ON 6 August, the UN, Government and other partners held the UNDAF National Steering Committee and annual review meeting at the State House. Speaking during the event, the President commended the UN agencies for Delivering as One (DaO) together with the Government of Kenya to ensure that development assistance benefits Kenyans. The President encouraged bi-lateral and multilateral organizations as well as the private sector to offer their support in resourcing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The annual report highlighting achievements made over 2014-2015 was presented by the Cabinet Secretary and Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Devolution and Planning Ms. Anne Waiguru and Mr. Henry Rotich respectively. Amongst the accomplishments made during the first year of implementation of the UNDAF for 2014-2015, were strides in transformational governance with the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) developing its Strategic plan for 2014-2018 and activation of the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) hotline following capacity building of the Directorate of Public Prosecution office on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and FGM. Other gains included drafting of the Devolution Policy and second generation revenue sharing formula for counties. On the result area on human capital, the Ministry of Education Science

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and Technology (MoEST) was supported to update the Education Management Information System (EMIS).

Support was also provided to initiative on using safe drinking water and Maternal and Child Nutrition programme, an initiative which the First Lady, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta champions. On inclusive and sustainable development the National Youth Empowerment Strategy was developed and on environmental sustainability, the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Implementation plan for management of natural resources was elaborated with key stakeholders as well as a draft National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction developed.

According to the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, ‘The New UNDAF has demonstrated that close collaboration between the UN and the government can stimulate quick delivery of development gains to those most in need. The new UNDAF has adopted Area based Development programming that identifies and addresses major bottlenecks to development through policy and service delivery. This approach has resulted in two integrated programmes one in Turkana county and another in Marsabit county. Two more programmes will be launched in Karamoja and Mandera Triangle.’

The United Nations has made substantial contribution to sustainable development in Kenya. In the year 2014/15 the UN provided 2.7 billion Kenya shillings worth of development support for the most needy and marginalized in the country. This is outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) annual report presented to national stakeholders including H.E president Uhuru Kenyatta, The Cabinet, Development Partners, Civil Society and the Private Sector. The UNDAF is a shift in development programming that allows the Government to take lead and the UN to coordinate its development activities as one entity.

The priorities of the UNDAF are aligned to Kenya’s development framework, the Vision 2030. The National Steering Committee for the implementation of the UNDAF is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele and the Cabinet Secretary, Devolution and Planning, Ms. Anne Waiguru.
EXPERTS have for a while expressed need for specifically focused course of study for undergraduate or graduate students wishing to pursue work in Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response program management, especially in Africa.

Current GBV program managers and coordinators come from a variety of academic backgrounds including public health, protection and legal sector, social work, and general international studies. Mental health counsellors, nurses, midwives, social workers, lawyers and others who have experience working with GBV survivors domestically are often brought in to organizations as well. The crosscutting nature of GBV means that no one discipline can address the full issue although many informants mentioned social work as being an extremely useful background.

While there is an increasing demand for organizations and staff to develop strong GBV prevention and response programs, current opportunities to build technical capacity in GBV prevention and response are not keeping pace with the demand for skilled staff.

One initiative to try to bridge this gap is a pilot project that is being implemented by UNFPA Kenya and the University of Nairobi, with special focus being on GBV in emergencies

UNFPA is facilitating the University of Nairobi to host a short course with thematic areas of study to include coordination, case management, legal and health response, field assessments, mainstreaming and prevention.

At the end of the class-based sessions, some students will be nominated to participate in a six-month internship program. The students will be selected based on their academic record and interest in working in humanitarian settings. The interns will be placed at organizations in Kenya that are providing frontline services to GBV survivors.

Each of the ten interns will be paired with a mentor who will provide support throughout the 6 months. The mentors will be individuals who have extensive experience in GBV programming. Mentors will be expected to communicate with their “mentee” at least once a month to discuss challenges and successes.

SAFARICOM Ltd is finally ‘HeForShe’

IT was a colorful event indeed at Michael Joseph Center on 22nd July 2015, that saw Safaricom Kenya Ltd join other corporations in the HeForShe campaign through its CEO Bob Collymore and Safaricom male heads of departments who publicly signed up to being a HeForShe champions. “I hope that you believe that our mothers, sisters, daughters, grand-mothers, or aunties deserve to live in a society that believes in equality; one that is free from all forms of discrimination” Said the Safaricom CEO, Bob Collymore in his remarks.

The Campaign which was officially launched in Kenya by H.E the President Uhuru Kenyatta on 26th November.
2014, is a UN Women solidarity movement for gender equality that looks into mobilizing both men and boys as advocates and change agents to bring about gender equality.

One of the campaign strategies that aims to engage governments, corporations and universities as instruments of change to galvanize momentum in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment is the impact 10×10×10 (10 Universities, 10 Heads of Government and 10 Corporations). Safaricom is one of the 10 corporates to sign up through Vodafone. www.heforshe.org/vodafone

Mr. Collymore passionately stated that, “Too often, violence seems removed from us men. It is time for us to take a stand with our women and girls.” He hence reached out to each of the members present for the event personally saying he trusted they believe in being responsible for the well-being of everyone.

UN Women Country Director, Ms. Zebib Kavuma who also graced the event that saw 200 invitees present said that, “HeforShe campaign is calling for the re-socialization of both men and women and working with men both as advocates and change agents to create that irreversible change in society-ones that promotes equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination, and a just work place that values the contributions of men and women as equals. Gender equality will ensure that countries benefit by tapping into the productive potentials of the other half of the population – women and girls.”

A panel discussion moderated by Ms. Kavuma was held during the event. The members consisted of Safaricom male heads of departments; Mr. Denis Osodo, Internal Audit Director and Mr Joseph Oguta, Director of Strategy &Innovation, Mr. James Mutisya, Senior Manager-National Retail Sale who mainly talked about the position of Safaricom in empowering women, the position of women in the organization and their personal views on importance of women leadership.

The heated panel discussions saw Denish Osodo, internal audit director, one of the panel members state that, “Women’s rights are human rights.” Other guests present included; Kenya Commercial Bank CEO, Joshua Oigara, Bharat Thakrar-C.E.O Scangroup, Dean Yu-C.E.O Huawei Kenya, Benta Okinyi, Regional Head of customer service Barclays Africa among others.

Finally before signing in Collymore called upon his staff and fellow corporate leaders to join him and the rest of the world sign up to the HeForShe campaign, to bring to an end gender inequities.
AND degradation affects nearly 65 percent of Africa’s land, with some 6 million hectares of productive land lost each year. Food imports exceed food exports by 30 percent and the agricultural sector uses over 60 percent of Africa’s labour force.

It is against this backdrop that the 2nd Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Conference (EBAFOSC 2) was organized under the theme ‘Re-imagining Africa’s Food Security through Harnessing Ecosystem Based Adaptation Approaches Now and Into the Future under Climate Change’.

The conference held at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in Nairobi and organized by UNEP-ROA, brought together over 1,200 delegates, ranging from governments, research and policy institutions, civil society and private sector, development partners, to the youth and media among others.

The main objectives of the conference were to determine how to protect and restore Africa’s ecosystems, achieve food security, identify scalable inclusive business and finance models, put in place policies that incentivize public and private investment in Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) and increase the likelihood of increased investment from oil earnings back into the Earth’s ecosystems, which underpin the entire food security system.

Multiple topics were discussed during different breakout sessions. These included how ‘Green Revolution’ technologies can be made more EBA-friendly, how to build resilience under a changing climate and how to use examples from other southern countries, avert post-harvest loss. Also, use EBA policy to shape the implementation of international agendas, subsidy reform, land tenure and tax incentives as well as how to harness EBA-driven agriculture to stimulate job creation, growth, and value additional partnership in Africa.

In conclusion, the delegates adopted the outcome document—‘The Nairobi Action Agenda on Ecosystem based Adaptation for Food Security’. The document notes that EBA is essential for climate resilience, food security, job creation and value addition in Africa and that African governments are the main drivers of creating enabling policies and laws to provide incentives for the private sector and to scale-up EBA driven agriculture. Hence the formation of the Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA), together with EBAFOSA constitution which spells out the vision and mission of the Assembly.

UN Women Kenya and Council Of Governors mainstream gender at the counties

THE Council of Governors through its Chairperson and Governor of Meru County, Mr. Peter Munya on 23rd July, 2015 signed an agreement with the UN Women Kenya that will see the two parties working together to mainstream gender issues in the County level all over the country. The agreement’s objective is to see the UN Women and the county government work together throughout the 47 counties in championing for gender balance and women empowerment.

The chair of the Council of Governors applauded the move by UN Women as a step towards gender integration and mainstreaming in the counties as enshrined in the Kenyan constitution that champions for the inclusion of women in leadership.

Hon. Munya further added that, “the
OVER 70 participants drawn from the national and county governments as well as grassroots community leaders gathered in Mombasa for a meeting on integrated urban planning and informal settlements improvement.

The meeting is part of follow-up sessions to complement the integration efforts aimed at maximizing the impact of both the Kenya Municipal Programme (KMP) and the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Programme (KISIP) in the various Kenyan counties where the two programmes are being implemented simultaneously.

These follow up sessions are designed, jointly, by UN-Habitat and the two programmes which are both funded by the World Bank and implemented in partnership with the Government of Kenya. UN-Habitat on its part is facilitated financially by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to support a sustainable urban development sector in Kenya, through enhancing capacity development in the counties under the KMP framework.

Various speakers underscored the importance of community participation in both urban planning and informal settlements improvement where as community members present were also sensitized on the need of planning.

The Mombasa Chief Officer for Lands, Planning and Housing Mr. Jabu Salim estimated that Mombasa had 65 percent of her population living in informal settlements. “

Ms. Kerstin Sommer of UN-Habitat said the meeting was an ample opportunity to engage with communities directly and ascertain how policy models, being advocated for are resonating with the challenges on ground.

The meeting had the added importance that it included a learning and exchange aspect. It also underscored the need to bring all major informal settlements upgrading programmes together. UN-Habitat is focusing on having informal settlement program integrated into city wide planning programme through its City Planning Extension and Design Unit (CPEDU) and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP).

Urban Specialist with the World Bank, Ms. Sheila Kamunyori asked how KISIP and KMP could collaborate better so as to achieve the common goals they shared. On behalf of KISP, Mr. George Arwa gave a brief history of the programme from its inception in 2011.

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(From Left to right) The UN Women Kenya Country director, Ms Zebib Kavuma and the Council of Governors chairperson Mr. Peter Munya during the signing of the Partnership Agreement.

(Photo by Sharon Mactaro/UN Women)
UN Women Kenya and National Gender and Equality Commission sign an agreement on gender equality

A SIGNING event was witnessed at the National Gender and Equality Commission on 28th July 2015. The event saw a one year letter of agreement signed between the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and UN Women for the financial year 2015-2016.

“The signing of this letter of agreement is to build and deepen the partnership between UN Women and the National Gender and Equality Commission in pursuit of strengthening the foundation for transformative gender equality and inclusion in the private and public sector in Kenya”, highlighted UN Women Country Director Ms. Zebib Kavuma.

UN Women is the UN entity that promotes Gender Equality and Women Empowerment ensuring women’s and girl’s rights are upheld worldwide hence, it is UN Women mandate to lead, promote and coordinate efforts to advance the full realization of women’s and girl’s rights and opportunities.

“This agreement is worth 18.2 Million Kenya Shillings which will be used to ensure gender mainstreaming in the county level, strengthening the capacity in matters gender, monitoring, advising and reporting on GBV policies and actions and gender responsive budgeting,” pointed out National Gender and Equality Commission Chairperson, Commissioner Ms. Winfred Lichuma during the signing event that brought together both National Gender and Equality Commission and UN Women staff.

National Gender and Equality Commission’s mandate is fully linked into that of UN Women to promote Gender Equality and freedom from discrimination. The commission is the principal organ of the State that ensures compliance with all treaties and conventions ratified by Kenya, relating to issues of equality and freedom from discrimination and relating to special interest groups including minorities and marginalized persons, women, persons with disabilities and children.

Ms. Lichuma said that Obama’s remarks during his visit to Kenya from 24th – 26th July really lobbied for women space and equality in the country. The two statements from Obama were, “Treating girls and women as second class citizens is a bad tradition, it holds you back,” and “Any nation that fails to educate girls is doomed to lag behind in the global economy.” These statements were in support for the women and girls empowerment agenda.
Kenya hosts the 8th Kenya Internet Governance Forum

The 8th Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KIGF) was organized by Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) in cooperation with Kenya Network Information Center (KENIC), Telecommunications Association of Kenya (Tespok) and UNESCO. The forum provided stakeholders including the government, private sector, academia and civil society with an opportunity to exchange information and increase their understanding of ICT and issues pertaining to internet Governance. Over 120 participants took part in the forum where experts from their respective fields discussed on the concept of multi-stakeholder cooperation in building inclusive knowledge societies, cyber-security, internet economy and Internet governance that are all pertinent to the proliferation of socio-economic, political, cultural development for Kenya.

On behalf of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Mr. Victor Kyalo, CEO, Kenya ICT Authority, in his opening remarks, emphasized the need to support the on-going discussions and collaborative framework on Internet governance in Kenya. He particularly encouraged the Internet community to engage more and advocated for multi-stakeholder cooperation that can reflect the voices and needs of civil society in Internet policy dialogues.

Ms. Grace Githaiga, KICTANet, also underlined the importance of inclusive multi-stakeholder cooperation and commended the role of civil society as a forefront of internet policy making. In support of a more accessible internet, the emphasis was raised to make internet reachable to all citizens by improving the reach and costs of communications infrastructure.

Mr. Stephen Chege, Director of Corporate Affairs, Safaricom, introduced its corporate policy that safeguards and protects its online users. During the forum, he also advocated for the establishment of legal framework that can protect children from unethical and potentially harmful online contents. Furthermore, Mr. Chege commented on issues of Internet neutrality and open access resources. In support of the generation and sharing of information and knowledge, particular emphasis was made on publicly funded research projects (consisting of scientific journals and datasets of various kinds) in allowing them to be accessed freely online.

Issue of cyber security was another key topic covered during the KIGF. Initiatives in dealing with cyber threats were discussed requiring laws, regulations and policies that can help protect free flow of information. Kenya has worked towards providing guidance to address issues arising from the gaps between different security domains in the cyberspace environment while at the same time providing an infrastructure for collaboration.

Ms. Riva Jalipa from Article 19 also echoed her remarks on cyber security and cyber-crimes. In dealing with crimes involving technology, the Kenyan Government and the private sector should employ current technologies and incorporate them in fighting cyber-crimine.

The outcome of KIGF will lead into the East Africa IGF forum that will take place in September, 2015. UNESCO acknowledges the potential of the Internet for fostering sustainable human development and building more democratic societies, and also for enhancing the free flow of information and ideas throughout the world.

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) resulted in the creation of the multi stakeholders Internet Governance Forum – an annual forum in which international agencies, governments, Internet professionals, business and civil society organizations can explore, on equal footing, the development on the Internet and its interaction with other area of public policy.

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