

## STATEMENT BY HON. PROF. SAM ONGERI EGH, MP DURING PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Excellencies**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

At the outset let me extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan and the African Union Commission as coordinators of this TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting and also the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting us and the hospitality it has extended to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city.

Africa is experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change. Drought in the Horn of Africa has affected the lives and livelihoods of millions and the effects of extreme weather are expected to increase. The adverse changes in the climate do not only affect our environment but severely dent our efforts toward economic development.

Africa and indeed the entire world cannot afford to further delay implementation of programmes that are expected to help slow down the rise of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Excellencies**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Adaptation to changing weather patterns is an overriding priority. Implementation of Climate Change initiatives with a focus on adaptation in order to achieve sustainable development, alleviate poverty and attain the Millennium Development Goals is necessary. With regard to mitigation, Kenya is currently implementing programmes that promote renewable energy technologies, increased forest coverage for carbon trade, enhanced water harvesting and conservation of water catchment areas among others.

While appreciating that adapting to a changed climate is a necessity for human survival, it is necessary to put in place mechanisms that will prevent any further changes in climate **conditions**. Developed countries should therefore, be encouraged to take up ambitious levels of emission reduction and timeliness that will allow the world avert further climate change risks.

**Excellencies**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Kenya has already adopted a National Climate Change Response Strategy. The strategy details key measures and actions as well as a Resource Mobilization Plan. The Government of Kenya has introduced a Green Energy Campaign for Kenya to becoming totally Green by 2017.

Kenya views the green economy concept as an opportunity to utilize and safeguard its natural base while addressing its economic, social and environmental concerns. As countries adopt the concept of Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, development partners must not impose new conditionalities on aid that would restrict policy space for countries to pursue their own paths to sustainable development.

To this end, Kenya welcomes Japan's African Green Growth Strategy and offers its support. The Strategy indeed provides a blueprint upon which Africa and Japan can cooperate and explore ways towards achieving low carbon growth and climate resilient development.

### **Excellencies**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Finally, as you are aware, the Second United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Rio+20 Summit will be held in June, 2012. At Rio+20, Kenya supports the strengthening of International Environmental governance (IEG) and calls for the full implementation of the 2005 United Nations World Summit's Resolution to establish a holistic framework for IEG.

In this regard, Kenya calls for the upgrading of UNEP in Nairobi with a reformed and stronger mandate for all existing and future conventions. The upgrading should enable it have a clear mandate and financing mechanism to spearhead the management of the environmental challenges. Consequently, all United Nations environmental organs/secretariats should be placed under the strengthened UNEP to achieve a cohesive and unified approach to Environmental Governance.

Thank you.