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REMARKS BY PROF. SHEM O. WANDIGA AT THE WORKSHOP ON EVALUATING CLIMATE AND AIR POLLUTION STRATEGIES USING LEAP-IBC

CROWN PLAZA, UPPER HILL; 5-7TH SEPTEMBER,
2018

Ms Susan Mochache, Principal Secretary, Ministry of
Environment and Forestry

Dr. Evelyn Namubiru-Mwaura, Director of Stockholm
Environment Institute, Africa Centre

*Dr. Kpudadio Désiré, Director, Climate and Clean Air
Coalition*

Dr. Alice Kaudia, Environment Secretary, Ministry of
Environment and Forestry

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great joy to be part of the organization that has organized this workshop. I am also grateful to the SEI and Ministry of Environment and Forestry that accepted that ICCA be the depository of knowledge gained through the workshops and subsequent data collected on this project.

The impact of air pollution on Kenyan economy and human health has been able summarized in the concept note. However, the gravity of the air pollution challenge may be also appreciated when we consider that the air pollutants are not resident of any particular country. They travel long distances from the source. Some years ago we did an experiment with the Max Planck Institute, Mainz that showed that mass air circulation moves from Southern Africa to the equator during the southern winter and may linger around in the air for ten days before exiting through the Angola channel. Similarly, during the northern winter the reverse circulation is also true. Air pollution in the mass of air from these hemispheres will pollute our air and cause the impacts outlined in the concept note.

Today our air, water and soil have been polluted by human activities. We have polluted our water systems by deposits from industrial effluents and from air pollution. The law of physics holds that whatever goes up must come down. Whatever we put in the air must come down. The implication is that most food we eat has been contaminated by air water and soil pollution. Apart from the respiratory diseases we have today there are additional diseases that are coming from polluted water, soil and air through food we eat.

Our future and the future of the next generations depend on our action today. Today we start a Chinese journey in the quest for controlling air pollution. There could be no better calling to you than to take measures that will educate policy makers on the seriousness of the challenge. To achieve policy change we need to generate data over a long period. The workshop will enable you to generate that data.

THANK YOU
