

**REMARKS BY THE CHIEF GUEST, AMBASSADOR DENNIS AWORI,
CHAIRMAN AND COUNTRY DELEGATE, CFAO KENYA LIMITED,
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE GLOCEPS STRATEGIC PLAN AT
RADISSON BLU HOTEL, NAIROBI ON 15TH DECEMBER 2022**

**The Executive Director, Global Centre for Policy and Strategy
(GLOCEPS),**

**The Board of Directors, Global Centre for Policy and Strategy
(GLOCEPS),**

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to join you today on this auspicious occasion for the launch of the GLOCEPS Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2027 and I thank you very much for inviting me to be the Chief Guest on such an important occasion when the Center is launching its Strategic Plan for the next five years.

I congratulate GLOCEPS for coming up with an elaborate strategic plan that will position the Centre for enhanced contribution to global peace and prosperity.

My address today will focus on **"The Role of Think Tanks in Nation Building"**.

Over the last two decades, the countries on the African continent and Kenya, in particular, have witnessed a rise in the number of think tanks. These policy research-oriented institutions have had a profound influence on the social, economic, and political landscape of the region. I have witnessed 1st hand this influence when as a member of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance we engaged in advocating for reforms in the company law and through them an improved and easier environment in which to do business.

I recognize and commend the contribution of GLOCEPS to debates focusing on the fragility in the Horn of Africa, fisheries, future cities, hydro-governance, free trade, elections management, counter-violent extremism, anti-corruption, and money laundering, among others.

These conversations have been generated through quality policy research and analysis by the GLOCEPS team. They have enhanced the capacity of policy-making and implementing agencies and strengthened the voices of advocacy institutions.

Indeed, the fruits of GLOCEPS discussions can be seen in the ongoing Ethiopian peace process; the EAC peace-keeping missions in DRC, the post-election stability in Kenya; increased allocation of resources by the government of Kenya to aquaculture and the ongoing policy interventions to liberalize electricity supply in the country, all of which will lead to a better life for the citizens of our region.

The future, therefore, remains bright for GLOCEPS as it settles down as the **go-to** think tank in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For GLOCEPS to succeed in the increasingly competitive space, its research processes and products should endeavor to communicate policy advice clearly and distinctively. To this end, I encourage GLOCEPS to strengthen its human and technical capacities, improve its reputational and social capital and enhance its corporate governance structures, and network with the private sector through its business management organizations (BMOs), civil society organizations, and government agencies.

As it implements its far-looking strategy, we look forward to seeing GLOCEPS feature more prominently in the annual listing of ***the Global Go to Think Tank Index***.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our sustained development as a country is anchored on the sound strategic planning of think-tank organizations. To this end, it is important that think tanks are guided by a clear vision of why they are established and how they hope to achieve their mandate. This is certainly the case for GLOCEPS and I once again commend you on the way it is set up and the high-quality strategic plan that we are launching today.

Today's launch of the strategic plan, therefore, plays a central role in defining GLOCEP's chosen trajectory to achieving its vision of becoming an epitome of excellence in research, strategy formulation and policy influence.

As already mentioned, the plan has prioritized **research and dissemination of results, resource mobilization and financial sustainability, human resource and intellectual capacity, strategic engagement and visibility, infrastructure development and maintenance, ICT, automation and digitization and**

corporate social responsibility, as key in its growth trajectory. Likewise, it has developed control mechanisms that will guide its implementation. The latter is extremely important as often organizations develop elaborate strategic plans, but fail to implement them, thus negating the reason for making the plans in the 1st place.

As I conclude, I wish to reiterate that the meaningful engagements GLOCEPS will make as it endeavors to pursue its goals, will be the key determinant of the success of this strategy. Such engagements should include networking, collaboration, and exploitation of all resource mobilization opportunities available.

I, therefore, wish to call on the stakeholders present here today to support GLOCEPS toward the successful implementation of the Center's 5-year Strategic Plan. It will be important for you stakeholders, whether from the academia, private sector, or public policy agencies to stand with GLOCEPS as it reaches out to you on the implementation of this strategic plan.

The work of influencing policy making and advocacy is never ending and I am sure you will benefit from that of GLOCEPS.

Meanwhile, I am sure that we will all be delighted to see the next Issue of ***The Influential Bulletin*** and **2023 Conference Proceedings** dominated by GLOCEPS research products. It is therefore my sincere hope that you will open your doors and support the Centre as it scales the greater heights of policy influence.

I would like to thank the Executive Director, Brig Kabage, and the entire GLOCEPS team for inviting me to this great occasion and all of you for listening to me.

God bless.