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**PANEL OF EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITIES**

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**REMARKS BY H.E. KOFI ANNAN**  
**ON CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT TO KENYA**  
**23 – 26 MARCH 2010**

**I am very pleased to be back in Kenya.**

**The focus of my visit has been to chair a board meeting of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.**

**This particular meeting was important because it was also the occasion of the first AGRA Partnership Council Meeting.**

**The Partnership Council represents governments, international organizations, bilateral agencies, civil society and farmers' organizations, and exists to broaden the scope of AGRA's partnership activities.**

**The Partnership Council endorsed AGRA's ten-year strategy to trigger a green revolution in Africa that will help to attain food and nutrition security. At the heart of this strategy lie AGRA'S four flagship programmes on Seeds; Soil Health; Markets; and Policy.**

**The Council acknowledged and appreciated AGRA's evolving alignment with NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.**

**During this visit I have also had the opportunity to hold meetings with a number of key stakeholders in the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation (KNDR) process.**

**I have met with the President together with a team of Ministers; the Prime Minister; as well as the Speaker of the National Assembly. The Government provided me with a comprehensive report on the status of the reform.**

**I have also met with representatives of religious groups; the business community; members of civil society; and Kenya's development partners.**

**I would like to highlight a few significant developments which have taken place since my most recent visit to Kenya in December last year.**

- **The constitutional review process has reached its final stages and the registration exercise for a fresh electoral roll has started. I urge the Parliament to reach consensus and to unite in supporting approval of a new constitution at the referendum. I strongly encourage all Kenyans to register as soon as possible, remembering that every vote counts.**
- **The work of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission has commenced and its initial results look promising. The quest to promote ethnic cohesion remains a challenge for this country.**

**I recognize that implementation of a comprehensive reform agenda takes time. But the evidence of progress is tempered by concerns and frustration in other areas.**

**The pace of institutional reforms, such as judicial reform, could be faster. However, the leadership has assured me that these concerns will be addressed.**

- **The spirit of cooperation and partnership embedded in the National Accord must be clearly demonstrated by the two partners. There must be unity of purpose to ensure effective decision-making within the Coalition Government. The cooperation of the leaders will be especially important in the post-referendum period.**
- **The process of healing and reconciliation in a country such as Kenya is very important. It is my hope that the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission can overcome its current challenges to discharge its onerous responsibilities for the good of all Kenyans.**
- **The issue of impunity, including corruption, remains of fundamental importance and is yet to be addressed meaningfully. I am particularly concerned about reports of intimidation of potential witnesses and human rights defenders, and of extra-judicial killings. Action by the Government to ensure effective witness protection is critical. I am informed that the Bill to be considered by Parliament will be given priority and that action will be taken after a decision on the Constitution.**
- **The government's efforts to re-settle the remaining Internally Displaced Persons are acknowledged, but this problem is far from over. All internally displaced Kenyans must be resettled as a matter of urgency.**

- **I hope that the adoption of a new constitution will facilitate the implementation of other components of the reform agenda, including Land Reform.**

**The economic recovery that has started to take place since the post-election violence is a testament to the resilience of the Kenyan people, and to their courage and faith in the future of the country.**

**But this can only be sustained if genuine reforms continue to be implemented and there is cohesion in the Government.**

**So it is more important than ever that all Kenyans remain engaged and work hard to realize their legitimate aspirations and wishes for a future which is peaceful, stable and grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law.**

**Kenyans must not allow individual and parochial interests to derail this important process.**

**The 2007 elections and their aftermath marked a tragic period for Kenya and all Kenyans. The events are still vivid in our memories and I need not dwell on them.**

**Let us instead look to the future with hope and determination. This year, 2010, can be an historic year for Kenya if we unite and work for the interests of Kenya and Kenyans. This is a year that Kenya could have a new constitution; a solid basis for land reform; a new electoral law and a fresh voter registration list - not to mention other major reforms that are underway.**

**I appeal to the leaders to work together - and with the people - to achieve this goal. History will judge them harshly if this opportunity is allowed to slip.**

**[ENDS]**