

**REMARKS BY THE HON. PROF. ANYANG NYONG ,MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPUBLIC OF KENYA AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF GLOBAL GREEN GROWTH FORUM ,COPENHAGEN, DENMARK ON 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

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**Your Royal Highness Frederik Andre Henrik Christian, The Crown Prince of Denmark;**

**Your Excellency, Helle Thorning-Schmidt, The Prime Minister of Denmark;**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments present;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I would like to thank the Government of Denmark for inviting me to this Forum. Kenya has embarked on an ambitious low carbon growth programme with an extensive green economy programmes being currently implemented.

Kenya continues to be challenged by the impacts of climate change which are now devastating our economic base and causing untold harm to our populations. Climate change has not only caused rising temperatures and drastic changes in weather patterns; it has also brought new challenges in disease control thereby hampering our march towards a green economy. These challenges have forced Kenya to seriously begin to address the issue of climate change in the context of green growth. In mitigating these adverse climatic impacts, Kenya is undertaking the following:

- (i) Continued to create awareness on mitigation and adaptation to enable us assume a low carbon development pathway;
- (ii) Operationalized Climate change action plans after the promulgation of a Climate Change Response Strategy;
- (iii) Reviewed the Feed in Tariffs Policy on renewable sources of electricity;
- (iv) Engaged the private sector in addressing the need to grow green, create jobs and sanitize our population;
- (v) Invested on new green energy generation projects using geothermal, wind, solar and minihydro generations ;
- (vi) Increased investments on off grid solar and minihydro generation and
- (vii) Increased our expenditure in capacity building

In doing all these, the government is mindful of the critical role of private sector and the need to conserve our environment for sustainable development.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

In our attempt to follow a low carbon development pathway, we have encountered a number of challenges. These include:

- (i) The comparatively higher initial costs of taking up green growth pathways and therefore their inability to compete with present conventional activities especially in the context of a weak economy like Kenya's;
- (ii) Limited access to capital by the entrepreneurs, and where they can access it, our inability as a government to issue sovereign guarantees;
- (iii) Low returns on green investments;
- (iv) Lack of a national valuation methodologies for green economy generated goods and services to enable their value relative to conventional natural resources like gas, oil, gold etc. and modalities of factoring them decision making sought;
- (v) Lack of capacity to plan, develop and implement green economy projects in all sectors of our economy and ;
- (vi) Lack of incentive methodologies to attract actors in public and private sector to invest in green economies.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

There is immense opportunity for us to sustainably develop our countries and regions by embracing Green Growth economic models. But we cannot do so by chance but by choice and the time is now. Our efforts must be cooperative and collaborative. Business and other private sector actors must work with government to bring about this very positive change. The governments on their part must put in place the legal, and policy frameworks that provide the enabling environment for business to thrive in the renewed approach of growing green economies. The promise is that there are plenty of business opportunities and money to be made. We should be prepared to hand our future generations a better tomorrow by embracing a green growth pathway. It will require focus, patience and long term planning.

The international community will have to move in a coordinated and consistent manner if we are to realize Global Green Growth. Trade policies must support efforts to ensure sustainable use of natural resources. Modalities of minimizing exploitation of natural resources, but maximizing the recurrent benefits must be sought. Developing countries must lead the way in this approach and if need be incentives be provided to stimulate green growth projects; savings from reduced resource

exploitation should be used to balance the deficit accruing from incentive provision. We request our development partners in our modest efforts to **“Grow Green”**.

These efforts need to start now, and we should move together as partners in this noble effort. We should develop workable and a clear support schemes for those countries that want so desperately to adapt green economic growth; more so the developing economies.

**I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**