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REMARKS BY

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**FOLLOWING A NATIONAL VOLUNTARY PRESENTATION
BY KENYA**

**AT THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) 2012
SUBSTANTIVE SESSION**

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT: ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW

New York, July 3, 2012

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,**

1. I wish to thank and commend the Minister of Labour of Kenya, Hon. John Munyes Kiyong'a, for his Statement in which he highlighted the policies and strategies that the Kenyan Government is implementing to promote productive capacity, create employment, eradicate poverty, and promote sustained and equitable economic growth for achievement of MDGs.

2. As a neighbour, Uganda attests that Kenya continues to make remarkable progress with economic growth increasing from 0.4% in 2002 to a projected 5.3 % this year, as indicated in the presentation. However, like many developing countries, Kenya still faces challenges including high levels of poverty and unemployment.

3. The positive experiences and lessons learned that Kenya has shared through its national voluntary presentation (NVP) can be emulated and applied to improve policymaking, as well as addressing gaps and challenges towards achievement of the MDGs and the overall development agenda.

4. Kenya has attained significant success as a result of implementing key strategies and targeted interventions including:

- i) Improving agricultural productivity and increasing the incomes of farmers;
- ii) Increased public investments in infrastructure, and promotion of productivity practices in both the public and private sector;
- iii) Promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises;
- iv) Strengthening linkages between education, training and industry to ensure development of the requisite skills for the job market;
- v) Providing financing through enterprise funds (for youth and women), devolved funds which address poverty eradication at the grass-roots level, public-private partnerships, and mobilization of external resources.

Mr. President,

5. The East African Community (EAC) Partner States of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi are deepening their integration through ongoing implementation of a Common market which provides significant opportunities for economic growth, increased productivity and job creation.

6. One of the main challenges identified in the presentation, with regard to eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, is that despite improved economic performance, unemployment levels continue to rise. This trend, which is prevalent in many developing countries and which has been aggravated by climate change as well as the food, energy, financial and economic crises, should be reversed through collective national and international efforts.

7. Kenya has identified key priorities to spur further economic growth including strategic infrastructure projects underway such as the ICT City at Konza and the Lamu-South Sudan-Ethiopia corridor which require substantial resources.

8. Finally, Mr. President, one of the key lessons learned in Kenya's NVP is that while properly targeted strategies, policies and programmes yield desired outcomes, they often require more resources than Governments can provide. This calls for mobilization of additional resources, support and cooperation of development partners and all stakeholders.

Thank you.