



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

REMARKS BY

**THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY, HON. SOIPAN TUYA, CBS**

DURING THE

OPENING SESSION OF THE IPCC-59; NAIROBI, KENYA

25TH JULY 2023

The Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Prof. Hoesung Lee;

The Executive Director UNEP, Inger Andersen;

The WMO Secretary General Prof Petteri Taalas;

The Director of Meteorological Services Dr. David Gikungu;

National IPCC Focal Points;

IPCC Authors present;

Development Partners;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning.

1. On behalf of the President of Kenya, His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, and on my own behalf, receive our warm welcome to Kenya.
2. For those of you who are coming here for the first time, Kenya's Capital City where we host you, has the Nairobi National Park, where you get to appreciate and interact with the wild. We also have an arboretum right in the middle of the city, a giraffe centre, two forests within the city, cultural villages and so much more, all which are within 20 minutes drive from here. We hope you can make some time off your busy schedules, to explore Nairobi and Kenya for that matter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Being delegates of the IPCC which is the United Nations body for assessing the Science related to climate Change, you all know too well that Climate Change is a global problem. You will also agree with me that Africa is one of the most adversely affected regions as far as climate change is concerned and that needs no emphasis.
4. Research shows that if the world continues with the current emission trends, for us in East Africa, it is estimated that we have less than 10 years before the glaciers on Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro are lost. The rest of the world will experience sea- level rise, flooding, heat waves and many such devastating phenomena.

These statistics and occurrences are an urgent call to action, a code RED for humanity as stated by the UN Secretary General during the release of IPCC's Working Group I report. It is also currently documented that climate change related deaths total 150,000 persons annually. These mortalities are projected to increase over the next years with up to an additional 250 000 deaths per year.

Distinguished delegates,

5. As part of the role for which you were created, that of providing policy makers with regular scientific assessments on Climate change, the science you have presented in the 6th Assessment Cycle paints a bleak picture with regard to threat of climate change, its

implications, and severe future risks, if the world continues down an unmitigated future. You also highlight the critical need to pursue urgent collaborative action if we are to meet our long-term global goals, in light of equity. Kenya appreciates the work that the outgoing Bureau has done in directing the work of the IPCC even amidst the unprecedented COVID19 pandemic. As a country, we look forward to a successful election session here in Nairobi and commit to working with the incoming Bureau.

6. Countries like mine, with highly variable climate and high vulnerability will continue to bear the brunt of climate change in the absence of appropriate response measures. It is for these reasons

that we are committed to playing our part and I implore upon all of us to work together to combat climate change. We all appreciate that for the various climate change interventions of adaptation and mitigation to be effected, **we need climate financing that is both responsive and at scale.**

7. As a Continent, Climate Change finance architecture is core to our adaptation to climate change. It is for this amongst other reasons that African Heads of State and Government, in February this year, approved for Kenya to co-host together with the Africa Union, the Africa Climate Summit. This summit takes place in Nairobi, between the 4th - 6th September 2023. It will have cross cutting themes that

will be around Africa's Renewable energy, the Arable land potential, Africa's critical minerals and the Carbon sinks that we have in the Continent. As Africa, we have agreed and this is backed by your various assessment reports that Climate Change affects the entire globe. We have agreed that the Summit is not going to be a time for blame games of who emits the most or who emits the least. We have agreed that the Summit will not be the place and time for dichotomies of North Versus South or East versus west. The whole of Humanity is under threat, so we either deal with the Problem collectively or we each perish in our little corners, as climate change effects comes to bare.

8. The Africa Climate Summit is going to be a Trade and investment summit, where Africa brings to the world its resources like I have enlisted above, and we will be inviting the rest of the world to bring its resources to Africa to help us explore green growth and low Carbon development. We will at the Summit hopefully make a Nairobi African leaders declaration, that will be proposing how the world deals with DEBT, given the DEBT and Climate change intervention nexus. We will also in the declaration speak to the Climate Change Development interplay, **with a proposal on a green growth pathway to development, if the globe is to decarbonize.** Allow me at this point then, to extend my invitation to you for this Africa Climate Summit. Please register online. We

launched the formal registration and accreditation process a couple of weeks ago; Come to the summit and meet other sectors. It will be a great event to share your knowledge and ideas on climate change.

9. For us in Kenya, even as we work on broad based international interventions to combat climate change, in line with the UN decade for Ecosystem Restoration, His Excellency President Dr. William Samoei Ruto launched in December last year a 15 Billion National tree growing and Restoration Program to restore various ecosystems across the country as well as combat climate change.

We hope to reach the 15B target by 2032 just after or around the time the 7th assessment cycle concludes.

10. I am pleased to note that the products in the 6th Assessment Cycle show an improvement in the representation of regional specific information, however, there is still room for improvement. I would also like to point out that if you look at 6th Assessment Report, only 11% of the authors are from Africa, despite Africa being one of the world's most vulnerable continents to the impacts of climate change. It would be important to have more numbers from Africa and other parts of the world that are hugely impacted by climate change to be well-represented when seeking solutions. This will

help build home grown solutions both for adaptation and mitigation, **given that top-down approaches to knowledge production have been identified as one major reason for the gap between science and practice**, since this approach does not meet the needs of intended users. You also need to remember that part of the objectives for which the IPCC was founded was to put forward adaptation and mitigation options.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. It is therefore my hope that during the 7th assessment cycle the diligent work of the IPCC will ensure that pertinent issues for all regions are adequately represented from the inception of the cycle.

I reiterate that science and research needs to have impact for it to be meaningful. This means that science ought to be 'needs-driven and action focused'. In many cases, the wealth of knowledge that informs adaptation & mitigation planning and decision-making such as is produced by the IPCC will not be used to its full potential, if it is not needs and action focused.

12. I conclude by committing on behalf of Kenya, to avail our best research and our best researchers to support the work of the IPCC. I wish you successful elections; may your thoughts converge around the best options to ensure the continuance of the integrity and stellar work of the IPCC. THANK YOU.