COMMUNIQUE

Harnessing the power of SDG Partnerships, Financing and Innovations for the delivery of Kenya’s Big Four Development Agenda

1. We recognize that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global plan of action which provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for all people and the planet, now and into the future.

2. We further recognize that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal one that calls on engagement by countries depending on their national contexts, capabilities and resources. With its high ambition and broad scope, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are a compelling call to action to all parts of government and all segments of society to forge new solutions for sustainable development, mobilizing all available finance from both public and private sectors. Improving the effectiveness, quality and impact of development cooperation in this context will require inclusive partnerships, innovative approaches and the application of lessons at country level.

3. We stress the need for youth empowerment, and creation of decent jobs for youth to enable Kenya to reap the benefits of its Demographic Dividend.

4. We recognize innovation as key to accelerating progress towards the achievement of Kenya’s Vision 2030, Kenya’s Big 4 Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. We recognize Kenya’s Vision 2030, Kenya’s Big Four Agenda, and Kenya’s Digital Economy Blueprint which all underscore the importance of partnerships and innovation to transform Kenya into an industrializing, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment.

6. We recognize the long-standing partnership between Kenya and the United States and recognize the ground-breaking potential of twinning the innovation, research, and enterprise capabilities of Silicon Valley in the United States and Silicon Savannah in Kenya.

7. We support advancing the 2030 Agenda, through the establishment and support of an SDG Accelerator Lab as a new service in Kenya that works with the government, private sector, civil society, philanthropy, academia, and young people to reimagine development for the 21st century and to explore, experiment, and grow portfolios of mutually-reinforcing solutions to tackle complex development challenges in Kenya from multiple angles.

8. In this endeavor, we echo Member States’ commitment to leave no one behind in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), so that sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and social progress can be enjoyed by the whole society, and that all people, regardless of their backgrounds, have rights and responsibilities to fulfill their potential in life, and lead decent, dignified and rewarding lives in a healthy environment.

9. We commit to uphold human rights, gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, and the principles of do-no-harm, and leave no-one behind, to guide the establishment of the SDG Accelerator Lab in Kenya.

10. We look to the United Nations agencies, funds and programs, and the Government of Kenya to work as an integrated and cohesive Country Team in partnership with the private sector, philanthropy, civil society, academia and other key stakeholders, in support of the establishment and functioning of the SDG Accelerator Lab through its Government of Kenya – UN SDG Partnership Platform flagship initiative.

11. We acknowledge UNDP’s innovative efforts of building the world’s largest and fastest learning network around development challenges through the Accelerator Labs Network, that aims at identifying grassroots solutions in collaboration with local actors and innovators while validating their potential to accelerate development. Kenya’s SDG Accelerator Lab will tap into the global network, to potentially inform and advance people-driven solutions that are grounded in localised learning, knowledge and resources.

12. As we stand here together, we call upon all our partners to join efforts in making the SDG Accelerator Lab a ground-breaking success for leapfrogging the attainment of Kenya’s digital economy and national development priorities, and the SDGs.

Signed on 21st September 2019 in New York, NY on the sidelines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly