

**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, MR SAITOTI TOROME, CBS, OPENING REMARKS 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 honored 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;**

The State Department for Economic Planning is 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 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 various challenges in the implementation of SDGs. Some of which include; resource gap in financing SDGs, inadequate tools to monitor and evaluate implementation of the 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 assessments 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 promote 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 utilization of 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.

During last year's conference enhancement of capacity building to key stakeholders on SDGs good practices identification, documentation and sharing was recommended. In this regard, the State Department for Economic Planning 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, 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.

Similarly inadequate mainstreaming of SDGs in Policies and Plans was also reported as a challenge inhibiting realization of SDGs in the Country. To this effect the State has ensured integration of SDGs in MTP IV (2023-2027) whose preparation is almost complete. The same has been undertaken in CIDPs whose preparation is underway.

### **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 by the great number of stakeholders present in this forum from Parliament, County Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Media and the Youth among others.

To enhance Communication on SDGs which was recommended as being critical in realization of SDGs, the State Department for Economic Planning 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**