progress made towards the attainment of the Kenya Vision 2030 goals.

I wish to emphasize that tackling climate change is a global challenge and, commitments no matter how significant from just one or two countries, or one or two regions will not be enough. Collectively leaders around the world must stand up and act with courage and conviction if we are to resolve the climate change crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya has been progressing towards the realization of human development through implementation of successive development plans. The national economy has expanded throughout the years though and significant progress has been achieved in reducing poverty levels, reducing gender-based disparities, supporting the development of the most vulnerable

segments of the population, improving access to health and sanitation services, promoting a more equitable access to resources, protecting human rights and valuing individual goals and objectives

As we continue with the implementation of MTP III and embark on preparation of MTP IV, it is my humble expectation that some of our decisions will be informed by the Report that we are launching here today, in an effort to continue integrating environmental conservation into economic development. It is advisable to focus on Strategic and tactical efforts in programming and delivery of targeted initiatives that are geared towards addressing key issues such as inequalities, disaster preparedness and strengthening of the devolved units. Emphasis must also be given to the need to put in place systems that will respond to the new emerging priorities such climate change and mainstreaming of SGDs.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to thank you all for attending this very important launch as we share the 30th Global Human Development Report. This launch demonstrates commitment to act together towards realization of Kenya's developmental aspirations.

Once again, let me welcome you all to this launch and take the opportunity invite Dr. Chris Kiptoo, the Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to make his remarks.

