



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

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

DURING

THE

**GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE
66TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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

I take this opportunity, Mr. President, to once again congratulate you on your election as President of the Sixty Sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I am confident that your long years of diplomatic service and experience will be crucial in steering the work of this Session to its utmost success.

May I also congratulate His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary-General, on his re-election for a second term. This demonstrates our collective trust and confidence in his leadership.

Mr. President,

The 21st century presents us with new and complex security challenges arising from a range of political, economic, financial and environmental factors, among others. This Session of the General Assembly offers opportunities to address the challenges that we face collectively. Most significantly is the promotion of mediation as a tool for conflict management and peaceful settlement of disputes between and within states. In this context, the role of regional organizations in the mediation and resolution of conflicts is of increasing importance. On the African continent, the African Union and regional organizations such as the East African Community and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development continue to serve as significant building blocks in the search for global peace and security. As this Assembly is aware, IGAD, is at the forefront of efforts to bring peace to Somalia and Sudan. I am pleased that Kenya's role in both cases has been, and remains, crucial.

Mr. President,

On 9th July 2011, we witnessed the birth of a new nation – South Sudan. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the Republic of South Sudan to the Community of Nations.

The independence of South Sudan and its entry into the United Nations family is the result of intense negotiations under IGAD, safeguarded by the AU and the international community. This success story exemplifies the



potential of regional organizations to resolve complex and deep rooted conflicts.

I wish to reiterate Kenya's continued commitment to engage with both Sudan and South Sudan through IGAD, as well as bilaterally, in their efforts to resolve the outstanding issues under the just concluded Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

I am confident that the leadership of both Sudan and South Sudan will continue to demonstrate their commitment, courage and resolve in this effort. We will also maintain active support for the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, led by former President Thabo Mbeki.

Mr. President,

The recent improvement in the security situation in Mogadishu, Somalia gives us a lot of optimism. This situation has been achieved through the concerted efforts of the Transitional Federal Government, supported by the African Union Mission and the international community. The exit of Al-Shaabab from Mogadishu provides a unique window of opportunity for the international community to rally behind Somalia and consolidate the gains made thus far.

I urge the UN and the international community to seize the moment, support IGAD and partner with the TFG in the efforts to restore lasting peace and stability to Somalia. As a first step, I call upon the international community to enhance the mandate of AMISOM by providing it with the necessary enablers and resources. Only then can AMISOM have the required capability to extend its coverage and control. In addition, we must support the TFG in the implementation of the Kampala Accord that spells out a range of political processes necessary for the attainment of sustainable peace and development in Somalia.

Mr. President,

The complex challenge of climate change continues to manifest itself in the Horn of Africa. As this Assembly is aware, the region is currently experiencing the worst drought in 60 years. This drought has resulted in a severe crisis that is affecting more than 12 million people. The region is now suffering from increased environmental stress, loss of livelihoods and



intense competition for scarce resources. Moreover, the situation has sometimes led to armed conflict among neighboring communities. This reality calls on us to enhance the regional capacity for early warning systems and adequate response arrangements.

Mr. President,

The scale of climate change and environmental degradation calls for sustained action. In this regard, Kenya hopes that the COP 17 meeting in Durban will deliver on African expectations in form of support for adaptation measures. Furthermore, Kenya believes that the international organizations working on environment will be streamlined and given sufficient support. In this regard, the transformation of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) into a specialized UN agency, as recommended by the AU will be of critical importance.

It is my hope that the Rio Summit scheduled for next year in Brazil will endorse this position and upgrade UNEP accordingly.

Finally, Mr. President, I cannot conclude my statement today without once again restating Kenya's position on the issue of Palestine. As I have stated before, Kenya believes in the Two-State solution where the territorial integrity of Palestine within the 1967 borders is upheld and the peace and security of Israel are both assured and guaranteed. It is therefore our hope that Palestine will be welcomed into the Community of Nations with full membership in the United Nations.

I thank you.

