



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING

THE ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT PANEL DISCUSSION ON "FUTURE
PROOFING MULTILATERALISM FOR A RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE
RECOVERY"

ON

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Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. President

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. We all know the weakness and necessity of multilateralism.
2. The question now is how the membership should respond to a historic fork in the road. One fork we can take is to not make meaningful changes to the UN in particular.
3. The other fork recognises this fragile moment as an opportunity. Most times, the greatest reforms are forced by the sense of urgency that comes with emergencies.
4. Before looking forward, we need to be clear about the foundations of today's multilateral system and their weaknesses.
5. Kenya declared its independence on the 12th of December 1963. Four days later, on the 16th of December, Kenya became a member state of the United Nations. For us, protecting our independence and meeting our aspirations as a free people meant embracing multilateralism.
6. By this standard, we can recognise that the UN has been a uniquely valuable and effective institution even as we lament the challenges it faces today.
7. Our path to these two signal events started with the partitioning of Africa at the Berlin Conference. We were then declared a protectorate and colony in 1895. And the multilateral foundations of our United Nations were laid with the formation of the League of Nations.



8. We know that body for its failures in maintaining peace and security. It should also be better known for its endorsement of colonialism under its covenant's Article 22.
9. This history indicates that we need to protect the right kind of multilateralism. The multilateralism we must future proof fiercely protects the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of its members. It advances development, human rights and peace and security without de-emphasising any of these pillars. The one we must leave behind uses our organisation to protect a status quo whose relevance has disappeared as we can observe from its inability to respond to our common emergencies.
10. There are 3 major actions that we recommend to this assembly.
11. **First**, and most importantly, we must shift our mindsets. Let us challenge the hierarchies that distort our conversations and debates.
12. **Secondly**, we must reform the Security Council. If we do not substantively change this critical institution it will become obsolete with regional organisations taking its place in practical terms. Or, even worse, its failings and lack of inclusivity may in time threaten, rather than protect, international peace and security.
13. **Third**, we should recommit to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This should be a priority supported by every single regional and multilateral platform. Investment must be de-risked. Agricultural productivity must be transformed particularly in Africa to ensure that nutrition is adequate and affordable to the poorest. Climate change and adaptation commitments should be met and exceeded at COP-27 later this year in Egypt.

I thank you.



