



**OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT**

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**REMARKS OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH, THE  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA,  
DURING THE GALA DINNER HOSTED BY THE KENYA RED  
CROSS SOCIETY DURING THE INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT  
SOCIETIES PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI ON  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 AT THE BOMA HOTEL, 7:00PM**

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**The Cabinet Secretary, East African Community Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Rebecca Miano;**  
**The President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Francesco Rocca;**  
**The Secretary General of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Jagain Chapagain;**  
**Kenya Red Cross Society Governor, Geoffrey Korir;**  
**Secretary General, Dr Ahmed Idris;**

## **Distinguished Guests;**

- 1. On behalf of President William Ruto, I join you for this dinner, which happens during the 10<sup>th</sup> Pan African Conference of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society on Renewing Investment in Africa.**

## **2. The theme of the conference is timely.**

**Kenya has just hosted the world for the Africa Climate Summit, which among other issues, expressed concern that the Continent is overburdened by risks related to Climate Change. The risks have resulted in *"massive humanitarian crisis with detrimental impacts on economies, health, education, peace and security"*.**

- 3. The call for renewed investment comes against the backdrop of adoption of The African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action.**
  
- 4. Humanitarian assistance has been key to 54 African States in saving lives and livelihoods. Indeed, a few months ago, the Kenya Red Cross Society was on the frontline when our country was threatened by prolonged drought-a manifestation of Climate Change.**

**Since Climate Change related vagaries know no boundaries, the Red Cross Society spread its wings across the Horn of Africa.**

**5. While it is the responsibility of Governments to protect people from such disasters, the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society has been monumental and complementary to our efforts.**

**6. Indeed, my Office Coordinates the work of the National Drought Steering Response Committee.**

**During the recent drought, I, Personally, worked closely with the Kenya Red Cross Society. The Red Cross team is efficient, effective and caring; it is full of profound professionals.**

**They provided invaluable technical and financial support in saving lives. They were meticulous. Thanks to such distinguished partners, we did not lose a life to famine.**

**7. I wish to thank partners and the Red Cross Society in particular, for the immeasurable support accorded to our Government and other States across the Horn of Africa and the Continent.**

**As we deeply mourn with the People of Libya following the heavy rains and flash floods, which have resulted in more than 11,000 deaths and destruction of property, we thank the Red Crescent Society for being there for the vulnerable families caught up in that tragedy- which has been linked to Climate Change.**



**8. As Kenya and the Continent focus on building resilience structures alongside Climate Action, collaboration between State and non-State actors remains crucial in synchronising sustainable strategic investments.**

**9. High-impact investments require resources. However, in recent years, external funding has been dwindling, due to, among other factors- donor fatigue. That is why Africa must match every coin of the partners and other actors to speed up development.**

**The national, regional and international development blue-prints must make meaning if Africa Rising is about *Leaving No One Behind* in the *Africa We Want*, through transformative socio-economic advancement.**

**10. In the meantime, I also encourage the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society to increase investment in alternative revenue sources. The Boma International Hospitality College- a leading trainer in hospitality on the Continent- is testimony of what investment in alternative revenue sources can do.**

**Such projects guarantee sustained support to States and other agencies in times of crises. There is no dignity in constantly bending for donor aid.**

- 11. In the meantime, unpredictable weather events and patterns, including prolonged droughts, devastating floods, forest fires, storms like the Libyan case, may persist until we arrest Climate Change. This calls for long-term strategies in Climate Action blended with humanitarian components.**

**12. As we celebrate over 150 years of experience of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society, we seek to enhance our partnership particularly in strengthening the capacity of our agencies like the National Disaster Management Authority and sister agencies across the Continent.**

**This will cultivate increased efficiency and effectiveness for better response.**

**13. In our march against Climate Change, we cannot afford to lose lives; we cannot afford to lose livelihoods. In improved technology, we have an opportunity to work together in better early warning systems for consolidated and effective action.**

**14. For Instance, in our country, predictions indicate that we may experience EL-NINO rains between September and January 2024. We invite you to work with us, as we set up and implement measures to prevent possible tragedies.**

**In the long-term, we are working on Public Private Partnership in building water harvesting structures, including dams across the country.**

**This will help us take advantage of such large amounts of water for food production.**

**15. On this note, I wish to thank the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society for the millions of lives they have touched over the years. We look forward to working closely in building sustainable societies beyond disasters.**

**16. As I conclude, the Nairobi National Park is a few kilometres from the City. I encourage our guests to experience the magical Kenya.**

**17. We look forward to the outcome of this conference for action.**

**ASANTENI SANA**