

PRESS BRIEFING NOTES FOR USE BY HON. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH, PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS DURING THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO KENYA BY PETER SZIJJARTO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AND TRADE OF HUNGARY ON 27TH MARCH 2024

Your Excellency Peter Szijjarto, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Hungary,

Ambassadors,

Distinguished Officials,

Members of the Press,

Good afternoon,

- 1.** I am honoured today to receive and welcome Peter Szijjarto, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Hungary to Kenya. Indeed the visit is symbolic as it coincides with the celebration of six decades of excellent relations between our countries. I thank H.E. Peter Szijjarto for his political goodwill to cement these relations by being here today.
- 2.** Kenya and Hungary share a strong bond of friendship evidenced by the exchange of a number of high-level visits between our countries. These include the Visit to Kenya by the President of Hungary in January 2022, Visit by the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament in March 2023 and just last week we hosted the Minister for Agriculture of Hungary. It is in this spirit that Kenya is keen to open an Embassy in Budapest to further strengthen these relations.
- 3.** We have just concluded a very fruitful engagement where we exchanged views on the current state of our relationship and explored how we can strengthen and consolidate these relations between our two countries. We have deliberated on the key sectors of our relations including; trade and economic cooperation, agriculture and food security, education, environment and climate change as well as regional and multilateral cooperation, among others.

- 4.** On trade and investment, we held in-depth discussions on ways of enhancing trade and investment and shared ideas on new opportunities to improve the balance of trade between our two countries. I am pleased to note that there is a Trade delegation accompanying the Foreign Minister and are meeting with the Kenyan businessmen to share on possible areas of partnerships. I encourage the business delegation accompanying the Foreign Minister to explore the huge untapped investment opportunities in Kenya.
- 5.** Indeed Hungary is a valuable partner to Kenya in the Education Sector. I wish to express our deep appreciation for the support provided by the Government of Hungary through the "Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship," which offers 200 scholarships annually to Kenyan students to pursue their studies in different fields in Budapest. The scholarships have not only enhanced people-to-people cooperation but also catalysed substantial positive transformations across multiple sectors of our society. I have engaged my Hungarian colleague on the possibility of increasing the number of scholarships to 500 annually to give even more room to a larger number of our young people to benefit from this excellent opportunity.
- 6.** We have deliberated on ways of strengthening our relations in the agricultural sector. I am pleased to note that later today, the two sides will sign an Agreement on the financing of two key projects by Hungary. They include; the rehabilitation and upgrading of the pumping station in the Ahero Irrigation scheme in Kisumu and the establishment of the Kabonyo Regional Service and Training Centre of Excellence in Kisumu County. I am confident that there will be similar discussions that will foresee the attainment of food security in the country and the region at large.

- 7.** On environment and climate action, we have shared our concerns on the existential threat posed by climate change and underscored the need for a concerted effort to address these challenges. We have agreed to work together to step up our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity by prioritizing green growth. We have also agreed to work collectively to advocate for a more reformed and inclusive global climate financing framework.
- 8.** On the multilateral front, I have sought the support of Minister Peter on H.E. the President's global agenda on Climate Action, biodiversity protection and the need to accelerate green growth. We have agreed to work together in addressing the global dialogue in financing for development, promotion of inclusivity and equality, as well as teaming up to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 9.** I have sought Hungary's support in championing for a fair and just multilateral system with a more inclusive global financing architecture. I have also extended an invitation for Hungary to participate in the upcoming IDA 21 Replenishment Drive Summit to be held in Nairobi on April 28th – 29th, 2024
- 10.** As I conclude, I take this opportunity to once again thank H.E. Minister Peter Szijjarto for the fruitful engagement and measurable milestones we have achieved today; recognizing the tremendous opportunities our relations present for the mutual benefit of both our two countries. I reaffirm Kenya's commitment to deepen and broaden our relations with Hungary and look forward to many more engagements in the future.

I thank you.

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN & DIASPORA AFFAIRS
MARCH, 2024**