



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

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NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AND VISION 2030 DURING

THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING

ON

“AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS:

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

OF VARIOUS COMMITMENTS,

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD”

ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2008 AT

THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS,

NEW YORK

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**Co-chairs,
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my very great honour and privilege to address this very important High-level meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of the various commitments, challenges and the way forward".

I would like at the outset to thank the Secretary-General for his report. It is comprehensive and captures the state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and way forward.

I also wish to congratulate the secretary General, the President of the General Assembly and all the speakers during this morning's opening session for their expressions of understanding, commitment to assisting African countries in their efforts to implement national and sub-regional development strategies and plans. I do thank them for they made it very clear that the development challenges facing the African continent are numerous, varied, but more so important was the realization that time has come for action instead of words and promises.

**Co-chairs
Excellencies, Heads State and Government
Distinguished Delegates,**

The story about Africa's development challenges has been told and retold at various fora. Reports have elaborated the grave situation facing majority of our countries. The Mid-term report on Millennium Development Goals acknowledges that most African countries are off-track in the implementation of the Millennium development goals and other internationally agreed development goals hence the likelihood of African countries not being able to achieve the goals by the target 2015.

In the interest of brevity, I will not dwell on details. Nevertheless I would like to take this opportunity to touch on four points that I consider very important.

Excellencies,
First, I wish to emphasize the fact that Africa's development challenges are indeed numerous. Some are perennial such as the limited resources, poverty, debt problems, environmental degradation, rapid urbanization and associated problems; HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, conflicts among others. Still there are emerging challenges such as climate change energy and food crises are worth considering. In addition, the current financial crisis in the United States is a challenge to the whole world and particularly so for African countries that do not have strong safeguard measures in case the crisis extends to the continent. Hence our message in this regard is that any problem facing Africa is a reflection

of the state of the world and therefore the urgency and imperative of addressing Africa's development needs can not be overemphasized.

Second, we do recognize that the international community as well as the African countries themselves have committed to addressing the most pressing development challenges in Africa. In Monterrey, Johannesburg, in the Group of Eight summits, here at the United Nations and elsewhere world leaders committed to addressing Africa's development challenges. Little progress has been made in implementing their undertakings. On the other hand, African countries have made commitments including through the NEPAD framework, the various African Union Summits, several plans of action have been developed but with mixed results. The state of implementation of the various commitments concerning Africa brings a sterning fear that the world is turning international conferences and summits into avenues for false promises. We should focus on action rather than rhetoric.

Excellencies,

Third, notwithstanding the above let me also note that a few of the African countries and development partners have made some efforts in implementing their commitments. Some African countries including Kenya are striving to meet their national and international commitments especially by ensuring sustained development, peace and security and human rights. In Kenya, we have successfully implemented a comprehensive Economic Recovery Strategy for Employment and Wealth Creation between 2002-2007. We adopted a blue print: have developed a Vision 2030 that aims at making Kenya a middle income country by 2030. I am pleased to report that we are implementing the first medium term plan (2008-2012) of the vision 2030. It focuses on making Kenya globally competitive and prosperous. Vision 2030 is an all inclusive development strategy bringing together private sector, civil society and other non-state actors through public-private partnership framework to implement programmes that will lead to marked improvements in the lives of Kenyans.

At the regional and sub regional levels, Kenya is actively engaged in implementing various regional pacts including the NEPAD programmes. I wish to take this opportunity to urge the international community to support Africa in efforts to promote development and improve the well being our people.

Fourth, I wish to emphasize the need to establish a strong follow-up mechanism both within the United Nations and the various partnership arrangements. I believe it would ensure consistency and at the same time complement the various plans of action in our continent.

Lastly, Excellencies I would like once again to emphasize that Africa's development needs must be addressed urgently. I hope this meeting will pave way for invigorative action.

I thank you.