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## COMPETITION AUTHORITY OF KENYA

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### CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. SHAKA KARIUKI, THE CHAIRMAN, COMPETITION AUTHORITY OF KENYA DURING THE CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL CONGRESS 2023

8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

### THEME: BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE FOR CONSUMERS

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon,

1. It is with immense pleasure and a deep sense of gratitude that I stand before you today to mark the closing of the Consumers International Global Congress 2023. Over the past two days we have witnessed a remarkable gathering of minds, ideas, and perspectives aimed at shaping the future of consumer advocacy and protection worldwide.

2. The Congress was graced by HE The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya Rigathi Gachagua. This is a testament of the Government of Kenya's commitment to enhancing consumer welfare.
3. The Deputy President highlighted key areas we should focus on – protecting consumers in light of advancements in technology, and how to harmonize gaps in consumer protection laws.
4. As we conclude this congress, it is essential to reflect on the critical conversations that have taken place over the past few days. From the main plenary to side events, discussions touched on a range of issues from: the rise of disinformation and misinformation of Artificial Intelligence; food systems, specifically on food prices and the need for food systems transformation; the ever-thorny issue of product safety; sustainability of consumer organizations; building trust in the digital economy, to: tackling plastic pollution, and how we can facilitate fair prices for healthy and sustainable diets.
5. We have delved into the challenges consumers face in an ever-evolving global landscape, and we have explored innovative solutions to safeguard their rights, promote sustainability, and ensure fair and ethical business practices.
6. The theme of this year's congress, "Building a Resilient Future for Consumers", has guided our discussions and actions, reminding us of the responsibility we bear in creating a world where consumers are not just protected but empowered. The sessions, workshops, and panel discussions have illuminated the path forward, highlighting the importance of collaboration, inclusivity, and adaptability in the face of emerging challenges.
7. Our journey here in Nairobi has been more than just a meeting of minds; it has been a collective commitment to driving positive change. The resolutions and declarations that have emerged from our sessions will serve as a roadmap for advocacy groups, policymakers, and businesses across the globe, fostering an environment where consumers can confidently engage in the marketplace.
8. As we disperse and return to our respective corners of the world, let us carry with us the spirit of unity and purpose that has defined this congress. Let the friendships forged here and the insights gained be the catalysts for meaningful action in our local communities and on the international stage.

9. I want to express my gratitude to Consumers International, COMESA Competition Commission, my colleagues at the Competition Authority of Kenya, and each one of you who contributed to the success of this event. Your dedication and passion for consumer rights have made this Congress a resounding success.
10. In closing, let us remain committed to the ideals that have brought us together – the ideals of fairness, transparency, and justice for all consumers. The journey does not end here; it merely transforms into a shared mission that extends far beyond the confines of this conference hall.
11. I hope you will take time to visit the Nairobi National Park – the only national park in the world that is within a city.
12. Wishing safe travels to each one of you, and may the impact of the Consumers International Global Congress 2023 resonate for years to come.
13. It may be a bit early, but wishing you Happy Holidays.

*Thank you all.*