Welcome Speech by the Chairman of the Board of Directors
on the Occasion of the Award of the Charter to
United States International University
10 December 1999

Your Excellency President Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi; Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament; Permanent Secretaries, Chairman and Secretary of the Commission for Higher Education, Government Officials, Vice Chancellors of Universities and Heads of Educational and Training Institutions, Your Excellencies the Ambassadors, Members of the Board of Directors, Members of the University Community, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you today on this historic occasion of the awarding of the charter by His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi to United States International University. USIU in Nairobi has been an associated campus of United States International University for the past thirty years. It has now outgrown its mother institution to become the largest institution within the network of campuses. Today, with the awarding of this charter the institution becomes an autonomous body in Kenya that will continue to serve the growing needs of the Kenyan population, the continent of Africa and other nations.

In spite of its autonomy, the philosophy the university will continue to stress multicultural and multinational awareness and understanding and service to the communities we serve. The university here in Nairobi has continued to operationalize this mission through its multi-national and multicultural student body and faculty, and
through its academic programming. While 85% of the student body is Kenyan over 45 nations are represented among the remaining 15%. Its faculty is also predominantly Kenyan but many have studied in prestigious universities throughout the world. The curriculum has also evolved over the past three years to include courses that are specific to the needs of this continent and other developing nations.

Moreover, we firmly believe that our students not only learn in the classroom but the living laboratory of the community where the University resides. As a part of their degree courses our students are required to donate 100 hours of their time to not-for-profit organizations. Over the last three years our students have volunteered approximately 100,000 man hours to these organizations. Our aim in this is to sensitize and nurture socially responsible leaders who, once they are out of campus, will give back to the communities in which they live and work. Practically, our students have supported mental health and health facilities financially as well as volunteered in orphanages, hospitals, educational facilities and non-governmental organizations.

Your Excellency, the confirmation that an institution is doing something right is its product. The USIU alumni list speaks for itself. The number of USIU alumni who are managers in the private sector is incredible and steadily growing. For the Kenyan Government, we have produced top civil servants and even diplomats. Our alumni continue to fulfill our mission of service and multicultural understanding through their contributions throughout the world.
In conclusion, Your Excellency, we as a university system are very proud of the accomplishments of USIU in Nairobi, the dedication and commitment of its faculty and administration to providing quality education here in Kenya has made it a formidable force in the forefront of Kenyan education. We strive to assist you in the building of this nation by providing this nation with graduates that demonstrate leadership, integrity and commitment.

Again, I would like to thank you for your presence here today Your Excellency to award the Charter to United States International University and welcome you and all those present today to this auspicious occasion.

Welcome.