

STATEMENT

BY

THE DELEGATION OF KENYA

TO THE

SECOND COMMITTEE

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 17:
"INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
FOR DEVELOPMENT"**

DURING THE

70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**Mr. Chairman
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by thanking the chairman of the bureau of the Second Committee for convening this debate focusing on *Information and Communication Technologies for Development*. At the outset I align this statement with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of G77 & China and Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group. I will now make some remarks in my national capacity.

The report of the Secretary General for the 69th session does *inter alia* state clearly that science, innovation and technology, including information and communication technologies (ICT) are drivers for the achievement of development. As we delve into the implementation of the recently adopted “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” we must reinforce the importance of ICT. This is encapsulated in target 9.c which aims to “significantly increase access to information and communication technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the internet in least developed countries by 2020”.

Information and communication technologies plays a big role in socio-economic development in the world. Not only does it enable access to global markets but it also enhances wealth creation and generates high quality employment. This in the end leads to poverty reduction. Sadly most developing countries have not done well in the development of ICT.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya regards development in ICT as a very important component of its policy. It is with this in mind that we produced our first National ICT Policy in 2006. This policy was guided by the need for infrastructure & human resource development, stakeholder participation and appropriate regulatory framework. In 2013/14, our government put together a master plan under vision 2030 which was aimed to help in the creation of a conducive legal and regulatory environment to stimulate the growth of ICT-related businesses. This has enhanced employment creation by developing a dynamic and robust ICT sector hence spurring socio-economic growth.

In 2009, the government completed a strategic rollout of the East African Marine System, a submarine fibre-optic cables connecting the country with the rest of the world. So far, 5,000km has been laid out from the coast of Mombasa to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This has shifted resilience of internet from satellite to cable, which is more efficient and reliable. This network has reached almost all parts of the country.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The extraordinary success of Kenya's mobile payments system *M-Pesa* cannot be gainsaid. This mobile money transfer system has been recognized globally. It has also changed the banking system in the region and beyond. Besides, the collaboration the mobile phone industry has with the banking sector has resulted in new mobile banking products. It has therefore revolutionized the banking system in the region in a truly transformative and inclusive way. This ensures that no one is left behind with regard to mobile money transfer.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to McKinsey and Company, Kenya's GDP contribution from the internet in 2014 was at 2.9 per cent more than double the rest of the continent. Over 50% of Kenyans now have access to the internet, majority of whom access it through their mobile phones. As part of the Vision 2030 Flagship Programmes, the Government is setting up a technology city, *Konza Techno City*. The objective is to create a conducive environment for investment and increase job creation.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that my country will continue to develop the Information and Communication Technology sector in full cognizant of it's crucial role in spurring sustainable development.

I thank you.