

STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY HON. UHURU KENYATTA,
CGH, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
DEFENCE FORCES**

**DURING THE PRESENTATION OF KENYA'S
PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL
PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE 2ND
COUNTRY REVIEW REPORT**

**THE 30th SUMMIT OF THE AFRICAN PEER
REVIEW FORUM OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

ON THURSDAY, 25th MARCH 2021

STATE HOUSE, NAIROBI

**Your Excellency, Hon. Cyril Ramaphosa,
President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the
African Peer Review Forum;**

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

**Your Excellency, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat
Chairperson of the African Union Commission; and**

**Your Excellency, Professor Fatma Karadja
Chairperson of the African Peer Review Panel of Eminent
Persons.**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. I am delighted to address this August Assembly on the occasion of the 30th Summit of Heads of State and Government participating in the African Peer Review Forum Mechanism. Technology has allowed us to safely convene amidst the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

2. The APRM **governance principles** require us to be **accountable to ourselves**, to **each other** as member states, and to our respective citizens. It is for these reasons that I rise to highlight the progress Kenya has made in implementing commitments made during the peer review session of January 2017.

3. In 2017, Kenya became the first country to voluntarily submit herself to a 2nd Country Review, which yielded the 2nd Country Review Report. We chose a second **comprehensive review for two reasons.**

4. First, the second review was coming about 10 years after the base review. This meant that much had occurred in the intervening period; warranting a **comprehensive assessment**.

5. Second, the new Constitution of Kenya 2010 shifted our governance architecture, resulting in amongst others, a two-tier devolved system of governance, that sought to respond to **challenges cited in the 2006 APRM base review**.

6. This is the background against which I present highlights of our achievements covering the four **APRM thematic pillars**..

Excellencies,

7. Let me start with the **democracy and political governance pillar**.

8. Our Constitution under Article 201(a) requires strengthening of our framework for civic education and public participation. **Consequently,** my Administration has developed **Civic Education Guidelines** and a **National Civic Education Framework**; in addition to providing technical support to establish Civic Education Units.

9. We have initiated the **Building Bridges Initiative**, culminating in the Constitution of Kenya Amendment Bill, 2020; which seeks to comprehensively address our perennial challenges, particularly those

arising from political transitions, negative ethnicity, lack of inclusion, inequitable development, and our **fight against corruption**.

10. To strengthen **regional peace and security**, we continue **supporting** the **United Nations Security Council** and the **African Union's Peace and Security organs** to enhance peace keeping, counter terrorism and violent extremism, and address the **nexus between climate change and security**. Our interventions include consistent support for the **Revitalized Peace Agreement in South Sudan** and the **Somali Transition and Stabilization** efforts.

Excellencies,

11. Promoting a cohesive Kenyan Society is a cardinal focus of my Administration. In furtherance of this, the **National Cohesion and Integration Commission** has forged strategic partnerships to **manage hate speech**. These partnerships have been instrumental in **curbing political and ethnic intolerance** that shrouded electioneering in 2017.

12. Moreover, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights continues to process complaints on alleged human rights violations and forwards reports to relevant institutions for action. It established an early warning response system during the 2017 election, that deployed peace and cohesion monitors and social media monitors across Kenya.

Excellencies,

13. On strengthening autonomy and capacity of key governance institutions, my Government, through the **Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission** reoriented its systems to mitigate against corruption through measures such as focused investigations, asset recovery, and prevention of graft. Increased **citizen responsiveness** is core to our strategy of strengthening **integrity**.

14. In addition, my Government established a **Multi-Agency Task Team** in June 2018, whose main objective is to enhance investigation and prosecution of mega corruption and economic crimes. **Reporting directly** to my Office and **chaired** by the **Attorney-General**, this is part of a wider initiative, creating cost-effective cooperation, collaboration and coordination of **law enforcement agencies**.

15. To address national security concerns, we have restructured and reorganized **the National Government Coordination Framework**, creating more administrative units, and strengthening police reforms including reorganizing the National Police Service and establishing a National Crime Research Centre.

16. To institutionalize good governance and capacity building for county governments, the Kenya Devolution Support Programme was established. This inter-governmental forum seeks to foster transparency, accountability and enhance human resource management.

17. On developing policies and strategies for increased participation of women and marginalized and vulnerable groups, my Government

continues to implement and publicize **Affirmative Action programmes** empowering **youth, women and people with disability**. We increased their access to funds, established Gender Recovery Centres for gender-based violence survivors, and mainstreamed gender-based budgeting.

18. Under the progress in Corporate Governance pillar, Kenya enacted **National Standards and Regulations for businesses under the County Governments Act**. We strengthened the financial sector to ensure investors are supported with **affordable credit** and other **financial services**.

19. To enhance ease of doing business, my Government introduced a **new Companies Act**, including **new Insolvency and Business Registration Services laws**. In addition, the **Huduma Kenya Secretariat** rolled out Credit Reference Bureau services in selected centres.

20. The Government continues to enforce existing laws relating to environment, employment and labour. These measures have served to enhance harmony in the labour sector. Further, my Government launched an interactive web-based Kenya Labour Market Information System linking jobseekers and potential employers.

21. On progress under the Socio-Economic Development Pillar, my Government recognizes the centrality of the health sector in economic development and realization of fundamental human rights. An

Intergovernmental Participatory Agreement was signed clarifying the roles of National and the County Governments in health service delivery. We invested **USD 40 million in 4 pilot counties**; focused on community and primary healthcare services, strengthened health systems including basic and specialized medical services.

22. Additionally, advisory panels were constituted, providing expert opinion that informed plans for rolling-out the UHC program. **We** strengthened supply of medical and health commodities and utilization of the health services.

23. On deepening public service rationalization for National and County Governments, **we** implemented the Capacity Assessment and Rationalization of the Public Service, reviewed career guidelines for agencies; undertook organization reviews for public service institutions; reviewed the civil service grading structure; and developed a Succession Management Strategy.

24. On the quest for increased productivity we note that we **have increased and sustained investment in** roads, energy and water **infrastructure**, key to facilitating socio-economic development in the country.

25. With regard to **Economic Governance and Management**, Kenya's macro-economic performance remained vibrant during the reporting period. Real National Output expanded by 5.4 percent in 2019, compared to 6.3 percent in 2018 and 4.9 percent in 2017.

26. Growth in 2020 fell to 0.6 percent, reflecting the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, gains between 2017 and 2019, and the projected economic rebound in 2021, testify to progress made towards good economic governance and management.

27. To support Small and Medium Enterprises, inculcate an entrepreneurial culture and enhance skills development, my Government promoted industrial incubation, trained SMEs, linked them with markets and provided start-up grants to the youth. **The** industrial clusters programme built industrial warehouses; established common manufacturing facilities and enabled access to markets for various SME products.

28. To address unemployment my Government focused on promoting labour absorbing sectors such as agriculture and the service sectors. Our labour productivity grew, an outcome attributed to increased investment in capital, technological progress, and human capital development.

Excellencies

29. Kenya is in the middle of the National Governance Reporting process; having been selected to **pilot** this crucial initiative, that hopefully will replace annual progress reporting. **Based on our 17-year interaction** with the APRM process, the **practicality of annual progress reporting has been daunting. We, therefore, welcome the proposed bi-annual National Governance Reporting.**

Excellencies

30. I confirm my Government's readiness to host the **APRM Targeted Review Mission** that will assess governance of our **Big 4 Agenda**. We propose that it should also cover cross-cutting governance issues that are critical and can provide useful lessons for the entire APRM fraternity.

31. In closing, I confirm My Administration's commitment to the APRM system; and reaffirm Kenya's commitment to meeting or exceeding the goals we set ourselves and for which we are accountable to you, our peers.

Asanteni Sana

I thank you