**REMARKS BY THE CABINET SECRETRY, THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE KENYA NATIONAL GOVERNANCE REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF THE CPRM PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS ON 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT KSMS, RUARAKA, NAIROBI.**
**CEO, APRM Continental Secretariat, Prof. Eddy Maloka,**

**Esteemed Members of the CPRM Panel of Eminent Persons,**

**Excellency the Chairperson of the Council of Governors, Anne Waiguru,**

**Excellency the Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Governors,**

**Excellency Governors from the CPRM participating Counties,**

**Development Partners,**

**Non-State Actors, especially the Civil Society, Academia and the Business Community,**

**All State and Public officers,**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to be here today as we launch the inaugural National Governance Report (NGR) of 2023. The African Union launched this initiative in 2017, when it decided to expand the mandate of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to comprise of monitoring and reporting on all key aspects of governance, including tracking implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Consequently, the APRM developed the inaugural continental governance report, Africa Governance Report 2019 which was launched in February 2019. APRM then encouraged individual member states to produce their own national governance reports, whose findings would be aggregated into a continental report.

The national governance reports, therefore would serve as a national barometer of governance status in all AU Member States, based primarily on national realities, country innovation, and homegrown solutions. The absence of objectivity and real data by external institutions which have been assessing governance on the African Continent has arguably been a major challenge in evaluating the state of governance for many African countries. Yet, Africa has the capacity and means to perform her own assessment by utilizing locally generated data and information.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Kenya is, therefore, honoured to have been selected to pilot the implementation of the NGR framework. This selection reflects the Continent's confidence in Kenya’s governance reforms and practices, as well as the appreciation of Kenya’s continued commitment to implementing the Agenda 2063 in the area of governance.

As you are aware, Kenya continues to be a key leader in the APRM, as exemplified by her consistent and robust participation in comprehensive country review processes, targeted reviews, progress reporting on the implementation of National Programmes of Action as well as in lending both material and moral support to APRM initiatives in general.

In terms of progressive governance reforms, it is worth noting that Kenya has consistently strived to improve internally, resulting in a plethora of best practices that can be replicated in other jurisdictions. The adoption of Kenya's new Constitution in August 2010 is unquestionably a notable milestone and a watershed moment in this regard. This social contract, hailed as one of the most liberal in the world, was the product of a meticulous, citizen-centric and participatory process.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Besides the remarkable transition to a devolved system of government, other landmarks of the Kenya’s Constitution 2010 include the establishment of a number of critical Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices as key institutions of governance to deepen Kenya’s democracy and enhance service delivery to citizens.

Indeed, for each of the key governance challenges identified as impeding social-economic and political progress in Kenya, an independent governance institution was established to ensure objective treatment of any emerging issue that could otherwise be a source of conflict between the state, its citizens and non-state actors, as well as among private citizens and entities.

As a result, Kenya has established constitutional commissions to address: the potentially divisive land questions; gender and equality concerns; administrative justice issues; cohesion and integration; and corruption. These institutions coupled with an independent judiciary and legislature at the national and county levels, form critical pillars of a stable democracy which allows focus on economic endeavors to improve livelihoods all round.

**Distinguished Guests,**

Studies have clearly demonstrated that good governance is a prerequisite for sustainable development, that is, there exists a positive relationship between good governance and equitable economic growth and development. Additionally, good governance is critical in order to forestall unnecessary and disruptive conflicts which can occur in African countries, owing to ethnic diversity of the nation-states and the attendant multiplicity of competing interests.

It is for this reason that His Excellency the President, Dr. William Samoei Ruto has reiterated the Government's commitment to promoting national values and principles of good governance as outlined in Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution. These governance principles are in tandem with those of the African Union.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today you have also witnessed the presentation of the County Peer Review Mechanism (CPRM) Panel of Eminent Persons. The panel members have been selected owing to their exemplary track record in serving Kenyans in various capacities over the years. They are meant to enhance the integrity, credibility and objectivity of the county peer reviews so that the reports can truly reflect reality on the ground and serve as a solid foundation for policy decisions and actions. I am confident that the democratic dialogues that they are supposed to spearhead in the CPRM participating counties, will significantly contribute to improved service delivery performance.

It is important to note that this team of Eminent Persons has volunteered its services and expertise to the promotion of good governance in our counties through the CPRM, just as their counterparts in the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons do at the Continental level. For this reason, I sincerely commend them for their willingness to serve our society in such a spectacular display of patriotism and sacrifice.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Continentally, Kenya is the first country to cascade the peer reviews governance approach to the sub-national level. In this context, it is expected that the Panel will diligently embark on its task and ensure that the CPRM National Summit takes place before the end of the year so that His Excellency The President is able to report back to his peers at the AU Summit early next year.

As I conclude, it is important to note that Kenya is in the limelight; thus, success is essential. I believe that the eleven (11) counties participating in the CPRM will continue to provide the necessary support to the Secretariat and the State Department for Economic Planning will expedite the completion of the review process.

Evidently, Ladies and Gentlemen, Kenya is walking the talk and it is no surprise that the APRM fraternity naturally considers the country a valued partner in the promotion of good governance not just at the domestic level but also in the Eastern Africa region and the continent in general.

Going forward, the National Governance Reporting and the CPRM will be critical enablers of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Against the pillar on governance and public administration, these twin governance initiatives will assist in consistently and objectively tracking performance against core governance indicators critical to the economic transformation agenda.

It is now my pleasure to proceed and officially launch the National Governance Report for Kenya 2023.

**Thank You**

**God Bless Kenya**