

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING, MR. SAITOTI TOROME,
CBS, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE REVISED GUIDELINES ON
SOCIAL BUDGETING AND SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTING**

The Resident Representative, UNICEF Kenya; Mr. Jean Lokenga

The Chief Executive Officer, the Council of Governors;

Executive Director, Inter Religious Council of Kenya;

Representatives from National Government and Counties;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

It is my pleasure to join you today for the launch of the Revised Social Budgeting and Social Intelligence Reporting Guidelines. The revision of Guidelines on Social Budgeting and Social Intelligence Reporting comes at a time when the country is consolidating gains after a decade of implementing the devolution dream in Kenya. The Revised Guidelines will be critical in ensuring more equitable social development in the country by promoting closer engagement between citizens and the government.

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 drive Kenya's social economic development. Our partnership is proof that great accomplishments can be realized when we come together with a unity of purpose. It is my hope that the meaningful partnership we have forged will continue to grow as more Kenyans are impacted positively.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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. It is important to note that inadequate nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and housing contribute significantly to child poverty.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The country's long-term development blueprint, the Kenya Vision 2030, provides an all-inclusive road map for socio-economic and equitable development. The realization of socio-economic rights of all Kenyans is envisaged in the Social Pillar of the Vision. The ambitions

of the Social Pillar shall be achieved through a participatory, transparent, equitable allocation of public resources and efficient delivery of services to meet human needs.

As you are all aware, the State Department is in the process of developing the Fourth Medium Term Plan for the period 2023-2027. I know most of us are involved in this process, either directly or indirectly through Sector Working Groups. In a nut shell, the Fourth MTP will place particular attention to addressing income inequalities; 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. Let us join hands and together make the plan a success.

In the same vain, as UNICEF sets to implement the new Country Development Programme (2022-2027), it is my hope that implementing child-centred interventions towards alleviating child poverty will attract renewed efforts geared towards collaboratively achieving Kenya's development agenda; Agenda 2030; and, the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Government, we are aware that development is based on strong plans that are prepared through participatory processes considering the felt needs of citizens. Furthermore, inclusive budgets are the media through which requisite resources are allocated to finance

plans with the aim of achieving national growth aspirations. Therefore, the potential opportunities inherent in the Social Budgeting Initiative cannot be overemphasized, as they provide a platform for engagement of all stakeholders in social development to participate in decisions concerning the planning and budgeting.

Through Social Intelligence Reporting, the government is looking forward to obtaining rich and much needed statistics to augment the government's own databank to design key programmes with the intention of enhancing transparency and accountability as well as map out the beneficiaries for optimum outcomes. It is worth noting that through this collaboration, the government designed social protection programmes that has uplifted the lives of the vulnerable members of the society especially the elderly, Persons with Disability and orphans.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Social Budgeting is a multi-stakeholder responsibility. I, therefore, call upon all actors charged with the responsibility to plan, budget, implement, report and account for public investment in the Social Pillar of Kenya Vision 2030, to adopt and implement the Social Budgeting and Social Intelligence Reporting Guidelines. I am confident that with proper application, Social Budgeting has the potential to promote good governance and the culture of transparency and accountability at all levels of planning and budget execution. Indeed, I have no doubt that investing in Social Budgeting

will impact positively on delivery of equitable social services and enhance the culture of public accountability. Ultimately, this will result in improved social and human development indicators and overall high quality of life for all Kenyans.

As I conclude, I would like to once again extend my gratitude to UNICEF Kenya for their continued support to the State Department for Planning and in promoting social and overall development; and, the 14 Joint Devolution support Program Counties and Social Sectors for their commitment in ensuring the success in the roll out of the program.

With those remarks, I wish to declare the Revised Social Budgeting and Social Intelligence Reporting Guidelines officially launched.

Thank You