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FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
ON THE OCCASION OF KENYA'S ASSUMPTION OF THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF G77 + CHINA, VIENNA CHAPTER**

4TH FEBRUARY 2025

Distinguished Colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, Kenya stands before you with deep gratitude and unwavering resolve as we assume the Chairmanship of the G77 + China, Vienna Chapter. We extend our appreciation to Colombia for its steadfast leadership over the past year and to all 134 member states for entrusting Kenya with this great responsibility. Kenya does not take this mandate lightly. We step into this role with a clear vision, a firm commitment, and a determination to advance the shared aspirations of the Global South.

Excellencies,

The world has made progress, but it remains deeply unequal. Nowhere is this more evident than in the fight against hunger. The 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report lays bare a grim reality—733 million people faced hunger in 2023. In Africa, one in five people is food insecure. This is not just a statistic. It is a crisis. Despite numerous interventions, global hunger levels remain unacceptably high. The culprits? Climate change, conflict, and economic downturns. Kenya commends the Group of Friends of Food Security in Vienna, co-chaired by Sudan and Italy, for their relentless efforts in tackling this crisis. But let us be clear—this is not a challenge for the Global South alone. The fight against hunger demands global solidarity. It requires collaboration between North and South, between governments, international institutions and the private sector.



Climate change is not a distant threat. It is here. It is now. It is an existential crisis. Kenya has felt its devastating effects firsthand. That is why, in September 2023, we convened the inaugural Africa Climate Summit—to rally the world toward decisive action. We were privileged to have Vienna-based organizations such as UNIDO join us in this urgent conversation. The message from Nairobi was clear: those who contribute the least to climate change suffer the most. Yet, developing nations continue to face insurmountable barriers to accessing climate finance.

The global financial system, as it stands, does not serve the interests of those most in need. This must change. Kenya will continue to champion a recalibration of this system—one that recognizes the unique challenges of the Global South and provides fair, affordable financing for climate adaptation and sustainable development.

As the host of the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya understands the power of multilateralism. In an increasingly fractured world, we must reaffirm our commitment to collective solutions. Reforming the global financial architecture is no longer optional. It is essential. A just and equitable world demands a financial system that works for all, not just a privileged few. Kenya stands ready to lead. To engage. To drive meaningful, lasting change.

In closing **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This is our moment—to unite, to act, and to build a future where prosperity is shared, where justice is upheld, and where no nation is left behind. Kenya embraces this responsibility with conviction and purpose. Let us move forward together.

Thank you.