

**POLICY STATEMENT BY MR. ELIUD OWALO, FIHRM, CABINET SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL
ECONOMY, REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE 4TH EXTRAORDINARY
CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU) ON 1ST OCTOBER 2023 IN
RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA**

Excellencies

Distinguished participants

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Republic of Kenya is truly honoured to participate at this 4th Extraordinary Congress of the Universal Postal Union.

Allow me at this earliest opportunity, to thank our hosts, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the warm reception and the exceptional hospitality extended to the Kenyan delegation since our arrival here.

I must also acknowledge the meticulous work that has gone into the planning of this august gathering and profoundly thank the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union for staying the course in ensuring the Union serves the broader postal fraternity.

This gathering is not only historic, but will set in motion a chain reaction that will fundamentally impact the future of the Post.

We are all alive to the obtaining realities that are affecting the Post globally, the need for postal administrations to think creatively to position this critical sector to play an increasingly important role in the global economy.

Indeed, all of us gathered here this week are confronting unique but common challenges across various administrations on how to exploit the full potential of the Post in the face of rapid changes within our ecosystem.

Within the Union, the question of a UPU that serves the interests of the all involved in the Postal value chain remains a fundamental area of significant. Indeed, the desire to open up the Union to wider postal sector players, presents an opportunity for all of us to examine our prevailing realities, share our perspectives on how best this genuine matter could be best addressed.

Excellencies,

The Republic of Kenya continues to undertake various policy and regulatory interventions to shore up the prospects of the Post. This includes catalyzing innovation in the face of emerging technological frontiers that can spur growth, enhancing the growth of e-commerce and last mile delivery infrastructure and development of a national addressing system for the country.

Just recently, we have made significant strides in the development of national addressing policy and bill, as well as the associated instruments, which we hope, upon approval by the country's legislative body, will put Kenya on a firm pedestal of exponential growth of the Post.

We have also taken significant steps in the development of a national E-Commerce Strategy, in which we have gained immense support of the Union, UNCTAD and other partners. We see this as a silver bullet that will make e-commerce thrive even more in the country.

The e-commerce strategy, coupled with a robust addressing system, will enable last mile deliveries and spur the growth of the Post as a critical cog in the e-commerce value chain.

Therefore, we confidently believe that this Extraordinary Congress will unlock the immense opportunities that abound within the Postal sector and which member states can leverage to steer growth of this critical sector.

Excellencies,

We look forward to exciting discussions and groundbreaking outcomes that will make the global Postal space fit for the moment and the future.

Thank you for kind attention.