



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATEMENT

BY

**MR. SAITOTI TOROME, CBS,**

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING,

**DURING**

THE 2022 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM PLENARY  
SESSION ON

**"ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO VACCINES AND RESOURCES IN  
THE**

**POOREST COUNTRIES"**

**ON**

WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2022

United Nations, New York

Please check against delivery



**Excellencies,****Distinguished delegates,**

1. The COVID 19 Pandemic has triggered high levels of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and inequality in administration of Covid-19 vaccines. The Pandemic triggered a global recession with LDCs, LLDCs and African countries witnessing a significant shrink in their respective economies. External debt burden and debt service obligations have risen in the past three years resulting to inadequate fiscal space for sustainable development.
2. According to various global reports, there is a threat of waning immunity from COVID-19 vaccinations and emergence of new strains and infections. While some countries are already administering booster shots, some are yet to achieve full vaccination. We therefore risk reintroduction of containment measures that disrupted global supply chain and key productive sectors. To avert such a crisis, we need to accelerate the drive towards vaccinating more than 70% of our respective populations at the earliest.
3. Health inequities were laid bare as developing countries grappled to contain the spread of major disease outbreaks such as Ebola and Covid 19. It is therefore imperative for all countries to invest in resilient health systems beyond the COVID-19 pandemic response. The health policies should be re-designed to achieve universal health coverage as well as ensure access to quality essential health-care services; nutrition; and



safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines, diagnostics and vaccines.

4. The role of science, technology and innovation cannot be underscored in offering scientific solutions to reduce the risks and enhance resilience in the event of future shocks. We therefore call upon transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms; and provision of financial and technical support to bridge the STI gap in the developing countries.
5. We laud the decision of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights to extend the transition period for Least Developed Countries for certain obligations on pharmaceutical products. In the same breathe, commitment by developed countries within the World Trade Organization (WTO) to provide incentives to enterprises and institutions in their territories with a view to promoting and encouraging technology transfer to Least Developed Countries is highly welcomed.
6. Kenya is glad to be among the first six (6) countries chosen to receive the tools needed to produce messenger RNA vaccines in Africa. It is our hope that this initiative will be up-scaled through enhanced triangular and south- south cooperation. This will go a long way in increasing the global vaccine supply and in turn enhance access to the vital commodity.
7. Resilient and sustainable recovery calls for holistic, all-hazard and One Health approaches that takes into consideration interdependencies among the people, animals and the planet.



8. As stated earlier, developing countries require both technical and financial support to build back better. We therefore call upon the international community to consider concessional financing proportionate to a Country's vulnerability, debt swaps, debt servicing moratorium, and debt cancellation where applicable.

**I thank you.**

