



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE 3RD Third session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent 16-19 April 2024

ID ON Reparations, Sustainable Development & Economic Justice

Thank you, Madam President,

Given that this is the first intervention from Kenya since the advent of this 3rd session, allow me to convey to you, from my delegation, congratulations on your election as Chair.

Indeed Kenya joins the chorus of states in recognizing the importance of the Forum in its dual mandate - not only as a consultative mechanism and platform for people of Africa descent to improve their safety and quality of life and livelihoods; but in its role as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, in line with the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, in close coordination with existing mechanisms.

As we pivot into the next decade of action, this session is particularly vital as it provides us an inflection point that calls on us to reflect back on the successes so far, while allowing us to project a more strategic, tangible and actionable path forward. This interactive dialogue is especially critical as it represents some of the key areas identified during the first and second sessions.

Madame President, it is unequivocally clear that we continue to reel from the effects of a global system reminiscent of the proverbial animal farm, where all are equal, but some are more equal than others. Now more than ever, People of African Descent continue to be disproportionately affected by a poly-crises - one that is not of their own creation - and that consists of a cross breed that includes debt, climate change, conflict and disease.

The current global infrastructure riddled with systemic asymmetries, blatant inequalities, politicization and vested interests within the current financial

architecture - continue to hamper the capabilities of these institutions to effectively and efficiently coordinate efforts towards addressing the world's most pressing concerns. Indeed, H.E President William Ruto continues to amplify the call for reforms of the current global infrastructure in a manner that allows for the sustainable development and prosperity of all peoples.

Climate change has been described as one of humanity's greatest challenges and poses an existential risk to those most vulnerable, in particular peoples of African Descent. According to the United Nations Secretary General, in order to combat climate change, there is need to mobilize up to \$4.3 trillion every year until the year 2030, if the world is to circumvent the worst effects of climate change. Yet, climate finance remains elusive, inadequate and inefficient. How do we expect to achieve a just transition.

Madame President, the year 2024, presents a unique opportunity for the global community. The upcoming summit of the future, and the Global Digital Compact will provide Member States an opportunity to ensure that we all benefit from the leap-frogging capabilities and promise of the 4th Industrial Revolution that emerging technologies have the potential to provide; while ensuring that risks associated with their design and implementation, are mitigated.

Indeed, and in light of the 3 billion unconnected, this will go along way to ensure that bridging the digital gap remains paramount, otherwise technology will serve only to exacerbate existing inequalities and biases.

Kenya welcomes the Accra Proclamation on Reparations which was instrumental in reaffirming the bonds of brotherhood that exist between the Afro-Caricom regions, and reaffirming that accountability and the provision of remedies for historical mass crimes, including slavery, the trade and trafficking of enslaved Africans, colonialism and racial segregation are integral to combatting ongoing systemic racism and to the advancement of the human rights of Africans and people of African descent.

Importantly, the Proclamation commits to exploring the legal and judicial options for reparation on the question of how international law interacts with or supports the quest for reparations; and calls for an increased role of the United Nations; amplification of marginalized voices such as that of women and young people, whose continued discrimination stem from long-

standing non-representative policies rooted in colonialism, apartheid and neo-colonialism, which have further strained the overall development of former colonized countries in the Global South.

Once again, Kenya congratulates you on your election and assures you of our continued support.

I thank you.