

Rt. Hon. Speaker
You may approve for tabling
J. M. Nyegenye, C.B.S.,
Clerk of the senate/secretary, PSC
Date: 20/3/24

copy

Recommended for approval
for tabling

11/03/2024



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

13TH PARLIAMENT | 4TH SENATE | 2ND SESSION

12/03/24

APPROVED
RT HON. SEN
AMASON J. KING

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE
INAUGURAL BIENNIAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE HELD IN
ELDORET, UASIN GISHU COUNTY, ON 15TH – 19TH AUGUST, 2023**

THEME: 10 YEARS OF DEVOLUTION: THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

***SUB-THEME: DRIVING TRANSFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL LEVEL: COUNTY
GOVERNMENTS AS THE CENTRE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

PAPERS LAID	
DATE	19/03/2024
TABLED BY	Sen. Chiranjeev
COMMITTEE	-
CLERK AT THE TABLE	Carolyne Chesep

Clerk's Chambers,
The Senate,
Parliament Buildings,
NAIROBI

August, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iv
CHAPTER ONE	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Objectives of the Conference	2
1.2 Expected Outputs	2
1.3 Conference Format.....	2
CHAPTER TWO	6
2.0 PLENUM AND BREAK AWAY DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.....	6
2.1 Sub-Theme I: Strengthening Effective Service Delivery in Counties through Performance Management: Reaching the Last Mile	6
2.2 Official Opening Ceremony	11
2.3 Breakaway Session I: The Constitutional Right to Housing: A Reflection of The Past 10 Years of Devolution.....	14
2.4 Breakaway Session II: Celebrating A Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for The Future (Focus On PHC).....	15
2.5 Breakaway Session III: Unlocking the Economic Potential of Counties Through Strategic Positioning As Trade and Investment Destinations While Reflecting On The Lessons From the Past.....	17
2.6 Breakaway Session IV: Exploring the Economic Opportunities in The Blue Economy Sector For Inclusive Growth And Benefits For Local Communities: Reflecting Investments In The Next 10 Years	19
2.7 Sub-Theme II: Digital Economy and Integration of Technology In The Devolved Sectors For Economic Development.....	20
2.8 Sub Theme III: Resourcing Devolution for Service Delivery.....	24
2.9 Guest Session II.....	29
2.10 Breakaway Session V: Strong Food Systems for Food Security And Inclusive Growth: Re-Examining The County Agriculture Sector Transformation In The Last 10 Years.....	36
2.11 Breakaway Session VI: Celebrating A Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for The Future (Focus on Digitization)	38
2.12 Breakaway Session VII: Leveraging Natural Resource Management (NRM) For A Sustainable Development Pathway and Green Economy Transition in Counties	39
2.13 Breakaway Session VIII: Empowering Youth for Inclusive Economic Growth: The Role of The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda In Kenya	41
2.14 Sub-Theme IV: Good Governance For Equitable And Sustainable Development...	42
2.15 Sub-Theme V: Affirmative Action- Linking the Lessons to A Sustainable Future..	46
2.16 Closing Ceremony.....	48
CHAPTER THREE	51
3.0 RESOLUTIONS AND WAY FORWARD.....	51
PICTORIALS.....	69
ANNEXTURES	73

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADP	Annual Development Plan
CAF	County Assemblies Forum
CBEF	County Budget and Economic Forum
CBROP	County Budget Review and Outlook Paper
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plans
COG	Council of Governors
FIF	Facility Improvement Fund
FLLoCA	Financing Locally-Led Climate Action
KEMSA	Kenya Medical Supplies Agency
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
PHC	Primary Health Care
PPPs	Public Private Partnerships
UHC	Universal Health Cover

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the proceeding of the First Biennial Devolution Conference held in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County from the 15th to 19th August 2023. The overall objective of the Conference was to reflect on the 10 years of devolution and explore locally and internationally recognized methodologies for strengthening systems to enhance transformational service delivery in the Counties.

Chapter One of the report highlights the background to the Conference. The 1st Biennial Devolution Conference provided a chance for the sub-national governments to critically examine the last ten years of devolution and what the future looks like with county governments being at the center of economic development while driving socio-economic and political transformation from the local level. The Conference also provided a platform to explore the existing opportunities in the digital ecosystem that can help accelerate and optimize service delivery efficiency to improve public services to the people.

Chapter Two of the report highlights the deliberations from the various plenum and break away sessions and the resultant resolutions. The Conference adopted the dialogue approach through panel discussions followed by plenary engagements. The panels comprised senior national and county government officials, development partners, the private sector and the public. The plenum and breakaway sessions focused on among other topics; Effective Service Delivery, Digitalization, Innovation and Performance Management, Affirmative Action, Good Governance and Accountability and Strengthening Intergovernmental Relations.

Chapter Three of the report highlights the resolutions and way forward from the Conference which will inform action points for the Senate and its Committees.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Over the last nine years, the Council of Governors has hosted seven (7) Annual Devolution Conferences in various parts of the country, which have generated conversations around certain thematic areas of concern to the Counties, nationally and globally. Lessons are drawn from the discussions that inform National and County governments' actions. The conferences have attracted National and International delegations that have come to learn about issues regarding the transition to a devolved system of government and appreciate the impact that devolution has had on the people of Kenya. Due to their international nature, the conferences have each attracted over 5000 delegates.

The conferences have had different themes, as enumerated below:

1. The first conference, held in Kwale County, was **“One Year into Devolution: Celebrating the Milestones, Confronting the Challenges.”**
2. The second conference, held in Kisumu County, was **“Celebrating the Gains of Devolution.”**
3. The third conference, held in Meru County, was **“The Promise of Devolution: Consolidating the gains and looking into the future”**
4. The fourth conference, held in Nakuru County, was **“Devolution - Transforming lives: Tell your story!”**
5. The fifth conference, held in Kakamega County, was **“Sustainable, productive, effective and efficient governments for results delivery.”**
6. The sixth conference, held in Kirinyaga County, was **“Deliver. Transform. Measure. Remaining Accountable.”**
7. The seventh and final annual devolution conference, held in Makueni County, was **“Multi-Level Governance for Climate Action.”**

The conferences resulted in the development of communiqués that were tracked and implemented. Some of the strategic interventions because of the conferences include strengthening legislation and policy for devolution, good governance, adoption of a performance management framework for enhanced service delivery, county commitment to climate action, and strengthened intergovernmental relations among others.

During the 6th annual and final devolution conference, it was agreed that the conferences would be hosted after every two years marking the end of the era of annual conferences. This was to ensure that all the stakeholders had sufficient time to fully implement the resolutions that emanate from the important international event as

it was realized that one year was a short period to action and track the commitments made by the different institutions represented.

1.1 Objectives of the Conference

The overall objective of the conference was to reflect on the 10 years of devolution and explore locally and internationally recognized methodologies for strengthening systems to enhance transformational service delivery in Counties.

The specific objectives of this conference included the following:

- 1) To enable County Governments to discuss strategies for effectively deliver transformative services to citizens.
- 2) To identify opportunities for change and enhanced cooperation in changing perspectives and entrenching devolution in Kenya.
- 3) To deliberate on the voices of the children of Kenya on devolution.
- 4) To reflect on the progress made in the implementation of devolution in the last 10 years.
- 5) Provide a platform for the government, development partners, private sector, civil societies, and philanthropy organizations to commit to strategies for local economic development.

1.2 Expected Outputs

1. A joint communique amongst stakeholders for implementation
2. Best practices models on impactful service delivery methodologies identified and documented.
3. Conference report

1.3 Conference Format

1) Pre-Conference activities:

The following activities were undertaken as curtain-raisers before the main conference:

- a) Children's conference held on 7th to 9th April 2023. The Children's conference was aligned with the theme of the Biennial conference and provided an opportunity for the children from all the forty-seven counties to air their voices on the impact of devolution. The children will come up with a communique that will be presented at the main conference.
- b) Running races and tug of war. Running competitions and the tug of war were done on the eve of the conference.

- c) Football tournament, featuring the Senate, the Council of Governors, the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee, and the County Government of Nyandarua. The Senate team emerged as the overall winners.

2) High-level Panel discussions:

The conference adopted the **dialogue approach** through panel discussions followed by plenary engagements. The panels comprised Senior National and County Government Officials, Development partners, the private sector and the public.

3) Main Plenum discussions

The main plenum was attended by all the participants. The plenum was officially launched by the President and focused on the following issues;

a. **Effective Service Delivery**

Service delivery has been a key principle of devolution. Over the last decade, county governments have revolutionized service delivery in their respective regions. The devolved units have provided a closer access gateway to public services to the common citizen. The reach of devolution in service delivery has been immense ranging from the provision of community health services to local administration and agricultural extension services.

Reflecting on the progress made in service delivery, it is clear that devolution has enhanced public service delivery. It is important to celebrate these key milestones as we strategize on the way forward. The plenum discussed the successes of devolution in effective service delivery in the health, agriculture, urban planning and trade sectors. The plenum also identified areas of improvement to enhance service delivery in the future.

b) **Digitalization**

Technological advancement in the 21st Century has impacted every aspect of society. There is no doubt that technology will continue to shape the world in the foreseeable future. County governments have leveraged digital tools in the execution of their mandate. Digital tools such as health information systems, digital surveillance in agriculture, Land information management system, digitalized licensing platforms and satellite have been essential operationalization of devolution. Digitalization provides limitless potential in the execution of the devolved functions.

The plenum discussion provided a forum for counties to share the best digital tools that have effectuated the operationalization of devolution. Additionally, the discussions identified how counties can adopt technologies to enhance data sharing, and data management and use data to adopt data-driven policies. Further, the plenum deliberated on; the implications of data privacy laws, risks associated with the adoption of digital tools and the potential of national and inter-county fibre –optic networks in enhancing devolution.

c) Innovation and Performance Management

Since the inception of devolution, innovation has been important for counties to overcome unforeseen challenges and be resilient in the face of these hurdles. The aspect evaluated how the County governments have come up with innovative solutions to enhance performance management in the last 10 years. The discussion centred on the novel ideas adopted by counties to improve performance management.

d) Affirmative Actions

This aspect evaluated various affirmative action programs implemented by County Governments and their significance in eliminating historical discrimination and injustices against women, minorities, youth, and PWDs, among others. Further, conversations about the economic empowerment of marginalized groups were initiated in the plenum.

e) Good Governance and Accountability

Good Governance and accountability of the devolved governments are important to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of devolution. In the spirit of democracy, county governments are supposed to be accountable to the citizens. The plenum initiated a dialogue on the subject matter to identify the level of good governance, integrity accountability in the county governments.

f) Strengthening Intergovernmental Relations

Cooperation between the two levels of government is critical to ensure the successful implementation of devolution. The plenum discussed how intergovernmental relations can be strengthened to promote devolution.

4) Sector breakaway sessions

Sector breakaway sessions were convened each day to discuss various achievements, challenges, and the future of devolution in critical sectors while mainstreaming the current government's priorities. The concurrent sessions were held separately and had a moderator pose questions to the panellists. A plenary was opened for participants to give their views on the discussed subject matter. The participants engaged professional facilitators/moderators in dialogue toward identifying solutions and making propositions for the way forward. The sub-themes were mixed (sectoral based and included cross-cutting issues e.g., technology and innovation, performance management, knowledge management etc.

5) Exhibitions

The conference had an open exchange of experiences through exhibitions and available opportunities for direct interaction.

6) Devolution Warrior Award

These recognized individuals who have played an exemplary role in supporting devolution over the last 10 years.

7) Duration and schedule of Conference

The Conference was held from 16th to 18th August 2023 in Uasin Gishu County. The Conference schedule was as follows:

- i. Arrival and collection of registration badges on 15th August 2023.
- ii. Devolution Tournament on 15th August 2023.
- iii. Official Opening of the Conference 16th August 2023
- iv. Conference Days 16th to 18th August 2023.
- v. Official Closing Ceremony and signing of Commitments 18th August 2023
- vi. Departure 19th August 2023.

The conference facilitators were Prof. Karuti Kanyinga and Mr. Eric Latiff.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 PLENUM AND BREAK AWAY DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

This chapter highlights of the various plenum and break away discussions and the resultant resolutions.

2.1 Sub-Theme I: Strengthening Effective Service Delivery in Counties through Performance Management: Reaching the Last Mile

Moderator: Ms. Mary Neto, Public Service Expert

Address by Tony Blair - Executive Chairman, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Tony Blair, the Executive Chairman for the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change underscored the need to have in place the right policies, highly motivated and competent personnel and the right performance management tools to strengthen effective service delivery.

Governor Mutahi Kahiga - Governor, Nyeri County

The Governor gave insight into the implementation of Performance Contracting in Nyeri County which was made possible with the technical assistance from the Council of Governors (COG). In Nyeri County performance contracting is aligned to the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) as well as the Governor's manifesto. The key success of performance contracting has been the establishment of the Governor's service delivery unit to support the continuous monitoring of projects. Additionally successful implementation of performance contracting has ensured little or no pending bills in the County.

The Governor further underscored the importance of performance management and reporting. Further, the Governor reiterated the need to determine weights to the various performance indicators and reward good performance. He gave an example of Nyeri County where good performance is reward with trophies and promotions.

Amb. Salma A.Ahmed - Commissioner, Public Service Commission

The Commissioner highlighted the need to leverage on Human Capital in Performance Management. She further emphasised on the need to establish norms and standards for service delivery at the County level. Additionally, the Commissioner encouraged

County Public Service boards to leverage on various Performance Management tools made available by the Public Service Commission which can be accessed from the Commission's website.

Ms. Anne Njoki Wangombe - Principal Secretary, State Department for Performance and Delivery Management, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary

The Principal Secretary highlighted the importance of performance management in the public sector. Performance Management she stated was rolled out in the 3rd administration, that is, President Mwai Kibaki's administration where mainstreaming of performance management was adopted across the public service. This stirred up economic growth through completion of major infrastructural projects among them housing and roads projects, provincial headquarters among other as well as improvement of service delivery which resulted in Kenya being awarded the UN Public Service award. The 5th administration under President William Ruto is working towards improvement/reintegration of Performance Management in the Public Service.

On how Counties can leverage on performance management the Principal Secretary reiterated the need for Counties to conduct Capacity Building on Performance Management additionally counties could enrol unto the automated performance management systems as well as conduct multi stakeholder engagements to mainstream performance management in the Counties. The Principal Secretary informed the plenary that the State Department would soon be coming up with a Bill on Performance Management that would be subjected to stakeholder participation. It would be helpful to have the input of the Counties in the Bill.

In closing the Principal Secretary congratulated the Counties of Kakamega, Makeni and Nyeri who are implementing performance management and encouraged other Counties to implement performance management.

Hon. Philemon Sabulei, MCA - Chairperson, County Assemblies Forum (CAF)

The Chairperson of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) presented on the role of County Assemblies in Performance Management and service delivery to the citizenry. The role of the County Assemblies can be summarised as follows:

- 1) Legislative role: County Assemblies provide a legal framework of managing the county resources and service delivery
- 2) Oversight role: County Assemblies provide oversight over the resource management

- 3) Budgetary role: County Assemblies provide finance hence fuelling service delivery
- 4) Planning policy documents: County Assemblies consider and adopt the planning and policy documents

In conclusion the chairperson reiterated that County Assemblies will continue to facilitate County Assemblies to facilitate service delivery in the Counties.

Sen. (Rev.) Julius Recha Murgor, M.P. - Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare

The Senator highlighted how resourcing of Counties has facilitated service delivery as well as how the Senate measures the service delivery by the Counties.

The Senator pointed out ways in which the Senate tracks the performance of the Counties in service delivery which included;-

1. The quarterly and annual Budget implementation report by the Controller of the Budget outlines the extent of budget implementation across the 47 counties, highlighting the critical issues of concern and follow-up.
2. Through County oversight visits the Counties engage with the respective County Executive, County Assembly, and by extension, the Members of the Assembly and the County Public Service Boards. There are instances where the Senate (Committee on Labour and Social Welfare) has engaged stakeholders in a particular county only to determine the strained relationship between the CPSB and the Executive. According to the Committee, this kind of scenario brings to the fore the possibility of impeded service delivery.
3. The engagement between the Senate and the public especially relating to petitions before the Senate. For instance, during the 12th Parliament, more than half of the petitions before the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare were related to unfair work relations between the county governments and their workers.

Dr. Meshack Ndirangu - Country Director, Amref Health Africa in Kenya

Dr. Ndirangu highlighted the impact of Amref's work in the communities where Amref is concerned with delivery of primary health care. He offered an insight into the lessons learnt for better health outcomes which included 4 levers also known as 4Ps which were.

1. Political goodwill
2. People centred primary health care models
3. Precision and data health systems
4. Primary health care resourcing

Further, he highlighted some of the success stories from the counties. For example Turkana where maternal mortality has greatly reduced, Kwale where primary care networks have been put in place, Meru county where the people centred models have worked and finally the 12 (twelve) Counties of western Kenya where Malaria is endemic, who have significantly been able reduce Malaria infections in the Counties.

Dr. Meshack pointed out some of the challenges which included the lack of standards and sectoral policies, Absence of performance management framework, Inadequate staffing in health care as well as inadequate finances for highly populated counties.

In conclusion, he stated that prioritisation is important given the limited resources more so prioritising health care. Counties he said need to partner with development partners like Amref in delivery of health care.

Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo - Social Accountability Expert

Ms. Gikonyo highlighted that the 2021 report by the World Bank on the evaluation of public service delivery is an objective analysis of devolution progress of performance in public service delivery. According to the earlier public expenditure report by the Ministry of Planning and National Development (2017), Counties have maintained service delivery at pre-devolution levels, and reasonably expanded service delivery reach to previously unserved areas. Generally, the health ECDE, rural water has fared relatively well under devolution.

Nevertheless, she highlighted that agriculture, and urban services haven't fared as well with reversals in some development indicators e.g. levels of crucial extension farming are generally below pre-devolution levels. However, she mentioned that agriculture, and urban services haven't fared as well with reversals in some development indicators. Eg levels of crucial extension farming are generally below pre-devolution levels.

In addition, certain challenges have delayed the effective execution of performance management and service delivery for socio-economic development. Gaps in the standards setting and enforcement of the National government function, including undeveloped sectoral policy, staff gaps that aim to higher admin staff as opposed to frontline and technical staff as well as inconsistent capacity building. The M&E and performance systems are relatively weak and do not provide required information for performance management and oversight.

Nevertheless, Ms. Gikonyo emphasised on the need for counties to better their performance management and service delivery, through good practices, including;

- Prioritisation of Human resource management systems (HRMS), evidence and data-based management, reporting and evaluation
- Harnessing cross-county synergies at regional block level, to meet capacity needs in building HRMS policy and implementation capacity,
- Ensuring all funds in the National budget undertaking county functions are transferred to the county government
- Taking concerted and objective intervention in the health & water sectors to resolve long standing differences which are impacting service delivery
- Institutionalisation of successful models like project management Committee
- Strengthening the performance and effectiveness of public participation platforms such as the CBEF and Governor round tables

Recommendations from the Session:

The various speakers proposed the following solutions towards overcoming the challenges that hamper devolution:

1. *The 4Ps*: i) Identifying key Priorities and proactively following through with them, ii) Having in place responsive Policies that have a clear roadmap to service delivery, iii) the right Personnel to achieve the county's objectives, iv) Performance management to ensure effective delivery.
2. *Performance Contracting*: This is a tool for holding executives accountable. Adopted by Nyeri County, this approach catapulted it to number one in 2019 from number 47. This was achieved by following through on key aspects of the county that included the reduction of pending bills to less than 1% of budgetary allocations, having in place service delivery commitments, compliance with statutory obligations, and improved monitoring of projects.
3. Embracing uniform norms and standards, including values and principles of the public service
4. For the Public Service boards in counties to take advantage of the HR principles and implement them.
5. For counties to harness cross-county synergies to meet capacity needs in building HRMS policy and implementation capacity.
6. Public participation to strengthen performance and effectiveness.
7. Prioritising performance management: This can be through multi-stakeholder engagement, developing a Bill on performance management, and automating Performance Management Systems that counties can use to measure their performance – the case of Makueni, Nyeri, and Kakamega.
8. For the central government to transfer the remaining functions to the counties as

per the Kenya Constitution

9. The use of County Assemblies in offering effective service delivery through the following approaches:
 - a. Ensuring budgets are passed on time to ensure effective service delivery.
 - b. Passage of policy and planning documents (CIDPS, CBROP, ADP, etc.)
 - c. Being a watchdog of the people ensures the resources bestowed at the county are effectively used.

2.2 Official Opening Ceremony

Moderator: Governor Stephen Sang, Governor, Nandi County and Chief Whip, Council of Governors

Amb. Meg Whitman - U.S. Ambassador to Kenya

The Ambassador gave a pitch on why investment in Kenya by foreign firms will be their best move, considering the fact that Kenya is one of the most stable democracies in Africa; a gateway to 500 million regional EAC markets; is a regional ICT and financial hub and has young, educated entrepreneurs and an English-speaking workforce. Kenya is also a leading destination for FDIs and venture capital. The government of Kenya is open for business. She, however, advised on the following areas of improvement that the government should take:

- *Taxes:* To have a consistent, transparent, and fairly administered national tax policy
- *Corruption:* This issue must be addressed if Kenya is to reach its intended levels and potential in all areas of development.
- *Debt-to-GDP ratio:* Kenya's debt-to-GDP ratio is 69%, which is too high (IMF)
- *Cargo Clearance:* The delivered cost of a container in Kenya remains significantly higher than shipments to other places

The story of Why Africa, Why Kenya and Why counties need to be told to attract global investors to the country.

Mr. Peter Ndegwa - Safaricom PLC Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer highlighted that in its contribution to devolution, Safaricom has invested heavily in providing secure connectivity and infrastructure development through cloud, fiber and smartphones. It is the devolution partner for digital transformation. Safaricom has also developed "My County App", which is interoperable with many other county government platforms; 14 counties have so far

onboarded. The App aims at broadening digital service delivery, improving citizen involvement, and improve access to government services.

Dr. Githinji Gitahi - Amref Health Africa Group Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Githinji stated that AMREF plans to invest 50 million USD to build Primary Health Care hospitals in the counties to ensure there are quality healthcare services and health providers, including doctors, nurses, and medical students. AMREF encourages the privatisation of health facilities in the counties to empower them to manage their own hospitals for effective healthcare provision.

Mr. Paul Russo, EBS - Kenya Commercial Bank Group Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Russo highlighted that KCB would continue to work with county governments and the various ministries to deliver transformational partnerships. KCB promises an unmatched product and value proposition that will enhance the competitiveness of counties as far as the delivery of devolved services is concerned.

H.E. Amb. Ole Thonke - Chair of the Devolution Donor Working Group

The Chair highlighted that devolution has been a game changer; it has been clearly evident as it has brought resources and services closer to the people and increased investment in areas such as health, water, and education, among others.

Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH - Prime Cabinet Secretary

The Prime Cabinet Secretary highlighted the major challenges that impede growth of counties which included; lack of budget execution, pending Bills, capacity building and own source revenue among others. He challenged the current governors and those in the national government to reflect on whether they act as facilitators or as obstructors in efficiency and effectiveness around devolution. It was agreed that in any role taken in government, one should purposely be a facilitator and not an obstructor.

Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetangula, EGH, M.P. - Speaker of the National Assembly

The Speaker in his remarks which were presented by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Gladys Shollej, MP stated that the National Assembly remains committed to close collaboration with county governments to address the needs of citizens through enhanced legislation to enable effective service delivery and

equitable distribution of resources to support service delivery. In this regard, it will deal with and fast-track legislation on pending laws, including healthcare laws, food and food safety, roads, and supporting quality education.

Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P. - Speaker of the Senate

The government of Kenya, through its various arms, has walked the talk and ensured that devolution gains are preserved and sustained. The various Acts that have been developed to support and underpin devolution are key policy documents that help in implementing the devolution program. Attained goals of devolution, however, must be nurtured and collectively harnessed and coordinated.

Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH - Chairperson, Council of Governors

The Governor commended the National Government for the timely disbursement of the allocations to the county governments during the FY 2022/2023 and the first month of the FY 2023/2024.

She noted that, as a result of devolution, maternal deaths had dropped significantly, there had been improved access to healthcare, an increase in the number of health facilities as well as increased investments in agriculture. County governments have also been at the forefront of promoting climate-smart technologies.

In conclusion, the Governor reiterated the need to entrench in law the financial autonomy of the County Assemblies for proper oversight over the executive.

Official Opening by H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H. - President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces

President Ruto gave the following commitments that the national government will undertake toward the counties:

1. Strengthening devolution through specific interventions, including the transfer of all outstanding functions constitutionally assigned to counties.
2. Implement a framework that ensures that national agencies carrying out devolved or shared mandates operate under a funding-followed-functions principle with respect to devolved functions.
3. Ensure that shareable revenue is transferred to counties in a timely and predictable manner and in accordance with the law.
4. To support the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda by promoting stronger performance at the grassroots through collaboration with county

governments and enhancing the equitable allocation to county governments from Ksh 370 billion in the 2022/23 financial year to Ksh 385.4 billion in the 2023/24 financial period.

5. To support county governments in improving their capacity to generate their own income and reduce over-reliance on transfers from the national government.
6. Transfer funds owed to beneficiary communities under the Mining Act 2016 and the Petroleum Act 2019, and collaborate with counties to increase the capacity of such communities to benefit from extractive resources.

On corruption, the President committed to treating it at all levels of government as a high-priority law enforcement issue requiring an expeditious and decisive response.

The President went on to launch the Devolution Book as well Joint County Bankable Investment Handbook

2.3 Breakaway Session I: The Constitutional Right to Housing: A Reflection of The Past 10 Years of Devolution

The session looked at the journey of the last 10 years of housing since devolution. The panellist examined the history of the Kenya housing sector, challenges, opportunities, emerging issues, and the possible way forward on housing as one of the priorities of the national and county government.

The keynote speaker for this session was Mr. Oumar Sylla, Director of Regional Office in Africa-UN Habitat. The Moderator was Mr. Fawcett Komollo, President, Kenya Institute of Planners while the Session Chair was Sen. Karungo Thang'wa, M.P., Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Roads, Transport and Housing Committee

The panellists included:

Governor Hon. (Prof.) Anyang' Nyong'o, EGH - Chairperson, CoG Lands, Housing and Urban Development Committee

Mr. Charles Hinga CBS, CA (SA) - Principal Secretary, State Department of Housing and Urban Development

Mr. Daniel Kiptoo Bargoria - Director General, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)

Ms. Husna Mbarak - Programme Manager, FAO

Mr. Johnstone Oltetia - Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Mortgage Refinancing Company

Mr. Antony Okoth - Country Director, Habitat for Humanity International-Kenya

Hon. Johnson Osoi - Chairman, LAPFUND

Affordable housing is not only a constitutional right but a human right as per the SDGs. According to a World Bank report, Kenya has a deficit of 200,000 housing units annually. The national government has prioritised housing and passed a law on housing and the housing levy. Towards this end, county governments have been able to carry out the following:

1. 42 counties, in collaboration with the national government, have constructed affordable housing through housing schemes
2. Some counties have developed their own housing policies – Nairobi, Mombasa and Kakamega
3. Upgraded informal settlements in collaboration with UN-Habitat

Resolutions from the Session:

1. Fast-track regularisation, documentation and registration of land with the objective of expanding the national cadastre
2. The government in consultation with other stakeholders, including county government should fast-track the formulation of the National housing policy for Kenya, which will form the basis for continuous monitoring of the implementation of the affordable housing programme
3. Provide a framework for enhancing collaboration between the county and national government
4. Facilitate the affordable housing programme County governments should make a commitment to facilitate last-mile infrastructure provisions such as water, roads, sewer lines, and health centres.
5. The county should put in place frameworks for facilitating the ownership of affordable housing units, such as through county housing cooperatives, including frameworks for managing the upcoming affordable housing schemes.
6. The government should develop energy planning standards and regulations that will enhance the energy efficiency of buildings towards the achievement of 100% green energy by 2030, which will be a catalyst for green housing. Some of this may include strategies for gas reticulation in new buildings for enhanced energy efficiency.

2.4 Breakaway Session II: Celebrating A Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for The Future (Focus On PHC)

The objective of the session was to discuss and propose policy adjustments that foster implementation of Primary Health Care (PHC) and share best and promising practices on PHC over the last decade.

The keynote speaker for this session was H.E. Amb. Ole Thonke, Ambassador to Denmark. The Moderator was Ms. Irene Choge, Media Advocacy Manager, JHPIEGO while the Session Chair was Governor Muthomi Njuki, Chairperson, CoG Health Committee.

The session began with the presentation of a video clip on celebrating 10 years of devolution in the health sector after which a presentation on strategy to strengthen PHC to attain UHC was made by Dr. Gregory Ganda, County Executive Committee Member, Kisumu County.

The panellists included:

Hon. Susan Nakhumicha - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health

Hon. (Dr) Pukose Robert - Chairperson, National Assembly Health Committee

Dr. Tim Theuri - Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Health Federation

Mr. John Kuenhle - Chair, Development Partners for Health in Kenya (DPHK)

Dr. Ann Kihara - President Elect, International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Emeritus President African Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Mr. Irungu Nyakera - Chairperson, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA)

Following panellist discussions it was observed that most counties allocate over 30% of their total budget to health despite having 14 devolved functions. Further, 28 counties have so far passed legislation on the ring-fencing of health resources through Facility Improvement Funds. The panellists underscored the fact that Kenya needs to increase its budget allocation to health to 15% as per the Abuja declaration currently, it is about 11%. This notwithstanding, counties continue to embrace innovations to improve efficiency and effective service delivery for example telemedicine and the use of drone technology to supply commodities.

Some of the key breakthroughs by the Ministry of Health includes developing an essential benefit package that has no exclusions. The package will cover a wide range of services, including wellness promotion. Costing is currently ongoing to ensure that the package is fit for the purpose of the social health insurance scheme. The Ministry has already trained Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and is currently in the process of ordering kits and gadgets for them.

Some of the key challenges highlighted include:

1. *Slow Progress in Health Worker Recruitment and Retention:* A shortage of health workers can lead to overburdened healthcare facilities, longer patient wait times, and reduced quality of care.
2. *Unnecessary Referrals:* The challenge of unnecessary referrals occurs when patients seek care at higher-level healthcare facilities when their medical

- condition could have been managed effectively at a lower-level facility.
3. The inconsistency in engagement terms and contracts for health professionals is a challenge that has led to unequal treatment, demotivation, and legal issues.
 4. The issue of presentism, where health workers are physically present but lack motivation and engagement,
 5. Limited Financial Resources for Health Sector Development
 6. *Discrepancies in Funding Allocation:* The method of allocating funds to counties based on last audited accounts compared to the national budget is based on revenue collected at that time has led to disparities in the funds available for counties.

Some of the recommendations from the deliberations include:

1. On health system strengthening, there is need to build robust healthcare systems, particularly at the primary care level. This is essential for effective delivery of services, preventing illness and promoting overall well-being.
2. The need to shift towards sustainable healthcare solutions is necessary. This entails focusing on high-impact county-level capacity building, aligning transition strategies with government priorities such as Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Primary Healthcare (PHC), and integrating services to ensure holistic and enduring quality care.
3. The implementation of the Facility Improvement Funds (FIF) for ring-fencing funds can play a crucial role in addressing health financing challenges.
4. The need for a shift towards prevention and health promotion is highly recommended. Engaging community health promoters to educate the public about preventive measures can significantly reduce the burden of diseases.
5. To further enhance efficiency, KEMSA should expedite adoption of a regional distribution model that involves strategically locating regional distribution centres.

2.5 Breakaway Session III: Unlocking the Economic Potential of Counties Through Strategic Positioning As Trade and Investment Destinations While Reflecting On The Lessons From the Past

The objective of this breakout session was to deliberate on effective strategies for enhancing Trade and investment at the county level with the aim of contributing to socio economic development.

The keynote speaker for this session was Dr. Eric Rutto, Chamber President, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Moderator was Mr. Eric Latiff, Broadcaster and Communications Strategist.

The panellists included:

1. *Governor Hon. Wavinya Ndeti, Chairperson, CoG Trade, Investment and Enterprise Development Committee*
2. *Governor Mutahi Kahiga, Governor, Nyeri County*
3. *Hon. Moses Kuria, HSC, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry*
4. *Sen. Lenku Ole Kanar Seki, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism*
5. *Mr. James Potts, Economic Counselor at the US Embassy*
6. *Mr. Richard Muteti, HSC, Chief Executive Officer, Confederation of Micro and Small Enterprises Organisation - East Africa(CMSEO-EA)*

Some of the key highlights discussed include:

1. Counties to adopt digitization to reduce bureaucracy.
2. Advocacy for the County Governments Revenue Raising Bill 2023 to harmonise levies.
3. Acknowledged county governments' efforts in climate change, with the private sector ready to contribute.
4. Called for government support in capital, facilities, and R&D for businesses.
5. Emphasised value addition in sectors like textile for job creation.

The session focused on the challenges facing SMEs ranging from inadequate access to credit, market access, pending bills, inadequate skills, double taxation to multiple business licences. The discussions focused on the need to address these challenges by agreeing to:

1. Work together as an ecosystem between the private sector and the government.
2. Creation of favourable policies and review of business legislation currently at the Senate
3. Have impactful roundtable discussions with SMEs
4. Creation of Market access and market linkages.
5. Have a multi stakeholders approach while dealing with these challenges and issues.
6. Work towards scaling up of SMEs
7. Creating a competitive Business Environment for the locals.
8. Investing more on value addition.

Resolutions from the session:

1. On policy and legislative framework on trade and investment, the Senate to fast-track the consideration and passage of legislation on county own source revenue raising measures, harmonisation and integration of taxes, licences and

- levies by the county governments and decriminalisation and facilitation of workspaces of MSMEs and the *juakali* sector
2. On disjointed and silo-based approaches on MSMEs, the Senate to work with the two levels of government and the private sector to facilitate a harmonised collaborative approach in; promoting the business environment and access to information, financing and markets by MSMEs; designing interventions to address the challenges facing MSMEs; establishing conducive workspaces for MSMEs and decriminalise their work; mobilising and rallying MSMEs around agricultural, textile and other value chains; and collecting and analysing data on MSMEs for evidence-informed action.

2.6 Breakaway Session IV: Exploring the Economic Opportunities in The Blue Economy Sector For Inclusive Growth And Benefits For Local Communities: Reflecting Investments In The Next 10 Years

The objective of this breakout session was to discuss strategies that will ensure that blue economy benefits are distributed equitably, promote job creation and address social and economic inequalities.

The keynote speaker for this session was Ms. Mariatu Kamara, IFAD Kenya Country Director. The Moderator was Ms. Thule Lenneya, Business Development Advisor while the Session Chair was Governor Dr. Paul Otuoma, EGH, Governor, Busia County.

The panellists included:

1. *Governor Issa Timamy, EGH - Chairperson, CoG Blue Economy Committee*
2. *Hon. Salim Mvurya, EGH - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs*
3. *Sen. Mohammed Faki, M.P. - Senator, Mombasa County*
4. *Dr. Ally Matano - Blue Economy Advisor, Kenya Devolution Programme/ ACT*
5. *Ms. Victoria Sabula - Chief Executive Officer, Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF)*
6. *Mr. Fredrick Juma - Founder, Hydro Victoria Fish Hatchery Farm*

Resolutions

1. On promoting the growth and uptake of opportunities in the Blue economy sector, the Senate to work with the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, the county governments and other stakeholders to; ensure the counties incorporate the Blue economy component in preparation of county integrated and annual development plans; provide an enabling framework for

private sector investment in the Blue economy sector; and create awareness on the Ksh.1 billion Fund set aside to support women engaging in Blue economy enterprises

2. On policy and legislative framework on the Blue economy sector, the Senate to work with the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries and other stakeholders to fast-track the review of laws and regulations governing exploitation of opportunities in the Blue economy sector
3. On fragmented approaches and strategies in exploiting opportunities in the Blue economy sector, the Senate to work with the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, the county governments and other stakeholders to develop an inter-governmental framework to ensure sustainable exploitation of the Blue economy resources

2.7 Sub-Theme II: Digital Economy and Integration of Technology In The Devolved Sectors For Economic Development

Moderator: Ms. Fiona Asonga, Chief Executive Officer, Technology Service Providers Association of Kenya (TESPOK)

Keynote speaker: H.E. Henriette Geiger, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Kenya

The ambassador lauded the opening of the Data Protection Commissioner's offices at the County Level for example in Mombasa. Additionally, she reiterated the need for counties to prioritise Cyber Security which is posing a great risk to the citizenry. She reiterated that there was need for counties to build and invest in their cyber security resilience by prioritising it in their budget allocations. Further that devolving digitization would enhance service delivery as well as boost own resource generation. The ambassador observed that there was need to harmonise counties' own source revenue systems as well as land administration systems. For example, *Ardhi Sasa* had been rolled out to all counties with the help of the European Union.

Furthermore, the ambassador observed that while all 47 counties are connected to the internet there is a digital divide between rural and urban population and the way to bridge this is public private partnerships in the sector through last mile connectivity. In conclusion, the ambassador pledged the support of the European Union.

Governor Wisley Rotich - Chairperson, CoG ICT and Knowledge Management Committee

The Governor addressed how digitization would look like for the Counties. The

governor emphasised that a collaborative approach with all stakeholders would be necessary for the digitization process on two fronts: digitization of government and of business.

He further stated that digitization is essential in revenue collection and called for collection revenue platforms to be standardised across the counties and reiterated that counties are prepared to work with all stakeholders to realise this.

Digitization he stated was also necessary in health systems e.g., drug delivery, land records as well as agricultural extension services and in end-to-end procurement systems through IFMIS.

The Governor observed that gaps exist hence a need to create a conducive environment for digitization through last mile connectivity to enable ICT infrastructure to be accessible to the remote areas of the counties. He gave an example of *My County App* which has been used to improve feedback mechanisms between the government and the citizenry in his county.

Mr. Eliud Owalo - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy

The cabinet secretary defined a digital economy as one that involves infrastructure, skills and opportunities. He stated that there were plans to roll out an additional 100,000kms of fibre optic cable as well as 25,000 free WIFI hotspots. Additionally, in support of the digital skilling program the government launched the *Gitume Program* targeted at the youth. Additionally, to enable the youth source for digital jobs plans were under way to have digital hubs in all wards where each hub can create 1,500 jobs in each and every constituency.

Additionally, stated that digitization of all government records and services was ongoing where the government intends to digitise 7500 services further that digital identification of persons in the digital platforms was being pursued by the government. Tied to this was access to cheap smart enabled phones where the government the Cabinet Secretary stated, was working in collaboration with the private sector he further reiterated the need for a collaborative approach between the national and county for digitization to be attainable.

The cabinet secretary stated that data security and privacy is integral hence the government's support to the data protection office, he further reiterated the need for a legal and policy framework in the digitization agenda and a collaborative approach working with the private sector in public private partnerships.

The cabinet secretary concluded by stating that the end game is to have a paperless government, creation of digital jobs, Gig economy, digital entrepreneurship, efficiency and effectiveness of government.

Sen. Allan Chesang Kiprotich, M.P. - Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on ICT

The Senator stated that the Senate will endeavour to provide a legal and policy framework for digitization for service delivery and further reiterated the need for collaboration between the private and public sector.

Ms. Cynthia Kropac - Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Safaricom PLC

Ms. Kropac noted that Safaricom and Mpesa specifically is an enabler for growth and development in the Country and that 4G penetration was at 12% which was still very low, another challenge was smart phones accessibility.

She observed that for digitization to be tainable there was need for connectivity and protection of citizens' data. Safaricom has helped the energy and water sector through digitization of the metering system which has helped to curb pilferage and wastage.

Mr. Hamisi Williams - Assistant Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative- Kenya

Mr. Williams stated that FAO works towards food systems transformations through the use of technology where land is an important factor for production. He observed that land tenure is a challenge in the Country where huge tracts of land are held up in litigation and that one way of sorting this is through the Alternative Justice System (AJS) which would go a long way in maximising the potential of land.

He stated that FAO has worked with the government to digitise land systems where 14 registries in 14 counties have so far been digitised. Land customer services that is; searches and payments have been digitised.

FAO supports innovation through Geographical Information Systems (GIS) laboratories in 9 countries and 25 more counties have been earmarked. He gave an example of best practice where in Vihiga County the use of GIS labs has been used for revenue collection, and targeted development projects informed by data.

He observed that agriculture still remains hugely undigitized hence the challenge of obtaining farmers information. He stated that digitization would be helpful in E-extension services where operation of the platform still remains a challenge, market intelligence that is how and when to buy and where the market is as well as credit cording for provision of credit to the farmers by the banks based on their production patterns.

Mr. David Omwoyo - Chief Executive Officer, Media Council of Kenya (MCK)

Mr. David Omwoyo stated that the media works to provide information through the use of the traditional media and social media. Further, there needs to be safeguards for fact checking. He gave an example of the *Maarifa Centre* as a useful and credible resource for information

Mr. Ezra Chiloba - Director General, Communication Authority (CA)

Mr. Chiloba stated that the Kenya Information and Communications (Amendment) Act, 2009, provides for the establishment of a Universal Service Fund (USF), administered and managed by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA). The purpose of the fund is to support widespread access to ICT services, promote capacity building and innovation in ICT services in the country.

He observed ICT Infrastructure is at risk with continuous cuts and vandalism where for example 30 towers were brought down by insurgents hence the need for a framework to protect infrastructure.

Mr. Chiloba further stated that supporting infrastructure like roads and power to support USF projects are of huge importance to support the last mile connectivity. Mr. Chiloba sought the support of the counties' leadership where some communities are not receptive to the technologies and reiterated the need for the county leadership to collaborate with the Communication Authority to deliver Universal Service Fund projects.

Resolutions from the session:

1. The National government shall create a policy framework for anchoring digitization.
2. The Senate to ensure all the legal frameworks and policies are in place to ensure better and affordable ICT connectivity.
3. In the efforts to put in place the necessary infrastructure for ICT technology, both levels of government shall ensure proper coordination between the ICT

departments and other supportive departments such as security, energy, water and transport among others.

4. The need for a value-based approach to digitalization and to ensure the process is inclusive and sustainable
5. Need for a framework that supports equal and equitable access to ICT services
6. Market intelligence through the use of digital devices will assist farmers in counties to know when to sell or when to buy agricultural products
7. The need for county and national governments to coordinate to deliver value in terms of service delivery through use of technology.
8. The need for a legislative and policy framework that protects critical infrastructure like telecommunication masts and fibre optic cables to ensure last mile connectivity.
9. The need for a multi stakeholder approach to develop supporting infrastructure like roads and power connectivity to facilitate last mile connectivity.

2.8 Sub Theme III: Resourcing Devolution for Service Delivery

Moderator: Mr. Boniface Mung'ania, Director, Public Sector Digital Transformation, Safaricom PLC

Keynote Address: Mr. Paul Russo, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Commercial Bank

Mr. Russo underscored the need to maximise on the potential of regional blocs for aggregation and resource mobilisation. Counties he observed need to build on strategic partnerships as well as predictable and sustainable investments.

Governor FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW - Chairperson, CoG Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee

The Governor observed that allocation between National and Counties has major disparities due to the fact that functions were inadequately costed leading to inadequate funding for essential services like health, education and Infrastructure.

The Governor called for the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) to study the impact of disparities to the Counties/ impact assessment to inform the future allocations. The Governor reiterated that devolved functions ought to be devolved with the attendant resources. He further stated that Counties have had to overdependence on conditional grants whose conditionalities may not be attainable.

The Governor recommended that the office of the Controller of Budget should digitally transform to facilitate the release of funds in a timely manner to the County Revenue Fund account.

In conclusion the Governor termed the miscellaneous amendment to the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 to create a committee to approve expenditure by counties as retrogressive.

Governor Cecily Mbarire, MGH - Chairperson, CoG Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Committee

The Governor underscored the need to put more weight on the population, the rationale being that services are given to people. She noted that deficiencies in revenue exist hence the need to grow the base through own source revenue and alternative sources of revenue further she reiterated the need to identify and diversify revenue streams.

The Governor observed that there is a need for legislation on use of revenue at source, especially for hospitals as well as the need for counties to leverage on resource mobilisation through partnerships with development partners for example world bank. Additionally, counties need to develop cashless systems through digitization.

The Governor also observed that there is need to optimise on Public Private Partnerships independent of the National Government as a resource generation mechanism. Other alternative sources of revenue for counties includes County Bonds like in the example of Laikipia County as well as green bonds which are non-traditional revenue generation mechanisms for counties. Others include; agribusiness and value addition, Industrial parks, enhance local tourism as revenue generation streams, partnership with Kenya Tourism Board and Ministry of Tourism on generation of tourism products and marketing.

The Governor underscored the need to harmonise county taxes to avoid over taxation as well as county investment funds to support more medium sized enterprises. She reiterated that automation in the release of funds to the County Revenue Funds account is important to facilitate counties in service delivery as well as integrated systems for revenue collection to maximise collection of revenue for counties.

Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, CBS - Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Planning

The Cabinet Secretary underscored that the basis of division of revenue is equitable sharing of resources for service delivery. He further highlighted the components of revenue sharing which are; County equitable share, 15% of raised nationally, Conditional allocations; Loans and grants and Equalisation fund. Further he discussed the basis for the equitable share of revenue as provided for in Article 203 of the Constitution which includes; public debt, interest on debt, economic disparities, national obligations and own source revenue. He highlighted the need to grow the base and concentrate on strategies on optimising base growth.

On the role of treasury to support devolved functions, the Cabinet Secretary submitted that part of the plan is to have predictable revenue payment where for instance all revenue owed to counties before the end of the FY 2022/2023 was paid in a timely manner.

Further, the Cabinet Secretary highlighted that to alleviate deficits in county revenue own source revenue treasury has come up with policy proposals through laws for example; County Government Own Source Revenue Bill, 2023, National Rating Bill, 2023 which will unlock revenue from property rates, automation of revenue collection systems in collaboration with all stakeholders.

The Cabinet Secretary listed the source of revenue constraints experienced in the counties which included;

1. pending bills are a huge challenge
2. pension payments, where only 3 counties out of 47 have no arrears on pension
3. huge wage bill
4. financial reporting

In conclusion, the Cabinet Secretary underscored the need for both levels of government to provide for development in their budgets even in times of crisis.

Hon. Ndindi Nyoro M.P. - Chairperson, National Assembly Budget & Appropriations Committee

Hon. Nyoro highlighted that in the 2023/2024 financial year budget 3.744 trillion shillings was allocated. 2.3 trillion was allocated to the national government, 1.5 trillion being recurrent expenses while the balance was for development. 385 billion was allocated as the equitable share while the consolidated fund services received 986B. The first charge from the consolidated equitable share is obligatory in nature and goes into repayment of debts.

The macro environment in the Country in 2022 meant more funds had to be allocated to intervene for famine mitigation, global inflation and capital flights from the emerging markets such as Kenya to for example the USA. As of August 2023, inflation has reduced for example food inflation has reduced to 8.6% down from 15%. He observed that from the financial year 2012/13 to the last financial year 3.3trillion had so far been received by Counties while generation of own source revenue grew by 8-12%.

Hon. Nyoro underscored the need to focus on GDP growth on primary production e.g., from Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing and Service industry. He further reiterated the need for a policy leveraging on primary production.

In conclusion he observed a contradiction exists on how monies are allocated to the counties where the allocation currently is based on last audited and approved accounts. Hon. Nyoro was of the opinion that the allocation should be based on actual current projections further reiterating the need to raise GDP from the current 12% to 25%.

CPA Mary A.C. Wanyonyi - Chairperson, Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA)

The Chairperson highlighted the factors for consideration of horizontal revenue sharing which included; Population 18%, Poverty 14%, Health 17%, Urban services 5%, Agriculture 10%, Land 8%, Basic share 20% and Roads 8%. She noted that land and basic share parameters are not population based.

The Chairperson noted that counties have been trying to grow their own source revenues for instance in the 2018/19 the counties revenue 40.3 billion against a target of 53 billion hence the performance was at 74.7 %. She informed the plenary that in a potential study conducted by the CRA showed that counties can generate 216B and further noted that equitable share cannot be reduced based on increased own source revenue by counties.

She further highlighted the gaps that exist that hinder counties from leveraging on their own source revenue collection which included: use of old laws to collect revenue putting counties at the risk of litigation, limited forecasting where counties use their own source revenue as a balancing figure which they do not collect leading to huge pending bills.

The Chairperson stated that CRA in an effort to capacity build the counties has developed tools and guidelines on foresting which have been availed to counties. The chairperson challenged the counties to leverage on business and property rates which she termed as low-lying fruits that can be used to optimise own source revenue. She further reiterated the need to capacity build the counties to identify the property they own.

Fragmented revenue management systems was another challenge the Chairperson noted as limiting the counties' potential. CRA recommended an integrated revenue management system for counties further that this could best be arrived at through a taskforce on its implementation. In conclusion the chairperson underscored the need for automation in the counties.

Mr. Keith Hansen - Country Director, World Bank

Mr. Hansen highlighted the World Bank portfolio in the country stands at 1 trillion. He underscored the need to; Raise productivity and job creation, Reduce inequality and Boost reliance on climate change shocks. He observed that Kenya has potential to do more. The world bank he noted has intensified its investments in Agriculture where 1.6 million farmers productivity has increased.

He encouraged counties to harness the power of urbanisation and public private partnerships. The world bank is also concentrating in the 10 north and north-eastern counties where various investments have been made.

In conclusion he highlighted that the world bank has invested in primary health care and governance structures in the country.

Recommendations: Resourcing Devolution for Service Delivery

1. There needs to be automation of the requisition, so that the time required to push the release of money is expedited within 2 weeks to the county revenue fund accounts, noting the process of following up with the disbursement of funds was an expensive affair.
2. Utilise climate finance and tap on existing opportunities through County Government Fund - Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA).
3. Optimise idle resources, such as leasing county public assets such as county agricultural machinery.
4. Develop an integrated revenue system between the two levels of government to enhance transparency in the revenue collection.
5. Expedite the unbundling of funds to improve service delivery in the activities they have committed to undertake.

6. Improve on value addition and the current program on the county aggregation and industrial parks that will further enhance value addition.
7. Develop a policy and legislative framework on own source revenue
8. Capacity build the counties to facilitate their planning and budgeting to avoid the pitfall of pending bills
9. Consider setting up a taskforce made up of key stakeholders to develop an integrated revenue management system for county governments
10. The Senate to facilitate the consideration of the County Government Own Source Revenue Bill, 2023 and National Rating Bill, 2023 which will unlock revenue from property rates and automation of revenue collection systems in collaboration with all stakeholders.

2.9 Guest Session II

Moderator: Governor Stephen Sang Governor, Nandi County and Chief Whip, Council of Governors

Mr. Hosea Kili, OGW - Chief Executive Officer, County Pension Fund (CPF)

Being a very dedicated partner to the Council of Governors, the CPF has endeavoured to support counties through every step of devolution. The membership has grown from one member of the County Pension Fund to 80 members with a record growth of 5 billion funds every year. The CEO of CPF urged more Counties to join and support the growth of CPF. Willing Counties can invest and partner with CPF as well as other regional pension funders, in support of County projects, in order to avoid defaulting from the payment of initiated projects.

Ms. Teresia Mbaika, PS, Devolution

The Principal Secretary emphasised on the significant strides that devolution conferences have made in various sectors, in creating opportunities to discuss and deliberate on devolution progress. She highlighted that the public has observed a greater impact of devolution through the transfer of assets and functions to the county governments. Currently, more services have been decentralised and are closer to the people, than ten years ago. It is quite commendable to note the remarkable performance that the county government and secretariat had played. She reiterated on the need to strengthen participation by national government and county government which improves policy and performance

Governor Ahmed Abdullahi, Deputy Chairperson, Council of Governors

Gov. Ahmed Abdulahi, presented on behalf of the steering committee of Devolution Conference 2023, and stated that this year's conference marks the eighth year but first biennial conference. In his remarks, he mentioned the status of key sectors that have benefited in the devolution progress. Addressing the Impact of climate change, the county governments have been able to plant 7.4 million trees in 4 months. 6 counties have enacted climate change policies and established a county climate fund to support climate change initiatives.

In the Agricultural sector, value addition, livestock production has increased with trade and manufacturing providing better opportunities and creation of more employment opportunities through establishment of innovation hubs. The Council of governors have also developed the national blue economy strategic plan, which is scheduled for launch later this year

Grace Nabiswa: Resolutions of the Children's Devolution Conference 2023

Gathered in the Children's Devolution Conference 2023 from the 3rd to 7th July 2023 at the M-Pesa Foundation Academy in Kiambu County, Ms. Nabiswa pointed out the key highlights of the conference, on behalf of the children from the 47 Counties. She also appreciated the effort of the National Government and County Governments in improving their lives and ensuring they enjoy their Constitutional rights and other international laws and statutes.

Recalling all previous Children's Devolution Conferences and pronouncements in relation to children's issues, she mentioned the need for the Government and non-governmental stakeholders to make progress. This will ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

However, of key concerns were the alarming cases of harmful cultural practices and teenage pregnancies, leading to the dropping out of young girls from school. All these forms of violence against children were unanimously denounced, stressing on the need for a robust multi-stakeholder engagement on the implementation of child protection strategies for sustainable development agenda in the Country. So to speak, they call upon the National Government and County Governments to take the following concrete steps:

1. On Devolution and Children's Rights:

- Review all laws and policies to ensure universal access to children's rights with emphasis on teenage girl pregnancies
- Establish a Children's Council of Governors comprising of children governors for each of the 47 Counties.
- Provide professional counsellors in every school to ensure the mental well-being of both the learners and the teachers;
- Review the Public Finance Management Act (2012) Section 137 (1) to provide for children's representation in the County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF);
- Replicate the school feeding programs in Mombasa and Nairobi, to the rest of the Counties, for access to school by all learners;
- Enhance advocacy on safety and security of children living in conflict prone settings to enjoy their rights of safety, access to quality education and healthcare services;
- Guarantee access to justice for all children and strengthening of accountability mechanisms to bring perpetrators of violence against children to justice.

2. On Child Participation in Governance:

- Sensitize and popularise the Kenya Children's Assembly as a platform for airing and sharing children's views;
- Organise sensitization forums for Children on the Children's Act 2022, for clear understanding of rights and obligations;
- Charitable engagement in children's institutions before the next Children's Devolution Conference and share a plan on where children with no families will be placed;

3. On Inclusivity for ALL Children:

- Through the relevant Ministry, develop a legal framework to obligate Governments to provide accessible infrastructure and services for children with disabilities.
- Provide essential personalised services and up-to-date equipment and materials for learners with disabilities to realise their right to education, including talking calculators, braille machines, walking sticks, wheelchairs among others.

4. On Talent development:

- National Government to devolve the Talanta Hela Program to all counties to support talent development, and facilitate children's talent development at the local level;
- Inclusion of all children in talent development programs by Private Sector Institutions such as the Women in Technology program and the Chapa

Dimba;

5. *On Environment and Climate Change*

- In the spirit of environmental protection, everyone is called to take personal responsibility in the mitigation of climate change effects. In this course, the National and County Governments to involve children and invest in renewable energies, green and blue economies as well as other modern energy technology such as electric vehicles and bicycles;

Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MGH, MP – Deputy Speaker of the Senate

In his remarks, the Deputy Speaker of the Senate, highlighted that the state of affairs in our country, prior to the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, was characterised by glaring economic imbalance, driven by skewed distribution of resources and opportunities. This resulted in the exclusion and marginalisation of some parts of the country, and undermined our desire to remain one great, united nation.

The Kenyan Constitution brought to light new reforms to renegotiate the social contract by the Kenyan people, through the devolution concept. The ultimate goal of devolution was and has been to spur and accelerate Kenya's socio-economic transformation from the grassroots, and in due course make it competitive at the global phase.

He emphasised that, in the current political dispensation, devolution clearly fits together with the Kenya Kwanza manifesto of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) 2022-2027, whose core vision is to uplift the lives of the ordinary Kenyans. In addition, he affirmed that five pillars stipulated in the Economic Transformation Agenda: agriculture, micro, small, and medium enterprises, housing and settlement, healthcare, digital highway, and the creative economy, are noble intentions geared towards yielding great results, through the significant role played by the County Government.

Despite the daunting challenges faced in the 10-year Devolution journey, he observed that countless success stories including massive improvements in road networks, improved infrastructure in healthcare system, modern stadiums, markets, growth of businesses and increased employment opportunities for Kenyans, have emerged.

In order to deal with the challenges of inadequate funds, he challenged both the National Government and County Government to partner and establish reliable sources of revenue for the implementation of Devolution. He underscored the significance of own-source-revenue, as a guarantee to ultimate financial liberty and

autonomy that devolved units so much crave for and would definitely make devolution sustainable. As such, he reiterated the need to boldly interrogate the approaches deployed in the last one decade in financing our devolved sectors and be ready to embrace new ones that guarantee sustainability and adequacy.

He assured all the stakeholders that the Senate on its part is fully committed to support devolution transformation through necessary legislative interventions and the requisite legal framework.

Sen. Justice (Rtd.) Stewart Madzayo, CBS, MP - Senate Minority Leader

The Minority Leader reiterated that the Country cannot move backwards on the aspect of Devolution and observed that whereas strides have been made by the National Government in releasing funds to the Counties, delay disbursement of funds was still a major challenge in the context of County Revenue Sharing mechanism. County Governments he noted heavily rely on these funds to provide essential services and drive development projects within their jurisdictions. Continued delay payments and unreliable disbursements have hampered operations in most County Governments, prompting threats of operational shutdowns by several assemblies forcing some Counties to take overdrafts.

Further, the Minority Leader highlighted that most Counties end up using the money that should have been allocated for development and recurrent expenditure on costly overdraft facilities to ensure salaries are paid and essential services are provided, which attracts high interest and unnecessarily burdens the taxpayer. He urged the National Government to timely disburse funds to Counties to enable Governors to effectively carry out their daily operations and implement crucial projects.

While noting that the last ten years of devolution have had their fair share of successes and challenges, he however raised concern on the low rate of absorption of these funds for development purposes. He called upon leaders to always do a better job for the people. He encouraged counties to spend the entire allocation on development to positively contribute towards the county's growth and service delivery.

Further, he noted that although Devolution had brought some success in bringing the Government closer to Kenyan citizens and advancing development, evidence showed that Corruption was a major challenge affecting most County Governments and urged counties to expose corruption and to stab it out completely. In conclusion, he reiterated that the spirit of Devolution in Kenya is not about two levels competing but complementing each other for efficient and effective service delivery to the citizens.

Hon. Owen Baya, MP - National Assembly Deputy Majority Leader

On behalf of the National Assembly Majority Leader, Hon. Mbaya underscored the commitment to ensure adequate funding for the counties. He highlighted the need for counties to prioritise development and deal with corruption. Hon. Baya reiterated the need to complete projects left incomplete by subsequent county governments in the countries which resulted in the loss of taxpayer resources and lack of adequate service delivery.

Senator Veronica Maina on behalf of Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P - Speaker of the Senate

The senator highlighted that while devolution has experienced immense successes, the success of the next phase of devolution will be determined by the ability of the counties to raise their own source revenue and deal with corruption.

She reiterated the Senate's commitment to put in place the right policy and legislative framework to facilitate counties for example she stated the devolution committee was considering anchoring of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) into law and facilitating the autonomy of the County Assemblies through amendments to the County Government Act, 2012 and Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH - Chairperson Council of Governors

The Chairperson, Council of Governors appreciated that the drafters of the overall program and the breakaway session programs aligned them to the President's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Moving forward, in the third cycle of devolution, she brought to the attention of the participants that there will be a need to focus on delivering accessible, available and quality services to all Kenyans. This will ensure that each Kenyan from all corners of the country experiences socio-economic transformation.

She reiterated on the previous plenum session that focussed on how County Governments can apply performance management as a tool for strengthening effective service delivery, as well as the breakaway sessions that generated meaningful resolutions on strengthening primary health care; provision of housing; positioning Counties as trade and investment destinations; and building the blue economy sector for the benefit of local communities.

Focussing on the Devolution book launch by H.E. the President, the Governor, emphasised on the importance to understand history and learn from it so that a better future is built. The Devolution Book is a publication that seeks to enlighten readers on the history of decentralisation in Kenya and the country's transition from a centralised to a devolved system.

On the discussion of leveraging on digitalization to spur economic development; and financing of County Governments, she expressed her discontentment on the issue of resourcing County functions that has made headlines for over a decade. However, routing of investments towards building strong and sustainable service delivery systems, will allow County Governments to push for adequate financing, through innovation.

In her concluding remarks, she recognised the commitment and outstanding service that two former Governors had showcased through the devolution journey. She emphasised on the need for both levels of government to consult, collaborate, coordinate and cooperate in the performance of respective functions, as assigned by the Constitution.

Keynote address by Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga commended the Council of Governors for being able to find their way around the divisive and sometimes toxic politics by creating a leadership that looks past party and political differences but moves the Council forward as a team. He also applauded them for their ability to mend fences and build bridges. This he encouraged them to continue on the path of consensus building, mutual respect and decorum.

He added that ten years of devolution provided a large landscape of transformation and an amazing opportunity of rural economic revival. Courtesy of devolution, most rural towns have beaming markets and businesses, supporting the economy, with a new middle-class level whose members have not stepped into any major city in Kenya, is rising in the villages across Kenya.

Devolution is a success story and a testimony to what the nation can achieve, pursuant to big dreams, despite the obstacles encountered. Currently, in an attempt to deliver more for devolution, try to test and stretch the limits of devolution, one is likely to face scepticism and fears of being wrong and likely to destroy one's political career. He however, urged politicians to dream and sojourn on despite the challenges, as devolution can never be a loser without the nation losing.

He highlighted that in some counties, devolution in 10 years has made remarkable achievements, what the national government was not able to achieve in 10 years. However, persistent challenges in devolution are still being witnessed across the 47 counties. These include:

- **Funding issues** remain to be a delicate matter in counties owing to its flow and unpredictability. There is need for the controller of budget and CBK to relook at the law on County allocation of Revenue Act (CARA) and ensure that it contains a disbursement schedule. This should prevent the administrative action of the Minister of Finance to write a letter to CBK to release funds as CBK is expected to implement CARA as required.
- **Bureaucracy** at the office of controller of budget continues to hold back devolution
- **Conflicting responsibility** between the county chief Executive and Members of County Assemblies. Yet MCAs have real concerns like remuneration and facilitation that ought to be addressed in the interest of harmonious working relationships with the governors
- **High uncontrollable wage bill** across the 47 counties that continues to eat into what should go into the development
- **Duplication of functions**, with more money being spent in Afya, Kilimo and Maji House in Nairobi for the roles that are devolved

2.10 Breakaway Session V: Strong Food Systems for Food Security And Inclusive Growth: Re-Examining The County Agriculture Sector Transformation In The Last 10 Years

The objective of this breakout session was to deliberate on strong food systems for food security and inclusive growth while re-examining the County agriculture sector transformation in the last 10 Years.

Keynote speakers for this session was Dr. Agnes Kalibata - President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The Moderator was Ms. Vinay Vutukuru, Chair, Development Partners Group while the session chair was Governor Cecily Mbarire, MGH, Governor, Embu County.

The panellists included:

Governor Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH - Chairperson, CoG Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives Committee

Hon. Mithika Linturi - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Mr. David Gosney - USAID Mission Director, Kenya and East Africa
Mr. Tito Arunga - Lead, FAO Agribusiness and Inclusive Value Chains
Ms. Michelle Kagari - Global Director, One Acre Fund
Ms. Talash Huijbers - Chief Executive Officer, InsectiPro

Resolutions

Strong food systems for food security and inclusive growth: Re-examining the County agriculture sector transformation in the last 10 Years.

1. Counties need to create an enabling environment for private-public partnerships by putting in place legal and policy frameworks to attract investors. This will also help strengthen collaboration in project implementation, co-funding, and joint policy development as instruments for building trust and alignment.
2. Leverage digital innovation to transform and accelerate solutions towards building a sustainable food system
3. Prioritise agriculture by investing 10% of the GDP into the food systems.
4. Ensure farmers get access to credit facilities by coming up with innovative financing products.
5. Make agriculture attractive to the youth by changing the image and giving them access to financing.
6. Rationalisation of taxes on agricultural goods to make them more competitive.
7. The Senate to work with the State Department for Environment and Climate Change, the county governments and other stakeholders to put in place the policy and legislative frameworks to -
 - a) enhance resilience, foster adaptation, mitigate adverse effects, and combat the challenges posed by climate change
 - b) propel increased private sector investments in the agricultural sector, including leveraging on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)
 - c) facilitate enhanced mapping for targeted agricultural interventions, including through GPS mapping
 - d) facilitate the creation of a regulatory sandbox to enable farmers to pursue innovation without encountering undue regulatory barriers; and
 - e) safeguard and protect farmers' data collected through technological innovations in agriculture
8. The Senate to engage relevant stakeholders to establish a cohesive policy and legal framework to streamline the imposition of agriculture produce cess across the counties

2.11 Breakaway Session VI: Celebrating A Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for The Future (Focus on Digitization)

The objective of this breakout session was to discuss County experiences with digital health innovations and examine digitalization as an enabler to fast-track attainment of inclusive, sustainable and scalable UHC models.

Keynote speakers for this session was Hon. Ruchika Singhal, Int. President Medtronic Labs. The Moderator was Ms. Elizabeth Ntonjira, Communication Expert, Malaria No- More while the Session chair was Governor Gladys Wanga, Vice-chair, CoG Health Committee.

A video was played on patient/ client experiences with digitization and innovations. A Presentation on the potential of digitalization in driving Universal Health Coverage agenda was made by Mr. Erick Angula and Dr. Kwasi Boahene.

The panellists included;

Ms. Mary Muthoni, HSC - Principal Secretary, State Department of Public Health and Professional Standards - Ministry of Health

Ms. Rita Okuthe - Executive Board Chair, CarePay Kenya (M-TIBA)

Caroline S Mbindyo - CEO, Amref Health Innovations - Amref Health Africa

Mr. David Munyendo - Chief Executive Officer, Christian Blind Mission

Dr. Susan Ontiri - Country Director, International Center for Reproductive Health

Ms. Harriet Kongin - Policy and Strategy Advisor, UNAIDS

Mr. Brian Rettmann - PEPFAR Coordinator -Kenya

Resolutions:

1. County governments with support from National government shall increase investment in primary health care including community health services in order to step up preventive and promotive health services.
2. County governments shall strengthen collaboration between public and non-state actors in health for resource optimization and improved service delivery.
3. In order to increase resources for devolved services, the National Assembly, CRA, Senate and the National Treasury to consider pegging division of revenue between the national and county government on the projected budget for the year, as opposed to last audited accounts.
4. The National and County governments in partnership with the private sector shall scale up digitization and digitalization for improved healthcare delivery and operations.
5. The National government, County governments and Development Partners

shall eliminate disease-based and vertical health programmes in order to reduce duplication, build efficiencies and strengthen one integrated health system.

6. The National and County governments urgently pick health innovations, best practices and lessons from successful digitalization pilot programmes and scale them up for improved health service delivery.

2.12 Breakaway Session VII: Leveraging Natural Resource Management (NRM) For A Sustainable Development Pathway and Green Economy Transition in Counties

The objective of this breakout session was to reflect on the progress in the NRM sector over the past 10 years and explore opportunities Counties can leverage on to transition to a green economy.

The keynote speaker for this session was Eng. Festus Ng'eno - Principal Secretary, State Department of Environment and Climate Change. The Moderator was Mr. Jason Oyugi, USAID- STAWI Programme while the Session Chair was Governor Andrew Mwadime Chairperson Water, Forestry and Natural Resources Management and Governor Taita Taveta County.

The panellists included:

Governor Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, EBS - Chairperson, CoG Environment and Climate Change Committee

Hon. Alice Wahome - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation & Irrigation

Sen. Methu John Muhia, M.P. - Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources

Dr. Chris Kiptoo, CBS - Principal Secretary, The National Treasury

Ms. Amanda Robertson - WASH Team Lead -USAID-Kenya

Dr. Sam Kareithi - Country Director, Gatsby Africa

Ms. Cindy Kobei - Indigenous Women Climate Policy Fellow, Conservation International and Programme Officer, Crown Trust

Dr. Philip Kisoyan - Lead Natural Resources Governance, FAO -Kenya

Resolutions:

1. On climate change adaptation, the Senate to work with the State Department for Environment and Climate Change, the county governments and other stakeholders to formulate policies aimed at enhancing resilience, fostering adaptation, mitigating adverse effects, and combating the challenges posed by climate change. The Senate needs to Fastrack the implementation of the Climate Change Bill.

2. On multiple levying of cess on agricultural produce across counties the Senate to engage relevant stakeholders to establish a cohesive policy and legal framework to streamlining the imposition of agriculture produce cess.
3. On enhanced mapping for targeted agricultural interventions the Senate shall engage in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Council of Governors (COG), and other key stakeholders to undertake a comprehensive mapping initiative encompassing all pertinent actors for targeted interventions. This effort shall leverage digital technology and precision farming methodologies, ensuring the thorough mapping of effective systems. Additionally, geo-positioning technology shall be employed to enhance accuracy and effectiveness in the mapping process. Further, the Senate needs to work with the Ministry of Information, Communication and Digital Economy to safeguard farmers' data privacy and protection.
4. On fostering innovation in agriculture, the Senate to work with relevant stakeholders to establish a comprehensive policy and legislative framework that facilitates the creation of a regulatory sandbox. This sandbox will provide farmers with a controlled testing environment, enabling them to pursue innovation without encountering undue regulatory barriers.
5. On Incentivization of Private Sector Investment the Senate to work with relevant stakeholders to establish a comprehensive policy and legislative framework aimed at propelling increased private sector investments. This endeavour will harness the potential of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and encompass diverse incentivization strategies including specialised support for last mile extension services and considerations for tax exemption. The objective is to create a conducive environment to foster robust economic growth and mutual collaboration, while encouraging innovative solutions and expanding vital services.
6. The Ministry of Water in collaboration with the National Treasury, needs to obtain a paradigm shift in the production system and secure resources by mapping the resources and developing a national resource register, undertaking economic evaluation, putting in management systems, and creating incentives to better conserve the environment.
7. There is need for engagement with the indigenous communities for intergenerational knowledge transfer through climate change storytelling.
8. On biomass energy there is need to invest in alternative sources and promote farm forestry and incentives to grow trees at community levels.
9. Need for better coordination between the two levels of government through the recently launched Water Sector Intergovernmental Framework between the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation and the Council of Governors.

2.13 Breakaway Session VIII: Empowering Youth for Inclusive Economic Growth: The Role of The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda In Kenya

The objective of this breakout session was to reflect on the progress made in empowering youth through skills development, entrepreneurship, talent management and innovation while leveraging current opportunities to create a sustainable future.

The keynote speaker for this session was Mr. David Bagenda - Country Director, MasterCard Foundation, Kenya. The Moderator was Ms. Wanjui Njoroge while the Session Chair was Governor Simon Kachapin, CBS, EGH, Chairperson, CoG Gender, Youth, Culture, Sports and Social Services

The panellists included:

Governor Stephen Sang - Governor, Nandi County

Hon. Ababu Namwamba, EGH - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth, the Arts and Sports

Eng. Stephen Ogenga - Chief Executive Officer, National Industrial Training Authority

Ms. Edna Karijo - Digital Skills Programs Manager, eMobilis

Mr. Abel Mutua - Zero Malaria Starts with me Ambassador and Filmmaker

Mr. Mohammed Gololcha - Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre Coordinator

Ms. Patricia Jelagat - Founder & CEO, Horti Grid Limited

The session mainly focussed on the remarkable opportunities that the ten years in devolution offered for the youths, towards economic development. The panellist deliberated on the bottlenecks, successes and ways of harnessing opportunities for the youths.

Kenya boasts a high youth population of approximately 75%, with the overarching challenge of youth unemployment affecting 7 out of 10 young people. 13 % of students in Kenya make it to tertiary institutions while 11% proceed to technical institutions, leaving a majority of youths not proceeding to learning institutions.

However, devolution has provided an opportunity for youths to take part in political and executive opportunities offered by the Counties. Through key interventions of skills development, entrepreneurship and monetization of talents, county governments have been able to attain a level of success, including:

1. Establishment of vocational centres and innovation centres across various country

2. Some counties allocating sufficient funds to assist youth innovation and enterprise activities
3. Provision of mentorship, internship and academic attachment programmes in preparing youths for professional employment in the public sectors
4. Provision of specialised and customised training through partnership with various stakeholders including NITA, KCB tujiajiri

Resolutions:

In the aspect of ways to harness opportunities for the youths, the panellists made the following recommendations:

1. Consideration of digital economy space through infrastructural development, for increased access to finances by the youths
2. Need for counties to create a conducive environment for the youths to engage in various business by providing reasonable fees and permit provision, especially for content creators e.g. those in the film industry using public spaces.
3. Intentional inclusion of the youths, women, people living with disabilities and the marginalized groups by elevating the training skills that march up with the job opportunities
4. Need to enhance psycho-social support systems and livelihood improvement programmes for those faced with various challenge such as drugs, suicide, abuse, unemployment, and domestic violence.
5. Need for partnership, collaborations of demand driven skills and more capacity building for SMEs to support innovation in industrial parks
6. Need for more counties to increase the number of incubation centers at the regional level, to nature ideas and to accelerate the growth of startups

2.14 Sub-Theme IV: Good Governance For Equitable And Sustainable Development

Moderator: Mr. Con Omoro Osendo, Governance Adviser, British High Commission

Keynote speaker: Mr. Anthony Ngororano, Resident Representative, UNDP Kenya

Mr. Ngororano highlighted the gaps that exist in equitable and sustainable development at the county level among them in data collection, corruption, financing gaps and systemic leakages.

Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba, HSC, M.P. - Chairperson, Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee

Hon. Wamuchomba highlighted that duplication of functions between the National and County Governments hinders equitable and sustainable development additionally transfer of functions is still a challenge making oversight a challenge for Parliament. For example education is a devolved function however a challenge exists on how to separate the Early Childhood Development (ECDs) from the other functions which are National Government functions this is also replicated in the housing sector which is a national function however there is an aspect of county function.

Other factors that hinder sustainable development include corruption, lack of gender mainstreaming in the counties, country boundaries among others. She underscored the need to have the offices of the Commission of Administrative Justice(*ombudsman*) offices at the County level.

Sen. Moses Kajwang', M.P. - Chairperson, Senate County Public Accounts Committee

The Senator highlighted the need to move beyond the financial statements reporting to focus on service delivery. The perception has been that Parliament is not punishing enough to counties facing various audit queries.

The Senator underscored the need to capacity build county assemblies to be able to carry out oversight at the county level. He gave an example where the Senate committee on county public accounts considers 10 reports per county government which is overwhelming. He suggested a hierarchical approach for example level hospital audit reports could be considered at the county level.

He observed that resources going to counties are inadequate hence the need to find innovative ways of raising money through for example infrastructure bonds as well continuous conversations between the COG and the Senate. He underscored the need for the Senate especially to adopt a physician approach where solutions are pursued rather than mortician approach where solutions are pursued after the fact.

Hon. Florence Kajuju - Chairperson, Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ)

Hon Kajuju underscored the need to decentralise the office's services. The office acts like the citizen's advocate and works to ensure service delivery to the citizenry. She stated that the office has managed to decentralise their services to some extent

although it is still a challenge this has enhanced the delivery of services. She gave an example where the office helped in the implementation of a judgement by the Ojiek community as well as the Access to Information regulations were considered and passed with the assistance of the CAJ's office.

CAJ is working with other Commissions for example the National Gender and Equality Commission to ensure enhanced service delivery. Additionally, the office launched a complaints management information system where a complaint can be launched online and followed up online. The system has handled 250 complaints every month since it was launched and over 3000 annually. She concluded by saying that good governance is putting people at the centre

CPA John Ogallo - Commissioner, Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission (EACC)

The Commissioner highlighted the success stories in the recovery of assets for example in 2018-2023 EACC recovered assets worth 23.84 B, forfeiture worth 40.78B Kshs while 700 investigations concluded. Further that the commission has prioritised high impact cases in for example the energy sector, water sector as well those of high value for example procurement, infrastructure cases involving high profile individuals. The commission was also working on programmes towards prevention and corruption risks assessments.

The Commission works by making recommendations to seal loopholes but lacks mechanism for enforcement or monitoring the implementation plan.

The Commission has facilitated the creation and establishment of corruption prevention committees and guidelines have been developed for capacity development in 6 pilot counties of Kisumu, Kakamega, Elgeyo among others and will soon be rolled out to other counties. The Commission is geared towards counties doing their own corruption risk assessments.

Ms. Sheila Masinde - Executive Director, Transparency International

Ms. Masinde highlighted the lessons learnt through the *Ahadi Kenya Trust* programmes implemented between 2015 - 2020. Counties were able to set up the necessary institutional systems. There were noticed improvements across counties and intercounty interaction as well enhanced civic education. Promoting good governance, she observed will require public participation for equitable and sustainable development.

Ms. Masinde observed there had been challenges in the; Public Financial Management of resources where there had been disparities in the contribution to the GDP by various counties, Budget performance where 23% of county budgets were not implemented and 14% of items in the county budgets are not funded additionally own source revenue is inconsistent. She reiterated that moving forward partnerships with other stakeholders was important.

Ms. Sheila Karani-Monda - Deputy Office Director- Governance, USAID Kenya and East Africa

Ms. Karani highlighted that USAID facilitated a County Governance Research Study between 2016 to 2020 where issues of service delivery, transparency and integrity were discussed. She observed that there had been lack of effective public participation and limited access to information.

She underscored the need to build the oversight capacity of the County Assemblies especially in the public audit process. Further, USAID was planning on a pilot study on the value of money. However, access to information and public participation still remains a challenge.

Resolutions:

1. On the lack of technical and financial capacity to measure performance in the counties through data, the Senate to work with the State Department for Devolution, the National Treasury and Planning, and the county governments to put in place a framework for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information by the county governments and establish a county statistical system that will assist county governments to plan for the development of counties and measure the gains made by the county governments in improving the lives of the people
2. On the lack of effective accountability mechanisms for shared and concurrent functions between the two levels of government, as well as functions which are vested in but are yet to be transferred to the county governments The Senate to work with the State Department of Devolution, IGRTC, the county governments and other stakeholders to facilitate completion of the transfer of pending functions to the county governments and put in place a framework for scrutiny and accountability in respect of shared or concurrent functions
3. On the lack of a legislative framework on resolution of conflicts related to the delimitation of county boundaries, the Senate to fast-track consideration and passage of the County Boundaries Bill (Senate Bills No. 6 of 2023)

4. On strengthening the capacity of the county assemblies to scrutinise reports of the Auditor-General, the Senate to work with other stakeholders in building the capacity of the county assemblies, including the technical staff serving audit and scrutiny committees, for effective and timely oversight
5. On the limited capacity of the Commission of Administrative Justice to address all cases of maladministration in the counties, the Senate to work with the Commission on Administrative Justice and the county governments to put in place an enabling framework for the establishment of county administrative ombudsman units to handle administrative issues at the county level
6. On the lack of a legislative and policy framework on civic education and public participation at the national and county level, the Senate to work with the State Department for Devolution, the county governments and other stakeholders to put in place a policy and legislative framework on civic education and public participation at both levels of government
7. On the challenges in accessing information held by the county governments, the Senate to work with the Commission on Administrative Justice, the county governments and other stakeholders to put in place regulations to facilitate access to information at the county level
8. On strengthening the fight against corruption at the county level, the Senate to work with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the county governments to facilitate the establishment and capacity building for corruption prevention committees at the county level and county assembly network against corruption.

2.15 Sub-Theme V: Affirmative Action- Linking the Lessons to A Sustainable Future

Moderator: Ms. Daisy Amdany, Executive Director, Community Advocacy and Awareness (CRAWN) Trust

Keynote speaker: Dr. Shaheen Nilofer, The Representative, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-Kenya

Dr. Nilofer highlighted the various affirmative action measures by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Kenya and its impact in the community.

Governor Gladys Wanga, CBS - Governor, Homa Bay County

The Governor underscored that financial literacy was very important to ensure the sustainability of the projects and that devolution is tied to affirmative action and that affirmative action has to be supported by budgets.

Sen. Catherine Mumma, M.P. - Vice Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations

The Senator underscored the need for oversight on the inclusion at the grassroots level including the market committees. Monitoring inclusion in development is important in implementation plans, that is; development plans, budget lines implementations and its impact assessment. In the years 2016 to 2022 there have been increased cases of early pregnancies, sexual based violence and lack of sex education.

The Senator observed that prosecution in defilement cases is a daunting task. She emphasised on the need for programmes on sex education noting that Kenya is no.3 in teenage pregnancies.

Further the Senator reiterated the need to introduce an impact assessment tool for devolution and build capacity of the various implementers among them Counties, Senate and the Gender departments at the County level.

Additionally, the Senator reiterated the need to strengthen Inter Governmental Relations, also development partners need to capacity build the Senate in its oversight function to have the correct sex education through a curriculum on sex education. An adolescent health policy is also integral for the country. It is also important to deal with sexual violence within homes and the use of the internet by sexual predators.

Mr. Harun. M. Hassan - Executive Director, National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD)

Mr. Hassan noted that the children's conference where a child with a disability was picked in every county and a Governor with a hearing disability was elected was encouraging and a step in the right direction at having children's voices heard and being part of the conversation. He noted there was lack of a reporting mechanism among the level of government as well as a lack of reliable data on disability hence the need for decentralisation of the registration of the PWDs. Disability mainstreaming also remains a challenge. The Commission did a report on disability inclusion in the National Government which did not include the County Governments.

Ms. Anna Mutavi - Country Representative, UN Women Kenya Country Office

Ms. Mutavi highlighted key areas that would accelerate gender equality which were; Woman leadership - Women have to be included at both National and County level;

Economic justice - Poverty has a gender face hence the need for affirmative opportunities at the county level; Sexual and reproductive health and Climate Justice and Technology.

Resolutions:

1. On implementation of the two thirds gender principle, the Senate to work with the national and the county governments to put in place policy and legislation on full implementation of the two-thirds gender principle in elective and appointive positions at both levels of government
2. On Implementation of affirmative action provisions in the Constitution, statutes and policies, the Senate to work with the national and county governments and other stakeholders to; put in place a framework for data collection, aggregation and analysis on marginalised demographics to inform interventions; put in place an impact and inclusion assessment tool to facilitate the audit of affirmative action provisions in the Constitution, statutes and various policies including AGPO; ensure the implementation of disability categorization assessment guidelines in the counties; decentralise the registration of PWDs from Nairobi to the counties, build capacities of actors at different levels to deal with matters of affirmative action including implementers and those charged with oversight; and strengthen intergovernmental relations in policy formulation and implementation
3. On alignment of laws with the Constitution, the Senate to undertake a comprehensive review of laws enacted prior to the 2010 Constitution and proposed amendments to align them with the affirmative action provisions in the Constitution.

2.16 Closing Ceremony

Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot, MGH, MP - Senate Majority Leader

In remarks read by Senator John Methu on his behalf, the Senate Majority Leader underscored the role of the Senate in the realisation of the resolutions emanating from the conference. He reiterated that the Senate would continue to represent and protect the interests of the counties. He reiterated the fact that the success of the next phase of devolution would majorly be dependent on good governance structures and that the Senate would continue to exercise its oversight role over funds allocated to counties.

Governor Stephen Sang - Whip, Council of Governors

The Governor extended a vote of thanks to H.E. Dr. William Ruto, the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Rigathi Gachagua, Deputy President of Kenya and the Rt.

Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga, the former Prime Minister for honouring their invitations and being present during the conference.

Further, the Governor thanked the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee and all the other stakeholders for their hard work planning the conference. The host, Governor Jonathan Bii and his team from Uasin Gishu County for the hospitality, Governors, Senators, Deputy Governors, Speakers, and Members of the County Assemblies for enriching the discussions as well as the National Government representatives for their participation.

The Governor also thanked the sponsors, partners, vendors, and suppliers and last but not least the delegates for their participation and support.

Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P. - Speaker of the Senate

In his closing remarks the Speaker underscored the need for both levels of government to collaborate to; adopt innovative ways and harness limitless opportunities availed by digital technology to enhance service provision and facilitate job creation especially for the youth; exploit available opportunities to create additional revenue streams through diversification in order to replenish their coffers for service provision; enhance their capacity to generate own-source-revenue; and aggressively exploit initiatives such as public-private-partnership (PPPs) and infrastructure bonds to undertake mega projects.

In conclusion, the Speaker reiterated that the financial autonomy of county assemblies was a priority for the Senate.

Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH - Chair, Council of Governors

The chair highlighted the various achievements that had been realised post devolution in the health, agriculture, transport and infrastructure, housing and urban development, industry and investment among others. The deliberations at the conference brought to the fore the challenges that have bedevilled devolution and recommendations for solutions.

The Governor appreciated the President's and the Senate's commitment at ensuring financial autonomy of the County Assemblies and the complete transfer and financing of devolved functions. Further, the Governor noted with gratitude that counties had received all the funds owed to them in the last financial year 2022-2023 and hoped that this trend would continue into the future.

The Governor further underscored the fact that in the current governance structure in the country nothing can be done while excluding the counties. Of importance to the counties the Governor noted was the need to review the division of revenue between the national and county government based on budget projections and not audited and approved accounts as is the case currently. In conclusion, the Governor reiterated the commitment of the county governments in working with all stakeholders in realisation of their mandate and delivering services to the citizenry.

Official Closing of the Devolution Conference 2023 by H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, EGH - Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya

The Deputy President underscored the fact that matters devolution had now been elevated to the presidency since it is now a State Department under the Office of the Deputy President. Further, the Deputy president now represents matters devolution in the Executive.

His Office has worked to establish intergovernmental relations between the two levels of government and seamless delivery of services remains at the core of his commitment.

He observed that following devolution health facilities in the Country had risen from 8000 in 2013 to the current 13,700 health facilities and underscored the need to leverage on partnership with the National Government in service delivery.

Additionally, the National and County Governments had worked together to reduce the impact of famine and drought in the Counties after 5 failed consecutive rain seasons that led to the worst drought in 40 years in the Country. He reiterated the need for continued partnership in the distribution of fertiliser.

The Deputy President highlighted the need for continued cooperation by both levels in addressing climate change, school feeding programme, national security, inter and intra county trade in raising own source revenue, taking care of the special interest groups among them the PWDs, Children, Women and Youth.

Thereupon, he declared the Conference officially closed.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESOLUTIONS AND WAY FORWARD

No.	ISSUE/ GAP	RESOLUTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
SUB-THEME I: STRENGTHENING EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN COUNTIES THROUGH PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: REACHING THE LAST MILE				
1.	Lack of a legislative framework on performance management in the public service	The State Department for Performance and Delivery Management is in the process of developing a Bill to entrench performance management and performance contracting in the public service. The Senate to engage with the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary to deliberate on the framework and contents of the draft Bill.	Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare	February, 2024
2.	Lack of a policy framework at the county level to anchor performance management for effective service delivery	The Senate to work with the State Department for Performance and Delivery Management, the County Public Service Boards, County Assembly Service Boards and other stakeholders in putting in place a policy framework for performance management and performance contracting at the county level.	Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare	February, 2024
3.	Need to build and retain	The Senate to work with relevant stakeholders in	Standing Committee on Labour	February, 2024

	technical expertise in the counties	putting in place a policy and legislative framework to facilitate the resourcing for training, interdependence and cross-county mobility of human resources.	and Social Welfare	
4.	Leveraging on the shared technical and financial resources in the counties	The Senate to work with other stakeholders in the devolution sector to put in place legislation on the establishment and management of regional economic blocs	Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations	February, 2024
OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY				
5.	Impact of delays in budgetary disbursements on service delivery in the counties	<p>The Senate to -</p> <p>a) process the Division of Revenue Bill, the County Allocation of Revenue Bill, and the County Governments Additional Allocations Bill expeditiously and within the timelines set out in the Constitution and the PFM Act;</p> <p>b) process the County Governments Cash Disbursements Schedule on time; and</p> <p>c) follow up with the National Treasury and Planning and other stakeholders to sustain the timely release of funding to the county governments</p>	Standing Committee on Finance and Budget	Continuous
6.	Strengthening the County Assemblies for Effective Oversight and Service Delivery	The Senate to fast-track legislative amendments to grant county assemblies financial autonomy from the county executives	Standing Committee on Finance and Budget/ Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations	December, 2023

7.		The Senate to work with other stakeholders to ensure that Members of the County Assemblies are equitably remunerated and facilitated to undertake their functions	Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations	Immediate
8.	Transfer of pending functions to the county governments	The Senate to collaborate with key stakeholders in - a) facilitating the smooth transfer to the counties of the devolved functions and the attendant resources; and b) putting in place legal frameworks on the funding and execution of shared functions between the two levels of government.	Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations/ Standing Committee on Finance and Budget	October, 2023
9.	Building the capacity of county governments to generate own revenue and reduce reliance on transfers from the national government	The Senate to expedite the consideration and passage of legislation on county own source revenue	Standing Committee on Finance and Budget	December, 2023
10.	Resourcing the county governments to effectively discharge their constitutional mandate	The Senate to follow up with the relevant agencies of the national government to expedite disbursements owed to the county governments under the Mining Act (2016) and the Petroleum Act (2019)	Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources/ Standing Committee on Energy	December, 2023
BREAKAWAY SESSION I: THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO HOUSING: A REFLECTION OF THE PAST 10 YEARS OF DEVOLUTION				
11.	Planning and development of housing by the county	The Senate to work with the counties and other stakeholders in -	Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing	Continuous

	governments	<p>a) ensuring that the county governments incorporate housing in development planning, noting their mandate under Part II of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution;</p> <p>b) ensuring that the national government engages the county Governments in the process of identification of land for housing at the counties and the designing of housing units;</p> <p>c) ensuring that the county governments are involved in the allotment and management of housing units and social amenities after completion of construction; and</p> <p>d) continuously monitoring the planning and implementation of housing development</p>		
12.		<p>The Senate to work with EPRA and the county governments in setting minimum standards for electricity and gas reticulation and energy regulation for safety in the housing units</p>	Standing Committee on Energy	Continuous
13.		<p>The Senate to work with the counties and other stakeholders in -</p> <p>a) accelerating the registration and titling of public and community land to make available land for affordable housing in the counties; and</p> <p>b) ensuring that County Spatial Plans provide room for new generation ideas and needs</p>	Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources	Continuous

14.	Financing of affordable housing in the counties	<p>The Senate to work with the counties and other stakeholders to facilitate the financing of affordable housing in the counties, including by promoting -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the onboarding of the private sector in financing of housing development; b) budgetary allocations towards planning of housing and spatial plans; c) servicing of land identified for housing development by providing for amenities such as sewage systems, water and electricity supply and other social amenities; d) funding the operations of town and municipal boards; and e) effective data collection and dissemination on housing to attract global financing 	<p>Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing/ Standing Committee on Finance and Budget</p>	Continuous
15.	Policy and legislative frameworks to promote the affordable housing agenda	<p>The Senate to work with the State Department for Housing, the county governments and other stakeholders to put in place policy and legislative frameworks that promote the affordable housing agenda, including -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) revision of the National Housing Policy to provide for the role of County Governments in construction of housing units and for new developments and needs in the housing sector; b) enactment of mini-grid Regulations to spur electricity connectivity in counties; and 	<p>Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing/ Select Committee on Delegated Legislation</p>	February, 2024

		c) amendment of the Building Code to provide for standards for energy and gas reticulation for housing units		
16.	Protection of human rights during evictions	The Senate to draft and process legislation on a legal framework to govern evictions, including protecting the human rights of the affected persons	Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights	February, 2024
BREAKAWAY SESSION II: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF COUNTY-LED HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY: LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE (FOCUS ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE)				
17.	Legislative framework on primary health care	The Senate to work with the National Assembly, Ministry of Health, county governments and other stakeholders to put in place policy and legislative frameworks for the realisation of primary health care goals, including - a) the establishment of primary health care networks; b) promoting community health services and community health promoters; and c) ensuring adequate human resources for health	Standing Committee on Health	December, 2023
18.	Health Financing	The Senate to fast-track the consideration and passage of legislation on County Facility Improvement Funds to provide for ring-fencing of funds at county health facility level.	Standing Committee on Health	December, 2023

BREAKAWAY SESSION III: UNLOCKING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF COUNTIES THROUGH STRATEGIC POSITIONING AS TRADE AND INVESTMENT DESTINATIONS WHILE REFLECTING ON THE LESSONS FROM THE PAST

19.	Policy and legislative framework on trade and investment	<p>The Senate to fast-track the consideration and passage of legislation on -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) county own source revenue raising measures; b) harmonisation and integration of taxes, licences and levies by the county governments; and c) decriminalisation and facilitation of workspaces of MSMEs and the <i>juakali</i> sector 	Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism	December, 2023
20.	Disjointed and silo-based approaches on MSMEs	<p>The Senate to work with the two levels of government and the private sector to facilitate a harmonised collaborative approach in -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promoting the business environment and access to information, financing and markets by MSMEs; b) designing interventions to address the challenges facing MSMEs; c) establishing conducive workspaces for MSMEs and decriminalise their work; d) mobilising and rallying MSMEs around agricultural, textile and other value chains; and e) collecting and analysing data on MSMEs for evidence-informed action. 	Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism	December, 2023

BREAKAWAY SESSION IV: EXPLORING THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BLUE ECONOMY SECTOR FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND BENEFITS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES: REFLECTING INVESTMENTS IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

21.	Promoting the growth and uptake of opportunities in the Blue economy sector	<p>The Senate to work with the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, the county governments and other stakeholders to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure the counties incorporate the Blue economy component in preparation of county integrated and annual development plans; b) provide an enabling framework for private sector investment in the Blue economy sector; and c) create awareness on the Ksh. 1 billion Fund set aside to support women engaging in Blue economy enterprises 	Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	Continuous
22.	Policy and legislative framework on the Blue economy sector	The Senate to work with the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries and other stakeholders to fast-track the review of laws and regulations governing exploitation of opportunities in the Blue economy sector	Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	December, 2023
23.	Fragmented approaches and strategies in exploiting opportunities in the Blue economy sector	The Senate to work with the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, the county governments and other stakeholders to develop an inter-governmental framework to ensure sustainable exploitation of the Blue economy resources	Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	March, 2024

SUB-THEME II: DIGITAL ECONOMY AND INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVOLVED SECTORS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

24.	Promoting the ease of doing business in the counties through innovations in technology	The Senate to work with the Ministry of ICT, the County Governments and other stakeholders to promote the integration of county licensing and revenue collection and management systems	Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology	March, 2024
25.		The Senate to work with the Ministry of Lands and other stakeholders to promote the rollout of a unified land administration system integrating the various services such as survey, valuation and planning, as well as the collection of land rates and rents	Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources	March, 2024
26.	Bridging the digital divide in the counties	<p>The Senate to work with the county governments, including putting the policy and legislative frameworks in place, to facilitate last mile connectivity in the counties. This would include promoting -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the rollout of fibre optic cable to all the counties; b) the uptake of telemedicine; c) delivery of government services and receipt of feedback through technology; d) GIS mapping for revenue collection and targeted development; e) agricultural extension services through technology; f) setting up of digital hubs at the ward level where youth can receive training and access digital jobs; and 	Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology	Continuous

		g) alignment of strategies to ensure synergy in the digital space		
27.	Disjointed and fragmented policies and approaches to digitization in the counties	The Senate to work with the Ministry of ICT, the county governments and other stakeholders to develop harmonised policies and approaches to digitization in the counties	Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology	February, 2024
28.	Destruction of critical ICT infrastructure	The Senate to work with the Ministry of ICT to develop and process legislation on the protection of critical ICT infrastructure including physical assets and vital virtual systems	Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology	February, 2024
SUB-THEME III: RESOURCING DEVOLUTION FOR SERVICE DELIVERY				
29.	Enhancing access to revenue for development by the county governments	The Senate to put in place an appropriate legislative framework to - a) promote public private partnerships at the county level, including through capacity building; and b) enable counties to issue bonds and raise money from the financial markets.	Standing Committee on Finance and Budget	February, 2024
30.	Delays and bureaucratic processes in obtaining approvals for release of funds to the counties	The Senate to work with the National Treasury, the Controller of Budget and the county governments to automate the approval processes by the Controller of Budget of requests by the county governments to access requisitions once funds are deposited in the county revenue accounts at the Central Bank	Standing Committee on Finance and Budget	February, 2024

31.	Inadequate budgetary allocations to the counties from revenue raised nationally	The Senate to explore legislative amendments to have the allocations to the counties based on budget projections as opposed to the last audited accounts, as is the case with the budget for the national government	Standing Committee on Finance and Budget	February, 2024
BREAKAWAY SESSION V: STRONG FOOD SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH: RE-EXAMINING THE COUNTY AGRICULTURE SECTOR TRANSFORMATION IN THE LAST 10 YEARS				
32.	Policy and legislative framework for climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector	<p>The Senate to work with the State Department for Environment and Climate Change, the county governments and other stakeholders to put in place the policy and legislative frameworks to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enhance resilience, foster adaptation, mitigate adverse effects, and combat the challenges posed by climate change; b) propel increased private sector investments in the agricultural sector, including leveraging on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs); c) facilitate enhanced mapping for targeted agricultural interventions, including through GPS mapping; d) facilitate the creation of a regulatory sandbox to enable farmers to pursue innovation without encountering undue regulatory barriers; and e) safeguard and protect farmers' data collected through technological innovations in agriculture. 	<p>Standing committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries/ Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources</p>	February, 2024

33.	Multiple levying of cess on agricultural produce across counties	The Senate to engage relevant stakeholders to establish a cohesive policy and legal framework to streamline the imposition of agriculture produce cess across the counties	Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	February, 2024
BREAKAWAY SESSION VI: LEVERAGING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM) FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY AND GREEN ECONOMY TRANSITION IN COUNTIES				
34.	Asset Register for Natural resources	The Senate to work with the National Treasury, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the county governments and other stakeholders to qualify water as a natural capital asset to be included in the national assets register	Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources	July, 2024
35.	Management of the water resources to make it resilient and available	The Senate to work with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the county governments and other stakeholders to - a) enhance access to water especially in rural access, through better management of the public and private water providers at the County level; b) ensure better coordination of water development and management of the water catchment areas through establishment of a master plan on water conservation; and c) create awareness on planting of the 15 billion trees	Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources	Continuous

36.	Financing of locally led Climate Action	<p>The Senate to work with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the county governments and other stakeholders to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop a comprehensive sector financing framework for collaboration and coordination between the national and county governments; b) promote the adoption of Public Private Partnerships as a long term investment framework of engaging the private sector to undertake water projects; c) enhance access to financing and tracking along water investments and access; and d) facilitate access to financing through building Capacity for County entities and Institutions through accreditation to access the Green Climate Fund (GCF) 	<p>Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources/ Standing Committee on Finance and Budget</p>	<p>March, 2024</p>
-----	---	---	--	--------------------

37.	Policy and Legislative framework to support Natural Resource Management	<p>The Senate to work with the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the county governments and other stakeholders to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop a policy framework to map the resources, create management systems and creates incentives in management of natural resources; b) fast-track consideration and passage by Parliament of the Natural Resources (Benefit Sharing Bill, 2022 and the Climate Change (Amendment) Bill, 2023; c) consider and approve regulation to enable access to green bonds; and d) domesticate international environmental agreements that Kenya is party to and develop a framework to bring counties on board. 	<p>Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources/ Select Committee on Delegated Legislation</p>	<p>March, 2024</p>
BREAKAWAY SESSION VII: EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH: THE ROLE OF THE BOTTOM-UP ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AGENDA IN KENYA				
38.	Policy and Legislative framework to support Digital space	<p>The Senate to put in place an enabling legislative framework on rolling out ICT infrastructure, access to finance, training in ICT, and provision of facilities and network to enable young people access opportunities in the digital space</p>	<p>Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology</p>	<p>February, 2024</p>
39.	Access to economic opportunities by special interest groups	<p>The Senate to work with the national and the county governments to support the development of county special economic zones and industrial parks, support</p>	<p>Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism</p>	<p>February, 2024</p>

		innovation, and encourage Public Private Partnerships aimed at job creation for youth, women, PWDs and minorities.		
BREAKAWAY SESSION VIII: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF COUNTY-LED HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY: LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE (FOCUS ON DIGITIZATION)				
40.	Digitalization of health service delivery	The Senate to fast-track the consideration and passage of legislation to promote the delivery of e-health services.	Standing Committee on Health/ Sessional Committee on Delegated Legislation	December, 2023
SUB-THEME IV: GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
41.	Lack of technical and financial capacity to measure performance in the counties through data	The Senate to work with the State Department for Devolution, the National Treasury and Planning, and the county governments to - a) put in place a framework for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information by the county governments; and b) establish a county statistical system that will assist county governments to - i) plan for the development of counties; and ii) measure the gains made by the county governments in improving the lives of the people	Standing Committee on Finance and Budget	March, 2024
42.	Lack of effective accountability mechanisms	The Senate to work with the State Department of Devolution, IGRTC, the county governments and other	Standing Committee on Devolution and	December, 2023

	for shared and concurrent functions between the two levels of government, as well as functions which are vested in but are yet to be transferred to the county governments	stakeholders to - a) facilitate completion of the transfer of pending functions to the county governments; and b) put in place a framework for scrutiny and accountability in respect of shared or concurrent functions	Intergovernmental Relations	
43.	Lack of a legislative framework on resolution of conflicts related to the delimitation of county boundaries	The Senate to fast-track consideration and passage of the County Boundaries Bill (Senate Bills No. 6 of 2023)	Senate Business Committee	September, 2023
44.	Strengthening the capacity of the county assemblies to scrutinise reports of the Auditor-General	The Senate to work with other stakeholders in building the capacity of the county assemblies, including the technical staff serving audit and scrutiny committees, for effective and timely oversight	Senate Liaison Office	March, 2024
45.	Limited capacity of the Commission of Administrative Justice to address all cases of maladministration in the counties	The Senate to work with the Commission on Administrative Justice and the county governments to put in place an enabling framework for the establishment of county administrative ombudsman units to handle administrative issues at the county level	Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights	March, 2024
46.	Lack of a legislative and policy framework on civic	The Senate to work with the State Department for Devolution, the county governments and other	Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human	December, 2023

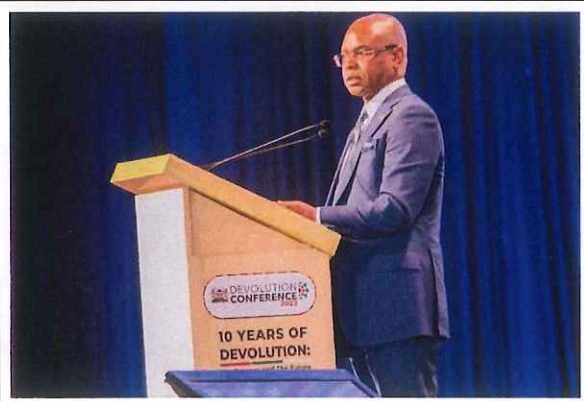
	education and public participation at the national and county level	stakeholders to put in place a policy and legislative framework on civic education and public participation at both levels of government	Rights	
47.	Challenges in accessing information held by the county governments	The Senate to work with the Commission on Administrative Justice, the county governments and other stakeholders to put in place regulations to facilitate access to information at the county level	Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology	December, 2023
48.	Strengthening the fight against corruption at the county level	The Senate to work with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the county governments to facilitate the establishment and capacity building for - a) corruption prevention committees at the county level; and b) county assembly network against corruption	Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights	February, 2024

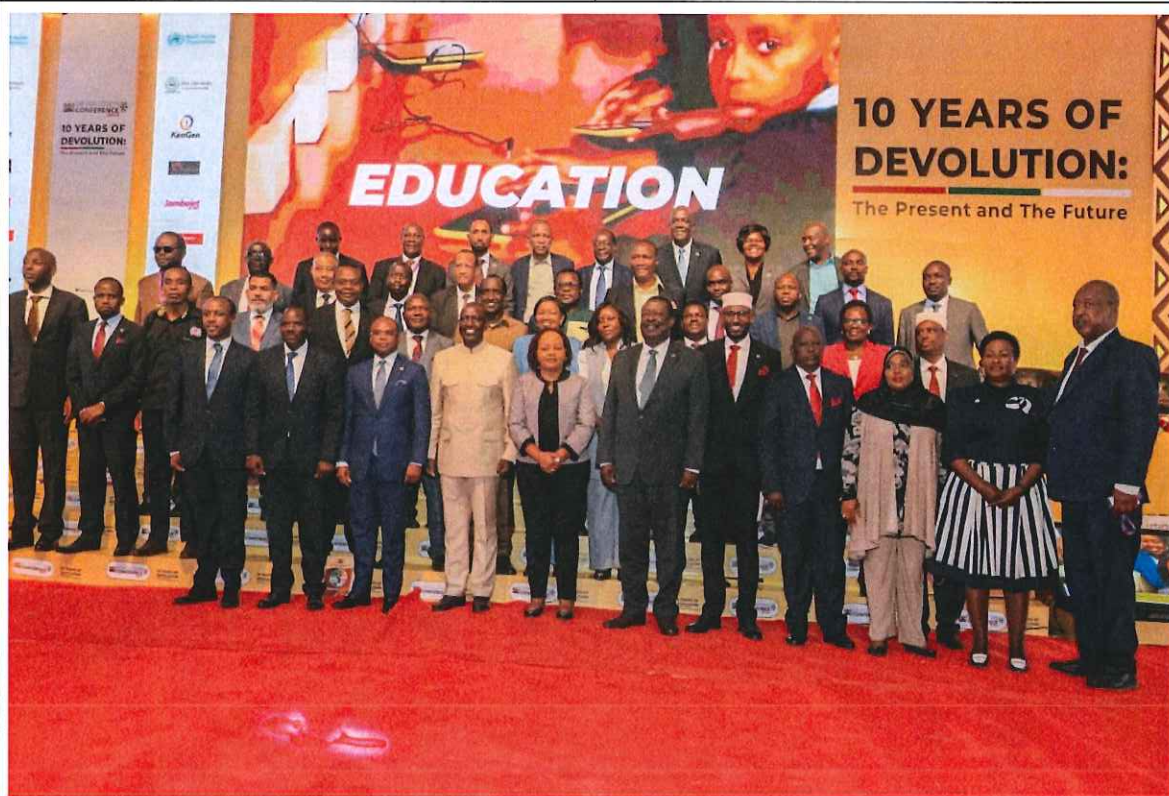
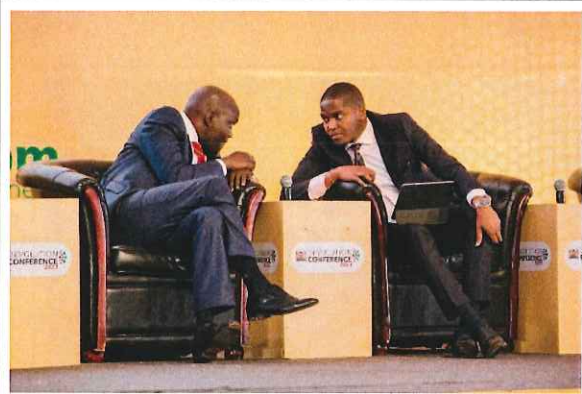
SUB-THEME 5: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION- LINKING THE LESSONS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

49.	Implementation of the two thirds gender principle	The Senate to work with the national and the county governments to put in place policy and legislation on full implementation of the two-thirds gender principle in elective and appointive positions at both levels of government	Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights	February, 2024
50.	Implementation of affirmative action provisions in the Constitution, statutes and	The Senate to work with the national and county governments and other stakeholders to - a) put in place a framework for data collection, aggregation and analysis on marginalised	Standing Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration	February, 2024

	policies	<p>demographics to inform interventions;</p> <p>b) put in place an impact and inclusion assessment tool to facilitate the audit of affirmative action provisions in the Constitution, statutes and various policies, including AGPO;</p> <p>c) ensure the implementation of disability categorization assessment guidelines in the counties;</p> <p>d) decentralise the registration of PWDs from Nairobi to the counties;</p> <p>e) build capacities of actors at different levels to deal with matters of affirmative action, including implementers and those charged with oversight; and</p> <p>f) strengthen intergovernmental relations in policy formulation and implementation</p>		
51.	Alignment of laws with the Constitution	The Senate to undertake a comprehensive review of laws enacted prior to the 2010 Constitution and proposed amendments to align them with the affirmative action provisions in the Constitution.	Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations	February, 2024

PICTORIALS









ANNEXTURES

- 1) Joint Communique of the 1st Biennial Devolution Conference, 2023
- 2) Communique of the Children's Devolution Conference, 2023
- 3) Conference Programme



DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2023



JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE, 2023 HELD FROM 15TH TO 19TH AUGUST 2023 AT ELDORET SPORTS CLUB, UASIN GISHU COUNTY

Preamble

The Devolution Conference 2023 was held from 15th to 19th August 2023 at Eldoret Sports Club, Uasin Gishu County. The Conference was convened jointly by the Office of the Deputy President represented by State Department of Devolution, Council of Governors (COG), the Senate, Host County (Uasin Gishu) and County Assemblies Forum (CAF). This marked the beginning of the Biennial Devolution Conferences.

The Devolution Conference 2023 made the following resolutions in line with the theme “10 Years of Devolution: The Present and The Future” and the Sub-Theme “Driving Transformation from the Local Level: County Governments as the Centre of Economic Development.”

1. Both levels of Government, Development Partners and the Private Sector shall in all sectors synergize their efforts and adopt a coordinated approach to partnerships and implementation of projects and programs to avoid multiplicity of efforts.

Action: National Government, County Governments, Development Partners; Private Sector

2. County Governments shall support adoption and scaling up of creative solutions by providing a conducive environment and incubation centers for innovation to support through budgetary allocation and technical support

Action: County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector

3. Both levels of government shall review the legislative framework to enhance the autonomy of County Assemblies to strengthen their oversight role.

Action: Senate, National Assembly, Council of Governors, State Department for Devolution, County Assembly Forum.

4. The National government shall create a policy framework for anchoring digitization to support operationalization of programs in all sectors including health, agriculture, trade and blue economy.

Action: Ministry of ICT, Council of Governors, County governments, Private Sector.

5. Both levels of government shall ensure proper coordination between the ICT departments and other supportive departments such as security, energy, water and transport among others.

Action: Ministry of ICT, Council of Governors, County governments, Private Sector.

6. County Governments shall enhance their own source revenue through supportive policies and automation of systems in order to enhance transparency in revenue collection.

Action: National Treasury, Kenya Revenue Authority, Council of Governors (COG), Senate

7. Both levels of Government shall enhance and sustain performance management as a tool for strengthening effective service delivery.

Action: Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Council of Governors, County governments

8. Both levels of government shall explore entrenching division of revenue between the National and County Governments on the projected budget for the year, as opposed to using the last audited accounts.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments, Senate, National Assembly and CRA.

9. Parliament shall fast-track the enactment of various laws that support the devolved functions in all sectors.

Action: Senate, National Assembly, County Assemblies

10. All devolved functions currently being carried out by National Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments shall be transferred to the County Governments within 60 days.

Action: Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee, Council of Governors, All Ministries, Departments and Agencies

11. Both levels of Government shall promote transparency and accountability through multi-pronged, innovative approaches within the existing policy frameworks
Action: Commission on Administration of Justice (CAJ), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), County Governments, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, County Governments, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Controller of Budget (OCB)

12. Both levels of Government shall adhere to the statutory reporting guidelines on the opportunities created for the marginalized groups through Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).

Action: All Ministries, Departments, Agencies, County Governments, Council of Governors, National Treasury, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority

13. Both levels of Government shall design programs to facilitate the reintegration of teenage mothers into the formal school system.

Action: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and The Art, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, Ministry of Health, County Governments, Development Partners

On Housing, Planning and Urban Development;

14. Both levels of Government shall fast-track regularization, automation, documentation and registration of land while also bridging the gender gap in land ownership.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Ministry of ICT.

15. Both levels of government shall review or develop frameworks to facilitate provision of green housing including the Housing Policy, National Land Policy, Energy Planning Standards and County Specific policies on land and housing.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Senate, National Assembly,

16. A framework shall be developed to establish and operationalize the National Urban Development Fund as provided for in the National Urban Development Policy.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, National Treasury, Senate, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners

On Investment;

17. A database of all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) shall be developed to promote linkages between the investors and the MSMEs.

Action: Micro and Small Enterprises Organizations, Council of Governors, Private Sector, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs

18. Both levels of Government shall engage and harmonize investment initiatives in line with their development plans.

Action: Micro and Small Enterprises Organization, Council of Governors, Private Sector, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs

On the blue economy sector;

19. Both levels of government shall align County Blue Economy Policies to the National Blue Economy Policy that was adopted from the Blue Economy Concept of the Africa Union.

Action: Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, County Governments, Council of Governors

20. Both levels of government shall increase investment in research and development to improve efficiencies in the Blue Economy Sector.

Action: Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Private Sector

On Health Service Delivery

21. County governments shall increase investment in primary health care, including community health services in order to step up preventive and promotive health services.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments and National Government

22. County governments shall strengthen collaboration between public and non-state actors in health for resource optimization and improved service delivery.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments, Development Partners, Faith Based Organizations within the health sector and private sector actors.

23. Efforts to eliminate disease-based and vertical health programmes in order to reduce duplication, build efficiencies and strengthen one integrated health system shall be heightened.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments, National government and Private Sector, Development Partners

On Strengthening food systems;

24. Agriculture shall be prioritized by investing 10% of the GDP into the food systems.

Action: Ministry of Agriculture and livestock development, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

25. County Governments shall develop innovative products to ensure farmers get access to credit facilities and to attract the youth to engage in farming.

Action: County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

26. The National Treasury shall rationalize the taxes on agricultural goods to make them more competitive in the Market.

Action: National Treasury, Ministry of Agriculture and livestock development, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

On Green Economy transition in Counties;

27. A paradigm shift in the production system shall be explored and resources secured by mapping the resources and developing a national resource register, undertaking economic evaluation, putting in management systems, and creating incentives to better conserve the environment.

Action: Ministry of Water, National Treasury, County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector

28. Both levels of Government shall engage with the indigenous communities for inter-generational knowledge transfer through climate change storytelling.

Action: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

29. Both levels of Government shall invest in alternative sources and promote farm forestry and incentives to grow trees at community levels.

Action: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

On Empowering Youth for Inclusive Economic Growth;

30. Both levels of government shall enable a conducive environment for youth to carry out business by ensuring reasonable fees and levies for permits especially for content creators wishing to access and use public spaces.

Action: Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

31. Both levels of Government shall address mental health issues rampant among the youth arising from issues that affect them, such as drugs, suicide, abuse, unemployment, and domestic violence by developing and implementing already existing frameworks.

Action: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

Recommendations of the Children's Conference 2023

32. The Communique that arose from the Children's conference is adopted as is and the resolutions will be implemented by the stakeholders identified.

Further details of the resolutions captured herein will form part of the final conference report.

Implementation of the above resolutions shall be monitored and reported by stakeholders every 6 months over the next 2 years, and the progress reported during the next Devolution Conference.

Action: Deputy President, Chair Council of Governors.

Finally,

The next Biennial Devolution conference shall be held in 2025 at a venue that will be announced after Consultation.

Signed by:

.....
H.E Rigathi Gachagua, EGH
Deputy President, Republic of Kenya

.....
H.E FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi
Co-Chair of the First Biennial Devolution Conference and Vice Chair of the Council of Governors

.....
Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH
Co-Chair of the First Biennial Devolution Conference Speaker of the Senate

.....
Hon. Philemon Sabulei
Chairperson, County Assemblies Forum

COMMUNIQUE OF THE CHILDREN'S DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2023

We, the children drawn from the 47 counties, gathered for the Children's Devolution Conference 2023 from the 3rd to 7th July 2023 at the M-Pesa Foundation Academy in Kiambu County.

More united than ever in our determination to have our voices heard in the leadership and governance of our Country and set the course for a better future for all children in Kenya.

Appreciating the efforts of the National Government and County Governments in improving our lives and ensuring we enjoy our rights as stated in the Constitution of Kenya and other international laws and statutes in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Recalling all previous children's devolution conferences and pronouncements in relation to children's issues as well as the vision of the Children Act 2022.

Noting the need for Government and non-governmental stakeholder to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all for resilient, just, and prospering societies.

Deeply concerned by the alarming cases of harmful cultural practices and teenage pregnancies leading to the dropping out of young girls from school.

Firmly denouncing all forms of violence against children be they physical, emotional, sexual, economical, socio-cultural, or otherwise.

Stressing the need for a robust multi-stakeholder engagement on the implementation of child protection strategies for sustainable development agenda in the Country. This will include consolidating efforts, resources and mainstreaming of child protection agenda in national and county development plans.

Accordingly, we call upon both the National Government and County Governments to take the following concrete steps:

1. On Devolution and Children's Rights:

- ✦ Review all laws and policies to ensure universal access to children's rights leaving no one behind, especially teenage girls who fall pregnant while in school;

- ✦ Establish a Children's Council of Governors comprising of children governors for each of the 47 Counties;
- ✦ Provide professional counselors in every school to ensure the mental well-being of both the learners and the teachers;
- ✦ Review the Public Finance Management Act (2012) Section 137 (1) to provide for children's representation in the County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF);
- ✦ Replicate the school feeding programs in Mombasa and Nairobi across all the Counties to ensure access to school by all the learners;
- ✦ Enhance advocacy on safety and security of children living conflict prone settings so that they enjoy their rights such as access to safe and quality education and healthcare services ;
- ✦ Guarantee access to justice for all children and expedition of cases in the justice system involving children. We further call upon justice actors to ensure strengthening of accountability mechanisms to bring perpetrators of violence against children to justice;

2. **On Child Participation in Governance:**

- ✦ Sensitize and popularize the Kenya Children's Assembly as a platform for airing and sharing children's views;
- ✦ Organize sensitization forums for Children on the Children's Act 2022 so that we can understand our rights and obligations;
- ✦ Engage children in charitable children's institutions before the next Children's Devolution Conference and share a plan on where children with no families will be placed;

3. **On Inclusivity for ALL Children:**

- ✦ Through the relevant Ministry, develop legal framework to obligate governments to provide accessible infrastructure and services to ensure friendliness of facilities and services to children with disabilities.
- ✦ Provide essential personalized services and up-to-date equipment and materials for learners with disabilities to realize their right to education. This includes but not limited to talking calculators, braille machines, walking sticks, wheelchairs among others.

4. **On Talent development:**

- ✦ Devolve the **Talanta Hela Program** to all counties to support talent development. Further, the National Government to provide equipment and facilities for children's talent development at the local level;

- ✦ Inclusion of all children in talent development programs by Private Sector Institutions such as the **Women in Technology** program and the **Chapa Dimba**;

5. **On Environment and Climate Change**

- ✦ **We reiterate** our commitment to the protecting the environment and call upon everyone to take personal responsibility in the mitigation of the effects of climate change. We call upon the National and County Governments to involve children and invest in renewable energies, green and blue economies as well as other modern energy technology such as electric vehicles and bicycles;
- ✦ **We commit** as children to contribute to the national campaign on growing 15 billion trees during our time in and out of school;
- ✦ Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development and other relevant stakeholders to develop a strategy on the integration of climate change education into the curriculum;

We remain committed and recognize the need for conveying a unified message from the Children of Kenya to our leaders because there is nothing for us without us.

We reiterate that representatives of children should be regularly invited to participate and share their experiences in all gatherings concerning children and their needs. We further urge the relevant Ministry to develop guidelines for the regular participation of children in such forums.

Finally, we appreciate the Council of Governors and other organizers for the Children's Devolution Conference 2023. We strongly call upon all the relevant stakeholders to come together and develop an implementation plan on the above recommendations and present a report of the same during the next Children's Devolution Conference.

Endorsed by the Children of Kenya on the 6th of July 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Children by:

Abel Kwoba Odwori
Governor
Children's Devolution Conference 2023

Grace Nabiswa
Deputy Governor
Children's Devolution Conference 2023

Received on behalf of the National Government:

Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, CBS
Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of Education

Received on behalf of Council of Governors:

H.E Mutahi Kahiga, EGH
Governor, Nyeri County
Education Committee, Council of Governors

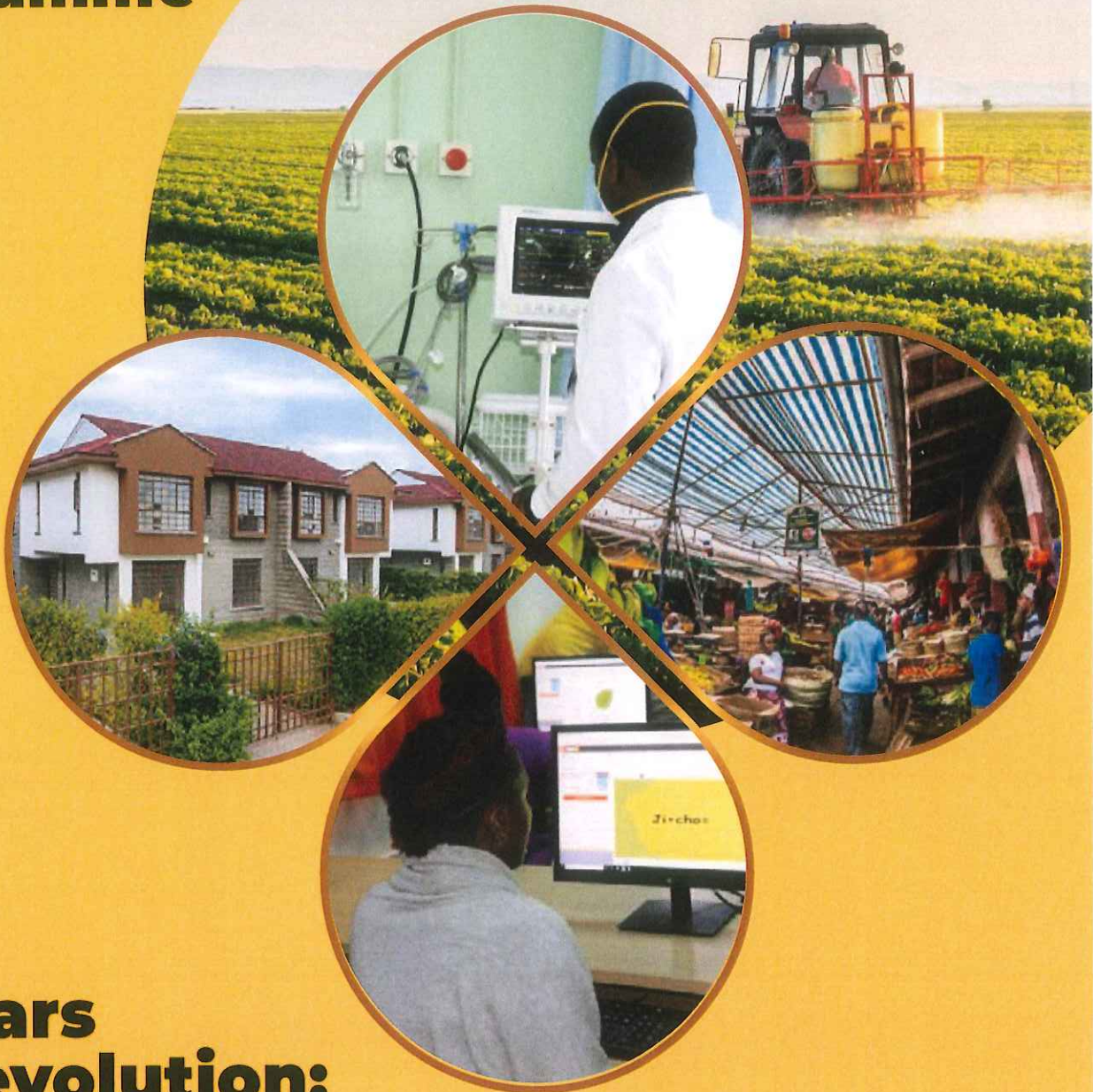


**DEVOLUTION
CONFERENCE**
2023



**10 YEARS OF
DEVOLUTION:**
The Present and The Future

Conference Programme



10 Years Of Devolution: The Present And The Future

**Driving Transformation from the
Local Level: County Governments as
the Centre of Economic Development**

**15th - 19th
August 2023**

**Eldoret Sports Club,
Uasin Gishu County**



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Our Vision

Prosperous Counties that are drivers of socio-economic growth and development and quality service delivery.

Our Mission

To deepen devolution through coordination, consultation, information sharing, capacity building, performance management and dispute resolution.

Our Core Values

- **Collaboration and Partnership**
- **Integrity**
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- **Innovation**
- **Professionalism**

Our Motto

48 Governments, 1 Nation



Council of Governors-Kenya



@kenyagovernors



@councilofgovernors



Council of Governors-Kenya



NATIONAL ANTHEM

O God of all creation,
Bless this our land and nation.
Justice be our shield and defender,
May we dwell in unity Peace and liberty
plenty be found within our borders.
Let one and all arise
With hearts both strong and true.
Service be our earnest endeavour,
And our Homeland of Kenya,
Heritage of splendour,
Firm may we stand to defend.
Let all with one accord
In common bond united,
Build this our nation together,
And the glory of Kenya,
The fruit of our labour
Fill every heart with thanksgiving.

WIMBO WA TAIFA

Ee Mungu nguvu yetu
Ilete baraka kwetu
Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi
Na tukae na undugu
Amani na uhuru
Raha tupate na ustawi.
Amkeni ndugu zetu
Tufanye sote bidi
Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu
Nchi yetu ya Kenya
Tunayoipenda
Tuwe tayari kuilinda.
Natujenge taifa letu
Ee ndio wajibu wetu
Kenya istahili heshima
Tuungane mikono
Pamoja kazini
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani.



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ANTHEM

Ee Mungu twaomba uilinde
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani
Tutimize na malengo yetu.

**Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde
Tuwajibike tuimarike
Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu
Idumu Jumuiya yetu.**

Uzalendo pia mshikamano
Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu
Na tulinde Uhuru na Amani
Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

Viwandani na hata mashambani
Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini
Tujitoe kwa hali na mali
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora

Conference Facilitators: Prof. Karuti Kanyinga & Mr. Eric Latiff

TUESDAY, 15TH AUGUST 2023 PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

7.30 am – 6.00 pm	Arrival and Picking of Badges	Conference Secretariat
11:00 am-3:00 pm	Pre-conference activities ❖ Football, Athletics and tug of war	Conference Secretariat

DAY 1- WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2023

Sub-theme 1: Strengthening Effective Service Delivery in Counties through Performance Management: Reaching the Last Mile

Objective: To assess and propose measures that County Governments can adopt to enhance transformative service delivery for improved citizen's livelihoods and a stronger business environment.

Time	Speaker/ Moderator	Panelists
9.00 am- 10.00 am	<p>Key Note Speaker: Rt. Hon. Tony Blair Executive Chairman, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Mary Ndeto Public Service Expert</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Mutahi Kahiga, EGH Governor, Nyeri County 2. Sen. (Rev.) Julius Recha Murgor, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare 3. Amb. Salma A. Ahmed Commissioner, Public Service Commission 4. Ms. Anne Njoki Wangombe Principal Secretary, State Department for Performance and Delivery Management, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary 5. Hon. Philemon Sabulei Chairperson, County Assemblies Forum 6. Dr. Meshack Ndiragu Country Director, Amref Health Africa in Kenya 7. Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo Social Accountability Expert
10:00am -11:00am	Commemoration of the Tree Growing Initiative by:- H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H. President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander- in-Chief of the Defence Forces	
10.00am- 11:00am	Rolling Videos: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children Conference Documentary 2. Entertainment 	



Time	Speaker	Facilitator
11:00 am – 2:00 pm	<p>Official Opening Ceremony Arrival of the President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Local entertainment ❖ Tour of Exhibitions ❖ Playing of the National Anthem & East Africa Anthem ❖ Opening Prayers (Christian and Muslim) ❖ Remarks by Platinum Sponsor/s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amb. Meg Whitman, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya ➤ Mr. Peter Ndegwa, Safaricom PLC Chief Executive Officer ➤ Dr. Githinji Gitahi, Amref Health Africa Group Chief Executive Officer ➤ Mr. Paul Russo, EBS, KCB Group Chief Executive Officer ❖ Remarks by the Chair of the Devolution Donor Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ H.E. Amb. Ole Thonke ❖ Remarks by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Teresia Malokwe ❖ Remarks by Host Senator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sen. Jackson Mandago, EGH, M.P. ❖ Welcoming Remarks and recognition of local leaders by Host Governor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Governor Jonathan Bii ❖ Status on action points from the 7th and Final Annual Devolution Conference and Introduction of the Devolution Conference Steering Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdulahi ❖ Video on 10 years of Devolution ❖ Presentation of the resolutions of the Children's Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grace Nabiswa ❖ Remarks by the Prime Cabinet Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH ❖ Remarks by the National Assembly Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetangula, EGH, M.P. ❖ Remarks by the Speaker of the Senate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P. ❖ Remarks by Chairperson, Council of Governors and recognition of the invited guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH, OGW ❖ Official Opening H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H. President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces ❖ Launch of the Devolution Book and Launch of Joint County Bankable Investment Handbook ❖ Presentation of gift to H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya ❖ Presidential Group Photo 	<p>Governor Stephen Sang, EGH Governor, Nandi County and Whip, Council of Governors</p>

2.00pm – 3.00pm Late Lunch

3.00pm - 5.00pm	Sector breakaway sessions on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Constitutional Right to Housing: A Reflection of the Past 10 years of Devolution. 2. Celebrating a Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for the Future (focus on PHC). 3. Unlocking the Economic Potential of Counties Through Strategic Positioning as Trade and Investment Destinations While Reflecting on the Lessons from the Past. 4. Exploring the economic opportunities in the blue economy sector for inclusive growth and benefits for local communities: Reflecting investments in the next 10 years
7:00pm - 9:00pm	❖ Chairpersons Dinner/Devolution Warrior Awards

DAY 2-THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2023
8.00 am – 8.30 am Recap for Day 1

Sub-theme 2: Digital Economy and Integration of Technology in the Devolved Sectors for Economic Development
Objective: To examine the benefits of adopting technology and digitalization and the potential impact on economic development and discuss strategies for promoting innovation and digital transformation in the devolved context.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
8:30 am - 10:30 am	<p>Key note speaker: H.E. Henriette Geiger Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Kenya</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Fiona Asonga Chief Executive Officer, Technology Service Providers Association of Kenya (TESPOK)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Wisley Rotich Chairperson, CoG ICT and Knowledge Management Committee 2. Mr. Eliud Owalo Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy 3. Sen. Allan Chesang Kiprotich, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on ICT 4. Ms. Cynthia Kropac Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Safaricom PLC 5. Mr. Ezra Chiloba Director-General, Communications Authority of Kenya 6. Mr. Hamisi Williams Assistant Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative-Kenya 7. Mr. David Omwoyo Chief Executive Officer, Media Council of Kenya (MCK)

Sub Theme 3: Resourcing Devolution for Service Delivery

Objective: To reflect on the trends and the challenges that have been experienced in financing the devolved sectors and recommend innovative approaches for sustainable and adequate financing for County Governments.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
10:30 am- 12:30 pm	<p>Key Note Address: Mr. Paul Russo Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Commercial Bank</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Boniface Mung'ania Director, Public Sector Digital Transformation, Safaricom PLC</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Governor FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW Chairperson, CoG Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee Governor Cecily Mbarire, MGH Chairperson, CoG Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Committee Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, CBS Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Planning Sen. (Capt.) Ali Roba Ibrahim, EGH, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Budget Hon. Ndindi Nyoro M.P. Chairperson, National Assembly Budget & Appropriations Committee CPA Mary Wanyonyi Chebukati Chairperson, Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) Mr. Keith Hansen Country Director, World Bank
12.30 pm-12: 40pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arrival of Guest Speaker- Rt. Hon. Former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH ➤ Video on the Devolution Journey 	
12.40 pm-2.00 pm	<p>Session Facilitator: Governor Stephen Sang, EGH, Nandi County and Whip, Council of Governors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remarks by Chief Executive Officer, County Pension Fund (CPF), Mr. Hosea Kili, OGW ➤ Remarks by the Senate Minority Leader, Sen. Justice (Rtd.) Stewart Madzayo, CBS, MP ➤ Remarks by the National Assembly Majority Leader, Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, CBS, MP ➤ Remarks by the Host Governor, Governor Jonathan Bii ➤ Remarks by Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P., Speaker of the Senate ➤ Remarks, recognition and welcoming of the Chief Guest by Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH, OGW, Chairperson Council of Governors ➤ Keynote address by Rt. Hon. Former, Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH ➤ Presentation of Gift to the Chief Guest 	

2.00 pm – 3.00 pm: Lunch Break
3.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Sector breakaway sessions on:

1. **Strong food systems for food security and inclusive growth: Re-examining the County agriculture sector transformation in the last 10 Years.**
2. **Leveraging Natural Resource Management (NRM) for a Sustainable Development Pathway and Green Economy transition in Counties.**
3. **Empowering Youth for Inclusive Economic Growth: The Role of the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda in Kenya.**
4. **Celebrating a Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for the Future (focus on digitalization).**

7:00pm-9:00pm
HOST GOVERNOR/DP GALA DINNER
DAY 3 –FRIDAY, 18TH AUGUST 2023
8.30 am-8.45 am

Recap of day 2

Sub-Theme 4: Good Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development
Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness of good governance practices in promoting equitable and sustainable development in the devolved units.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
8.45 am-10.30 am	Keynote speaker: Mr. Anthony Ngororano Resident Representative, UNDP Kenya Moderator: Mr. Con Omoro Osendo Governance Adviser, British High Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Abdullswamad Sherrif Nassir Governor, Mombasa County 2. Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba, HSC, M.P. Chairperson, Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee 3. Sen. Moses Kajwang', M.P. Chairperson, Senate County Public Accounts Committee 4. Hon. Florence Kajuju Chairperson, Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) 5. CPA John Ogallo Commissioner, Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission (EACC) 6. Ms. Sheila Karani-Monda Deputy Office Director- Governance, USAID Kenya and East Africa 7. Ms. Sheila Masinde Executive Director, Transparency International


Sub-Theme 5: Affirmative Action- Linking the lessons to a sustainable future

Objective: To examine the strides that have been made in the affirmative action agenda and propose responsive measures that can be adopted to guarantee the place of women, the youth and the most vulnerable in governance.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
10:30 am- 12:30 pm	<p>Keynote speaker: Dr. Shaheen Nilofer The Representative, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-Kenya</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Daisy Amdany Executive Director, Community Advocacy and Awareness (CRAWN) Trust</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Gladys Wanga, CBS Governor, HomaBay County 2. Sen. Catherine Mumma, M.P. Vice Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations 3. Hon. Aisha Jumwa Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action 4. Mr. Harun. M. Hassan Executive Director, National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) 5. Ms. Anna Mutavati Country Representative, UN Women Kenya Country Office 6. Amb. Carla Mucavi FAO Representative to Kenya 7. Ms. Wangechi Wachira Executive Director, Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW)

Closing Ceremony

1:00pm-2:30pm

Presentation of the joint communique

Co-chairs of the Devolution Conference Steering Committee

Closing Ceremony

- ❖ Remarks by the Senate Majority Leader
 - **Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot, MGH, M.P.**
- ❖ Remarks by the Host Governor
 - **Governor Jonathan Bii**
- ❖ Vote of thanks by the Whip, Council of Governors
 - **Governor Stephen Sang**
- ❖ Remarks by the Speaker of the Senate
 - **Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P.**
- ❖ Remarks and Invitation of the Deputy President by Chair, Council of Governors
 - **Governor Anne Waiguru, EGH, OGW**
- Official Closing of the Devolution Conference 2023 by**
 - **H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, EGH
Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya**
- ❖ Presentation of gift to H.E. the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya

2.30 pm- Late Lunch

DAY 5-SATURDAY, 19TH AUGUST 2023 DEPARTURE



Biodata for Facilitators, Key note speakers, Moderators & Panelists



Prof. Karuti Kanyinga | Research Professor at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi.

Prof. Karuti Kanyinga is a Research Professor at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi. He is an accomplished development researcher and scholar with extensive international experience and exposure. He has carried out many research programmes and projects in Kenya and several countries in Africa for over 25 years. He has published extensively on development and governance and is renowned for his contributions to scholarship and knowledge in governance and politics of development in Africa. Prof. Kanyinga is renowned particularly for his extensive research and publications on devolution, inequality, and development, and politics of development in general.



Mr. Eric Latiff | Founder and CEO of Zeze Digital

Mr. Eric Latiff hosts The Situation Room - Kenya's Biggest Conversation - on Spice FM and KTN. With over 20 years of experience in Radio, TV and Digital, he is also a renowned conference facilitator, moderator and event MC ready to work with organisations to spark meaningful and insightful conversations during conferences and seminars. He is also the founder and CEO of Zeze Digital - a communications and digital marketing consultancy.



Rt. Hon. Tony Blair | Executive Chairman of Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Rt. Hon. Tony Blair is the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the Current Executive Chairman of Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.



Ms. Mary Ndeto | Director Tushi Management Consulting Services

Ms. Mary Ndeto is currently the Director of Tushi Management Consulting Services and has vast experience in designing and mainstreaming of performance system. She has over 15 years' experience in human resource management strategies, policies and public sector transformation and performance management frameworks for public institutions. She holds a Master of Human Resource Management from Manchester University, UK.



Governor Mutahi Kahiga, EGH, Nyeri County | Vice Chair CoG of Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives Committee

Gov. Mutahi Kahiga is serving his second term after the reelection in 2022, previously he served as the Deputy Governor in 2017 and assumed office as a Governor in November 2017.

He is also the Vice Chair of the Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives Committee at the Council of Governors. He is currently undertaking his PhD.



Hon. Julius Recha Murgor | Senator West Pokot County and Chairperson Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare

Hon. Julius Recha Murgor is the Chairperson for the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare. Previously he has served as the MP for Kapenguria Constituency from and as an Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources where he served from 2007 to 2012. He holds Master's Degree in Theology at Trinity University in USA.



Amb. Salma A. Ahmed | Commissioner, Public Service Commission

Amb. Salma A. Ahmed has an illustrious career spanning over 20 years in the civil service, diplomacy, communications, public relations and academia. She Kenya's ambassador to France, Portugal and Serbia for eight years where she also doubled as the Chair of the East African Community Ambassadors forum and Deputy Dean of the African Group of Ambassadors. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and Masters in International Studies degree from the University of Nairobi, Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations.



Ms. Anne N. Wang'ombe | Principal Secretary Performance and Delivery Management in the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary

Ms. Anne N. Wang'ombe is the current Principal Secretary for Performance and Delivery Management in the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary. Previously she served as the Manager, Pensions Department at Kenya Revenue Authority and Manager, Kenya Medical Research Institute. She assumed office as Principal Secretary on 4th July, 2023.



Hon. Philemon Kiplagat Sabulei | Chairperson, County Assemblies Forum and the Speaker of County Assembly of Elgeyo Marakwet

Hon. Philemon Kiplagat Sabulei is the Chairperson of the County Assemblies Forum. He is also the Vice Chairperson of the East Africa Local Governments Association (EALGA). He is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from Moi University and a Post graduate Diploma from Kenya School of Law.



Dr. Meshack Ndirangu | Country Director Amref Health Africa in Kenya

Dr. Meshack Ndirangu is an accredited executive coach, business strategist, and public health specialist with years of experience in senior management in the non-profit and public sector. He holds an Executive MBA, MPH, MBChB, & Executive Coach Accreditation (UK Academy of Executive Coaching).



Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo | Advocate for Good Governance and Accountability

Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo has worked in Kenyan civil society over the past 15 years, during which she has contributed to the promotion of social accountability and public participation practice, the protection of devolution, and political accountability in public finance management.



Her Excellency Henriette Geiger | European Union Ambassador to Kenya

Her Excellency Henriette Geiger is the EU Ambassador to Kenya since September 2021. She is a former Director for People and Peace in the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) for the European Commission. Previously, she served as Head of Unit in the same Directorate, responsible for bilateral cooperation with Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Pacific, and before that was responsible for the political dimension of the EU's relations with the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Indian Ocean in the European External Action Service.



Ms. Fiona Asonga | Chief Executive Officer, Technology Service Providers Association of Kenya (TESPOK)

Ms. Fiona Asonga has 16 years' experience working in the ICT sector. In 2018 she developed a training program on Collaborative Governance under the Internet Society that was run at the USTTI, Washington DC. Additionally, she was one of the three African representatives on the Number Resource Organization – Number Council and role on the NRO involved coordinating Numbering Resource issues across the five Regional Internet Registries. She also doubled as a member of the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Address Supporting Organization- Address Council which co-ordinates the development of Global Numbering Resource Policy Development.



Governor Wisley Rotich, Elgeyo Marakwet County | Chairperson of CoG Information, Communication Technology (ICT) and Knowledge Management Committee

Gov. Wisley Rotich is the second Governor of Elgeyo Marakwet County. Prior to this, he served as the second Deputy Governor of Elgeyo Marakwet County from 2017 to 2022. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Moi University and has previously worked at the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and later Equity Bank before joining Elgeyo Marakwet County as Director of Cooperatives.



Mr. Eliud Owalo FIHRM | Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy.

He has worked as an Economist, Management Consultant and Strategy Expert between 2001 – 2022. Until his appointment as CS, Mr. Owalo was a practicing Managing Consultant at Eliud & Associates (E&A) Management Consultants, an International Management Consultancy and Training firm. He holds a BA Degree in Economics and Business Studies from Kenyatta University, an MBA Degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Nairobi and is currently a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Candidate in Strategic Management at the University of Nairobi.



Hon. Allan Chesang | Senator Trans Nzoia County and Chairperson of the Standing Senate ICT Committee

Senator Allan Chesang previously served as the CEO of Transcentury Global and Uplift Group of companies and possesses over 10 years in the education sector working as the patron of KUSA (Kenyatta University Student Association). He has excellent knowledge of Governance, Strategic Thinking, and ICT and has also been a media personality, political and business strategy expert. Senator Allan Chesang, MP holds a degree in Business Management and is a certified Project Management Professional and Financial Planner. He is committed to advancing technology and education in Trans Nzoia and beyond.



Ms. Cynthia Kropac | Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Safaricom PLC

Ms. Cynthia Kropac previously served in several leadership positions in the telecommunications industry and as a management consultant at Andersen Consulting where she began her professional career. Cynthia is the recipient of several company and industry awards in various capacities, including recognition by Women of Color Magazine as a Rising Star in STEM, and as top Supplier of the Year award for the largest Healthcare OEM in the world.



Mr. Ezra Chiloba | Director General, Communications Authority of Kenya (CA)

Mr. Ezra Chiloba has served as Principal Partner at Chil & Kemp Strategies Ltd. Mr. Chiloba also served as the Chief Executive Officer/Commission Secretary of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) between 2015 – 2018. His experience spans over 15 years in public sector management including policy, legislation, financial management, stakeholder management, risk management and leadership.



Mr. Hamisi M. Williams | Assistant FAO representative for Kenya (programmes)

Mr. Hamisi M. Williams was previously the Technical Policy and Institutional Governance Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs. He has also served in various capacities as the Head of Policy Research and Strategy at the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC) unit under the Executive Office of the President where he led and implemented research outcomes on institutional governance.



Mr. David Omwoyo Omwoyo, MBS | Chief Executive Officer of the Media Council of Kenya

Mr. David Omwoyo Omwoyo is a seasoned Journalist, writer, editor and team leader. His other areas of interest include Service Delivery and Accountability in the Kenyan Public Service sector. Additionally his other research interest include Merit and the Principle of Subsidiarity as an Anchor for Improving Service Delivery and Accountability in the Kenyan Public Service, public interest media for sustainability in the digital era and navigating the delicate balance between press freedom and responsible journalism.



Mr. Paul Russo, EBS | Chief Executive Officer of KCB Group PLC

Mr. Paul Russo steers the largest financial institution in East Africa by assets, with a balance sheet of KShs. 1.63 trillion. He is also a member of the Boards of KCB Group PLC, KCB Bank Kenya, National Bank of Kenya (NBK), KCB Investment Bank, KCB Foundation, BPR Bank Rwanda Plc and Trust Merchant Bank (TMB). He is also a member of the Kenya Bankers Association Governing Council, the banking industry lobbying arm. He was feted with a state commendation-Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (EBS) by the President for his immense contribution in Kenya's financial services sector.



Mr. Boniface Mungania | Director, Public Sector Digital Transformation at Safaricom PLC.

Mr. Boniface Mungania was previously the acting Chief Digital Financial Services Officer at Safaricom PLC. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree and an MSc in Entrepreneurship from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. He has also completed Micro Masters Digital Programs in Product Management and Leadership. Boniface is keen on identifying opportunities within public sector where government can digitize through technology and recommending the right solutions to the National and County Governments.



Governor FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW, Kakamega County | Chairperson CoG Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee

Gov. FCPA Fernandes Barasa is a holder of a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) from Kenyatta University and currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy and Management at the same University. Before being elected in 2022, he served as Managing Director & CEO, Kenya Electricity Transmission Company, KETRACO; Finance Director, KETRACO; Finance Director, Kenya Tea Development Authority, KTDA; and Chief Accountant at Kenya Airways. H.E has also served as the Chairman of Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) where he is also a member.



Governor Cecily Mutitu Mbarire, MGH, Embu County | Chairperson, CoG Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships Committee

Gov. Cecily Mutitu Mbarire holds an Executive Master of Business Administration Degree from the United States International University and a Bachelor of Arts (Economics and Sociology) from Egerton University. She is a long serving Member of Parliament for Runyenjes Constituency having served for twenty consecutive (20) years between 2003 and 2022. She is very passionate on issues revolving around Women Empowerment, Sustainable Agriculture and Value addition and Climate change and building communities resilience against its impacts among others.



Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, CBS | Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury & Economic Planning

Prior to his appointment, Prof. Ndung'u was serving as the Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). He holds a PhD in economics from University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He is a Member of Brookings Africa Growth Initiative, Member of the Advisory Committee of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, that coordinates financial inclusion policies in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and Senior Advisor for the UNCDF-based Better Than Cash Alliance.



Hon. Ndindi Nyoro, CBS, MP | Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee, National Assembly.

Hon. Ndindi Nyoro is the current Member of Parliament for Kiharu Constituency where he is serving a second term and the Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee, National Assembly. Hon. Ndindi Nyoro is an established economist and entrepreneur. He holds a Bachelor's degree in economics from Kenyatta University.



Sen. Capt. Ali Ibrahim Roba, EGH, MP | Chairperson of the Senate Finance and Budget Committee

Sen. Capt. Ali Ibrahim Roba is the current Senator of Mandera County and he was the first Governor of Mandera County where he served as Governor between 2013 and 2022. He studied at the University of Nairobi for both his undergraduate and post graduate degrees in marketing and strategic management respectively. He is currently Pursuing his Doctorate Degrees in Business Administration at United States International University-Africa (USIU). Captain Ali is a pilot with an Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL).



CPA Mary Wanyonyi Chebukati | Chairperson Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA)

CPA Mary Wanyonyi is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Professional Mediator (CPM) and Financial Analyst with 37 years of experience in the public sector at national and sub-county level. Prior to joining CRA as Chairperson, Mrs. Wanyonyi worked with the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning as the Senior Deputy Accountant General – Head of Accounting Unit Department. Previously, she served as Assistant Accountant General at the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Ag. Assistant Accountant General at the Ministry of Finance, Chief Accountant/Deputy Head of Accounting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among other roles. Mrs Wanyonyi is member of ICPAK, ICIFA and the Association of Women Accountants of Kenya. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Tanzania and Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) from Punjab University, India.



Mr. Keith E. Hansen | Country Director, World Bank

Mr. Keith E. Hansen is the World Bank Country Director for Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda. Mr Hansen, who is based in Nairobi has a strong track record that spans 30 years of serving clients in different capacities around the globe, including in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Prior to this assignment, he was the Vice President for Global Practice Solutions, Vice President and Director for Human Development, Sector Manager for Health, Nutrition and Population; and a Senior Advisor in the Office of the World Bank Chief Executive Officer. His areas of expertise include orchestrating multisectoral efforts to pursue sustainable development goals. Mr. Hansen, an American national, holds a Law Degree from Stanford University, a Master of Public Affairs from Princeton University, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Yale University.



Mr. Anthony Ngororano | (a National of Rwanda) Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kenya

Mr. Anthony Ngororano is the current Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kenya since July 2022. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Ngororano served as Chief, Executive Board Branch in the Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director in New York, USA from January 2018 until his appointment as UNDP Resident Representative. He also served as Country Representative, UN Women in Haiti (2016-2018), Country Representative a.i. in Malawi (2015-2016) and Chief, Africa Section in UN Women HQ in New York, USA. (2013-2015). Earlier in his career Anthony worked as Regional Management Associate with Citigroup in Kenya and Tanzania.



Mr. Con Omoro Osendo | KEPSA Devolution Sector Board and the Public Service Commission

Mr. Con Omoro Osendo has served as a Governance Adviser and Devolution Technical Lead at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) based at the British High Commission in Nairobi for the last 7 years, managing FCDO's devolution programme. He has led, facilitated and provided leadership to key processes that have advanced the devolution agenda in Kenya since the enactment of the 2010 Constitution, influencing policy and working closely with relevant government and non-governmental institutions. He sits on the KEPSA Devolution Sector Board and the Public Service Commission and Emerging Public Leaders' Public Service Emerging Leaders Fellowship steering committee amongst others. Mr. Osendo is a respected and highly regarded governance, public policy and devolution thought leader and development partner.



Governor Abdullswamad Sherrif Nassir | Mombasa County

Gov. Abdullswamad Sherrif Nassir is the second Governor of Mombasa County. He is the immediate former MP of Mvita, where he worked faithfully and dutifully to represent the people legislate in their interests, defend Devolution and support the full implementation of the Constitution. The pinnacle of his Parliamentary service was his election as the Chairman of the Public Investments Committee which is the statutory committee mandated with the accounting oversight of state corporations. The Governor is deeply passionate about an accountable and people centered government. This is why the theme of his manifesto is "Mombasa - A New Beginning; Voice of the People." His promise is to work together with residents, hand in hand, to create impact in our society at the household level.



Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba | MP Githunguri Constituency and Chairperson Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee.

Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba is a vibrant intelligent legislature on her second term as a member of parliament. She has served in the parliamentary leadership in both 12th and 13th parliament leading caucus such as KEWOPA, Coffee caucus and served in the leadership of various committee such as chairperson CIOC (13th Parliament) and transport committee of 12th parliament as vice chairperson. Gathoni made history by being the first female Member of parliament to represent Githunguri Constituency as well as the first ever MP to vacate a County Woman MP Seat to a single constituency and win without petitions. She has also broken record for being the MP who gathered the highest EVER recorded number of votes in 2017 (922,829). Being the 3rd most elected person in Kenya after the presidential candidates



Senator Moses Otieno Kajwang, Homa Bay County | Chairperson Public Accounts Committee and Convenes the Climate Change Caucus in the Senate.

Sen. Moses Otieno Kajwang spent thirteen years in the financial services and supply chain industries. He was the head of Information technology at the ICEA LION Insurance Group[3] and was responsible for implementing and managing information systems in the General Insurance division. Before this he was in charge of ICT at DHL Supply Chain where he was responsible for automating supply chains in diverse industries including telecommunications, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals. He also worked at UAP Insurance in Uganda where he was Head of ICT and Quality Assurance. He is renowned for public finance oversight having been a long serving Chair of Public Accounts Committee. He also Convenes the Climate Change Caucus in the Senate.



Hon. Florence Kajuju | Chairperson of the Commission on Administrative Justice

Hon. Florence Kajuju is the Chairperson of the Commission on Administrative Justice (Office of the Ombudsman) and 2nd Ombudsman of the Republic of Kenya. She also serves as the President - International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) Africa Region and the Secretary General- African Ombudsman & Mediators Association (AOMA). Prior to her appointment as the Chairperson of the Commission on Administrative Justice, Hon. Kajuju served as a Woman Member of National Assembly representing Meru County in the 11th Parliament (Kenya) where she served as the Chairperson and member of various committees. She is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya



CPA John Ogallo | Commissioner, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)

CPA John Ogallo is a Commissioner with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), having been appointed to this position in August 2022. He is Public Financial Management (PFM) expert with extensive global experience in Governance and Institutional Building. He previously worked for several years at the World Bank in Washington DC; and has expertise in Financial Management and Governance. As an ordained Pastor Mr. Ogallo is a strong believer in the principles of fairness, good governance – integrity, commitment to ethical values, respect for the rule of law and a just society.



Ms. Sheila Masinde | Executive Director of Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya)

Ms. Sheila Masinde has 19 years of work experience in governance, programme management, media, and outreach. She is currently the Executive Director of Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya), having served as Programmes Manager/Head of Programmes between 2015 and 2020. She first joined TI-Kenya in 2009 as the Advocacy and Communications Programme Officer and worked there until 2012. After that, she moved to BBC Media Action (British Broadcasting Corporation's international development charity) where she held the position of Communications and Training Manager. Sheila returned to TI-Kenya for the second time in 2014 as the Research and Learning Manager from BBC Media Action. Sheila has also worked at the Nation Media Group in the radio and online news sections and at I Choose Life Africa as an Assistant Programme Manager.



Dr. Shaheen Nilofer | Representative of UNICEF Kenya

Dr. Shaheen Nilofer is the current representative of UNICEF Kenya with 30 years of experience in the development sector in senior leadership positions in building large social sector development & humanitarian programmes for non-profit organizations, bi-laterals, and Governments in the backdrop of under development and post/conflict environment.



Ms. Daisy Amdany | Executive Director of the Community Advocacy and Awareness (CRAWN) Trust.

Ms. Daisy Amdany is the Executive Director of the Community Advocacy and Awareness (CRAWN) Trust. She is a governance and women's rights enthusiast with several years of experience working in the field. Daisy has vast experience in networking with grassroots organisations and enhancing their civic awareness; as well as forging and managing strategic relationships with state and non-state actors.



Governor Gladys Wanga CBS, Homa Bay County | Vice chairperson of the COG Health Committee

Gov. Gladys Wanga is the current Governor of Homa Bay County and Vice chairperson of the COG Health Committee. She is the first female Governor from the western region of the country elected during the 2022 Kenyan general election. She has served as a Commissioner in the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) and as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee in the National Assembly. Her unwavering commitment to public service and exceptional leadership skills make her a valuable asset to the people of Homa Bay County and the Nation at large.



Sen. Catherine Mumma | Nominated Senator, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya

Sen. Catherine Mumma is a Nominated Senator, an esteemed Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, and a passionate champion for the rights of women and adolescents. She has made significant contributions to Human rights practice and activism and her commitment to health and rights advocacy shines through her role as the founder of Adolescent Health and Rights Africa.



Hon. Aisha Jumwa Katana | Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action.

Hon. Aisha Jumwa Katana is the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action. Prior to joining the Ministry, she served as a Member of Parliament for Malindi Constituency in Kilifi County, Commissioner of the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), Women Representative for Kilifi County from 2013 to 2017, and from 1997 to 2007 she served as a Councillor for Takaungu Ward, Kilifi County.



Mr. Harun Maalim Hassan | Executive Director of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD).

Mr. Harun Maalim Hassan is the current Executive Director of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD). He has more than 20 years of experience in public service and community work. He has served as a Public Administrator in the office of a District Officer, Commissioner with the World Disability Union (WDU) and is a member of the US-based global think-tank Association for Research on Non-profit Volunteer Association (ARNOVA).



Ms. Anna Mutavati | Country Representative for UN WOMEN in Kenya.

Ms. Anna Mutavati is the Country Representative for UN WOMEN in Kenya. Anna is a gender equality advocate and women's rights lawyer with 24 years of experience. She has worked with UNFPA, UNICEF and UN WOMEN. Her achievements include support to legal reforms on gender discriminatory laws and support to women and children to assert their rights.



Ms. Carla Mucavi | FAO Representative to Kenya

Ms. Carla Mucavi has served as the FAO Representative to Kenya since November 2020. Prior to this appointment, Ms Mucavi worked as Director of FAO Liaison Office in New York. Ms Mucavi is a career diplomat having served in different functions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique between 1989 and 2015. She also served at the Embassy of Mozambique in Ethiopia and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mozambique to Italy, Greece and Malta, and Permanent Representative to FAO, WFP and IFAD.



Ms. Wangechi Wachira | Executive Director of Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW)

Ms. Wangechi Wachira is the Executive Director of Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), a national women's rights Non-Governmental Organization focused on championing and building agency among women and girls to transform and build an equal society. Wangechi has over 16 years of experience in senior management and is well known for her skills in Lobbying and advocacy, Gender integration and inclusion.



Governor Dr. Paul Otuoma, EGH, Busia County | Vice Chairperson, CoG Blue Economy Committee

Gov. Dr. Paul Otuoma has over 20 years' experience in senior management, and leadership roles, in both government and private sector. He previously served as a minister under the Grand Coalition Government in 2008, in the Ministries of Fisheries, Youth, & Sports and Local Government. He is a two term Member of Parliament for Funyula Constituency and served as the chairperson of the Privatisation Commission. Gov. Dr Otuoma has vast knowledge and believes in the Kenya's agenda to actualize the larger blue economy principle which is part of SDG 14 to which Kenya a signatory. Dr Otuoma holds a Master of Business Administration degree and Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM).



Ms. Mariatu Kamara | IFAD Representative and Country Director-Kenya and International Development Professional

Ms. Mariatu Kamara-IFAD Representative and Country Director-Kenya Mariatu is an international development professional with over 18 years of experience that spans United Nations, International Financial Institutions and Civil Society in Africa. She has experience in the execution of country strategies, programme development for rural and agricultural transformation. Prior to her appointment by IFAD to Kenya in February 2022, she served as the IFAD Country Representative and Director for Nigeria. In her period of appointment in Kenya, she is responsible for technical and managerial leadership of IFAD co-financed development projects with the Government of Kenya, that spans; livestock and markets, crops, blue economy, rural financing and natural resource management sectors, these projects are implemented by the National Treasury, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development, Ministry of Mining and Blue Economy, and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation.



Ms. Thule Lenneiye | Moderator Blue Economy Breakaway Session

Ms. Thule Lenneiye is an expert in food systems, climate action and digital transformation, with a successful track record and hands-on experience in the digitalization of agriculture and the blue economy. She is a sought-after thought leader in these fields. Her recent work advising on agriculture and agribusiness investment in Eastern and Southern Africa has enabled national and sub-national governments to articulate their needs and goals, facilitating sector investments into food systems including the blue economy. She holds a Masters' of Science from the London School of Economics and led the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries & Cooperatives.



Governor Issa Timamy, EGH, Lamu County | CoG Chairperson Blue Economy Committee of the Council of Governors.

Gov. Issa Timamy, EGH is the current Governor of Lamu County and the Chairperson of the Blue economy committee of the Council of Governors. He holds a Bachelors of Law degree from the University of Nairobi and is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya. He previously served as the Chairperson of the National Museums of Kenya. His experience in management has helped him achieve numerous milestones such as Lamu being the first County to launch its County Integrated Development Plan. As Chair of the blue economy committee, he has played a pivotal role in promoting the blue economy sector in the Counties.



Hon. Salim Mvurya, EGH | Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs

Hon. Salim Mvurya EGH is the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs in the Government of Kenya. He possess a degree in Agri-Business Management in from Egerton University. He has a Master's Degree in Participation, Power and Social Change from the Institute Of Development Studies, University of Sussex in England, UK. Mvurya has vast experiences both in Government, National and International NGOs. Previously he was Governor of Kwale County for 10 years (two terms), from 2013 to 2022. He also served as the vice chairman of the Council of Governors for two terms. Mvurya has inculcated a transformative model of management that has revamped the blue space economic activities.



Dr. Ali-Said Matano | Career International Civil servant

Dr. Ali-Said Matano is a career international civil servant who has over 29 years of working experience in governmental and inter-governmental organization on matters of environment, natural resources and blue economy. He has a PhD in Environmental Science, a Post-Doctorate in Environmental law and policy, a Masters Degree in Resource Management and a BSc in Forestry. Dr. Matano is the Emeritus Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission. He is an Expert in transboundary water cooperation, international environmental law and policy, Blue Economy, and Eco-diplomacy. He is currently working with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as the Blue Economy Advisor for the Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP) funded by the UK Government through Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)



Ms. Victoria Sabula | Chief Executive Officer AECF

Ms. As the Chief Executive Officer of AECF since 2019, Victoria leads the institution's efforts to secure the vision of a prosperous, enterprising and resilient Africa. Prior to joining AECF, Victoria served as General Counsel and Corporation Secretary at AGRA, providing strategic oversight on legal advisory, compliance, risk management and governance. Victoria serves as a member of several boards and councils, including Campaign for Female Education (Camfed), Convergence Finance, and Science for Africa Foundation. She also sits as a member of World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on New Agenda for Fragility and Resilience. Victoria holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree from Moi University, a diploma in Human Resource Management from Kenya Institute of Management, and an MBA from Nazarene University.



Mr. Fredrick Juma | Founder Hydro Victoria Fish Hartchery

Mr. Fredrick is an experienced Fish Farmer and social entrepreneur with over 10 Years of experience working with development. He is the Founder & CEO of Hydro Victoria Fish hatchery Farm Ltd, a fish farm he co-founded with other youths Fredrick Mainya and Elizabeth Imali, with branches in Siaya and Homabay County. He is also a director at Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI-Busia chapter) in-charge of Blue Economy and Agribusiness representing SMEs and Youths in Agribusiness. The farm is known for farming fish in cages, fingerling production, offering training in organic farming. Fredrick is also recognized as an expert in Commercial production of Black soldier fly larvae from Bio-Waste Conversions using principles of circular economy for feed processing and recently won several awards including Green Entrepreneurship Award 2023.



Ambassador Ole Thonke | Ambassador for the Danish Government to Kenya

H.E Amb. Ole Thonke is the current ambassador of the Danish Government to Kenya. He previously served as the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy in Kenya. He has interests in climate change, human rights, health, resilience and conflict prevention. His current priority is providing new solutions and technologies to promote the Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya. Until his appointment to Kenya, Ambassador Thonke headed three different departments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen: Consular, Green Diplomacy and Growth & Employment. Amb. Ole Thonke also Co-Chairs the Devolution Donor Working Group with the World Bank.



Ms. Elizabeth (Lizz) Ntonjira | Strategic Communications

Ms. Lizz is a strategic communications, advocacy, and policy specialist with extensive experience gained within several roles in the public, private and international development sectors spanning over 16 years. Lizz holds a bachelor's degree in law from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, a post graduate Professional Diploma in Public Relations from the Chartered Institute of Public Relations in the UK, and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management from Strathmore University. She is also a Public Policy Management Fellow from Virginia Commonwealth University in the US, and a recipient of former US President Barack Obama's Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (2015). She is also a Zero Malaria Ambassador in Kenya.



Dr. Ganda Gregory | County Executive Committee Member, Kisumu County Government and Member of the National Cancer Taskforce.

Dr. Ganda is the current County Executive Committee Member, Kisumu County Government. He is a seasoned administrator with 18 years experience. In his current assignment, he is responsible for overseeing health service delivery and administration in Kisumu County. He leads the Department's vision, provides policy direction and serves as the link of the Department to the Executive, strategically advising His Excellency the Governor on emerging health matters. He currently co-chairs the Health Information Research Monitoring and Evaluation (HIRME) Intergovernmental Technical Working Group and is a member of the National Cancer Taskforce.



Governor Muthomi Njuki, Tharaka Nithi County | Chairperson COG Health Committee

Gov. Muthomi Njuki is the second and current Governor of Tharaka Nithi County. He is also the Chairman of COG Health Committee. Before being elected Governor, he served as the Chuka/Igambang'ombe Member of Parliament from 2013 to 2017. He is very passionate about Entrepreneurship where he has mentored a lot of young people in business acumen. He enjoys outdoor games and sports such as rugby which he coached.



Hon. Nakhumicha S. Wafula | Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Health in the Republic of Kenya

Hon. Nakhumicha S. Wafula is the Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Health in the Republic of Kenya. She is keen on patient-centered health care services and has prioritized the delivery of Universal Health Coverage to Kenyans. Prior to her appointment, Nakhumicha was the Head of supply chain at Global Programs for Research & Training an affiliate of the University of California, San Francisco. She is an astute health care supplies chain expert with over 19 years' experience in transformational leadership. She holds a Master's degree in Procurement.



Ms. Irene Choge | Media Advocacy Manager for JHPIEGO, Kenya.

Ms. Irene Choge is the media advocacy manager for JHPIEGO, Kenya. is an accomplished global communication and public health professional with more than 14 years of experience as a journalist and a global health advocate. For seven years, she has been a valued and high-achieving advocate at the Advanced Family Planning (AFP) advocacy initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute on Population and Reproductive Health. As a former journalist, Ms. Choge has applied her research and investigative skills to inform private foundations, nongovernmental organizations, and government agencies and assist them in responding to emerging issues.



Mr. Eric Angula | Head of Business Development and Partnerships, Africa, Medtronic LABS

Mr. Eric Is the head of Business Development and Partnerships, Africa, Medtronic LABS. He is an accomplished and result-oriented professional with over a decade of experience in building impactful partnerships and providing innovative medical products across the African continent through developing successful market access initiatives. He is passionate about providing access to care for the underserved patients to catalyze health system transformation for patients living with NCDs. Eric has been with Medtronic Labs since 2012 and has been part of the core team that innovated a human centered design of Hypertension and Diabetes management model of care for under-served patients.



Dr. Kwasi Boahene | Director Health Systems at PharmAccess

Dr. Kwasi Boahene is the Director of Health Systems at PharmAccess. He is a champion of sustainable financing and innovations of African health and development systems for the past 3 decades. Dr Boahene believes that with good governance, sustainable investments and innovations, everybody in Africa, irrespective of their wealth, can have access to better care. Dr Boahene has worked in over 25 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, advising and setting up initiatives. He studied in Ghana, Oxford and Utrecht, and holds degrees in economics and public health.



Ms. Ruchika Singhal | President, of Medtronic LABS

Ms. Ruchika is the President of Medtronic LABS. She has worked at Medtronic LABS for fourteen years in various roles across Strategy, International Market Development, Marketing and new product development. Throughout her career, she has developed businesses in emerging markets and pioneered scalable, business models to address healthcare needs. Ruchika is actively involved in mentoring social businesses and is passionate about women's empowerment. She holds a Masters Degree in Biomedical Engineering from Johns Hopkins and an MBA from the University of Chicago.



Senator Jackson K. Mandago, EGH, Uasin Gishu County | Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Health

Sen. Jackson K. Mandago is the Senator Uasin Gishu County and Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Health, and the Senator for Uasin Gishu County. Prior to this, he served as the Governor of Uasin Gishu for two terms. He also served as the chairperson of the North Rift Economic Bloc (NOREB), Vice-Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee in the Council of Governors, and as the Co-Chair of the Presidential Task Force on the Maize Sector in October 2018. Before becoming an active politician, Sen. Mandago was a teacher.



Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose | Member of Parliament Endebess Constituency & Vice Chair person National Assembly Health Committee.

Hon. (Dr.) Robert Pukose is the current Member of Parliament for Endebess constituency & Vice Chair person National Assembly Health Committee. He has been a member of Parliament in the Kenya National Assembly since 2013. He is a member of the Health and Catering Committee. Hon. Dr. Robert Pukose is a highly accomplished General Surgeon with a remarkable 10 year career marked by excellence, dedication, and a commitment to advancing healthcare and patient well-being.



Dr. Tim Theuri | Chief Executive Officer Kenya Healthcare Federation and the Health Board of KEPSA.

Dr. Tim Theuri is the Chief Executive Officer of Kenya Healthcare Federation, the health board of KEPSA. He has more than eight years of experience. He is a member of the KEPSA Governing Council. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Dental Surgery, certifications in Business Administration and is a Fellow of the International College of Dentists. He serves as the President of the Kenya Dental Association. A board member of the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentist.



Mr. John Kuehnle | Director USAID/Kenya's Health, Population and Nutrition Office and Chairperson Development partners of health in Kenya.

Mr. John Kuehnle is the Director of USAID/Kenya's Health, Population and Nutrition Office and the current Chairperson of Development partners of health in Kenya. He has more than twenty years of experience in public health and has served in some of the largest USAID missions in the world including South Africa and Zambia. His areas of expertise include health financing, supply chain systems, and government-to-government relationships. He has dual master's degrees in public health and business administration from Johns Hopkins University, and an undergraduate degree in history with a minor in biology from Skidmore College.



Prof. Ann Kihara | President of the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FIGO).

Prof. Ann Kihara is the President of the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FIGO). She is a distinguished professional in Obstetrics and Gynaecology holds an impressive record of leadership roles and accomplishments in her field. She has successfully published over 100 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and two scientific books. She has a profound interest in women's health, particularly in the areas of leadership and advocacy.



Mr. Irungu Nyakera, CBS | Chairperson of Kenya Medical Supplies Authority

Mr. Nyakera is the Chairperson of Kenya Medical Supplies Authority. Previously, he was the Principal Secretary, State Department of Transport and State Department of Planning and Statistics. He was also the Chairman of the National Tea Sector Reforms Task Force and Chairman Political Parties Liaison Committee. Prior to the government positions, Mr. Nyakera held positions as Managing Director with Equity Bank Group, Managing Director with NIC Bank Group, and an investment banker with Citigroup PLC in Wall Street (USA) and Canary Wharf (UK). Mr Nyakera holds a Bachelor of Engineering Degree from Stanford University and is currently pursuing his Masters in Business Administration from Oxford University in the United Kingdom.



Ms. Mary Muthoni Muriuki, HSC | Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards in the Ministry of Health.

Ms. Mary Muthoni Muriuki, HSC is the Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards in the Ministry of Health. Prior to this appointment, she served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for Women in Business Kenya, an organization, where she focused on promoting women empowerment in delivery of Public Service particularly in championing women's access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).



Ms. Rita Okuthe | Executive Board Chair, CarePay Kenya (M-TIBA)

Ms. Rita Okuthe serves as the Executive Board Chair, CarePay Kenya (M-TIBA) and is credited with providing strategic leadership and support that has been instrumental in driving access to affordable healthcare. She has a rich background in Telecommunications and Marketing. She previously served as the Chief Enterprise Business Officer at Safaricom PLC. She also held senior leadership roles at Coca Cola and MTN Uganda. Rita contributes to various boards, including the British Chambers of Commerce in Kenya and Nairobi Business Ventures Plc. She holds an MSC in Marketing from London School of Business.



Ms. Caroline S Mbindyo | CEO Amref Health Innovations

Ms. Caroline is the CEO, Amref Health Innovations at Amref Health Africa. She is an experienced leader at the intersection of digital innovation, global health, and international development. She has extensive experience in driving complex program deployments in multiple countries, scaling innovations, and developing new business opportunities through innovative financing models in emerging markets. She has over 15 years' experience running and growing entrepreneurial ventures in the nonprofit and commercial space, implementing access programs, and deploying innovative approaches for profit, purpose, and sustainability. Caroline is a Board Member of D-Tree and Qhala, and is on the Advisory Board of Analytics for a Better World.



Mr. David Munyendo | Kenya Country Director for Christian Blind Mission (CBM)

Mr. David Munyendo is the Kenya Country Director for Christian Blind Mission (CBM), With over 22 years experience in the non-for-profit sector. He is an accomplished leader, a social scientist by profession and health systems strengthening and management practitioner. David is the current Chair of the Eye Health INGOs Forum; Member of the National Eye Health Technical Working Group; Member of the National Ear and Hearing Care Technical Working Group; and Member of the National Assistive Technology Technical Working Group. David believes in the use of inclusive digital solutions in promoting equitable and affordable universal health coverage where No One is left Out in the quest for the highest attainable quality of life.



Dr. Susan Ontiri | Country Director for International Center for Reproductive health Kenya

Dr. Susan Ontiri is the Country Director for International Center for Reproductive health Kenya. She is a Public Health Specialist with over twelve years of experience working on integrated public health and environmental health in Kenya and other sub-Saharan African countries. She currently works as the Country Director for the International Center for Reproductive Health Kenya, which is a local-based, women-led organization that seeks to implement innovative, evidence-based and cost-effective interventions and research capable of influencing public policy and practice in the field of public health in Kenya. She has worked across the public health sector from national, county, sub-county, facility and community levels.



Ms. Harriet Kongin | H.S.C. UNAIDS Policy and Strategy Adviser.

Harriet Kongin is the UNAIDS Policy and Strategy Adviser. She is a development practitioner with over 25 years of combined working experience in public health, HIV Response, capacity development, partnership development and networking. Currently she supports program implementation and is the focal point for Devolution, providing technical support for Counties in the HIV response. She holds a MA in development studies and has advanced training and experience in Institutional and Organizational development.



Mr. Brian Rettmann MPH | Country Coordinator for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) at the US Embassy in Kenya

Mr. Brian Rettmann, MPH, is the Country Coordinator for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) at the US Embassy in Kenya. He previously served as the Country Coordinator for PEPFAR at the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania for more than seven years. In Kenya, Mr. Rettmann serves as the main liaison between in-country agencies, and between the in-country PEPFAR implementing team and the U.S. Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) as well as with other donors. Mr. Rettmann obtained a Masters in Public Health Degree from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in 2006.



Sen. Karungo Paul Thang'wa | Senator Kiambu County and Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Roads and Transport.

Sen. Karungo Paul Thang'wa, MP is currently the Senator for Kiambu County. He is the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Roads and Transport. Sen. Karungo Wa Thang'wa has served the public for 7 years, and 5 years as a Member of the County Assembly for Ngewa Ward, Kiambu County and 2 years as a County Government Executive, Kiambu County.



Mr. Oumar Sylla | UN-Habitat

Mr. Oumar has more than 20 years of academic and practical experience in land, natural resources, conflict resolution, urban development, regional cooperation, and partnership. Prior being appointed Director for the Regional Office for Africa, Oumar was coordinator of the Urban Legislation, Land and Governance Branch within UN-Habitat. A Senegalese National, Oumar holds one degree in Local Government from Saint Louis University (Senegal), and two Masters 'degrees in African Legal Studies and Legal Anthropology (with a focus on land and natural resources), and in Territorial Project Management, Paris 1 Sorbonne, and Paris 13 Creteil in France respectively.



Hon. Johnson Osoi | Chairman, LAPFUND

Hon. Osoi is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya. He is a legal practitioner and the proprietor of Johnson & Partners LLP Advocate, an arbitrator and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK. He is the immediate former Speaker of Kajiado County Assembly, a position he held from 2013 – July 2022. He is also the founding chairperson of the County Assemblies Forum. He holds a diploma in Pharmacy from Kenya Medical Training College and successfully practiced in that field. He headed diagnostic platforms in Eastern and Western Africa with BD East Africa Ltd. Hon. Osoi also holds a BA and MA in Public Administration. He is result oriented and a self-driven professional



Planner Fawcett Komollo | President of the Kenya Institute of Planners.

Planner Fawcett Komollo is the current President of the Kenya Institute of Planners. He is a Registered and Practicing Physical Planner in Kenya with over 15 years of professional experience in Planning. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in urban and Regional Planning from the University of Nairobi, and additional training on Planning and Development and Urban Futures from various local and international institutions. His expertise spans various fields of planning applications such as planning for human settlements, development control, urban informality, urban planning, land use planning, and slum upgrading, among others.



Governor Prof. Anyang Nyong'o EGH, Kisumu County | Chairperson CoG Lands, Housing and Urban Development Committee

Governor Prof. Anyang Nyong'o has served as a Member of National Assembly representing Kisumu Rural for 20 years and later became Kisumu County's first Senator in 2013. He has also served in the national government as a cabinet minister for Economic Planning and National Development between 2003 - 2005 and later on as a cabinet minister for Medical Services between 2008 - 2013.



Mr. Charles M. Hinga CBS, CA (SA) | Principal Secretary, State Department for Housing and Urban Development

Mr. Charles M. Hinga CBS, CA (SA) is the Principal Secretary, State Department for Housing and Urban Development, under the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development in the Government of Kenya. In this role, Mr. Hinga leads the SDHUD team in undertaking housing policy management, management of various housing schemes for civil servants and disciplined forces, development and management of government pool housing, public accommodation lease and management, maintenance of inventory of government housing property as well as development and management of affordable housing. Mr. Hinga is a Chartered Accountant (CA) and holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) degree from Kenyatta University as well as a Bachelor of Accounting Science (Honours) degree from the University of South Africa.



Mr. Daniel Kiptoo, OGW | EPRA Director General

Mr. Daniel Kiptoo is a consummate energy professional, he is a lawyer by training but an energy specialist by trade. He has vast experience in the electricity and petroleum sub sectors with a specific focus in policy formulation, legislative drafting, regulation, negotiation, and structured financing. He is currently the Director General of the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) in Kenya, the Authority is the body mandated with the technical and economic regulation of the electricity and petroleum sectors in the Republic of Kenya. In his current role, which commenced on the 14th of December 2020, he regulates the entire value chain in electricity, from generation, transmission, distribution, and retail as well as upstream, midstream, and downstream in petroleum.



Ms. Husna A. Mbarak | Team Leader Governance of Land & Natural Resource and the Gender Focal Point

Ms. Husna A. Mbarak works at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Kenya Representation as the Team Leader Governance of Land & Natural Resource and the Gender Focal Point. AT FAO Kenya she manages the Digital Land Governance portfolio around Land Administration, tenure and management, land use planning, policy and legal framework, Gender rights, research, and knowledge management. Expertise in Land, Environment and Natural resource management, Policy and Governance, Gender, and Development. Trained in Legal (law), Gender, Natural Resource Governance, Governance, conflict and dispute resolution and project management. Holds a Graduate Diploma in Legal Studies management from Oxford Association of Management, Bachelor of Business Administration in Legal Studies Management from Universidad Empresarial de Costa Rica, master's in law from South Wales University and Master of Science in Project Management from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Currently pursuing her Doctoral degree (PhD) in Environmental Law at the University of Nairobi.



Mr. Johnson Oltetia | KMRC Managing Director

Mr. Johnstone Oltetia is a finance and investment executive with over 25 years' experience. He is the CEO & Managing Director at the Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC), a non-deposit taking mortgage refinance pioneer in Kenya, where he is responsible for its successful establishment and operationalization. He provides strategic, financial, and operational leadership for the company. His career includes roles at the National Treasury of Kenya as a senior financial sector adviser responsible for financial sector policy reforms on banking, micro finance, capital markets, pensions, and insurance. Prior to this, he held progressively responsible positions at the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) Kenya leading teams responsible for oversight of Bonds and Equities trading, fund management, investment banking stockbroking and investment advisory service



Mr. Antony Okoth | Habitat for Humanity Kenya

Mr. Anthony Okoth is the National Director, Habitat for Humanity Kenya. Previously He served United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as Senior Health Products Supply Chain Specialist. Anthony has also served other organizations in various capacities including, East African Regional Director for the Africa Resource Centre where he doubled up as Kenya Country Director. Associate Director, Medicines for Malaria Venture. Country Director PATH and Population Services International, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) Zambia among others. He holds an MBA from Daystar University, a post-graduate diploma in project planning and management from University of Nairobi, a BSc Biological Sciences from Punjab University, and a certificate in nonprofit management from Harvard Business School.



Governor Benjamin Chesire Cheboi, EBS, EGH | Baringo County

Gov. Benjamin Chesire Cheboi, EBS, EGH is the current and first Governor of Baringo County and previously served as the CEO of HELB. With a master's in education and finance, and a bachelor's in maths and chemistry, he has been recognized as a transformative leader and honored as best CEO in ICT use. His career highlights include roles at HELB, the Agricultural Development Corporation, and contributions to education reform. He is dedicated to enhancing various sectors in Baringo County, including agriculture, health, and education.



Dr. Agnes Kalibata | President of AGRA

Dr. Agnes Kalibata has been the President of AGRA since 2014, leading efforts to promote food security and sustainable agriculture in Africa. She served as the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the 2021 Food Systems Summit from 2019-2021 and was Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture from 2008 to 2014. In addition, Dr. Kalibata sits on various global boards and commissions, contributing to areas such as climate, nutrition, and economic policy.



Mr. Vinay Kumar Vutukuru | Senior Agriculture Economist at the World Bank

Mr. Vinay Kumar Vutukuru is a Senior Agriculture Economist at the World Bank in Nairobi, Kenya, and chairs the Agriculture and Rural Development Partners Group. He leads the Agriculture Portfolio for the World Bank in Kenya, previously working on similar initiatives in South Asia. He's had a developmental assignment with the India Country Management Unit and prior roles with the Aga Khan Rural Support Program and the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Vutukuru is a graduate of Harvard Kennedy School and an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.



Governor Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH, Bungoma County | Chairperson CoG Committee on Agriculture, Livestock & Cooperatives

Gov. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH, is the Governor of Bungoma and Chairperson of the Council of Governor's committee on Agriculture, Livestock & Cooperatives. With over 30 years in public service, he rose from a District Officer to Permanent Secretary for Livestock Development in 2009. He served as the first Governor of Bungoma County and later became the second Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Kenya.



Governor Nathif Jama Adam, EGH, Garissa County | Chairperson CoG ASAL & Disaster Risk Management Committee

Gov. Nathif Jama Adam, EGH, is a professional banker, writer, and politician. In August 2013, he was elected as the first Governor of Garissa County, serving as the pioneer in this position until 2017. He was then re-elected in August 2022 for his second term. Currently, H.E Nathif Jama serves as the chair of the Council of Governors' ASAL & Disaster Risk Management Committee and as the Vice Chair of the Frontier Counties Development Council. Before his political career, he was the Managing Director of First Community Bank and held the positions of Senior Vice President and Head of Sharjah Islamic Bank's Investments & International Banking Division.



Senator Kamau Murango | Kirinyaga County and Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Blue Economy.

Senator Kamau Murango is the Senator for Kirinyaga County, and the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Blue Economy. He is a distinguished plant engineer with a masters in mining. He holds a PhD in leadership from the Commonwealth university.



Hon. Franklin Mithika Linturi | Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Hon. Franklin Mithika Linturi is the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development responsible for providing leadership guidance, management and oversight in the delivery of the Ministry's functions. He is in charge of formulation, implementation and monitoring of agricultural policies, legislations and regulations in Kenya. He was appointed to this position in October 2022. He served in the Senate of Kenya as the Senator for Meru County for a period of five years (2017-2022). He is a long-standing member of the National Assembly where he served as a Member of Parliament for Igembe South from 2007-2017. He holds Degrees in Law (The University of Nairobi) and Advanced Accounting (India). He has a Diploma in Marketing Management (Kenya Institute of Management). Hon. Linturi is a farmer with keen interest in horticulture and livestock production.



Mr. David Gosney | Mission Director, USAID Kenya and East Africa.

Mr. David Gosney is the Mission Director, USAID Kenya, and East Africa. Mr. Gosney joined USAID in 2003 and is a Career Senior Service Officer, Class of Minister Counselor. He has served as the Mission Director for USAID El Salvador and Central America Regional Programming. He also served as USAID Deputy Mission Director in South Sudan from 2016 to 2017. Earlier in his career, he served in USAID Office Director positions in Thailand, South Sudan, Georgia, and Iraq overseeing USAID assistance in areas such as business climate reform, SME development, government financial reform, biodiversity conservation, agricultural development, rural road construction, off-grid electricity production, and U.S. Government engagement with regional institutions.



Mr. Tito Arunga | Agribusiness and Value Chains Development Specialist

Mr. Tito Arunga is an Agribusiness and Value Chains development specialist with over 20 years of experience developing inclusive business opportunities in agri food systems. He currently leads FAO Kenya's sub program on Inclusive value chains.



Governor Andrew Mwadime, Taita Taveta County | Chairperson CoG Water, Forestry and Natural Resources Management Committee at the Council of Governors.

Gov. Andrew Mwadime holds a Bachelor of Science Education (Mathematics) from Kenyatta university, master's in business management (economics option) from University of Nairobi and Post graduate Diploma in Banking. Prior to joining politics, Hon. Mwadime began his profession as a teacher and later switched careers and moved to KCB bank as a graduate trainee and rose through the ranks to the position of regional manager coast region, and later to country head KCB Tanzania. He was promoted to Head of card business KCB east and central Africa. He later joined politics to become a Member of Parliament in Mwatate constituency following Kenya's General Elections in 2013.



Eng. Festus Ng'eno | Principal Secretary responsible for Environment and Climate Change

Eng. Festus Ng'eno is the Principal Secretary responsible for Environment and Climate Change in Kenya and serves as the Focal Point for Focal Point of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Global Climate Fund (GCF), Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) and Minamata Conventions. He chairs committees related to environmental protection and climate change coordination and has over 15 years of experience in various sectors. A registered Engineer and WASH Expert, Eng. Ng'eno holds a Master of Science (MSc.) Degree, in Environmental & Biosystems Engineering and a Bachelor of Science (BSc.) Degree, Environmental & Biosystems Engineering from the University of Nairobi. He also holds Post Graduate Diploma Certificate in Leadership & Corporate Governance among other leadership certifications.



Mr. Jason Oyugi | USAID STAWI Programme

Mr. Jason Oyugi is a Collaboration, Learning and Public Policy Leader with over 18 years experience working with major development agencies, governments, multilaterals and private sector in over 15 countries in Africa mainly with the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) and The Global Water Partnership. Over the last 10years, he has supported USAID Kenya/East Africa and USAID partners in the design and development of the Collaboration platform for Resilience Building in Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. Jason is a holder of a Master of Arts Degree in Communication Studies and is currently the Learning and Adaptation Advisor at USAID STAWI.



Governor Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, EBS, EGH, Vihiga Country | Chairperson CoG Environment and Climate Change Committee

Gov. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, EGH is the Governor of Vihiga County and the chairperson of the Environment and Climate Change Committee at the Council of Governors. He holds a Ph.D. in Natural Resources Mapping and Assessment from the University of Wageningen/International Institute for Earth Observation and Geo-Information in the Netherlands, an M.Sc. in Biology of Conservation and Ecology and a B.Sc. in Zoology and Botany from the University of Nairobi. He also has extensive experience in natural resources mapping, assessment, and management, as well as expertise in Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) applications. Before entering politics, he served as the Director General for the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), a leading UN affiliated organization in Eastern and Southern Africa. Dr. Ottichilo has also worked in various roles with organizations like Kenya Wildlife Service, UN-FAO, UNEP, and the Ministry of Planning and National Development. He has consulted with numerous organizations, including UN agencies and the World Bank.



Hon. Alice Muthoni Wahome | Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation

Hon. Alice Muthoni Wahome is the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation. She was recently elected Member of the National Assembly for Kandara Constituency in the 2022 general elections. With a strong track record as a seasoned parliamentarian, her previous work in the constituency has had a significant impact and contributed to local growth. Her experience as a Council member of the Law Society of Kenya and the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) provided her with valuable knowledge and expertise in regional and international legal connections, enhancing her professional and academic development. Additionally, Hon. Alice served as a Director of the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) from 2003 to 2006. The RBA is a body corporate responsible for managing, regulating, and promoting Pension Fund Schemes in Kenya.



Dr. Chris Kiptoo, CBS | Principal Secretary of the National Treasury

Dr. Chris Kiptoo, CBS previously served as Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the State Department of Trade, Ministry of Industry, Trade & Cooperatives. With a wealth of experience in economic policy analysis, Dr. Kiptoo has held key positions at the Central Bank of Kenya, Capital Market Authority, and the International Monetary Fund. His expertise spans various areas, including monetary policy, fiscal operations, financial sector matters, trade policy, climate change policies, private sector development, and infrastructure development. Dr. Kiptoo holds a Ph.D. in Finance (International Macroeconomics Finance specialization) from the University of Nairobi, as well as a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from Egerton University. He is also an Accredited Fellow in Macroeconomic Management from the Macroeconomic & Financial Management Institute of Eastern & Southern Africa (MEFMI).



Ms. Amanda Robertson | WASH Team Leader - USAID Kenya

Ms. Amanda Robertson serves as the Senior Water Security, Sanitation & Hygiene Specialist and Team Lead at USAID/Kenya and East Africa, where she works with the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders to strengthen sector governance, address key financing gaps, and increase access to area-wide, sustainable water and sanitation services. Amanda has worked for USAID since 2012. Before moving to Kenya in 2019 to lead the WASH team, she served as a WASH Specialist in USAID's Bureau for Africa, providing technical support to USAID Missions throughout sub-Saharan Africa and leading policy and technical discussions on behalf of the Bureau for Africa. In 2022, Amanda received the Agency's USAID Water Warrior award. She holds her M.A. from Yale University and her B.A. from Baylor University.



Sam Kareithi (Phd) | County Director, Gatsby Africa

Sam Kareithi (Phd) is a development economist with several years of experience in directing Programmes in 18 countries in Africa, Europe and Asia. Sam is passionate about how development Programmes deploy a sector insight approach through undertaking 'Sector Competitiveness Assessments' to understand where comparative advantage is amongst the variety of different value chains and markets. Currently Sam is Country Director for Gatsby Africa, a private foundation that has funded and implemented Programmes in Africa since 1985. His mission is to accelerate inclusive and resilient economic growth in East Africa by demonstrating how key sectors can be transformed. Sam has experience in key sectors with the potential to be competitive and demonstrate that growth can benefit large numbers of people. This is done in partnerships with stakeholders with a strong credibility to facilitate change by engaging political leaders and key sector players.



Ms. Cindy Kobei | Indigenous Climate Policy Fellow, Conservation International and Programming Office, Crown Trust

Ms. Cindy Kobei is a young indigenous leader from Kenya's Ogiek community in the Mau Forest. She is a passionate advocate for indigenous peoples' rights, climate justice, and women's rights. Cindy is a lawyer and a Trainee Advocate at the Kenya School of Law. She is also the Chair and Co-Founder of Tirap Youth Trust (formerly Ogiek Youth Council), an indigenous youth-led organization focusing on environmental conservation and climate justice. Cindy's achievements include being a 2022 Max Thabiso Edkins Climate Ambassador, a participant in the Global Leadership School of Indigenous Women in 2020, and Columbia University's summer program on indigenous peoples' rights and policy in 2021.



Mr. Philip Kisoyan | Lead Natural Resources Governance, FAO - Kenya

Mr. Philip Kisoyan currently works at FAO-Kenya as the Natural Resource Management team leader and Global Environment Facility Focal Point. Philip holds an Msc Degree in Land Ecology and other professional training. He is a specialist in Forest and Landscape Restoration, Community Based Natural Resource Management and has been a consultant for several natural resources management Programmes. He is registered EIA Lead Expert and a member of Environment Institute of Kenya and other professional organizations.



Governor Wavinya Ndeti, Machakos County | Chairperson COG Trade and Investments Committee

Gov. Wavinya Ndeti is the Governor of Machakos. Previously, she held the position of Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) in the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, State Department of Public Works, Shipping, and Maritime. Before that, she served as the Chairperson of the Governing Council of Kenya Water Institute. She played a pivotal role in the launch of the Ni Mama movement, a convention of women political leaders, and was a vocal advocate for women's rights and opportunities. She is the first female Governor of Machakos County and one of only seven female Governors countrywide.



Governor Susan Kihika | Nakuru County

Gov. Susan Kihika is the Governor for County Government of Nakuru, serving her first term after the election in 2022. Prior to her election as Governor, Susan Kihika served as the second Nakuru County Senator. She held the post from August 2017 to August 2022 when the term of the 3rd Kenyan Senate came to an end. As a Senator, Susan Kihika served as the Majority Whip for two years and was a member of the Senate Labour Committee until the end of her term. From 2013 to 2017, she served as the first Nakuru County Assembly Speaker in the pioneer County Assembly. As Speaker, she oversaw the formulation of the County Laws and by-laws which set Nakuru County on the path to devolution. During her tenure as the Speaker, she was also the Vice Chair of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF), an organization that brings together all 47 County Assemblies.



Hon. Moses Kuria, HSC | Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry.

Hon. Moses Kuria, HSC is the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry. During three decades of service in the public and private sectors, He has made significant contributions to Kenya's economic development. In two terms as elected Member of Parliament for Gatundu South, he served on committees including Budget and Appropriations; Public Works and Housing; and as vice chair, Transport, Infrastructure, Public Works and Housing. He was also a member of the Bicameral and Bipartisan Committee on Electoral Reforms. He founded Africa Diaspora Asset Managers, a fund management company, and served as Chief Operations Officer for Wamad Information Technology & Consulting Group, Saudi Arabia



Hon. Simon Kiprono Chelugui | Cabinet Secretary Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development

Hon. Simon Kiprono Chelugui is the current Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development following his recent appointment in September 2022. Prior to this, he served as the Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection (2020-2022) and Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (2018-2020). Simon has over twenty years work experience in corporate governance, Policy Formulation, monitoring and reviewing implementation and technical policies; Water Engineering, Finance, Investment & Strategic Management and has worked directly with different Government institutions. Simon was vested with Elder of Golden Heart (EGH) Presidential Award for his outstanding stewardship and service.



Senator Lenku Ole Kanar Seki, MP | Chairperson, Senator Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism

Senator He is the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism. He holds an MBA in Strategic Management from Kenya Methodist University with specific career interests in Strategic Management, Human Resource Management, Conflict Resolution and Resource Mobilization.



Mr. James (Jim) Potts | Economic Counselor at the US Embassy Nairobi

Mr James (Jim) Potts is an Economic Counselor at the US Embassy Nairobi in September 2022. He previously served as Acting Director of the Western Hemisphere Affairs Economic Policy and Summit Coordination Office and as Economic Counselor in Lima, Peru. Since joining the Department of State in 2003, Jim has served in several other countries, including Rwanda as Political-Economic Section Chief and Mozambique as an Economic Officer. Prior to joining the Department of State, Jim served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador building water and sanitation systems in Andean villages and worked as legislative affairs director for a Washington DC-based agriculture and trade policy organization.



Mr. Richard Muteti, HSC | Chief Executive Officer Confederation of Micro and Small Enterprises Organization - East Africa (CMSEO - EA).

Mr. Richard Muteti, HSC is the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya National Federation of Jua Kali Associations. Mr. Muteti heads the secretariat of the Confederation of Micro and Small Enterprises Organization East Africa (CMSEO-EA) which is the apex regional body representing the informal sector in the region. Mr. Muteti is also the Regional Project Manager of the EAC MSMEs Trade Fairs which is a Regional MSME market access programme for small businesses in the EAC. He is currently championing the MSME Sector and TVET linkages towards the creation of gainful self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for the MSMEs in the EAC region. He is the Chairman of the COMESA Business Council SMEs Workgroup, founder of the Small and Medium Enterprise Support, East Africa (SMES-EA) and the author of the inaugural "SME Handbook" series in Kenya. Mr. Muteti has served as a Director and Governor at the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) representing MSMEs in Kenya, as well as Director in both the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA)



Governor Simon Kachapin Kitalei, CBS, EGH, West Pokot County | Chairperon CoG Gender, Youth, Sports, Culture and Social Services Committee

Gov. Simon Kachapin Kitalei Excellency Simon Kachapin is a prominent figure in Kenyan politics, known for his outstanding development record as the Governor of West Pokot County. During his first term, he prioritized healthcare reforms and played a significant role in enhancing education in the region. He also became the first Governor to allocate bursary funds to support the education of needy children, thereby investing in the future of West Pokot County. After completing his initial five-year term as Governor, he served as the Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) for Education, Energy and Sports Ministries. Following his commendable performance and service to the nation, he was re-elected as Governor in 2022.



Mr. David Bagenda | MasterCard Foundation Country Director, Kenya

Mr. David Bagenda is a senior business leader with over 20 years of experience leading finance and strategy in several multinational corporations. He has been leading the implementation of the MasterCard Foundation Kenya Country Roadmap, providing collaborative leadership to the team and working with partners to enable work opportunities for young Kenyan women and men. Previously, David was Diageo's Strategic Projects Director for Africa, based in Kenya. David holds a Bachelor of Statistics and Applied Economics, with first-class Honours, from the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.



Ms. Wanjuhi Njoroge | CEO & Founder People Planet Africa

Ms. Wanjūhī Njoroge is the founder of People Planet Africa, an Enterprise involved in people centered Forest Protection & Restoration, Sustainability and Inclusive Development that incorporates rural communities. She ran one of the biggest campaigns in 2018 dubbed #SaveOurForestsKE which led to a total ban on forest harvesting and policy change. She has also helped setup two ICT center and a library worth \$10,000/-, in these rural areas which have greatly improved education and exposure for children who didn't previously go beyond primary school. Her work has further earned her the prestigious Top 40 under 40 Woman Award in Kenya.



Governor Stephen Sang, EGH, Nandi County | Whip of the Council of Governors

Gov. Stephen Sang is currently serving as the Whip of the Council of Governors, having been re-elected for his second term as the Governor of the County Government of Nandi. At the age of 32, he became the youngest Governor in Kenya since the adoption of the devolved system in 2010. In 2019, Sang was recognized among the most influential young Africans in the Law and Governance category of the Africa Youth Awards. An Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, Sang also made history in 2013 when he was elected the youngest Senator at the age of 28 in Kenya's inaugural Senate.



Hon. Ababu –Terrah Namwamba, EGH | Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, the Arts & Sports

Hon. Ababu Namwamba, EGH, is the current Cabinet Secretary in charge of Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports. He previously served as the Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) for foreign Affairs in the former regime as well as a member of parliament in the 10th and 11th Parliament. He also served as the Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs during President Kibaki’s reign. He holds a Master of Laws (LLM) Degree in International Legal Studies and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Degree. He is a Hubert Humphrey Fellow with a Distinction in International Justice and Human Rights, Democratization and Rule of Law.



Mr. Stephen Ogenga | CEO, National Industrial Training Authority-NITA

Eng. Stephen Ogenga holds a Master of Engineering Science from Queensland University of Technology and a Bachelor of Engineering Technology from USQ, Australia. He is a Member-Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (MIEEE) and a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering Technologists (IET-Kenya). Mr. Ogenga has coordinated the Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project (KYEOP) Component one dealing with enhancing employability the youth through apprenticeship training and certification. He has further been instrumental in the reforms and development of training programs for the TVET sector, National Police Service, Kenya Prisons, College of Insurance, IEBC among others.



Ms. Edna Karijo | Digital Skills Programs Manager, eMobilis

Ms. Edna Karijo, is a Public Policy specialist and a Champion for Digital Skills for Youth in Kenya. She is the Program Manager at eMobilis. She has also notably worked on the Ajira Digital Program by the Government of Kenya, the Norwegian Refugee Council’s digital skills initiative, Google’s Digital Skills for Africa Program and the Digify Africa Program by Livity. Ms. Karijo serves as a Board of Trustee of the Internet Society of Kenya. She is also an award-winning Mentor with the Presidential Digital Talent Program (PDTP), a finalist of the Women in Tech Africa Awards 2021, a thought Leader and Mentor for women in STEM and an Alumna of the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) East Africa Program.



Abel Mutua | Zero Malaria Starts with me Ambassador and Film Maker

With over 12 years’ experience in the media industry, Abel Mutua has developed skills and recognition in concept development, script writing, creative consultancy, TV & radio direction, and is known for his acting and script writing of Tahidi High and Hapa Kule News, which bore the popular concept of The Real House helps of Kawangware which he also scripted alongside Mother in Law. Teaming up with popular TV director - Phil Karanja, fellow creative - Bobb Muriithi, they started off Phil-It Productions Ltd. Together they have produced TV shows such as Hullabaloo Estate, Sue Na Jonnie, Maempres and the on-going Anda Kava. Abel started his YouTube channel in 2020 which he uses a storytelling platform to Inspire, Educate and Entertain. Abel also uses his formidable skills as a Zero Malaria Starts With Me Kenya Ambassador.



Mr. Mohammed Gololcha | Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre Coordinator.

Mohamed Ali Gololcha is a dedicated advocate for youth empowerment with expertise in accounting, Actuarial Science, and programming. As the UNDP Centre Coordinator at the Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre, he has positively impacted over 5,000 young people through impactful youth programs in collaboration with NGOs and Government partners. His focus on financial inclusivity and sustainable start-ups has led to the co-creation of numerous projects, fostering entrepreneurship and skill development. Mohamed's commitment to collaboration and strategic partnerships drives positive change and empowers youth.



Ms. Patricia Lagat | CEO & Founder, Horti Grid Limited

Ms. Patricia Lagat is a farmer, entrepreneur, and project management student with a passion for environmental conservation. She is the founder of Horti Grid, an agribusiness consulting and management firm based in Eldoret. Patricia's dedication to the agriculture sector has earned her recognition as a leading agribusiness practitioner and a role model for young women taking on economic empowerment opportunities in agribusiness, in Kenya.

Blue Economy Sector Breakaway Session

WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2023

Sub-theme: Exploring the economic opportunities in the blue economy sector for inclusive growth and benefits for local communities: Reflecting investments in the next 10 years

Objective: To discuss strategies that will ensure that blue economy benefits are distributed equitably, promote job creation, and address social and economic inequalities

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Session Chair: Governor Dr. Paul Otuoma, EGH Governor, Busia County</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Ms. Mariatu Kamara IFAD Kenya Country Director</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Thule Lenneiya Business Development Advisor</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Issa Timamy, EGH Chairperson, CoG Blue Economy Committee 2. Hon. Salim Mvurya, EGH Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs 3. Sen. Mohammed Faki, M.P. Senator, Mombasa County 4. Dr. Ally Matano Blue Economy Advisor, Kenya Devolution Programme/ACT 5. Ms. Victoria Sabula Chief Executive Officer, Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) 6. Mr. Fredrick Juma Founder, Hydro Victoria Fish Hatchery Farm



Health Sector Breakaway- Primary Health Care (PHC)

WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2023

Sub theme: Celebrating a Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for the Future

Objective: To discuss and propose policy adjustments that foster implementation of Primary Health Care (PHC) and share best and promising practices on PHC over the last decade.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Sessions
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Session Chair: Governor Muthomi Njuki Chairperson, CoG Health Committee</p> <p>Key note speaker: H.E. Amb. Ole Thonke Ambassador to Denmark</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Irene Choge Media Advocacy Manager, JHPIEGO</p>	<p>Video Clip: Success and Challenges: Celebrating 10 years of Devolution in the Health sector – Citizen experiences on PHC</p> <p>Presentation: Strategy to Strengthen PHC to attain UHC - Dr. Gregory Ganda, County Executive Committee Member Kisumu County</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon. Susan Nakhumicha Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health 2. Sen. Jackson Mandago, EGH, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health 3. Hon. (Dr) Pukose Robert Chairperson, National Assembly Health Committee 4. Dr. Tim Theuri Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Health Federation 5. Mr. John Kuenhle Chair, Development Partners for Health in Kenya (DPHK) 6. Dr. Ann Kihara President Elect, International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Emeritus President African Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists 7. Mr. Irungu Nyakera Chairperson, Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA)

Housing Sector Breakaway Session

WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2023

Sub-theme: The Constitutional Right to Housing: A Reflection of the Past 10 years of Devolution.

Objective: To reflect on the status of the housing sector over the past 10 years and explore ways to unlock access to affordable, green and resilient housing through innovation

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Session Chair: Sen. Karungo Thang'wa, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Roads, Transport and Housing Committee</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Mr. Oumar Sylla Director of Regional Office in Africa-UN Habitat</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Fawcett Komollo President, Kenya Institute of Planners</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Hon. (Prof.) Anyang' Nyong'o, EGH Chairperson, CoG Lands, Housing and Urban Development Committee 2. Mr. Charles Hinga CBS, CA (SA) Principal Secretary, State Department of Housing and Urban Development 3. Mr. Daniel Kiptoo Bargaroria Director General, Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) 4. Ms. Husna Mbarak Programme Manager, FAO 5. Mr. Johnstone Oltetia Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Mortgage Refinancing Company 6. Mr. Antony Okoth Country Director, Habitat for Humanity International-Kenya 7. Hon. Johnson Osoi Chairman, LAPFUND



TRADE SECTOR BREAKAWAY

WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 2023

Sub-theme: Unlocking the Economic Potential of Counties Through Strategic Positioning as Trade and Investment Destinations While Reflecting on the Lessons from the Past.

Objective: To deliberate on effective strategies for enhancing trade and investments at the County Level, with the aim of contributing to socio-economic development.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
3.00pm-5.00pm	<p>Key Note Speaker: Dr. Eric Rutto Chamber President, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Eric Latiff Broadcaster and Communications Strategist</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Hon. Wavinya Ndeti Chairperson, CoG Trade, Investment, Manufacturing, and Enterprise Development Committee 2. Governor Mutahi Kahiga Governor, Nyeri County 3. Hon. Moses Kuria, HSC Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investment Trade and Industry 4. Sen. Lenku Ole Kanar Seki, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Trade, Industrialization and Tourism 5. Mr. James Potts Economic Counselor at the US Embassy 6. Mr. Richard Muteti, HSC Chief Executive Officer, Confederation of Micro and Small Enterprises Organization -East Africa (CMSEO-EA)

Agriculture Sector Breakaway Session

THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2023

Sub-theme: Strong Food Systems for Food Security and Inclusive Growth: Reexamining the County Agriculture Sector Transformation in the Last 10 Years.

Objective: To discuss pathways for transforming County food systems to achieve food sovereignty and industrialization in Kenya.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Session Chair: Governor Cecily Mbarire, MGH Governor, Embu County</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Agnes Kalibata President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Vinay Vutukuru Chair, Development Partners Group</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH Chairperson, CoG Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives Committee 2. Hon. Mithika Linturi Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development 3. Sen. Murango James Kamau, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries 4. Mr. David Gosney USAID Mission Director, Kenya and East Africa 5. Mr. Tito Arunga Lead, FAO Agribusiness and Inclusive Value Chains 6. Ms. Michelle Kagari Global Director, One Acre Fund 7. Ms. Talash Huijbers Chief Executive Officer, InsectiPro



Health Sector Breakaway- Digitalization

THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2023

Sub theme: Celebrating a Decade of County-Led Health Service Delivery: Lessons for the Future

Objective: To discuss County experiences with digital health innovations and examine digitalization as an enabler to fast-track attainment of inclusive, sustainable and scalable UHC models.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Sessions
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Session Chair: Governor Gladys Wanga Vice-chair, CoG Health Committee</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Hon. Ruchika Singhal Int. President Medtronic labs.</p> <p>Moderator: Elizabeth Ntonjira Communication Expert Malaria No- More</p>	<p>Video Clip: on Patient/Client experiences with Digitization and innovations Presentation: Potential of Digitalization in driving Universal Health Coverage Agenda Mr. Erick Angula and Dr. Kwasi Boahene</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Mary Muthoni, HSC Principal Secretary, State Department of Public Health and Professional Standards - Ministry of Health 2. Ms. Rita Okuthe Executive Board Chair, CarePay Kenya (M-TIBA) 3. Caroline S Mbindyo CEO, Amref Health Innovations - Amref Health Africa 4. Mr. David Munyendo Chief Executive Officer, Christian Blind Mission 5. Dr. Susan Ontiri Country Director, International Center for Reproductive Health 6. Ms. Harriet Kongin Policy and Strategy Advisor, UNAIDS 7. Mr. Brian Rettmann PEPFAR Coordinator -Kenya

WATER, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BREAKAWAY SESSION

THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2023

Sub-Theme: Leveraging Natural Resource Management (NRM) for a Sustainable Development Pathway and Green Economy Transition in Counties

Objective: To reflect on the progress in the NRM sector over the past 10 years and explore opportunities Counties can leverage on to transition to a green economy.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Session Chair: Governor Andrew Mwadime Chairperson Water, Forestry and Natural Resources Management, and Governor Taita Taveta County</p> <p>Key Note Speaker: Eng. Festus Ng'eno Principal Secretary, State Department of Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Jason Oyugi USAID- STAWI Programme</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, EBS Chairperson, CoG Environment and Climate Change Committee 2. Hon. Alice Wahome Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation & Irrigation 3. Sen. Methu John Muhia, M.P. Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Land Environment and Natural Resources 4. Dr. Chris Kiptoo, CBS Principal Secretary, The National Treasury 5. Ms. Amanda Robertson WASH Team Lead -USAID-Kenya 6. Dr. Sam Kareithi Country Director, Gatsby Africa 7. Ms. Cindy Kobei Indigenous Women Climate Policy Fellow, Conservation International and Programme Officer, Crawn Trust 8. Dr. Philip Kisoyan Lead Natural Resources Governance, FAO -Kenya



YOUTH BREAKAWAY SESSION

THURSDAY, 17TH AUGUST 2023

Sub-Theme: Empowering Youth for Inclusive Economic Growth: The Role of the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda in Kenya

Objective: To reflect on the progress made in empowering youth through skills development, entrepreneurship, talent management and innovation while leveraging current opportunities to create a sustainable future.

Time	Speaker/Moderator	Panelists
3:00p.m-5:00p.m	<p>Session Chair: Governor Simon Kachapin, CBS, EGH Chairperson, CoG Gender, Youth, Culture, Sports and Social Services Committee</p> <p>Key Note Speaker Mr. David Bagenda Country Director, MasterCard Foundation, Kenya</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Wanjuhi Njoroge</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Stephen Sang Governor, Nandi County 2. Hon. Ababu Namwamba, EGH Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth, the Arts and Sports 3. Eng. Stephen Ogenga Chief Executive Officer, National Industrial Training Authority 4. Ms. Edna Karijo Digital Skills Programs Manager, eMobilis 5. Mr. Abel Mutua Zero Malaria Starts with me Ambassador and Film Maker 6. Mr. Mohammed Gololcha Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre Coordinator 7. Ms. Patricia Jelagat Founder & CEO, Horti Grid Limited



ORGANIZERS



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT
State Department for Devolution



COUNTY ASSEMBLIES FORUM

PLATINUM



GOLD PLUS



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



GOLD PARTNER



Fulfilling Lives



SILVER PARTNER



BRONZE PARTNER



CATEGORY PARTNER

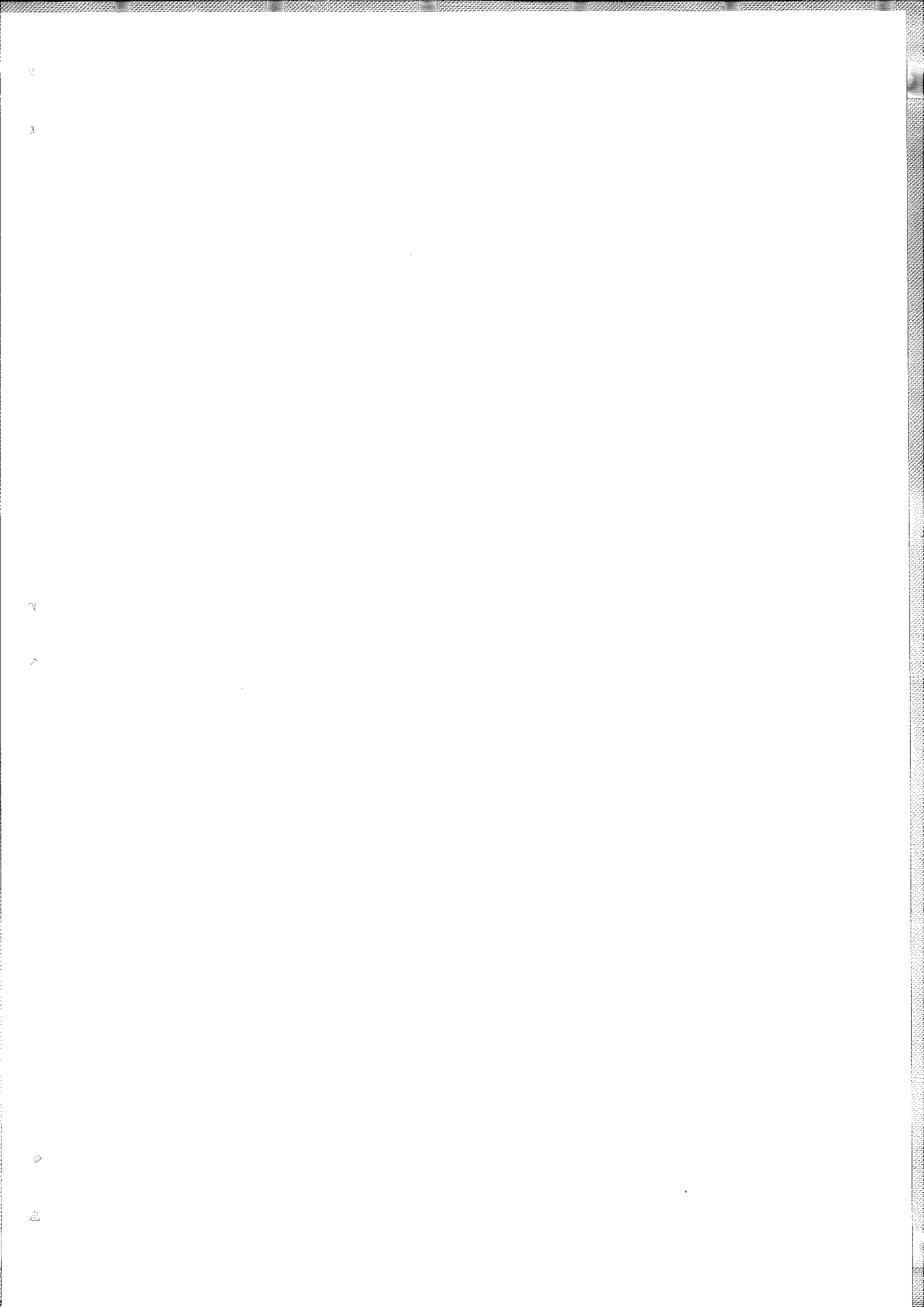


TONY BLAIR INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE



OTHER PARTNERS







COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

**The Council of County Governors,
Delta Corner, Oracle Wing, 2nd Floor, Off Waiyaki Way
P.O. Box 40401-00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 (020) 2403313/4**

Email: info@cog.go.ke | **Website:** <https://www.cog.go.ke/>

 @kenyaGovernors, @cogchairman  Council of Governors-Kenya

 councilofgovernors  Council of Governors Kenya

