

COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE SEVENTH AND FINAL ANNUAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE HELD ON 23RD TO 26TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT MAKUENI BOYS, MAKUENI COUNTY

The Seventh and Final Annual Devolution Conference was convened jointly by the Council of Governors, the Senate, the Ministry of Devolution, and the County Assemblies Forum and held between 23rd and 26th November 2021 at Makueni Boys High School, Makueni County.

The Conference made the following resolutions in line with the conference theme, "Multi-level Governance for Climate Action, Sub-National Mobilization in Unlocking the Full Potential of Climate Action During and After the Pandemic," to guide the National Governments and County Governments in combating climate change:

THAT

- 1. The National Government and County Governments (hereinafter referred to as 'both levels of government') strongly affirm the need to conserve our environment and natural resources for the current and future generations.
- Both levels of government shall enhance the spirit of cooperation, coordination, consultation, and collaboration, design and implement practical policies, strategies, laws, regulations, and actions to address climate change.

ACTION: National Government, County Governments, Parliament, Development Partners, County Assemblies Forum.

3. In the next budgeting cycle, both levels of government shall increase resource allocation towards mitigation and adaptation strategies to enhance County Governments' preparedness and response towards impacts of climate change and pandemics.

Both levels of government shall build on the robust public finance management legal framework to ring-fence public funds for climate action, ensure more equitable distribution of resources for climate action, and timely availability of the funds to County Governments and other institutions involved in climate change action.

ACTION: County Governments, National Treasury, Parliament, Commission for Revenue Allocation, Office of the Controller of Budget, Development Partners

4. All County Governments shall, in the next one year, enact Climate Change related Acts/Policies/Regulations to provide legal frameworks for rolling out climate change-related programs and participate in public-private partnerships for climate change-related projects.

ACTION: County Governments

5. The National Government shall, in the next six (6) months, redesign the national security strategies to enable national and subnational coordination in handling climate-change instigated conflicts.

ACTION: Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, County Governments, Parliament, National Police Service

 County Governments shall, in consultation with the National Government, progressively operationalize the County Policing Authorities and strengthen community policing to facilitate community-led conflict resolution.

ACTION: Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, County Governments, Parliament

7. Both levels of government shall strengthen agricultural extension services, including expanding public extension funding, encouraging adoption of farmer and private sector-led extension services, and ensuring access to climate and market information for informed farmer decisionmaking and adoption of localized climate-smart technologies, paying attention to the vulnerabilities of women, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities.

County Governments shall design and implement public-private partnerships in a manner that can create conducive ecosystems for digital opportunities to enhance farmer access to information, market opportunities and innovate for solutions of future anticipated challenges in the agriculture sector that are gender-responsive and inclusive.

ACTION: County Governments, National Treasury, Ministry of Agriculture, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners

8. County Regional Economic Blocs (CREBs) shall mainstream climate action in their socio-economic development blueprints.

ACTION: CREBs, County Governments

9. Both levels of government shall take measures to reduce the cost of agricultural input, promote efficient land use tenure, and strengthen food security monitoring and reporting systems to respond to the barriers and gaps that prevent women from effectively participating in sustainable agriculture.

ACTION: County Governments, National Treasury, Ministry of Agriculture, Development Partners.

10. County Governments shall work with development partners, the private sector, and civil society organizations to strengthen and create multi-hazard early warning systems and enhance joint participatory planning on disaster management.

ACTION: County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations

11. Both levels of government shall promote and increase transparency and accountability at all levels and ensure that there is fair participation of all stakeholders, including the marginalized groups, persons with disabilities, women, youth, and minorities - in the development, implementation, and evaluation of climate-change-related programs and projects so that their needs, experiences, and aspirations are captured.

ACTION: County Governments, Parliament, County Assemblies Forum

12. There is need to encourage and nurture honest dialogue on climate change in the political discourse in the country.

The Conference urges political parties to include adaptation and mitigation issues and climate change in their party and election manifestos.

ACTION: Political Parties, Elected leaders

13. County Governments are encouraged to partner with the Maarifa Centre for information sharing, capacity building, documentation, and peer learning on transformative and innovative County models addressing climate change that have worked to accelerate their adoption by other Counties.

ACTION: Council of Governors, County Governments, Ministry of Devolution

14. In the next one (1) year, County Governments shall fast-track the passage of the County Tourism laws that enable County Governments to take charge of museums, historical and cultural tourist attraction sites.

ACTION: County Governments, County Assemblies Forum, Parliament, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife

15. County Governments shall diversify tourist attractions, promote and encourage domestic tourism, build unique tourism brand identities that incentivize County tourism, and integrate local communities into tourism and wildlife conversation efforts.

ACTION: County Governments, County Assemblies Forum, County Regional Economic Blocs.

16. While adopting green technologies, both levels of government shall work together to build Kenya's manufacturing agenda to eliminate unemployment and place the country as the region's manufacturing hub.

ACTION: County Governments, Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, Development Partners, Private sector

17. Both levels of government shall work with the private sector to ease the cost of doing business to stimulate economic growth.

ACTION: National Government, County Governments, Development Partners, Private sector

18. Both levels of government shall ensure that 10 million Kenyans are vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus by December 2021 and an additional 30 million by December 2022.

ACTION: National and County Governments, Community Leaders, The Inter-Religious Council of Kenya

19. Both levels of government shall invest in innovation and research in preparedness, response, and recovery to climate change and future pandemics.

ACTION: National Government, County Governments, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations

20. The National Government, in collaboration with County Governments and other stakeholders, shall review the National Oceans and Fisheries Policy of 2008 to align it to the Constitution and devolved system of governance.

ACTION: National Government, County Governments, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Blue Economy

21. Both levels of Government shall establish structures, systems, and processes for inclusive urban resilience in the cities, municipalities, and towns through strengthening urban entities to better respond to climate change and other disasters.

Action: National Government, County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector

22. In the next budget cycle, both levels of government shall increase investments in health disaster management through stepping up preventive health, planning, and risk reduction in an innovative and integrated approach.

Action: National Government, County Governments, The National Treasury, Development Partners, Private Sector

23. Both levels of government shall integrate and mainstream genderresponsive and inclusive climate action policies, legislation, strategies, and initiatives.

ACTION: County Governments, County Assemblies Forum, National Gender and Equality Commission

24.Both levels of government shall develop and review regulations and standards to provide an enabling environment for investment in renewable energy, including clean cooking and E- Mobility for sustainable and affordable utilization of energy.

ACTION: National Government, County Governments, Parliament

25. The Senate shall set up a Climate Action Committee in charge of climate change affairs.

ACTION: Senate

26. County Governments, in consultation with the National Government, shall develop a framework for shared water resources management to ensure coordinated water infrastructure development for universal water access and affordability.

ACTION: County Governments, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Community Leaders, County Regional Economic Blocs

27. In the next one (1) year, both levels of government shall collaborate to ensure seamless transfer of the devolved forestry functions to the Counties as provided under the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016.

ACTION: Council of Governors, County Governments, National Government

28. The National Government shall implement Part 10 – Traditional and Alternative Medicine – of the Health Act 2017 by formulating action plans and establishing a regulatory body to guide the practice of traditional and alternative medicine at the County level.

ACTION: Ministry of Health, County Governments, Parliament

29.Both levels of government shall work collaboratively in identifying, protecting, and storing existing Indigenous Knowledge in the National Digital Repository to ensure inter-generational transfer of this knowledge.

ACTION: National Government, County Governments

30. Both levels of government shall support increased investment in the ASAL areas to unlock the economic potential by providing an enabling environment for targeted investment by the public and private sectors in the ASAL areas.

The National Government shall fast-track the Livestock Masterplan (LMP) development, which will provide accurate data and information on livestock resources, the available investment options, and climate change adaptation measures for the calamities frequently experienced in the sector.

ACTION: County Governments, National Government, Development Partners, and the Private Sector.

31. Both levels of government, the private sector, and other stakeholders shall initiate climate innovation hubs and accelerator programs for youth and provide subsidies and incentives to youth-driven green innovations and businesses to facilitate the designing and building of innovations around climate action.

ACTION: County Governments, National Government, Private Sector, Development Partners

32. Both levels of government shall promote communication and awareness creation among Kenyan communities to embrace the need to conserve environment and natural resources for the current and future generations.

ACTION: County Governments, National Government, Civil Society Organizations, Media

33.All sector resolutions shall form part of this Communique. Implementation of the sector resolutions shall be monitored periodically by devolution stakeholders.

SIGNED BY:

H. E James Ongwae, EGH, CBS, EBS Co-Chair of the Seventh and Final Annual Devolution Conference and the Vice-Chair of the Council of Governors
Hon Charles Keter ECH
Hon. Charles Keter, EGH Co-Chair of the Seventh and Final Annual Devolution Conference and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution
Sen. Moses Kajwang', MP
Co-Chair of the Seventh and Final Annual Devolution Conference and Chair of the Senate Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations
Hon. Kipkurui Chepkwony
Co-Chair of the Seventh and Final Annual Devolution Conference and Secretary- General, County Assemblies Forum

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