UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. GEORGE A. MAGOHA, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES CONFERENCE AND TRAINING OF TRainers AT THE 8-4-4 MULTI-PURPOSE HALL ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 AT 9.00 A.M
• Chief guest, Ms. Sumayya Hassan-Athmani, CEO, National Oil Corporation of Kenya

• Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi

• Chancellors from other universities

• Vice-Chancellor, African Nazarene University Prof. Leah Marangu

• Vice-Chancellors from sister universities

• Principal, College of Education and External Studies, Professor Isaac Jumba

• Director of Professional Networks, ACU, Ms. Dorothy Garland
• The ACU team
• University of Nairobi staff and students
• Ladies and gentlemen
It is my pleasure to welcome you to the University of Nairobi, on behalf of the University I wish to indicate how honoured we are to host the one day conference and the Training of Trainers workshop on the theme “Beyond 2015 Gender Milestones in Education in Developing Countries”.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to sincerely appreciate the Association of Commonwealth universities (ACU) for deeming it fit for the University of host this conference for the second year running. Our presence here today is a show of success emanating from the
two successful events which were held last year to mark the ACU Centenary celebrations, the events attracted participants from over 12 countries and we note that this year we also have a number of countries represented. It is unfortunate that several participants from West Africa had to withdraw their participation due to the Ebola outbreak. We are a caring community and while we are sorry, we believe that they will join us next time when we host this event.
Ladies and gentlemen, as a result of last year’s conference and gender training, gender awareness in leadership and management has been realised in many universities and colleges, indeed we have reports that quite a good number have started to mainstream gender programs and even gender studies departments. This is a gesture of the good work which is being done by the Association of Commonwealth Universities. I am also happy to note that the 49 women who went through the ToT training have succeeded in cascading the training in their Universities and colleges. This conference and
training is thus quite important for higher institutions as it enables them to realise the participation and involvement of both gender in institutional affairs and management. I appeal to other stakeholders, who are present today, to move with us on a journey to integrate mainstreaming strategies and policies in our daily activities at higher institutions of learning to achieve gender equality.

Ladies and gentlemen, higher institutions of learning are committed to achieving gender parity in
education which is one of the goals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Several institutions have incorporated various strategies and policies to ensure equal gender representation in all circles of operation and management. At the University of Nairobi for instance we have realised a lot of achievements in gender mainstreaming as many positions in management are almost gender balanced and the student population is almost half-half, with some courses realising more female enrolments than males. This is an achievement which we are proud of.
I am aware that five (5) days training of trainer’s workshop has attracted over 50 participants, I wish to request you to make good use of this opportunity to learn and acquire new skills imparted by the international trainers.

As I close my remarks, I wish to thank our sponsors, and particularly the Association of Commonwealth Universities and ACORD and other organisations and institutions that have sponsored their staff to attend these events. Please rest assured that we will remain committed to working with you. Thank you.