

**CSO Statement during the 2024 HLPF**  
**By Florence Syevuo-Executive Director, SDGs Kenya Forum**

Honorable Delegates, Distinguished Guests,  
Good morning!

It is a great honor to address this esteemed gathering at the High-Level Political Forum. Today, we unite to discuss critical issues impacting our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to develop innovative solutions to accelerate our efforts to meet these goals by 2030.

We commend the Kenyan government and the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC) for their dedication in conducting three Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) since 2017, showcasing a strong commitment to transparency and inclusive development. However, to enhance the impact of these VNRs, we recommend strengthening coordination mechanisms to ensure effective implementation and monitoring.

**Call to Action: Post-VNR Implementation**

The completion of the VNRs is a significant milestone, yet challenges remain. Observations from this year's VNR show progress in some areas, but stagnation and regression in others due to crises linked to climate change and fluctuating global economics. We urge the government to prioritize implementing recommendations from the VNRs, Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), and CSO progress reports by establishing clear, actionable plans and timelines to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

**Engaging Youth and Fostering Innovation**

Meaningful youth engagement is crucial for development. Ongoing protests against the 2024 Finance Bill by young people in Kenya highlight the need for public participation and youth engagement. Our youth, offer innovation and new perspectives essential for progress. We urge the Kenyan government to create transparent, accountable platforms

for youth to contribute ideas and solutions, harnessing their potential to accelerate our SDG journey.

### **Full Implementation of the Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act**

The Kenya Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act 2013 is vital for supporting CSOs in national development, enhancing accountability, transparency, and SDG achievement. We call on the government to fully implement the Act and address bureaucratic hurdles that impede CSOs' operations, enhancing their capacity and effectiveness. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in driving community-based solutions, advocating for policy changes, and representing the most vulnerable.

In conclusion, we call on the government to prioritize growing the economy and jobs, building better lives, fighting corruption and combating climate change. Though engaging all stakeholders, including grassroots communities, to foster innovation and drive progress.

Together, we can build a sustainable and inclusive future, leaving no one behind.

Asante sana!