



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY HON. MWAI KIBAKI, C.G.H., M.P.,
PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER IN-CHIEF
OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

DURING

THE

GENERAL DEBATE

OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010
UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Please check against delivery

***The President of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Mr. Joseph Deiss,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The theme of this 65th Session of the UN General Assembly, "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance" is appropriate and timely. Today's transnational challenges, including issues of peace and security, development, human rights, the environment and health, require genuine global governance that encompasses all United Nations member states.

In this regard, Kenya fully affirms the central role of the United Nations in global governance, consistent with its Charter and International Law. It is, therefore, imperative that the ongoing UN reforms be accelerated in order to ensure this institution of multilateral engagement is representative, transparent and accountable to its 192 members and optimally achieves the aspirations of today's world.

Mr. President,

When I last addressed the UN General Assembly two years ago, I briefed this august body on the major steps taken by my country to resolve the political difficulties following our general elections in December 2007. Since then, we have made tremendous progress in implementing far-reaching reforms that will entrench democracy and secure our peace and stability. Top on the reform agenda has been the enactment of a New Constitution which was promulgated on 27th August 2010, following a successful national referendum.

The New Constitution greatly improves the structures of governance and lays a firm foundation for political stability and economic prosperity. It has injected new vitality and a sense of renewal. We believe that this step will go a long way in contributing towards the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. It is also our hope that this historic development will contribute to continued consolidation of democratic governance in our region.

Mr. President,

Ten years ago, world leaders meeting here in New York committed themselves to pursue the Millennium Development Goals in response to the world's main development challenges of poverty, ignorance and ill-health. Two-thirds of the time allotted for the attainment of these goals has lapsed. With only five years left to the targeted year 2015, the urgency of bridging the remaining gap is a reality we must now confront.

As I indicated in my statement to this Assembly three days ago, Kenya has invested significant resources in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. We have recorded substantial progress in poverty reduction and education, in reducing maternal and child mortality, in the fight against HIV/AIDS and Malaria, and in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.

Mr. President,

Climate change continues to hamper our development aspirations. In recognition of this challenge, my country has taken major steps to enhance environmental sustainability such as:

- Reclaiming and protecting our five major water towers;
- Undertaking investments in wind, solar and geothermal energy, and
- Making comprehensive commitments to green our economy.

In spite of these efforts, Kenya is facing many negative consequences of climate change. Our crop and livestock agriculture, on which the vast majority of our population depend, is now at the mercy of unpredictable weather patterns. It is with deep concern, therefore, that we note the international community's inability to make headway in the critical negotiations on climate change. It is Kenya's hope that the world will recognize the urgency of concluding these negotiations in the interest of the survival of humanity. I look forward to positive outcomes from the various upcoming meetings on climate change in Mexico and South Africa.

Mr. President,

I now wish to turn to one of the major obstacles to the pursuit of peace and development including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in our sub-region. This is the continuing political instability in Somalia that is festering beyond that country. Since the early 1990s, Kenya has borne the full weight of insecurity in Somalia.

Today, as this Assembly convenes, the security situation in Somalia continues to deteriorate and threaten peace and stability across the entire region and beyond. Needless to say the threat posed by today's Somalia to international peace and security is greater than in any other conflict in the world. Yet, Somalia continues to suffer benign neglect from the international community leading to many lost opportunities to resolve the crisis. The perceived reluctance of the United Nations Security Council to engage with Somalia has been a matter of great concern for those of us who suffer the greatest consequences of the conflict. Today, I wish to draw the attention of this assembly to yet another opportunity that should not be lost.

In July of this year, the Inter-Government and Development (IGAD) Summit identified critical elements of engagement and took a number of decisions on the way forward. These decisions were endorsed by the AU summit in Kampala in July 2010. Unfortunately, the support needed to implement these decisions by the international community has not been forthcoming.

It is against this background that Kenya urges the United Nations and the entire international community to seize the opportunity created by the African regional initiative and lend support to the proposed measures, which include:

- the appointment of an eminent High Level Personality for Somalia;
- the effective deployment of the proposed 2,000 troops;
- review of the current mandate of AMISOM to enhance its peace enforcement capacity and;
- extending support to the Transitional Federal Government to bolster its effectiveness countrywide.

Mr. President,

As the chair of the IGAD Committee on Sudan, I have remained actively engaged with the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). This is because we in the IGAD region believe that the CPA holds the key to peace and stability in Sudan and the region.

I wish to inform this Assembly that I have received assurances from both President Omar Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir to remain on course in relation to the preparation for the referendum. I am pleased to further inform you that both reaffirmed their commitment to resolve all the outstanding issues, to hold the referendum on the 9th January 2011, and to accept the outcome of the vote. We in the region are looking forward to a successful and peaceful referendum that promotes regional peace and stability.

Mr. President,

These efforts by the neighbors of Sudan and the African Union have created a momentum that is critical to the full implementation of the CPA. It is critical that the world stands in support of these initiatives as Sudan takes critical steps in relation to its future governance. I believe that continued engagement with the leadership of both the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is the only way towards the peaceful resolution of the challenges facing the Sudan. In view of this, I wish to inform this Assembly that I will convene the second IGAD special Summit on Sudan in November 2010, to take stock of progress, ensure the process remains on course and support efforts relating to the post-referendum arrangements.

***Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

In conclusion, I wish to express my hope that through our unity, solidarity, cooperation and commitment, the challenges facing the international community will be overcome. Let us rise to the occasion and demonstrate our political will and ability to work together for the good of all mankind.

Thank you.