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INTERVENTION BY KENYA AT THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 1ST TO 10TH JUNE, 2022 - AGENDA 12: SPACE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Thank you, **Mr. Chair**,

1. Increasing temperatures and sea levels, changing precipitation patterns and more extreme weather are threatening human health and safety, food and water security and socio-economic development in Africa. This is despite the continent's negligible contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Kenya has experienced irregular weather patterns over the last five years characterised by delayed rainfall and prolonged drought, which have had adverse effects on livelihoods of farming and pastoralist communities as well as wildlife. The poor among us are disproportionately vulnerable due to their limited ability to afford goods and services they need to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
2. To echo the words of our Head of State and other world leaders during Stockholm+50 conference, the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' Conference on the Human Environment held last week in Sweden, for a drastic increase in the pace and quality of our actions, as the globe consolidates efforts to solve global environmental concerns. "By the time we go to COP27 (the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2022, which will be held in Egypt later this year), we should have developed a comprehensive, holistic, and transformative package of environmental activities".
3. In 2016, the Government of Kenya legislated a Climate Change Act which gave birth to the *National Climate Change Council* and the establishment of a *Climate Change Fund* to address environmental issues related to climate change in the country. Implementation of this Act still remains a challenge in many facets due to competing socio-economic priorities.
4. The Constitution of Kenya emphasises the need to “work to achieve and maintain a tree cover of at least 10% of the land area of Kenya”. In addition, the Kenya Vision 2030 development blueprint also sets a goal for the country to increase the area under trees to



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10% by 2030. The efforts at reforestation and planting of trees are bearing fruit and by 2021 Kenya had achieved forest cover of 8.83% and tree cover 12.13% of the total land area.

5. Kenya supports the establishment of the Space Climate Observatory, proposed by the National Centre for Space Studies of France (CNES) and approved by more than 20 space agencies in the Paris Declaration adopted at the One Planet Summit on 11 December 2017, and the joint declaration of interest signed at Le Bourget, France, on 17 June 2019 to facilitate the mobilization of space tools for climate action and support the implementation of Paris Agreement. To this end, the Kenya Space Agency wishes to join this initiative to enhance the national efforts in climate action through use of spatial data and tools to monitor the impacts of climate change.
6. Lastly, **Mr. Chair**, combating climate change and its impact on the environment and livelihoods remains a significant challenge in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The emphasis on technology, science-based solutions, innovations, and partnerships, should also project the impact on the people, planet and prosperity.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

7. Together with Portugal, we wish to invite you to the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon on 27th June – 1st July, 2022, to seek to propel the much needed science-based innovative solutions to sustainably manage the ocean and reverse the decline of the health of the ocean.

I thank you.