ADDRESS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE 2016 NAIROBI CONFERENCE ON EARTH SYSTEM GOVERNANCE HELD AT THE WANGARI MAATHAI INSTITUTE CAVS ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2016 AT 9.50 A.M.
The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Regional Authorities

The Conference Chair, Fariborz Zelli

The Conference Manager, Ruben Zondervan

The Chair, Scientific Steering Committee of the Earth System Governance Project, Frank Biermann

Members of CAVS CAB

Distinguished participants

Invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen
I am very delighted to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi for the 2016 Nairobi Conference on Earth System Governance whose main theme is “Confronting Complexity and Inequality”. I understand the 2016 Nairobi Conference on Earth System Governance is the seventh in the series and that it is taking place in Africa for the first time!

As a University, we feel greatly honored to have the conference co-hosted by the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies. It is symbolically important that this global gathering is being co-hosted by an Institute founded and named after the winner of
the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, the late Professor Wangari Maathai. As readers of her book “The Challenge for Africa” published in 2010 will note, the theme of this conference is central to what Prof. Wangari Maathai tirelessly involved herself and others with for several decades.

Her work and philosophy revolved around three themes or pillars that are relevant to this conference: the first is democratic space, where rights – whether human, women’s, children’s or environmental are respected. The second is sustainable and accountable management of natural resources both for those living
today and for those in the future, in a manner that is just and fair, including for people on the margins of society. The third theme is about “cultures of peace” which embodies fairness and justice. She strongly believed that the three pillars make the required environment in which sustainable development can take place. She would have been delighted to be part of this premiere conference on earth system governance.

I wish to sincerely thank the management of the Earth System Governance Project for appropriately selecting the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies to co-host this conference. I
also thank the Conference Team for the planning and successful hosting of this conference here in Nairobi. I would like to thank the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and his team including postgraduate students in the college for the support given to the local organizing committee, THANK YOU.

With those few remarks, it is now my great pleasure to invite the Cabinet Secretary, Prof. Judy Wakhungu, to make her policy keynote address

PETER M.F. MBITHI, PhD.EBS
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AND
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