**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. FRED MATIANG’I, CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**FOR THE WSIS+10 HIGH LEVEL EVENT**

**JUNE 11, 2014 IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary General-ITU,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to thank ITU and all partner UN agencies for convening the WSIS+10 High Level Event to review the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and to take stock of the achievements.

The Government of Kenya recognises and acknowledges the work and the significant role of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) together with various United Nations agencies in coordinating activities to actualize the outcomes elaborated in the Tunis and Geneva Declarations.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Kenya recognizes ICTs as one of the key drivers of the economy, and commensurate recognition has been given in our national long-term development plan Vision 2030 and in Kenya’s Nation ICT Master Plan “SMART Kenya”. Both documents support the Millennium Development Goals and support the achievement of WSIS outcomes.

Kenya has made great strides in attaining the WSIS outcomes for 2015 and beyond. In supporting connectivity the Kenyan government made great gains in promoting Infrastructure Development. To improve Broadband access in all the countries 47 counties, the Government has commenced the laying of additional 1,600 KM of National Optic Fibre Backbone Infrastructure (NOFBI) Phase 2 to the already existing 4,300 KM laid in phase 1. As you are ware the Backbone Infrastructure should be accompanied by deployment of last mile technologies covering government, learning, social institutions and business premises. The Government is partnering with private sector to deploy last mile fixed connectivity to all parts of this country.

In promoting public service delivery, Kenya has established ICT centres in villages, schools, and public libraries, including institutions that serve Persons living with Disabilities (PwDs). This will ensure, all citizens of Kenya, have access to Government services timely and promptly. Through the Kenya Education Network Trust (KENET), we have also developed a National Research and Education Network that promotes the use of ICT in Teaching, Learning and Research in Higher Education Institutions in the country, which we envisage to interconnect all the Universities, Tertiary and Research Institutions in the country soon.

On e-government the government plans to establish the National Digital Registry Service (NDRS) to secure data integrity of the 4 core digital datasets that includes People, Land, Establishments and Assets. The NDRS will make sure that these data sets are Complete, Correct, Available and Secure. The expected outcomes of the project will ensure Kenya has a one source of data for all Kenyans which will promote efficient and effective Public Service delivery and enhanced management of Security, Safety and Crime

On broadcasting Kenya is undergoing migration from the analogue platform to the digital platform and Kenya will have successfully migrated by 2015. Many Kenyans will access television services thanks to the digital migration initiative.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Kenya recognizes the role of ICT’s in regional development and in as such Kenya has been instrumental in championing projects for regional integration where various decisions have been adopted for implementation by the member states which include; Introduction of single telephone network for EAC member states and Harmonization of SIM Card registration guidelines and Harmonization and standardization of analogue digital broadcast migration.

In conclusion Kenya is committed to working together with all stakeholders through collaborative efforts to achieve the WSIS +10 outcomes beyond 2015. My delegation therefore, comes to this Forum with the commitment to continue to encouraging connectivity, ensuring access to ICTs, including television and radio and supporting the development of content and facilitating the access of Internet to all Kenyans.

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the delegation of Kenya, let me extend our very best wishes for a successful WSIS. +10 forum.

Thank you