



DIRECTOR GENERAL, KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT,

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**DURING THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT THE KENYA SCHOOL
OF GOVERNMENT, LOWER KABETE**

5TH MARCH, 2025

Your Excellency, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Mrs. Rachel Ruto;
Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service and Human Capacity Development,
Hon. Justin Muturi;
Principal Secretary, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, Ms. Anne
Wang'ombe;
UN Women Representative, Ms. Antonia Sodonon;
Government of Kenya officials;
Development Partners;
Members of KSG Council;
Staff and participants of the Kenya School of Government;
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

Your Excellency,

It gives me great honour to welcome you to the Kenya School of Government, here at Lower Kabete. We feel privileged and truly honoured for the opportunity to have you grace this Women's Conference that has been organized and hosted by the School with your support. Karibu sana Mama Rachel Ruto.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen;

The Kenya School of Government takes cognisance of the contribution of women in the country and indeed in the world even as they surmount many challenges in all spheres of life. This conference is a witness to the various achievements of and by women and it is also a forum that intends to inspire bold action, create partnerships and highlight innovative solutions for a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

During these days that we are gathered here, we should have an exciting and engaging time of dialogue across generations; examine mechanisms of advancing the transformative agenda through discussions on leadership, financial literacy and digital skills in pursuit of women's empowerment and gender inclusivity.

Ladies and gentlemen;

The Kenya School of Government is a Kenya Vision 2030 Flagship Project with statutory mandate to contribute to the transformation of the Public Service through capacity development that involves training for knowledge, skills and competency development; research that facilitates evidence-based policy making; expert consultancy services for institutional and business process re-engineering, and; outreach programs to promote public uptake of government policies and programs.

The School is also keen to address gender and social issues, and provide problem-solving interventions to cope with present and emerging challenges and improve the quality of services that are offered to citizens.

In response to the dynamic and unique challenges faced by women and the vulnerable in society, the School has continuously sought solutions through establishment of dedicated delivery units for specialized programs.

As such, the Institute of Gender and Social Development (IGSD) was established as a regional centre and discipline-specific delivery unit to develop and disseminate knowledge that addresses issues in gender and social development through the principle of *“leaving no one behind.”*

Ladies and gentlemen;

One of the objectives of this conference that is themed; *Bridging Generations: Advancing Gender Equality and Harnessing Innovation*, is capacity building and skills development, where we intend to provide a platform for discussions on financial empowerment, digital literacy, and regulatory structures.

In regards to this, KSG brings on board a wealth of experience in capacity development for individuals at all levels for purposes of achieving the highest possible standards of service delivery.

Through our Institute of Gender and Social Development, the School offers programs that seek to contribute towards the creation of a just society; free from social ills; and programs that also promote equitable gain from national prosperity.

From this conference, the School will benefit from the rich discussions that may inform revision of the programs as we mainstream some of the issues into the content of the programs offered.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Kenya and Africa at large is confronted with a wide range of gender issues including disparities in access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities continue to

affect women and gender minorities. Women and gender minorities are often underrepresented in leadership positions in politics, business, and other sectors. Traditional norms and stereotypes surrounding gender roles persist, limiting opportunities and perpetuating discrimination

Addressing these issues requires concerted efforts at both local and global levels, including policy reforms, advocacy, and community engagement. As such, the significance of partnerships and collaboration cannot be underscored.

As a matter of fact, this conference has been made possible by your partnership and support. In the same spirit, I wish to encourage continued partnerships through and after this conference; partnerships that will transform and promote the livelihoods of women and the vulnerable in different aspects of their operation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we reflect on Kenya's progress in advancing gender equality, let us also consider ways in which we can identify practical strategies for empowering women and foster an inclusive future.

Let us opt for the unified approach because achieving sustainable dialogues, projects and initiatives is a collective choice driven by inclusivity, shared goals, mutual understanding, resilience, learning and innovation.

Let me end by once again thanking all of you for accepting our invite to the Women's Conference 2025. The Kenya School of Government looks forward to more engagements, on more joint initiatives that will keep translating insights into action. By working together, we will enjoy a future that is inclusive, participatory, and responsive to empowering and accelerating the progress toward a gender-equal world.

Thank you and God bless you all.