

**REMARKS BY HON SOIPAN TUYA CBS, CABINET SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND
FORESTRY AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE AFRICA
CLIMATE SUMMIT HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2023.**

Your Excellency, Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Chairperson of Committee of African Heads Of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)

Simon Stiell, The Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

HE Dr. Monique Nsazabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson of the AU,

HE Ambassador Josefa Sacko, AU Commissioner for Agriculture Rural Development Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment,

Colleague Ministers,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning

1. I am very honored to welcome you to Nairobi – our beautiful green city in the Sun!. Today, I stand before you filled with pride and hope. As we begin discussions at the Africa Climate Summit. We look forward to your support towards an ambitious agenda to change the perception on the place of Africa in the global efforts to combat the climate change crisis.
2. The journey that got us here today has been long in the making – thanks to the visionary leadership of our Heads of State and Government who took no less than three Assembly Decisions at the 32nd , 33rd and 34th [(AU/Dec.723(XXXII), AU/Dec.764 (XXXIII) AU/Dec.855(XXXVI)] Africa Union Assembly sittings,to make this African Climate Summit a reality

3. In a bold and courageous move, His Excellency Dr. William Ruto, President of Kenya at the Climate COP 27 in Sharm-el Sheikh in November 2022, announced and offered to host the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).
4. Excellencies, Honorable colleagues, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, that moment is finally here!. I wish to express my profound gratitude to the African Union Commission as co-hosts and especially to my sister, Amb. Josefa Sacko, who together with her talented and dedicated team made sure that we were in strict adherence to the African Union instruments governing the hosting of Summits.
5. Our overarching goal for this Summit is to **chart a Green Growth pathway for the African Continent, setting the stage for Africa to lead the globe towards a more ecologically responsible global industrialization, catalyzed by financing that is accessible, adequate, and affordable.**
6. Consequently, the Summit presents to us Africans an opportunity to develop and present a new and bold vision for Africa as a continent with tremendous potential, abundant opportunities that can be used to solve the climate crisis. I therefore call upon all of us here to use the next three days to explore options as to how we can optimize Africa's abundant human and natural resources to leapfrog towards a low carbon economy while opening new opportunities for climate finance, trade, investment, innovation, resilience, and green jobs. Our objective in this Summit is
7. Honorable colleagues, the climate change debate has entered a new era. It is no longer just about tackling an environmental or development problem, but about addressing climate change in the context of justice. We must look at how African countries are faced with high debt distress and contextualize it within our ability to adapt

and mitigate climate change, looking at the impact of climate change to our economies, which are heavily dependent on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, tourism, fisheries, energy (hydropower), and forestry among others. We must also be cognizant of the climate change nexus with migration, and the need to climate proof our infrastructure.

8. This is why we are persuaded that if we do not develop adequate response measures to deal with climate change crisis, it will destroy us. Let us therefore step and lead the world to find solutions for climate change by listening to all voices at this Climate Summit, including from youth, indigenous communities, and civil society from Africa, among others.
9. With my brief remarks here, I now invite you to listen to statements from Mr. Simon Stiell, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), my sister and Amb. Josefa Sacko, and finally H.E President Dr. William Ruto, President of Kenya who is also the Chair of the CAHOSCC.
10. As I conclude, I wish to convey goodwill and urge you to take time during your visit and sample our rich wildlife and cultural heritage. Ambassador Sacko and I wish to extend an invitation to host you to dinner this evening.

I thank you