



DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2023



10 YEARS OF DEVOLUTION:
THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

REPORT

DATE: 15TH -19TH AUGUST 2023





THEME:

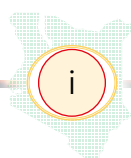
10 YEARS OF DEVOLUTION:
THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

SUB-THEME:

DRIVING TRANSFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL
LEVEL: COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AS THE CENTRE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 15TH - 19TH AUGUST 2023

VENUE: ELDORET SPORTS CLUB,
UASIN GISHU COUNTY





COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

ABOUT US

Who we are

The Council of Governors is an intergovernmental body, established by section 19 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act and whose mandate is enshrined in section 20 of the same Act, to include, among others- consultation amongst County Governments; sharing of information on the performance of the Counties in the execution of their functions with the objective of learning and promotion of best practice and where necessary, initiating preventive or corrective action; considering matters of common interest to Counties; and facilitating capacity building for Governors.

Our Vision

Prosperous Counties that are drivers of socio-economic growth and development and quality service delivery.

Our Mission

To deepen devolution through coordination, consultation, information sharing, capacity building, performance management and dispute resolution.

5 Our Core Values

- Collaboration and Partnership
- Integrity
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Innovation
- Professionalism

Our Motto

48 Governments, 1 Nation.



Council of Governors-Kenya



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Council of Governors-Kenya

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AACP	Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
AGRA	Alliance for A Green Revolution
Amb.	Ambassador
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
BETA	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
CAJ	Commission of Administrative Justice
CARA	County Allocation of Revenue Act
CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CFS	Consolidated Fund Services
CHW	Community Health Worker
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plans
CMSEO-EA	Confederation of Micro and Small Enterprise Organization – East Africa
CoG	Council of Governors
CPF	County Pension Fund
CS	Cabinet Secretary
CSP	County Spatial Plan
DC	Devolution Conference
EAC	East African Community
EACC	Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FIF	Facility Improvement Fund
FY	Financial Year
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGR

IMF	International Monetary Fund
KCB	Kenya Commercial Bank
KEMSA	Kenya Medical Supply Agency
KMRC	Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company
KNCCI	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KRA	Kenya Revenue Authority
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NCI	National Cancer Institute
NITA	National Industrial Training Authority
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NT	National Treasury
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSR	Own Source Revenue
PAC	Public Accounts Committee
PFM	Public Finance Management
PHC	Primary Healthcare
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PS	Principal Secretary
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
WEF	Women Empowerment Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



The 2023 Devolution Conference (DC) was grand. The Eldoret Sports Club in Uasin Gishu County hosted 8,306 delegates and 561 exhibitors. The conference was a culmination of ten years of devolution, an anniversary held in the backdrop of the 10th anniversary of devolution. Under the theme '10 Years of Devolution: The Present and the Future' and the sub-theme 'Driving Transformation from the Local Level: County governments as the Centre of Economic Development,' the conference rallied a discourse revolving around the performance of the devolved system of governance over the last ten years. The 3-day discussions allowed the participants to evaluate the milestones witnessed in the devolved sectors and propose policy. These legislative and institutional reforms should be undertaken to drive devolution for the next decade.

The August 2023 event was the first biennial conference to be convened since the previous seven conferences were annual events. This was also the first DC in the third cycle of devolution. Attracting a variety of stakeholders- both state and non-state- the program topics included counties' performance management, digitalisation of services within the devolved context, financing county governments, good governance, and affirmative action. In terms of process, attendees, were provided breakaway sessions to focus on the key sectors: blue economy, trade and investment, health, youth empowerment, housing, natural resource management, and agriculture. The conference was dotted with rich and insightful debates that culminated in a communique read out on the last day.

The DC was a resounding success. On behalf of all the Governors, we were honoured to receive the President of the Republic of Kenya, his Deputy, the Former Prime Minister, the Speakers of Parliament and Ambassadors, amongst other leaders. I hope that this show of solidarity will extend to implementing the communique and that we will continue to walk together as a devolved family to secure Kenya's socio-economic development. I convey a heartfelt appreciation to the Multi-Agency Steering Committee and the Planning Committee members for their dedication and tenacity in preparing for the conference. I recognize that to deliver an event of the magnitude we saw in Eldoret takes sacrifice, selflessness, and many sleepless nights. I congratulate you all. To the County Government of Uasin Gishu- thank you for your superb hospitality.

See you all in 2025!

H.E. Anne Waiguru, EGH
Chairperson, Council of Governors

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



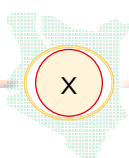
The success of the Devolution Conference of 2023 cannot be gainsaid. The celebration showcased devolution since 2013 and was a vibrant three-day marketplace for learning, networking, and connecting. Eldoret town was awash with visitors who needed accommodation, food, and transport, which boosted the local economy.

I take this opportunity to recognize all those who attended the 2023 Devolution Conference. As the secretary of the Steering Committee, I am humbled by the overwhelming number of participants who travelled to Eldoret to attend. We are grateful. I acknowledge all the partners who supported this year's conference. To our platinum sponsors- Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Safaricom, USAID, and AMREF Health Africa- the CoG conveys a hearty thank you for your gracious support of the conference. To all our other partners who contributed financial and technical assistance, we appreciate you. You all have a special place in the devolution narrative.

I thank the entire Steering and Planning Committees for their commitment and guidance in preparing the conference. I also appreciate my colleagues at the CoG secretariat, whose tireless efforts and unparalleled energy made the event unforgettable. Lastly, I acknowledge all the suppliers who provided superb services to the participants.

Let us all keep the devolution torch burning.

Mary Mwiti
Chief Executive Officer, Council of Governors



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last nine years, the Council of Governors (CoG) has hosted seven (7) Annual Devolution Conferences in various parts of the country, providing a platform to reflect and review progress in Devolution implementation, share knowledge and best practices in devolution, and define a way forward on next steps to strengthen devolution.

The 1st Bi-Annual Devolution Conference was convened by the CoG, in collaboration with the Senate and the State Department of Devolution, at the Eldoret Sports Club, Uasin Gishu County, from 15 to 19 August 2023. The conference theme, “Ten Years of Devolution: The Present and the Future,” deliberately reflected a decade of progress and took stock of the successes, challenges, and way forward in devolution: A Decade of Devolution!

The conference took place against the backdrop of the 3rd election after the promulgation of the Constitution, which birthed devolution. This called for the need to examine, appraise, and appreciate its journey, specifically amplifying the successes, identifying the exploited and unexploited opportunities, and understanding the challenges and potential risks likely to slow down the progress toward further decentralisation. The Conference provided both levels of governments a chance to critically examine the last ten years of devolution. Most important was developing a roadmap to position counties as viable vehicles for the country’s economic development while influencing the socio-economic and political transformation from the local level.

This 2023 report presents the organisation and deliberations of the DC, canvassed under themes and sub-themes to derive recommendations for action. Part one (I) covers the official opening ceremony by the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, H.E William Samoei Ruto; the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Musalia Mudavadi; the Speaker Senate, Hon. Amason. J. Kingi and The Chairperson of the Council of Governors, H.E. Anne Waiguru, who also recognised guests. Other remarks were by the Platinum Sponsor, including Amb. Meg Whitman, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya; Mr. Peter Ndegwa, Safaricom PLC Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Githinji Gitahi, Amref Health Africa Group Chief Executive Officer; and Mr. Paul Russo, EBS, KCB Group Chief Executive Officer. Additional remarks made at the opening ceremony were by the Chair of the Devolution Donor Working Group H.E. Amb. Ole Thonke, welcoming Remarks and recognition of local leaders by Host Governor, H.E. Jonathan Bii.

The chairperson of the Devolution Conference 2023 Steering Committee, HE Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdulahi, provided an update on the status of implementation and action points from the 7th and final annual Devolution Conference.

The Conference adopted four main Thematic areas, which are presented according to the days of deliberations;

1. *Strengthening effective Service Delivery in counties through Performance Management:* Ascertaining how devolution has enhanced and increased service delivery to the people.
2. *The Digitalization Economy and Integration of Technology in the Devolved Sectors:* The Technological advancements in the 21st Century that have impacted every aspect of society.
3. *Resourcing Devolution for Service Delivery:* A reflection of trends and challenges experienced over the decade of devolution in financing the devolved sectors.
4. *Good Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development:* Evaluating the effectiveness of good governance practices in promoting equitable and sustainable development in devolved units.

To enable in-depth discussions around the specific emerging and critical sectors that need urgent attention and action, the Conference organised breakaway sessions to allow discussions and recommendations to feed into the main conference communiqué. These sub-themes and sector programs for the breakaway sessions were developed jointly by sector stakeholders. They included the following: Urban, Health, Trade Development and Industrialization, Blue Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources Management and The Youth.

The last part of this report presents the closing remarks from the Chief Guest, H.E Rigathi Gachagua, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, and other speakers who shared their comments. As has been the tradition with previous conferences, this culminated in developing a Communiqué of recommendations from the discussions and deliberations of the DC. The Communiqué and the list of partners are included in this report as annexures.

CHAPTER 1: KEYNOTE SPEECH

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 16TH AUGUST 2023

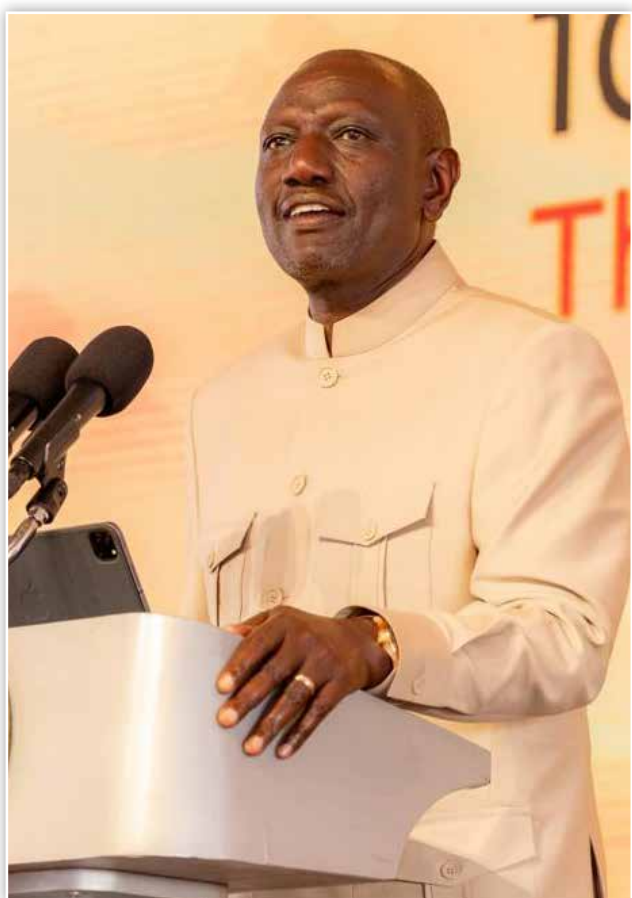


Moderator:

Governor Stephen Sang, EGH,
Governor,
Nandi County and Whip,
Council of Governors



H.E Dr William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Governors during the official opening of the Devolution Conference 2023



H.E Dr William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-chief of the Defence Forces

1.1 H.E. Dr William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces

The following are the key highlights of the President's speech:

- Devolution has grown tremendously in a decade. It has matured from a delicate fledgling with limited institutional capacity to administer resources, provide services, and generate revenues to a fully operational government touching people's lives at the grassroots, undertaking ambitious development programs, and driving economic growth. During ten years of devolution, much has been achieved in health, agriculture, education, infrastructure, and trade development.
- For the first time since the advent of devolution, the inaugural disbursement of equitable allocation to counties under the Kenya Kwanza administration was implemented in full and on time.

Key Challenges:

- *Bureaucracy*: Poor coordination, administrative rigidities, and inefficiencies have suppressed effective performance. At the same time, there remain capacity shortfalls, contributing to sub-optimal performance and, frequently, poor implementation of policies, programs, and projects.
- *Late disbursements*: Delays in disbursing allocations to counties have tremendous adverse effects, which cascade to the households at the grassroots level, causing poor outcomes in many sectors.
- *Bad governance*: Poor governance, specifically corruption, manifested through incompetence, negligence, poor professional standards, inefficiency, waste, mismanagement, and theft.

Key Resolutions/Action Points

- National leadership should support the President's commitment to strengthen devolution through specific interventions, including transferring all outstanding functions constitutionally assigned to counties. The transferable functions have been identified.
- There is a need to adopt a pledge to implement a framework ensuring that national agencies carrying out devolved or shared mandates operate under a funding-follows-functions principle concerning devolved functions.
- National government will put an emphasis on transferring shareable revenue to counties in a timely and predictable manner as per the law.
- National government will support the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation agenda by promoting more robust performance at the grassroots through collaboration with county governments and enhancing the equitable allocation to county governments from Ksh 370 billion in the 2022/23 financial year to Ksh 385.4 billion in the 2023/24 financial period. The Equalisation Fund was also allocated KSh8.3 billion, an increase of KSh1.2 billion in the same period.
- The national government will support county governments in improving their capacity to generate income and reduce their overreliance

on transfers from the national government.

- National government will transfer funds owed to beneficiary communities under the Mining Act 2016 and the Petroleum Act 2019, and collaborate with counties to increase communities' capacity to benefit from extractive resources.
- Counties should enhance efficiency and effectiveness and ensure that the highest standards are consistently achieved within defined policies, programmes, and projects. Inevitably, this requires introducing performance management for high-quality and sustainable service delivery in the counties.
- The national government will enhance its commitment to good governance and, in particular, take decisive action against corruption. Corruption will be addressed at all levels of government as a high-priority law enforcement issue requiring an expeditious and robust response. Regardless of position, office, or other status, any person implicated in the loss of public funds, whether in the national or devolved government, must encounter the punitive consequences of their actions in full. The agencies concerned must move quickly and attend to the many cases of corruption festering in many counties.
- Counties should support digitalisation and automation: Counties are encouraged to integrate digital solutions and ICT in service delivery and project implementation.

In closing, the President commended many counties that have responded positively to the call to collaborate in implementing effective climate action in their various jurisdictions, primarily through tree planting, including programmes and projects to restore depleted or degraded landscapes and ecosystems. Climate action and environmental conservation must be considered an integral component of transformation. It is also an opportunity for inter-governmental cooperation. H.E. President William Ruto then launched the Devolution Book and Joint County Bankable Investment Handbook.



Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH,
Chairperson, Council of Governors



1.2 OPENING REMARKS

1.2.1 Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH, Chairperson, Council of Governors

Hon Waiguru began her remarks by acknowledging the presence of all governors, development partners, independent commissions, speakers, MCAs, deputy governors, CECMs, CEOs from counties, and all county staff.

She welcomed the national government's end-of-year disbursement, which was received on time for the first time in ten years. All counties, she said, had received their dues for July. In context, she thanked President William Ruto for being faithful and keeping the promise, signalling the national government's commitment to devolution.

She stated the three-day DC was for participants to candidly evaluate the hits and misses of devolution and generate responsive and concrete policy, legislative, and administrative proposals that will further strengthen devolution for the next decade. She acknowledged the devastating effects of COVID-19 between 2019 and 2021 that slowed the country's economic growth. According to the National Treasury, Kenya's economy is projected to grow by 5.5% in 2023 and above 6.0% over the medium term. However, she noted, economic and

social sectors continue to suffer from the shocks brought about by climate change even as the country progressively recovers from the effects of recent droughts.

With each SDG linked to county functions, realising the socio-economic targets in both the global and national agenda will crystallise at the county level. In the future, the governments will focus on steering county governments towards delivering high-outcome results for each of the fourteen (14) county functions.

Hon. Waiguru listed the following as some of the successes of devolution:

- For the first time since independence, Mandera County performed its first caesarean delivery at Takaba Subcounty Hospital in 2014. In Samburu County, maternal deaths have, over the last ten (10) years, declined by over 79% since the County Government constructed housing units within health facilities for expectant mothers to move in with their families, weeks before delivery.
- When county governments took over the health docket in 2013, there were 8,466 health facilities nationwide. By 2022, when the State of Devolution address was given, there were 13,722 health facilities in the counties.

- Regular training of Community Health Workers (CHWs) and providing them with digital tools has enabled counties like Kisumu to save many lives through timely interventions such as detecting and managing COVID-19 cases, support to expectant mothers, and smooth transfer of those needing specialised medical attention to hospital.
- There has been significant county investment in the agriculture sector since 2013, with county governments allocating an average of 7.3% of their budgets to agriculture. The One Cow per Poor Household program initiative in the financial year 2013/2014 by Kakamega County translated into the following. In 2015, the dairy population in Kakamega County was 147,820, producing 131.7 million litres of milk annually. In 2022, the number of dairy herds increased to 170,000, a 30% increase.
- In 2016, extension services covered 541,627 farmers. As of 30 June 2023, the number of farmers accessing extension services totalled 3,995,182.
- As of 2022, county governments registered 124,420 micro-enterprises, 87,153 small enterprises, and 34,727 medium enterprises in the trade sector. Counties have set up enterprise funds to support these businesses, which have benefitted over 7,000 MSMEs through the disbursement of loans and grants. These are quantified in meat production increases in ASAL counties, high fish production in nontraditional counties, and continuously improving yields in cotton, rice, coffee, and tea-growing counties.
- The Wezesha Kirinyaga Economic Empowerment Programme is a county initiative that aims to organise farmer groups into cooperatives to enhance their capacity for the sustainable commercialization of value-chain-based activities.
- The innovative Chuka Market Creche in Tharaka Nithi County provides emotional security for parents and enables traders with young children to better focus on their trading activities. Hon. Waiguru stated that most of the achievements in the last decade have exhaustively been documented in the Maarifa Centre at CoG. She affirmed that county governments have

been at the forefront of promoting climate-smart technologies. She made a clarion call to all devolution champions to support counties in addressing the challenges facing county governments, which were enumerated as:

- i. Shortage of funds
 - ii. Misalignment of policies, laws, and administrative actions
 - iii. Slow implementation of intergovernmental decisions
 - iv. Ineffective management of human capital
- The CoG Chair called for the need to accord County Assemblies their rightful place, which can be done by giving them full autonomy and proper remuneration for County Assembly members. This can be done by considering Senate ceilings and in consultation with SRC. (The CoG Chair requested the President to look into this).
 - County Assemblies should be accorded their rightful place as the loadbearing beams and pivoting pillars in Kenya's development objectives. This, she said, can be achieved by first accepting their autonomy and formally safeguarding their functional welfare within the parameters already provided.
 - In the next five years, counties will focus on performance in critical areas likely to transform the country. These include increasing production and exports in avocado, coffee, tea, meat, dairy, palm oil, cotton, and leather value chains.

In closing, the COG Chairperson thanked the platinum contributors and the national government for the conference's financial support. She recognised the captains that led the preparations of the DC, the esteemed Steering Committee, which was co-chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Council, Governor Ahmed Abdulahi, Senator Prof. Margaret Kamar, honourable member of the Senate; The Principal Secretary, State Department of Devolution, Teresia Mbaika and Hon. Philemon Sabulei, Chair of the County Assemblies Forum and the CEO of the COG. The Planning Committee and all the other institutions that supported the planning process were also acknowledged.



Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH,
M.P, Speaker of the Senate

1.2.2 Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P, Speaker of the Senate

Hon. Kingi acknowledged that the presence of members of the National Assembly and the Senate signalled Kenya's Parliament's commitment to devolution and the advancement of devolved units.

He reiterated that the DC is a platform for taking stock of the past ten years of devolution and the journey towards better service delivery to citizens, residents and visitors. The 2010 Constitution, he said, marked a significant reconstitution of state power by devolving it to the 47 devolved governments. He further noted how it had enabled seamless coordination and collaboration of all levels of government by creating distinct platforms and processes that make it easy and efficient.

Hon Kingi stated that since the inception of devolution in 2013, Ksh 3.3 trillion had been disbursed to counties, demonstrating the significant commitment of the national government to entrench devolution. In addition, he commented that the enactment of the various Acts intended to support and underpin devolution, particularly the implementation. Further, he noted the Senate's contribution to stabilising devolution, which saw the passing of

several legislations and policies for effective funds transmission and coordination between national and county governments in the past ten years. He affirmed that the Senate will ensure that the traction on these gains is sustained. He acknowledged that Devolution is indeed working, and he said this can be attested by the various programs, initiatives, and innovations across the 47 counties.

Devolved units should embrace new approaches and innovations in revenue generation, investment, and regional economic growth to alleviate stress on the national government.

Counties must also strive to curb corruption, ensure accountability, and reduce pilferage.

He reiterated that the attained goals of devolution must be nurtured and collectively harnessed and coordinated. Swift delivery of targets in high-capacity sectors and industries like housing is a must.

For all devolution partners, he said, "the time has come to walk the talk and fervently address the challenges and issues that affect the success of devolution."



Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetangula,
EGH, M.P.
National Assembly Speaker

1.2.3 Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetangula, EGH, M.P. National Assembly Speaker

Hon. Wetangula stated that the DC was an opportune time to celebrate the achievements of a 10-year devolution journey yet a moment to reflect on the experienced challenges and strategise for a bright future for Kenya.

Devolution continues to create and sustain opportunities and changes that positively impact citizens' lives. This has been witnessed through improved healthcare, better infrastructure, enhanced education, and increased citizen participation. The National Assembly, he said, remained committed to close collaboration with county governments to address citizens' needs through improved legislation and to enable effective service delivery and equitable distribution of resources to support service delivery.

He appreciated the 2010 constitution, upon which devolution was born. According to the U.N. Women African Report of 2022, devolution has increased opportunities for women to engage in county-led planning, budgeting, and implementation processes including budget planning.

In a bid to show the National Assembly's commitment

to devolution, he committed that the National Assembly will fast-track legislation on pending laws, including healthcare laws, food and feed safety laws, laws related to roads, and those supporting quality education.

He concluded his remarks with a quote from the late Nobel Peace Prize winner, the late Prof. Wangari Maathai: "In Kenya, women are the first victims of environmental degradation because they are the ones who walk for hours looking for water, to fetch firewood, and to provide food for their families." Today, Kenyan women have been emancipated from this degradation through devolution programs.



Hon. Musalia Mudavadi,
Prime Cabinet Secretary

1.2.4 Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary

Hon. Mudavadi began his remarks by acknowledging the marking of 10 years of the devolution journey with this statement, *“If the 2010 constitution is the karma for the country, then devolution is the critical jewel in that crown.”* He thanked the US Ambassador to Kenya, Meg Whitman, for pitching Kenya globally, specifically in America as an investment-ready nation. He reiterated the critical questions captured during her presentation that seek to challenge the government to show Why Africa/ Kenya/Counties should be considered for investment by other nations and global companies. He challenged the current governors and those in the national government to determine whether they act as a facilitator or an obstructor in efficiency and effectiveness around devolution. He stressed that any role one takes in government should purposely be a facilitator and not an impediment.

Devolution, he said, had impacted the country tremendously in various ways, pointing out the following as strategic areas that will need to be addressed at the county level:

- Budget execution
- Reduction of pending bills
- Capacity Building on financial management
- Means and strategies to generate county revenues.

He reemphasised H.E. the President's commitment to devolution before proceeding to recognise the various Cabinet Secretaries and Permanent Secretaries who were in attendance.

“If the 2010 constitution is the karma for the country, then devolution is the critical jewel in that crown.”

Hon. Musalia Mudavadi

In his parting shot, Hon. Mudavadi stressed that government officials should take devolution seriously while expediting their respective mandates. Those who fail to do so, he said, will do so at their peril.



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H.E. Jonathan Bii,
Governor, Uasin Gishu County

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1.2.5 H.E. Jonathan Bii, Governor, Uasin Gishu County

In his remarks, Governor Bii welcomed the delegates to Uasin Gishu County and extended his warm welcome to the president of Kenya, H.E William Ruto. He recognised that the conference's official opening marked a significant milestone shared by all 47 counties.

He appreciated the efforts the head of state advocated to make devolution work. He said this cultivated the principles of unity and steered Kenyans into greater prosperity, with education, health, and agriculture being the key economic drivers. He cited the example of school feeding programmes. The commitment to education has empowered minds and skilled workers, which has, in turn, boosted the country's economy.

The establishment of industrial parks has further transformed employment, and in the coming years, these will mark the full development of eagerly anticipated development in the country. He opined that modern transportation had also transformed the regional integration of goods, skills, and ideas. In addition, the counties had also innovated in technology around the healthcare system to improve disease prevention integrated into the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

In conclusion, he noted that devolution was a collective journey; in this regard, he encouraged the leadership and its people to continue to foster the spirit of devolution. He further recognised that the conference was an excellent opportunity for all the stakeholders to dialogue and reflect on the devolution challenges, successes and opportunities of the last ten years.



Amb. Meg Whitman,
U.S. Ambassador to Kenya

1.2.6 Amb. Meg Whitman, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya

Below are excerpts of Amb. Whitman's pitch on why global investors should consider Africa, particularly Kenya, as a strategic business hub.

In her presentation, "Why Africa, Why Kenya, Why Counties," Amb. Whitman stated that the solid US-Kenyan government partnership has been built over the past 60 years with shared prosperity and growth. This partnership, she said, has enhanced security and improved the lives of Kenyans and Americans. Over the last year, the U.S. Embassy has focused on strengthening the US-Kenyan trade relationship in coordination with the Kenyan government.

In rooting for Africa and Kenya, she described the following key advantages:

Why Africa?

- Existing supply chain diversification: Learning from the Ukraine war and COVID-19 Pandemic: Single-sourcing is a recipe for supply disruptions and shortages. The war in Ukraine has destabilised global distribution chains, equally hampered by climate change disruptions.
- By 2050, one in four people and one in three working-age people will live in Africa.

- Africa has the highest number of young people, with 60% of the population under the age 25, hence the potential for more significant investment in human resource mobilisation and strengthening.
- It is also the most significant emerging international market and offers business growth and investment opportunities.
- Net zero emissions: 93% of Kenya's electricity is produced from renewable energy.
- Why Kenya?
- Most stable democracy in Africa: The 2022 election was the freest, fairest, and most credible in Kenyan history.
- Gateway to around 500 million regional markets (EAC): 85% of East African trade passes through the Mombasa port. Kenya's efficient Infrastructure in the region makes it easier for businesses to take root.
- Young, educated entrepreneurs and English-speaking workforce:
- A leading destination for foreign direct investment and venture capital: In 2022, when venture capital was reducing globally, it increased in Africa (8%), and Kenya was among the high achievers (33%). Kenya received more venture capital than other

African countries and the sub-region.

- Regional ICT hub: Silicon Savannah and most international tech companies like Google, VISA, etc. have established themselves in Kenya.
- Regional Financial Hub: MPESA innovation, developed in Kenya in 2003, is the largest mobile money platform in the region and sub-region. It powers over five million businesses and links millions of subscribers to businesses and opportunities. 60% of Kenya's GDP flows through Mpesa.
- Renewable Energy: 90% of Kenyan energy is derived from renewable sources.
- Amb. Whitman pointed out the following as areas Kenya needs to improve on to create a business-friendly environment:
- Taxes: It must have a consistent, transparent, and fairly administered national tax policy.
- Corruption: This issue must be conclusively addressed if Kenya is to reach its intended levels and potential in all areas of development.
- Debt-to-GDP ratio: A reduction in its debt-to-GDP ratio; it currently stands at 69% (IMF).
- Cargo Clearance: The delivered cost of a container in Kenya remains significantly higher than shipments to other countries.

The government of Kenya, she said, is open for business, with various enabling strategies and approaches in place to support businesses, examples of which include:

- A simple, consistent, fair, predictable, and enduring tax regime.
- Alignment of Kenya's data protection regulations with the multilateral global cross-border Private rules framework.
- Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has a six-month deadline to pay all verified tax refund claims or provide offsets.
- Elimination of VAT on exported services.
- Elimination of the domestic equity requirement for ICT companies.
- Removal of tax on stock-based compensation for employees of start-ups.
- Commitment to adhere to the OECD two-pillar solution for digital services tax once it's finalised.
- Commitment to revitalizing Kenya's special economic zones to maximize their competitiveness.

In closing, she affirmed that the U.S. has partnered with various businesses in Kenya over the last 12 months, including in the agriculture, apparel, and ICT and innovation sectors.



H.E. Amb. Ole Thonke,
Chair of the Devolution Donor
Working Group



1.2.7 H.E. Amb. Ole Thonke, Chair of the Devolution Donor Working Group

Ole Thonke's remarks focused on Why Kenya? Why devolution? He stated that Kenya built a massive devolved administration in just 10; he termed this as 'remarkable.' The success of devolution, he said, is evident by:

- Bringing resources closer to the people.
- Increased investment in health, water, education, etc.
- Increased participation of the public in development.
- Increased engagement in climate adaptation and mitigation measures

He noted that the competition in the country for the position of governorship shows how devolution has transformed significantly; it has been a game changer, with development partners willing to continue in this form of engagement.

As we advance, he recommended the following:

- The timely allocation of resources ensures that they are spent before the end of the financial year. The government released funds to counties

for F.Y. 2023/24 on July 10, 2023.

- Ensure corruption does not happen at the county level, as it will scare away development partner support.
- For the government to transfer the remaining functions per the constitution to counties.
- Both national and devolved levels need to work together to strengthen devolution.



Mr. Paul Russo, EBS,
KCB Group Chief Executive Officer

1.2.8 Mr. Paul Russo, EBS, KCB Group Chief Executive Officer

Stressing KCB's unwavering commitment to counties, Mr. Russo stated that the bank, through its subsidiary, National Bank, has proven indispensable, acting as a financial lifeline or "fuliza" for counties during instances of fund disbursement delays from the national government. KCB and National Bank have supported MSMEs, environmental conservation, and youth empowerment programs to deliver on vital transformational partnerships.

He said KCB will continue to work with county governments and the various ministries to deliver transformational partnerships. Its presence in all 47 counties across Kenya promises an unmatched product and value proposition that will enhance counties' competitiveness in providing devolved services.

In closing, Mr. Russo urged the government to prioritise and expedite the issuance of title deeds. This move will empower more Kenyans to access better funding avenues, ultimately fostering economic advancement and prosperity.



Mr Peter Ndegwa,
Safaricom PLC Chief Executive
Officer



1.2.9 Mr Peter Ndegwa, Safaricom PLC Chief Executive Officer

Peter Ndegwa in his remarks, delineated the role played by Safaricom over the last ten years of devolution as follows:

- As a partner for digital transformation and an enabler of the online connectivity platform.
- Provision of secure connectivity and infrastructure development (cloud, fibre, smartphones, etc.).
- Through technological advancement and innovation.
- Partnering with the government in many sectors, including agriculture, for example, rolling out of the subsidised fertiliser campaign that reached 3.2 million farmers.
- Financial Inclusion: It supported and facilitated the disbursement of Kshs 22 million through the hustler and development funds.
- Safaricom is finalising the development of the

first-ever smartphone plant assembly in Kenya, which will improve accessibility and affordability for all Kenyans.

Rolling out of the “My County App”: This app drives connectivity across county services, significantly broadening digital service delivery and improving citizen involvement and access to government services. It will help deliver seamless access within, across, and between the two levels of government. Fourteen counties have so far onboarded.

In concluding his remarks, he requested the government to classify fibre optic infrastructure as critical, like electricity. He even appealed for creating policies that make the business environment conducive, such as reduced taxes and other barriers that hamper the business environment in Kenya.



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**Dr Githinji Gitahi, Amref Health
 Africa Group Chief Executive Officer**
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1.2.10 Dr Githinji Gitahi, Amref Health Africa Group Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Gitahi stated that AMREF plans to invest USD 50 million in building PHC hospitals in the counties to ensure quality healthcare services and health providers, including doctors, nurses, and medical students. AMREF also encourages the privatisation of health facilities in the counties to empower them to manage their hospitals and ensure adequate healthcare provision.

AMREF, he said, works in four areas or levers of Health in the counties:

- Political commitment and action demonstrated by leadership and health budgeting.
- Primary Healthcare Networks (PHC) (e.g., Kwale County).
- People-centred models of primary healthcare.
- Precision public healthcare premised on data science.



1.3 Tree Planting initiative by H.E. President William Ruto

The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Kenya, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, led other government officials and various leaders in planting 300 trees at the Eldoret Arboretum to mark ten years of the DC.

The African landscape restoration initiative aims to accelerate toward 30% tree cover in Kenya by having 15 billion trees planted by 2032. This move aims to reduce greenhouse emissions, stop deforestation, and restore Kenya's 5.1 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes.





“Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdulahi,
Governor, Wajir County”

1.4 Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdulahi on the Status on Action Points from the 7th and Final Annual Devolution Conference and Introduction of the Devolution Conference Steering Committee

Governor Ahmed spoke on behalf of the Devolution Conference Steering Committee, highlighting the status of Action Points from the 7th and final Annual Devolution Conference. The following are some of the sectors he highlighted as successful.

- *Climate Change:* This was the main theme for the 7th Devolution Conference, and one resolution was to plant 15 billion trees by 2032; 7.4 million trees have been planted in the last four months. Across 46 counties, climate change policies and regulations have been enacted, and funds and designated offices for climate change have also been established. Environment: The Council, with the support of UNDP, has developed a policy on tree growing.
- *Agriculture:* There have been reduced costs of planting and increased investments in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions to ensure the inclusion of pastoralist communities in initiatives.
- *Trade and manufacturing:* This has been ongoing, with an agenda to eliminate unemployment. *Digital Innovation hubs:* These have been established in various counties to accelerate

programs for the youth and provide subsidies to youth businesses to build innovations around climate change.

- *Blue economy:* A national blue economy strategy has been developed to help the country achieve the full potential of blue resources.
- *Urban development:* Counties have developed projects to address climate change and built fire stations and water reservoirs, among other initiatives.

Further details on the progress of devolution can be found on Maarifa Center online (www.maarifa.cog.go.ke).

Governor Ahmed thanked the Council of Governors and other stakeholders who contributed to the success of the devolution process. He also thanked the county government of Uasin Gishu and other partners for their support for successfully supporting the Devolution Conference.

In closing, he thanked the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH, emphasised, “Your invitation is recognition that you have really been at the centre in the fight for a new constitution in Kenya, which enabled us to have devolution. We do not take for granted the efforts and struggles you have taken in your political life to get us, as a country, to where we are.”

1.5 Resolutions of the 2022 Children's Conference by Ms. Grace Nabiswa



Children from 47 counties gathered for the Children's Devolution Conference 2023, which took place from the 3rd to the 7th July 2023 at the M-Pesa Foundation Academy in Kiambu County. Grace Nabiswa, a Moi Girls High School student, read the Conference Communique.

The link to the Communique: [Children's Devolution Conference Communique](#)

1.6 Documentary – Children and Devolution

Below are the key highlights of the documentary that focused on children and what devolution means to them.

Amanda, a 10-year-old girl, provides her account of the benefits of devolution to date and service delivery from her perspective. She stated that devolution has paved the way for services to be availed to everyone, including children. This, she said, has been evident in the following areas:

- **Health:** Counties have made it easy for people to access health care through improved access to maternity services and providing specialised services to children, such as vaccination. This has helped improve children's access to healthcare services.
- **Education:** Improvement in education has been observed in the following ways:
 - √ Increased staffing in schools.
 - √ Girls in schools have also been provided with free sanitary towels.
 - √ Increased enrolment levels across all counties.
 - √ Introduction of scholarships, has allowed financially disadvantaged children access to

education.

- √ Construction and establishment of disability friendly facilities where such children can attend classes.
- **Digital space:** County governments have worked to enhance digital skills by providing technology tools such as tablets. County governments have provided learning materials to improve digital learning.
- **School Feeding Programme:** The introduction of food programs to children enrolled in public schools has allowed children to focus more on learning.
- **Agriculture:** Introducing agricultural programs in schools has enabled food stability and increased nutrition. County governments have also taught sustainable agriculture practices and food stability in Early Childhood Development (ECD) to ensure children get proper nutrition. To ensure appropriate management of the school environment, tree-planting initiatives have been launched across all schools in the counties.
- **Child-friendly Public Spaces:** Child-friendly spaces have been introduced in public spaces like markets.

In closing, she urged the county governments to ensure the following:

- Better infrastructure, especially for children with disabilities who struggle to get to school, especially when it rains.
- Increased funding allocation towards local talent support.
- Support for street children.
- Involvement of children in decision-making, down to the county level.
- Increased funding opportunities through scholarships
- Increased provision of sanitary towels for girls.
- Ensuring children's rights are enforced, including access to education, health care, and to essential services.

Official launch of the Devolution book and Joint County Bankable Investment Handbook



Official unveiling of the Wall of fame



Arrival and tour of exhibitions



CHAPTER 2: OPENING REMARKS

DAY 2: THURSDAY 17TH AUGUST 2023



Moderator:

Prof. Karuti Kanyinga

Overall Conference Facilitator



Arrival of Rt. Hon. Former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH on day 2 of the Devolution Conference 2023



2.1 Rt. Hon. Former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH

The following are the key highlights of Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga's speech:

- *Devolution's Transformative Impact:* The Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, the former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, highlighted that devolution has brought unprecedented changes to every ward in the country. He emphasised that over the past decade, devolution has empowered Kenyans to take charge of their destiny, achieving previously thought daunting successes.
- *Unity and Collaboration:* He commended the Council of Governors (COG) for fostering unity and collaboration despite political differences. He highlighted the importance of working together, mending fences, and building bridges to overcome challenges and achieve progress.
- *Devolution's Achievements:* Devolution's success story is a testament to the nation's potential. Despite initial skepticism and challenges, devolution has achieved what the national government couldn't in several counties. The speaker underscored the alignment of aspirations

between various levels and leadership as key to promoting devolution.

- *Efficient Resource Management:* He raised concerns about duplicate functions between the national and county governments. He stressed the need for streamlined resource allocation and the efficient utilisation of county resources, including the full and unbiased implementation of the County Allocation of Revenue Act (CARA).
- *Local Empowerment and Service Delivery:* Devolution is recognised as a means to empower local communities, create jobs, and improve service delivery. The former Premier emphasised the importance of investing in programs that benefit the people and contribute to economic development at the local level.
- *Collaborative Economic Growth:* The former Prime Minister underscored the potential for counties to drive economic growth by fostering innovation, investment, and collaboration. He highlighted the development of smart cities, world-class infrastructure, and labour-intensive manufacturing as critical areas for investment.
- *Policy Predictability and Ease of doing Business:* The Rt. Hon. Raila called for creating an environment conducive to business growth and investment by ensuring policy predictability and ease of doing business. This includes reassurances for investors and fostering inter-county collaboration.
- *Counties' Role in Progress:* He emphasized that counties play a pivotal role in various sectors, including addressing climate change, agriculture, manufacturing, and the blue economy. Promoting investment, accountability, responsiveness, and service delivery are seen as vital components of county-driven development.
- *Strong Legal and Accountability Frameworks:* He highlighted the need to strengthen legal, policy, and accountability frameworks for devolution. He also noted that meaningful and close collaboration between the Senate and County Assemblies is crucial for progress.
- *Addressing Challenges and Seizing Opportunities:* Rt. Hon. Raila acknowledges challenges such as intergovernmental disputes and resource management. He suggests addressing these

challenges through cooperation, benchmarking, and fostering financial independence for county assemblies.

Rt. Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga's Keynote Address underscored the transformative impact of devolution, the importance of unity and collaboration, efficient resource management, local empowerment, and the potential for counties to drive economic growth and innovation. The speech also highlighted the need for strong legal and accountability frameworks to address the existing challenges and the need to seize opportunities through intergovernmental cooperation.

2.2 Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH, OGW, Chairperson, Council of Governors

Governor Waiguru discussed the 10-year history of county governments, focusing on the challenges, triumphs, and lessons learned, and stressed the conference's aim is a reflection of these lessons to shape the policy, legislative, and administrative landscape for the next decade of devolved governance. The conference's objectives, she said, align with the government's bottom-up economic transformation agenda, covering topics such as performance management, digitalization of services, good governance practices, and affirmative actions.

The conference's breakaway sessions addressed various sectors, including agriculture, food security, healthcare with technology integration, housing, trade, sustainable natural resource management, blue economy, and youth empowerment. She stated that the third devolution cycle aims to provide accessible, quality services to all Kenyans.

Day 1 of the conference focused on applying performance management to strengthen service delivery. Breakaway sessions generated action points in areas such as strengthening primary health care, providing housing, county positioning in trade and investment, and building the blue economy sector. A devolution book capturing ten years of learning and teaching was launched during the conference. It educates leaders about Kenya's decentralisation history and the transition to devolved government structures.

The sessions of Day 2 highlighted the importance of digitisation for improved service delivery and

financing county governments. Adequate financing and resource mobilisation were emphasised, with the county government needing to leverage digitisation for development and revenue collection. The breakaway sessions focused on robust food systems, green economy pathways, youth empowerment, and technology in health services.

Hon Waiguru stressed the need for continued collaboration, consultation, coordination, and cooperation between the levels of government, with the overall goal of alleviating poverty and creating decent employment in line with the promises of the Kenyan Constitution.

She concluded her remarks by recognizing the Devolution Warrior Award recipients; she particularly highlighted former governors Professor Kivutha Kibwana and Isaac Ruto as exemplary devolution champions.

2.3 Hon Jonathan Bii, Host Governor, Uasin Gishu County

Governor Bii began his remarks by stating that devolution has significantly impacted health, primary education, water, and urban services. Service delivery has been devolved nationwide, addressing marginalization and ensuring broad coverage. Devolution, he said, has not been without its challenges, some of which include intergovernmental disputes and advocating for clearer devolution of functions.

The Devolution Conference marks progress, collaboration, and shared vision of devolved units; it embodies the nation's aspirations and transcends politics.

2.4 Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P., Speaker of the Senate

Hon. Kingi stated that before the promulgation of the constitution, there were blaring imbalances in resources and opportunities, resulting in exclusion in parts of the country. The 2010 Constitution was, therefore, a culmination of negotiations for the social contract by Kenyans, who then backed it in the resulting referendum. There is no doubt, he said, that the goal was to stir Kenyans' economic transformation to become competitive. This has been spelt out in Kenya Kwanza's manifesto and

the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation, which are geared towards uplifting the lives of ordinary Kenyans.

The county government plays a significant role in agriculture, MMSME, housing, healthcare, digital, and creative economy. Albeit the successes brought about by devolution, challenges such as the disbursement of inadequate funds to the counties still need to be solved. He gave the following recommendations:

- The next stage should be to transform our sources into the primary revenue source and the exchequer into the secondary.
- Increased collaboration between the county and national government to help enhance the infrastructural capacity of devolved units.
- For the Senate to continue supporting the transfer through legislative and legal frameworks, a move that has led the Senate committee to recommend that the County Assemblies be granted financial autonomy.

2.5 Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, CBS, MP: National Assembly Majority Leader

The National majority leader remarked that devolution has been the cornerstone of Kenya's efforts to bring governance closer to the people, empower counties, and catalyse economic growth from the grassroots. It has levelled the circulation of resources and funds locally, improving infrastructure, livelihoods, and a brighter future for all Kenyans.

The national government disbursed all funds due to counties before the closure of the financial year. He said this speaks volumes of the national government's commitment to the growth and development of counties. Following, county Governors are now better equipped than ever to deliver essential services to the people of Kenya. This achievement underscores the national government's dedication to the welfare of all Kenyans and to tangible progress at the grassroots.

He said this is also a moment that calls for accountability and transparency from county leaders. It is not an opportunity for public mismanagement of funds or personal enrichment but a moment to channel resources, focus on

development, and empower the citizenry. It is not a time for the construction of opulent mansions or the establishment of personal kingdoms; instead, a time for Governors to uphold the trust the people have placed in them, prioritise the needs of their constituencies, and serve with integrity and purpose.

While the national government has shown its commitment to empowering counties, he emphasised the need for a balanced system of checks and balances at the local level. Just as the national parliament operates independently from the executive branch with its budget, it is time to extend a similar level of independence to County Assemblies.

This initiative will grant County Assemblies autonomy and a vital stake in strengthening their oversight role and ensuring they can fulfil their mandate without fear or favour. By giving County Assemblies financial independence, they will be tasked to exercise their oversight role robustly and impartially. This independence will enable them to hold the executive accountable for their accountability without succumbing to undue pressure or intimidation. It will also foster an environment where transparent governance thrives, accountability is upheld, and the people's interests are indeed served.

As the achievements resulting from devolution are celebrated, the shadows that deem its progress must be addressed with a sense of urgency and responsibility, specifically stalled projects and underutilised county projects that would have propelled the counties to prosperity. This, he stressed, is a subtle reminder that "we cannot rest on our progress; we must take actions to arrest these shortcomings."

The 2021/2022 audit report by the Attorney General highlighted a concerning picture of counties spending taxpayers' money on dormant projects that lack the transformative vision they were designed for. Such resources, he said, could have been directed towards initiatives that genuinely uphold the lives of the citizenry and drive holistic development.

He called for a collective effort to reverse this type of waste and end personalised politics, which casts a

dark cloud on Kenya's development. White elephant projects, coupled with abandoned projects due to a change of political leadership, are a painful reminder of how personal agenda can outweigh the citizenry's needs.

He stated, *"We must acknowledge that these actions undermine the value sense of devolution and dampen the county's economic growth and empowerment. We need to be clear that it is not about who initiated these projects but about the impact they can have on the lives of our people, owed to ourselves and the future generations to rise above partisan politics and prioritise the common good. The site of incomplete projects scattered across the country serves as a stark reminder of our failure to deliver promises. We must find a way to harvest the collective energy and expertise of leaders from all corners of the nation."*

In conclusion, Hon. Ichung'wah implored all county leaders to embrace continuity and strive to complete projects initiated before their tenure as part of fiscal responsibility and commitment to the people's welfare. He urged them to uphold the true spirit of devolution, whose services can potentially transform the lives of the Kenyan citizenry. He further urged the leadership to commit themselves to the principles of unity, progress, and empowerment that transcend the barriers of the political divide so that they can be remembered as leaders who put the people's needs first.

2.6 Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdulahi, Vice Chair, Organizing Committee for 1st Bi-Annual Devolution Conference 2023

Governor Abdulahi opened his remarks by stating that counties are central to the success of devolution, which, as in turn, has positively impacted fighting climate change, agriculture, the pastoralist's economy, manufacturing, and more.

He affirmed that the recommendations from the last Devolution Conference (the Joint Communiqué) had been met, emphasising climate change, agriculture, and infrastructure.

2.7 Hon. Teresa Mbaika, Principal Secretary, Office of the Deputy President (Devolution Affairs)

In her remarks, Hon. Mbaika affirmed that the Conference was celebrating ten years of devolution's achievements and milestones. She added, devolution to be a governance approach that drives bottom-up economic transformation, while noting the government's commitment to strengthening it, through legal and policy measures, especially opportunities for public participation by all devolved units

She concluded by equating the presence of H.E. Former Prime Minister Raila Amolo Odinga with a commitment to advance devolution in the country.

2.8 Senator Justice (Rtd.) Stewart Madzayo, CBS, MP, Senate Minority Leader

Senator Madzayo expressed his gratitude for being part of the 10-year devolution journey and for the opportunity to discuss it. He echoed the Devolution Conference's Day 2 sub-theme of coming together to discuss resourcing and adequate financing for counties to provide services to the people of Kenya.

He appreciated H. E. Former Prime Minister Raila Amolo Odinga for gracing the 2023 Devolution Conference. He noted his outstanding contribution to the devolution journey in Kenya as a founder of the transformative agenda and his continued support and advocacy for devolution.

The Senate minority leader stressed the significance of adequate financing and timely disbursement of funds to county governments as enablers to Governors carrying out their daily operations and implementing crucial projects. He further emphasised the need to address corruption and reduce its impact on development within counties.

"We are called as leaders to serve the people diligently, and we should use that as our guiding principle."

Senator Stewart Madzayo

He stated that the spirit of Devolution in Kenya is not about competing levels but complementing each other to efficiently and effectively deliver services to citizens. He urged his colleagues at the Senate to refrain from repealing their oversight duty in holding county governments accountable.

Senor Madazayo reflected on the following benefits of Devolution in Kenya:

- Devolution had caused the country's most successful programmes and interventions.
- Devolution had improved service delivery at both levels of government.
- Devolution has ensured services are closer to the people and easily accessible.

In closing, he gave the following recommendations:

- Corruption: He called for punitive action against all corrupt leaders.
- The two levels of government consider all possible areas of collaboration to reduce competition that hampers service to the Kenyan people.
- The Senate to fully embrace its oversight role over counties.

2.9 Mr Hosea Kili, OGW, CEO, County Pension Fund (CPF)

Mr Kili stated that CPF is committed to devolution and strategic partnerships with the CoG. The worker's welfare is integral to the development of a country. CPF's membership has grown to 80,000 and a capital balance of Kshs 40 billion. He said embracing a savings culture for a nation's population, including infrastructure project funding, is vital for its growth. In this regard, a county's support for CPF yields equity for projects, thereby creating bankable project portfolios. Regional expansion plans, tackling loan repayment defaults, and planned international pension conferences aim to increase coverage and investment opportunities.

Opening Ceremony Highlights



CHAPTER 3: PLENUM SESSIONS

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2023

3.1 SUB-THEME 1: Strengthening Effective Service Delivery in Counties through Performance Management: Reaching the Last Mile



Session Objective: To assess and propose measures that county governments can adopt to enhance transformative service delivery for improved citizen's livelihoods and a stronger business environment.

Session Moderator: **Ms Mary Ndeto**, Public Service Expert

Keynote Speaker: **Rt. Hon. Tony Blair**, Executive Chairman, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Panellists

- 1. Governor Mutahi Kahiga** - EGH - Governor, Nyeri county
- 2. Sen. (Rev) Julius Recha Murgor** - **M.P.** Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare
- 3. Amb. Salma A. Ahmed** - Commissioner, Public Service Commission
- 4. Ms Anne Njoki Wangombe** - Principal Secretary, State Department for Performance and Delivery Management, Office of Prime Cabinet Secretary
- 5. Hon. Philemon Sabulei** - Chairperson, County Assemblies Forum
- 6. Dr Meshack Ndirangu**- Country Director, AMREF Health Africa in Kenya
- 7. Ms Wanjiru Gikonyo**- Social Accountability Expert

3.1.1 Introduction

This session assessed and proposed measures that county governments can adopt to enhance transformative service delivery for improved citizen livelihoods and a more robust business environment. The session examined how cascading performance management can improve county service delivery. The panel highlighted challenges, opportunities, and possible solutions to improving service delivery through performance management.

3.1.2 Emerging Issues

Key challenges facing service delivery in devolution:

- *Vested interests*: People often support and agree to reforms and principles but their interests stand in the way of practicing them.
- *Lack of schemes of service and responsive laws*: Most county governments lack proper structures and establishments. They hire, fire and transfer staff with little regard for due process. Lack of responsive legislation has hindered the rewarding of the best performers and the sanctioning of non-performers.
- *Lack of inter-sectoral coordination and attendant policies*: The lack of standard intersectoral policies undermines service delivery through functional disputes, implementation overlaps, duplication, and resource waste.
- *Immature work systems*: Weak M&E and performance systems undermine accountability, reduce the ability for counties to track results and capture any feedback to enhance their improvement.
- *Inadequate financing*: Lack of financing, especially in counties with a high population, for example, Kiambu.
- *Inadequate funds and delayed disbursements*: The shortage of funds in counties has been primarily caused by insufficient money from the national government. Additionally, counties face delays and irregular disbursements, significantly hindering their ability to run efficiently and provide essential services.
- *Low Own Resource Revenue*: According to the Fourth Schedule of the 2010 constitution, counties should get their revenue from, among other sources, markets and trade licensing, county parks, beaches, and public cemeteries; the inability of counties to implement strategies likely to improve their local revenue has resulted in the provision of poor services and unsustainable devolved units.
- *A bloated workforce and ballooning wage bill*: Counties face the challenge of having an unsustainable workforce, particularly non-essential staff.
- *Poor governance*: Corruption is classified as the biggest threat to devolution. Misappropriation of public funds affects service delivery.
- *Huge Pending Bills*: Inherited pending bills, including for supplies and services already offered to the counties. The pending bills continue to hamper small businesses, thereby stemming their growth.
- *National Government interference and retention of functions meant for the devolved units*: A case Example is the health sector Managed Equipment Services (MES); currently, counties are paying for medical equipment provided by the national government, most of which is not in use or is underutilised.

3.1.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- The national and county governments should adopt the 4Ps of good governance: **Prioritising** of their work, having responsive **Policies** with a clear roadmap to service delivery, good quality **Personnel** with a shared vision, and **Performance** management, ensuring service delivery through implementation.
- Embracing a sound and standardised HR framework in all the counties: This Framework, called the Uniform Norms and Standards of HR Management and Practice, consists of rules, regulations, and procedures that will create order and stability in HR management in all counties.
- Counties should harness cross-county synergies to meet capacity needs in building Human Resources Management Systems (HRMS) policy and implementation capacity.
- Both national and county governments should embrace objective interventions in the health and water sectors to resolve longstanding

differences impacting service delivery.

- Counties should prioritise performance management through multi-stakeholder engagement and public participation
- National government should continue to provide technical assistance to counties. The government is recruiting 50 experts in performance management to provide technical assistance to counties.
- Senate should finalize the Bill on Performance Management: Counties are expected to input into this document; they will use Automating Performance Management Systems to measure performance.
- For county governments to identify and scale

up a few contextually relevant levers of primary healthcare as part contribution to Kenya's desire of an effective Universal Health Coverage (UHC); such levers include:

- ✓ Political will and action (legislation, budgets, and investing in high-impact interventions).
- ✓ Primary care networks that are fully resourced (financing, health workers, commodities, data).
- ✓ People-centred models of care (such as integration and household-level services by community health promoters): Precision public health is documented at the Council of Governors Maarifa Centre.

DAY 2: THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2023

3.2 SUB-THEME 2: Digital Economy and Integration of Technology in the devolved sectors for economic development



Session Objective: To examine the benefits of adopting technology and digitalization and the potential impact on economic development and discuss strategies for promoting innovation and digital transformation in the devolved context.

Moderator: Ms. Fiona Asonga

Keynote Speaker: H.E. Henriette Geiger-Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Kenya

Panelists:

1. **Governor Wisley Rotich**, Chairperson, COG ICT and Knowledge Management Committee
2. **Mr Eliud Owalo**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy
3. **Senator Allan Chesang Kiprotich**, M.P.-Chairperson, Senate standing committee on ICT
4. **Ms Cynthia Kropac**, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Safaricom PLC
5. **Mr Ezra Chiloba**, Director General, Communications Authority of Kenya
6. **Mr Hamisi Williams**, Assistant Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) representative Kenya
7. **Mr David Omwoyo**, Chief Executive Officer, Media Council of Kenya (MCK)

3.2.1 Introduction

The session's main objective was to examine the benefits of adopting technology and digitalisation including its potential impact on economic development. Similarly, the objective was to identify and agree on strategies for promoting innovation and digital transformation in the devolved context. The session examined vital issues such as the role of counties in digitalisation, data protection, service transformation, and opportunities, including innovation, efficient service delivery, and improved citizen engagement. The emphasis was on human-centred digitalisation, sustainable partnerships, and the potential benefits to government operations and citizens' lives.

3.2.2 Emerging Issues

- *Connectivity:* Kenya has made significant progress connecting all 47 counties to the internet. However, a digital divide still needs to be resolved between urban and rural areas regarding internet access and quality of connections.
- *Digitalisation in counties:* Counties play a critical role in shaping Kenya's digital transformation. By driving digitalisation, counties ensure a level playing field between start-ups and big tech companies and provide safe online spaces for innovation.
- *Human-centred transformation:* This is an approach in which governments proactively shape the country's digital transformation to ensure citizens' needs are met and their rights are protected
- *Data protection:* Cyber insecurity poses significant risks to citizens' data; it denies people access to services and often involves substantial financial losses.
- *Service delivery transformation:* The transformation of service delivery through digital systems leads to breaking government operation silos and enhances citizens' access to services, improving efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.
- *Revenue generation and automation:* Counties can take advantage of opportunities in revenue generation, service automation, and revenue system harmonisation to boost efficiency and increase income.
- *Last mile connectivity:* The need for PPPs to connect digital and infrastructural services to counties and schools, ensuring widespread access.
- *Citizen engagement and coordination:* Digitalization has the potential to transform government-citizen interaction, engagement and coordination between different levels of government
- *Digitalisation of national government services:* The government has digitalised over 7000 government services, which has, as a result, has led to increased access to services and better service delivery. The national government is working to create a mechanism that will be able to identify citizens as they access government services online.
- *GIS laboratories:* Nine counties already have GIS laboratories; the target is 25 more counties. These labs are being used to collect revenue and map social amenities.
- *Data privacy and protection:* The government has operationalised the office of the Data Protection Commissioner. A technical team is in place to mitigate any arising data privacy issues.
- The lack of complementary infrastructure: Impassable roads or inadequate electric supply in counties, delay the universal service project and last-mile connectivity.
- *Poor coordination:* Poor organisation and coordination at the local level make the implementation of digitalisation projects difficult.
- The agricultural sector has yet to be entirely digitalised. FAO is supporting the government in registering farmers. After data collection, the counties can know how best to support farmers, e.g., through fertiliser subsidies.
- *Land disputes:* Land tenure poses a significant challenge in digitalisation. A lot of land in Kenya is held in court cases, and the country need to find alternative dispute resolution.

3.3.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- There is a need for counties to push public-private investments in last-mile connectivity

for the unserved and under-served areas: Last-mile internet connectivity will promote youth employment. The EU and UNICEF will roll out a programme on last-mile connectivity to primary schools across different counties in bridging the digital gap, the EU and UNICEF.

- A value-based approach to digitalisation is needed to ensure the process is inclusive and sustainable. County and national governments need to coordinate to deliver value in terms of service delivery.
- The Senate should ensure that relevant legal frameworks and policies are in place to provide better and affordable ICT connectivity as we pursue universal access.
- Counties should enhance digitalisation and market intelligence. Digitalising agricultural extension services will assist the farmers in accessing the information on their handsets

for improved agriculture. Undertaking market intelligence through digital devices will also help county farmers know when to sell or buy agricultural products.

- Counties should digitalise health to reduce the uncertainty of drug delivery and, in turn, promote e-health.
- Counties should establish a standard digitalised revenue collection system across all counties. Counties are discussing creating one digitised and unified revenue system for all counties with the CRA and the National Treasury (NT), which will ease the business process. By September 2023, Safaricom will roll out cheap smartphones that will average below \$50 in the market. The availability of these phones in the hands of the ordinary citizenry will increase access to digital services.

3.3 SUB-THEME 3: Resourcing Devolution for Service Delivery



Session Objective: To reflect on the trends and challenges that have been experienced in financing the devolved sectors and recommend innovative approaches for sustainable and adequate financing for county governments.

Moderator: Mr Boniface Mung'ania-Director, Public Sector, Safaricom Digital Platform

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Paul Russo, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Commercial Bank

Panelists:

1. **Gov. FCPA Fernandes Barasa OGW:** Chairperson, COG Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee
2. **Gov. Cecily Mbarire, MGH:** Chairperson, COG Resource Mobilization and Partnership Committee
3. **Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, CBS:** Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury (NT) and Planning
4. **Sen. (Capt.) Ali Roba Ibrahim, EGH, M.P:** Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget
5. **Hon. Ndindi Nyoro M.P:** Chairperson, National Assembly Budget & Appropriation Committee
6. **CPA Mary Wanyonyi Chebukati:** Chairperson, Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA)
7. **Mr Keith Hansen:** Country Director, World Bank

3.3.1 Introduction

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 introduced a two-tier level of government, i.e., The national government and the county governments. It contains policies and guidelines that outline how resources are to be shared between these two levels of government. Despite well-formulated revenue-sharing guidelines, delays continue to manifest, including longer times to agree on amounts to be shared.

There is also concern about delays in the disbursement of funds to the devolved units by the NT. Delays in disbursement by the NT adversely affect the day-to-day running of county activities and affect county services such as health care and other services offered to the counties. This session sought to reflect on the trends and challenges experienced in financing the devolved sectors and recommend innovative approaches for sustainable and adequate financing for county governments. The Key themes of the session included budget allocation, own source revenue, innovations, and measurable impact on the programs.

3.3.2 Emerging Issues

- *Budget allocation:* There are disparities in the budget allocation between the national government and the counties that affect service delivery closely, in line with the fact that most devolved functions are in the fourth schedule of the CoK.
- *Over expectations:* Health care, agriculture, and education services are significantly affected by the high expectations of the devolved services. There is an over-dependence on conditional grants due to disparities and inadequate resourcing of counties.
- *Local dynamics:* The horizontal allocation of funds is affected by factors such as poverty levels, geographical coverage, and population numbers.
- *Few alternative revenue sources:* Many counties are looking for alternative sources of revenue, for example, by building more markets and hospitals and leasing agricultural machinery, among other approaches. Only a few counties can meet the potential of raising revenue by up to 70%. Legislation is needed to ring-fence funds collected under the Facility Improvement Fund

(FIF) for level 4 and 5 hospitals; Nakuru County has been used as a benchmark in this regard.

- *Equitable sharing:* The objective of the division of revenue between the two levels of government is equitable sharing to ensure that each level can perform the function as assigned by the Constitution of Kenya.

County governments' additional allocation comprises conditional funding from county to national governments and a share of revenue, loans, and grants from development partners.

3.3.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- Through County Aggregation and Industrial parks (CAIPs), counties can enhance value addition for products while increasing the various markets.
- The need for economic optimisation for each county: Counties can prioritise projects and allocate resources, thus optimising their potential for economic development.
- There is a need for a balanced allocation of resources to achieve service delivery within the resource-constrained environment.
- There is a need for value-addition in the raw materials sourced from counties.
- Counties get most of their budget from the national government. They need to grow their bases and find alternative revenue sources such as OSR and diversification.
- Counties can prioritise projects and allocate resources, thus optimising their potential for economic development.
- The two levels of government should enhance opportunities for signing meaningful MOUs with various stakeholders to support women, youth, and talent development, and help them build skills that can be monetised.
- Counties and the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) should develop better county-specific tourism products that will excite local and international markets as part of OSR creation.
- Counties should digitise revenue collections to help increase revenue collection and minimise revenue leakages.
- The national government should automate the

requisition process from CRA and COB so that county funds are released as quickly as possible. Counties should take advantage of PPPs while looking at the current laws and regulations to fit into the existing natural systems and build their capacities.

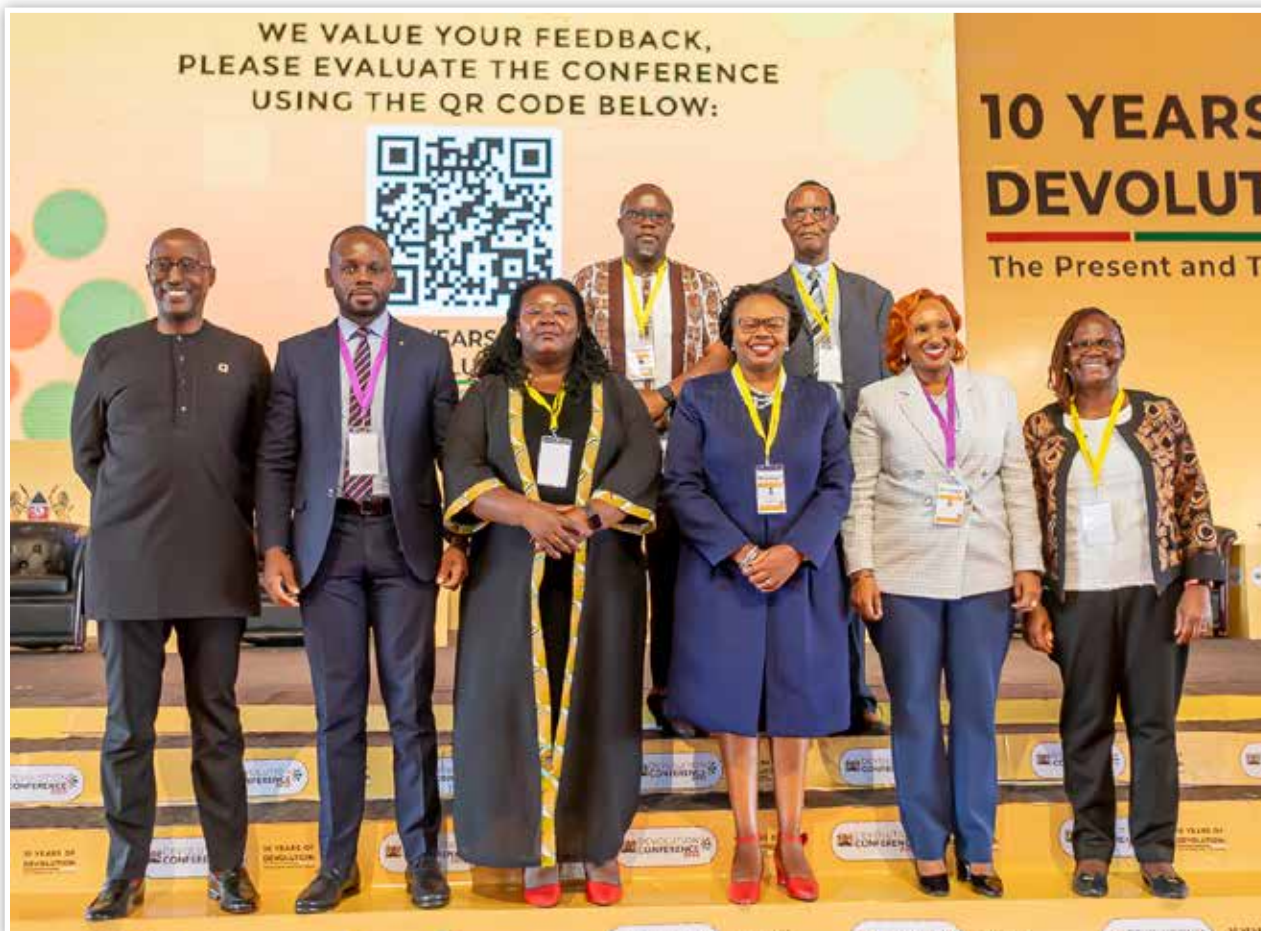
- Develop an integrated revenue system between the two government levels to enhance revenue collection transparency.
- Counties should leverage economic blocks to bring resource innovations.
- Expedite the unbundling of funds to improve

service delivery in the activities they have committed to undertake.

- Enhance the current county aggregation program and industrial parks programmes; this will further enhance value addition while increasing the various markets in the counties.
- Counties should collaborate with the Ministry of Tourism to exploit untapped tourist attractions and improve their revenue sources.

DAY 3: FRIDAY, 18TH AUGUST 2023

3.4 SUB-THEME 4: Good Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development



Session Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness of good governance practices in promoting equitable and sustainable development in the devolved units.

Moderator: Mr Con Omore Osendo, Governance Advisor, British High Commission

Keynote Speaker: Mr Anthony Ngorongano -Resident Representative, UNDP Kenya

Panellists:

1. Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba, HSC, M.P, Chairperson, Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee
2. Senator Moses Kajwang, M.P., Chairperson, Senate County Public Accounts Committee
3. Hon. Florence Kajuju, Chairperson, Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ)
4. CPA John Ogallo, Commissioner, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)
5. Ms Sheila Karani-Monda, Deputy Office Director – Governance, USAID Kenya And East Africa
6. Ms Sheila Masinde, Executive Director, Transparency International

3.4.1 Introduction

This plenary's main objective was to evaluate the effectiveness of good governance practices in promoting equitable and sustainable development in the devolved units.

The panellist examined how issues around inequality can be addressed and resolved to ensure a point of convergence between the richest and poorest counties. The panel also pointed out the role of different stakeholders in promoting good governance in both the national and county governments. They also explored possible strategies counties can use to ensure equitable and sustainable development.

3.4.2 Emerging Issues

- *Lack of coordination:* Convergence has yet to be attained, which can be attributed to the lack of oversight and accountability of resources, uneven distribution of human capacities, lack of data, limited public participation and corruption.
- *Duplication of mandates:* Confusion and duplication of functions between the national and county governments pose a big challenge. There has yet to be an absolute transfer of functions from the national government to the county governments, which sometimes presents oversight challenges. A case in point is the doubling of activities by the county and national governments, such as school feeding programmes, issuance of bursaries, etc.
- *Corruption:* There is an increased rate of corruption at the county level (devolved corruption). The Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee is working with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to strengthen specific laws on economic crimes, money laundering, and terrorism financing. It has also tabled two Bills in Parliament to assist in curbing corruption.
- *Gender inclusion:* The Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee is working towards gender mainstreaming and inclusion in the counties to increase opportunities for women and young people to engage in county functions. The Committee is also working towards executing legislation to support devolution towards increased service delivery, equity, and sharing of national resources in all 47 counties.
- *Ombudsman:* The Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) helps train county officers to understand devolution laws and their respective governors' visions for achieving them. CAJ has developed a Complaints Information Management System (CIMS) that allows citizens to lodge complaints online. It also works with county governors to establish county structures and ombudsperson offices.
- *Inadequate laws and policies:* The major challenge in the fight against corruption is the need for legal instruments by the EACC to enforce the recommendations made after a risk assessment.
- While the counties have experienced increased public participation, quality engagement remains a critical challenge being engagement quality.
- Transparency International promotes social accountability through access to information and public participation. It also engages the office of the Auditor General to ensure transparency and accountability at the county level.
- *Inequality:* Some of the challenges hampering good governance are the uneven distribution of economic development between counties, the lack of 100% implementation of the county budgets, and the inconsistent performance of own-source revenues.
- *Quick gains:* Most of the counties are successful in setting up the necessary institutional arrangements and systems. There is improved coordination and collaboration across the counties. Counties have developed training material, curriculum, and civic education around devolution.

3.4.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- The county assemblies should be enabled to scrutinise the financial reports from the Level 4 hospitals and municipalities. Rather than the financial reports from counties, the Senate should include value and performance as one of its focus areas. The Senate proposes a hierarchical audit to scrutinise reports from counties and develop consolidated financial statements.

- Counties should proactively participate in innovation to increase their resources and improve development.
- Robust public participation should be at the core of promoting good governance for equitable and sustainable development.
- Strengthening inter-governmental institutions and collaboration. There should be a partnership between the county and national government to ensure a clear distinction of functions to allow duplication.
- Strengthened public financial management and the management of resources.
- Counties should lead the fight against corruption by implementing systems that promote accountability and integrity at the grassroots level.

3.5 SUB-THEME 5: Affirmative Action – Linking the lessons to a sustainable future



The session's objective was to examine the strides made in the affirmative action agenda and propose and adopt responsive measures that can guarantee the place of women, youth, and the most vulnerable in governance.

Moderator: **Ms Daisy Amdany**, Executive Director, Community Advocacy and Awareness (CRAWN) Trust

Keynote Speaker: **Dr Shaheen Nilofer**, The Representative, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-Kenya

Panellists:

1. **Governor Gladys Wanga:** CBS, Governor HomaBay County
2. **Sen. Catherine Mumma M.P:** Vice Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations
3. **Hon. Aisha Jumwa:** Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service Gender and Affirmative Action
4. **Mr Harun M. Hassan:** Executive Director, National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD)
5. **Ms Anna Mutavati:** Country Representative, UN Women Kenya Country Office
6. **Amb. Carla Mucavi:** FAO, Representative to Kenya
7. **Ms Wangechi Wachira:** Executive Director, Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW)
8. **Ms Grace Wasike:** State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action

3.5.1 Introduction

Devolution's first decade brought growth, success stories, challenges, and lessons. It brought governance closer to the people, improved local service access, and increased counties' investments. Undoubtedly, growth with equity is sufficient. Whereas growth with equity is about social justice and shared prosperity, the growth story must inform how it supports inclusion, poverty reduction, closing the gap, and its ability to reach the last mile in uplifting the most marginalized, the minorities, children, women, and people

with disabilities in remote communities, in informal settlements and refugee camps.

3.5.2 Emerging Issues

- Affirmative functions have supported persons with disabilities, set up GBV shelters, and funded various women's groups.
- Devolution has tremendously improved the various funding streams for affirmative action. It has brought on board the informal sector groups, which now make up the significant contribution of Devolution (affirmative action-funded groups).
- *Lack of awareness:* Some notable challenges of affirmative action funds include the poor uptake of funds because women are unaware of the fund's existence.
- *Difficult access to information:* Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Youth Enterprise Fund have sub-county field officers who search for women's groups and educate them about the funds.
- *Access to opportunities:* Women, youth, and vulnerable groups need to learn how to navigate the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).
- *Social media:* The Youth fund has a strong presence on social media. WEF is strong on the radio because the women are older and utilize 'baraza's' to share information about the fund. Lack of data or failure to use it is a challenge that hinders proper planning at the national and county levels.
- *Inclusion of PWDs:* Disability issues should be an agenda that cuts across and should be considered when national and county government plans and activities are being designed. Some of devolution's achievements in 10 years include amending the Disability Act of 2003 to conform to the current structure of the constitution.
- *Affirmative action:* Affirmative action is a strategic tool for hosting action in addressing inequalities, especially for marginalized groups. The Ministry supports affirmative action through policies that support county governments and other government agencies, such as the IGR framework.
- *Establish women's role:* The Status of Women in Agri-food Systems report uses extensive new data and analyses to provide a comprehensive picture of women's participation, benefits, and challenges they face working in agri-food systems globally. Women's empowerment is critical to economic and social change.

3.5.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- National government should develop a policy and regulatory framework for AGPO to curb corruption-related issues and protection for women against sex exploitation.
- CoG should design and conduct an impact inclusion and assessment tool for the resolutions from the 2023 Devolution Conference before the next one is held.
- Research institutions can undertake impact assessments of the funds spent by the government to establish if livelihoods are changing.
- Counties should build capacities of the different actors in affirmative action and integrate gender and inclusion at all levels.
- Counties should convene multisectoral actors on adolescent issues and reduce the fragmentation in the programmes; this includes having conversations about sex education in schools and homes. Medical training should consist of adolescent medicine, internal security on GBV, and ICT on the internet; accessibility to pornography should be a discussion that should be looked into.
- On teenage pregnancies, counties need to draw information from their data to make informed decisions on different methods to mitigate pregnancies that continue to rob women of empowerment and progression.
- County governments must amplify the voices of those underrepresented to achieve more equitable and sustainable development.
- Gender-responsive budgeting for reporting: Counties should follow up on these budgets and institutionalize them.
- Counties should expedite the implementation of 2/3rds at the county level.

CHAPTER 4: SECTOR BREAKAWAY SESSIONS

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2023

HOUSING SECTOR |

4.1: The Constitutional Right to Housing: A Reflection of the Past 10 years of Devolution



Session Objective: To reflect on the status of the housing sector over the past 10 years and explore ways to unlock access to affordable, green and resilient housing through innovation.

Session Chair: **Mr Karungo Thang'wa**, M.P., Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Roads, Transport and Housing Committee

Moderator: **Mr Fawcett Komollo**, President, Kenya Institute of Planner

Keynote Speaker: **Mr Ishaku** - UN-Habitat

Panellists:

1. **Hon. Julius Malombe**, Governor – Kitui county
2. **Mr Charles Hinga**, CBS, CA (SA), Principal Secretary, State Department of Housing and Urban Development
3. **Mr Daniel Kiptoo Bargoria**, Director General, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)
4. **Ms Husna Mbarak**, Programme manager, FAO
5. **Mr Johnstone Oltetia**, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Mortgage Refinancing Company (KMRC)
6. **Mr Antony Okoth**, Country Director, Habitat for Humanity International Kenya



4.1.1 Introduction

This session's objective was to reflect on the status of the housing sector over the past ten years and explore ways to unlock access to affordable, green, and resilient housing through innovation.

Affordable housing is not only a constitutional right but a human right as per the SDGs. According to a World Bank report, Kenya needs an additional 200,000 housing units annually. The national government has prioritised housing and passed a law on housing and the housing levy.

The most common problem in the African region is the need for adequate housing. Formal housing solutions still need to be more affordable to most households, creating a mismatch between demand and supply. The panellists examined the history of the Kenya housing sector, challenges, opportunities, emerging issues, and the possible way forward on housing as one of the national and county government priorities.

4.1.2 Emerging Issues

Some challenges affecting housing include but are not limited to:

- *Land use and management:* Land as a challenge has several factors that are separate but mutually tied by how it affects development. First, it is expensive and unavailable, with most being held privately and idle. The national and county governments have previously embarked on land identification, which has resulted in 585 parcels set aside for utilization. Besides, most lack security of tenure as large tracts are undocumented, and many are disputed in court cases, causing difficulty in exploiting them. The construction cost has shot up by 80%, causing inefficiency; the government needs to find a way to reduce these costs.
- *Lack of budgets for housing:* County governments were unaware that housing was a devolved function. The existing national housing policy needs to be revised/revamped because it is outdated and does not specify who should do what. The new policy should help define the roles of the county governments.

- *Lengthy processes:* Before approvals, there are too many complex processes regarding construction; county governments need to reduce these.
- *Inadequate Financing:* There is a need for more affordable mortgages. The introduction of the housing levy has solved the supply side. No counties have allocated money for housing because of limited resources. Devolution has increased the rate of urbanisation; counties will, therefore, need financing to meet the demand for housing.
- *Poor governance:* There is need for counties to embrace better governance strategies through training officers and instituting internal checks.

4.1.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- There is a need to expedite provision of affordable housing and create a solid and long-lasting political momentum.
- County governments can explore blended financing models to unlock solutions that address both housing demand and supply by increasing housing priority within broader development agenda and seeking partnerships to pool finance for affordable housing projects. This could promote borderless access to housing finance strategies and attract foreign housing/real estate investments.
- Streamlining the housing value chain that considers complementary sectors such as land, construction and building materials, and infrastructure reduced time and the cost of crucial statutory and administrative processes on which housing delivery depends.
- Capacity building and knowledge exchange can be institutionalised; this would create a regional community of practice on housing, which would capture and share successful sustainable housing practices. Housing data can improve the information infrastructure to enable investment in affordable housing across the continent and capture real-time numbers, including those related to homelessness.
- The redevelopment of old municipal housing in partnership with the housing corporation.
- There is a need for participatory land adjudicatory, which, as a result, will ensure the right stakeholders, especially the beneficiaries of housing, are consulted.
- Counties should establish policy frameworks to ease the housing processes. For example, there is a need to recheck and review the 1953 Housing Act. The Senate should fast track the review or/ amendment of the Urban Area and Cities Act (2011, 2019 amendment and physical Land Use and Planning Act 2019) to make them more responsive to the current realities of urbanization and funding urban development processes. The alignment of these laws with the 4th schedule of the constitution will unlock the funding gap for the municipalities. Three counties namely Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kakamega, have adopted housing policies as a complement to the national housing policy. The rest should replicate this good practice.
- Counties should design and implement innovations around housing. These may include but are not limited to patents for housing technologies, upscaling of new technologies, and building capacities of the youth.
- Physical and land use planning should form the basis for anchoring affordable housing provision. Counties should fast-track the preparation of county spatial plans (CSPs) alongside other lower-level plans, such as urban and housing sector plans, to inform their affordable housing strategy.
- County governments should commit to facilitating last-mile infrastructure provisions such as water, roads, sewer lines, and health centres to promote affordable housing programmes.
- The county government should develop energy planning standards and regulations to enhance buildings' energy efficiency towards achieving 100% green energy by 2030; this will be a catalyst for green housing. Some of these may include strategies for gas reticulation in new buildings for enhanced energy efficiency.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC)

4.2 Celebrating a Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for the Future (focus on PHC)



Session Objectives:

- To share best and promising practices on Primary Health Care (PHC) from a decade of devolution.
- To discuss and propose policy adjustments that foster the implementation of PHC.

Session Chair: **Governor Muthomi Njuki**, Chairperson, CoG Health Committee

Moderator: **Ms Irene Choge**, Media Advocacy Manager, JHPIEGO

Keynote Speaker: **Dr Abdourahmane Diallo**, WHO Kenya Country Representative

Panellists:

1. **Hon Susan Nakhumicha**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health
2. **Sen Jackson Mandago**, EGH, M.P., Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health
3. **Hon (Dr) Pukose Robert**, Chairperson, National Assembly Health Committee
4. **Dr Tim Theuri**, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Health Federation
5. **Mr John Kuehnle**, Chair, Development Partners for Health in Kenya
6. **Dr Anne Kihara**, President Elect, International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Emeritus President African Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
7. **Mr Irungu Nyakera**, Chairperson, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA)

4.2.1 Introduction

In a riveting session that marked a convergence of healthcare luminaries and policymakers, the Council of Governors' Health Committee coordinated an insightful Health Breakout Session that focused on repositioning Primary Health Care (PHC) as a driver for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and economic growth in Kenya. The session provided a forum for a panel of health experts and stakeholders to discuss the progress, challenges, and future trajectory of PHC following a decade of devolution. The discussion delved into a comprehensive examination of Kenya's achievements, challenges, and innovative pathways of pursuing accessible and equitable primary healthcare delivery.



4.2.2 Emerging issues

- *Unnecessary referrals:* patients seeking higher-level care without proper referral, leading to congestion, longer wait times, and increased costs.
- *Low motivation of health workers:* Presentism occurs when health workers are physically present but lacking motivation, which can affect patient care and overall system performance.
- *Variability in engagement terms and contracts:* Inconsistent contracts for health professionals leading to unequal treatment, demotivation, and

legal issues.

- *Limited Financial Resources:* Significant County health budgets allocated to recurrent expenses, hindering investments in infrastructure, equipment, and skill development.
- *Discrepancies in funding allocation:* Funding is allocated to counties based on audited accounts, causing disparities and insufficient resources for health.
- *Limited funding for prevention:* Focus on treatment over prevention, leading to reactive healthcare instead of cost-effective preventive measures.
- *Underutilization of county revenue:* Failure to fully utilize constitutional authority for revenue generation, impacting health budget allocation.
- *Inadequate Growth of Health Budgets:* Health budgets are not keeping pace with population growth, resulting in underfunded healthcare facilities and programs.
- *Inadequate coordination:* Ineffective coordination affects resilience, responsiveness, and threat detection in building a robust health system.
- *Low Fill Rates at KEMSA:* Low supply fill rates lead to shortages of critical medical supplies, disruptions in care, and fiscal constraints requiring urgent attention.

4.2.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- There is a need to strengthen healthcare systems, especially primary care, to enhance service delivery, disease prevention, and emergency response capabilities.
- Counties should focus on building sustainability as donor support reduces by building capacity at the county level and aligning transition strategies with UHC and PHC goals.
- Focus on prevention and health promotion: Counties should prioritize cost-effective prevention and health promotion strategies, leveraging community health promoters (CHPs) for education on healthy lifestyles.
- Embrace digitalisation for efficiency: There is a need to invest in health information systems, electronic records, and telemedicine to improve

transparency, reduce administrative burdens, and enhance decision-making.

- Counties should strengthen collaborations between public and private sectors. Fostering public-private partnerships can optimize resource utilization, innovative financing, and knowledge-sharing for better healthcare outcomes.
- There is a need to enhance stewardship and leadership. Active leadership participation at all levels of government is crucial for successful healthcare system development and implementation.
- Counties should empower community health promoters. By investing in CHP training and skill development within well-structured Primary Care Networks (PCNs), counties can improve preventive services and community health outcomes.
- There is a need to embrace multi-sectoral approaches. Counties should establish linkages across education, social services, and urban planning sectors to address broader health determinants and provide comprehensive

healthcare solutions.

- Counties should fast-track the implementation of FIF. This should commence with enactment of a FIF legislation in counties yet to legislate this. Such legislation will ensure dedicated healthcare funding, transparency, accountability, and resource allocation for essential healthcare services and infrastructure.
- Counties should create an enabling policy environment by adopting policies that support healthcare financing, equitable access, and quality standards through legislative bodies and institutions.
- Counties should reduce and/or eliminate siloed vertical programmes by streamlining and harmonizing essential program delivery to reduce duplication and operational costs.
- There is a need to design and implement innovations by encouraging learning from other counties and countries and implementing innovations to improve access to medicines and healthcare services.

TRADE

4.3 Unlocking the Economic Potential of Counties through Strategic Positioning as Trade and Investment Destinations while Reflecting on the Lessons from the Past



Session Objectives: To deliberate on effective strategies for enhancing trade and investments at the county level, with the aim of contributing to socio-economic development.

Moderator: **Mr Eric Latiff**, Broadcaster and Communication Strategist

Keynote Speaker: **Dr Eric Rutto**, Chamber President, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI)

Panellists:

1. **Ms Susan Mang'eni**, PS, State Department for MSME's Development
2. **Ms Sharon Mutua**, County Executive Committee Member of Trade Industry and Tourism, and Innovation-Machakos County
3. **Mr Job Wanjohi**, Head of Policy, Kenya Association of Manufacturers
4. **Mr Richard Muteti**, HSC, CEO, Confederation of Micro and Small Enterprises Organization – East Africa (CMSEO-EA)
5. **Mr Harrigan Mukhongo**, Office of Economic Growth (USAID)
6. **Senator Lenku Kanar Seki**, M.P., Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Trade and Industrialization and Tourism

4.3.1 Introduction

The session's objective was to deliberate on effective strategies for enhancing trade and investments at the county level, which would ultimately contribute to socio-economic development. The following are some key milestones and highlights from the session:

- Signing of an MOU between the COG and KNCCI to identify KNCCI's role in the ten years of devolution.
- Digitalising government services such as the application of licenses.
- Subsidising farm inputs, especially fertiliser and infrastructure, to support SMEs.
- Establishing a warehouse receipt system.
- Youth benefitting from the Hustler Fund regarding trade and investments.
- Receiving devolved funds on schedule.
- Extending IFMIS closure.
- Implementing a 1.5% housing levy, which empowers local businesses by benefitting from the allocated fund.
- Counties establishing climate change directorates and committing (2-3) % of their budgets to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

4.3.2 Emerging Issues

- *Land ownership:* There is a gross inadequacy of work sites in the Jua Kali sector. Most of the MSME sector operates on land it does not own.
- *High numbers of unbanked populations:* Cooperatives and MSMEs are the engines of the bottom-up economy. However, most citizens are still unbanked, thereby inhibiting their access to credit, markets, and opportunities. The ratio of the unbanked population is high. The majority of the MSMEs have minimal access to funding.
- *Effects of inflation on land rates:* Land rates are constantly being reviewed upwards. These high costs can also be attributed to the value chain integration charges.
- *Business licencing:* Duplicity and multiplicity of business licenses, which, as a result, inhibit

business growth and development.

- *Low citizen participation:* Citizens are not included in public participation events. As such, government interventions are not tailored to their needs.
- *Policy gaps:* There is a conspicuous lack of policies that will help businesses predict their establishment.
- *Role of the Senate:* The Senate is a critical driver of economic legislation; it continues supporting counties on issues of MSMEs. Legislation in the pipeline will curb several challenges, including the Start-Up Bill, The County Licensing Bill, Street Vendors Bill, and the Technopolis Bill, among others. These bills, he said, will help come up with solutions and interventions that will help spur business growth in the counties.
- *Lack of capital investment:* Lack of equipment, right seed, and materials for farmers and traders slows down the business opportunities for MSMEs.
- *Heavy cross-county taxes:* There is levying of cess fee when goods pass through a county; this inhibits business growth.

4.3.3 Way Forward/Action Points

Counties need to prioritise their interventions while looking at a deep dive into the opportunities that may arise in these kinds of interventions.

- There is a need to engage the counties in multi-stakeholder engagement while conceptualising the various investment interventions.
- County assemblies should enact legislation to ensure prompt payments of pending bills.
- With 30% funding support from the government, there is a need for further skills building, affordable and predictable credit, worksites, and a market for businesses to thrive.
- Counties should promote productivity and competitiveness as the key drivers in supporting the MSME's.
- There is a need to connect the two levels of government on CIDP, CAIPs, and aggregation centres at the county level.
- Counties should facilitate the enhancement

of export development and standardisation of products.

- The KNCCI should develop a database of MSMEs to facilitate linkage creation between investors and MSMEs.
- Research institutions should develop a county competitive index that integrates the macroeconomic and microbusiness aspects of competitiveness into a single index.
- Counties should engage MSMEs while undertaking international contracts and activities within their geographical areas.
- Both governments should establish a system that collects MSMEs data to avoid duplication of efforts in the development partners.
- Both levels of government should aggregate the different funding streams to synergise efforts that support MSME's.
- Research institutions should develop an SME credit score that can be used in the counties.
- Resource mobilisation through various partners should be done at the county government level.

- Partners should work on the issue of credit access using business models.
- The Start-up Bill and the Technopolis Bill to be well articulated to help promote innovation among the youth.
- County assemblies should develop investor-friendly bills that business owners and investors can leverage.
- There is a need to leverage on value chains through the County Assemblies.
- There is a need for a harmonisation of all business licenses.
- Counties in collaboration with universities should conduct more SME surveys to determine their growth rate.
- Counties should incorporate the youth in trade conferences to enable them showcase their products while at the same time guiding and granting them access to markets.



BLUE ECONOMY

4.4 Exploring the Economic Opportunities in the Blue Economy Sector for Inclusive Growth and Benefits for Local Communities: Reflecting on investments in the next 10 years



Session Objective: To Discuss strategies to ensure that blue economy benefits are distributed equitably, promote job creation, and address social and economic inequalities.

Moderator: **Governor Dr. Paul Otuoma**, EGH, Governor, Busia County

Keynote Speaker: **Ms. Mariatu Kamara**, IFAD Kenya Country Director

Panellists:

1. **Governor Issa Timamy**, EGH, Chairperson, CoG Blue Economy Committee
2. **Hon. Salim Mvurya**, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs
3. **Sen. Mohamed Faki**, M.P., Senator Mombasa County
4. **Dr. Ally Matano**, Blue Economy Advisor, Kenya Devolution Programme/ACT
5. **Ms Victoria Sabula**, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF)
6. **Mr Fredrick Juma**, Founder Hydro Victoria Fish Hatchery Farm



4.4.1 Introduction

The blue economy is essential to Kenya, given that oceans, seas, and lakes possess the potential and tremendous opportunities for wealth generation. This is considering natural capital, ecosystem services and livelihood resources. Globally, the ocean economy has an estimated turnover of 3 to 6 billion dollars, ranging from employment, ecosystem services, food security and nutrition services. Fishing brings in an estimated 4 billion dollars per year. Kenya has an extensive coastline, diverse rivers and lakes, and is greatly advantaged with diverse riverine and maritime territories that possess incredible potential. The sector accounts for about 4% of GDP, mainly from fishing and tourism. For not fully exploring the blue economy to its maximum potential, Kenya loses over Kshs 440 billion in revenue.

4.4.2 Emerging Issues

- The blue economy sector is relatively new in Kenya, but has marked significant growth since the 2018 International Conference on Sustainable

Blue Economy.

- The blue economy encompasses the Indian Ocean, rivers, and lakes. There remains untapped potential in lakes and inland water tourism.
- Traditionally, sectors like fisheries have existed with limited community participation. The county government is now opening doors for various players, including women, to engage and collaborate in their delivery.
- Nevertheless, some areas in the blue economy such as biotechnology, renewable energy, and seabed mining still require further improvements.
- Infrastructure development initiatives are in progress. Good cases in point are the infrastructure in Kipini and Ungwana Bay which are intended for prawn and shrimp farming.
- The private sector has been instrumental in empowering women to participate in the blue economy by providing access to essential equipment, such as cages, enabling them to engage in previously unattainable roles as producers, packagers, and processors.

- The Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) has invested in women within the blue economy to create economic growth opportunities across various value chains. They target women who have operated businesses for at least six months and provide support in capacity-building and funding to enhance their participation in this sector.
- Several significant developments in Kenya's Blue Economy include:

- √ *Women in blue economy fund:* The launch of a one billion Women in Blue Economy Fund by the national government on August 3, 2023, to support women in the coastal and Lake Victoria regions. Administered by IUCN, this fund aims to boost women's participation in blue economy activities and attract investors through marketing efforts in various counties.
- √ *Natural Resources Benefit Sharing Bill (2022):* Currently in its 3rd reading, and undergoing amendments to incorporate public input, it will guide the sustainable sharing of benefits, including revenue allocation among the national government, counties, and investors.
- √ *Donor projects:* Based on the inland waters expansion project supported by the British High Commission's Foreign Commonwealth Development Office, the scope of inland waters has been expanded, benefiting county governments.
- √ *Special Purpose Vehicles:* These are being provided to counties to help them maximise the potential of the blue economy.
- √ *Lake Region Memorandum of Collaboration:* A collaborative agreement for the Lake Region's development is being developed.
- √ *Blue Economy Integration:* The Blue Economy Multi-Agency Action Plan has been shared with governors to integrate Blue Economy activities into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and their annual implementation plans.
- √ *Blue Economy Regulations:* Regulations have been published and reviewed by

experts under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, with some issues still under consideration before widespread publication.

4.4.3 Way Forward

- To attract investments, Investor-friendly laws should be crafted and efforts should be developed to showcase Kenya's blue economy as a bankable investment, particularly for the private sector.
- Greater emphasis on research and development to enhance efficiencies within the Blue Economy sector.
- County governments should support infrastructure development and extension services to support fishing communities.
- There is a need for provision of special purpose vehicles to ensure counties harness the potential of Blue Economy.
- Counties should train farmers on how to adopt cage farming as well as the required standards and steps toward sustainable fish farming.
- There is a need to create an all-inclusive platform to bring all the stakeholders in the blue economy together for sensitisation on the best ways to engage women in the sector and ensure certain groups are not marginalised.
- County assemblies and the senate should enact or review laws to make them more investor-friendly.
- Counties and national government should craft pitches that showcase Kenya's Blue Economy as a bankable investment should be developed, especially for the private sector.
- Both governments should adopt policies and regulations to help guide the implementation of the national and county-level blue economy strategies.
- To have one system for implementing interventions that cut across critical sectors, an integrated approach to tourism, green, and blue economy sectors is required. More emphasis on research and development to improve efficiencies in the Blue Economy sector is needed.

DAY 2: THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2023

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

4.5 Strong food systems for food security and inclusive growth: Re-examining the County agriculture sector transformation in the last 10 years



Session Objective: To discuss pathways for transforming county food systems to achieve food sovereignty and industrialisation in Kenya

Session Chair: **Governor Cecily Mbarire**, MGH, Governor, Embu County

Moderator: **Ms Vinay Vutukuru**, Chair, Development Partners Group

Keynote Speaker: **Dr Agnes Kalibata**, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Panellists:

1. **Governor Kenneth Makelo Lusaka**, Chairperson, COG Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives Committee
2. **Hon. Mithika Linturi**, CS Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
3. **Mr David Gosney**, USAID Mission Director, Kenya East Africa
4. **Ms Michelle Kagari**, Global Director, One Acre Fund
5. **Ms Talash Huijbers**, CEO, InsectiPro

4.5.1 Introduction

The session discussed pathways for transforming county food systems to achieve food sovereignty and industrialisation in Kenya. Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy, as 80% of the population depends on it. As the population keeps growing, and the effects of climate change are felt, exploring possible ways of achieving SDG No. 2 is necessary. The panellist discussed the challenges hindering food sovereignty and possible solutions

counties can implement to create solid food security and inclusive growth systems.

4.5.2 Emerging Issues

- **Digitalisation:** Increasing the adoption of digital technologies and addressing supply and demand side factors: Digital technologies have significant potential to improve efficiency, equity, and environmental sustainability in the food system.
- **Private sector investments:** To achieve key

development goals, Current levels of investment in agricultural value chains need to be increased. Crowding in private investment to help achieve these goals and optimising the use of scarce public resources will be required. In addition, continued promotion of good governance, environmental and social sustainability, will be necessary

- *Creating job opportunities for the youth:* Agriculture provides more jobs than any other sector; it is expected to remain the top employer for the foreseeable future.
- *Leverage on County's proximity to the people:* Counties are more familiar with the local economy than any other level of government. They are in close contact with local stakeholders, ensure policies are adapted to local conditions, promote specific advantages and address essential bottlenecks.
- *Financing:* Despite most Kenyans being employed in agriculture or agribusinesses, there needs to be more access to agricultural financing. This has also led to the low use of fertiliser and other agricultural inputs due to high costs.
- *Low irrigation:* 83 percent of Kenya's land area is arid and semi-arid, yet only 2 percent of arable land is under irrigation compared to an average of 6 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa and 37 percent in Asia.
- *Climate change:* Drought and climate change-related events have resulted in livestock and crop production loss.
- *Priority investment in the agriculture sector:* The 2014 Maputo Declaration calls for the allocation of at least 10% of national budgetary resources to support agriculture sector programmes. Owing to the prevailing economic situation and the underperforming agriculture sector in the past few years, this target has yet to be achieved at the county and national levels.
- *Evolution of the agricultural sector:* The image of agriculture needs to change from food production to a whole ecosystem. The government needs to implement policies that will allow and make it easy for the youth to thrive in agriculture. It needs to make agriculture financing accessible to the youth.

- *Levies and taxes:* Agriculture produce levies in counties are making productivity less competitive in the marketplace. There needs to be a policy framework to ensure levies are only charged once at the producing county.
- *Farmer support:* The impact on robust food systems depends on efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness at the farmers' level.

4.5.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- Counties should provide adequate, affordable working capital to farmers through well-managed farmer organizations (one cooperative per ward). Farmers should be assured of access to credit facilities by coming up with innovative financing and insurance products.
- Counties must create an enabling environment for private-public partnerships by establishing data-driven legal and policy frameworks in place to attract investors. This will also help strengthen collaboration in project implementation, co-funding, and joint policy development as instruments for building trust and alignment.
- Counties should leverage digital innovation to transform and accelerate solutions towards building sustainable food systems.
- Counties should support extension officers as the last mile for agriculture development: Partners were encouraged to support counties in financing and training extension officers. They should work with liaison teams who can reach farmers at the grassroots level.
- Both governments should prioritise agriculture by investing 10% of the GDP into food systems.
- Counties should make agriculture attractive to the youth by changing the image and giving them access to financing.
- National government should rationalize taxes on agricultural goods to make them more competitive.
- To ensure the influential role of both levels of government, it is necessary to strengthen national and county-level linkages sector coordination (intra and inter-ministerial) at both levels of government.

WATER, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

4.6 Leveraging Natural Resource Management (NRM) for a Sustainable Development Pathway and Green Economy Transition in Counties



Session Objectives: To reflect on the progress in the NRM sector over the past 10 years and explore opportunities counties can leverage to transition to a green economy.

Session Chair: **H.E. Governor Andrew Mwadime**, Chairperson Water, Forestry and Natural Resources Management and Governor, Taita Taveta County

Session Moderator: **Mr Jason Oyugi**, USAID-STAWI Programme

Keynote Speaker: **Eng. Festus Ng'eno**, Principal Secretary, State Department of Environment and Climate Change

Panellists:

1. **Governor Dr. Wilber Ottichilo**, EBS-Chairperson, CoG Environment and Climate Change Committee
2. **Hon. Alice Wahome**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation & Irrigation
3. **Sen. Methu John Muhia**, M.P, Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Land Environment and Natural Resources
4. **Mr Albert Mwenda**, Director General, Budget, Fiscal and Economic Affairs, National Treasury.
5. **Ms Amanda Robertson**, WASH Team Lead, USAID-Kenya
6. **Dr Sam Kareithi**, Country Director, Gatsby Africa
7. **Ms Cindy Kobei**, Indigenous Women Climate Policy Fellow, Conservation International and Programme Officer, Crown Trust

4.6.1 Introduction



This session, which the keynote speaker titled *“Tapping into Natural Resources Management to Pave the Way for Sustainable Development and a Greener Economy at the County Level,”* aimed to realise the following outcomes;

- A list of recommendations on policy and regulation gaps in natural resources management and solutions to address them.
- A set of innovative approaches and technologies for sustainable natural resources management and transitioning to a green economy.
- A network of stakeholders committed to promoting sustainable natural resources management and transitioning to a green economy in the counties.
- The signing of the Water Sector Intergovernmental Framework and a Joint Press Release between the Ministry of Water and Council of Governors.

4.6.2 Emerging Issues

- Environmental degradation and biodiversity losses.

- Population versus Increasing Food Demand.
- Climate change versus climate variability.
- Forest cover and degradation.
- Mismanagement of water resources by water companies.
- There is no framework for managing and conserving water catchment areas.
- Degradation of river line water resources.
- Limited flow of funds towards adaptation. Low capacity to generate proposals that can attract funding.
- Advanced carbon rating poses a challenge and further inhibits the development of emerging markets.
- Inadequate bankable projects towards advocacy of natural resource management
- There are complexities in accessing climate change funds.
- Limited levels of understanding by communities on matters of conservation.
- Limited flow of funds towards adaptation owing to capacity to generate proposals from counties.
- More legislation needs to improve access to carbon credits and to take measures to meet the calling of the presidential tree planting commitment.

4.6.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- Both governments should increase national and county government budget allocations to the WASH sector. This is critical as most places need the necessary infrastructure to facilitate universal access.
- The National Water and Sanitation Investment Plan (NAWASIP): This sector financing mechanism should mobilize all available financial resources, including climate and private financing.
- There will be a need for greater coordination and cooperation between the national and county governments to ensure efficient and effective utilization of all available resources.
- The Senate to modify the Climate Bill, which is currently before the National Assembly, because

it does not include aspects such as carbon credit.

- Both governments should push for the move to climate-smart agriculture to conserve the soils, encouraging minimal tillage and the use of chemicals.
- Both governments should implement systems to improve water use efficiency (Kenya is a water deficit country), such as sprinklers or drip irrigation.
- Both governments should have policies in place that can help facilitate the achievement of set targets.
- There is a need for counties to adapt PPPs to meet the long-term investments of the framework.
- Counties need to promote information at the community level to break complex terminologies such as 'carbon credit rating, climate change, etc.
- The Ministry of Water, in collaboration with the NT, needs to achieve a paradigm shift in

the production system and secure resources by mapping the resources and developing a national resource register, undertaking economic evaluation, implementing management systems, and creating incentives to conserve the environment more effectively.

- Counties should engage with the indigenous communities for inter-generational knowledge transfer through climate change storytelling.
- Counties should create knowledge hubs that are geared towards environmental conservation.
- Counties should adapt smart agricultural methods to conserve the soil through minimal use of chemicals and tillage.
- Biomass energy: counties should invest in alternative sources, promoting farm forestry, and providing incentives to grow trees at community levels is necessary.



YOUTH

4.7 Empowering Youth for Inclusive Economic Growth: The Role of the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda in Kenya



Session Objective: To reflect on the progress made in empowering youth through skills development, entrepreneurship, talent management, and innovation while leveraging current opportunities to create a sustainable future.

Session Chair: **Governor Simon Kachapin**, CBS, EGH Chairperson, CoG Gender, Youth, Culture, Sports, and Social Services Committee

Moderator: **Ms Wanjuhi Njoroge**, People Planet Africa

Keynote Speaker: **Mr David Bagenda**, Country Director, MasterCard Foundation, Kenya

Panellists:

1. **Dr. Yulitta Mitei**, Deputy Governor Nandi County
2. **Dr. Tony K. Omwansa**, CEO, Kenya National Innovation Agency
3. **Eng. Stephen Ogenga**, CEO, National Industrial Training Authority
4. **Ms Edna Karijo**, Digital Skills Programmes Manager, eMobilis
5. **Ms Patricia Jelagat**, Founder & CEO, Horti Grid Limited.
6. **Mr Abel Mutua**, Zero Malaria Starts with Me Ambassador and Film Maker
7. **Mr Mohammed Gololcha**, Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre Coordinator

4.7.1 Introduction



This session reflected on the progress made in empowering youth through skills development, entrepreneurship, talent management, and innovation while leveraging current opportunities to create a sustainable future. The pathway to empowering youth for inclusive growth rests in actualising five pathways:

- Demand-driven skills.
- Access to custom financing for the underserved population.
- Intentionality to ensure access to existing opportunities for marginalised groups.
- Elevating the voice of the youth.
- Matching work readiness interventions with job/creation opportunities and interventions.

Some of the key highlights from the session included strengthening the skills of the youth through innovation hubs, the impact of devolution in youth empowerment, in particular through The Youth Development Fund and scholarships, and the availability of opportunities for youth to transit to the employment sectors through programmes such as the Kenya Youth Employment Project.

4.7.2 Emerging Issues

- *Mental Health Issues:* Youth face many challenges that require psychosocial support. Deliberate efforts must be made at the county level to address this issue. Further deliberations are needed, especially after COVID-19 unearthed underlying mental health issues. More technical support is required to address this issue.
- *Commercialisation and a push towards targeting the global market:* The youth have many talents but still need to transition to the next level.
- *Skewed policy interventions* primarily focus on the on-supply side of labour; more strategies are needed to meet the demand side.
- The power of collaboration is critical to honing talent among the youth.
- Adaptation to evolving global trends in skills development, such as the application of artificial intelligence, is necessary. *Labour Migration:* Much attention is focused on skills tourism; however, it is also essential for local industries to anticipate and balance dynamics between supply and demand.

4.7.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- *Collaboration:* Partnerships, collaboration, and coordination across and among all stakeholders, national and county governments, and development partners are critical towards fast-tracking interventions toward demand-based skills.
- *Conducive Environment for Youth to Do Business:* The county government provides a conducive environment for youth to do business by ensuring reasonable fees and permit provisions.
- *Creation of an information directory or repository:* Research institutions can capture all innovations done by the youth as well as provide a platform where all other stakeholders and investors can know more about these ideas with the aim of scaling up.
- *Counties should commit to addressing mental health issues:* Youth need psychosocial support from the rising problems that affect them, such as drugs, suicide, abuse, unemployment, and

domestic violence. More deliberate efforts need to be made by the County Government through increasing professionals in this space and developing frameworks to aid in the same.

- *Enhanced communication through digital platforms:* Improve communication channels between the National/ County government and the youth. County Government can leverage content creators to help create awareness and relay information to this target group largely sidelined in policy-making processes. Youth should also seek information to establish proper linkages towards commercialising their innovation and ideas.
- *Counties should focus on Skills Development:* Focus on improving soft skills to help the youth meet labour market demands. The labour market is evolving, and supply needs to be responsive. The labour market is also going global, and the youth must be equipped to respond to local and global labour requirements.
- *Inter-County efforts should increase incubation centres at the regional level:* This will nurture ideas and accelerate startup growth. The larger cities have well-organised incubation centres, and the latest efforts are going towards setting up incubation centres at the county level and pushing this even closer to the youth at the ward level.
- *Skills as a resource for the country:* Interventions must be developed to match the supply and demand sides of the labour market. These can be achieved by integrating the labour market system to harmonise local and global labour supply and demand needs.
- *Counties should leverage on the digital space to employ youth:* The digital space must be driven by the existing needs of the youth at the county Level.



HEALTH SECTOR

4.8 Celebrating a Decade of County-Led health Service Delivery: Lessons for the Future



Session Objective: To discuss County experiences with digital health innovations and examine digitization as an enabler to fast-track attainment of inclusive, sustainable, and scalable UHC models.

Session Chair: **Governor Gladys Wanga**, Vice-chair, CoG Health Committee

Moderator: **Ms Elizabeth Ntonjira**, Communication Expert, Malaria No-more

Key Note Speaker: **Hon Ruchika Singhal**, International President Medtronic LABS

Panellists:

1. **Dr Martin Sirengo**, Ministry of Health, Director of Health Sector Coordination and Intergovernmental Affairs
2. **Ms Rita Okuthe**, Executive Board Chair, Care Pay Kenya (M-TIBA)
3. **Caroline S. Mbindyo**, CEO AMREF Health Innovations- AMREF Health Africa
4. **Mr David Munyendo**, CEO of Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
5. **Dr Susan Ontiri**, Public Health Practitioner and County Director, International Center for Reproductive Health
6. **Ms Harriet Kongin**, Policy and Strategy Advisor, UNAIDS
7. **Mr Brian Rettmann**, PEPFAR Coordinator-Kenya

4.8.1 Introduction



The breakout session focused on the digitalisation role in advancing county-led health service delivery. With the sub-theme, “Celebrating a Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery – Lessons for the Future,” the session explored how digital health innovations can enable inclusive, sustainable, and scalable Universal Health Coverage (UHC) models. The session brought together stakeholders to share experiences, insights, and recommendations on leveraging digital technologies to improve healthcare accessibility and quality.

4.8.2 Emerging Issues

- *Efficiency and Effectiveness:* Digitalization has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare service delivery, leading to streamlined processes, shorter wait times, and better patient experiences.
- *Continuation of Progress:* Digitalisation builds upon healthcare administration and data management advancements, replacing paper-based processes with digital solutions like the Kenya Health Information System (KHIS).
- *Comprehensive Connectivity:* Integration of healthcare facilities through fibre optic networks has created a vast and interconnected health data system, enabling better data-driven decision-making.
- *Varied Progress among Counties:* Kenya's Counties are at different stages of digitalization, highlighting the need for greater awareness and education about the benefits of digital health.
- *Equity through Inclusive Solutions:* Technology can promote equity in healthcare by bridging geographical gaps, improving access, and ensuring vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, can benefit from digital advancements.
- *Integration of Disease-Specific Systems:* Various disease-specific digital systems exist in Kenya, and they need to be integrated and making them interoperable to enhance the holistic approach to healthcare service delivery.

4.8.3 Way Forward/Action Points

- **National implementation of health digitalisation:** There is need to implement digital solutions across healthcare service planning, budgeting, and administration to ensure a consistent and synchronized approach, enabling seamless data exchange and collaboration.
- **Connect all healthcare facilities:** Counties should establish connectivity among all healthcare facilities, including dispensaries and health centres, to facilitate communication among healthcare providers and coordinate patient care.
- **Development of a digital Health Bill:** County Assemblies and the Senate should create legislation to provide a structured framework for digital health solutions, emphasizing access rights, interoperability, and secure integration into healthcare.
- **Leverage innovation for patient outcomes:** Counties should use technology to bridge gaps in primary care networks, allowing smooth transitions from primary care to higher tiers of care, thereby improving patient experiences and outcomes.
- **Prioritize inclusivity:** Both governments should ensure digital platforms and services are accessible to marginalized and vulnerable populations, including individuals with disabilities, to promote equitable healthcare access.

- **Scale up digital health initiatives:** Counties should move beyond pilot projects to scale up digital solutions, ensuring broader access and improved healthcare delivery on a national scale.
 - **Collaboration among stakeholders:** Collaboration should be fostered among government entities, private sector actors, NGOs, and international agencies to harness their expertise, resources, and innovation to advance digital health solutions, enhance community health and drive holistic and sustainable progress in digital health.
 - **Data security and interoperability:** Data security is a critical, requiring safeguards to protect patient confidentiality and data integrity. Interoperability between different digital systems is essential for seamless data sharing. Both governments should enact robust data security measures to protect patient information as technology utilization expands.
 - **Tailored digital solutions for marginalized populations:** Counties should address the unique healthcare needs of marginalized populations, especially those affected by HIV and AIDS, through technology-enabled access to essential healthcare services.
- **Integration of digital solutions in supply chains:** Counties should streamline the distribution of medical supplies and medications through digital solutions to enhance availability and accessibility across counties.
 - **Data-driven decision-making:** Both governments should emphasize data-driven decision-making by providing healthcare practitioners and policymakers with real-time, accurate data to optimize resource allocation and enhance patient outcomes.
 - **Access to quality healthcare for children:** There is a need to leverage technology to ensure access to quality healthcare for children, supporting their well-being and healthy development.
 - **Establish policy guidelines:** The Ministry of Health should establish policy guidelines for all digital health innovations in Kenya, aligning digital solutions with national healthcare priorities and standards for a compelling digital transformation journey.

CHAPTER 5: CLOSING CEREMONY

DAY 3: FRIDAY, 18TH AUGUST 2023



Moderator:
Eric latif
Conference Moderator

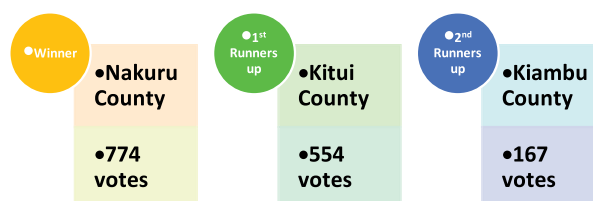
5.1 AWARD OF EXHIBITORS



H.E. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua rewarding Nakuru County, winner of the devolution conference exhibition.

The DC Exhibitions attracted 226 institutions, comprising 42 counties, the national government ministry departments and agencies, the private sector, NGOs, development partners, and the media. The following criteria guided the voting for the best exhibition booth;

- **Content and relevance:** this parameter assessed the depth, clarity and relevance of the information presented at the booth.
- **Engagement and interactivity:** this factor gauged the booth's ability to capture and retain the attention of attendees.
- **Innovation and creativity:** were the criteria for the booth's originality, presentation style, and content delivery.
- **Design and aesthetics:** this parameter evaluated the booth's visual appeal and layout. Based on the above criteria, the delegates were required to vote for the best exhibition booth, with a total of 2,139 delegates casting their votes, and the results were as follows:



The awards were as follows;

- Kiambu County - awarded a trophy.
- Kitui County – awarded a trophy and a holiday for 2 nights holiday for 2 at Utalii Hotel Nairobi courtesy of Kenya Tourism Board.
- Nakuru County – awarded a trophy and 2 nights holiday for two at Ungulia Safari Lodge courtesy of Kenya Tourism Board.

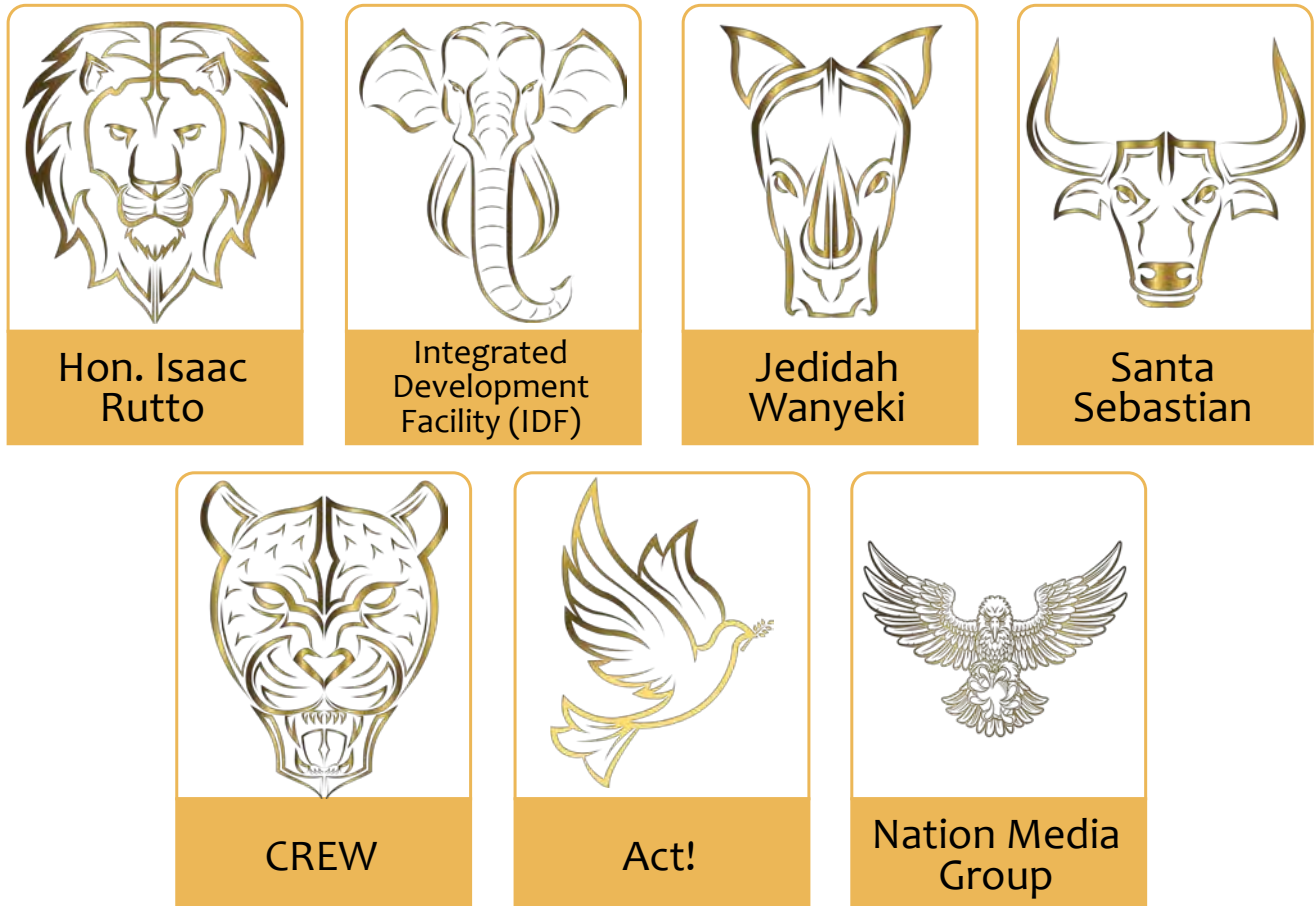
The awards were guided by the Vice-chairperson of the Council of Governors, County Governor of Wajir County, Ahmed Abdullahi and given by H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, EGH, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya.

5.2 DEVOLUTION WARRIOR AWARDS

The awards held every five years are an initiative that seeks to highlight and celebrate the efforts of individuals and institutions that have shown exceptional performance in promoting, protecting and championing devolution in Kenya.

The Council of Governors and partners hosted the 2nd Edition of the Devolution Warrior Awards. The inaugural awards were last held during the 4th Annual Devolution Conference in 2017.

The 2nd Edition of the Devolution Warrior Awards winners in the 7 categories were listed as follows: -



Hon. Isaac Rutto was named the overall Devolution Warrior during the Devolution Awards Ceremony held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023, at Eldoret Sports Club. The ex-Bomet county boss and the first Chair of the Council of Governors in 2013 bagged the award for his commitment to supporting devolution and contribution to relevant policies.

The Simba Award winner is recognised for contributing to developing policies and laws that address local challenges and provide solutions despite the challenges.

Devolution Conference Warrior Awards Highlights



5.3 VOTE OF THANKS

5.3.1 By Governor Stephen Sang, EGH, Whip, Council of Governors, and Governor, Nandi County

Governor Sang expressed gratitude on behalf of the COG to H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E Rigathi Gachagua, Deputy President of Kenya, for accepting the invitation and attending the conference. He admired their zeal and dedication to the success of devolution.

Governor Sang also thanked former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga for consistently honouring the invitation over the last eight years. He described it as “clear proof” that he is the “Father of Devolution.”

He especially recognised the exemplary work of the steering committee, the planning committee, and all the other stakeholders at the conference for meticulously planning this very successful conference in 2023.

Governor Sang thanked his fellow governors, senators, deputy governors, speakers, and county assembly members for attending the discussions.

“The rich discussions here have led to the comprehensive communiqué that has just been read. Our task now is to closely monitor the resolutions to see that they are implemented.

Stephen Sang

National government representatives, led by CSs, PSs, and top government officials, who invested resources and time to participate in and contribute to the debate shaping the agenda for the next two years were also recognised.

He appreciated the Senate football team as worthy competitors who demonstrated to the devolution

family that it takes commitment, practice, and discipline to emerge as course champions. He stated that they are still waiting for the investigation results into how they won the match and that they will return! Bigger, better, and more powerful! Governor Sang thanked the conference sponsors and stated that the conference would not have been possible without their tremendous support and collaboration. He mentioned: the Platinum sponsors—are USAID, KCB Bank, AMREF Health Africa, and Safaricom; Gold Plus sponsors—are FAO and EU; Gold partners—are CPF and UNICEF; Silver sponsors—are Lapfund, KEMSA, and Kenya Pipeline; Bronze sponsors – cooperative Bank, UNAIDS, UNDP, and AGRA; Category Partners - World Bank, Communications Authority, Tony Blair Institute, Medtronic Labs and NITA.

All other partners were acknowledged, including—UN-Women, National Bank, PharmAccess, Media Council of Kenya, Ecobank, CBM, EPRA, KNCCI, UKAID represented by ACT!, JHPIEGO, UN-Habitat, Campaign Coalition, World Health Organization, Moi University, KENGEN, Jambojet, Kenya Airways, the National Syndemic Disease Control Council.

The partners who supported the devolution warrior awards were also acknowledged, including—Kericho gold, Enkata watches, lux and allure, and plain chic. Eldoret Sports Club and Hill School were appreciated, the former for providing the use of the lovely grounds and the latter for the space to register the 9000 conference guests and participants this year.

In addition to their patience and dedication over the last few days, all vendors and suppliers were appreciated for responding to demands during conference preparations. Governor Sang recognised the presence of all conference delegates, acknowledging that they are genuine friends of devolution and are highly appreciated. He added, *“This conference would not have been successful without you. Makofi kwenu.”*

5.4 CLOSING REMARKS

5.4.1 By H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, EGH, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya



H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya and Governors during the official closing ceremony



H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya

As we mark the 8th Devolution Conference and the 1st biannual conference, we must appreciate the investment of resources at the bottom of the economic pyramid. I believe in sparking grassroots economies. Key lessons and good practices have been highlighted to guide development in the coming decade of devolution, as embodied in this year's devolution theme.

Key Highlights:

- At the inception of the current administration, the President was highly criticised for his intention to abolish devolution. However, in the last year, the current administration has achieved significant milestones in delivering and elevating the devolution agenda.
- Failed devolution will be disastrous as it rests at the core of the Kenya Kwanza agenda. Notably, we must recognize that the national government does not owe any counties any money today.
- Devolution matters are now domiciled in the Office of the Deputy President to ensure that they get the necessary attention. His office acts as the bridge between the national and county governments and, as such is the key representative of the devolved units at the top-most executive office.

- All county commissioners were convened to ensure harmony with elected governors to eliminate conflict between the two levels of government. Cooperation between the two levels of government is critical to the achievement of the President's bottom-up approach.
- On the same basis, the Government's plan is deliberate, aimed at establishing a framework to inspire the economy at the grassroots level to enhance success of the bottom-up approach.
- The deliberation emanating from the Devolution Conference have established that working in a complementary manner must happen for the benefit of Kenyans in the 47 Counties. The key achievements visible from this include:
 - √ *Expansion of health provision:* The number of health facilities has grown from 8,000 in 2013 to over 13,700. Leveraging partnerships with the national government ensures quality health services. The national government prioritizes the health sector to ease pressure on county governments.
 - √ *Inter-governmental cooperation:*
 - The severity of the impact of the recent drought and famine disaster was cushioned by the interventions of the national Government which ensured no lives were lost in the process.
 - Counties played a vital role in the last-mile delivery of subsidised fertiliser to farmers in 40 devolved units.
 - The efforts towards addressing drug abuse have also been instrumental in collaboration efforts between the two levels of government
 - Both governments have collaborated in spearheading reforms in the coffee, tea, dairy and other sectors.
- The President's support of mapping farmers by the county Government to assist the efforts of distribution of subsidised fertilisers was underscored.
- Comparisons of critical lessons between the two levels of government also assist in developing of short, medium and long-term plans to address the country's perennial issues.
- A Key lesson from representing the country at the UN Food Systems Summit was the importance of pooling together resources and investing in self-sustaining food system structures.
- Given climate change threats affecting all sectors, investing in climate-smart agriculture investment will improve the environment and enhance national food security. Deliberate efforts towards to plant 15 billion trees by 2032 will help mitigate effects of climate change.
- The school feeding programme has contributed to improved school enrolment. This will also boost inter-county trade by selling products such as milk to other counties, benefiting farmers. There is, however, a need to have a framework to ensure the sustainability of such programmes. This is in line with the county development plans.
- County governments still need to catch up in achieving their source revenue targets. There is a need to strategise towards increasing revenues for the national government and enabling self-sustenance for county governments.
- It was noted that empowerment efforts must also consider the marginalized and vulnerable people so they are not left behind are not left out. The national government is rolling out an Inua Jamii programme to create a registry of all these persons.
- Focusing on the security of the country needs support from security personnel. The national government partnered with the counties in a housing project for the police service, building more robust security systems.

Key Recommendations and Action Points:

- In this new Kenya, everyone should embrace the truth and leaders should exercise patriotism for their country. President Ruto inherited a difficult situation but he has since embarked on a very arduous task to transform this country's economy. Along the way, he found good friends. For instance, Ambassador Meg Whitman has increased the trade between America and Kenya in record time. She has worked hard to unlock business opportunities and bring investors from America. The Deputy did not only commend the ambassador but also urged her to stay focused

and continue working. H.E. Rigathi Gachagua stressed the need to respect our development partners.

- In one year, President Ruto, through pragmatic leadership, agreed to be advised by a competent council. The economy has shown signs of recovery for the first time, based on the indication that all county governments were given their money before the close of the financial year. All members of parliament and the development funds were granted all their allocations before the close of the financial year.
- The President is keen to root out corruption whether in the county or national government. The Deputy observed that some Governors have previously been arm-twisted into receiving money obtained fraudulently to fund politics. That, he firmly noted, will no longer be possible.
- The national government is ready to work with the county governments across the political landscape, regardless of their political allegiance. The administration and the police are urged to stay out of politics. Chiefs, assistant chiefs, county commissioners, OCS, OCPDs are also encouraged to focus on working to serve the people of Kenya and to keep off politics.

In closing, His Excellency the Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua stated that he is available for structured consultations with the COG and individual governors. When approached regarding challenges with administrators, he pointed out that he has taken remedial action and will continue to do so.

He thanked the COG for inviting him and said he looks forward to a consistent and continuous engagement with the Council. The Deputy President also asked them to invite him to launch projects that are aligned to with his office's mandate. He urged the Governors to work together, collaborate, and cooperate for the benefit of the people of Kenya, who voted for both the national and county governments. With those remarks, the Deputy President declared the Devolution Conference officially closed.

5.4.2 Hon. Jonathan Bii, Governor, Uasin Gishu County

Opening with gratitude, Governor Jonathan Bii of Uasin Gishu extended heartfelt thanks to

all participants, acknowledging their collective dedication and involvement, which greatly contributed to the conference's resounding success.

He said the sessions encompassed insightful discussions that focused on identifying challenges and generating practical solutions, which were effectively summarised in the Communiqué.

The Governor recognised and commended the exceptional leadership of the Council of Governors, led by its Chairperson H.E. Anne Waiguru and CEO Ms. Mary Mwit. He thanked the nation's leadership, including President H.E. William Ruto and his deputy H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, for their unwavering support and presence at the conference.

In conclusion, Governor Bii underscored the immeasurable value of all contributions that fuelled the conference's triumph. He encouraged participants to carry forward the torch ignited by the conference to a future of boundless possibilities, ensuring the continued success of the devolution system.

5.4.3 Presentation of the Joint Communiqué

The Vice Chair, H.E. Ahmed Abdullahi, welcomed all attendees and thanked them for attending the closing ceremony. He specifically applauded the Deputy President for accepting to grace the occasion. The conference was convened jointly by the office of the Deputy President, represented by the State Department of Devolution, Council of Governors, Senate, and the County Government of Uasin Gishu.

The three-day consultations and deliberations identified critical resolutions marked in the bi-annual conference and captured in this report. [Link to Communiqué](#)

5.4.4 Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot, MGH, MP

The Senator started his remarks by acknowledging the success of the 2023 devolution conference and passing his gratitude to various stakeholders, including the Council of Governors, the Senate, National Government, Members of County Assemblies, Development Partners and Agencies, resource persons, and all stakeholders. He also

extended his appreciation to the Host Governor and people of Uasin Gishu County for their hospitality.

In his reflections about devolution, he acknowledged the historical significance of the 2010 Constitution in introducing devolution to Kenya. He recognized the transformation brought about by devolution over the past ten years, with considerable political, social, and economic impacts on citizens' lives. He called on Kenyans to take pride in the tremendous achievements enabled by devolution. Further, he noted that the 2023 devolution conference had highlighted milestones, discussed significant challenges, shared experiences, identified opportunities, recognised and foregrounded areas for improvement and affirmed the Senate's role not only as a partner in the devolution journey but also as a protector of counties' interests at the national level. He observed that the largest burden of this conference lies in the responsibility to follow through the resolutions that emerged from the various discussions at Plenary and in the sector breakaway sessions.

He highlighted the following:

- Key issues requiring Senate intervention:
 - ✓ Enhancing equitable allocation and timely disbursement of funds to county governments.
 - ✓ Transferring outstanding functions and resources from the national government to counties.
 - ✓ Strengthening the financial autonomy of county assemblies to improve oversight and accountability.
- Key issues requiring legislative proposals:
 - ✓ Creating a framework to enhance county own-source revenue, potentially using non-traditional revenue sources like green bonds.
 - ✓ Reviewing the legal framework of public-private partnerships to cater to county needs.
 - ✓ Developing a performance management framework for the county public service to enhance service delivery.
 - ✓ Establishing a framework for funding and executing shared functions between levels of government.
- Sector-specific proposals requiring Senate attention:
 - ✓ Engaging EPRA and county governments in setting electricity and gas reticulation standards (devolved function).
 - ✓ Creating a unified digitisation policy for enhanced service delivery, efficiency, and digital entrepreneurship.
 - ✓ Instituting legal protection of critical infrastructure like telecom masts and fibre optic cables.
 - ✓ Introducing legislation to support the government's housing agenda.
 - ✓ Harmonising and integrating taxes, licenses, and levies at the county level.

He noted that many of the proposals align with the government's bottom-up economic transformation agenda, which aims to, among other things, reduce the cost of living, increase employment, incentivise investments and production, enhance the tax base for more revenue, and increase foreign exchange earnings. He concluded his remarks by affirming the Senate's commitment to advocate for county governments' financing, to pass enabling legislation, and to fully transfer devolved functions and required resources. The Senate, he said, would prioritise the resolutions from the Devolution Conference and would collaborate with stakeholders to achieve devolution's goals through good governance structures and upholding the Senate's role of oversight of over-allocated county funds in alignment with Article 174's objectives.

He applauded all stakeholders for their unity and purpose in fulfilling the dream of devolution and supporting the realisation of the hopes and aspirations of the Kenyan people.

5.4.5 Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, Speaker of the Senate

Hon. Kingi began his remarks by stating, "We have participated in engagements as broadly outlined in five thematic areas but crystallised in the following key objectives:

- To assess and propose measures that county governments can adopt to enhance transformative service delivery for improved

citizens' livelihoods and a more vital and strategic business environment.

- To examine the benefits of adopting technology and digitisation, their potential impact on economic development and strategies for promoting innovation and digital transformation in the devolved context.
- To reflect on the trends and challenges experienced in financing the devolved sectors and recommend innovative approaches for sustainable and adequate financing for county governments.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of good governance practices in promoting equitable and sustainable development in the devolved units.
- To highlight the strides made in the Affirmative Action agenda and propose responsive measures that can be adopted to guarantee the place of women, the youth and the most vulnerable in governance."

The thought-provoking deliberations made during the plenary and breakaway sessions culminated in practical steps that must be implemented, with clear timelines and mechanisms for evaluation and impact assessment. In this regard, he stated, *"We should draw motivation and great inspiration from the fact that when the history of Devolution in this country is written, long after we are gone, our contribution as a team will certainly get a mention."*

He stressed the need to deliberately seize every opportunity to work together and build synergy with the sole mission of making devolution succeed as well as develop mechanisms that would see the country undertake the following:

"When the history of Kenya is written, the revolutionary role of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), which set us on the path of devolution, will be a seminal chapter therein."

Rt. Hon Amason J Kingi

- Adopt innovative ways and harness limitless opportunities availed by digital technology to enhance service provision and facilitate job creation, especially for the youth.
- Exploit available opportunities to create additional revenue streams through diversification to replenish public coffers for service provision.
- Enhance their capacity to generate Own-Source-Revenue.
- Aggressively exploit initiatives such as Public-Private-Partnership (PPPs) and Infrastructure Bonds to undertake mega projects.

Hon. Kingi assured the conference attended that in line with their legislative mandates, the Senate and County Assemblies remain on standby to provide the requisite legal frameworks within which such undertakings can thrive. Through their legislative role, County Assemblies, in particular, have ensured counties have the necessary laws and policies on which service provision, project implementation, and grassroots development have been anchored. Therefore, our county assemblies' call for financial autonomy is fully justified and timely because it will enhance their independence and elevate their role as an oversight institution.

On the other hand, the Senate has the responsibility of deliberating over a landmark bill, the County Public Finance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, drafted by the deputy speaker of the Senate and Meru senator Hon Kathuri Murungi. This bill, which seeks to grant financial autonomy to county assemblies will cure, among other things, the mischief that for years has left county assemblies disempowered by the whims of the county treasuries when they seek money to defray their administrative expenses. When the bill becomes law, county assemblies will not have to go through county executive committees to make their requisitions, as is currently the case. As the overseer of devolution and in line with Article 96 of the Constitution, the Senate will expedite this legislation. Once enacted, it will help county assemblies break free from this shackle that grossly undermines their mandate, especially regarding oversight.

Hon. Kingi commended the president, H.E. Dr. William Ruto, for his bold directive at the official opening of the Devolution Conference that all the

remaining functions earmarked for devolution should be released to the counties within 60 days. This statement and his order to promptly release county disbursements two months prior to the conference confirm that the President is an ally of devolution partners.

In closing, he stated that the Senate is ready to legislate accordingly to provide an ideal environment for the roll-out the functions accorded to county governments.

5.4.6 Senator Aron Cheruiyot, MGH, M.P. Senate Majority Leader

- Senator Aron Cheruiyot had his speech read on his behalf by Senator John Methu. He congratulated the COG, the national government, MCAs, development partners and agencies, resource persons, and all stakeholders on the conference's success. He also appreciated the host governor and the great people of Uasin Gishu County for the memorable event. When the history of Kenya is written, the revolutionary role of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), which set us on the path of devolution, will be a seminal chapter in the Kenyan story.
- Kenya **before and After** devolution: Ten years on, we have seen the immense political, social, and economic impact that devolution has had on the lives of Kenyans. The transformation is evident, and as Kenyans, we ought to take pride in the tremendous achievements enabled by devolution.
- As a partner in the devolution journey and the foremost protector of counties' interests at the national level, the Senate has taken note of the resolutions that have emerged from the various discussions at Plenary and in the sector breakaway sessions.
- Some of the critical issues that would require intervention by the Senate include the need to:
 - √ Ensure that equitable allocation to county governments is enhanced and disbursed within statutory timelines.
 - √ Fast-track the transfer of all outstanding functions and resources by the national Government.
 - √ Enhance the financial autonomy of County Assemblies to improve oversight and accountability, among other proposals.
- Additionally, there were several proposals for legislation including:
 - √ A framework to enhance county own-source revenue. One proposal in this regard was to encourage counties to leverage non-traditional revenue sources, such as green bonds.
 - √ A Review of the legal framework on PPPs to respond to the needs of the counties.
 - √ A framework on performance management in the county public service to improve service delivery.
 - √ A framework on funding and execution of shared functions between the two levels of government, among other proposals.
- Some of the sector-specific proposals that call for Senate intervention include:
 - √ Engaging the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) and the county government in setting minimum standards for electricity and gas reticulation, a devolved function under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.
 - √ Developing a harmonised policy on digitisation to facilitate service delivery, digital entrepreneurship, and government efficiency and effectiveness. Tied to this, a legislative framework is needed to protect critical infrastructure, such as telecommunication masts and fibre optic cables, which are repeatedly vandalised. Putting in place legislation to promote the government housing agenda and
 - √ Harmonisation and integration of taxes, licenses and levies at the county level.
- Many of the proposals emerging from this forum are in line with the government's bottom-up economic transformation agenda, which at its core seeks to, among other things, reduce the cost of living, increase employment, incentivize investments and production, enhance the tax base for more revenue, and increase foreign exchange earnings. Devolution catalyzes

Kenya's unlocking of its full potential and accelerate development. However, misuse of public resources and lack of accountability and transparency set us back.

- The success of the next phase of devolution will be majorly dependent on good governance structures.
- The Senate will continue to exercise its oversight

role over funds allocated to counties. Additionally, the Senate prioritizes the resolutions emerging from this forum and works with all stakeholders to realise the dream of devolution.

In closing, the Senator thanked all the stakeholders present for their unity of purpose in fulfilling the devolution dream and realising the hopes and aspirations of the people of Kenya.

Closing Ceremony Highlights



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PHOTO GALLERY





APPENDIX 3: SIGNED COMMUNIQUE



DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2023



JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE, 2023 HELD FROM 15TH TO 19TH AUGUST 2023 AT ELDORET SPORTS CLUB, UASIN GISHU COUNTY

Preamble

The Devolution Conference 2023 was held from 15th to 19th August 2023 at Eldoret Sports Club, Uasin Gishu County. The Conference was convened jointly by the Office of the Deputy President represented by State Department of Devolution, Council of Governors (COG), the Senate, Host County (Uasin Gishu) and County Assemblies Forum (CAF). This marked the beginning of the Biennial Devolution Conferences.

The Devolution Conference 2023 made the following resolutions in line with the theme “10 Years of Devolution: The Present and The Future” and the Sub-Theme “Driving Transformation from the Local Level: County Governments as the Centre of Economic Development.”

1. Both levels of Government, Development Partners and the Private Sector shall in all sectors synergize their efforts and adopt a coordinated approach to partnerships and implementation of projects and programs to avoid multiplicity of efforts.

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

2. County Governments shall support adoption and scaling up of creative solutions by providing a conducive environment and incubation centers through budgetary allocation and technical support

Action: County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector

3. Both levels of government shall review the legislative framework to enhance the autonomy of County Assemblies to strengthen their oversight role.

Action: Senate, National Assembly, Council of Governors, State Department for Devolution, County Assembly Forum.

4. The National government shall create a policy framework for anchoring digitization to support operationalization of programs in all sectors including health, agriculture, trade and blue economy.

Action: Ministry of ICT, Council of Governors, County governments, Private Sector.

5. Both levels of government shall ensure proper coordination between the ICT departments to ensure full automation of supportive departments such as security, energy, water and transport among others.

Action: Ministry of ICT, Council of Governors, County governments, Private Sector.

6. County Governments shall enhance their own source revenue through supportive policies and automation of systems in order to enhance transparency in revenue collection.

Action: National Treasury, Kenya Revenue Authority, Council of Governors (COG), Senate

7. Both levels of Government shall enhance and sustain performance management as a tool for strengthening effective service delivery.

Action: Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Council of Governors, County governments

8. Both levels of government shall explore entrenching division of revenue between the National and County Governments on the projected budget for the year, as opposed to using the last audited accounts.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments, Senate, National Assembly and CRA.

9. Parliament shall fast-track the enactment of various laws before both houses. that support the devolved functions in all sectors.

Action: Senate, National Assembly, County Assemblies

10. All devolved functions currently being carried out by National Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments shall be transferred to the County Governments within 60 days together with the attendant resources.

Action: Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee, Council of Governors, All Ministries, Departments and Agencies

11. Both levels of Government shall promote transparency and accountability through multi-pronged, innovative approaches within the existing policy frameworks.

Action: Commission on Administration of Justice (CAJ), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), County Governments, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, County Governments, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Controller of Budget (OCB)

12. Both levels of Government shall promote economic empowerment of the marginalized groups by adhering to the statutory reporting guidelines on the opportunities created for the marginalized groups through Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).

Action: All Ministries, Departments, Agencies, County Governments, Council of Governors, National Treasury, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority

13. Both levels of Government shall design programs to facilitate the prevention and elimination of Gender Based Violence and promote the reintegration of teenage mothers into the formal school system.

Action: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and The Art, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, Ministry of Health, County Governments, Development Partners

On Housing, Planning and Urban Development;

14. Both levels of Government shall fast-track regularization, automation, documentation and registration of land while also bridging the gender gap in land ownership.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Ministry of ICT.

15. Both levels of government shall review or develop frameworks to facilitate provision of green housing including the Housing Policy, National Land Policy, Energy Planning Standards and County Specific policies on land and housing.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Senate, National Assembly,

16. A framework shall be developed to establish and operationalize the National Urban Development Fund as provided for in the National Urban Development Policy.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, National Treasury, Senate, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners

On Investment;

17. A database of all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) shall be developed to promote linkages between the investors and the MSMEs.

Action: *Micro and Small Enterprises Organizations, Council of Governors, Private Sector, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs*

18. Both levels of Government shall engage and harmonize investment initiatives in line with their development plans.

Action: *Micro and Small Enterprises Organization, Council of Governors, Private Sector, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs*

On the blue economy sector;

19. Both levels of government shall align County Blue Economy Policies to the National Blue Economy Policy that was adopted from the Blue Economy Concept of the Africa Union.

Action: *Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, County Governments, Council of Governors*

20. Both levels of government shall increase investment in research and development to improve efficiencies in the Blue Economy Sector.

Action: *Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Private Sector*

On Health Service Delivery

21. County governments shall increase investment in primary health care, including community health services in order to step up preventive and promotive health services.

Action: *Council of Governors, County governments and National Government*

22. County governments shall strengthen collaboration between public and non-state actors in health for resource optimization and improved service delivery.

Action: *Council of Governors, County governments, Development Partners, Faith Based Organizations within the health sector and private sector actors.*

23. Efforts to eliminate disease-based and align health programmes in order to reduce duplication, build efficiencies and strengthen one integrated health system shall be heightened.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments, National government and Private Sector, Development Partners

On Strengthening food systems;

24. Agriculture shall be prioritized by investing 10% of budgets at both levels into the food systems.

Action: Ministry of Agriculture and livestock development, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

25. County Governments shall develop innovative products to ensure farmers get access to credit facilities and to attract the youth to engage in farming.

Action: County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

26. The National Treasury shall rationalize the taxes on agricultural goods to make them more competitive in the Market.

Action: National Treasury, Ministry of Agriculture and livestock development, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

On Green Economy transition in Counties;

27. A paradigm shift in the production system shall be explored and resources secured by mapping the resources and developing a national resource register, undertaking economic evaluation, putting in management systems, and creating incentives to better conserve the environment.

Action: Ministry of Water, National Treasury, County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector

28. Both levels of Government shall engage with the indigenous communities for inter-generational knowledge transfer through climate change storytelling.

Action: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

29. Both levels of Government shall invest in alternative sources and promote farm forestry and incentives to grow trees at community levels.

Action: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

On Empowering Youth for Inclusive Economic Growth;

30. Both levels of government shall enable a conducive environment for youth to carry out business by ensuring reasonable fees and levies for permits especially for content creators wishing to access and use public spaces.

Action: Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

31. Both levels of Government shall address mental health issues rampant among the youth arising from issues that affect them, such as drugs, suicide, abuse, unemployment, and domestic violence by developing and implementing already existing frameworks.

Action: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

Recommendations of the Children's Conference 2023

32. The Communique that arose from the Children's conference as read by the children's Governor and Deputy Governor is adopted as is and the resolutions will be implemented by the stakeholders identified (annexed herein).

Further details of the resolutions captured herein will form part of the final conference report.

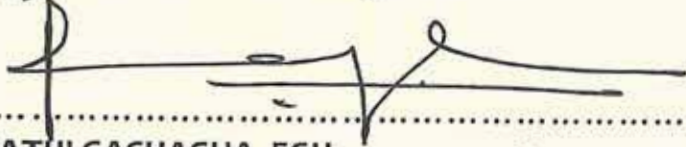
Implementation of the above resolutions shall be monitored and reported by stakeholders every 6 months over the next 2 years, and the progress reported during the next Devolution Conference.

Action: Deputy President, Chair Council of Governors.

Finally,

The next Biennial Devolution conference shall be held in 2025 at a venue and date that will be communicated after Consultation.

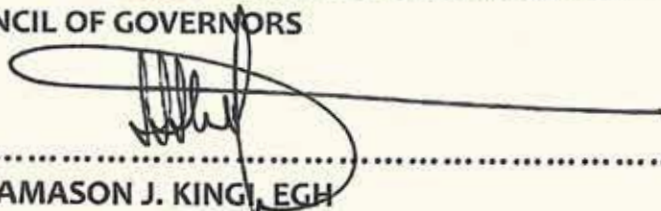
Signed by:



H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH
DEPUTY PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF KENYA



H.E FCPA AHMED ABDULLAHI
CO-CHAIR OF THE FIRST BIENNIAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE AND VICE CHAIR OF
THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS



RT. HON. AMASON J. KINGI, EGH
CO-CHAIR OF THE FIRST BIENNIAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE SPEAKER OF THE
SENATE

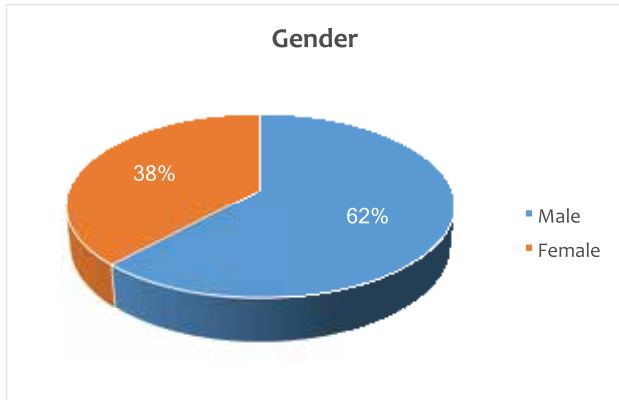


HON. PHILEMON SABULEI
CHAIRPERSON, COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FORUM

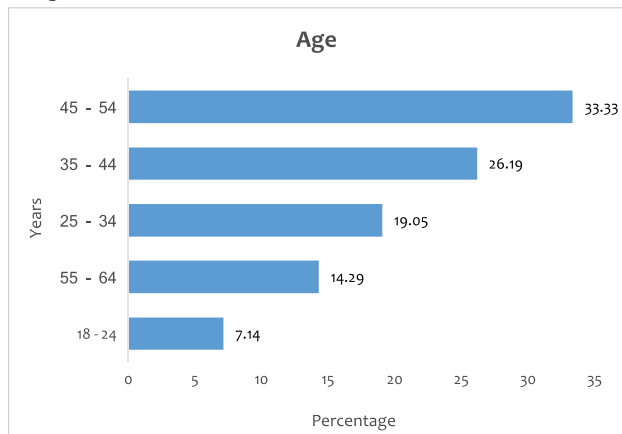
APPENDIX 4: RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Devolution Conference 2023 Feedback

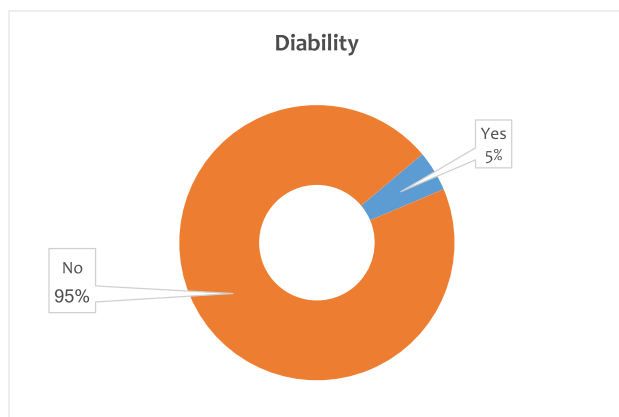
1. Gender



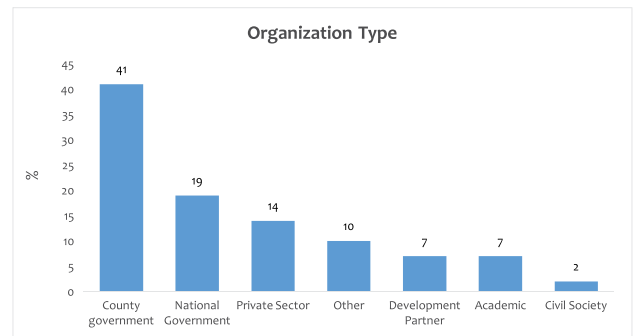
2. Age



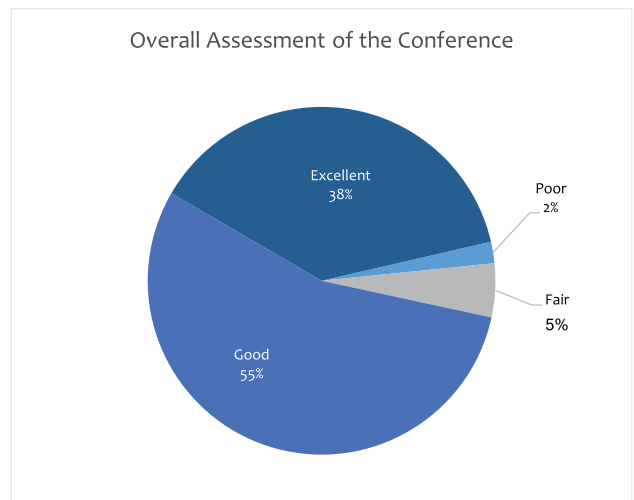
3. Do you consider yourself to have any disability?



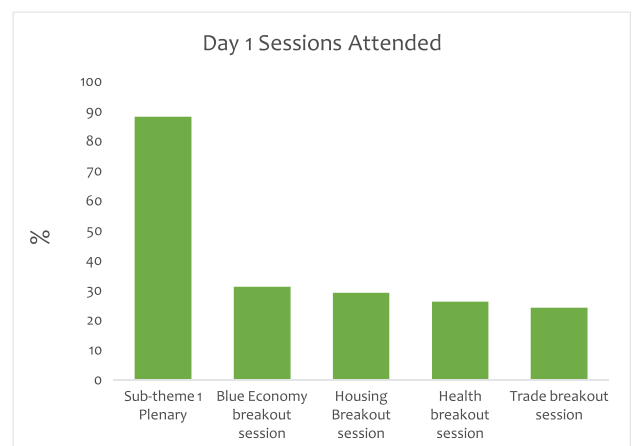
4. Organization type



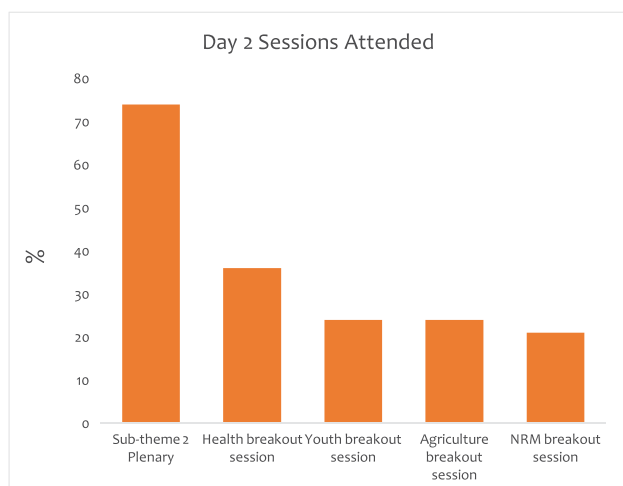
5. What is your overall assessment of the Conference?



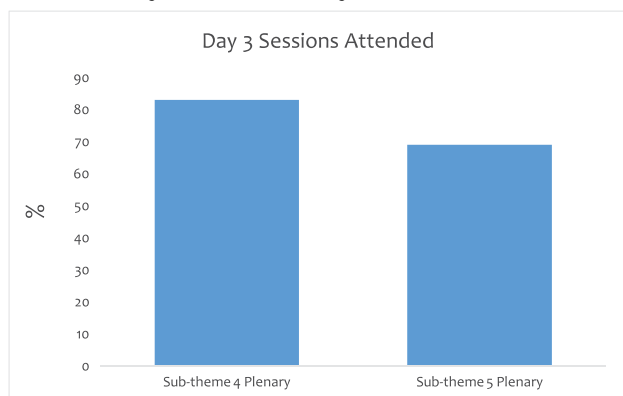
6. Which Day 1 sessions did you attend?



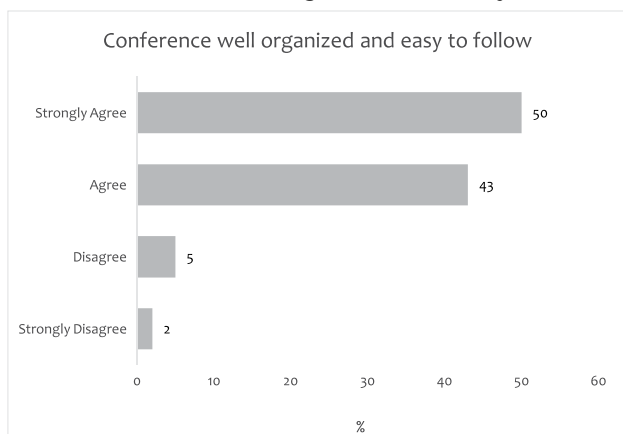
7. Which Day 2 sessions did you attend?



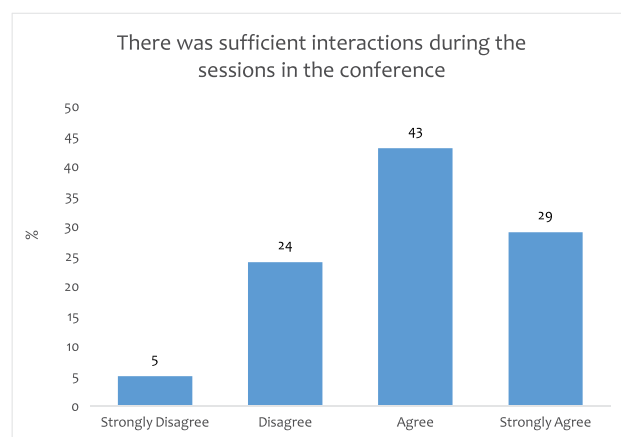
8. Which Day 2 sessions did you attend?



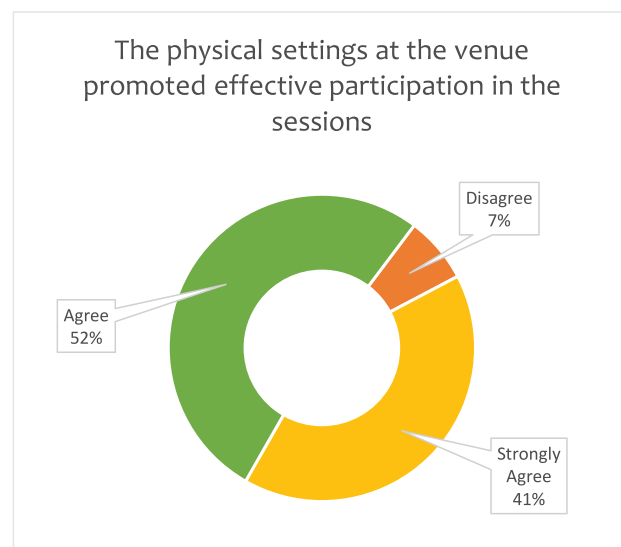
9. The Conference was organized and easy to follow



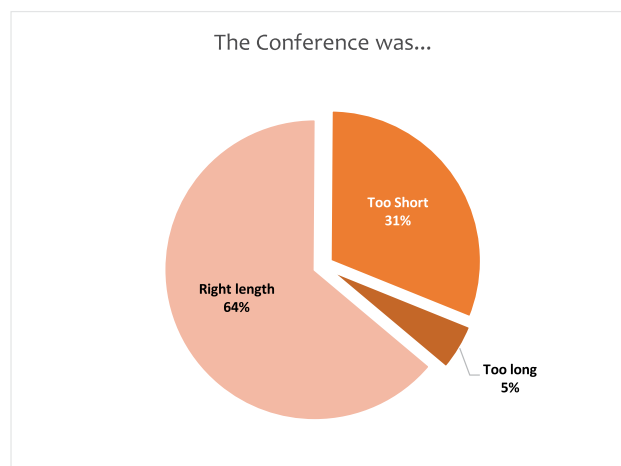
10. There were sufficient interactions during the sessions in the conference



11. The physical settings at the venue promoted effective participation in the sessions



12. Was the Conference



13. What did you like most about this Conference?

- Exhibitions
- Organization and theme presentations were quite educative and inclusive
- Very good exhibition booths, and articulate leaders and points
- The quality of the panelists and the topics covered ... very extensive
- Articulated speakers
- Remarks from Dev partners
- Technology as the driver of governance in both governments
- Plenary presentations
- Very excellent key note speakers and discussants for break-away sessions
- Logistical planning
- The interaction part of it
- President speech
- The breakaway venues were adequate
- The program ran smoothly
- Participation of relevant organization that support devolved units in the counties
- Health Session
- Knowledge sharing and openness in discussions
- The choice of the topics for discussion
- Matters ICT and adoption by county govts
- The President's speech
- All devolution stakeholders' attendance
- Enlightening, visionary, interactive

- Ambience of the venue
- The success stories of Devolution and resolutions moving forward
- Trade breakaway
- The Sound system setting and digital set up by Home boyz
- Everything
- Panelists, breakaway sessions and the halls were very well arranged
- The Sub-Themes and Organization
- The theme, key note speakers and panellists, topics for breakout sessions
- Setup
- Unbundling remaining functions to counties
- Interactive facilitating
- The themes were very relevant.
- It brought together diverse stakeholder
- Plenary, Exhibitions
- Traders
- The organization, the topic of discussion and the right panellists
- Empowerment
- Interaction
- The very informed speakers who understood their subject matter well.
- Diversity of Exhibitions & Culture, Opportunity to reflect on most improved devolved functions, Knowledge Sharing
- Networking
- Content of panellists
- Presentations and messages shared were clear
- showcase of county resources

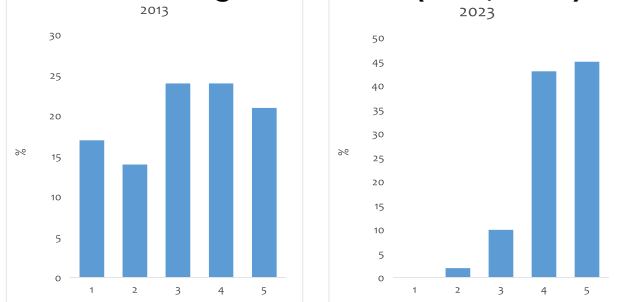
14. Please share any other comments, ideas, or suggestions here

- There is great potential of improving the living standards of Kenyan in the natural resources which remains untapped. National government should help counties in exploring and utilize the natural resources in counties.
- Very well-planned event
- Directions on food and tea breaks and also recognition of Public Service Boards as an integral stakeholder
- Keeping time especially dinners.
- The time wasn't well managed especially the time before Lunch breaks. Less value was derived from lengthened waits for Chief Guests
- Once key note speaker finishes presentation, people disburse not attending very important breakaway
- Invite a few questions from participants during plenary sessions.
- Make it a 5- day conference
- Involving the plenary through IT
- Time management and let's apply what we present
- It's advisable to include all the arms of county government
- Moderation of the first session on performance was below par. Can be improved. The first day stretched from 9am to 4pm without break. This can be improved in future
- Great
- The planners failed to provide writing materials and adequate rations to delegates

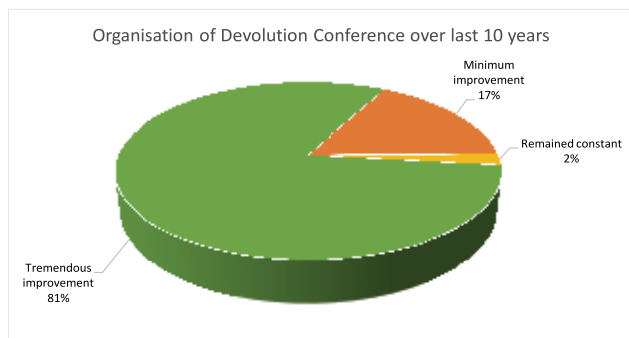
- Raila Odinga's speech was great
- Walking the talk
- Improve guidance to delegates on essential needs. The ushers to assist the participants was limited and there was confusion on location of essentials like watch rooms, registration area just name a few
- I would urge all the counties to prioritize development and limit extravagant expenditure on matters that don't benefit the public
- Counties staff have been overlooked and harassed. The security personnel were corrupt. The food service was poor.
- Share more on counties success stories
- It was a good conference
- Allow more time for interaction
- Increase audience engagement
- None
- Please publish the rapporteur report after
- Good one
- Have more exhibition booths
- Provide more time for discussion and interaction during breakaway sessions.
- Consider time management and only one session in the day of closing.
- Very poor organisation in the serving of meals
- There was minimum participation from the delegates. It was more of speeches
- Counties should enhance funds accountability
- Kindly involve devolution actors at the lowest levels of devolved units.
- Improve on meals organization.
- Your food arrangement is were not well coordinated. This includes refreshments. After queuing for long we missed food on two days. Water was not there during official opening
- Screenings to access the venues was not to detail. No scan was bring done. You officers at the CoG Stand would sometimes be taking photos instead of serving clients. Though, Sharon was excellent.
- Entry requirements was too expensive
- Kudos. Breakaway session should be given more time to allow for sufficient time for Q&A
- add more days
- It should be brought back to Uasin Gishu again
- Announcements about tea to be done. Also, announcements about dinners
- Have Sessions dedicated to learning from the exhibitions in future Devolution Conferences.
- Include Municipalities as exhibitors
- Pls consider having say presenters in a physical place while delegates to log in virtually to minimise risk of attacks and manage costs⁷
- The traditional dances were done well.
- Devolution Conference in 2025 should take the whole week from Monday to Friday. It should consider Presentations per county on success stories, good practices and challenges. Further, Devolution should enhance focus on Municipalities
- Let's have bigger conversation of 10 days

PART 2: REFLECTION ON IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION 10 YEARS ON (2013-2023)

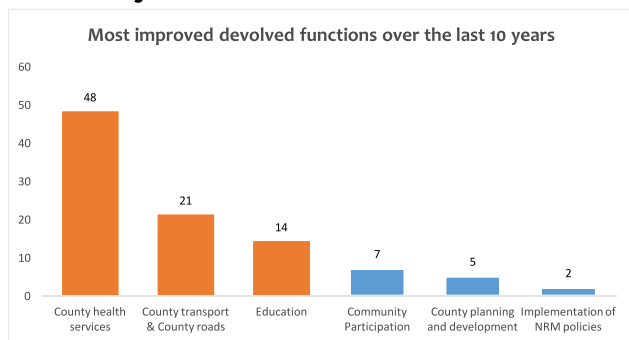
1. Understanding of Devolution (Min 1, Max 5)



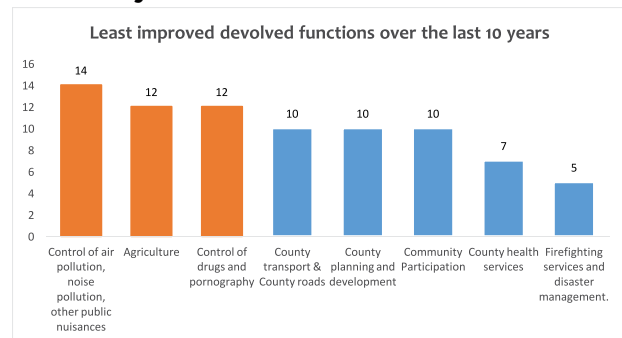
2. Organisation of Devolution Conference over last 10 years



3. Most improved devolved functions over the last 10 years



4. Least improved devolved functions over the last 10 years

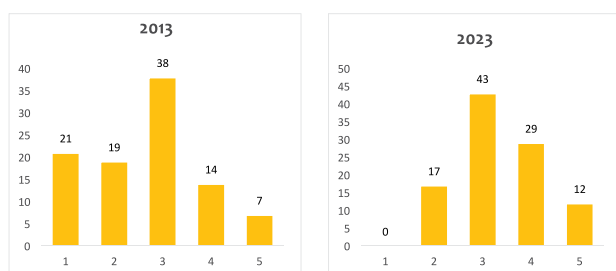


5. How best can counties benefit from innovations, good practices and ideas that were showcased in the exhibition booths

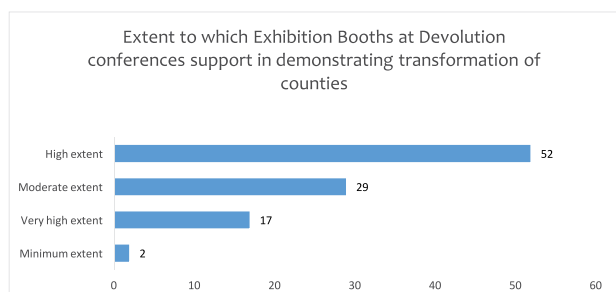
- Eliminating corruption, and involving SME's in the county projects and functions
- Sensitization and sharing with teams on the grounds
- Push for locally produced products. Do lots of inter county marketing as well as trade. Share goods
- Adaptation, adoption and replication.
- Adoption and full integrations of technology to drive county productivity
- Adoption of new technology to deliver services effectively
- Involve TVETS and Universities to teach and roll out these innovations
- They will be challenged and improve where there gaps and benchmark on the same.
- Through the environment of private sector
- Borrow, replicate, implement
- Increase in revenue allocation
- Being more inclusive and effective use of ICT to harness talents
- Need to develop an accessible databank of all what was showcased.
- By learning from show cases from one another
- Through the inter county interaction, I think going forward there are a lot of benefits learnt and will help in improving production per county in return for development and livelihood improvement
- Housing
- Actual follow-ups
- Consultation of mass
- Leverage on digitalisation
- Counties to Join OGP -Open Government Partnership alongside the national government to realize transparent, open and inclusive public service delivery performance
- develop policies
- Implementation of agreed actions
- Encourage creativity and innovation
- Pick best practices
- Acquiring systems for effective service delivery

- By employing all resources within its reach
- Benchmark with the best counties.
- Adopt a collaborative approach and improve governance
- Learning with and from each county. Establishing intercounty policies and regulations to govern production, supply and market.
- Place traders in strategic positions to showcase their products
- Let them be documented in maarifa center for reference
- 100%
- Borrow the ideas and implement
- Set up an innovation fund, replicate and scale up tested innovations, technologies and models as part of County investments portfolio.
- Documenting scalable projects for dissemination to all counties
- Connect with counties directly
- Through benchmarking

6. Knowledge Sharing Score (Min 1, Max 5)



7. To what Extent do Exhibition Booths at Devolution conferences support in demonstrating transformation of counties?



8. What can be added/done to make Devolution model in Kenya more transformative over the next 10 years?

- Curb corruption and increase equitable share
- General involvement to all cadres!
- Sensitization and regular workshops
- What you've promised to work on should be implemented soonest possible or else 10yrs down the line we'll be singing the same narrative.
- Discourage politicising development and focus on service delivery through professionalism. Hire qualified personnel's and not rewarding cronies. Kenyans have the right skills
- Eliminate corruption, nepotism on recruitment
- Collaboration between counties & national government and adopting new technology.
- Improve communication and marketing of county innovations and products.
- Run additional preconference events and allow time to have delegates visit the booths
- The government need end corruption on development projects that's the biggest problem
- By engaging the local communities in the county
- Transfer more money from national to county government- increase the revenue allocation from the current 15 to 30 %. Also, fast track transfer of devolved functions and funds
- Private sector should be highly encouraged to increase chance of innovation
- Being innovative and creative in Solving community-based issues
- Get a conference Organiser to help with logistics and planning
- Continue empowering Counties in the 4 Ps of success. Prioritizing, Policies, personnel and Performance Management
- Increase the days to at least five days.
- More funding and more development-oriented budgeting in counties. Employ qualified personnel and minimize reward employment which has stagnated performance in counties.
- Involvement of county government. This conference is planned in Nairobi with minimal county participation
- Break away sessions should include subject matter experts from counties

To make the Devolution model in Kenya more transformative over the next 10 years, you could consider implementing the following strategies:

- Enhance Fiscal Autonomy: Provide counties with more financial autonomy by increasing

their revenue allocation and allowing them to generate revenue locally through taxation and other means. This would empower counties to fund their own development projects.

- **Capacity Building:** Invest in training and capacity building for county officials and staff to improve governance, administration, and service delivery at the local level.
- **Strengthen Oversight:** Establish robust mechanisms for oversight and accountability to prevent corruption and ensure that resources are used effectively and transparently.
- **Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Implement data collection and analysis systems to inform policy decisions, resource allocation, and track progress on development goals.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Focus on developing infrastructure such as roads, energy, water supply, and healthcare facilities at the county level to boost economic growth and improve living standards.
- **Promote Public Participation:** Encourage citizen engagement in decision-making processes, allowing them access information and their voice to needs and preferences, and making government more responsive.
- **Invest in Education and Healthcare:** Prioritize investments in education and healthcare to enhance human capital and support long-term sustainable development.
- **Inter-County Collaboration:** Facilitate collaboration between counties for joint projects, resource sharing, and best practice sharing to leverage economies of scale and collective expertise.
- **Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Create an environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, encouraging local businesses to thrive and contribute to economic growth.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Integrate environmental considerations into development plans to ensure that growth is sustainable and doesn't harm natural resources. Cultural Preservation.
- **Recognize and preserve cultural diversity within counties,** promoting cultural heritage as an asset for local development.
- **Flexible Policy Frameworks:** Develop policies that can adapt to the unique needs and circumstances of each county, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.
- **Infrastructure for Digital Connectivity:** Invest in digital infrastructure to improve connectivity, access to information, and enable e-governance

services.

- **Support Agriculture and Rural Development:** Focus on agriculture and rural development to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods in rural areas.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Foster collaboration between the public and private sectors to leverage resources and expertise for development projects.
- **Implement recommendations and assess impact,** in particular the recommendations made by the Head of State in his speech.
- **Adopt nexus approach to developing county policies & legislation,** program design & budgeting as a model for implementing CIDPs for higher impact across sectors. For Example, Water/ Agriculture Nexus; Water, Energy & Agriculture Nexus etc. (2) Remove focus of Evaluation from input of individual organizations to growth and transformation of sectors, sub sectors and value chains.
- **Improve governance by adopting principles of integrity that reduce and renounce opportunities of fraud, corruption and impunity.**
- **Put in place measures that allow for the devolvement of the remaining functions and the attendant resources.**
- **Devolution to adopt Open Government Principles and ideals of Openness, Transparency and Public Participation.** Council of Governance to lead non OGP Local counties to join the partnership for enhanced good governance and systems. The presidency is keen on OGP alongside Civil Society Organizations and Open Government Reformers

How do we improve the next conference

There is a need to have more sessions to discuss trade

- **Increase sector wide approaches to implementation and IGR**
- **Possibly have both (Executive & Assembly) arms exhibit. They contribute to**
- **Allow locals to feel and share experiences**
- **Carry out assessment/evaluation of resolutions made in previous Devcon that form basis of first session in subsequent meeting. To evaluate whether we implement the actions or not**
- **Sharing of devolution messages through on media**
- **Get village folks from remote / marginalised areas to testify without being censored**

APPENDIX 5: LIST OF PARTNERS

ORGANIZERS



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT
State Department for Devolution



COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FORUM

PLATINUM



GOLD PLUS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



GOLD PARTNER



SILVER PARTNER



BRONZE PARTNER



CATEGORY PARTNER



TONY BLAIR
INSTITUTE FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE



OTHER PARTNERS








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