



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MR. ARTHUR A. ANDAMBI  
MINISTER COUNSELLOR  
KENYA MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK**

**DURING**

**THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE  
SEVENTY FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON**

**(TUESDAY, October 4, 2016)**

Please check against delivery

**Mr. Chairman,**

I align this statement with that delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and South Africa on behalf of the African group

I add my voice to many who have congratulated you Mr. Chairman for being elected to steer the bureau of the second committee. My delegation also congratulates other members of the bureau and looks forward to working together during this session. We note that this is the first session after the beginning of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and therefore expect that much focus will be on the aspects related to the implementation of this process.

We are glad to note these discussions are timely as they are in line with the theme of the general debate i.e. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a universal push to transform the world** and most specifically the theme of the G77 and China of **from Vision to action: inclusive partnership for sustainable development**.

The new Agenda was adopted at a time when Kenya was already implementing its Vision 2030 through five-year medium Term Plans which embraces the three dimensions of sustainable development. The current Plan has been reviewed, where the existing gaps and emerging issues have been identified in order to be addressed in the next plan. This process will provide valuable opportunity to mainstream aspects of SDGs that are not captured in the current national development plan.

We note that Kenya has already finalized the mapping of the SDGs and targets and they have been mainstreamed into the national development priority and plans. Kenya looks forward to being among the countries that will make voluntary reporting on implementation of SDGs during the next HLPF session and is proud to note that the last UNEA meeting was held in Nairobi in May this year.

In order to achieve the Agenda, it is important to focus on the means of implementation defined under all goals and goal 17 specifically. We continue to place emphasis on mobilizing domestic resources since they are reliable and predictable. We note that domestic resources can be effectively mobilized if the economic growth is supported by an enabling environment. Currently our domestic resources are capable of underwriting more than 90 percent of recurrent commitment.

We need to mobilize adequate resources to meet the financial demands for the implementation. This includes efforts to increase our revenue to GDP ratio from the current 22 percent in the medium term. Increased revenue by for instance

efficient tax systems will enable address our fiscal deficit and secure equate financial resources for implementation.

We also note the importance of official development assistance as complementary to the domestic resources. We continue to lay emphasis on concessional borrowing. We note that this window is fast closing now that we are a middle income country. In this case we have to seek for increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as a catalyst to economic growth through complementing domestic investments.

We note that private finance is not a substitute but a complement to our domestic resources. We have continued to put in place measures that ensure that there is responsible borrowing.

We note that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the country. It contributes to one quarter of the country's GDP while at the same time employs about 60 per cent of the population. We continue to place emphasis on this sector whose multiplier effects and strong linkages are able to positively impact other priority sectors of the economy. This sector has continued to contribute to the reduction of poverty which remains a great challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Investment in sustainable agriculture is key in tackling poverty.

Infrastructure development is a key driver for progress in the country. It catalyzes productivity and sustainable economic growth. We continue to mobilize resources on concessional terms for this sector which is key in contributing to human development, poverty reduction, and is crucial to the attainment of the sustainable development goals. This has to be complemented by structural economic transformation and inclusive growth through industrialization and value addition. Industrialization is a tool to generate inclusive and sustained economic growth, generate employment opportunities needed to get our people out of poverty.

We note the need to gather high quality and reliable data in order to know where the most marginalized are. This is critical in ensuring that no one is left behind. The Agenda entails having an elaborate system of measurement, which covers many sectors and has more indicators. We note the need for quality, reliable and timely data which is disaggregated to cover different aspects. Strengthening of our national statistical capacities and geospatial information systems for the collection, analysis, production and dissemination of disaggregated data needs remains a priority. We call for support of our National statistical offices in this regard.

---

The monitoring and review of the SDGs in Kenya will be done through the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES). The system employs a result based monitoring framework and provides important feedback to policy makers and the general public on the national government's progress towards achieving various identified development targets set out in the Medium Term Plan (MTP). At the sub-national level of government, the system is replicated through the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES).

In spite of the efforts to effectively implement the Agenda, we continue to experience weak capacities in key institutions. We have to continue building effective and capable institutions at the national level for coordination both within and across ministries. We still have to work on public and private awareness and ownership of the development Agenda. If this is delayed it can result into limited participation which could slow down the implementation process going forward.

We look forward to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development which will take place in Ecuador in October this year. This will be the first major implementation conference of the new agenda for development.

We note that quality and effective development cooperation from providers of aid is critical to accelerating the realization of the new Agenda. We note the progress that has been made in a number of development effectiveness areas. However we also note that much work needs to be done even as we continue to discuss effective development cooperation in the context of the new Agenda. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) has a recognized role of accelerating implementation of the Agenda. We look forward to the next GPEDC High Level Meeting (HLM2) to take place in Nairobi Kenya from 28<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2016. This will be the first high level meeting after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

As we implement the SDGs, we need to ensure stakeholder participation. The Kenya Constitution makes citizen participation a central part of the country's governance system. In this regard, the government has prepared guidelines for public participation to be used by all stakeholders that are engaged in public service delivery. These guidelines were developed through stakeholder consultation. This has contributed to strengthening governance, increased accountability, inclusivity and ownership.

In conclusion implementation of the Agenda presents an opportunity to governments to ensure an enabling environment and good governance to encourage financial resources to flow in the proper direction. It will foster transparency, participatory decision making and mobilize the strength and

innovation of all relevant stakeholders. Meeting its aspirations calls for collaboration, coordination and coherence within governments and engagement with a multitude of partners beyond national governments.

I Thank You.