

STATEMENT

by

His Excellency

**Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, C.G.H., President
and Commander in Chief of the Defence
Forces of the Republic of Kenya**

OCCASION: **THIRD INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

VENUE: **ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

DATE: **13TH JULY, 2015**

Your Excellency, the President of the **3rd**
International Conference on Financing for
Development;

Mr. Haile Mariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the
Federal Democratic Republic of **Ethiopia;**

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the United Nations Secretary-
General;

Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the United Nations
General Assembly;

Co-Facilitators of the Financing for Development Process;

Excellencies Heads of State and Government;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President

1. It is a great honour for me to deliver this statement during this third **Conference on Financing for Development.**

2. At the outset, I thank the Government and the people of **Ethiopia** for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival in this country.

3. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of the **3rd International Conference on Financing for Development** and for the able manner in which you are steering this important meeting.

Mr. President,

4. Let me start by expressing my appreciation to the intergovernmental process in **New York** that has worked tirelessly to ensure that this Conference has an outcome document. Those of us who have been following this process much appreciate the flexibility expressed by various parties to bring us this far. **Unlike** the previous two Conferences, the outcome of this Conference has an added responsibility of supporting **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). This linkage is of critical importance to **Kenya**, given that we are Co-facilitating the SDG process.

5. Kenya recognizes that the challenges of financing and creating an enabling environment for Sustainable Development in the spirit of global partnerships and solidarity are numerous and must be overcome. This conference provides us a unique opportunity to review the progress made in implementation of **Monterrey Consensus** and **Doha Declaration**, draw lessons learned and chart out a plan of action that creates the necessary impetus for enhancing mobilization of domestic and international financial resources for achieving Sustainable Development and implementation of the universal **post-2015 development agenda**.

Mr. President,

6. We keenly note a number of areas that are of priority to sustainable development as highlighted in the outcome document. These areas include provisions to deliver on the social protection and provide essential public services; scaling up efforts to end hunger through agriculture and rural development; bridging the infrastructure gap and boosting financial access to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** (MSMEs).

7. These priorities are in harmony with Kenya's development imperatives that are contained in our **Vision 2030** blueprint and enunciated in our Second Medium Term Plan (MTP II) and the Government's transformational reform agenda.

8. To deliver on public services, **Kenya** now has a **two-tier** Government structure and commits at least **15 percent** of the national budget to the counties.

9. Devolution is taking root and the decentralization of service delivery and resources is improving access to **agricultural, health and education services** while at the same time creating substantial employment opportunities and helping to reduce poverty, hunger and inequality levels in all regions of **Kenya**.

10. Implementation of devolution, however, should not be at the expense of ensuring efficiency and accountability in public service delivery.

11. Kenya has also taken strong affirmative action in promoting **gender equality, empowerment of women, youth and vulnerable groups.** As a result, gender parity has already been achieved in primary school enrolment, while the admission of girls to secondary and tertiary institutions has also increased significantly. The representation of women in key Government positions has increased and access to finances and business opportunities by women, youth and people living with disability has expanded.

12. In Infrastructure, we are undertaking bold initiatives including construction of a new standard gauge railway, the development of **10,000 kilometers** of roads and the generation of the **5,000MW** of electricity.

13. **Kenya** is an acknowledged world leader in the use of technology, particularly mobile phones, to increase financial inclusion. **We** have been able to leverage this success to implement innovative solutions in areas such as provision of credit through mobile-based platforms, payments to and from government through digital channels and even mobile money based credit solutions to provide solar lighting to poor people.

Mr. President,

14. The development agenda will require enormous financial and non-financial resources. The required resources will be realized through domestic resource mobilization; domestic and international private and business finance; and international public finance, which include Official Development Assistance (ODA). **We** call for timely and adequate fulfilment of commitments under ODA and acknowledge those countries that are willing to provide clear timelines for achieving the commitments.

15. Domestic resource mobilization remains important in raising required resources to finance development. **Revenue adequacy** continues to elude many developing countries. **We** need to address fiscal constraints within the available fiscal space, supported by strengthened capacities for tax authorities and the dilemmas of cutting expenditures to bridge deficits without dampening growth. **In** this regard, we look forward to launching of the **Addis Tax Initiative** on the sidelines of this **Conference**.

16. Going forward we welcome the proposals that addresses the composition and functionality of the UN committee of experts on international cooperation in tax matters. Outcomes from the discussions in this forum can make it possible for developing countries to effectively implement fiscal consolidation while regulating public expenditures. Targeted expenditure reforms will create fiscal space and unlock additional resources.

Mr. President,

17. The role of business and private finance is critical in mobilizing the required financing for development.

18. This requires elaboration of various incentives to support the private sector, as well as developing a legal and regulatory framework for **Public Private Partnership** (PPP) arrangement and projects.

19. Similarly, the role of Philanthropy, Corporate Social Responsibility and Non-State Actors cannot be gainsaid and these should be coordinated into resource mobilization strategies.

20. In addition, other non-financial means of implementation must be addressed including international trade as an engine of development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues; science, technology, innovation and capacity building and data monitoring and follow-up.

Mr. President,

21. In today's globalizing world, I cannot overemphasize that global partnership for development is the only viable steering wheel that will drive achievement of sustainable development and implementation of **Post-2015 Development Agenda.**

22. Kenya is fully committed to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and we look forward to hosting the **Second High Level Meeting of the Partnership** in **Nairobi** in **2016**.

23. Finally, in order to monitor achievement of commitments from this Conference, we call for an appropriate follow-up and review mechanism, which will ensure the means of implementation are reviewed periodically. **In particular,** capacity gaps especially in national statistical offices must be closed to enable capture of quality disaggregated data for follow up and review.

24. In conclusion, I thank the UN Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting. I am assured that this gathering will reinforce the need to fast track the achievement of the **Monterrey Consensus** and **Doha Declaration** and generate views on what should underpin the **Addis Ababa Accord**.

25. As the community of world leaders, we must realize that billions of global citizens expect us to deliver stewardship and practical solutions to the challenges and needs of humanity.

I Thank You All.

.....0000000.....0000000.....