STATEMENT

BY

MS. KATHERINE MUOKI
DIRECTOR OF GENDER
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

AT THE
PLEDGING EVENT

DURING THE

ANNUAL SESSION 2015
OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN-WOMEN)

JUNE 30 – JULY 2, 2015
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Please check against delivery
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Mr. President,

I thank you for giving me the floor. The Government of Kenya recognizes that for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to become a reality strategic investments must be undertaken. It is in this regard that the Government prioritizes funding of Programs with positive Gender related and Women empowerment outcomes.

Mr. President

The Government of Kenya among competing needs for resources prioritizes funding and investment in the implementation of life changing initiatives especially for women. These include the provision of catalytic funds for Women through a Women Enterprise Fund, a Youth Enterprise Fund and an UWEZO (Ability) Fund equivalent to US $ 240 million since inception. In addition the Government is implementing the 30% Public Procurement Preference and Reservations for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities translating into a minimum of USD 2.2 Billion per year in key sectors which are important sectors for closing the Gender Gap. Further the Government is investing in delivering key government services in one stop centres referred to as Huduma Centres. These centres assist women and indeed all citizens to access government services with ease.

Mr. President,

The Government’s significant investment in Women Empowerment programs has led to Kenya’s recognition, regionally and internationally. Just this week Kenya was awarded the United Nations Public Service Award for Public Service Excellence for the one stop centres. The Country also won the Award for Best Women Empowerment Programme in Africa during the Africa Public Service Day Celebrations in Congo Brazzaville.

Mr. President,

In recognition and appreciation of UN Women's exceptional work in advancing, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the Global, Regional and Country level and in acknowledgement of the critical mass of resources required to deliver on this mandate; the Government of Kenya regards this as an opportune time to expand the focus of it's investment to the work of UN Women and hereby for the first time pledges to contribute US Dollars 25,000 per annum beginning this year 2015 - 2016.

I Thank You.