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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE

GENERAL DEBATE ON

AGENDA ITEM 20: "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"
(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 -
THE PROGRAMME FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF
AGENDA 21 AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for convening this important session. I align this statement with those delivered by South Africa and Sierra Leone on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the African group respectively.

Kenya welcomes the recent adoption of the new development Agenda: **"2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**. The adoption is a key step in the furtherance of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on sustainable development and the main United Nations Conferences on sustainable development

Mr. Chairman,

At the onset allow to state that as a country we have tried to chart some specific course in the implementation of sustainable development. Kenya has mainstreamed key development commitments into its national development policies.

We have in place the country's vision 2030 which is being implemented by a five year Medium Term Plan. Currently, we are implementing the Second Medium term plan (MTP II) which captures all the important commitments contained in the new development agenda and also the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We have also put in place an effective coordination framework that involves the participation of the civil society organizations, the private sector and other major stakeholders who are key in the implementation process. Where necessary we have developed a proper regulatory framework to empower the stakeholders in the implementation process.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to highlight some specific examples of the implementation of the key outcomes of one of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Conference. This is the Vienna Programme of Action (VPOA) for the landlocked developing countries. Kenya is a transit country for a number of landlocked countries both in the Eastern and Central Africa. As a developing transit country, Kenya also shares some challenges that its landlocked neighbours face. These include; high cost of trading across borders, poor infrastructure, poor productive capacities, low levels of industrialization,

dependency on primary commodities, and vulnerability to internal and external shocks.

The Port of Mombasa serves a number of neighbouring countries through importation and exportation of mostly containerized cargo. Over the past few years the Kenya Revenue Authority has been implementing a "One Stop Border Post" (OSBP) at the main border posts with the neighbouring countries.

The OSBP concept is aimed at harmonizing transit clearance, with two officers from bordering countries sitting under one roof to handle transit documents. This saves time by shortening the output period of the entire documentation and verification cycle. Previously, traders in the region were hampered by lengthy clearance procedures in which goods were separately inspected on either side of the border leading to massive delays.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSBP regime has effectively reduced the duration taken to clear goods imported from the neighbouring countries at the same time reduced the duration taken to export goods through our external frontiers. This demonstrates how a key role played by a transit country can facilitate international trade.

The government has put in place timely verification of the guaranties that are undertaken to indemnify the taxes payable on transit goods. This has reduced the time taken to discharge these guaranties. It has effectively relieved the businesses extra costs incurred on capital that is tied in underwriting the guaranties. This continues to be an incentive to business especially for those whose goods have to transit through the country.

Early this year construction of the OSBP at Malaba to be shared by Kenya and Uganda, was completed. This has reduced the time needed to travel from Mombasa to Uganda. Initially, it required 18 days, but this has since reduced to under than five days. We also look forward to the OSBP at Busia. Busia border is one of the busiest in East Africa.

Other special border posts will include Taveta-Holili border and the Namanga border (Kenya-Tanzania), and the Kanyaru-Akanyaru border (Burundi-

Rwanda). Kenya and Ethiopia have signed a bilateral agreement to develop a One-Stop Border Post at Moyale. This will enhance transport services along the border crossing, strengthen trade in the region and also reduce transit time for goods across the common border.

Apart from the OSBP, Kenya looks forward to ratification and implementation of relevant international, regional/sub regional conventions and agreements on transit cooperation. Fostering of partnerships with the private sector, development partners, civil society organizations and foundations to ensure successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action remains key.

Lastly we note that implementation of the Vienna Programme of action can effectively contribute to the eradication of poverty. It can also effectively contribute to sustainable development commitments including those contained in the already defined means of implementation of the newly adopted development Agenda.

I thank you.