

REMARKS BY MR. SAITOTI TOROME, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING, DURING THE GOK-UNICEF HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2022 AT PANAFRIC HOTEL, NAIROBI.

**Mr. Jean Lokenga, Rep. UNICEF Kenya
UNICEF Kenya Country Office Staff;**

**State Department for Planning;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good morning,

- **It give me pleasure to join you today during this important GoK-Unicef high-level consultative meeting. Indeed, I would like to express my gratitude to UNICEF**

Kenya Country Office for convening this meeting and for your continued cooperation.

- **On the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the successful and highly rewarding partnership that has existed between the Government of Kenya and UNICEF Kenya over the past decades. UNICEF Kenya has always been supportive of Kenya's development efforts by providing technical**

assistance in the implementation of policies and programmes geared towards the betterment of all Kenyans. There is no doubt that a strong bond has been forged while working together over the years to achieve Kenya's sustained growth. Our partnership is proof that great accomplishments can be realized when we come together with unity of purpose.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **UNICEF Kenya has partnered with the Government of Kenya in undertaking various programmes in social sectors including Health and HIV; Education; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Agriculture and Nutrition; Child and Social Protection; and Emergency response and management for the realization of socio-economic rights and attainment of the outcomes in the Social Pillar of the Kenya Vision 2030. I take note that**

programmes undertaken by UNICEF Kenya are driven by the objective of promoting and protecting the rights of children and women.

- **The State Department for Planning is particularly grateful for the support from UNICEF in generating poverty data and public finance analysis centered on children and women's welfare. This is a critical area of the National development as children and women**

welfare remains a key priority in sustainable development. Indeed, the Comprehensive Poverty Report by KNBS of 2020, shows that 52.5 percent of children are multidimensionally poor.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **Incorporating children's matters in development planning is paramount. With the onset of devolution, essential children services like health, Early Childhood**

Development and Education (ECDE) and WASH are devolved services. I commend efforts by UNICEF Kenya in increasingly working at devolved levels of Government to safeguard the lives of vulnerable women and children.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **The Government is in the process of ushering in a new medium term planning cycle. We have embarked on the**

development of the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) of the Kenya Vision 2030, the process so far has been highly consultative. The MTP IV, a successor to the MTP III (2018-2022) which is currently under implementation, is expected to guide the Country's development agenda for the period 2023-2027.

- **The MTP IV, will be guided by Kenya's Constitution, Post Covid Economic Recovery Strategy and lessons**

learnt in the implementation of previous MTPs (MTP I, II & III). It will pay a particular attention on achievement of sustained economic growth; addressing income inequality; empowering youth, women and person with disabilities; and revitalizing all sectors of the economy to generate employment opportunities and improve the well-being of our people.

- **In addition, the MTP IV will seek to address challenges emanating from COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other shocks. The plan will further integrate programmes and projects aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals, aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063 and other regional and global development agenda.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **I am informed that UNICEF Kenya is in the process of developing the next Country Programme Document (CPD 2022-2027) which also aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2026). As noted, UNSDCF succeeds United Nation Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2018-2022).**

- **I wish, therefore, to register satisfaction and appreciation to UNICEF Kenya for engaging the State Department for Planning and the Government at large in developing the Country Programme Document. I am confident that the Country Programme Document will be aligned to Kenya Vision 2030 and mirror the MTP IV. Further, I expect that both plans will contain cohesive approaches towards the implementation of programmes toward realization of sustainable development.**

- **As we enter this new planning period, I have no doubt that the Government and UNICEF Kenya Country Office will continue to forge an effective partnership governed by principles of mutual accountability, transparency, effective coordination and information-sharing. I urge that we place proactive knowledge management and communication at the center of our collaborative efforts. Our partnership presents great opportunities for cross-learnings, peer to peer exchanges, knowledge**

generation and exchange. Indeed, I am looking forward to greater engagement as we propel social budgeting and related initiatives forward.

- **Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank UNICEF Kenya Country Office for the deliberate effort to consult the Government of Kenya during the preparation of the UNICEF Kenya Country Programme Document. The Government of Kenya is ready to**

partner with UNICEF in the next country plan. It is my hope that we will continue to collaborate and forge deeper partnerships in the many years to come for the benefit of the Kenyan citizens.

- **With those remarks, I wish you fruitful discussions and deliberations.**

Asanteni Sana