

**SPEECH BY FARIDA KARONEY, OGW, CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF LANDS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING, DURING THE
SEVENTH GLOBAL LAND TOOL NETWORK PARTNERS MEETING ON
24TH APRIL, 2018 AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**

Madame Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director of UN-habitat

**Excellency Madame Brenda Mutemba, Chairwomen of the GLTN
advisory Board**

**Monsieur Frits Van der Wal, Representative of the Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,**

Excellencies representatives of the Committee of Permanent of

Representatives in Kenya

Dear GLTN partners

Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honour for me to have the opportunity to speak during the 7th partners meeting of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), here at the UN complex in Nairobi, Kenya. On behalf of the Government of Kenya and on my own behalf, I wish to welcome you to our city and encourage you to take advantage of your presence here to experience the rich heritage that Nairobi has to offer. This meeting brings together more than 170 partners from around the globe to talk about a subject that is close to my heart.

The meeting happens at a time when the Government of Kenya is undertaking many reforms in the land sector. These reforms aim at unlocking Kenya's economic potential. Land is an enabler to support manufacturing, access to affordable and decent housing, universal health care, food security and nutrition. These are policy programmes that that President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta has committed to delivering to the people of this great republic.

But land is more than the enabler. In Kenya, proper land management and administration addresses issues of social justice and cohesion. The growth of slum areas and the need to settle the landless is a critical reminder to us that land is essential for improved livelihoods not just in Kenya but globally.

The Government acknowledges that solutions to land issues related to the alleviation of poverty, social inclusion and stability, investments, economic development, environmental protection and natural resource management also challenges to sustainable development. These challenges cannot be overcome without effective land governance policies and programmes at the national level to ensure efficient, sustainable and equitable use of land for prosperity and posterity of all Kenyans.

Distinguished delegates,

I acknowledge and appreciate the work of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) as facilitated by UN-Habitat in Kenya. GLTN has a mandate in land reform, improved land management and enhancing security of tenure for all. These roles resonate with the functions of the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning.

Distinguished delegates,

After many years of discussion, debate and consultation, Kenya adopted a national land policy in 2009. The land policy and the Constitution of Kenya 2010, inform the new regulatory and legal frameworks for land

management and administration. For instance, we now have the National Land Commission to manage Public Land, dedicated Land and Environment Courts to address land disputes and historical injustices relating to land. We have robust pieces of legislation including the Land Act, 2012,(what about amendment?) the Land Registration Act 2012 and the Community Land Act 2016. The regulations and rules to operationalize some of the provisions of these laws have been gazetted and are now now just awaiting the approval of the National Assembly.

The Community Land Act comes along with some innovation on how to recognize community land rights and control over natural resources. Besides, it provides for participatory governance in the management and control of community land in a manner that ensures accountability and equity.

As you may be aware, the Government of Kenya has taken a conscious decision to focus on four critical pillars for economic development. The choice of food security, decent and affordable housing as well as manufacturing underpin the crucial role of proper land governance in economic growth. Digitizing land records and establishing a secure National Land Information Management Systems is critical to ensuring accountability in the way we manage land as Government. The National Land Information System aims to ensure effective and efficient access to land data, the Land Adjudication as well as mapping. The Government is also in the process of developing a National Data Infrastructure for access to accurate and consistent geospatial information. We therefore urge all state and non-state actors to support this process wholeheartedly.

Distinguished delegates,

Global frameworks emphasize the role of land governance in the achievement of critical developments. The 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals reflects the paramount importance of land in its goal one on ending poverty, goal two on ending hunger, goal five on achieving gender equality and goal 11 on making cities

inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Goals 15 and 16 advocate for sustainable management of resources and promoting justice, peace and inclusivity.

Land as a critical driver in urban development through regulating access to land and use to achieve security of tenure for all. The Government of Kenya recognizes the need for good land governance for all legitimate land rights.

Distinguished delegates,

Allow me to applaud the tremendous efforts being provided by the United Nations System to support the Government of Kenya in the land sector; FAO and UN-Habitat have been leading agencies. As you may be aware, UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tools Network worked with us in the development of the land policy in Kenya.

I have been briefed about the good work being carried out by the Global Land Tool Network in Kenya in both Urban and Rural areas. Its work in the Mwea Irrigation Schemes aimed at establishing a land information system is a relevant model replicable in various regions in Kenya. We need to secure irrigation land and water rights and empower smallholder farmers who are dynamic agents for achieving food security. I would like to thank IFAD as well for supporting GLTN to carry out the program in Kenya.

Competition over resources like land has increased challenges of land and natural resource management. The realization that the effects transcend international borders calls for regional and international cooperation; examples include global changes in the climate, food prices and vigorous competition over land use.

Distinguished delegates,

In closing, I would like to reiterate that the Government of Kenya remains committed to adopting appropriate policies and reforms in the land sector to comply with the global agenda such as the SDGs. And we

call upon GLTN partners to join us in the implementation of the ongoing action plan.

I would like to thank Madame Aisa Kacyira, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-habitat for hosting this important meeting again. With those many remarks,

I declare the 7th partners meeting of the Global Land Tool Network in Kenya Open !!!!!

I wish you successful deliberations.

God Bless you.

Farida Karoney, OGW
CABINET SECRETARY