



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING**

REMARKS BY MASINI ICHWARA (PhD) DIRECTOR-GENERAL, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING THE 2025 SDGs NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE 26TH –28TH NOVEMBER 2025, AT PRIDE INN PARADISE HOTEL, MOMBASA

Our Chief Guest, Principal Secretary, Bonface Makokha,

Hon. Members of Parliament;

National and County Government Officials present;

Representatives from the Council of Governors;

Representatives from United Nations Agencies;

Development Partners present;

Representatives from Civil Society Organizations;

Representatives from the Private Sector;

Representatives from Academia;

Representatives from the Media;

Representatives from Youth Organizations;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning.

1. It is my honor to welcome you to the 2025 National SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Conference. Held under the theme "***Race to 2030: Leveraging Strategic Partnerships, Collaboration and Innovative Financing,***". This forum underscores the urgency of accelerating progress towards the SDGs through collective action and transformative solutions. I wish to sincerely thank all our partners who have worked closely with us in preparing this important forum. Your presence here today affirms our shared commitment to Kenya's sustainable development agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. During adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Heads of State committed themselves to enhance partnership for sustainable development. These partnerships are intended to bring together governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, media, the United Nations system and other actors. The Partnerships are important in mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, in the spirit of SDG 17.
3. It's against this backdrop, that the State Department for Economic Planning in collaboration with Inter Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC) has convened this conference bringing together all key actors in the implementation of the SDGs.
4. The 2025 Annual National SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Conference presents an opportunity to galvanize action in the final five years before 2030. The conference will reflect on Kenya's SDGs journey, spotlight county innovations, global best practices, and co-create transformative solutions

aligned with financing reforms, national priorities, and the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) principle.

5. The forum will culminate in the 2025 SDGs Awards Gala, honoring outstanding contributions across government, counties, civil society, youth, academia, media and the private sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen

6. It is our expectation that at the end of this conference we should be able to have achieved the following:
 - To have enhanced our partnerships and collaboration among us to fast track implementation of SDGs.
 - To have a roadmap for accelerating and financing SDGs.
 - To have an enhanced framework for data-driven and inclusive SDGs monitoring and.
 - To have a repository of innovative strategies, case studies, and best practices in SDGs implementation.
7. This will form the core to our discussion over the next three days with special focus on food systems, climate resilience, financing, technology, youth empowerment, social protection and the role of counties in SDGs implementation.

Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Allow me to borrow some lessons to inform our discussions. The lessons from both our athletic champions and the experience of implementing the MDGs that offer Kenya a clear message for the last mile of the SDGs. From our athletes, we learn that the final stretch demands greater focus, discipline and acceleration than the opening laps. Records are not broken in the first kilometres—they are broken in the last strides, when the body is tired, when pressure is highest, and when every second counts. It is in

that moment that champions dig deeper, coordinate better with their teams, and summon the determination to finish strong.

9. From the MDGs, we learned that early progress does not guarantee final success. Kenya made significant gains, yet we fell short of the poverty reduction target because momentum slowed when it mattered most. Implementation gaps, uneven targeting, weak coordination, and delayed resource mobilisation cost us the finishing kick we needed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. So, what do these two lessons mean for the last mile of SDGs? We must accelerate, not relax. The SDG deadline is approaching, and this is the moment to intensify delivery—especially in health, education, poverty reduction, climate action, and inequality. We must strengthen coordination, we must target precisely, we must invest consistently. The MDGs taught us that delayed or fragmented investments undermine outcomes. The final leg demands resilience—staying the course, monitoring progress closely, and adjusting strategies quickly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. The last mile of the SDGs will define whether Kenya merely participated—or whether we finish as champions. Just like Kipchoge, Kipyegon, and Obiri, it is in this final stretch that we must summon the strength to deliver for the Kenyan people.

Ladies and Gentlemen

12. As we begin this conference, I encourage all of us to approach our discussions with clarity, ambition and a shared sense of responsibility. The SDGs are not abstract global targets; they represent the aspirations of millions of Kenyans, their dignity, well-being and opportunities for a better future.

With these remarks,

It is now my singular honour to invite our Chief Guest, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning, to deliver his remarks and officially open the conference.

We may now rise up to welcome our Chief guest.