

**OPENING REMARKS OF H.E RIGATHI GACHAGUA, EGH,
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA,
DURING THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY'S 9TH
ANNUAL GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY
ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 AT SAFARI PARK HOTEL,
NAIROBI AT 9:00AM**

Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum Davis Chirchir;

Honourable Ministers;

Principal Secretary for Energy Alex Wachira;

International Energy Agency Executive Director Dr Fatih Birol;

The African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy Amani Abou-Zeid;

European Union Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson;
Heads of Delegations;
Excellencies;
Distinguished Delegates;

It is a pleasure to address this high-level convening, the International Energy Agency's 9th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency, on behalf of our President H.E Dr William Ruto.

We extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests to this very key conversation. To our visitors, Karibu to the beautiful and hospitable Nairobi.

This Conference happens when Kenya is on high gear of transitioning to Green Clean energy.

Renewable energy accounts for almost 90% of our generation and consumption. This is towards our target of 100% green energy, as we aim to reach zero carbon emissions by 2050. To achieve net zero emissions, Kenya requires over 600 Billion US Dollars in investment.

This calls for sustained joint resource mobilisation, partnership and investment from local and international actors.

Harnessing geothermal, wind and solar energy is the bridge from fossil fuel to fully renewable sustainable energy as per the COP28 commitment on zero carbon emissions.

Distinguished Delegates;

Going Green and Clean is not enough. We must establish and promote proficient and efficient energy systems in all sectors of our economy. States across the globe are working harder with partners on achieving SDGs by 2030, even as Africa remains focused on a transformed Continent as underpinned by Agenda 2063. Such transformation rides on enormous energy.

Meeting the growing demand during this decade does not always call for huge generation capacity expansion, but unlocking conservation and efficiency in consumption.

We can only transform our world together when we make deliberate efforts of incorporating and doubling energy efficiency in every strand of development.

In Industry and Manufacturing, for instance, proficiency ensures less energy is used to produce more.

This in turn reduces pressure on the scarce resources as we fight Climate Change.

Distinguished Delegates;

While we have lost biodiversity in destruction of forests and other natural resources to farming, integrating sustainable agriculture and food systems remains central to a clean environment. This is besides innovations that recycle farm waste into green energy in form of biogas, electricity for machinery and other domestic use.

While food is an important resource, we must work on affordable easy-to-use innovations- especially for our farmers.

Breaking down domestic biomass in the farm is a direct and sustainable way of reducing the green-house gases like methane, which are fueling Climate Change.

In this regard, raising awareness, capacity-building and initial investment requires that we work together in community-driven initiatives. Kenya is among African countries that have borne the burden of Climate Change.

We commit to leading continental and global initiatives of combating this phenomenon, through diverse measures supported and sustained by policy actions.

Distinguished Delegates;

Under our development blueprint- Kenya Vision 2030, we are determined to deploy modern infrastructure across the strategic sectors of the economy to catalyse transformation of our nation into a middle-income country.

Central to our Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, is energy efficiency, and increasing electricity access, not only through the national grid-but also homebased sources like biogas and solar.

Distinguished Delegates;

Our partnership with the International Energy Agency as an Association Member Country is pivotal in our commitment to advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment. The support and technical assistance provided by the International Energy Agency will strengthen our capacity in data collection, policy planning, and drive forward our renewable energy agenda.

Indeed, this forms the gist of this Conference in cultivating collaboration and strengthening Public Private Partnership in funding transformative consumer-focused-innovations, informed by solid research-based data.

This is important because impact research requires massive resources in sector-specific disciplines.

In this regard, we call upon the international community to ensure resources- as committed during COP 28 and similar forums- are availed to, among other initiatives, fund innovations that promote Climate Action, in Kenya and Africa.

Distinguished Delegates;

This Conference, therefore, is a moment to learn good practices from our peers as well as those ahead of us.

It is also time to identify national and international policy gaps that hinder adjustment of equipment, installations and other infrastructure to allow for competitive technology that is also cost-effective.

As Kenya transitions to green energy, we are addressing the cost of production, while making power more reliable and more available. We are, hereby, inviting investment from regional and international partners to plug into the various Pillars of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. In particular, we are ready to have direct engagement with companies and other entities for business investment in clean and energy efficiency.

Distinguished Delegates;

We take pride that Kenya is among the five-member countries from Africa in the International Energy Agency.

We thank you for the confidence in us.

With Africa emerging as one of the fastest growing regions, the peace, security and stability we enjoy in Kenya creates an enabling environment for investments to thrive.

We are also the launchpad to accessing the more than 500 million people in the East African Community, and indeed, the rest of the Continent.

Kenya is ready for business. Let us define and work for the future, where energy efficiency is a catalyst for inclusive growth and shared prosperity.

ASANTENI SANA