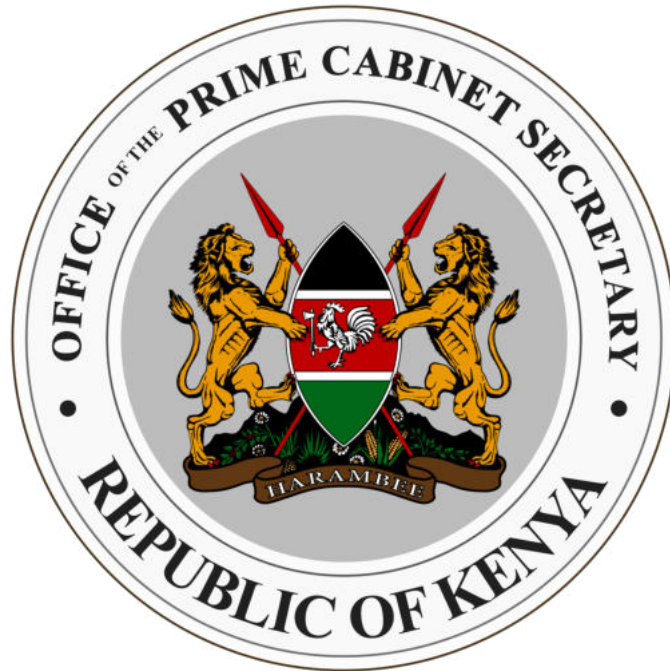




EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY

SPEECH BY H.E HON DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH., THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING OPENING OF THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES (ICS) ANNUAL CONFERENCE; SAROVA WHITE SANDS HOTEL, MOMBASA, KENYA; AUGUST 16-18, 2023



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**SAROVA WHITE SANDS HOTEL, MOMBASA, KENYA**

**AUGUST 16-18, 2023**





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**FCS JOSHUA WAMBUA, CHAIRMAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES (ICS);**

**FCS JEREMIAH KARANJA, CEO, INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES (ICS);**

**FCS SIMON M. INDIMULI, CEO, STATE CORPORATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SCAC);**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS, INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES;**

**CORPORATION SECRETARIES PRESENT;**

**REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS;**

**INVITED GUESTS;**

**ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED.**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**

**GOOD MORNING!**

1. It is an honor to open this annual international conference of the Institute of Certified Secretaries (ICS). I am humbled by the opportunity to address such an esteemed audience of





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professionals who play a critical part in shaping governance in our nation. You should always stand proud, walk tall, and be duty-bound that you are incorporated under an Act of Parliament, Chapter 534 of the Laws of Kenya.

2. Allow me to say that such recognition comes with enormous responsibility; the core mandate being to promote the practice of good governance in both the private and public sectors in Kenya. In that vintage position, you have acquitted yourselves quite reasonably: This year, through collaboration between ICS, the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC) and My Office, we have successfully inducted over 1,700 Board Members, with the most recent cohort being on July 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2023. Board Members were equipped with the knowledge, skills and tools to effectively carry out their roles and uphold good governance. My Office is committed to supporting such initiatives aimed at promoting good corporate governance, especially so in protecting the public purse.





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3. Ladies and Gentlemen, the theme of this conference “*ESG for a sustainable future: aligning people, profit, and planet*”, resonates well with the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) global challenges that we are confronted with in our search for a prosperous and harmonious future. Today, humanity is at a critical juncture at which the consequences of our actions and decisions are felt now, but whose adverse intensity will manifest in future generations.
  
4. It is therefore our responsibility to ensure that profiteering today does not compromise the well-being of future generations. By aligning people, profit, and the planet, we create a harmonious relationship between environmental stewardship with human prosperity by building resilient businesses and fostering social inclusivity. In the face of Climate Change threats, it is no longer an option for organizations not to balance their economic objectives with environmental and societal responsibility. Sustainable development is no longer a theory to be debated.





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5. In a world that is increasingly aware of the environmental degradation resulting from human activities, Doubting Thomas's has no business anymore! There is enough experience to show that indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, carbon emissions, and pollution have led to Climate Change, biodiversity loss, and other ecological crises. It is, therefore, incumbent upon humanity to reverse these trends and pursue sustainable practices that assure the preservation and restoration of our primal natural environment.

6. I am proud to have as President, H.E. President William Ruto, whose passion, dedication, and determination in championing the preservation of planet earth resources and the mitigation of Climate Change has earned Kenya a prominent place on the global stage. At home, where it is becoming acceptable that economic growth and environmental conservation can go hand-in-hand, he is a role model for those embracing sustainable practices. Due to his firm hand, the Kenyan Government's commitment to





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renewable energy sources, conservation initiatives, and the restoration of degraded ecosystems is irreversible.

7. We firmly believe that the principles of ESG must be embedded in the practices of both the public and private sectors. Businesses must balance their economic objectives with their responsibility towards the environment and society. Environmental Responsibility, Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation, Social Inclusivity, Human Rights Protection, Ethical Business Practices, Responsible Supply Chain, Stakeholder Engagement, and Board Oversight are the core ESG principles that should guide organizations to thrive. By seamlessly practicing these nine ESG principles, we can create long-term value for stakeholders, mitigate environmental risks, and enhance our business reputation as champions of a more sustainable and equitable future.

8. Meanwhile, as we align people, planet, and profit, it is imperative that we foster collaboration, innovation, and ethical governance. Governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and academia must work together to address the multifaceted challenges of sustainable development.





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9. First; People, as the heart and soul of any organization, should be at the forefront of our endeavors. By nurturing a culture of diversity, inclusivity, and empowerment, we can unlock the full potential of our workforce. This includes ensuring equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or social status. Investing in people also means prioritizing their health, safety, and well-being, both within and beyond the workplace.

10. Second; Profit, the lifeblood of any business, should be pursued ethically and responsibly. It is not enough to focus solely on financial gains. We must always integrate the social and environmental implications of our economic activities. By fostering an inclusive and fair economy, where wealth is distributed equitably and resources are utilized sustainably, we ensure that economic growth benefits society as a whole.





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11. Third; the Planet, our home, must be protected and conserved for future generations. We must always carry the burden of knowing that our actions today will have a profound impact on the health and well-being of our environment. It is our duty to reduce emissions, preserve natural resources, and mitigate the effects of Climate Change. By investing in renewable energy, promoting sustainable agriculture, and creating resilient ecosystems, we ensure that our planet thrives for ions of years to come.

### **Ladies and gentlemen;**

12. Let us be resolute that it is within our power to shape a sustainable future for ourselves and the generations that will follow. I can assure you that the commitment of ICS to a sustainable future is colored with great pride in the hearts of the people of Kenya. Your dedication to advancing ESG principles in your professional endeavors might not have immediate recognition by yourselves. But be convinced you





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have set in motion an evolution that will be unstoppable.

13. I, therefore, encourage all of you to make the most of this conference, as a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration. Engage in fruitful discussions, exchange ideas, and forge partnerships that will propel us towards a sustainable future. Together, we must build a world where people, profit, and the planet thrive in harmony.

14. Thank you, and I wish you all an impact conference.

**GOD BLESS YOU and GOD BLESS KENYA.**

**ASANTENI SANA!**

**H.E HON. DR MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH.,**

**PRIME CABINET SECRETARY,**

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA.**

