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Picking Up the Pieces

STATEMENT

by

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Distinguished Members of the Fourth Estate
Colleagues from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Good morning

1. I am delighted to welcome you to this Briefing on Kenya's diplomacy since our last briefing. I would like to thank each one of you for honouring our invitation over other competing priorities, especially on the eve of the start of the Easter break when you would be finalizing your travel plans. I take this opportunity to wish you all, Happy Easter!
2. The last two briefings held on 18th January 2019 and on 21st February 2019. During the briefing in January, I provided an update on the 15 January 2019 Dusit D2 Complex terror attack, appreciated the role of Kenyans, the Government of Kenya, the international community in saving lives and property. It was also the occasion to thank all stakeholders especially media for the professional exercise of their calling during that delicately sensitive period. In February, I communicated the Government of Kenya position on matter of national significance in what the media referred to as a tiff. During that Session, I provided a detailed record of facts on our maritime border with Somalia.

3. In passing, I urged the participants to play their part in the realization of the Big Four Agenda and invited the audience to take part in the Beyond Zero marathon that was held on 10th March 2019. To remain faithful to our stated commitments for regular briefings, in today's session, I would like to outline the direction of our foreign policy, as advanced through eight big ticket themes.

Who will pick up the pieces?

4. Today, the world order is broken with dim prospects for unhindered cooperation in managing strategic threats. Significantly, the key question hanging over the 55th Munich Security Conference, that I attended recently, was '*who is going to pick up the pieces?*' I situate this press briefing in this context. I will focus on three broad strands:-

- a. Signpost the why of our diplomatic engagements;
- b. Point out advances in the pursuit of big-ticket themes of our foreign policy; and;
- c. Highlight the prospects for the next quarter and beyond.

The Why

5. That current global order is being contested and the rules and architecture which underpin it are strained is not in doubt. This is a reminder that Kenya must not sit back and hope for the best. Kenya, like other progressive states, needs to be active, strategically vigilant, situationally agile and invest continually in its stock of foreign policy

capital and capability. Because we need to be engaged in a constant process of protecting and pursuing our national interests. On one level; Kenya must do everything, both individually and collectively, to reduce risks and maximize opportunities and protect frameworks that facilitate optimal returns for us.

6. On another level, this is also about being open to, and active in driving new arrangements which are transparent and consonant with our values and interests. Significantly, Kenya must build and reinvest in its portfolio, placing particular weight on those partners who either share our values or long-term interests: those who are accessible and have influence: but also manage those that can play a spoiling role.

So, how has our foreign policy fared over the last 3½ months?

7. Looking back to the last 3½ months, I can confidently confirm that our diplomacy, even in a world in flux, is healthy and has yielded concrete outcomes through robust engagements. We are able to engage extensively through high-level visits -
 - 3 summits-(AU, EAC and UNEA 4);
 - 11 inbound and outbound state visits;
 - 13 inbound and outbound ministerial visits;
 - 3 joint commission for cooperation, and;
 - 9 international, regional and other conferences.

Pan Africanism

8. This engagement is guided primarily by Pan Africanism to pursue our interests and promote African interests by strengthening bonds of solidarity between all indigenous and diasporan ethnic groups of African descent in the celebration of unity and pursuit of our common interests. This explains H.E the President's policy focus on an Afro-centric agenda that places the greatest premium on expanding and deepening Kenya's diplomatic activities on the African continent.

9. Our neighbourhood (sub-region) therefore continues to serve as a critical anchor of our country's foreign policy, in both political and economic terms, as demonstrated during this quarter when H.E Uhuru Kenyatta has articulated a multi-pronged set of foreign policy goals with a one-on-one meetings with African leaders at all summits including the heads of state of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Namibia and Mauritius.

10. In the same spirit of expanding the scope of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in Africa and beyond, H.E the President has, in turn, received H.E Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda; H.E Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo; H.E Emmanuel Macron, President of France; H.E Maithripala Sirisena, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and H.E Andry Rajoelina, President of Madagascar.

11. On my part, I have represented Kenya in Djibouti, Cairo, Addis Ababa, Warsaw, Munich, New Delhi, Dhaka, Colombo and Johannesburg. I have also received my counterparts from Eritrea, Sweden, Somalia and France. The Chief Administrative Secretary and the Principal Secretary have engaged extensively in pursuit of bilateral and multilateral objectives. In this period we have held bilateral partnership meetings with India, Mauritius and Uganda and signed assorted instruments of cooperation.

12. The Ministry has been represented at thematic global conferences to champion Kenya's positions and support South-South priorities. Importantly, in the advancement of multilateral ties and enhancing the status of Nairobi as the only United Nations headquarters in the global South, we were proud to once again host a most successful as the hosts of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 4) and we are looking forward to the 1st United Nations Habitat Assembly in May 2019.

BIG TICKET THEMES

13. All these engagements were principally aimed at advancing our big ticket foreign policy themes, namely (i) protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity, (ii) promoting global and regional peace and security, (iii) enhancing regional integration, (iv) deepening our democratic credentials, (v) promotion of the Big Four Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), (vi) expanding economic

diplomacy, (vii) championing cultural diplomacy and (viii) mainstreaming liaison for county and parliamentary affairs.

Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity

14. A sacrosanct pillar of our diplomacy is the protection of our sovereignty and territorial integrity. Over the last few months, we have continued to be steadfast in putting in place mechanisms to ensure that our strategic interest towards this end are protected and enhanced. Resolution AHG/Res.16 (1) of the Cairo Summit of 1964 proclaimed the preservation of existing boundaries at the time of accession to independence in what is called the principle of intangibility, *uti possidetis*, which applies within the framework of the OAU.

15. During engagements with Uganda, we (i)executed a MoU to undertake demarcation and delimitation of 990 km border; (ii) agreed to enhance joint border patrols along the borders especially in Busia at the ungazetted crossing points at Mariachi, Sofia, Alupe, Adungosi as well as Amoni in Malaba and harmonize the gazettelement of Alakas/Lokiriama and Suam as one stop border points.

16. Similar arrangements in the last three months were actioned with the 32nd session of the Kenya- Ethiopia Joint Border Administrators' and Commissioners' (JBA/C),the re – affirmation of

the inspection of the Kenya- Tanzania International Boundary from 4th – 8th February 2019 starting from Lake Natron to Namanga;

17. A critical dimension of territorial integrity, that has recently emerged, is the contestation of our maritime borders. In our continued engagement with Somalia at all levels, we have made it clear that our borders are inviolable. Pointedly, the Government of Kenya remains vigilant and will not hesitate to defend any attempt to violate Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Global and Regional Peace and Security

18. The Horn of Africa region, especially Somalia, has historically become an area of security concern. Most threatening of this is terrorism. Kenya continues to pay particular interest to the fight against the vice and closely follow political developments in Somalia, especially in the run-up to the 2020 general elections in that country. We will also continue to work with AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries, IGAD, the AU, the EU and the UN, to build on the existing strategic partnerships in degrading *Al Shabaab*.

19. The region is home to some of the most protracted conflicts in the world. These include the fratricidal war in South Sudan and Somalia. Unfortunately, some of these conflicts have attracted meddling from neighbouring countries and beyond into the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. This introduces inimical geostrategic dynamics that were hitherto absent. Kenya will continue

to play its leadership role and intensify its diplomatic efforts to help bring about lasting political solutions in Somalia, Burundi, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region.

20. In addition, over this period, we have advanced various facets of regional and global through bilateral meetings with Eritrea and Ethiopia (further supporting the rapprochement within the context of IGAD) and Somalia (on migration, police cooperation, cooperation in counter-terrorism through information sharing).

21. To influence debate on peace and security in the region under the background of external players, Kenya has engaged with numerous interactions such as the 55th Session of the Munich Security Conference which took place from 15th to 17th February 2019, Ministerial Meeting on Peace and Security in the Middle East in Poland, the ongoing meeting on the peace and Security in the Red Sea in Washington DC and highlighted the enormous security implications of climate while calling on countries in the world to each do their part in addressing the challenge of climate change.

22. Kenya was also represented at 32nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State, EU-AU Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting, Ministerial Meeting of the Global Coalition against ISIS, Ministerial Conference to Promote Peace and Security in the Middle East in Warsaw and other related meetings.

23. Climate change poses a fundamental threat to Kenya, the horn and Africa due to the region's fragile and often hostile ecosystems. At the Munich Conference, I had occasion to participate in a panel that covered the threats posed by rapid climate change and environmental degradation. This informs Kenya's pre-occupation to lobby the international community to urgently put mechanisms in place to reduce carbon pollution and prepare for the consequences of global warming which we are already experiencing.

24. The effects of climate change, such as the current drought, are being felt particularly hard in Africa. The Horn of Africa region, already prone to perennial droughts and food shortages, will continue to face more heightened climate change-related disasters. Food insecurity has been proven to be one of the drivers of conflicts in the region. Kenya will work with other countries in the region to mitigate the effects of climate change and improve food security in our neighbourhood, which is also among the Big Four Agenda of H.E. the President.

25. To share our experience and contribute to global peace and security, Kenya has commenced to prepare for the official launch of her candidature for a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the period 2021-2022 at the election to be held in June 2020 in New York and will launch the campaign in the quarters

ahead. Kenya is vying against Djibouti for the one seat available for the Africa group. Kenya has served twice as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in 1973-1974 and 1997– 1998 and stepped down for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for 2017-2018. We have already received indications and firm commitments by friends of Kenya on our candidature to the UNSC for 2021-2022.

Africa's Regional Integration

26. Our foreign policy is centered on Pan Africanism primarily and we have continued to champion African integration. This paradigm, especially the drive for regional and continental integration, informs our engagements at all levels as demonstrated by H.E the President's official visits to Namibia, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Mauritius.

27. The drivers of our promotion of regional economic integration are hinged on two pillars; consolidating bilateral cooperation and accelerating comprehensive continental fusion. The desire to enhance bilateral cohesion through the promotion of trade and investment through pacts such as Kenya-Ethiopia Special Status Agreement, Kenya-Namibia cooperation in exploitation of the Blue Economy and market access in the Kenya-Mauritius partnership that dominated events this first quarter.

28. H.E the President's leadership and campaign at the continental level is steadfast. As I have indicated in past briefings, the coming into force of

the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that was signed in March 2018 is now with us earlier than the June-July 2019 timeline I had predicted. I am happy to point out that on 2 April 2019, Gambia became the 22nd country completed the domestic processes required to ratify the pact. The treaty provides that the AfCFTA will come into effect 30 days after ratification by the parliaments of at least 22 countries.

Promotion of Democratic Credentials

29. A primary goal of the African Union, one which Kenya keenly ascribes to, is the creation of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Africa. Democratic progress in Africa is steadily expanding albeit when anchored on domestic processes and hewn into the neighbourhood. Besides, democratization is inherently imperfect but worthwhile. Inclusion as a model and framework that de-risks the political environment has been used to advance cohesion in DRC, South Sudan and the Sudan.

30. It is therefore imperative that institutional arrangements that address ethnic tensions are prioritized and the leadership given space to fashion solutions that are suited for the specific country. It is against this background that Kenya continues to be at the forefront of supporting the Democratic Republic of Congo to smoothly undertake its first democratic transition and is steadfast in promoting reconciliation and unity. Undeniably, it is in this context that we participated in the SADC Solidarity

conference on Western Saharawi because as a country we came to be as a result of self-determination.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

31. The articulation of our foreign policy draws from the Big Four Agenda. The Big Four Agenda (affordable housing, food security, manufacturing and universal healthcare), in turn, dovetails with the Sustainable Development Goals that are designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

32. The foreign policy goals we pursue in our routine engagements including the AFCFTA are targeted to contribute to the realization of several sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from food security (Goal 2) to targets for decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) and especially injecting inclusiveness in any growth (Goal 1). During my meeting on 26th-28th February 2019, H.E Ms. Margot Wallström, the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden proposed partnerships in climate change and environment, counter terrorism, women, peace and security and trade and investment.

33. The Principal Secretary continued this focus during his visit to Portugal and discussed the upcoming UN Oceans Conference to be held

in Lisbon, Portugal in June 2020 as well as conclusion of pending instruments of cooperation, establishment of working groups in trade and investment and sustainable blue economy exploring new areas of cooperation in culture, fisheries and marine among others.

34. It is in this context that we were hosted the fourth session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA); were represented at 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63) and the 9th Assembly International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in the United Arab Emirates.

35. On the nexus of the Big Four Agenda and SDGs, the visit of Mrs. Inés María Chapman Waugh, Vice President of Cuba agreed to fast track implementation of cooperation in health, research and agriculture, an increase in scholarships in medicine offered to Kenya and a visit to Kenya by a trade Mission from Cuba. Kenya's successful lobbying for a new governance structure that is in force at Habitat is linked to this critical theme of SDGs. Consequently, the first UN Habitat Assembly will be held in Nairobi on 27-31 May 2019.

Economic Diplomacy

36. To support our developmental drive to transform the lives of its people, the Ministry deliberately facilitates the deployment of a special spectrum of economic tools to pursue our strategic economic interests. To leverage the effects of trade, investment, finance and geopolitics, we

focus our efforts on the mobilization of investment, the promotion of tourism and the burnishing of our national identity, image and brand.

37. Our engagements these 3½ months had special goals. With Uganda, we obtained commitment for verification of dairy and poultry products to ascertain their origin before access to the Kenyan market; lifting of a longstanding ban on export of Kenyan beef and beef products to Uganda and facilitation of cross-border SME traders. With Ethiopia, during H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta's state visit to Ethiopia for the Kenya-Ethiopia High-Level Economic and Trade Forum in Addis Ababa; over 110 business delegates were matched with their Ethiopian counterparts to explore trade and investment opportunities and Ethiopia confirmed its commitment to the development of the LAPSSET Corridor and the implementation of the Special Status Agreement.

38. With Mauritius, we signed pacts that will open the Mauritius market to Kenyan avocados, baby carrots and other horticultural exports. On its part, India gave the commitment for targeted investment to the Big Four Agenda, reduction of interest rates for lines of credit to agriculture and manufacturing, access to Kenyan Special Economic Zones by India, increased market access for Kenyan specialty exports, more slots for training diplomats, inclusion of petroleum, space science and medicine in Indian Scholarships to Kenyan students, upgrade of Rivatex to a modern factory that will create over 2,000 Kenyans.

39. Similar preferences were obtained from Bangladesh for investment in apparel and textiles; from Sri Lanka, for high-yielding coconut varieties and MAS Textiles Group's trade mission to Kenya to study the possibility of investing in a textiles production facility in the Athi River Export Promotion Zone (EPZ); from Cuba, for exportation of green coffee to Cuba. During this period, initial linkages to expand trade and investment were also established with Greece, Kuwait and Namibia.

40. On creating a conducive environment, streamline market access regulation and enhance Kenya's economic hub status, Kenya participated in 38th Extra Ordinary East African Community Council of Ministers meeting and the 20th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State; AfCFTA negotiations and the EAC-COMESA-SADC TFTA and expressed interest to host the AfCFTA Secretariat.

Cultural Diplomacy

41. The exchange of ideas, information, art, language and other aspects of our culture with other nations is critical in fostering mutual understanding. The imperative is that better understanding of our culture provides a resilient platform to anchor our bonds with other countries; enhances socio-cultural cooperation and promotes our other interests beyond culture.

42. During the period for this briefing, Kenya facilitated the participation of three Kenyan cultural troupes in the Surajkund International Crafts

Exhibition held India and took part in the Regional Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Development in East Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean Islands in Malindi.

43. Going forward, Kenya is in the process of establishing Kiswahili centers in strategic Kenya Missions to promote the recognition of Kiswahili as a continental and global language. In addition, documentation of historical connections between Kenya, Angola and Namibia is ongoing as is the selection and appointment of honorary cultural ambassadors.

Liaison of County and Parliamentary Affairs

37. The Ministry has actively facilitated the Diplomatic Corps and Foreign governments' engagements with county governments in promoting the Big Four Agenda; planning and participated in the 6th Annual Devolution Conference in Kirinyaga; supported parliamentary diplomacy through courtesy calls on the speakers by various high-level officials including their counterparts.

PROJECTIONS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

38. In the quarters ahead, the Ministry will continue to advance our interest under the baseline themes through all modalities. The headline activities include:

- the formal launch of our candidature to the United Nations Security Council;

- the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China for infrastructure stock expansion;
- Women Deliver 2019 Conference in Vancouver, Canada on gender and SDGs;
- Kenya– U.S. A Bilateral Strategic Dialogue to entrench security and economic ties;
- Strengthen footprint to the Global South especially the Caribbean (Jamaica and CARRICOM for cultural Pan Africanism ties, ACP and south-south cooperation and environmental conservation agenda;
- Continued strengthening of bilateral ties with African countries with state visits from Botswana and Rwanda, and;
- The High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism conducive to Terrorism co-hosted by the United Nations Secretary General in July 2019 among other engagements.

CONCLUSION

39. The need for Kenya to invest in reputation and resilience at home, strategy and architecture abroad and connections everywhere is real and urgent. As we move forward, our focus will be (i) to work to maintain and grow our gains and (ii) promote values than enable these gains.

40. As I conclude, I reiterate the availability and readiness of the Ministry to share information and clarify any issue in our purview. In view of this

commitment, the Chief Administrative Secretary, the Principal Secretary and Political and Diplomatic Secretary and the Office of Public Relations at the Ministry are available to engage you on any of these matters.

41. I thank you for your kind attention.

**OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
NAIROBI**

18th April 2019