VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REMARKS DURING THE BREAKFAST MEETING FOR NIW2017 AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ON DECEMBER 6, 2016 AT 7.00 A.M.
• Our Chief Guest – Hon. Adan Mohamed, CS, Ministry of Trade and Co-operative
• Strategic Partners and Friends of the University of Nairobi
• Invited Guests
• Ladies and Gentlemen
I most sincerely thank all of you for coming and expressing your interest in partnering to build our Innovation Ecosystem.

As some of you may be aware, we began these efforts of promoting Innovation and Enterprise Development in 2015. We have run the Innovation Week twice, and are now looking at the third time. This is to demonstrate to you that we are committed to this initiative and we wish to add as much value as we can for it to be meaningful to all our partners and stakeholders.
When I took office, I indicated that promoting Innovation will be one of the hallmarks of my administration. I am still committed to this cause.

We are getting a rhythm, we are growing partners and we are raising the standards. As you can tell from the booklet on your tables, the initiative is gaining traction and momentum. In 2015 we had about 750 people in attendance, a number that tripled in 2016. His Excellency the President graced the second Innovation Week and offered his support to this effort.
We project that the numbers we had in 2016 will double in 2017. We expect more partners and more activities. This demonstrates that stakeholders find value and see great potential in the Nairobi Innovation Week.

The questions we have been asking ourselves recently include:

- How could we ensure the quality and value of what we are doing goes higher, with a goal of making it a world class platform that promotes innovation?
- How could we possibly make this event the bridge for innovation in the region?
• How could we possibly make this the face of Kenya’s Innovation Ecosystem?

One way in which we are trying to answer these questions is to open the arms and invite many of you to be partners not only in executing, but also in planning. We as University of Nairobi, can provide the environment and coordinate the thought leadership, but we need as many of you as possible to support with resources, ideas, side-events etc.
We are opening arms so that you all feel part and parcel of this movement, for it is also our duty to create a conducive environment for the generations to come.

Unlike the two previous editions, which were held in August, we are planning to hold the Nairobi Innovation Week in March 2017. We feel it is a more appropriate time for partners and look forward to maintaining the date of subsequent events in years to come to be in the first week of March.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to specifically recognize the strong partnership that we have had from three
entities in the last 2 years, all of which are represented in the audience:

1. Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives. The support from the Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary, Agencies and Ministry staff has been unwavering;

2. UNICEF. The UN agency has been our greatest partner. We signed an MoU which we have so far effectively executed because we share the common vision of creating innovative solutions for society we also both deal with issues affecting the youth. The
presence of a representative from the Head quarters in New York, right here in the room is evidence of their solid commitment.

3. Barclays Bank. For two years running, the bank has been the title sponsor. The presence of the bank leadership here today is further evidence that we are in this for the long haul.

As you can tell, the 3 partners represent Government, Development Partners and Private Sector. We are a University and this therefore is an excellent example of
how breaking the barriers between institutions can achieve great things.

There are other partners in the audience who have participated before and have expressed interest to continue to participate.

I recognize Safaricom, Konza Technopolis, IBM, Intel, Alumni Office, Israeli Embassy, National Bank of Kenya, Uber among others who have participated before and have indicated that they want to engage with the planning committee ahead of Nairobi Innovation Week
2017 in March. It is my hope that other organizations will join efforts as we build on the common agenda.

Next year’s theme demonstrates that we recognize that our local challenges are interlinked with global challenges such as hunger, global warming, transportation, health, youth un-employment are not just local... they are global.
It is my hope that we will all keep the momentum to raise the bar for the Nairobi Innovation week and in the process improve our country, the region and the world. There is one more thing about 2017. There will be music, bands and artists. This should excite all of us as we loosen up and be more creative!

Thank you very much and I hope to see you all taking an active role at the Nairobi Innovation Week 2017.
With those remarks, it is now my pleasant duty to invite the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Co-operatives Hon. Adan Mohamed to give his address.

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