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STATEMENT

BY

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AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

DURING THE

**2023 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE MIDTERM
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION,
"WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT", 2018–2028 NEW
YORK, 22 –24 MARCH 2023**

ON

THRISDAY 23 MARCH 2023,
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Please check against delivery



**MR. PRESIDENT OF THE 77TH SESSION OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, YOUR EXCELLENCY CSABA KÖRÖSI,**

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, YOUR
EXCELLENCY ANTONIO GUTERRES,**

EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

1. It is my pleasure to speak to you today on the progress of the Kenyan government in achieving universal access to safe water and sanitation in line with Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6).
2. At the onset I would like to align ourselves with the statement delivered by the Republic of Cuba, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
3. The importance of water resources is well recognized in our National Water Policy and Legal Frameworks including the Constitution of Kenya and the current government manifesto. The constitution articulates the rights of every person of access to safe water in adequate quantities, sanitation and food security.



4. I am pleased to inform of the following progress:

- a) **First**, Kenya has developed regulations aiming to ensure a water-smart society, through harvesting and storing water.
- b) **Second**, we have developed strategies which seek to give access to safe water to 4.5 million households in the next five years.
- c) These strategies will be complimented by water harvesting for drought resilience programme that focuses on 18 ASAL counties to provide water to irrigate 500,000 acres.
- d) **Lastly**, Kenya has achieved an impressive 70% proportion of access to water in urban areas and 32% of safely managed sanitation. An increase from 65.5% and 16%, respectively. This is attributed to the completion of a total of 91 water projects worth \$450 million dollars in the last two years.

5. However, several challenges to the full implementation of SDG 6 remain. These include but are not limited to:

- a) Effects of climate change that has increased the frequency of flooding and drought;
- b) Huge sector financing gap;
- c) Low uptake of technology;

d) Diminishing water resources due to rapid population growth and competing needs for water (industrial, agricultural, energy); and

e) Encroachment and degradation of water catchment areas.

6. In order to achieve SDG 6 for Kenya, the following areas are key:

a) The need for increasing the annual investment to USD 1.3 billion against the current allocation of USD600 million.

b) This can be achieved through engagement of the private sector through in the development and management of water resources Public-private partnerships and other innovative financing models that can be used to bridge the financing gap.

c) Kenya is therefore committed to creating an enabling environment for water sector investments. This includes implementing policies and regulations that support private sector investment and facilitating partnerships between public and private entities to ensure effective and efficient delivery of water services, sanitation and food security.

7. Kenya is spearheading these engagements with private sector players to support implementation of the 100 dams programmes in the next five years.

8. In conclusion, EXECCLENCIES, the realization of SDG 6 requires a reinvigorated response to our shared commitments and responsibilities. To this effect, we welcome deeper cooperation with the United Nations, the private sector, and all other relevant stakeholders.

I thank you.

