INTERVENTION BY
THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTEMENT FOR EDUCATION,
DR. BELIO KIPSANG FOR THE EDUCATION 2030 HIGH LEVEL MEETING

4TH NOVEMBER 2015, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS,
PARIS, FRANCE

ROOM II
Madame Director General of UNESCO,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure, that I take the floor on this memorable occasion of the official adoption and launching of the Education 2030 Framework for Action.

15 years after the adoption of the EFA Goals, Education has never featured this high in the global development agenda. This September 2015, the United Nations Special Summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Education, which for the first time includes a specific goal on education.

I take this opportunity to congratulate UNESCO, through its Director General, Ms. Irina Bokova and UNESCO Member States, for all the efforts undertaken to ensure that Education receives the global recognition that it deserves.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya has made significant progress in the implementation of the EFA agenda. However, despite the important gains, challenges still do exist. It is in this regard that we acknowledge that the Education 2030 Framework for Action attends to the unfinished business of EFA goals and the education-related MDGs, while effectively addressing current and future global and national education challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Education 2030 Agenda is described as comprehensive, holistic, ambitious, aspirational and universal. We welcome this holistic vision which presents a paradigm shift from the EFA Agenda that mainly focused on access to primary education at the expense of other education levels.

The Education 2030 Framework of Action highlights a number of issues that “slipped through the cracks” of the EFA agenda, notably: the focus on quality teachers; science
technology and skills development, particularly for women and girls; education for lasting peace particularly through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED); Education Financing and the protection of education institutions from attack, among other key issues.

We welcome the proposed global Education 2030 coordination structure that creates linkages between the global and regional decision making and implementation processes.

We further welcome UNESCO, as the specialized UN agency for education, to continue in its mandated role to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 agenda.

Kenya therefore endorses and supports the Education 2030 Framework for Action.

The new agenda comes in with new challenges and notably the strong call for the usage of disaggregated data for Monitoring and Evaluation. The development of the Education 2030 Indicator Framework is still ongoing and a number of proposed indicators will only be available in 3 to 5 years. There is therefore need to ensure capacity building through the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), particularly for developing countries, for the development of indicators and the collection and analysis of disaggregated data.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I conclude, let me assure you of Kenya continued active engagement in the Education 2030 Agenda.

It is in this regard that I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely appreciate the confidence that the Africa Group at UNESCO has placed on Kenya, as its representative to the Extended EFA Steering Committee that drafted the Education 2030 Framework for Action.

Thank you very much.