

ADDRESS BY PROF SHEM WANDIGA, EBS, FRSC, D. SC, CHIEF GUEST DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY (GLOCEPS) CONFERENCE ON SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLANS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN AFRICA. AUGUST 22nd - 23rd 2023, VILA ROSA KEMPINSKI, NAIROBI, KENYA

Brigadier (Rtd), Dr Robert G. Kabage, PhD, EBS, The Executive Director, GLOCEPS,

GLOCEPS Board Member,

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Heads of Missions present,

GLOCEPS Staff,

Presenters, Moderators, and Expert Discussants,

Distinguished guests,

Conference participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is a great privilege to have been invited to deliver the closing address of this Conference, Allow me to thank the Executive Team at GLOCEPS for the consideration, For the past two days, the Conference has deliberated on Shaping the Future of Climate Change Action Plans for Sustainable Development in Eastern Africa, I have been honoured to listen to the eight thematic sessions of the Conference, The Conference has delved on the nexus between climate change and sustainable development in Eastern Africa with a lot vigor and wisdom, Indeed, climate change continues to devastate political, social and economic lives in the region and the

phenomenon has been characterized by resource-based conflicts, and human security threats such as drought, locust infestation and related effects of climate change, and climate-induced displacement of population. Addressing the effects of climate change in the region remains a prized possession that all humanity must collectively pursue,

Indeed, nearly three decades since the inception of climate change discourses at the Berlin Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP1) significant global, regional, and national efforts to tackle climate change shocks remain ongoing. The deliberations of this conference, therefore, remain crucial in advocating the region's and Africa's voice in the forthcoming conference on Climate Change, September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, and UNFCCC COP28 in November –December 2023, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

In my closing address, I would like to draw on my vast experiences as a veteran expert on climate change and mitigation efforts at the global, regional, and national levels and pose the following reflections on the region's efforts toward realizing the potential that climate change discourses offer.

First, is that there are immense opportunities for the Eastern Africa region to evaluate climate change mitigation and adaption journey from a point of strength as opposed to a position of inadequacies, by executing the outcomes of the UNFCC COP27 at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt.

Second, there is a need for collective efforts toward realizing goals enshrined in the Paris-Agreement

Third, the need to incorporate emerging dynamics in climate change mitigation and adaption in the Paris Agreement

Forth, mobilize resources to facilitate reviewing and harmonizing national climate change action plans on climate change in tandem with the emerging global and regional trends in addressing the phenomenon.

Fifth, to undertake a collective regional assessment of the hurdles that Eastern Africa faces in attaining the objects of the Paris Agreement

Sixth, the need to diversify livelihood strategies in tandem with climate change variability.

Seven, capacitating local actors and institutions to cope with the emerging dynamics of climate change remains a viable and sustainable solution to tackling the effects of climate change.

Let me conclude once again by thanking the Executive Director GLOCEPS and his team for putting together such an intellectually engaging conference, I hope the insights gained here shall be used to influence policy-making processes, and open new research frontiers in the climate change mitigation and adaption dialogues.

With these few remarks, I wish to now officially close this Conference.

May God bless you

Asanteni Sana