



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Statement By

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Moderator,  
The Vice President of ECOSOC,  
Fellow Panelists,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me and my country Kenya great pleasure to have been selected as a panelist in this preparatory session of the 2012 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the UN General Assembly. Kenya like all the developing countries relies considerably on the UN system for technical assistance and financial aid in many critical areas of our development. We therefore place the greatest importance to our overall cooperation with the system wide UN structures that we deal with.

Allow me to begin with our experience in working jointly with a UN system-wide approach in order to achieve the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals in addition to our own national development priorities as envisioned in the "Kenya Vision 2030", and the "Medium Term Plan of Vision 2030" covering the period 2008 to 2012. In that process, we made considerable progress in our cooperation, and have also gained much experience that could be useful in meeting future developmental challenges.

The Kenya Vision 2030 is our country's long-term development roadmap which in addition to achieving the MDGs, is expected to transform Kenya into middle-income status by 2030 "offering its citizens a high quality life in a safe and secure environment". The vision came into operation in June 2008.

In 2009, the third United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Kenya covering the period 2009 to 2013 was re-launched after aligning it to the country's long term development goal (Vision 2030) and strategies and

programmes as contained in the Medium Term Plan. As a result there is considerable convergence of UNDAF, with our national goals and aspirations. The funding attached to this UNDAF is USD 635million which is not adequate to meet the UNDAF outcomes.

The above is one successful story of UN aligning their assistance to national priorities which has enhanced coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the UN Support. I believe that joint programming under the leadership of the programme country is one sure way of eliminating duplication of efforts and rationalizing UN activities to make them as cost-effective as possible and at the same time has the benefit of reducing the fragmentation of aid and transaction costs to the government. Further, there is need for reforming and simplifying donor policies and procedures in order to encourage collaborative and progressive behavior and alignment with partner countries priorities, systems and procedures. This will also enhance accountability; transparency and results to all partners.

Let me cite two examples of joint programming in Kenya: - the Kenya Joint Assistance Strategy (KJAS) and the Education Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) to programming. The KJAS commits the Government of Kenya and seventeen development partners to fully align partners' activities with the government's strategy through harmonization and coordination as spelt out in the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Where possible, partners are obligated to channel a proportion of their assistance through general budget support, sector budget support, and basket funding arrangements through use of government systems and procedures. On the other hand, the Kenya Education Support Programme was the first Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) to funding development in Kenya. It was a five year programme (2005-2010) whose financing was mainly through pooled resources by a multiplicity of donors. This improved aid

effectiveness and reduced transaction costs to the government although there have been some challenges. However, the Government of Kenya and the development partners including the UN are working towards solutions to the challenges. Despite the challenges that the Kenya Government has faced, I believe that this is the direction we should be taking as we can achieve a lot through pooling of resources instead of fragmented financing which may not achieve the desired results.

Over the years, the UN has made several initiatives to improve its operations and make itself more relevant, efficient and effective by planning together with programme countries. One of these initiatives is the Delivering as One (DaO). The envisaged benefits of DaO initiative have motivated some countries to seek "self-starter" status. In 2010, Kenya applied to the UNDP Administrator to be considered as a self-starter in the DaO Initiative. To operationalize this, a study tour to three pilot countries namely, Mozambique, Tanzania and Rwanda have been organized to be undertaken in order to learn the coordination mechanism, and how Kenya can successfully initiate the implementation process.

To improve on harmonization of UN procedures and in the spirit of delivering as one, there is increased need of improved reporting of activities and assistance by all UN agencies operating in a programme country. This will enable governments take stock of all assistance to the country for planning purposes, enhanced transparency and minimization of duplication of efforts.

At the same time, the UN System should strive to use more of the National Execution Modalities in the implementation of its programmes at the country level. Clear mandates of all UN agencies is also necessary to minimize overlaps and ensure that we achieve the division of labour, as outlined in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

I appreciate the continued support by the UN to build capacity in programme countries. Indeed, the UN system should continue to focus in this area. In Kenya, the UNDP is supporting capacity building initiatives in Monitoring and Evaluation, national statistics, policy advice, MDGs and general planning programming. This has been made successful through deployment of high level Advisors and UNVs in the government in order to fill capacity gaps. We indeed appreciate all this and we have initiated a review with the aim of making this technical assistance more sustainable by ensuring effective transfer of skills from the technical assistance experts to the government.

We recognize that capacity development to undertake effective planning, monitoring and evaluation are key components of aid effectiveness. It is also an essential component of ownership. I believe that this should continue to be strengthened in programme countries. I also urge the UN to continue to work with programme countries to identify national capacity needs and look at the most sustainable manner of filling those capacity gaps. We encourage cooperation between countries of the south for benchmarking as replication between institutions in similar operating environments which is more realistic and would yield better results.

In addition, the UN system should support capacity building initiatives at the regional levels. Regional initiatives such as African's continent-wide strategy on capacity development – The capacity Development Strategic Framework (CSDF) would be a good mechanism through which capacity building assistance by UN may be channeled. Its strategic framework is founded on the AU's New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) at the African Union. Successful implementation of the CSDF will advance Africa's development through engaged and empowered citizens. We also believe there is ample room for technical assistance to important regional integration groupings like the East African

Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) as they seek to expand regional and international trade.

Africa generally is moving towards decentralized systems which have the advantage of taking development closer to the people. This is an area that we in Kenya are looking forward to working with the UN in order to reach more people especially at the grassroots. There is need to support devolved services, including strengthening policy implementation and linkages at this level. I am sure there could be countries in similar situation as Kenya and there is merit in focusing more on programmes at this level that produce tangible results.

Allow me now to say a few things about development financing. A number of follow-up meetings have been held since the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development in 2002. These meetings have recognized that national efforts should be complemented by support from the international community aimed at achieving human development in its widest sense and in enabling poor countries to become major players in global trade and investment, as way out of poverty. To achieve this, external financing must be sufficient and predictable, and provided on a multi-year basis based on medium term plans of programme countries. Towards this end, we appeal to developed countries, and other countries who are in position to do so, to substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the core/regular budgets of the UN development system.

It is important that the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Review revisits this issue. We are all aware of the set-backs experienced by the global economy since the 2008 global financial and economic crisis. The UN Secretary General has already stated that fiscal austerity measures in the developed world should not be used to curtail assistance to the developing countries, and particularly those

whose citizens have suffered more poverty and lower incomes as a result of the crisis.

Kenya fully stands behind the UN in this concern. Furthermore, some parts of the African region and particularly the Horn of Africa are currently in the grip of another serious drought with attendant famine and refugee crisis. The Kenya Government is playing a central role to help solve these problems, and it has urged the UN to upscale its role as a partner. This alliance has worked well in the past and we are sure it will be just as successful in future. This will be an expensive initiative since, as we all know, the global prices of food and petroleum are now at their highest in the last two years, and both items are key inputs in relief and anti-famine work.

Countries in conflict and post-conflict situations in our region will continue to require the attention and support of the UN development system in the future. The impacts of these conflicts, as we are all aware, tend to spill over to neighboring countries. This is more so where conflict involves displacement and forced migration of people and transfers. As you are aware, Kenya, being in the Horn of Africa, hosts a large number of refugees from conflict regions. In such cases, therefore, a regional approach, effective follow-up on the displaced persons and resource implication on host nations should be handled simultaneously. Again the UN system has tremendous experience resolving problems of this nature in the past and we look forward to working together in resolving these issues. This is another area of concern that the comprehensive review could look into.

Before I conclude, allow me to say that on the question of gender and women empowerment, we hail the UN for the recent creation of UN Women aimed at promoting and fast tracking the achievement of gender equality for women and men in UN Member countries. In line with this development at the UN, we are

happy to say that Kenya has entrenched in its new constitution very high standards of gender equality that must be met in all sectors of public life. It is now mandatory that at least a third of all appointments to public offices are held by women. This ranges from Independent commissions, the judiciary, senior public servants, members to both houses of parliament and the cabinet. These will come into full effect in 2012 after the general elections. We are happy that through the process of implementation of our new constitution, the UN is providing critical support and necessary capacity building and experience.

Lastly, let me mention that the work of ECOSOC and its reports to the UN General Assembly over many years should never be under-stated. Our countries are all beneficiaries of it through the UN Specialized Agencies and its many programmes. Kenya, therefore, believes that the 2012 comprehensive Policy Review will improve its achievements even more.

**Thank you for your attention.**