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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – SECOND SESSION – 2023

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(HLPF2023) HELD IN NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)
FROM 10TH TO 21ST JULY, 2023

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS	
DATE: 24 AUG 2023 Thursday	
TABLED BY:	Hon. Martha Wangari MP Vice chairperson
CLERK AT THE TABLE:	Ashibuko

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI
AUGUST, 2023



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS

BETA:	Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda
ECOSOC:	Economic and Social Council
HLPF:	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
LDCs:	Least Developed Countries
MP:	Member of Parliament
NBSAPs:	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NDCs:	Nationally Determined Contributions
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
ST&I:	Science, Technology, and Innovation
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA:	United Nations General Assembly
UN:	United Nations
USA:	United States of America
VNRs:	Voluntary National Reviews

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was the main United Nations Annual Forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on follow-up and reviews of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2023 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place in New York, United States of America (USA) from Monday 10th July to Friday 21st July, 2023. The Forum was attended by more than 120 ministers and vice-ministers, leaders from governments around the world as well as other representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

The theme of the 2023 HLPF was “**Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels**”. The Forum discussions focused on the effective and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of the COVID-19 and explore actionable policy recommendations and transformations needed for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The objective of the event was to “carry out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the 2030 deadline for achieving the SDGs.

Kenya's delegation to the 2023 HLPF comprised of representatives of Parliament (National Assembly and Senate), senior officials from the National Government, County Governments, Council of Governors, Permanent Missions to UN and UN-HABITAT and SDGs Kenya Forum.

The delegation participated both in the opening session which was on overcoming the crises, driving transformation for the SDGs, and leaving no one behind chaired by H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC and in various events and activities on the sidelines of the forum among them to note was Kenya's side event on localization of the SDGs amidst multiple crises and triggering transformation which was aimed at sharing the experiences on efforts to localize SDGs and examine existing institutional and coordination frameworks to facilitate SDGs localization and implementation.

The Members of Parliament and other members of the Kenyan delegation delivered key note address and interventions at various side events.

The delegation from Kenyan Parliament departed on Sunday 11th July, 2023 to New York, USA and arrived back on Friday 21st July, 2023.

The delegation comprised of the following

- 1) The Hon. Martha Wangari, MP - **Leader of Delegation, First Chairperson of Committees and Vice-Chairperson, Kenya Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business**
- 2) The Hon. Innocent Mugabe, MP
- 3) Sen. Hon. Beatrice Akinyi Ogolla, MP
- 4) Ms. Halima Hussein - **Clerk Assistant I and Delegation Secretary**

The delegation proposes several recommendations based on the lessons learnt from the forum proceedings and the interactions with the delegates from other countries as contained in **Chapter seven of the Report.**

I wish to take this opportunity to express gratitude to the Members of the Kenyan Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business and the Kenyan delegation for their resilience and devotion to duty which made the Forum successful. May I also appreciate the Offices of Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for providing technical and logistical support.

It is now my pleasant and duty to present the Report of the Kenyan Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business Members on the proceedings of the 2023 United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF2023) held in New York, United State of America (USA) from 10th to 21st July, 2023

The Hon. Martha Wangari, MP
Leader of Delegation, First Chairperson of Committees and Vice-Chairperson, Kenya Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business

CHAPTER ONE

1. Introduction

- 1) The 2023 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place in New York, United States of America (USA) from Monday 10th July to Friday 21st July 2023 under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The forum brought together leaders from governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders.
- 2) The theme of the 2023 HLPF was “**Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels**”. The Forum discussions focused on the effective and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of the COVID-19 and explore actionable policy recommendations and transformations needed for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- 3) The objective of the event was to “carry out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the 2030 deadline for achieving the SDGs
- 4) The proceedings of the forum included;
 - i) The opening session where the President of ECOSOC, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and delegates from Member States called for a common action to rescue the SDGs;
 - ii) Several events and activities on the sidelines of the forum among them was the Kenya’s side events on localization of the SDGs amidst multiple crises and triggering transformation which was aimed at sharing experiences regarding efforts to localize SDGs;
 - iii) The Fourth Global Conference which was convened as a special event of the 2023 session of the HLPF and sought to provide the delegates with an opportunity to reflect on the on-going review of progress on achieving the SDGs;
 - iv) Review of SDG 6, 7 and 9 and their inter-linkages with the other goals
 - v) The Ministerial Segment which was themed “Building Momentum towards the SDG Summit.” scheduled for 18-19 September 2023 where speakers voiced their expectations for the Summit; and
 - vi) The forum deliberations were concluded with a closing session where the key highlights of the proceedings were shared

CHAPTER TWO

- 5) This Chapter of the report contains the deliberations for the opening session, Kenya's side event on localization of SDGs, a panel discussion event on Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST &I) and a side event on the role of Parliament in accelerating the achievement of SDGs.

2.0 Opening Session

- 6) The 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) opened with macro views on the state of efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In her opening remarks H.E Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC stressed on the need for a common call for action to rescue the SDGs. She urged governments and partners to focus on stressing inter-linkages among the SDGs, conducting an honest review of gaps toward 2030; and scaling up concrete, transformative action going forward.
- 7) She further remarked that the forum was a critical opportunity to share experiences and consider joint actions in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and called for intensified efforts, more coordinated actions and a common vision for the future
- 8) She appreciated the interventions from various government representatives and especially the young people as an absolute imperative for meeting the Goals.
- 9) The UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Mr. Li Jinhua conveyed the main messages from the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and stated that there were some progress and persistent challenges such as data gaps, the COVID-19 pandemic and limited finance, but also several innovative strategies, policies and partnerships were adopted to overcome these challenges. He urged all to learn from the valuable insights provided by the VNRs.
- 10) The UN Under-Secretary-General emphasized on the need for Member States to advance policies that leave no one behind; strengthen national and subnational public sector capacity and accountability; use effective regulatory frameworks for public-private sector alignment; mobilize resources and investment; bolster multilateralism; and reform the international financial architecture; and have accessible, timely and disaggregated data.
- 11) During the session delegates stressed on the importance of integrating youth in decision-making processes and the need for inclusion and strengthened equal opportunity toward achieving the SDGs and called for an accessible, equitable and sustainable global financial system.

2.1 Kenya Side Event on Localization of the SDGs amidst Multiple Crises

- 12) The event was hosted by Kenyan government in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and drew participants from various national governments, sub-national governments, Foreign Missions to the United Nations (UN), UN Agencies, regional and global organizations, and civil society organizations.
- 13) The event was aimed at sharing the experiences of various UN Member States and other stakeholders in their efforts to localize the SDGs and examine existing institutional and coordination frameworks to facilitate SDGs localization and implementation.
- 14) During the event sustainable and resilient measures to building back better towards an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and pathways for localization of SDGs beyond the midpoint was discussed.
- 15) The Hon Martha Wangari delivered a closing address on Kenya's effort to localize SDGs and remarked; that
 - (i) The exchange of ideas and experiences during the session highlighted the crucial role of local action in achieving the SDGs and has underscored the significance of empowering local communities as drivers of change.
 - (ii) Localization of SDGs was in line with the government of Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) which aimed at uplifting members of the society at the bottom of the economic pyramid with a focus on national development priorities which were critical for sustainable, long-term and country-owned development at both national and local levels.
 - (iii) The discussions brought out lessons on transformative power of bottom-up approaches, where local governments, civil society organizations, businesses, and citizens collaborate to address the unique challenges and opportunities in their respective contexts.
 - (iv) Effective SDG localization requires a multi-stakeholder approach and as such governments must play a pivotal role in creating an enabling environment by formulating policies, providing resources, and establishing mechanisms for participatory decision-making. Additionally, partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and international agencies were essential to leverage collective expertise, mobilize resources, and foster innovative solutions tailored to local needs.

- (v) The event shed light on the importance of data and evidence-based planning in the localization process and that localizing the SDGs necessitates a robust understanding of local priorities, challenges, and progress. By harnessing the power of data, technology, and monitoring mechanisms, governments and other partners can enhance accountability, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making, thereby enabling effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of SDG progress at the local level.
- (vi) The Hon. Member concluded that localization of SDGs was integral part of the global agenda, connecting local actions with global aspirations and the SDGs were interconnected, and interdependent, and localized efforts contribute to the overall achievement of the goals are required.
- (vii) She stressed on the need to foster stronger linkages between local and global processes, ensuring that lessons learned, best practices, and innovative approaches from local contexts inform and inspire global policy dialogues and actions.

2.2 Science, Technology & Innovation: Triggering Transformation and Sustaining a Science Driven Recovery

- 16) This was a panel discussion session where participants shared experiences on use of Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I) in implementing the SDGs.
- 17) The Hon Innocent Mugabe was a discussant in the event and gave an intervention on Kenya's use of ST&I and highlighted the following; that
 - i) In 2019, Kenya was identified as one of the five African countries to pilot the ST&I for SDGs road map, expediting the development of solutions aligned to the SDGs;
 - ii) The application of ST&I in Kenya ushered in a new wave of technological advancements and changed the approach in crucial sectors such as healthcare, education and industrialization. By embracing technological innovations and leveraging the potential of ST&I, Kenya has been able to ensure access to vital healthcare services and educational resources as well as generate new employment opportunities therefore tackling unemployment and promoting inclusive prosperity.
 - iii) The Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) was one of the core thematic areas of the development of Digital Superhighway and Creative Economy and would make the country to become a global leader, create employment for hundreds of young people and generate immense wealth if the young people are facilitated to plug into the global digital economy.

- iv) Kenya was committed to promote investment in the digital superhighway and the creative economy in order to further enhance productivity and overall competitiveness. By harnessing the potential of ST&I, Kenya has unlocked transformative solutions that have propelled the nation on a path of sustainable development.
- v) In conclusion, the Hon. Member stated that through a synergy between scientific research, technological advancements, and innovative practices, the country has made significant strides towards achieving the SDGs and the adoption of ST&I has allowed it to address complex challenges head-on, accelerate progress, and pave the way for a better future where the aspirations and well-being of all citizens are upheld in line with the

2.3 Role of Parliaments in accelerating the achievement of SDGs

18) This was a side event aimed to discuss the critical role of Parliaments in the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development over the past few years and in accelerating action in the years ahead, the best ways of ensuring favorable legal environment for the full achievement of the SDGs and enhancing Parliaments' role as convening power and driver for progress in order to promote comprehensive approach towards the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

19) The Hon Martha Wangari gave an intervention on behalf of the Parliament of Kenya on what the Kenyan Parliament has done to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She highlighted the following;

a) Legislation and Policy Formulation

Kenya has a Parliamentary Association/Caucus on SDGs which pushes for SDGs localization through the parliamentary platform and that the caucus sponsored various acts among them; the Children's Act of Kenya 2022 and the Mental Health Amended Act 2022.

Parliament of Kenya has also enacted SDGs enabling laws such as: the Sustainable Waste Management Act of 2022, the Refugees Act 2021, the Public-Private Partnerships Act 2021 among others.

The Kenya Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs sits at the SDGs National Interagency Steering Committee and spearheads various Policy reforms in other SDGs related sectors such as Mental Health.

b) Budgetary Allocation and Oversight

Parliament of Kenya enacted several annual Finance Bills, County Allocation Revenue Bills, Appropriations Bills, Supplementary **Appropriations** Bills, Division of Revenue Bills, and Public Finance Management Bills to facilitate SDGs Financing. Further, Parliament of Kenya has a Public Accounts Committee that oversees public expenditure and several Departmental Committees that oversee relevant line Ministries, Departments and Agencies alongside the Budget and Finance Committees.

c) Policy Coherence and Integration

Through parliamentarians lobbying, the former President issued a directive to all government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to realign their strategies with SDGs and they complied.

d) Advocacy and Awareness Creation

Other than the SDGs Caucus there are other caucuses like Parliamentary Caucuses on Youth, PWDs, Women, Climate and Human Rights that also champion SDGs agendas. The caucuses are pushing for implementation of 2/3rd Gender Rule in Parliament, Harm Reduction, Identity Rights, Mental Health, Climate Mitigation etc.

e) Monitoring and Reporting

Parliament of Kenya takes part in the National SDGs monitoring, tracking and reporting processes as well as the HLPF forums and a report on the proceedings and the resolution of the forum would be table in Parliament.

f) Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

Parliament of Kenya holds continuous trainings and programs where MPs and staff gain knowledge and information on SDGs. Further, the SDGs Caucus holds an annual SDGs Open Day in Parliament grounds where relevant stakeholders are invited to share, network and partner with MPs towards SDGs implementation.

g) Representation and Inclusive Decision-Making

Parliament conducts public participation on all legislations and other House business that require public input in line with Article 118 (1) (b) of Kenya's 2010 Constitution and Standing Orders of the two Houses of Parliament. The Hon. Members of the two Houses also sponsor bills, motions, questions and petitions on behalf of their constituents.

h) Challenges

Challenges that hinder the implementation of the SDGs include; limited awareness and understanding of SDGs frameworks, fragmented approaches considering SDGs were cross-cutting, limited resources allocation for advocacy, changing political priorities and short-termism, political polarization, illiterate constituents, implementation and monitoring gaps such as insufficient data, weak reporting mechanisms, and limited access to information.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 4TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 20) The Fourth Global Conference was convened as a special event of the 2023 session of the HLPF and sought to provide the delegates with an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing review of progress on achieving the SDGs, notably SDGs 6, 7 and 9 in a wider context of the multiple interlinkages between these goals and global climate action.
- 21) Participants discussed the need to enhance integrative planning and forge links between Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the national reporting processes under the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, and HLPF, respectively.
- 22) Speakers highlighted examples of synergies, such as: using biomass for both power generation and forest management; regenerating seaweed in wetlands for biodiversity conservation and carbon sink enhancement; and using eco-disaster risk reduction practices for climate adaptation and community revitalization.
- 23) Participants emphasized on the importance of inclusive decision making and ensuring all stakeholders are at the table to ensure inclusive processes using local bottom-up approaches, sectoral approaches, and early warning systems for disaster avoidance and preparedness. The need to scale up financing mechanisms, leverage existing mechanisms, redefining how banks measure and financial literacy as crucial approach especially at the country level was highlighted.
- 24) Hon Martha Wangari read Kenya's statement during the event and highlighted the following; that;
 - i) Climate change remained a great concern and poses significant challenges to the development aspirations of most developing countries, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
 - ii) In the African context, the State of Climate in Africa report confirmed that Africa was and will be impacted more than any other region and that it was estimated that by 2050, climate impacts could cost African nations USD 50 billion annually and African governments were bearing substantial costs for climate impacts, allocating approximately 10% of their GDP towards funding adaptation measures. Kenya's economy continues to be negatively impacted by the effects of climate change, decreasing between 2 to 2.4% of GDP per year.

- iii) To tackle the challenges posed by climate change, Kenya has updated its National Determined Contribution plan that commits to abate greenhouse gas emissions by 32% by 2030 and developed several sector specific policies, plans, strategies, and legislations aligned to Kenya's 2010 Constitution and long-term development blueprint, Kenya Vision 2030 and its 4th Medium-Term Plan. The government also adopted a Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda whose main objective was to improve the livelihoods and welfare of Kenyans.
- iv) The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement were interconnected, and their achievement relied on integrated planning, coherent policies, and economic stimulus investments that address both the Sustainable Development Goals and climate challenges. Adequate provision of means of implementation, including financing, technological transfer, and capacity building, is crucial, particularly for developing countries.
- v) Addressing the impacts of climate change and to achieve the SDGs will require collective efforts that can be done through continued dialogue among governments, policymakers and all relevant stakeholders.
- vi) The Hon. Member concluded her remarks by inviting the delegates to the African Climate Summit that Kenyan Government was planning to host in Nairobi from 4th to 6th September 2023, in collaboration with the African Union Commission which aims to present a critical opportunity for the international community to come together, provide solution-oriented approaches.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF GOALS

25) SDGs were reviewed at the 2023 HLPF and their interlinkages with the other goals as follows;

4.1 SDG 6 and Interlinkages with Other SDGs – Clean Water and Sanitation

26) It was noted that Progress toward achieving SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation was “alarmingly off-track.” and the Forum stressed on the need for strengthening greater transboundary cooperation on water, convening of more regular UN meetings on water and sanitation, UN system-wide water strategy and a process towards a UN Water Convention.

27) The need for strengthening transboundary water diplomacy was underscored, with many speakers calling for convening of more regular UN meetings on water and sanitation.

28) Many interventions from delegates highlighted new initiatives that tackle water scarcity as well as water-related natural disasters and foster greater transparency and accountability in water resources governance at all levels and the critical need for finance, technology transfer, capacity building, and other means of implementation was underlined.

4.2 SDG 7 and Interlinkages with Other SDGs – Affordable and Clean Energy

29) It was noted that achieving SDG 7 by 2030 was “an unprecedented challenge” but still possible with scaled-up ambition and the right policies. The discussions noted disproportionate electrification between rural and urban areas and households across income-levels which calls for urgent interventions since energy was linked to achievement of two-thirds of the 169 SDGs targets.

30) Delegates reported on national and regional efforts towards the clean energy transition and emphasized, among other things; the need for democratization and diversification; the creation of new jobs in the green energy sector; the need for safeguards against greenwashing and calling out “false solutions”; the need to promote energy efficiency and manage energy demand; innovative technologies and solutions, such as green hydrogen, heat pumps and residual heat use, that can accelerate the transition; the health impacts of investments in SDG 7; and investment in weather and climate services to ensure climate-resilient energy infrastructure

4.3 SDG 9 and Interlinkages with Other SDGs – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- 31) It was highlighted that for SDG 9 “there was hope” with progress on some targets such as mobile network access, but the implementation pace on other targets needs to be fast-tracked and more support for innovation and infrastructure was needed in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Innovation can be a “game changer” for many SDGs, and the far-reaching impact and roles of sustainable infrastructure, digital infrastructure and connectivity.
- 32) The delegates emphasized on the role of innovation, industrial policy and sustainable infrastructure, particularly inclusive and widely accessible digital infrastructure can play in realizing other SDGs.
- 33) Speakers underlined the breadth of sectors that require integrated, optimized, and innovative infrastructure, from transport to broadband to food production. Many noted the central role of the private sector in driving innovative and resilient infrastructure development, with governments’ parallel role in creating enabling environments.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

- 34) The theme of the general debate during the Ministerial Segment of the 2023 HLPF was “Building Momentum towards the SDG Summit.” The second SDG Summit, scheduled for 18-19 September 2023, was top-of-mind for delegates throughout the entire forum and at nearly every session, speakers voiced their wish lists and expectations for the September, 2023 Summit.
- 35) Countries presented their national and local progress on the SDGs, expressed concerns about the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and SDGs recovery and acceleration efforts
- 36) UN Secretary-General, H.E António Guterres urged leaders to change course, describing the 2030 Agenda as the path “to bridge divides and rebuild trust.” He called for all nations to come to the SDG Summit with clear plans and pledges. Noting finance was the “fuel” to drive progress on SDGs and that global financial and debt-relief architectures must be urgently reformed, he outlined SDG Stimulus plan, which called for unlocking of USD 500 billion annually for developing countries.
- 37) H.E Csaba Korösi, President, United Nations General Assembly. UNGA on his part outlined key elements for spurring the transformative change needed to realize the 2030 Agenda, including reducing negative externalities of SDG investments, and urged participants at the SDG Summit to be “courageous, ambitious and determined” in their promises.
- 38) Delegates expressed commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. They expressed concern about the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and ongoing conflict on the 2030 Agenda and that there would be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 Closing Session

- 39) ECOSOC President opened the closing session, by observing that HLPF 2023 had been “very intensive”, “highly productive” and a “critical gathering place” to share experiences and consider joint actions in support of the 2030 Agenda, attributing its success to the delegates and urging them to bring ambition to the SDG Summit scheduled for September, 2023. She concluded by urging all to “have an honest conversation on what was needed.”
- 40) Secretary-General Li on his part reflected on the highlights of the 2023 HLPF and praised its exchange of ideas, noting shared calls for action included making systemic changes in finance, climate action, gender equality, human rights, and enhanced international collaboration.
- 41) He further emphasized on the need to unleash adequate financing, fight for true inclusivity, and reach for pathways to more effective multilateralism. He cautioned that with only seven years left before the 2030 deadline to achieve the SDGs, “a major course correction was needed,”
- 42) The Secretary-General called on everyone to reflect on HLPF discussions take the actions needed to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

CHAPTER SEVEN

7.0 KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FORUM'S PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Key highlights of the Forum proceedings

43) The Forum provided an opportunity for recommitment to action for unity to turn the tide for a new, accelerated and transformational drive for SDGs achievement. Key highlights of the proceedings included-

- i) The Forum noted that world hunger has returned to 2005 levels and nearly 600 million people will still experience extreme poverty in 2030 and called for the need to integrate and target policies and actions that would eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, and “end the war on nature and empower the most vulnerable;
- ii) It was observed that there was need for national commitments and interventions to reduce poverty and inequality through reforming international financial architecture and creating an SDG Stimulus plan to unlock at least USD 500 billion annually for developing countries;
- iii) It was noted that there was need to strengthen national and sub-national capacity, accountability and public institutions for achieving the SDGs;
- iv) It was observed that there was critical need for finance, technology transfer, capacity building and other means of implementation and scale up financing mechanisms, leverage existing mechanisms, redefining how banks measure and financial literacy as crucial approach especially at the country level;
- v) Recommitment to the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on providing a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities was emphasized;
- vi) It was further noted that effective SDG localization required a multi-stakeholder approach and as such governments must play a pivotal role in creating an enabling environment by formulating policies, providing resources, and establishing mechanisms for participatory decision-making and strengthened equal opportunity toward achieving the SDGs.
- vii) It was observed that there was need for mobilization of solid support for biodiversity, education, food systems, digital transition, social protection and an urgent call for clear long-term policies, investment plans and partnerships to drive progress across major SDGs transitions;

- viii) Strengthening of the UN development system to address of SDGs-related gaps was emphasized and UN Members States were urged to come together for action with clear long-term plans and pledges;
- ix) Member States were urged to ensure inclusive decision making for inclusive processes using local bottom-up approaches, sectoral approaches, and early warning systems for disaster avoidance and preparedness;
- x) It was noted that addressing the impacts of climate change and to achieve the SDGs would require collective efforts that can be done through continued dialogue among Governments, policymakers and all relevant stakeholders;
- xi) Member States were encouraged to foster stronger linkages between local and global processes, ensuring that lessons learned, best practices, and innovative approaches from local contexts inform and inspire global policy dialogues and actions;
- xii) Member States were argued to harness the power of data, technology, and monitoring mechanisms, governments and other partners to enhance accountability, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making, thereby enabling effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of SDG progress at the local level.
- xiii) Member States were further urged to advance policies that leave no one behind; strengthen national and subnational public sector capacity and accountability; use effective regulatory frameworks for public-private sector alignment; mobilize resources and investment; bolster multilateralism; and reform the international financial architecture; and have accessible, timely and disaggregated data


7.2 Recommendations

44) The delegation makes the following recommendations-

- i) **The National Assembly should fast-track the enactment of the following legislations to aid the implementation the SDG Goals-**
 - a) **Legislation to anchor the Constitution National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NGCDF) and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) in the Constitution. This would safeguard the critical role the funds play in promoting Government projects and empowerment of vulnerable people and implementation of national government functions in all parts of Kenya pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Constitution;**
 - b) **Legislation to give effect to the Two-Third Gender principle in line with Article 27 (8) of the Constitution which requires the State to take legislative measures to implement the Two-Thirds Gender**

principle. This would ensure achieving gender equality and women empowerment which is integral to the attainment of the SDG goals; and

- c) Legislation to give effect to Articles 10 (a), 69(1)(d), 118, 174(c), 184(1)(c), 196(1)(b), 201(a) and 232(1)(d) of the Constitution regarding public participation in decision making. This would create a legal framework for participatory process, promote transparency in government and ensure enhanced resource mobilization in the implementation of SDGs where all stakeholders are involved in identification, prioritization and implementation of development projects aligned to the sustainable development goals.
- ii) National Assembly should ensure effective oversight with regard to scrutinizing the national budget to ensure projects that are linked to SDGs are resourced and the same utilized in an effective, transparent and accountable manner; and
- iii) The National Treasury and Economic Planning should conduct continuous awareness, capacity building programs and advocacy campaigns on SDGs at the citizenry level through a multi-stakeholder approach that involves the two levels of Government and other relevant stakeholders.

Signed..........Date.....24 / 08 / 2023.....

The Hon. Martha Wangari, MP
Leader of Delegation, First Chairperson of Committees and Vice-Chairperson, Kenyan
Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business