



*and Final*  
The Seventh <sup>^</sup>Annual  
**DEVOLUTION  
CONFERENCE | 2021**

11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**PRESS STATEMENT ON STATUS OF PLANNING FOR THE 7<sup>TH</sup> (*and final*) ANNUAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE**

***Fellow Kenyans,***

***Members of the Press,***

The Council of Governors in collaboration with the Ministry of Devolution (MoD), the Senate, County Assemblies Forum (CAF) and other stakeholders have been planning the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Devolution Conference scheduled to take place at Makueni Boys' High School in Makueni County from **23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**, following a resolution passed by the Devolution Conference Steering Committee on **18<sup>th</sup> September 2021**.

We are glad to note that this event, earlier scheduled to take place in **August 2021**, is back on course following a presidential directive lifting the ban on gatherings which had necessitated its postponement.

The theme for the Conference remains, ***'Multi-Level Governance for Climate Action: Sub-National Mobilization in Unlocking the Full Potential of Climate Action during and after Pandemics.'***

We have just concluded a consultative meeting with our partners during which we discussed modalities and execution of the conference.

It is important to note that this conference will mark the end of the first dispensation of devolution. As earlier indicated, future devolution conferences will be held once every two years. That said, allow me to brief you on the status of the planning and measures put in place thus far.

## 1. Execution of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Devolution Conference

- The agencies on board and involved in the planning of the Conference include, the Council of Governors, the Presidency, the Ministry of Devolution, the Senate, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the Ministry of Health, the County Assemblies Forum, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector.
- The conference shall adopt a dialogue approach through panel discussions followed by plenary engagements which will consist of **five (5) sessions** in the main plenum and **fourteen (14) sector breakaway sessions**.

## 2. Pre-Conference Activities

- The Ministry of Health and the Council are working towards ensuring strict adherence of the COVID-19 protocols. To actualize this, the COG in collaboration with the Ministry of Health will roll out a vaccination drive at the Council's offices from **16<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021** to ensure that all registered delegates are fully vaccinated.

- To ensure the enhancement of the health protocols, we continue to urge Makueni County residents to take up the COVID-19 Vaccine to ensure that they safeguard themselves during this conference.
- As a precursor activity to the conference, the Steering Committee led by the Council of Governors initiated a tree growing initiative that has been ongoing in **Makueni, Machakos, Kitui, Embu and Kajiado** Counties. So far, **1,999,999** trees have been grown. The President is expected to grow the **2 Millionth** tree during the Conference.
- The committee has also set up a devolution forest in Makueni where a historical monument has been erected to mark the final annual devolution conference. This monument will serve as a symbol of national unity, strength and prosperity attained through devolution. It is at the devolution forest situated at **Kwa Kathoka** where H.E the President will be expected to plant the two millionth tree.

### 3. COVID-19 Protocols during the Conference

- It is prudent to note that the conference will be a controlled meeting with **1,000 development partners and 3,000 fully vaccinated delegates** cleared to attend from an initial limit of **1,000** participants. This was informed by the revised government regulations on in-person meetings capping attendance two-thirds of maximum venue capacity. In this regard, strict containment measures will be adhered to including screening of the COVID-19 certificates at the conference.

- In line with the aforementioned, we urge all our international guests to ensure that they carry their vaccination certificates as the same will be verified by the Ministry of Health during the registration process.
- We wish to reiterate that, there will be no onsite registration. Further, the online registration will be closed on **18<sup>th</sup> November 2021** to ensure adequate preparations are undertaken.
- Makueni County has continued to enhance its response measures in readiness for the conference. The County currently has;
  - a) **11 Isolation Facilities**
  - b) **80 HDU Beds** and;
  - c) **9 ICU Beds**to ensure any arising emergency support and response.

## **Conclusion**

As COP 26 comes to a conclusion, Kenya becomes the first country in the world to host a conference of equal magnitude to discuss the global and national effects of climate change and mitigations measures thereof.

We wish to assure Kenyans that we have taken all the necessary precautions to ensure that we deliver a safe and secure World Class Conference that will address the issues on Climate Change. We continue to urge you all to observe the public health and social protocols on COVID-19.

Asanteni Sana!

**Signed**

**H.E James Ongwae, EGH, CBS, EBS  
Vice Chair, Council of Governors  
Co-Chair Steering Committee**

**Signed**

**Charles Keter, EGH  
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution  
Co-Chair Steering Committee**