

## CSO COLLABORATIVE STATEMENT - KENYA

### Key questions

- Are there plans from the government to engage civil society organizations for COVID-19 response?
- Are there plans from the government to take into account citizen generated data to improve tracking of the progress of SDG implementation?
- What are the plans of the government to fast-track the registration of communal land tenure in the country?

The civil society organizations in Kenya notes that COVID-19 pandemic reminds us of the inter-relationship between people, animals and the environment hence the need for concerted stakeholder effort committed to leaving no one behind. As we move to a decade of accelerated action for the delivery of SDGs, Kenya has presented the VNR for a second time, showcasing its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for prosperity of her people.

Despite the commendable effort, there are gaps that need to be addressed urgently in this Decade of Action. The government should take into account citizen generated disaggregated data so as to track progress of SDG implementation and the improvement of community livelihoods, address corruption in all its forms, enforce laws and policies, align budgetary allocations to SDGs and adopt an effective and inclusive multi-stakeholder approach among state and non-state actors in implementing SDGs. This calls for comprehensive implementation of the SDG road map that has at its heart localization and innovative partnerships, investments in public and outreach services, social protection of the elderly and people with disabilities.

The government should increase budget allocation to vulnerable and marginalized groups including persons with disabilities, women and youth. Pastoralists should not be left behind hence a pastoralists development policy to adequately plan for their development needs to be adopted. Inclusive and participatory biodiversity conservation, animal health and welfare, climate adaptation, resilience and green energy, research and development should be prioritised in financing to accelerate SDG implementation. Priorities should include ending inter community conflict and securing community land rights.

The government should invest in price standardization for farm produce in order to enforce responsible production and consumption in the spirit of buy Kenya build Kenya.

SDGs will not be achieved without the input of the people. Therefore, to accelerate the progress, mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19, the government of Kenya should finalize the volunteer bill that has taken three years to move. This will create a legal mechanism for harnessing the resources of volunteers, measure their contribution and harness their efforts towards the SDGs promise of leave no one behind.

We finally implore the government to engage the Civil Society Organisations network for accelerated COVID-19 response.

## **Main Speaker**

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