



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

STATEMENT

BY

**MR. JAMES N. WAWERU
MINISTER COUNSELLOR,
PERMANENT MISSION OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 173:
"OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE"**

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Mr. Chairman,

Kenya is delighted to speak during the consideration of Agenda item 173 on "Observer Status for the International Chamber of Commerce" in the General Assembly.

We join the speakers before us who have spoken in support of this idea whose time has come.

The ICC was founded in 1919 as the Merchants of Peace. The connection that trade is a powerful force for peace, is true today, as it was when the ICC was formed.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the passing of the three historical multilateral documents that is the SDGs and Agenda 2030, the Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, it has become abundantly clear that national Governments/Member States need to have a greater collaboration with the private sector/business community if the ideals of the three aforementioned initiatives are to come to fruition and see the light of day.

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals during the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly paved a new era for the next 30 years. The new agenda cuts across all sectors and calls for multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure its achievement (Goal17: Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

Currently, there are over 50 United Nations Permanent Observers representing organizations dealing with issues of peace, security, health, economy, sports, banking, oceans, and development etc. However, there is none dealing exclusively with the private sector. The ICC could be that bridge; they represent the private sector in over 120 countries. 43 nations from developing countries and 9 from newly industrialized countries have established formal International Chamber of Commerce national committees. Kenya is one of the countries that has a national committee. ICC members shape the organization's policies and, through the national committees, alert their governments to international business concerns.

It is also worth noting that since 1946, ICC has held top-level consultative status with the United Nations (UN) and a close working relationship with its specialized agencies. Business, as represented by ICC, has been deeply and constructively engaged over the years in UN meetings and conferences, identifying the crucial components of a global partnership for development and its interlinked priorities. They have engaged as part of the Global Compact, provided on-going support to the mandate of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. Also, various ICC commissions actively engage in the work of UNCITRAL and welcome UNCITRAL endorsement of ICC rules, which significantly promotes their worldwide acceptance. They have also participated actively in UN meetings on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Information and Communication Technologies, and Intellectual Property.

In lieu of the fact that the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals require the active participation of all stakeholders in order to succeed and recognizing that this segment is currently not represented among the United Nations Permanent Observers.

Mr. Chairman,

The request of the International Chamber of Commerce to represent the views of the business community shall mobilize the policy making expertise, unlock the funding required to achieve global economic and social development. This shall ensure that as has been the clarion call of developing states "Trade not Aid" is realized and further that truly and surely "No One is Left Behind", due to the crucial role of business in generating employment, wealth creation through trade, investment and financing for development, addressing rapid urbanization, ensuring food security, addressing inequalities, and the entrenchment of peaceful, prosperous societies thereby guaranteeing world peace and security.

Thank you.