



**SPEECH BY MR. ALEX WACHIRA, CBS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR ENERGY DURING THE GENDER AUDIT REPORT
DISSEMINATION MEETING**

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON, NAIROBI ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today as we unveil the highly anticipated Gender Audit Report. This report represents a significant milestone in our efforts to assess gender mainstreaming within the Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) under the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Practical Action for their partnership in organizing this important gathering alongside our Ministry.

I must also acknowledge the dedication of all the technical personnel from the Ministry, the SAGAs, and Practical Action. Your active involvement through interviews, discussions, and participation in the validation workshop earlier this year has been critical to the success of this report. Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to this crucial work.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today is an important moment for us to pause and evaluate our collective efforts in gender mainstreaming across the State Department and its agencies. It is an

opportunity for us to reflect on what we've achieved and carefully plan our way forward.

The Government of Kenya remains fully committed to promoting gender equality and empowering women, as enshrined in our Constitution and outlined in key legislative frameworks. The National Policy on Gender and Development (2019), along with our Gender in Energy Policy, advocates for equitable participation in the sustainable use of our energy resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to report that we have made significant positive strides. Many of our agencies have established Gender Committees and implemented policies that ensure gender considerations in critical areas such as procurement, recruitment, and management. These efforts are supported by dedicated budgets and careful reporting mechanisms, ensuring alignment with our national gender targets and indicators.

However, we must acknowledge that challenges remain. We are still grappling with issues such as limited budgets for gender plans, inadequate capacity within some Gender Committees, and the absence of key policies in certain agencies. Additionally, greater leadership support is required to propel these initiatives forward. The underrepresentation of women, particularly in technical fields, continues to be an issue we must address with urgency.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Agencies that have demonstrated the most progress have benefited from robust support from both governmental bodies and international partners like the World Bank, USAID, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. I take this opportunity to call on our partners to extend similar support to the agencies that are still catching up, so that no one is left behind.

It is concerning that recent changes have seen gender targets removed from the performance contracts of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). This shift raises questions about our ongoing commitment to gender mainstreaming. In response, the State Department for Energy will be reinforcing our internal support mechanisms, including the Energy Sector Gender Committee and the Gender Office, to ensure that progress does not stall.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are actively revising the Gender in Energy Policy to keep pace with our evolving needs, empowering the Energy Sector Gender Committee, and drafting new guidelines for integrating gender units within sector institutions.

Furthermore, we are intensifying efforts to attract more female talent and to enhance gender awareness among leadership across the sector.

As we move forward in our discussions on the future of gender mainstreaming, I assure you of our unwavering commitment to collaboration. We will continue working closely with all stakeholders to build an inclusive and equitable society where gender equality is not just an aspiration, but a reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Your presence and participation today are vital to advancing these efforts, and I thank you once again for your involvement and support. Together, let us strive for a future where gender equality is woven into the very fabric of our sector and society.

Thank you.