



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ANTHONY M. MUCHIRI, PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) ON THE OCCASION OF PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO AMBASSADOR IRVIN LAROQUE, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF CARICOM, 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**Excellency,**

It is my honour to present today, the first time for Kenya, my Credentials as Plenipotentiary Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Kenya is committed to an Africa that is focused on South-South Cooperation. Most of free Africa today, especially the Sub-Saharan region is forged on the anvil of African solidarity and Pan-Africanism. Within the African Union, the African Diaspora which consists of peoples of African origin living outside the Continent irrespective of citizenship and nationality are considered the 6<sup>th</sup> region of Africa.

It is against this background that in August, 2019, H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta visited the Caribbean Region with the intention of strengthening the links between CARICOM, Africa and particularly Kenya. The visit was made with the objective of the need for exchanging views on both regions' common destiny especially in an increasingly global world characterised by narrow nationalisms, growing East/West trade-wars, the European crisis and the evident marginalisation of the development agenda which is most critical to the developing countries.

**Excellency,**

To confront these challenges, Kenya believes in the importance of the two regions speaking in one voice, strengthening institutional relationships and crafting trade, investment, tourism and culture cooperation between CARICOM and Africa through a more robust Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) post-Cotonou framework as well as a new intra-regional free trade agreement modelled along the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) and within appropriate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

Kenya recognizes the global challenges that continuously face developing countries and is prepared to play a leading role to overcome them, especially in its current role as a Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and President in Office of the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).



[cuba@mfa.go.ke](mailto:cuba@mfa.go.ke)  
[www.mfa.go.ke](http://www.mfa.go.ke)

Kenya intends to propose the formation of a coalition for negotiations in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and promote South-South Cooperation on mitigating impacts of climate change. It is for this reason that Kenya, as host to the only United Nations Office in the developing world, provided a global forum for contributing to and advancing a global conversation on the negative and positive impacts of the Blue Economy which would in turn present strategic alternatives that could enable developing countries attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

**Excellency,**

Kenya was the first to propose to host the first ever Africa/CARICOM Summit in Nairobi in June, 2020; A training programme for CARICOM diplomats in May, 2020; offer of free office space in Nairobi for CARICOM Countries; lead initiator of two draft Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) between Africa and CARICOM and Kenya and CARICOM and more recently partnering with South Africa and WHO to unlock immediate access for CARICOM Countries to access Covid-19 materials through the African Medical Supplies Platform.

Excellency, while some of the engagements have not materialized due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, I do take immense pride in today's historical event and look forward to a fruitful working relationship between Kenya and CARICOM.

**Embassy of the Republic of Kenya**

**HAVANA**

17<sup>th</sup> March, 2021