



A VIOLENCE FREE 2022

ROADMAP TO PEACEFUL 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS

Talking Points by:

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KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

KABETE, NAIROBI

- Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Dr. Fred Matiang'i;
- Chair, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Dr. Rev. Samuel Kobia;
- NCIC Commissioners and Commission Secretary;
- Representatives of Constitutional Commissions;
- Distinguished participants, Government officials, Development partners;
- All protocols observed

Talking Points

1. I take this opportunity on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations (UN) family here in Kenya, to convey compliments and express my profound gratitude to the NCIC for the invitation to this timely launch.
2. Let me congratulate the NCIC for realizing this milestone and providing leadership to national and subnational peace actors in development of the ***Roadmap to Peaceful 2022 Elections***. This roadmap speaks to a clear recognition that commencing early preparations and promoting collaboration among stakeholders is crucial to preserving the stability that Kenya enjoys while deepening the foundations of a peaceful and just society.
3. The UN in Kenya has been a strategic partner to the Government of Kenya. This is through the Cooperation Framework / United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In the current UNDAF: 2018-2022 the focus is on strategic result areas on Transformative Governance, Sustainable Economic Growth and Human Capital Development. The support to peace, security, cohesion, is anchored in the Transformative Governance pillar which envisions "*By 2022, People in Kenya live in a secure, peaceful, inclusive and cohesive society*". Just last week, the GoK and UN partners had a successful virtual UNDAF retreat which reviewed progress made to date and planned for the period 2021-2022.

4. UNDP has been a key partner to the Government and people of Kenya in strengthening peacebuilding and conflict prevention, promoting democratic governance and civic engagement processes. This includes support to the Government of Kenya in delivering development results to its citizens, and realization of the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) III, Vision 2030, the Big Four Agenda, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
5. In the current Country Programme Document (CPD) 2018-2022, UNDP continues to invest in governance, peace and security; inclusive growth and structural transformation; environmental sustainability, climate change and resilience interventions in line with national priorities.
6. In the governance, democracy, peacebuilding, devolution and civic engagement portfolio, UNDP aims to better respond to varied localized governance contexts through area-based and integrated programming to reach the marginalized in ASALs and border counties, including women, youth and persons with disabilities. This is done by ensuring development interventions are inclusive and responsive to the needs of the country and the respective counties. We are cognizant that delivering development requires collaboration with diverse stakeholders, while addressing the integrated aspects of the various SDGs. UNDP continues to facilitate dialogue and promote transparent governance aimed at enhancing social cohesion and conflict management. We support efforts aimed at deepening democratic governance and intergovernmental coordination to improve service delivery.
7. UNDP supports Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and communities because we believe in the power and potential of local solutions. This is supported through the Amkeni WaKenya CSO facility that is dedicated to strengthening effective participation of citizens in democratic governance by providing financial, capacity building and knowledge support to local CSOs.

8. On the peace and security front, UNDP Kenya has continued to work with national actors on: 1) ensuring policies and legal frameworks for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, addressing violent extremism and community security are strengthened; 2) Peace architecture at national, county and community levels are strengthened and effectively coordinated; 3) Inclusion and participation of Youth, Women, Persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups in peace and security are strengthened; and 4) Enhancing collaborative partnerships to prevent incidences of violence at community, county and national levels.

9. Allow me to highlight the Uwiano Platform for Peace, which is a unique multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at proactively preventing the occurrence and escalation of conflicts, especially during electoral processes. Building on its founding objectives of establishing and strengthening partnerships at all levels for peace and establishing a solid foundation for national cohesion and integration for a peaceful and prosperous Kenya, the Uwiano platform has since provided leadership and a coordination framework for peace programming. The platform contributed to the peaceful constitutional referendum in 2010 and the General Elections in 2013 and 2017. We look forward to strengthening this platform in preparation for the 2022 elections, perhaps cascading the platform to subnational levels as a vehicle to implement this roadmap.

10. Let me also commend Uwiano and peacebuilding partners for their adaptability to emerging contexts. A notable intervention is the development of a “National Prevention and Peacebuilding Strategy on COVID-19 Response and Recovery”. IN seeking strengthened collaboration to implement this strategy, we recognize the pathways therein to reinforce collective commitment and agility not only to respond to the current pandemic, but also build foundations for lasting peace, social cohesion and sustainable development.

11. Looking at the NCIC roadmap, it is clear that the NCIC is cognizant of the need for multi-stakeholder approaches that promote ownership, leverage on diverse resources and experience of actors and ultimately leads to unity of purpose. This gives credence to the clarion call of "*Pamoja*" (togetherness).
12. Let me also applaud the initiative for recognizing the sovereign power and agency of the people of Kenya. Notably, citizens engagement, public education and sensitization that are critical in ensuring credible, peaceful and violence-free elections and democratic processes.
13. One notes the confluence of ideas on the roadblocks highlighted in the roadmap and the nine-point agenda of the Building Bridges Initiative to national unity. For example, in both the roadmap and BBI, there is acknowledgment on the need to address ethnic antagonism and competition, inclusivity, divisive elections, safety and security, among other key issues. This confirms something of a concurrence to the barriers to a peaceful election and strategies that need to be adopted to mitigate the challenges.
14. I also wish to take cognizance of tried and tested strategies captured in the roadmap, notably conflict early warning and early response, as well as addressing hate speech, and the value of targeted interventions aimed at trust building to bridge the trust deficit. All these efforts will contribute to long-term transformation envisioned in the country's blueprints.
15. UNDP looks forward to strengthening collaboration in the rollout of the roadmap, so that collectively we contribute to a peaceful and violence-free 2022 elections., UNDP will leverage on its global presence, technical expertise, south-south and triangular cooperation, and the SDGs integrator role.

16. In conclusion, UNDP remains committed to continue to support Kenya's efforts towards realizing long-term development through sustainable peace and cohesion, as well as strong and resilient communities. We are committed to collaborate with diverse stakeholders: national and county governments, civil society, private sector, and other partners, as truly that is the only way we can ensure that in the spirit of the SDGs we 'Leave no one behind'. We express our profound gratitude to the Government and people of Kenya, for the continued partnership and collaboration.

Asanteni sana and God bless Kenya!