



**CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC) DURING THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONTINENTAL FORUM OF ELECTION MANAGEMENT BODIES IN AFRICA HELD ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> AND 29<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2019 AT CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, NAIROBI KENYA**

The Chief Guest Hon. Justin Muturi, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya,

Distinguished Chairpersons and Commissioners of African Election management Bodies,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon!

I am delighted to address you as we draw to a close of this 6<sup>th</sup> Annual continental forum of election management bodies in Africa.

I have no hesitation in concluding that the goal and objectives we set forth to achieve have been realized with resounding success. We set out to: enhance understanding of the relationship between democratic governance and the problem of IDPs and refugees in Africa; assess and spotlight the marginalization of IDPs and Refugees in elections; and explore strategies for enhancing participation of IDPs and Refugees in elections.

These objectives have been realized as we had occasion to listen to very informative speeches and presentations from various Guests and Presenters of repute in election management and forced displacement; and it is my conviction that their thoughts will form the basis for frameworks in our various jurisdictions towards enhancing participation of displaced populations in elections.

The close of this meeting should not bring to an end conversation on inclusivity of displaced persons in elections but rather be the beginning of the journey towards actualization of the noble ideas that we have shared in this forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to thank the members of the AAEA's General Assembly for electing me as their President for the next two years. Indeed I feel honoured to serve and invite all the member states to focus our strengths and energies in building a strong and vibrant association. We must applaud Ghana for conceiving the noble idea of congregating and mobilizing African EMBs to learn from and support each other in election management. We equally thank Prof. Kalisa Mbanda, Chairperson National Election Commission of Rwanda, for his dedication to the service of the General Assembly. As I take up the mantle from my predecessor, I look forward to his valuable counsel that is part of our institutional memory.

I pledge to work with members of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly, stakeholders and partners in ensuring that we have more interactions on topical issues that affect us in the electoral process. More importantly, I look forward to meetings, including those organized by the

Association under the 'Chatham House rules' where participants can be entirely candid in discussions and learn from each other's experience.

It is my hope that the deliberations, lessons learnt and policy recommendations of this forum heralds walking the talk on the participation of refugees and IDPs in democracy. We the Electoral Management Bodies bear the greatest responsibility of driving the agendum of inclusion for refugees and IDPs in the electoral process hence must stir our nations to have this conversation. We must further propose modalities of achieving this while taking into account the local sensitivities and concerns that surround the whole issue.

I take this opportunity to thank the Africa union and the AAEA for sponsoring and organizing this forum with excellence. In addition I wish to thank you the Facilitators, Presenters and the Participants for finding time out of your busy schedules to make this forum a success.

As the host Nation, we hope your stay in Kenya has been a pleasant one and wish you a safe journey back home. It is a great honour to have you and as we say here, *Karibu tena*, you are welcome to visit us again.

God Bless Africa

**Wafula Chebukati**  
**Chairman, IEBC**