

H.E. Amb. Zachary D. Muburi-Muita **Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nations elected President of the**

UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation

H.E. Amb. Zachary D. Muburi-Muita, was on 21st January, 2010 elected President of the United Nations High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation for a period of two years.

The UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation is an important organ in the governance structure of South-South Cooperation within the UN System. The Committee serves as the governing body for South-South Cooperation in the UN General Assembly. It collaborates with and is supported by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, as well as the global South-South Cooperation focal points system at National level and within the UN agencies. The High-Level Committee also oversees the intergovernmental review and policy making of South-South Cooperation. It meets biennially and its decisions are endorsed by the UN General Assembly as the basis for strengthening South-South Cooperation.

The next High-Level Committee meeting, scheduled to take place on February 4, 2010 at the UN Headquarters in New York, will be the first major decision-making session presided over by the newly-elected President. The meeting is expected to agree on the agenda and organization of work as well as key activities and programmes to advance South-South Cooperation. Of critical importance will be a decision on how to follow-up and fully implement the Nairobi Outcome on South-South Cooperation following the historic UN High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation that Kenya was honoured to host in Nairobi from 1st – 3rd December, 2009.

The election Amb. Zachary D. Muburi-Muita as President of the High-Level Committee is an indication of the confidence the UN Member States have on Kenya and an appreciation of H.E. Ambassador Muburi-Muita's, as well as the Kenya Mission's contribution to issues on the agenda of the UN, particularly those of interest to developing countries.

Other members of the Bureau of the High-Level Committee who were elected are Suriname and Canada as Vice-Presidents, representing the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States Group respectively. The Philippines, representing the Asian States Group, was elected the Rapporteur. The nominee for the Eastern European Group is yet to be decided upon.

Ambassador Muburi-Muita is already serving as Vice-President of the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).