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Ministry of Education, representatives

Teachers Service Commission, representatives

Kenya Institute of Education, representatives

NGO, and UN Agencies, representatives

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Education sector worldwide has faced great changes in the last two decades. Technological advancement is one key change that is transforming curriculum and pedagogy. Disasters, both manmade and natural, have emerged as a new dimension challenge at various levels affecting governments, schools and colleges, human capital, students and pupils.

As we focus on access and providing quality education to 61 million children of primary school age worldwide and 31 million in Sub-Saharan Africa, who are out of school, we must embrace the opportunity to collaborate and leverage the power of collaboration partnerships. The concerted effort will bring teachers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century who can inspire, lead, and educate children for the future.

In our midst, we recognise the Ministry of Education, (MoE), Kenya Institute of Education (KIE), Teachers Service Commission, (TSC), and various Non-

Governmental Organisations in education under the banner of the Education

Cluster. We also recognise our partner in this effort, International Rescue Committee, (IRC). No doubt this is a dynamic combination that will generate strategies that can address the impact of disasters on the education sector and our economies.

As a University, the Education in Emergencies program helps us not only to meet the emerging needs of the dynamic and rapidly changing society, but also to become a hub where the East African countries and the Horn of Africa can tap into and build expertise to rapidly respond to emergencies. We note that this is the region that has had several disasters of different magnitude, such as chronic conflict in Somalia. We also know that we are still recovering from the Post-election violence in Kenya in 2007/2008, and that education can play a powerful role in recovery and prevention of future violence. As we strive to meet our core values and our vision of "a world-class University committed to scholarly excellence" we shall need strong and dynamic partnerships and friends that will

make this agenda a reality.

The University of Nairobi is a dynamic institution which is ISO certified, hence partnering with us will only add value to ensure that the university can support ongoing research of its partners and that the programmes are suited to meet the changing needs of the diverse society. We also hope that this partnership will benefit all of you represented here. Each one of us needs to think outside of the box, strive for innovation and to embrace each other in the changes. As a University that produces teachers through the college of Education and External Studies, we shall need to look at other non-traditional methods of preparing teachers, such as child centred pedagogy and psychosocial aspects , and conflict management among our student teachers.

We are looking forward to the Ministry of Education in formation and implementation of policies that encompass the changes in the education sector beyond the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Non traditional programs are needed, like bridging programs, accelerated programs and innovative ways of achieving inclusiveness in the education sector.

I believe Teacher Service Commission recognises that the teachers are becoming increasingly challenged by the changes taking place everywhere in the world. Teachers are expected to cope with change when disaster occurs and that normalcy should be returned within the shortest time possible. Hence, we shall need to periodically review the needs of our teachers in pre service and in-service training.

NGOs, and UN agencies working in education help us to reach the marginalised areas use innovative intervention strategies, and bring guidance, training, and at times resources to help us reach Kenya's education goals and our shared commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. The Education Cluster is playing a critical role in facilitating dissemination of best practices, coordination, and alignment of activities. No doubt the role of the Cluster, NGOs and UN actors cannot be ignored especially in emergencies where the government stakeholders' role is sometimes constrained.

As we focus on the agenda of the day, let us look at our individual and collaboration efforts in sharing our future in the next 5 years. We look forward to a spirited discussion that will lead to action.

THANK YOU