



## KENYA PERMANENT MISSION TO UN HABITAT

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### **REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO UN-HABITAT H.E AMB. JEAN KIMANI, ON THE COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE, 30TH MARCH 2023 NAIROBI, KENYA.**

#### **Distinguished Guests, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this inaugural International Day of Zero Waste hosted by Kenya and Turkey. Kenya and Turkey enjoy warm and cordial relations characterized by cooperation in various sectors for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries. As you all are aware, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on December 14, 2022, during its 77th session, designating 30<sup>th</sup> March as the International Day of Zero Waste, to be commemorated annually. We are therefore happy to join Turkey in commemoration of this important day. This will further enhance our bilateral relations as we build our collaboration in implementing the global sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly those touching on environment and sustainable urbanization.

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to highlight that both Kenya and Turkey played a pivotal role in ensuring that the Resolution A/RES/77/161 of the United Nations General Assembly was adopted on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The Resolution aims at "Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

This year, the first-ever Zero Waste Day celebration is facilitated by the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) and the [United Nations Human Settlements Programme \(UN-Habitat\)](#). We thank both agencies for their efforts in this regard. The global commemoration of the Zero Waste Day is taking place at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York, while we are commemorating it here locally. As we celebrate this day, we call on all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, businesses, academia, communities, women, and youth, to actively engage in a series of activities designed to increase awareness of zero-waste initiatives.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Kenya considers environmental issues and sustainable human settlements and urbanization very critical to the development of the country. As a result, these are covered in Kenya's constitution. Kenya's Solid Waste Management Strategy of 2022 is anchored on the **Zero Waste Principle** which looks at waste as a resource that can be harnessed to create wealth, employment and reduce pollution of the environment. Available statistics indicate that most towns and cities in Kenya have inefficient waste collection, transportation and disposal systems. About 30-40% of the waste generated is not collected and less than 50% of the urban population have inadequate waste collection services. The above Strategy, fortunately, emphasizes the 7R principles' of: Reducing; Rethinking; Refusing; Recycling; Reusing; Repairing and Refilling. The 47 counties in Kenya are adopting these principles at local level. I applaud the efforts of UNEP and UN-Habitat in supporting the 47 counties in Kenya to have sustainable waste management systems. The Go Blue Project within the Coastal counties of Kenya is a great example of such support.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Finally, the observance of the Zero Waste Day is a great opportunity. I call upon all stakeholders to embrace these Zero Waste discussions for a better future.

I Thank you.