



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY BONFACE MAKOKHA, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 2025 SDGS NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE HELD AT PRIDE INN PARADISE HOTEL, MOMBASA FROM 26TH – 28TH NOVEMBER 2025.

**Hon. Members of Parliament present;
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 Civil Society Organizations;
Representatives from Private Sector;
Representatives from Academia;
Representatives from Media;
Representatives from Youth Organizations;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning.

1. It gives me great pleasure to join you as we open the 2025 National SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Conference. This gathering comes at a critical moment in our national and global development journey. Our theme—**“Race to 2030: Leveraging Strategic Partnerships, Collaboration and Innovative Financing”**—reminds us that the clock is ticking, but also that immense opportunity lies ahead if we move together with clarity, purpose and courage.
2. Over the next three days, we come together not simply to talk about the SDGs, but to reflect candidly on where we stand, to listen to each other, to share real solutions, and to recommit ourselves to lifting the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. This conference is, in many ways, a mirror and a

compass: a mirror that forces us to examine our progress honestly, and a compass that guides us toward the collective actions we must take between now and 2030.

3. Globally, the picture is sobering. The 2025 UN SDG Progress Report shows that only about 35 percent of global targets are on track, while 65 percent are lagging or reversing. These statistics are more than numbers—they are a reminder that millions of lives remain unreached, and that the world is drifting off course. Yet here in Kenya, we have continued to move forward. Our national data shows positive progress in 103 of the 168 SDG indicators—about 61 percent—thanks to deliberate investments by government, counties, partners, and communities.
4. Even so, we must confront the challenges before us. Persistent data gaps continue to slow planning and accountability, both here and around the world. Without timely and reliable data, we cannot target our programmes effectively, we cannot measure impact honestly, and we cannot see the communities who risk being left behind. Strengthening our data architecture remains one of the most decisive investments for accelerating the SDGs.
5. Globally, the conversation has shifted. The Pact for the Future, adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future, made it clear that governments alone cannot deliver sustainable development. We need the skills, the energy, and the creativity of all actors—civil society, the private sector, youth, academia, and community networks. And this year, at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, world leaders acknowledged a hard truth: the world faces a development emergency. The Seville Outcome calls for bold reforms—stronger domestic resource mobilization, a fairer global financial architecture, sustainable private investment, and new mechanisms to ensure that financing reaches the people who need it most.
6. Here at home, Kenya has taken that call seriously. Guided by the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, we have implemented bold, people-centered actions that align strongly with the SDGs. In agriculture, over six million farmers now benefit from improved access to fertilizer

and extension services. Hundreds of aggregation centers are helping farmers secure better prices. Irrigation rehabilitation and climate-smart agriculture are strengthening our food security.

7. In enterprise development, the Hustler Fund has disbursed more than KES 74 billion to millions of Kenyans—unlocking credit where it was previously inaccessible and supporting small businesses to grow. Further an ambitious Kshs 5 billion NYOTA programme has been launched collaboratively with the World Bank where 70 youth from every ward in Kenya are being supported with capital under the business component of the Programme.
8. Towards Sustainable Cities and Communities, the flagship Affordable Housing Programme has created over 330,000 direct jobs and is delivering dignified homes to Kenyans. Further towards healthcare the Social Health Authority has registered 25.8 million members who are supported by 100,000 Community Health Promoters. In digital transformation, over 12,000 government services are now accessible on eCitizen, improving efficiency, transparency, and citizen engagement. And through strengthened planning frameworks, county governments are now better equipped to integrate SDG priorities into their CIDPs, ensuring that development is felt at the grassroots.
9. On the data front, Kenya now reports 171 SDG indicators—an achievement made possible by a strong partnership between KNBS, MDAs and counties. I want to acknowledge KNBS and our development partners for establishing the Kenya SDG Data Portal, a platform that enhances transparency and supports evidence-based decision-making. Looking ahead, Kenya will host the 2026 Global Data Festival, positioning the country as a continental leader in data-driven development and innovation.
10. As we strengthen our national data ecosystem, one principle becomes clear: we cannot improve what we cannot measure, and we cannot accelerate what we cannot see. Real-time data, digital platforms, and emerging technologies—especially AI—will define the final stretch to

2030. These tools will help us deploy resources better, target interventions more precisely, and respond faster to emerging challenges.

11. Let me emphasize that meaningful SDG acceleration is not the responsibility of government alone. The private sector remains a critical partner, not only for financing, but for technological innovation and scalable solutions. Our youth—who make up more than 70 percent of Kenya’s population—are central to this journey. Their ideas, energy, and digital fluency must be harnessed fully. Civil society organizations and community structures also remain indispensable in ensuring accountability, inclusion, and local ownership.
12. As we move closer to 2030, we must renew our sense of urgency. Incremental progress will not be enough. We must embrace bold action, innovative financing, stronger partnerships, and a deeper culture of collaboration across all levels of government and society. The SDGs represent a promise we made—to ourselves, to our children, and to future generations. It is a promise of dignity, of opportunity, and of shared prosperity.
13. Today, as we honour exceptional contributors during the SDGs Awards, may their work remind us of what becomes possible when commitment meets collaboration. Together, we can transform our challenges into opportunities and build a Kenya where no one is left behind.
14. Let this conference strengthen our resolve, sharpen our focus, and deepen our partnerships. The race to 2030 demands nothing less than unity of purpose and a shared determination to deliver.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my privilege and honor to declare this “2025 Annual National SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Conference” officially opened.

**Asanteni Sana!
God Bless You
God Bless Kenya.**