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### Press release

#### Kenya to Host the World Geothermal Congress (WGC) 2029

For immediate release:

#### Nairobi, Kenya

Kenya has made history in Africa by winning a bid to host the first ever World Geothermal Congress (WGC) in the continent to be held in Nairobi in 2029. This is after the International Geothermal Association (IGA) on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December announced Nairobi as the host of the 2029 conference; beating Auckland of New Zealand and Munich of Germany in the finals.

This will be the first time for the World Geothermal Congress to be held in Africa since its inception in 1995.

The World Geothermal Congress, organized by the International Geothermal Association (IGA) will bring together over 3,000 local and international participants including researchers, industry leaders, policymakers, and finance experts to share innovations, discuss technology, and advance the role of geothermal as a key driver for sustainable energy.

The Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, Mr. Opiyo Wandayi said the hosting of the WGC 2029 in Nairobi is not only a victory for Kenya but also a triumph for Africa, for the Global South, and for every nation that is striving to harness geothermal energy as a pillar of sustainable development.

“Through the WGC 2029, Kenya will solidify its geothermal leadership role in Africa and the world.” Said Mr Wandayi.

Observing that the WGC 2029 will be a platform to accelerate the development of geothermal in Africa for electricity and direct use applications aimed at stimulating socio-economic transformation, Mr Wandayi said, the Geothermal is expected to not only play a critical role in realizing the Kenya's planned target of developing an additional electricity generation capacity of 10,000 MW by 2025, but also through integrated development, the direct use of geothermal are expected to spur industrialization.

The Cabinet Secretary said, Kenya will continue to offer support to other Africa countries in geothermal expertise and technical know-how. "We are working on modalities to establish the Africa Geothermal Centre of Excellence to be hosted here in Kenya to serve the rest of Africa to enhance the continent's institutional and infrastructural capacities, and create a critical mass of geothermal scientists and engineers" said Mr. Wandayi

He noted that the choice of Nairobi as the host city underscores Africa's growing leadership in geothermal energy and positions Kenya as a global hub for renewable energy innovation, knowledge exchange, and climate change and resilience solutions.

He added that, hosting the of WGC 2029 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi elevates the Congress to a global stage, reinforcing Kenya's vibrant partnership with UNEP while placing Africa at the heart of multilateral climate and energy action.

Mr. Wandayi said the recognition of Kenya to host the Congress is a testament of the country's leadership in renewable energy, the strategic investments in geothermal development, and Kenya's commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

The Cabinet Secretary said, "Kenya is very much ready to host the world in Nairobi, offering not only world-class infrastructure and technical expertise, but also a unique opportunity to engage with Africa's geothermal frontier. We reaffirm our readiness and extend a warm invitation to the global geothermal community to partner with us in advancing clean energy solutions for the future".

He said the hosting of the World Geothermal Congress in 2029 will have profound impact on the country's economy, catalyse investments in the geothermal sector in Kenya, strengthen capacity building and elevate Africa's profile as a center of geothermal knowledge and innovation. Additionally, the congress will showcase Africa's breakthrough in geothermal technology to accelerate global adoption of sustainable energy among others.

The CS said the Congress will also serve to demonstrate and reaffirm Kenya's environmental concern through its commitment to a low-carbon future and

climate resilience solutions adding that the delegates attending the conference will experience firsthand the cradle of geothermal excellence where innovation meets conservation, and where community engagement is woven into energy development.

“As we accept the responsibility to host this major world event, I call upon the various government agencies, private sector, industry, academia, and civil society to unite in the preparation and delivery. Together, we aspire to deliver a Congress that is memorable, impactful, and transformative”, said Mr. Wandayi

He explained that, Kenya will lead Africa to the forthcoming World Geothermal Congress (WGC 2026) scheduled to take place in Calgary, Canada from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2026. He said, Africa will showcase its immense geothermal investment opportunities to the world at the African Pavilion in the Calgary Congress and called on African countries with interest in geothermal to book their space at the African Pavilion.

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