



STATEMENT BY

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DEVELOPMENT

DURING

GENERAL DEBATE- HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

UN HEADQUARTERS,

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Check against delivery

The President of ECOSOC

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Kenya aligns itself with the statements delivered by Cuba on behalf of the G77 and China, Tanzania on behalf of the African Group.
2. Since the adoption of the 2030 SDG Agenda and its 17 SDGs, Kenya recorded a remarkable progress in domestication and mainstreaming of SDGs into development plans both at the national and sub-national levels and also setting up appropriate institutions to support implementation.
3. Through a '**whole of government**' and '**whole of society**' approach, geared towards **leaving no one behind**, positive progress had been realized across several goals before COVID-19 pandemic that adversely affected primary sectors of our economy reversing most of the gains made in the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.
4. The effects of the pandemic were most adversarial to children, youth, women and persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations, resulting in some being pushed **even further behind and deeper into poverty. Nevertheless**, the resilience demonstrated by our population has showcased the great opportunities and potentials we have in our people and renewed optimism for **building back better from the bottom of the economic pyramid** where majority reside.

Madam. President,

5. In recognition of the great potential at the grassroots, the Government of Kenya is implementing a Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (**BETA**) geared towards economic turnaround and inclusive growth by stimulating economic participation among Kenyans at the bottom of the socioeconomic strata.
6. The BETA is anchored on: Agricultural transformation; renewed focus on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Economy; affordable Housing and Settlement; universal healthcare; and, increased Digital Superhighway and Creative Industry.

7. In fulfilling his political commitment H.E President William Ruto launched a **Financial Inclusion Financial Fund 'Hustlers Fund'** in December 2022, in just under 100 days after taking office.
8. The fund seeks to promote inclusive economic growth by deepening access to easy and affordable credit through mobile money infrastructure to individuals and MSMEs while encouraging savings towards financial security. To date, in less than 8 months since the launch, over 250M USD has been disbursed to more than 21M Kenyans across the country.
9. As we track the mid-way point on our way to 2030, Kenya like many other developing is still burdened with unsustainable debts which hinders our ability to invest in enablers for SDGs. This calls for debt relief to our countries, especially those that have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic and other multiple crises.

Excellencies,

10. Kenya echoes the sentiments made by the UN Secretary General on the current global financial system.. Indeed, the financial system falls short in addressing the complex challenges we face including post COVID-19 recovery, the climate emergency, and the debt crisis especially in the global south.
11. We call for financing system reforms that will acknowledge our capabilities as developing nations and ensure a mutually beneficial outcome, provide affordable, sufficient and sustainable financing delivered in a timely manner.
12. We also call for the actualization of the UN Secretary General SDGs Stimulus of **\$500 billion per year** between now and 2030 to help in offsetting challenging market conditions faced by developing countries and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.
13. Climate change is a global crisis, impacting, on food security, cost of living. Our energy and transport made worse by the geo-political tensions that have disrupted the global supply chains.
14. For this reason, Kenya has stepped up climate adaptation and mitigation efforts including green energy, smart agriculture, decarbonized manufacturing, e-mobility and green building, aimed at the attainment of zero carbon by 2050.

15. Madam. President, Kenya is taking proactive steps towards establishing a unified African stance on climate change for COP 28. To this end Kenya will be hosting the Africa Climate Action Summit from September 4th to 6th, 2023, and I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the President, H.E William Ruto to welcome you all to Nairobi Kenya to partner and participate in this summit so that together we can advance climate investments that reduces the vulnerability of our planet.

16. Finally, Madam. President, the most significant positive outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic was the realization that our human determination, solidarity, leadership and resilience in overcoming adversity, to renewal.

17. Kenya will actively engage in the upcoming SDG Summit. This Summit provides the international community with another multilateral opportunity to mobilize political commitments and action to accelerate achievement of Agenda 2030.

Thank you.