

# THE 32<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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## STATEMENT BY THE HENRY ROTICH, CABINET SECRETARY TO THE NATIONAL TREASURY

19<sup>TH</sup> December, 2016 at KICC at 11.00 a.m

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### [SALUTATIONS]

**Co-The Presidents**

**[Louis Michel –EU, Mr. Netty Baldeh – ACP]**

**Co-Presidents, Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. It is with great pleasure for me to address the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA). Kenya is happy that again, we are hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the JPA which comes just a few weeks after we had the privilege of hosting several international meetings which include the 6<sup>th</sup> TICAD Summit in August, the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNCTAD in July, the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO in December 2015 and the HLM2 at the beginning of this month of December 2016.

2. **Co-Presidents**, Kenya considers the European Union together with its member states as a friend and an important partner in implementing our development agenda.

3. In the over fifty years of our partnership with Kenya, the European Union has been a very significant contributor of development assistance to our country, providing more than KSh100 billion.

4. The funding we receive through the European Development Fund – which consists entirely of grants – goes towards the improvement of our roads and energy infrastructure; access to affordable food and clean water; devolution and access to justice; and to the urban poor and those living in Kenya's driest regions.

5. **Co-Presidents,** Europe is also the largest supporter of the peace process in Somalia, including in financial support to the African Union Mission to Somalia. This demonstrate the EU's commitment to regional stability which our country directly benefits from.

6. The regional office of the EU's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection agency, ECHO, is headquartered in Nairobi. It provides emergency relief while also seeking to tackle the underlying causes of malnutrition, famine and refugee issues in Kenya and the wider region.

7. **Co-Presidents,** an issue closely related to peace and refugee challenges in Kenya and the wider Horn of Africa is the issue of migration and development which has also become a global challenge. Africa (and especially Kenya) still bears an inordinate burden due to the influx of refugees from unstable neighbouring countries, which has had a lot of Social, Economic and even security challenges. Our tourism has been affected and the risk of Al Shabab is still with us.

8. In the recent past however, migration and refugee crisis has also been experienced in the Middle-east and Europe. Since this is becoming a global issue, perhaps migration should not be seen only as a challenge, but also as an opportunity. It is better managing migration and making it more conducive to development is an objective shared by Kenya.

9. Kenya therefore appreciates that the EC has set out a strong framework in the European Agenda on Migration, which fully recognises migration as a development enabler. In addition, the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 framework has the potential to reinvigorate interest and recognition of the positive links between migration and development.

10. In this connection, the increased Kenya/EU (and the wider Horn of Africa) development cooperation can make a substantial contribution to the challenges we are currently facing. It can do so in three ways:

- Firstly, by addressing political, economic and social instability, development cooperation contributes to address the root causes, helping to ensure that migration is a choice rather than a necessity.
- Secondly, development cooperation can help partner countries to make their own migration management more effective and in this way ensure that migration takes place in an orderly, safe and regular manner.
- Thirdly, the partnership between the EU, middle-east and African countries most affected by today's migration challenges must be strengthened, in order to be effective and ensure a shared responsibility. Development cooperation underpins and reinforces these partnerships.

11. It is our view therefore that in order to reap the benefits of migration and mobility, ACP (Kenya included) and the EU countries need to speak with and understand each other as provided for under the ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration which is stipulated in article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement. In addition, there is need to establish and set aside a financing mechanism to address migration and refugee issues for the affected regions. This will go a long way in providing possible additional support to the respective countries such as Kenya to tackle migration challenges and their associated root causes.

12. **Co-Presidents**, as I conclude, I presume that the issue of climate change will be part of your agenda during this Session. Consequently I wish to note that Kenya like, many ACP countries is particularly **vulnerable** to the impacts of **climate change** due to their position as developing countries or countries with difficult climatic conditions already.

13. It is our view therefore that forward-looking action against climate change contributes to addressing development challenges, such as access to sustainable energy, resilience of infrastructures and protection of natural resources, and to ensure water, food, decent jobs and growth. This is why we need to

work together to ensure that the resolutions adopted in Paris are implemented from the outset.

14. Further, innovative financing mechanisms, such as the blending mechanisms will also play an important role in mobilising financing from other sources, including the private sector to support investments in the transformation to low emission and climate resilient development.

15. In this connection, Kenya wishes to thank the EU and its Member States for making it a strategic priority to strengthen the political dialogue with the ACP countries, to help alliance building during the many fora on climate change.

16. **Co-Presidents**, with this few remarks, allow me to wish you fruitful deliberations on your 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the JPA her in Nairobi.

**THANK YOU.**

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