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**CLOSING REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KOFI A. ANNAN**

**‘The Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation: Building a Progressive Kenya’**

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

6 December, 2011

**For Immediate Release**

**Check Against Delivery**

Over the last two days, a wide range of actors from across Kenya and from outside have participated in this important event.

I would like to thank all of those who have contributed.

I would particularly like to thank the Prime Minister, the Vice President, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chief Justice, and Ministers for their important contributions.

I would also like to commend the participation of members of civil society, religious and business leaders, ambassadors of donor nations, elders, youth and the media.

We gathered to promote a national discussion about the conditions required to build a truly progressive Kenya.

Our wide-ranging discussions have covered the implementation of the Constitution; building a united, cohesive society; ensuring the integrity of the electoral process; and establishing enduring institutions.

These have been very rich and frank conversations, with Kenyans optimistic about their future but realistic about the challenges ahead.

The promulgation of the Constitution lies at the foundation of that optimism because it offers the promise of a new Kenya based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The expectations of Kenyans are high and I urge Kenya's leaders to take heed of the values enshrined in the constitution.

We have heard over the last few days from Kenyans from all walks of life that there can no longer be business as usual when it comes to leadership, integrity and accountability in Kenya.

Leaders are elected to deliver on the needs and aspirations of all the people.

We have been reminded that constitutions alone cannot change society.

It is the collective responsibility of all Kenyans to ensure that the Constitution becomes a living reality and that it is upheld, protected and respected.

## Check Against Delivery

Yesterday, we held a unique and vibrant discussion between elders and youth leaders on constructing the DNA of a Kenyan national identity.

We have heard that two of the biggest obstacles to forging One Kenya, One People are inequality and negative ethnicity.

It is important to remember that there is more that unites you than divides you, and that nations and communities are held together by common values.

And, today, you can all embrace the values enshrined in the Constitution.

Nearly four years after the traumatic events that followed the last general election, there is still a great deal of national healing and reconciliation to be undertaken.

The future stability and prosperity of Kenya depend on a strong and united society.

We have heard a very good account of the complex arrangements that need to be put in place before the next general election.

Given the experience of the last election, I am sure that Kenyans will remain vigilant about the integrity of the electoral process.

May I conclude by thanking you, members of the media, for your support in ensuring that the content of this conference has been communicated beyond this venue to Kenyans across the country?

It is critical that Kenyans continue the dialogue on building a progressive Kenya.

Kenya should know that it has the full support and encouragement of many friends and partners in doing this.

Thank you.