

SECOND HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
(GPEDC) – OPENING CEREMONY

Statement by Mr. Henry Rotich, EGH, Cabinet Secretary of the
National Treasury

30th November 2016 (Wednesday) 11:00am

Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC), Tsavo Ballroom
NAIROBI, KENYA

H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya,
Cabinet Secretaries/Ministers,
Representatives of Developing and Developed Countries,
Heads of Multilateral and Bilateral Institutions,
Distinguished Guest,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning:

1. Welcome to this Second High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. First let me thank all of you for honoring our invitation to come to Nairobi. It is a clear testimony of the importance you attach to this meeting.

2. My sincere thanks to the Co-chairs of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation for having confidence in Kenya to successfully host this meeting. In particular, I would like to thank Malawi for having identified Kenya among all other countries in Africa, to host the 2nd HLM. This honor reflects the spirit of true partnership—the buzzword of this Conference.

3. Today we officially open the meeting. But as you all know, preparatory forums have been going on since Monday the 28th

November 2016. And I am informed that different fora have been very productive in advancing GPEDC agenda.

4. We are honored as a country to host the Second High level meeting at a time when the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has just started. The theme of the Second High Level Meeting is “Towards Inclusive and Accelerated Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. This calls on us to align what we do to the global goals so that we can realize the desired development outcomes and prosperity for all.

5. Ladies and Gentlemen, today here in Africa we are talking of transforming our economies. While this is critical, it is not the end game. True progress is when the lives of our people and everyone living around us are transformed.

6. The Sustainable Development Goals (for which Kenya played a critical role in their creation—thanks to Ambassador Macharia) has provided us with an overarching framework to transform lives. Our commitment to eradicate poverty and fast-track inclusive and sustainable development, including urgent action on climate change has been renewed in recent global conferences – from Addis, New York, Paris, and recently in Marakesh. So, we now need to follow through what we committed in Busan 2011 and Mexico in 2014—that is, deepen existing partnerships; build new ones; and jointly tackle the programmatic challenges encountered in implementation of effectiveness principles.

7. Achieving these require behaviour change and new approach towards stronger partnerships, including exploring other innovative ways of financing our development while moving away from over-reliance on ODA. All the diverse forms of financing for development

should be exploited and mobilized to realize sustainable development. Of uttermost importance, is the streamlining of our tax administration systems to improve on domestic resource mobilization, which is a more sustainable form of financing our development programmes. In Kenya, we have started this journey by modernizing our tax law and administration systems as well as expanding our tax bases. With the help of our development partners we are working to reform our international tax system, including tackling illicit financial flows.

8. We will not achieve the desired results if we do not have robust political leadership by national governments. Thank you, Your Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta, for joining us today in this meeting to share your reflections, which we take as key to deepen partnerships in this journey. The delegates present here today appreciate your leadership and your vision to transform lives.

9. As the family of Global Partnership, we look forward to continued focus on the quality of development inputs and results. This 2nd HLM provides us with yet another unique opportunity to assess progress, prioritize agendas for the Global Partnership and enhance the positive impact of development cooperation. It is my hope that this meeting will identify and scale up initiatives for innovative approaches to development.

10. As a country that fully acknowledges that women and youth are powerful agents for change and development and are critical to achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for present and future generations, Kenya have chosen to champion the flagship topic, "Economic Empowerment of Women and

Youth". It is our hope that if this issue is well addressed, we will ensure inclusion and that no one is left behind.

11. I am aware that the Steering Committee of the GPEDC has been meeting for the last two days to discuss what we expect to achieve here in Nairobi. It is my hope that we will adopt an outcome document tomorrow whose content will have benefitted immensely from constructive discussions based on the true spirit of Partnership. This success will position the GPEDC as a center of excellence for development effectiveness, providing a significant contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA).

12. In closing, I wish to once again thank all of you—representatives of governments, multilaterals, civil society, the private sector for joining us in Nairobi. Your participation in seven plenary sessions and many focus sessions will be rewarded with an outcome document that will coordinate us into the future of shared growth and prosperity.

13. Thank you, and again, welcome to Nairobi.

Thank you!