

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

Remarks by Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary - Ministry of Environment and Forestry; during first National Conference on Climate Governance: Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Tuesday 9th October 2018

Distinguished Guests and Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen

- 1.** At outset I wish to thank all our Partners (Panafrican Climate Justice Alliance, UKAid, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Christian Aid, Trócaire, and Deepening Democracy Programme) for working closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and the Council of Governors in organising this national event. I am informed that today's meeting precedes the regional 7th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference that will be held on the next two days.
- 2.** I am happy to note that this conference has brought together government and non-state actors from both national and county levels to discuss climate change issues, with a focus on the theme "The Role of Devolved Governments in the Transition to Low Carbon Climate Resilient Economic Development". Today's discussion will include sessions towards the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement such as Nationally Determined Contributions, Climate Change Act and Policy, Climate finance, and Partnerships among others.
- 3.** As you are aware, the goal of the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 is to keep the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Agreement is applicable to all Parties into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries. To achieve these, provision of climate finance, technological framework and enhanced capacity

building are required. The Agreement also provides for an enhanced transparency framework for action and support. Further, the Agreement sets out a number of measures to enhance action prior to 2020.

- 4.** This year 2018 is very important in the global climate change agenda, as the Paris Agreement Work Programme (or “Rulebook”) to operationalize the implementation of the Agreement, is expected to be completed during the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland in December 2018. In addition, Countries will take stock of the collective efforts in relation to progress towards the goal set in the Paris Agreement and to inform the preparation of Nationally Determined Contributions during the high-level “Talanoa Dialogue”.
- 5.** COP 24 will also be informed by the Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Global Warming of 1.5°C, which was released yesterday in Korea. The IPCC report indicates that greater urgency and ambition on climate actions are needed to reach the target. I encourage all of you to refer to this special report for guidance of the impacts and associated risks of 1.5°C temperature increase in our country.
- 6.** The outcomes of this national event may contribute to the crafting of Kenya’s position to COP 24, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 7.** Kenya, like other developing countries, is most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change due to high dependence of climate-sensitive agricultural production. Increase frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like droughts and floods have had hit across Kenya that poses a challenge to the attainment of Vision 2030 development agenda. The poor, women and children are most affected due to their low adaptive capacity. These threats, however, presents some opportunities towards innovative and green investments that will be shared during today's discussions.
- 8.** Kenya's Nationally determined contribution (NDC) outlines the country's climate change commitment under the Paris Agreement. Adaptation is a priority in Kenya and its contribution is envisaged through mainstreaming of adaptation actions into all sectors of the Medium Term Plans to ensure strengthen resilience to climate change. Mitigation actions target abatement of the greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030 relative to the business-as-usual scenario (baseline) of 143 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. However, achievement of NDC contribution is subject to international support in form of finance, investment, capacity building, and technology development and transfer. Collaboration between the government and partners is essential for implementation of our NDC.

9. The Climate Change Act (2016) and Policy provides a framework for mainstreaming climate change actions across sectors at the national and county levels. The Act recognizes the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) as a mechanism for mainstreaming climate change into all sectors and the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). The second NCCAP 2018-2022 identifies priority adaptation and mitigation actions aligned to MTP III as well as contribution to the government's BIG 4 Agenda on enhancing manufacturing sector, food and nutrition security, universal health care and affordable housing. Furthermore, NCCAP informs the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

10. The Act also establishes a Climate Change Fund as a financing mechanism for priority climate change actions. Formulation of the regulations to operationalize the Fund is being undertaken, and representative(s) of the National Treasury will later share its progress.

11. Furthermore, the National Policy on Climate Finance provides an institutional framework for mobilization and management of climate finance that includes mechanisms for the mobilization, coding, tracking and reporting of domestic and international resources of the climate-related activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

12. As you are aware, access to climate finance (especially in form of grants) is a challenge, for implementation of climate change actions.

Discussions under session four on Climate Finance will share financial access from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund (AF) and others that aims to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change through low-emission, climate-resilient development.

13. In conclusion, the implementation of climate change actions is the responsibility of both government and non-state actors as provided for in the Climate Change Act. I wish to congratulate the county governments who have put in place their county climate change actions, which demonstrates the critical role of the devolved governance in the transition towards a low carbon climate resilient development pathway. I encourage counties who have not initiated formulation of their county climate actions to do so. Counties are key anchors of devolved actions through the Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), and thus effective NCCAP II implementation framework should ensure all actions are decentralized in a manner that involves the communities.

14. I wish you fruitful deliberations and thank you all for your commitment to this process.

Thank you

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