



## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### STATEMENT BY H.E DR. WILLIAM RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE VIRTUAL LEADERS MEETING ON CLIMATE AND JUST TRANSITION, 23 APRIL 2025 (TIME: 08:00 – 10:00 EDT)

---

Your Excellency, President Lula da Silva  
Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments,  
Your Excellency, the UNSG, Mr. António Guterres,

- I commend you, President Lula and Secretary-General, for convening us at the time of great complexity. This gathering signals that we still believe in multilateralism and in solving problems together. Not as a ritual of meetings and speeches, but as a tool for real solutions.
- Yet we must be honest: in recent years, there has been too much talk, too little action. Credibility has suffered. For multilateralism to survive, it must deliver real results on climate, on peace, on debt, on development, reflecting today's realities and harnessing 21st century solutions. Otherwise, public faith will erode.
- A deep transformation of global systems is underway: energy, finance, trade, diplomacy - all in turmoil. The contours of the new world order are not yet clear. But

we must make sure it does not rebuild the old hierarchies in new forms.

- The early signals are not encouraging. Take energy: the world is embracing renewables at unprecedented speed, yet out of nearly 600 GW deployed globally last year, Africa's share was just over 4 GW. This gap is widening, not closing.
- In finance, our fiscal choices are still shaped by models that treat Africa as a risk to be managed, not an opportunity to be invested in. Multilateral banks and other actors often sideline Africa's strategic ambitions, favouring compliance pathways over development priorities.
- Multilateralism has nonetheless helped secure decisive steps. At COP28, we agreed to triple renewable energy by 2030. At COP29, we set new climate finance goals, even while acknowledging limited ambition.
- As we move toward COP30, we must not only signal commitment, but deliver on past promises. We must tackle fundamental issues such as the **cost of capital**, **debt distress**, and the **scale and quality of finance**—especially for adaptation.
- Kenya, with others, has championed solidarity levies as an innovative approach, and a comprehensive report will be presented at the Spring meetings this week. The recent decision by the IMO on carbon pricing is a step in the right direction.
- We also launched the Independent Expert Review on Debt, Nature and Climate. The final report offers a suite of recommendations to respond to the triple crises.

- Collectively, we have done a lot of work to understand and analyse problems. The true test is whether we implemented the solutions.
- Africa's full success is not optional if the world is serious about climate goals.
- Africa's Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area lay the foundation for integration and prosperity for the continent. Yet climate change is putting these plans at risk, taking a heavy toll on our people, ecosystems, and economies.
- In 2023, I convened the first Africa Climate Summit. The Nairobi Declaration from the Summit set out Africa's climate priorities and we created delivery platforms, including the African Green Industrialization Initiative (AGII) and the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), to translate ambition into investment and results.
- In September, Ethiopia will host the next Summit in Addis Ababa. This will be a key moment on the road to COP30.

Excellencies,

- The systems we built to tackle climate change were right for their time. But the world has changed dramatically since.
- The proposal for a Heads of State Climate Change Council is a welcome innovation to connect climate action directly to economic and security strategies.
- We must be honest: climate action has been pushed to the margins. But we must keep climate at the center of

the economic conversation, and we must be smarter in weaving climate into financial reforms, national security thinking and industrial strategies.

Excellencies.

- As we head to COP30 in Brazil, we are reminded that it was in Rio, in 1992, that the world first came together to confront climate change. COP30 carries powerful symbolism: a chance to renew the spirit of solidarity that launched this journey, and to match it with action worthy of today's urgency.
- Kenya stands ready to do its part.

I thank you.