



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations
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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. HON UHURU KENYATTA, CGH.,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND
COMMANDER – IN – CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES**

**DURING THE PLENARY FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE POST 2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**(TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)**

SEPTEMBER 25, 2015, NEW YORK

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His Excellency Mogens Lykketoft, the President of the United Nations General Assembly for the 70th Session,

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon,

President of the UN General Assembly for the 69th Session, His Excellency Sam Kutesa

Colleagues

Heads of State and Government

Co-Facilitators of the Post 2015 Development Agenda,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour and pleasure to join you on this historic day, as we convene to adopt the new Development Agenda.

Let me commend the member states, and every other stakeholder, all of whom patiently engaged in the negotiations whose culmination is this visionary, transformative and ambitious blueprint. Let me also thank you for the confidence you have shown in Kenya in bestowing on my country the honour of co-chairing the inter-governmental process that led to this outcome. I believe the adoption of these goals will galvanize global action towards ending poverty in all its forms.

Fifteen years ago, at the Millennium Summit, we adopted the Millennium Declaration. Through this declaration, we adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through which we undertook to exert all efforts to reduce extreme poverty by the year 2015.

Since then, we have made significant progress in poverty reduction. Many of the MDGs have been achieved. Between 1990 and 2002, for example, there were overall incomes rose and sharp falls in the numbers of people living in extreme poverty, as well as child mortality rates. Life expectancy rose from 63 to nearly 65. An additional 8 percent of the developing world's people received access to water while an additional 15 percent acquired access to improved sanitation services. Similarly, over 100 million people have been uplifted from slums.

We know that, today, more girls than ever before are going to school at all levels. More women are joining the ranks of formal employment. I also note that the spread of HIV-AIDS is being reversed, with new infections falling by 40% between 2000 and 2013. Important milestones have also been reached in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. Similarly, efforts to manage the global environment have been accelerated, with significant reductions reported in the reduction of ozone-depleting substances.

However, we must acknowledge that progress has been uneven across the world and across the Goals. There remain huge disparities between and within countries. Within countries, rural poverty remains unacceptably high while urban poverty is extensive, growing, and underreported by traditional indicators. In some parts of sub-Saharan Africa, child and maternal mortality are rising.

Even where progress has taken place, consumption patterns and their impact on the environment are unsustainable. The world continues to be under threat from the negative impacts of global warming and climate change. Millions of people worldwide still lack access to quality education and healthcare.

Mr. President,

In Kenya, we have made tremendous progress over the last decade. For instance, since the adoption of free universal primary education in 2003, gross enrollment rates have risen from 88% to 116%. Even more significantly, we have now achieved gender parity in the primary school cycle while the transition from primary to secondary and tertiary levels have greatly improved.

My Government has also introduced several measures to promote gender mainstreaming. For example, by legislation and government policy, one third of all public appointments and legislative positions are reserved for women. The government has also set aside such funds as the Women Enterprise Fund and the Uwezo Funds, to advance the cause of women entrepreneurship. My country has also reserved at least 30% of all procurements in the public sector for women, youth and people living with disability. We continue to promote appropriate skills to increase women and youth employment.

In the health sector, we have eliminated user charges for maternity services in our public health facilities. My Government is also providing free anti-retroviral drugs and voluntary counseling and testing services, and sustained national campaigns against sexually transmitted diseases. That mix of preventive and curative measures has ensured important gains in the health of our nation. The rate of immunization for children under a year old, for instance, has risen to 85% while HIV-AIDS infections have fallen to 6%.

Mr. President,

The lessons learnt from the implementation of Millennium Development Goals show that much can be achieved when the world finds focus around a shared vision and common goals. The new agenda we adopt today is an ambitious plan for collective action to transform the fate of humanity, by lifting all people out of poverty, while remaining in harmony with our planet.

Many of the goals in the Post 2015 Development Agenda strongly resonate with Kenya's Development aspirations as articulated in our development blue print, Vision 2030. We are convinced that under this Agenda, a world free of poverty and hunger is achievable within the next 15 years. We also believe that a world in which development is in harmony with nature is possible. The vision on environment is, therefore, correctly rooted in the agenda as a pre-requisite of moving our societies towards sustainable development.

The goals in this agenda are extremely ambitious. They require, therefore, an equally ambitious means of implementation. Without adequate resources, from diverse places and institutions, the agenda we adopt today might never be realized. Of course, we recognize that the primary responsibility for development in our countries shall first and foremost lie with us. However, resources from our development partners will be critical. I urge them to substantially increase the resources that are availed to developing countries as ODA.

In addition, we should all address issue that have in the past impeded developing countries from channeling adequate resources to the needs of the poor. I believe that addressing debt sustainability, and trade reforms will go along way in addressing these needs. After all, trade is at least as good a means of ending poverty as aid.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, I reiterate that the success of today's agenda in the years ahead, will require new ideas and courage. Effective mobilization of resources in the context of a global partnership will be critical in this effort.

I am therefore happy to announce that towards this end, Kenya will host the Second High Level Meeting on the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in November 2016. I am happy to welcome you all to this important meeting. I believe this will provide us with an important forum to exchange ideas on how to move this agenda forward.

Finally, I join the Global Community in adopting this important Agenda.

I thank you all.