



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL TREASURY

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DURING THE 29TH HORN OF
AFRICA INITIATIVE MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER
2026 IN NAIROBI-KENYA AT THE KICC LENANA ROOM**

Honourable. Bihi Iman Egeh, Minister of Finance for Somalia - **Chair Horn of Africa Initiative**

Mr. Volker Oel, Director-General for Reconstruction and Stability, MENA, Sahel, Horn of Africa, Eastern Europe, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany - **Co-Chair of the 29th Ministerial Meeting**

Honourable. Ahmed Shide, Minister of Finance for Ethiopia

Fellow Colleagues, representing Ministers of Finance from Djibouti, South Sudan and Sudan

Development Partners Present

IGAD Representative and other Observers

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

1. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kenya, and on my own behalf as the Principal Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning and the host of this ministerial meeting, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to you all to Nairobi on this occasion of the 29th Ministerial Meeting of the Horn of Africa Initiative
2. It is a great pleasure and honor for Kenya to host this important ministerial engagement, which continues to anchor our collective resolve to deepen regional integration, enhance connectivity, and unlock the immense trade potential of the Horn of Africa region.
3. At the outset, allow me to convey apologies on behalf of my Cabinet Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury, Hon. John Mbadi Ng'ongo, EGH, who is unable to join us today due to unforeseen engagements. He has asked me to convey his sincere regrets, his best wishes for successful deliberations, and Kenya's unwavering commitment to the objectives of the Horn of Africa Initiative.
4. We appreciate the significant role played by the Horn of Africa Initiative and our development partners in ensuring that development in the region is well coordinated to ensure greater impacts.

5. Allow me to thank you the Chair and Germany for providing leadership and proactive role in organizing the consultative country consultations on Trade Roadmap which culminated to today's meeting.
6. With those few remarks, let me now taking this opportunity to invite the chair of the Horn of Africa Initiative, Hon. Bihi Iman Egeh, Minister of Finance of Somalia, to deliver his opening remarks.

******* Thank You*******