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## **Amina Mohamed Today Takes Up Her Post as Deputy Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme**

**Nairobi, 25 July 2011**—Amina Mohamed of Kenya today formally took up office as Deputy Executive Director (DED) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Ms. Mohamed, who is also an Assistant-Secretary General of the UN, met with her new staff and colleagues and said she was looking forward to the challenge of UNEP's evolving reform agenda and work programme.

She will also, among her many roles, be providing political and substantive input to Rio+20—the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 scheduled in Brazil next June-- and beyond.

Ms Mohamed, who since 2008 was the Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, said: “The challenges but also the opportunities of sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will in many ways define how nations cooperate and countries thrive over the coming decades”.

“UNEP's unique role in analyzing, catalyzing and implementing forward-looking transitions such as the Green Economy will be central to that success. I am delighted to be re-engaging on international issues and joining UNEP at what promises to be an exciting and defining moment in the organization's 39 year history,” she added.

Ms Mohamed concluded: “I also look forward to working with UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner and bringing the perspective of an international diplomat and lawyer from a developing country to his and the organization's work. Kenya is proud to host UNEP and I hope to also bring a greater understanding of UNEP's special role in the lives of the people of Kenya, East Africa and indeed across the globe”.

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director, said: “We are very pleased to welcome Amina Mohamed on her first day in office. She was the outstanding candidate for the post and a worthy successor to Ms. Angela Cropper of Trinidad and Tobago whose remarkable service and contribution as UNEP's DED we also recognize today”.

“Ms. Mohamed brings a wealth of experience to this position at the national and international level as a distinguished diplomat, lawyer, manager and policymaker

working across the sustainable development and environment policy agendas. I look forward to working closely with her in leading UNEP over the coming years,” he added.

Ms. Mohamed, whose appointment was announced in May by United Nations Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon, was from 2000 to 2006 the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN in Geneva.

Her many achievements included being the first woman to chair the General Council of the World Trade Organization, and the first African and first woman to be elected Chair of the Council for the International Organization for Migration.

Since 2008 and as Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, she has played a key leadership role in the political, legal and constitutional reform process.

Born on 5 October 1961, Ms. Mohamed graduated with a LLM in International Law from Kiev State University, and has also undertaken post graduate studies at University of Oxford and the Kenya School of Law.