



Draft

**Remarks by Anne Waiguru, OGW
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning
During launch of the Common Programme Framework for Ending
Drought Emergencies in Kenya - KICC, Nairobi**

H.E. William Ruto, The Deputy President,

Colleagues,

Governors,

Heads of Mission,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first take this opportunity to thank you, your Excellency William Ruto, for sparing time to come and grace this occasion at very short notice. This shows your dedication towards finding a lasting solution to drought emergencies that over the years have devastated our economy and the lives of our people.

We all know the suffering and loss that comes with drought; we see it on our television screens far too often. But far too many of our fellow Kenyans experience it for real, forced to make impossible choices as they struggle to survive. While drought is of course a normal feature of any dryland ecosystem, a drought emergency is unnecessary and can be prevented. That is the shared goal that has brought us all here today.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Given that drought management is a shared or concurrent function between the National and County Governments, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to working together and in close collaboration so that we provide long-term solutions to drought.

Already we have operational coordination structures, namely the Inter-Governmental Consultative Committee on Drought and Food Security, that I am privileged to chair, with Cabinet Secretaries and Governors as members. This collaborative work has enabled us to deal with drought before it advances into an emergency stage. The mandate of this Committee can easily be expanded to

address long-term solutions to drought within the framework we are launching today.

Your Excellency

Ladies and Gentlemen

Empirical evidence shows that the increase in the frequency and severity of drought is linked to climate change. In this respect, the Ending Drought Emergencies goals will not be achieved if we do not address ourselves to the reality of climate change.

I am happy to report here that the Government is laying emphasis on supporting communities to adapt to climate change. Hence both the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into county integrated development plans and the Ending Drought Emergencies initiative are part of Kenya's commitments towards achievement of the UNFCCC goals.

In line with this, and with the support of my Ministry, county-owned adaptation funds, which provide a potential model for counties to access future climate finance and direct this to investments prioritised by communities, have been successfully created in Isiolo and Makueni counties and are in the final stages of development in other ASAL counties.

Our focus as a Government is also on appropriate diversification of livelihoods to help communities become more resilient to drought. In this respect, I thank our development partners, most of whom are with us here today, for the resources that they are already providing towards building the resilience of dryland livelihoods. I am aware that the total amount you have allocated to these projects is in excess of Kshs. 8 billion per year.

The Government has also set up a number of national funds that dryland communities can draw on. These include the UWEZO Fund; the Youth Enterprise Fund; and the Women Enterprise Fund. Deliberate efforts have also been made to ensure that youth, women and people with disabilities access at least 30% of Government tenders and contracts through the Access to Government

Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) initiative. I urge communities in drought-prone areas to take advantage of these opportunities to diversify their livelihoods.

Your Excellency

Ladies and Gentlemen

Innovation has an important contribution to make in our search for solutions to drought emergencies. We are already seeing evidence of things being done differently. Examples include:

- the use of contingency finance for drought and El Nino preparedness and early drought response;
- the use of cash transfers in response to shocks, triggered by the early warning system and paid direct to beneficiary bank accounts; more than 95,000 households were reached through the Hunger Safety Net Programme earlier this year, and a further 191,000 households more recently, triggered by both El Nino preparedness and drought;
- Kenya's membership of, and technical contribution to, the African Risk Capacity drought risk insurance facility.

There are many more I could mention. I note with appreciation that many of these innovations are the result of collaboration between the government, its development partners, and the research community, working together under government leadership to find new ways of dealing with risk and vulnerability.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to welcome Your Excellency the Deputy President to address the gathering and officially launch the Common Programme Framework for Ending Drought Emergencies.

Welcome Your Excellency

Anne Waiguru, OGW

4th November 2015