



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON. KERIAKO TOBIKO, CBS, SC, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY ON BEHALF OF H.E. UHURU KENYATTA, CGH, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AT THE OPENING OF THE 7TH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CCDA-VII) AT THE SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI ON WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER, 2018, 9.30AM.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I am delighted to join you this morning for 7th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-VII), which is convened by my Government, in collaboration with CLIMDEV Africa Partners, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and Think Renewables (from Canada), among others.

2. I am informed that this conference has attracted about 700 participants including researchers, policy makers, multilateral development banks, intergovernmental agencies, development partners, academia, parliamentarians, government officials, private sector, civil society, the youth, women and the media.
3. On behalf of my Government and the people of Kenya; I wish to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all distinguished guests who are gathered here to discuss the realities of climate change and how to address them following the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015.
4. The theme of this year's forum, ***“Policies and actions for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement for resilient economies in Africa”***, reflects our collective engagement and commitment to strengthen climate change actions in the context of Africa's development priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen

5. Climate change is a matter of life and death for Africa. We have all experienced the devastating and unprecedented impacts of climate change on our peoples' lives and livelihoods as well as our national economies. Africa is the most vulnerable continent despite contributing only about 4% to global greenhouse gas emissions.

6. However, climate change threats present opportunities for innovative and green investments for Africa. This is why implementation of the Paris Agreement remains a priority for the Continent in order to adapt to the inevitability of climate variability and change. It is however important to emphasize that achieving the goals of the Agreement require committed leadership from state and non state actors.

7. This Week on Monday 8th October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the landmark report on ***“Global Warming of 1.5°C special report and its impacts in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.”***
8. Limiting global warming to 1.50C would require rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of our society.
9. As you may be aware, 2018 a critical year for the operationalization of the Paris Agreement. The nature and extent of parties' obligations will only be clear once negotiations on the Paris Rule Book are complete, and hopefully adopted in COP 24, in Katowice, Poland in December 2018. Operationalisation implies that adequate and predictable resources be mobilised and made available to support adaptation and mitigation action in Africa and other developing world.

- 10.** Further, Parties will take stock of the collective efforts in the progress towards the goal set in the Paris Agreement in light of the 1.5°C Special Report released by the IPCC during the Talanoa Dialogue. The Dialogue focuses on three questions: Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there? The 1.5°C Special report gives us guidance to the where we are and where we want to go. The outcome of COP 24 negotiations will be critical in determining how we get there based on the synthesis report to be released by UNFCCC before COP24.
- 11.** It is therefore important that the discussions and outcome of this conference will contribute to build momentum towards the upcoming meeting in Poland (COP 24) and implementation of our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Investing in innovative practical solutions to climate change challenges will not only contribute to attainment of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals, but also Africa's Agenda 2063.

Ladies and gentlemen

12. Kenya's effort to tackle climate change started before the ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) on Climate Change in 1994 which was followed by ratification its Kyoto Protocol (1997) in 2005, Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (2014) and Paris Agreement in 2016.

13. Kenya has put in place an enabling policy and legal environment for climate change implementation. These include:

- National Climate Change Response strategy (2010);
- National Climate Change Action Plan (2013 – 2017; and 2018 – 2022);
- National Adaptation Plan (2015 – 2030);
- National Climate Change Framework Policy;
- Climate Change Act, 2016;
- National Policy on Climate Finance.

14. Several African Countries submitted ambitious NDCs under the Paris Agreement. Kenya took an emission reduction target of 30% by 2030 against a Business As Usual (BAU) scenario. Our NDC will be implemented through the five-year National Climate Change Action Plans as prescribed in Climate Change Act of 2016.

15. Our National Climate Action Plan (2018-2022) identifies priority climate actions that are aligned to the Medium Term Planning process, and takes cognisance of the impacts of climate change on the socio-economic sectors. It identifies **priority** sectors for intervention namely;

- a) Disaster risk management;
- b) Food and nutrition security;
- c) Water and the blue economy;
- d) Forestry, wildlife and tourism;
- e) Health, sanitation and human settlements;
- f) Manufacturing;
- g) Energy and Transport

16. The Climate Change Act (2016) established clear governance and coordination mechanisms. The Act also establishes a high level National Climate Change Council (chaired by H.E. the President, with inclusive representation from the national and county governments, private sector, civil society, academia and the marginalized groups). However, the Council has not yet been operationalized due to a court case by the civil society, challenging the nominations of their representatives, therefore holding the country at ransom.

17. The implementation of the climate change actions is the responsibility of all stakeholders at all levels including the State (national and sub-national governments) and non state actors (the marginalized/indigenous communities, private sector, the youth and women).

18. The Climate Change Act also defines the roles of the Directorate as the lead agency in climate change affairs; Climate Change Units in Ministries, departments, Agencies and County Governments; and Climate Change Fund as a financing mechanism for priority climate change actions. All these institutions are obligated to support implementation of the Action Plan by law.

19. My Government is currently pursuing a Five-year development plan to achieve the Big 4 Agenda which focuses on food security, universal healthcare, affordable housing and manufacturing. We are embracing new and innovative technologies in the field of climate smart agriculture, building technologies, health and resource efficient manufacturing, among others, to achieve the Agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen

20. There are numerous practical and innovative solutions at community, sub-national, national and international level that we can scale up.

21. As part of tapping into the opportunities in biodiversity, Kenya will be hosting the first Sustainable Blue Economy Conference between the 26th and 28th November 2018 to promote sustainable investments in oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers. I invite you all to attend and actively participate in the Conference so as to raise the African voice in matters of Blue Economy and Ocean governance.

22. Given that our shared ecosystems and natural resources know no boundaries, it is essential that we continue to speak in one voice to safeguard the basis of our development and seek transformative solutions.

23. I therefore wish you fruitful deliberations and outcomes in this Conference.

God Bless You and Thank you all.

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