REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL TREASURY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING

REMARKS

BY

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PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING

DURING THE UNDP 2025 STRATEGIC SESSIONS/CONSULTATIONS

HELD AT THE TRADEMARK HOTEL ON 13TH OCTOBER 2025

Your Excellency, the Prime Cabinet Secretary

Dr. Ahunna Eziakonwa, Regional Director, UNDP Africa Bureau

Distinguished Government Representatives

Resident Representatives, Development Partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon

1. I am truly delighted to join you today at this high-level dialogue on Government Development Financing (GDF). This is a timely platform for all of us, State and non-State Actors to rethink on how we mobilize and manage resources to deliver on Kenya’s national development aspirations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. Today’s deliberations reaffirm Kenya’s commitment to a nationally led, domestically financed solutions that place our people — especially the youth — at the Centre of our development narrative.

The Youth Agenda

3. We have a constitutional obligation (Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010) not only to take measures, including affirmative action, to ensure that the youth has access social safety nets, employment and opportunities to associate, but also to protect our youth from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

4. The State Department for Economic Planning core mandate is to coordinate the formulation and implementation of long-term development

blue prints (The Kenya Vision 2030 and successor Vision 2063), medium-term plans (MTP IV/BETA), and sectoral strategies.

Setting the Tone

5. We are therefore greatly honoured to set the stage for the presentation of Kenya's Integrated Youth Offer. This offer represents an innovative model under the Government Development Financing arrangement, and its objectives strongly resonate with our Fourth Medium-Term Plan 2023–2027, the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Kenya Vision 2030, all of which prioritize job creation, youth empowerment, and inclusive economic transformation.

6. Kenya is a youthful nation with over 75% of the population being under the age of 35. This has created a demographic "youth bulge" that offers significant economic and social opportunities but also presents. presents substantial challenges like unemployment and the need for better education and skills training. Harnessing this demographic dividend is both an economic and social imperative.

National Development Priority Linkages

7. The Government continues to advance the youth agenda by our aligning youth empowerment initiatives in development planning. The Kenya Vision 2030 and MTP IV, for instance focus on industrialization, innovation, and employment. The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA),

aims at expanding opportunities through MSMEs, digital jobs, and value-chain development.

8. These collectively support the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals particularly: SDG 4 on Quality Education; SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth; and SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities.

Why GDF

9. Government Development Financing, signals a strategic shift from project-based aid to results-driven investments. This approach enhances fiscal sustainability, strengthens accountability, and ensures that youth-focused

programmes are embedded in national systems fully aligned with our Programme-Based Budgeting (PBB)

Call to Collaboration.

10. I therefore invite all stakeholders to rally behind this initiative. Let us build the partnerships, policies, and investments needed to empower our youth — as innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders of tomorrow. When governments lead, development succeeds and when we invest in youth, we secure our future.

Thank you, Asanteni Sana