



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND MINERAL
RESOURCES**

INTERVENTION BY

**Mr. Lawrence Lenayapa
Deputy Minister**

**At the High Level Segment Interactive
Discussion on Round Table on Mining for
Sustainable Development
in the 18th Session of the United Nations
Commission on Sustainable Development**

**Wednesday 12– 14 May, 2010
(3.00 – 5.00 pm)**

EcoSoc Room

United Nations, New York

**Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I wish to align myself with the statements made by Mrs. Dewi Wahab, Minister Counsellor, of Indonesia on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China** as well as the **African Group**, that mining can make a great contribution to sustainable economic development.

Madam Chair,
Kenya is making progress in mining sector, which contributes 0.5% GDP to the national economy.

Madam Chair,
The geological surveys which have been carried out in Kenya indicate substantial quantities of mineral deposits that are yet to be fully explored and developed.

Madam Chair,
Kenya has also deliberately intensified mineral exploration and geological surveys efforts with an aim of identifying more viable economic deposits. Kenya recognizes that due to financial and technical challenges, the private sector

would be hard pressed to provide primary geological data and information.

Madam Chair,

In order to encourage investors to the mining industry, Kenya has formulated a new investor-friendly draft Mining and Minerals Bill to be enacted soon. Once this is enacted, the legislation will provide the necessary impetus and stimulus to the mining industry (to both large-scale and small-scale artisanal miners).

This new Act will address most of the contentious issues such as

- ✓ mineral benefit sharing,
- ✓ security of tenure of mineral rights
- ✓ environmental conservation (EIAs),
- ✓ reduction of the discretionary powers of licensing authorities,
- ✓ Sustain the benefits of mining – even after mine closure
- ✓ Ensure that mineral development is efficiently implemented in a socially and friendly manner.

This will encourage artisanal miners to register groups for easy monitoring and

advice on best mining practices, especially where mercury is being used.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, Kenya is faced with challenges on capacity building and technological initiatives, which are required to improve efficiency on Mining and the Consumption of Minerals for ensuring sustainable economic development.

Thank you Madam Chair