

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



Statement by Hon. Keriako Tobiko, Cbs, Sc.,

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High-Level Segment

Katowice Nations Climate Change Conference

Mr. President, Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates:

1. I thank the Government and the people of Poland for hosting the UN Climate Change Conference for the third time, and for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation.
2. A few weeks ago Kenya, Canada and Japan co-hosted the first Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference was attended by over 18,000 delegates from 184 countries; 8 heads of states; and close to 100 Ministers. The outcome of the Conference is summarized in "*The Nairobi Statement of Intent on Advancing Global Sustainable Blue Economy*" including action plans on how to promote productive and conservation activities in the nine priority areas around the globe." A copy of the Nairobi Statement of Intent is available online: <http://www.blueeconomyconference.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Nairobi-Statement-of-Intent-Advancing-Global-Sustainable-Blue-Economy.pdf>
3. The Blue Economy Conference recognized the threat posed by Climate Change in harnessing the potential of our oceans, seas, lakes and rivers and the need for mainstreaming Climate Change in Blue Economy plans. On behalf of the Kenyan Government, I thank all the partners and Countries that supported and actively participated in the Conference to make it a success.
4. In March 2019, two key events will be held in Nairobi, namely UNEA-4 and One Planet Summit. On behalf of the government of Kenya, let me take this early opportunity to welcome you all to these events and to Kenya.

Mr. President;

5. The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C underscores the undeniable fact that climate change is real and that urgent and drastic actions are needed in order to avert a global climate change-induced disasters. Kenya therefore joins other parties and strongly welcome this report; and urge that the decisions of this conference be informed by the findings in the report.
6. During COP 24, we have the opportunity to adopt an inclusive and comprehensive Programme of Work to operationalize the Paris Agreement. However, as we work towards this objective, we need to be careful not to re-negotiate the Convention or the Agreement. We must also maintain the principles and spirit of the Convention and the Agreement including the principle of intra-and-inter-generational equity and

common but differentiated responsibilities. As well, we must give life to enduring spirit of Talanoa Dialogue.

7. Furthermore, there is need for all of us to recognize that individual states cannot by themselves alone comprehensively address climate change. International cooperation; international cooperative initiatives; shared responsibilities and solidarity are therefore vital if we are to combat climate change. Good faith and mutual trust are equally important.

Mr. President;

8. For Kenya, like other developing countries, mitigation and adaptation are two sides of the same coin. It is not a question of “either” “or”. In this regard, access to new, additional, predictable and adequate climate finance is critical for developing country Parties to implement their priority adaptation and mitigation actions and meet their obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Loss and Damage must equally be provided for in the transparency framework, global stocktake and finance.
9. Every year Kenya’s economy loses over 2% GDP due to climate change. Kenya has therefore put in place the necessary measures to ensure low carbon climate resilient development at all levels. These include establishment of climate change Legal, Policy, Institutional and Implementation Frameworks.
10. These measures focus on mainstreaming of climate actions into all sectors including; promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture to enhance food and nutrition security; expansion in renewable and clean energy to improve energy security; sustainable management and conservation of forests to enhance our carbon sinks; climate-proofing infrastructure to build the resilience of our communities and ecosystems.
11. The National Climate Change Council, chaired by the President himself provides the requisite political and strategic direction and sectoral coordination mechanism for implementation of climate change responses. The Council includes representatives of the national and sub-national governments, civil society organisations, private sector, academia, and indigenous communities.

Mr. President;

12. In conclusion, the time for action is now. Let us all rise to the occasion. Let us save Our Planet.

I thank you all.