



**SPEECH BY ENGINEER BAINOMUGISHA, LEAD AIRQO, DURING THE LAUNCH
OF THE CLEAN AIR AFRICA NETWORK AT THE SHERATON KAMPALA HOTEL
ON 5TH APRIL 2023**

Her Excellency, The Ambassador of the U.S Embassy Kampala, represented by the Cultural Affairs Officer Amy Petersen,

Your Worship The Lord Mayor, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) Mr. Erias Lukwago,

The Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University

Honourable Secretary on the Authority Executive for Kampala Capital City Authority
Hon Namazzi Olive,

Right Honourable Speaker, Fort Portal City, Mr. Albert Aheebwa,

Hon Secretaries on the Division Councils for Kampala Capital City Authority,

Hon Minister for Environment, Nairobi City County,

The City Manager, Kisumu City County Government, Mr. Abala M.Wanga,

The Executive Director National Environment Management Authority, Dr. Akankwasa Barirega,

Representatives from the Private Sector,

Representatives from Cities and Universities across Africa,

Makerere University Staff present,

The AirQo Research Team,

The Media Fraternity,

Distinguished Guests,



All protocols observed.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,

Ladies and Gentlemen, we take great pleasure in welcoming you to today's event, the launch of the CLEAN AIR NETWORK. The launch is part of the 3-day CLEAN AIR workshop that started on Monday of this week. The workshop and the launch have brought together important stakeholders including leaders from African cities, academia, civil society, government, private sector, and development partners from 16 African countries and 31 cities. We are here today with a shared vision of cleaner air for all our cities.

Over the last two days, policy makers and researchers held deliberations about evidence gaps in air quality management and African-developed clean air solutions. Cities and researchers presented case studies from their respective



countries across the continent. Common themes were identified with the objective of strengthening cross-regional air quality networks to enable collective learning, and knowledge sharing.

When we started AirQo in 2015, there was very limited research and innovations on air quality issues across the continent. Over the past few years, a number of research teams are emerging in different parts of the African continent with a focus on air quality issues. This is not surprising because air pollution is a major environmental health threat to our cities.

This is the reason we are launching the CLEAN AIR network. We do believe that it is a critical moment for all of us partners to come together and amplify the actions we are doing to achieve cleaner air across the African continent. We cannot underestimate the power of strong networks in tackling huge global challenges such as air pollution.



The CLEAN AIR network has the following objectives:

Objective 1: To strengthen cross-regional air quality networks to enable collective learning, and knowledge sharing.

Objective 2: Increase air quality data access through contextualized low-cost air quality monitoring approaches, data management tools, and modeling.

Objective 3: Advancing participatory, inclusive and evidence-informed advocacy for improved collaboration, awareness and education on air quality issues.

Objective 4: Develop targeted city clean air solutions (templates of clean air action plans for cities, sector-specific clean air toolkits, awareness frameworks, institutional capacity building, and frameworks) to facilitate mainstreaming and institutionalizing air quality management.

From this workshop Kampala, we are formulating *The Clean Air Plan for African Cities* that will guide the cities and researchers pathway to air quality management.

We call upon all the stakeholders to support the implementation of this plan.



At AirQo, we are building advanced digital technologies and tools to measure, model, and inspire cleaner air actions. With support from the Management of Makerere University, Government of Uganda, our partners, the U.S Department of State, Google.org, Universities, and Cities, we are able to scale these solutions to other African countries.

As I thank you all for honoring our invitation to this launch and being part of Africa's journey to clean air. Thank you.

I would now like to invite Deo Okure, AirQo Programme Manager to provide an overview of all the partners we have worked with along this journey.