

**REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT
FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DURING BREAKFAST MEETING TO
INAUGURATE THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE
2026 GLOBAL DATA FESTIVAL, 18TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT THE
EDGE CONVENTION CENTRE**

**Representatives from the Global Partnership for Sustainable
Development Data**

Our esteemed Development Partners,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Representative from the Kenya Space Agency,

Senior Government Officials,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning.

1. It gives me great pleasure to join you this morning as we inaugurate the National Planning Committee for the 2026 Global Data Festival. This moment marks an important milestone for our country, as we continue to take our rightful place as global leaders in data, innovation, and human-centered technology.
2. We are and continue to be a land of inventiveness, where ideas are transformed into instruments that change lives. This is embedded in our national story, and it continues to guide our ambitions as a nation.
3. Next year, in June 2026, Nairobi will once again be at the centre of global attention as we host the Global Data Festival under the theme **"Powering Resilience, Innovation, and Partnership through Data."** The Government of Kenya takes pride in co-hosting this global gathering together with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and the Kenya Space Agency.

Colleagues,

4. We are at a unique moment: a moment that combines complexity with opportunity. Frequent climate shocks, Food insecurity and disaster risks are deepening. Health threats continue to persist piling pressure on our economies. Technology on the other hand, especially AI, is advancing faster than regulations, institutions, and societies can fully respond. Indeed, it is not a shortage of ideas that challenges us, rather it is the execution at scale, guided by values; protected by strong governance; and supported by systems that last.
5. This is precisely why the Global Data Festival comes at the right time. It brings together decision-makers, technologists, investors, community leaders, and innovators to align priorities, mobilise resources, and deploy data, AI, and space technologies where they can deliver the greatest impact for people and for the planet.
6. As a Government we remain fully committed to making this Festival a turning point for the world. Through this event, we want to:
 - a) Drive investment into sustainable data and space systems that support development and resilience;
 - b) Advance inclusive and ethical data governance that is rooted in integrity, accountability, and equity;
 - c) Showcase practical solutions, from AI tools to citizen-generated data that strengthen climate action, food security, and public health;
 - d) Foster partnerships that cut across government, grassroots communities, the private sector, academia, and development partners; and
 - e) Build the skills and capacities needed, especially among our youth, to thrive in a fast-digitizing world.

Ladies and Gentlemen

7. These priorities align with the Government's commitment to evidence-based planning, digital transformation, and inclusive growth. They also reflect the core mandate of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics to strengthen and modernize our national data ecosystem.

Ladies and Gentlemen

8. Today, we officially inaugurate the National Planning Committee for the 2026 Global Data Festival. This Committee brings together expertise and leadership from across government, the private sector, development partners, research institutions, and civil society. It is a whole-of-government/ecosystem approach that fully aligned to our captain's, H.E President William Ruto's clarion call of leaving no one behind.
9. Your mandate as a planning committee is simple but ambitious: To ensure that Kenya delivers a one of a kind global masterpiece that will elevate the nation to its anchor state status in data management.
10. My State Department assures you of my support, through strategic guidance, coordination, and policy alignment necessary to make this Festival a national success.
11. As we begin this journey, let us draw inspiration from our own history. It is in Kenya where humanity first learned to make tools; we now gather to shape technologies that safeguard our collective future. Whereas our ancestors innovated for survival; we now innovate for resilience, prosperity, and sustainability.

In conclusion,

12. May I take this opportunity to thank all our partners, the Global Partnership, the Kenya Space Agency, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, and our international for their partnership and commitment in this endeavour and in other development initiatives in the data space. I further thank my great team at KNBS for championing this process and fostering enhanced data management in Kenya.

It is now my singular honour and privilege to declare the National Planning Committee for the 2026 Global Data Festival inaugurated.

Asanteni sana and God Bless you