STATEMENT BY
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AMBASSADOR/ DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DURING THE
HIGH LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON
COMMENORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
MULTILATERALISM AND DIPLOMACY OF PEACE

24 April 2019 10:00AM
GENERAL ASSEMBLY Hall

(3 minutes) Check against Delivery
The President of the General Assembly,
The United Nations Secretary General
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank you for convening this important meeting on preserving the values of multilateralism and for providing us with a detailed concept note to guide the discussion.

I thank the secretary general for his informative briefing on the current challenges to multilateralism as well as outlining its potential to galvanizing us to face our common global challenges. Kenya aligns its remarks with the statements made by the distinguished representative of Rwanda on behalf of the African Group, and the distinguished representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

President,

We join with other Member States in expressing our deepest condolences to the Government and people of Sri Lanka. This recent tragedy is a further indicator that indeed terrorism continues to be a global threat to the spirit and core values of multilateralism.

President,

Kenya approaches its foreign policy on the key premise that its future is inextricably linked to the stability and security of the immediate sub-region, the larger African region and indeed the globe. This is the mainstay of Kenya’s nationhood, prosperity and livelihoods of its citizen. We fully subscribe to the principles and provisions of the UN Charter as the embodiment of our collective efforts towards multilateralism as the
basis to achieve peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

That is why Kenya's key foreign policy objective is clearly stated as 'Promotion of international Cooperation and multilateralism' and guided by the following guiding principles:

- Peaceful co-existence with neighbours and other nations;
- Resolution of conflicts by peaceful means;
- Promotion of regional integration;
- Respect for the equality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states; and
- Respect for international norms, customs and laws.

President,

My delegation is concerned by the growing tendencies towards unilateralism on many issues and situations confronting the world today including the growing attacks on globalization and political intolerance.

The post-world-war two economic order has been based largely on rule of law and commitment to free trade. The resultant economic globalization has lifted millions from poverty. This was possible because of multilateralism and the willingness of member states to embrace international cooperation. Admittedly, its benefits have not been uniformly distributed and have fostered inequality across the world. Multilateral dialogue on what ails the current global model is the best way forward.

President,

My delegation believes that reforming our institutions of economic and political governance at all levels, to be more responsive to the needs of the citizens in the current interconnected, digital, information age will be crucial. Good institutions, both national and international, must be based on the rule of law, and efficient provision of public goods.

Reforming institutions of global governance such as the Security Council to become more inclusive and representative is crucial for multilateralism.
Global governance institutions, including the United Nations and African Union must remain at the forefront in exploring and guiding our collective efforts to identify, understand, and address worldwide challenges and processes that go beyond the problem-solving capabilities of our individual member states.

President,

My delegation believes that the key to unlock the full potential of multilateralism is to strive to be as adaptable and as inclusive as possible in developing solutions to our common challenges. Therefore, strong political will in support of multilateralism will be constantly needed.

In conclusion, we believe a stronger office of President of the General Assembly in a revitalized General Assembly ought to be the embodiment of member states affirmation of multilateralism.

I thank you