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Heads of State and Government at the Korea - Africa Summit in Seoul, South Korea on June 4, 2024

Unlocking Opportunities: The Strategic Importance of Kenya's Presence at the Inaugural 2024 Korea - Africa Summit



H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya addressed the inaugural Korea - Africa Summit on June 4, 2024 in Seoul, South Korea

By Glenna Moturi

H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, attended the inaugural 2024 Korea-Africa Summit, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea on June 4 - 5, 2024, at the Korea International Exhibition Centre in Seoul.

The summit, themed "*The Future We Make Together: Shared Growth, Sustainability, and Solidarity*," aimed to strengthen the long-standing relationship between Korea and Africa by fostering cooperative solutions for sustainable development, with a focus on addressing global challenges such as climate change, food security, supply chain stability, and health security.

In his address, President Ruto emphasized Korea's potential role in transforming Africa. He highlighted Africa's eagerness to collaborate with Korean investors to leverage the continent's immense potential and create opportunities that will boost employment and stimulate economic growth.

Kenya's participation in the summit enhanced its influence within the Africa-Korea cooperation framework. Engaging in this prominent event enabled Kenya to advocate for collective African interests, such as addressing trade imbalances, reforms in the global financing architecture, securing developmental aid, and promoting sustainable development goals. It also provided Kenya with a platform to share its experiences, successes, and lessons learned with other African nations, fostering regional cooperation and integration.

On the side-lines of the summit, President Ruto held bilateral talks with President Yoon Suk Yeol of Korea, where the two discussed issues of mutual interest, including trade promotion, industrialization, infrastructure development, job creation, agricultural productivity, climate change response, and transitioning to carbon-free energy.

During the trip, President Ruto also met with Korea Exim Bank Chairman Yoon Hee-sung, where a \$238 million (Ksh. 31 billion) financing agreement was signed for the implementation of the Konza Digital Media City at Konza Technopolis. This project aims to provide a digital media and entertainment platform for research and training.

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Unlocking Opportunities: The Strategic Importance of Kenya's Presence at the Inaugural 2024 Korea - Africa Summit



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In addition, Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs signed two funding agreements with Korea Exim Bank to establish a cutting-edge film and creative economy hub at Konza Technopolis.

Kenya also formally joined the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) as a Member State during a ceremony marking the country's ratification of the IVI treaty at the agency headquarters in Seoul. In his address, President Ruto stated that Kenya's accession to the IVI strengthens the nation's resolve to achieve self-reliance in vaccine production, which will enhance primary healthcare delivery and support disease prevention.

The Summit was key to solidifying Kenya-Korea bilateral relations, which is expected to lead to increased bilateral trade, investment, and technological collaboration in vital sectors such as infrastructure, education, and technology.

Leveraging Korea's advanced technology and expertise will be crucial in accelerating Kenya's development goals, particularly in digital transformation and industrialization.



Kenya and South Korea signed a \$485 million (Kshs63 billion) concessional development funding on the sidelines of the Korea - Africa Summit



PS Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs and H.E. Hwang Kiyeon, Executive Director and Board Member, Exim Bank sign two funding agreements for the financing of Konza Digital Media City Project on June 4, 2024



Kenya-Canada Advance Strategic Cooperation Across Key Sectors



Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs and Ms. Cheryl Urban, Assistant Deputy Minister for Sub-Saharan Africa at Global Affairs Canada, signed agreed commitments after conclusion of the 3rd Kenya-Canada Binational Commission on June 1, 2024, in Ottawa, Canada.

By Glenna Moturi and Dan Ochieng

Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary for State Department for Foreign Affairs, co-chaired the third session of the Kenya-Canada Binational Commission (BNC) alongside Ms. Cheryl Urban, Assistant Deputy Minister for Sub-Saharan Africa at Global Affairs Canada. The session held from May 30 to 31, 2024, in Ottawa, Canada focused on strengthening bilateral relations through strategic cooperation in key areas.

Delegates from both nations committed to expanding cooperation in trade and investment, peace and security, labour migration, and the sustainable blue economy. They also aimed to address multilateral issues and eliminate consular and administrative barriers in visa processing. Additionally, they agreed to resolve constraints in the Government of Kenya's E-Citizen service portal, simplifying administrative services for citizens.

Representatives from several Kenyan ministries and agencies, including the State Department for Foreign Affairs, the National Treasury, the Ministry of Defence, the State Department for Internal Security and National Administration, the State Department for Labour and Skills Development, the State Department for Immigration, and the National Counter Terrorism Center, participated in the discussions.

Dr. SingOei also held a separate meeting with Hon. David Morrison, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs at Global Affairs Canada, to discuss shared interests. He briefed Hon. Morrison on Kenya's upcoming multinational security Support mission to Haiti and expressed appreciation for Canada's support and partnership.

Established in September 2018 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the BNC provides a framework for regular dialogue on political and economic issues between the two nations. The commission continues to play a crucial role in enhancing diplomatic ties and fostering ongoing cooperation.

Kenya and Canada enjoy a longstanding friendly relationship, supported by decades of partnership and engagement in areas of mutual interest. The BNC continues to pave the way for both countries to strengthen their diplomatic ties and work together towards shared goals.





Kenya Prepares for the 7th Kenya - Iran Joint Commission for Cooperation



Mr. Abdishakur Sheikh Hussein, Director, Middle East Directorate, hosted the first Inter-Ministerial Meeting in preparation for the 7th Session of the Kenya - Iran JCC on May 31, 2024 at SDFA

By Philip Mwangi

The first Inter-Ministerial meeting for the preparation of the 7th Session of the Kenya-Iran Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) was held on May 31, 2024.

The meeting discussed possible areas of cooperation between Kenya and Iran including; Healthcare, Maritime, Technology, Agriculture, Energy Trade and Investment, as well as various Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between Kenya and Iran to support the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Chairing the meeting, Mr. Abdishakur Sheikh Hussein, Director of Middle East Directorate, urged representatives of various MDAs to ensure their respective proposed areas of cooperation align with government priorities.

**7th Session
of the
Kenya - Iran
Joint
Commission
for
Cooperation
(JCC)**

The JCC, scheduled to take place in Nairobi in August 2024, is in line with H.E. President William Ruto's vision on Kenya - Iran relations laid out on July 10, 2023, where he noted that the two countries will initiate a framework of cooperation that will enhance exports of tea, coffee and meat.

Kenya and Iran have signed more than 22 MoUs and Agreements. These instruments have been key to the cooperation in development, education, scholarships, infrastructure, health, water, fisheries and agriculture.

The 6th Session of the JCC was hosted by Iran in 2014.





SDFA Hosts Kenyan Delegation for the 26th IORA Committee of Senior Officials Virtual Meeting

By Philip Mwangi

Amb. Jackline Yonga, Director Multilateral Affairs, led a multi-agency Kenyan delegation to a two-day virtual meeting of the twenty-sixth Committee of Senior Officials of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) held from May 30 to 31 2024.

The meeting themed "*Strengthening Regional Architecture: Reinforcing Indian Ocean identity*" was chaired by Sri-Lanka. The 23 Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners who are united by their interest in the Indian Ocean discussed updates and reports on IORA's priority areas and cross-cutting issues as well as institutional arrangements.

The Committee of Senior Officials, the second-highest decision-making body of the IORA, convenes biannually to assess the progress made by Member States in implementing IORA's priority areas and strategic objectives, establish priorities for economic cooperation within the Association, and make recommendations on various agenda items.



Amb. Jacqueline Yonga, Director Multilateral Affairs led a multi-agency Kenyan delegation to the 26th Meeting of the IORA Committee of Senior Officials held virtually on May 30 - 31, 2024

Kenya, a founding member of the IORA, engages with the Association through the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, which serves as the National Focal Point. Kenya chairs and coordinates the IORA Core Group on Tourism and Cultural Exchange, a position the country assumed from the Republic of Mauritius in October 2024 following endorsement by the Council of Ministers.

During the session, Kenya presented interventions focused on fostering collaborations and partnerships to develop economies and promote women's economic empowerment policies among member states. Kenya also emphasized the importance of advancing early warning mechanisms to counter extreme natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and droughts.

On the second day of the meeting, Member States and Dialogue Partners discussed the update on the Concept Paper on Climate Change amongst other areas of review.

During submissions, Kenya called for expedited operationalization of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for support of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) within IORA Member States that came into force in 2022.

Kenya also called for the support of the Chair and that of like-minded member states in creating a comprehensive framework within the IORA region in order to enhance digital trade and streamline cross-border transactions, ultimately fostering better economic integration and growth within the region.

IORA's priority areas include: Maritime Safety and Security; Fisheries Management; Disaster Risk Management; Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation; Tourism and Cultural Exchanges; Blue Economy and Women Economic Empowerment.

The 27th IORA CSO will be held later in the year in Sri Lanka ahead of the meeting of the Council of Ministers.





H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya addresses delegates during the official opening of the 59th Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group and the African Development Fund at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi on May 29, 2024

Advancing Africa: Highlights from the 59th African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Nairobi

By Fatuma Ngwena

The African Development Bank Group held its 59th Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors and the 50th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the African Development Fund at the Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC) in Nairobi from May 27 - 31, 2024.

The theme of this year's meetings was "Africa's Transformation, the African Development Bank Group, and the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture" which reflects the Bank's commitment and determination to create an equitable financial world to drive sustainable development and transform the lives of more than 1.4 billion people in Africa—including almost 60% of them under the age of 25.

During the one-week event, the Bank's management and governors exchanged ideas and forged new relationships with a range of government and private sector partners on the road to creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient Africa.

Speaking during the official opening of the Session and at the High-Level Presidential Dialogue, H.E. President William Ruto called for reforms in the global financial architecture to address destabilizing debt and climate vulnerabilities in Africa.

He emphasized on the need to address the current situation noting that countries in the continent are struggling with high financing interest rates, while dealing with climate shocks and constrained government revenues. These challenges put climate action and sustainable development goals at risk.

President Ruto further pointed out that, transforming the international financial architecture is an imperative that would give Africa a fair chance to turn its immense potential into opportunity, overcome multiple challenges and develop inclusively and sustainably. He criticized the tendency of the international financial system to label Africa as a risky borrower despite its vast human, mineral and agricultural potential.

He called on African States to work together to eliminate barriers to intra-African trade by prioritizing trade between African countries to unlock the full potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.

At the same time, President Ruto called for reforms in the African Union to make it fit for purpose.

The President said the African Union Commission should be given the power to "prosecute African economic diplomacy effectively". He said the African Union must take charge of the continent's peace, security and stability and champion solutions to conflicts in the continent. Additionally, he said the African Union must work with African governments to close Africa's infrastructure gap.

President Ruto's sentiments were echoed by AfDB President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina who called for reforms in the global financial architecture to better cater to the development needs of Africa. He noted that the African Development Bank is already undertaking similar reforms with 45% of its total lending towards climate financing and the bank was making significant progress towards its goal of mobilising \$25 billion for climate financing.

Present were Presidents Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo, Paul Kagame (Rwanda), Emmerson Mnangagwa (Zimbabwe), Hassan Sheik Mohamud (Somalia) and Mohamed Menfi (President of the Presidential Council of the State of Libya), Burundi Vice-President Prosper Bazombanza and Prime Ministers Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (Namibia) and Ali Lamine Zeine (Niger).

Others present included African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina, African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Kenya, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi and Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u among others.

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Advancing Africa: Highlights from the 59th African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Nairobi



Heads of State and Government at the 59th Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group and the African Development Fund at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi on May 29, 2024

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At the closing ceremony, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, expressed his sincere appreciation for the participation and contribution of the over 8,300 delegates noting it as a testament to the commitment towards the bank's vision and the host's suitability.

While acknowledging a significant commitment of \$25 billion for the 17th cycle of the African Development Fund, he also highlighted Kenya's contribution of \$20 million and extended appreciation to development partners, emphasizing the importance of the ADF's financial sustainability. He referred to the event, as a platform to address Africa's challenges as well as appreciating the critical role of technical transformation and substantial resources needed for the continent's economic transformation.



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs with Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u, Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury and Economic Planning during the closing ceremony of the AfDB Annual Meeting on May 31, 2024



Heads of State and Government who attended the 59th African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Nairobi



H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo is welcomed at KICC by H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs



H.E. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, with Escort of Honour H.E. Salim Mvurya, Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs



H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda on arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi



H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia with Escort of Honour Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary for Defence.



H.E. Mohamed Younis A. Menfi, President of the Presidency Council of the Government National Unity of the State of Libya, with Escort of Honour Hon. Moses Kuria, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management



Kenya Elected to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in New York



Mr. Timothy Ekesa, Kenya's candidate elected to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the period 2025 to 2029

By Humphrey Ruto

Kenya's candidate, Mr. Timothy Ekesa has been elected to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the period 2025 to 2029. The election took place during the twentieth meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child held in New York on May 23, 2024. He garnered 134 votes, the second highest number of votes.

The elections were hotly contested by 18 candidates, 11 from Africa vying for the 9 available seats. Mr. Ekesa was elected alongside eight other candidates from Mauritania, Zambia, Belgium, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Georgia and Moldova to replace those whose terms will expire on February 28, 2025.

Kenya is committed to the promotion and protection of children's rights and is strongly convinced that Mr. Ekesa will contribute substantially to the Committee given his vast experience in child rights advocacy.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is composed of 18 independent experts - persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights.

It monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its States parties as well as the implementation of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, on involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It has inspired governments to change laws and policies for children to get the healthcare and nutrition they need and to protect them from violence and exploitation.

Mr. Ekesa is the Executive Director of the Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children, a national umbrella NGO for children's rights. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership in implementing and managing programs dedicated to children's rights. He has extensive experience in advocacy and research as well as a trainer on children's rights.

He has been involved in coordinating preparation of the Kenya State Party reports and alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. He has also participated in various international platforms and child initiatives and has authored a number of publications in the field of children's rights. He is a member of the Management Committee of the Eastern African Child Rights Network (EACRN), National Council of Children Services (NCCS) and a founding member of Child Line Kenya.

Mr. Ekesa possesses a Master's of Science degree in Organizational Development, Masters of Arts - International Relations & Diplomacy, Diploma in Management & Development of NGOs, and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications.





H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya with his host H.E. Joe Biden, President of the United States of America at White House, Washington D.C. on May 23, 2024

Highlights of President Ruto's State Visit to the USA

By Bernard Mburu

H.E. President Dr. William Ruto made a historic State Visit to the United States of America from May 20 to 24, 2024, marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. This visit was the first of its kind by a Kenyan Head of State in two decades and the first by an African Head of State since 2008.

The President's visit covered the Atlanta, Georgia and Washington D.C. It focused on seven themes including trade and investment, security cooperation, digital technology cooperation, people-to-people ties, health partnership, energy and climate solutions, as well as partnership in the multilateral arena.

Several agreements were signed during the visit between the Government of Kenya, the U.S. Government and business entities. These include Microsoft partnering with an AI -G42 UAE firm to invest KSh131 billion (\$1 billion) in a data center in

Kenya, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation opening a regional office in Nairobi, and the U.S. Agency for International Development providing KSh 2 billion (\$15 million) to Kenya to address poverty and malnutrition.

Other agreements included Coca-Cola investing KSh 23 billion (\$175 million) to expand operations in Kenya, the launch of the Nairobi-Washington Vision to help debt-laden countries manage debt and invest in economic growth, and the launch of a Kenya-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Industrial Partnership.

In the field of healthcare, partnerships were formed to develop the Kenyan National Public Health Institute, provide medical oxygen to healthcare facilities, and eliminate HIV as a public health threat in Kenya by 2027.

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Highlights of President Ruto's State Visit to the USA



H.E. President Dr. William Ruto met with H.E. Barack Obama former President of the USA on May 24, 2024

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The visit also emphasized education, with funding provided for Kenyan students to study in the U.S. and the establishment of a fellowship program for mid-career government officials. In the defence and security sector, Kenya was designated as a major non-NATO ally and received Ksh945 million (\$7 million) in aid to modernize the Kenya National Police Service. The visit also included various events focused on trade and investments.

The Economic Affairs and Commercial Diplomacy Directorate facilitated events such as a Coca-Cola event, Vivo fashion group launch, meeting the with Mayor of Atlanta city, and business forums to promote tourism, investment, and export development. The Directorate recommends the formation of a Technical Implementation Committee to ensure the delivery of the agreements.

While the agreements are important, the Directorate emphasizes the need for prompt implementation to benefit Kenyans.



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs during the signing of MOUs between CDC and Kenya Medical Research Institute in U.S.A on May 21, 2024



Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs and Amb. Lazarus Amayo, during the U.S. - Kenya Business Forum held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington on May 25, 2024



UK Royal College for Defence Studies Conducts Study Tour in Kenya



Amb. Josphat Maikara, Ag. Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs hosted a delegation from UK Royal College for Defence Studies led by Philip John Parham on May 20, 2024

By Philip Mwangi

Kenya and the United Kingdom enjoy deep-rooted and historical ties cutting across various common pillars including mutual prosperity, trade and investments, security and stability, climate action, sustainable development and people-to-people relations.

It is on this background that, Amb. Josphat Maikara, Ag. Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs represented the Principal Secretary Dr. Singoei Korir in hosting a delegation from The UK Royal College for Defence Studies (RCDS) who were on a study tour in Kenya and visited the State Department for Foreign Affairs on May 20, 2024.

In remarks made on his behalf, Dr. Singoei noted that the growth of Kenya as a modern democratic state with strong institutions has historically been inspired by the UK's long history and culture of institutional building.

"The warm and cordial ties between our two countries are today underpinned by a strategic partnership framework signed in 2002 signifying the collaborative efforts of our two nations in pursuing common goals across various pillars," He stated.

The Kenya-UK collaboration, said Dr. Singoei has given rise to various flagship green investments projects in diverse fields, including Menengai Geothermal Project, Malindi solar expansion project, Grand High Falls Dam and United Green Climate Smart crop and agro industrial processing project. When completed, the projects will contribute to the injection of more than 1000 KW green energy from solar, geothermal and hydroelectric power into Kenya's grid.

He also confirmed that the two countries have partnered in the health sector through institutional collaboration under the Kenya-UK Health Alliance formalized in 2021, where cooperation between non-governmental health institutions such as universities and research institutions in Kenya and UK continually contribute to research and improvement in treatment of diseases such as cancer.

Other presentations by Ms. Lenah Nyambu, Director, Peace and Security, Dr. Rosemary Anyona, Head, Climate Change and Environment Unit and Ms. Judy Njau, Directorate of Economic Affairs and Commercial Diplomacy focused on the nexus between climate change and peace and security as well as sustainable development in the region.

The UK Delegation, led by Philip John Parham, Director Faculty for National Security and Senior Directing Staff, expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and reaffirmed on the need for strategic collaboration to address the interconnected challenges that threaten peace and stability at the regional and global level.

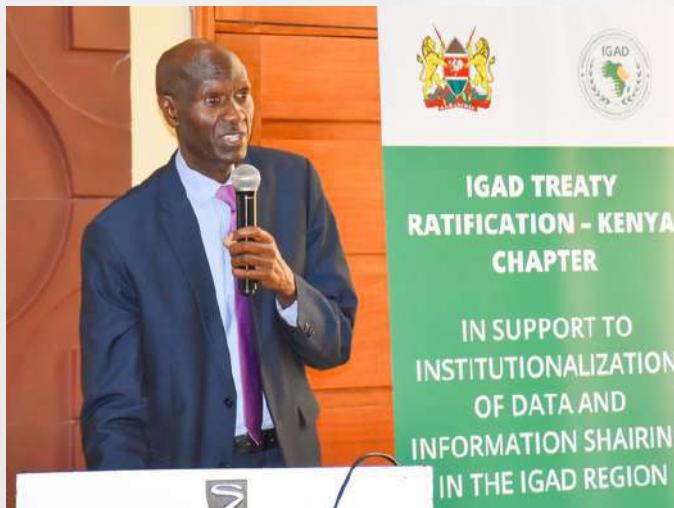
The British High Commission in Kenya was established in 1963 and Kenya established its Diplomatic Mission in London the same year.



Amb. Josphat Maikara, Ag. Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs with the delegation from The UK Royal College for Defence Studies at the State Department for Foreign Affairs on May 20, 2024



Ratification of the IGAD Treaty



Amb. Joseph Vungo, Director, Registrar of Treaties during the IGAD Treaty Ratification workshop on May 19, 2024

By Philip Mwangi

The 1996 Treaty establishing the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is set to change upon ratification of The IGAD Treaty. This follows the decision of the 13th Ordinary IGAD Summit to reform the Authority to make it rule-based, effective and predictable organization that meets the need to establish a robust legal framework that broadens and strengthens diverse areas of cooperation between Member States, while enhancing institutional and foundational basis of the Authority.

The IGAD Treaty received approval by the Kenya Cabinet and is currently before the National Assembly pending approval. The IGAD Secretariat has recently completed a series of meetings in the country with the objective of increasing public awareness of the Treaty in order to expedite its ratification by the Member States. Sensitization exercises are currently being conducted in various Member States to increase comprehension, enhance engagement, foster consensus, and mobilize support for the ratification of the Treaty.

The Kenya workshop, organized by The IGAD Secretariat on May 18, 2024 was led by Dr. Fatuma Adan, Head of Mission in Kenya. The event was attended by Members of the Parliamentary Legal Committee, chaired by Hon. Koech Rono; Ambassador Joseph Vungo, who is the Director/Registrar of Treaties for the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Kenya; and Brigadier (Rtd.) Titus K. Gathiora, a Senior Principal Lecturer and Legal Adviser at the Kenya School of Government.

Dr. Fatuma, speaking on behalf of IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, underscored the organization's dependence on Kenya to ratify and encourage other Member States to do the same in order to satisfy the minimum two-thirds requirement for treaty enforcement. Kenya and Uganda have initiated the ratification procedure, while Ethiopia and Djibouti have ratified the Treaty.

Ambassador Vungo, reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to IGAD observing that the treaty ratification had the potential to boost Kenya's economy by enhancing the ease of doing business. It will also promote trade and the free movement of goods, persons, labour, services, and capital within IGAD Member states. Ambassador Vungo underscored the advantages that the nation would derive from hosting significant IGAD institutions.

The Member of Parliament for Mandera North and member of the Legal Committee Major (Rtd) Abdullahi Bashir Sheikh, engaged the IGAD Secretariat on the various contentious issues affecting IGAD including the limited awareness and understanding of the Regional Bloc and its functions, independence, and impact among Member States. The Secretariat highlighted the different strategies put in place to address these issues and popularize IGAD.



Tree Planting



On May 31, 2024, the Department of Multilateral Affairs led by Amb. Jackline Yonga, planted 400 trees in Konza Technopolis surpassing their Performance Contract target and contributing to the Presidential Directive to grow 15Billion trees by 2032.



Kenya and Uganda Forge Stronger Ties



H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, hosted H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda at State House Nairobi on May 16, 2024

By Philip Mwangi

The recent State Visit to Kenya by H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda from May 15 to 17, 2024, is a notable development in the bilateral relations between these neighbouring countries, signaling a strong commitment to deepen cooperation across multiple sectors.

President Museveni, was hosted by H.E. Dr. William Ruto President of Kenya. The visit aimed to solidify bilateral relations and strengthen partnerships for mutual prosperity and development of the two countries.

The two Heads of State engaged in high-level bilateral discussions in Nairobi, focusing on enhancing economic ties, infrastructure development, security cooperation, health, education, and environmental sustainability.

The State Visit was preceded by the Second Session of the Kenya - Uganda Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) held in Kampala from May 12 to 14, 2024. This session marked a pivotal step in deepening the economic, political, and socio-cultural ties between Kenya and Uganda, reflecting the historical bonds that have connected the two countries since before their independence.

The JMC session focused on three broad areas of foreign affairs and security sector, economic sector, and socio-cultural sector. The foreign affairs ministers highlighted the importance of these discussions aimed at assessing the implementation of previous decisions, addressing outstanding or emerging issues, and exploring new areas of cooperation.

The ministerial session saw high-level participation from both countries, with the Kenyan delegation led by H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H., Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. The Ugandan delegation was led by their counterpart, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the session, several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed to enhance cooperation in various fields including Foreign Service Affairs, Youth Affairs, Sports, Education, Training, Scientific Research, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), and Gender and Women Empowerment. A Tripartite Agreement related to the importation and transit of refined petroleum products through Kenya to Uganda by Uganda National Oil Company was also signed.

In foreign affairs and security, the ministers agreed on continued efforts and sustained cooperation in multilateral forums, emphasizing the importance of regular consultations on matters of candidatures, environmental issues, and regional peace initiatives.

In economic collaboration, recognizing opportunities for socio-economic transformation, the ministers identified and agreed to resolve all tariff and non-tariff barriers hindering bilateral trade. A joint technical committee was proposed to address any pending trade and investment issues.

In socio-cultural cooperation, both sides committed to strengthening socio-cultural ties, ensuring that the deep historical connections between the two nations are reflected in their contemporary relations.

The ministers also underscored the need for a robust joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure the full implementation of decisions made during both the current and previous JMC sessions.

The session concluded with a mutual agreement that the next JMC session would be hosted by Kenya in 2026. Both parties committed to maintaining regular consultations and meetings to address any emerging issues and to continue fostering the strong bilateral relationship.

The successful outcomes of the State Visit and the Joint Ministerial Commission demonstrate the potential of regional cooperation in achieving shared goals and addressing common challenges. As Kenya and Uganda continue to work together, the benefits of this partnership will extend beyond their borders, contributing to the stability and prosperity of the entire East African region.



Tanzania's Foreign Relations Center Conducts Bench Marking Visit to FSA Kenya



Amb. Paul K. Ndungu, Ag. Director General of the Kenya Foreign Service Academy (FSA) hosted a delegation from Tanzania's Ministerial Committee on Evaluation of the Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations, led by Amb. Khamis Sued Kagasheki and H.E. Dr. Benard Kebesse, the Tanzanian High Commissioner to Kenya, who visited FSA on May 15, 2024

By Norah Kipruto

On May 15, 2024, the Ministerial Committee on the evaluation of Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations of Tanzania visited the Kenya Foreign Service Academy (FSA) for a benchmarking session. The visit aimed to share insights and experiences to enhance diplomatic training and capacity-building efforts in both countries.

A presentation made by Amb. Paul Ndungu, Acting Director General for Foreign Service Academy, highlighted the transition of Kenya's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) into the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) in 2017. This evolution, backed by the Foreign Service Act 2021, has positioned the FSA towards semi-autonomy, enhancing its capacity and strategic direction.

The team was informed that the establishment of the FSA was driven by the need to address gaps in training and capacity-building for ministry staff, previously reliant on foreign institutes. It aims to provide practical, continuous training tailored to Kenya's diplomatic needs.

It was noted that, FSA's core functions include supporting policy formulation, conducting research and policy analysis, designing induction and training programs, and offering consultancy services. This comprehensive approach ensures that Kenya's foreign policy is effectively articulated and represented.

The Academy's mandate involves specialized training for Foreign Service personnel, undertaking strategic studies, serving as a think tank, and providing advisory services to government agencies and other stakeholders.

The FSA offers a range of programs including induction for newly recruited officers, pre-departure training for diplomats, continuous in-service training, foreign language courses, and international collaboration initiatives.

It has successfully conducted inductions, training programs, and language courses. It has also forged significant international partnerships, enhancing the skills and knowledge base of Kenya's diplomatic corps.

The FSA faces challenges such as inadequate staffing, limited research capacity, insufficient legal frameworks, infrastructural constraints, and funding limitations. These challenges highlight the need for further development and support.

To address these challenges, the FSA aims to establish independent premises and fully operationalize its semi-autonomous status. This will enhance its ability to deliver high-quality training and research, ensuring it meets the evolving demands of diplomatic service.

The visit concluded with both parties expressing a commitment to continued collaboration and knowledge sharing. The insights gained from Kenya's experience will inform the strategic development of Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations, contributing to the advancement of diplomatic training and capacity-building in Tanzania.





Newly Appointed Envoys Inducted



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Minister Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs with newly appointed Kenyan envoys on May 13, 2024 at the Railways headquarters

By Winnie Aluoch

Kenya's diplomatic landscape received a boost as the induction program for newly appointed Ambassadors and High Commissioners was inaugurated by State Department for Foreign Affairs, Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Singoei.

The auspicious occasion marked not only a celebration of their appointments by H.E. President Dr. William Ruto but also a reaffirmation of their commitment to serving the nation with diligence and excellence.

In his address, the Principal Secretary underscored the paramount importance of the diplomats' role in advancing Kenya's interests on the global stage.

PS Singoei emphasized the need for forging strategic partnerships and networks that would bolster Kenya's diplomatic endeavours and contribute to the realization of the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The meticulously crafted 3-week training program, facilitated by the Foreign Service Academy (FSA), not only equipped the diplomats with the requisite skills and knowledge for their missions but also instilled a deep understanding of their role in advancing Kenya's national interests.



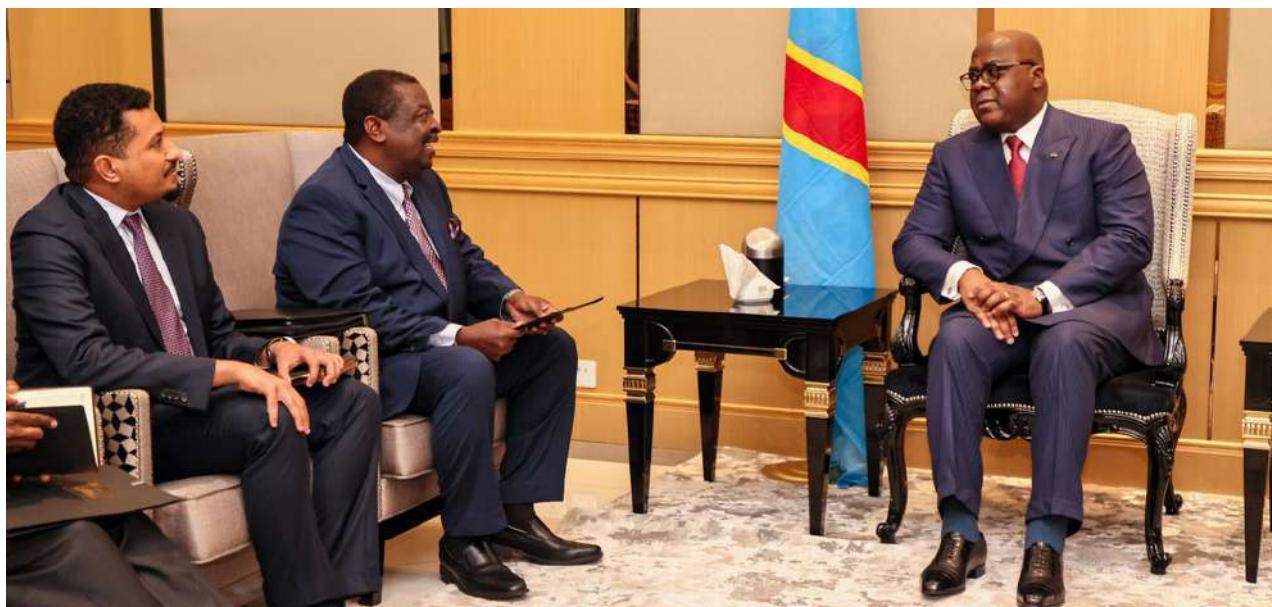
Dr. Korir Singoei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs with the appointed envoys during the opening session of the induction program on April 22, 2024

At the end of the Induction program on May 13, 2024, the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi engaged with the envoys, where he underscored the government's commitment to nurturing a capable and effective diplomatic corp.

Dr. Mudavadi emphasized the significant role Kenya plays in global diplomacy and encouraged them to leverage this strong foundation to propel the nation to even greater accomplishment.

The diplomats, in turn, expressed their unwavering dedication to upholding Kenya's positive presence and reputation on the international stage. They affirmed that, under their stewardship, Kenya is poised to strengthen its diplomatic ties, foster international cooperation, and advance its strategic interests across the globe.

As Kenya continues to assert its position as a key player in global affairs, the induction of these new diplomatic representatives signifies a crucial step towards enhancing the nation's diplomatic capabilities and promoting its interests on the world stage. With a skilled and motivated diplomatic corps at the helm, Kenya is well-positioned to navigate the complexities of international relations and seize opportunities for growth and development.



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, delivered a Special Message from H.E. President William Ruto to H.E. President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi in DRC on May 9, 2024

PCS Mudavadi's Visit to DRC Rejuvenates Ties

By Kelvin Thuo

On May 9, 2024, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, concluded a successful one-day official visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a Special Envoy of His Excellency President Dr. William Ruto.

During his visit, Dr. Mudavadi delivered a Special Message from President Ruto to H.E. President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi. Additionally, the PCS engaged in constructive discussions with H.E. Christophe Lutundula Apala Pen'Apala, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Francophonie of the DRC.

The bilateral discussions led to key outcomes including the rejuvenation of Kenya-DRC relations based on trust, open dialogue and the need for a mutually beneficial partnership. To this end, it was agreed that DRC's Ambassador to Kenya – who had been recalled – would resume his duties at the Embassy in Nairobi. Likewise, the DRC government would speed up the accreditation of Kenya's Ambassador-designate to the country.

Other key outcomes included enhanced connectivity between Kenya and DRC as symbolised by the resumption of Kenya Airways' operations, a proposed State visit to Kenya by H.E. President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi and commencement of preparations for the Kenya-DRC Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC).

The Prime Cabinet Secretary also took the opportunity to meet with Kenyan organizations operating in the DRC, including Equity Bank BCDC, a subsidiary of Equity Bank Kenya, and KCB-owned TMB bank. He also met with the Kenya Airways staff in DRC during which he assured the national carrier of government's support in its areas of operations.

The successful visit of Dr. Musalia Mudavadi underscored the commitment of Kenya and the DRC to deepening of diplomatic relations, as well as to fostering mutually beneficial collaboration across various sectors, thus paving the way for a promising future of shared prosperity and development.

The PCS's delegation included Mr. Mohamed Daghar, the Principal Secretary in the State Department for Transport, Mr. Allan Kilavuka, the CEO of Kenya Airways, Amb. Josphat Maikara, Director of EAC/ICGLR at the Ministry and, Mr. Kevin Thuo, the Charge D'Affaires at Kenya's Embassy to the DRC.





By Norah Kipruto

The Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit took place in Nairobi from May 7 to 9, 2024, gathering over 1,500 delegates. Participants included agriculture ministers, representatives of regional blocs, donor agencies, the private sector, academia, and civil society. The Summit themed "Listen to the Land" emphasized on the urgent need for ecofriendly regeneration of farmlands. Senior officials highlighted the importance of this initiative for enhancing food and nutrition security across the African continent.

During his opening speech, H.E. President William Ruto emphasized the importance of addressing soil health and fertilizer use in Africa for agricultural productivity, food security, and economic growth. He also highlighted the need for collective action, investment, and technology to achieve a green revolution and transform Africa into a surplus agricultural producer.

"Recent global economic crises, compounded by supply chain disruptions from the Covid-19 pandemic and geopolitical dynamics, have worsened fertilizer affordability and availability, and disrupted agriculture, resulting in reduced acreage and lower yields," said President Ruto.

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Hon. Musalia Mudavadi while addressing the delegates stated that there is an urgent need to address food and nutrition insecurity facing millions of Africans. Mudavadi stressed that strategies aimed at meeting the continents' growing demand for food should be implemented without further delay.



H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya addresses delegates during the Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Summit, held at Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi County on May 9, 2024.

He underscored the integral role of soil health, prudent use of agricultural inputs, environmental conservation and embracing of technologies that can make production systems efficient and effective towards achieving sustainable agricultural development and food sustainability.

The realization of this important goal will ensure that as we feed ourselves we also leave an environment where our generations can be able to sustain themselves moving into the future," Dr. Mudavadi said.

He lauded African Heads of State and Government for rallying together in promoting agriculture as a foundation for food sustainability.

"We need ambitious and long-term plans to boost the health and productivity of our soils," he said. "Prudent use of both organic and inorganic fertilizers will be key to feed Africa's growing population."

Dr. Mudavadi said that regenerating African soils in the face of fertility loss linked to habitat destruction, climate change and poor agronomical practices requires investments in local fertilizer manufacturing.

He further reiterated some of the key commitments and declarations by the Heads of State and Government to drive agricultural productivity to improve food and nutrition security.

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Key among these commitments is the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, which was endorsed at the second ordinary Assembly of the African Union in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique. The Declaration contained several important decisions but prominent among them was the commitment by African governments to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation within five years.

H.E. Amb. Joseffa Leonel Correia Sacko, AU commissioner for agriculture, rural development, blue economy, and sustainable environment, acknowledged that African soils have reached a tipping point with low levels of soil organic matter and nutrient stocks, limiting the potential benefits of inorganic fertilizer and plant genetic improvements for smallholder farmers. He added that the Agenda on African Soil Health is a matter of urgency and collaborative actions must be taken.

He further stated that the continent is ripe for an agrarian revolution, subject to political goodwill, innovative financing, and adoption of novel innovations to boost soil health. "AU data indicate that average fertilizer use per hectare in Africa has remained at 5 to 10 kilograms since 1990, less than 10 percent of the global average,"

The summit provided a platform for stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, academia, and international organizations to forge alliances and collaborative initiatives. From agribusinesses offering innovative fertilizer formulations to NGOs championing farmer education and extension services, diverse stakeholders pledged their commitment to advancing soil health agendas across the continent.

The summit underscored the transformative potential of investing in soil health as a cornerstone of Africa's sustainable development agenda. By nurturing healthy soils, we not only safeguard food security and livelihoods but also pave the way for a more resilient and prosperous future for generations to come.



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs with Agriculture Ministers from Africa during the Opening of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit 2024 Ministerial Segment held in Nairobi on May 7, 2024



Kenya – Somalia hold Joint Commission for Cooperation



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs together with his counterpart H.E. Ahmed Moalim Fiqi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, led the Ministerial Session of the 3rd Kenya - Somalia JCC in Nairobi, and signed the agreed minutes of Senior Official Meeting segment on May 6, 2024

By Fatuma Ngwena

The 3rd Session of the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) between the Republic of Kenya and the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia was held in Nairobi, Kenya from May 3 to 6, 2024.

The Session preceded the visit by H.E Hamza Abdi Barre, Prime Minister of Federal Republic of Somalia at the invitation of H.E Rigathi Gachagua, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya.

The main objectives of the 3rd Session of the JCC were to review the status of implementation of decisions and recommendations of the 2nd Session of the JCC that was held in Nairobi and Mandera, Kenya, from January 28 to 29, 2019 negotiate and follow up on legal frameworks; and propose and agree on new possible areas of cooperation.

The Kenyan delegation was led by H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya while the Somalia delegation was led by H.E Amb. Ahmed Moalim Fiqi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

The JCC began with a 3-day Senior Officials Meeting that was launched by Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs, followed by the Ministerial session on Monday 6th May, which was co-chaired by the principals of the two delegations.

PCS Mudavadi hailed Somalia for having an upward trajectory and their tremendous progress in fiscal management specifically on the prudent use of resources. "Somalia has been able to reduce debt and focus on the economic growth of the country through investment in the social and economic sectors.

He further underscored the great efforts of the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia in building a stable Somalia through the support of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and the strengthening of the security infrastructure.

Kenya-Somalia enjoy cordial ties, that are not only because of the shared common border but also because the two countries have a strong and enduring partnership that has stood firm since the two countries established diplomatic ties in the 1960s.

"Our bilateral relations are driven by goodwill and the determination between our two governments and people to work together towards enhancing and expanding the scope and breadth of our relations," Dr. Mudavadi stated, "In this regard, Kenya remains keen on fostering good relations with Somalia in all areas of mutual interest to advance the socio-economic development of our two countries."

The PCS expressed his confidence that the deliberations of the 3rd JCC were conducted in a cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding and good faith with the intent of building structured partnerships between the two countries.

During the JCC, two MoUs on Political Diplomatic Affairs and Education were signed as well as agreed minutes on enhancing cooperation in trade, infrastructure, defence, agriculture, tourism, health and blue economy.

On peace and security issues, the JCC recognized the successful implementation of the MoU on Police Training signed in 2006 and is still valid. The JCC further noted the need to expand areas of cooperation to on board emerging security issues.

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Kenya – Somalia hold Joint Commission for Cooperation



Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs, with Kenya and Somalia Senior Officials during the official opening of the 3rd Session of the JCC in Nairobi on May 3, 2024

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On transport and trade cooperation, both countries have made strides in implementing a number of resolutions and several high-level engagements since the last JCC. "For Kenya we appreciate that mutually beneficial economic ties and investments flow between our two countries, and are the foundation for mutual benefit and integration," Dr. Mudavadi stated,

"I wish to acknowledge with appreciation the resumption of Kenya Airways commercial flights on 14th February, 2024 and the Somali Civil Aviation Authority's (SCAA) approval of KQ's request for 2023/2024 winter season schedule of freighter flights commencing on 9th February, 2024."

Finally, the Prime Cabinet Secretary urged the technical teams to continue engaging constructively, through partnership to achieve a successful JCC and address any pending issues in the bilateral instruments for the mutual benefit of Kenya and Somalia.

He also reiterated Kenya's commitment to cooperate with Somalia, and assured full support of the Government of the Republic of Kenya and readiness to engage on various matters to bolster relations between the two countries.

A Mid Term Review of the 3rd Session of the JCC will be held in Mogadishu, Somalia in May 2025, and the 4th Session of the JCC will be held in Mogadishu, Somalia by May, 2026.

In attendance were Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen, Cabinet Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure, Hon. Rebecca Miano, Cabinet Secretary for Trade and Investment, Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Dr. Ezekiel Machogu, Cabinet Secretary for Education, among other distinguished delegations from both Kenya and Somalia.



Dr. Korir SingOei joined Hon. Kubai Iringo the Ambassador of Kenya to Somalia and his counterpart, Jabril Ibrahim Abdulle, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia to Kenya at the opening of the 3rd Session of the Kenya-Somalia Senior Officials segment of the Joint Commission for Cooperation(JCC) held in Nairobi on May 3, 2024



PCS Dr. Mudavadi Participates at the 21St Nordic – African Foreign Ministers Meeting



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, took the stage as part of an esteemed panel, focusing on the themes of green transition and digitalization, during the second day of the Nordic-African Foreign Ministers meeting in Copenhagen on May 3, 2024

By Andrew Kuria

The 21st Nordic-African Foreign Ministers Meeting, under the theme, "Multilateralism and increasing Trade and Investment," was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on May 2, 2024, where Prime Cabinet Secretary, and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs H.E Dr. Musalia Mudavadi emphasized the need for closer ties between Nordic and African states to address global challenges.

The Prime CS highlighted the devastating human and resource costs of conflicts, stressing the importance of conflict prevention and resolution.

The PCS urged Nordic countries to increase their support for the World Bank's 21st International Development Finance (IDA 21) Replenishment Cycle, aligning with the goals set during the IDA Summit in Nairobi in April 2024. The focus is to scale up concessional financing to drive sustainable development in Africa and beyond.

At the business forum focused on enhancing trade relations between Africa and Nordic countries, Dr. Mudavadi participated in a panel discussion on green transition and digitalization. He pointed out the vast investment opportunities in Africa, emphasizing the continent's progress in reforming institutions to facilitate a conducive business environment and reduce investment risks. He encouraged Nordic investors to capitalize on the incentives in Africa to bolster investments and create avenues for the continent's youth.

Underlining the significance of capacity building, technology transfer, and skills development from developed nations like the Nordic countries, Dr. Mudavadi highlighted the transformative potential of green transition and digitalization. He stressed the pivotal role of digitalization in accelerating Africa's development and promoting job opportunities, especially for the youthful demographic.

During the meeting, the PCS engaged in bilateral discussions with several countries including Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Malawi, Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Benin, Rwanda, and DRC.

The meeting brought together over 20 Foreign Ministers from Africa and the Nordic region who committed to enhancing dialogue and cooperation on key issues such as peace, security, green transition, digitalization, trade and investments, global governance, international financial architecture reform, and labour mobility.

Participants affirmed their dedication to rebuilding trust in multilateralism and strengthening international cooperation by making it more inclusive, preventive, and responsive to current global challenges. The meeting also called for reforms in the UN Security Council and international financial institutions to better reflect global political and economic dynamics.

This marked a successful and collaborative effort towards fostering partnerships between Nordic and African nations for mutual benefit and global progress.



SDFA Deploys Staff to Missions Abroad



Amb. Yabesh Monari, Director General, Foreign Service Administration with Senior and Mid-Level Foreign Service Officers deployed to Kenya Missions Abroad on April 19, 2024.

On April 19, 2024, Amb. Yabesh Monari, Director General, Foreign Service Administration, officiated the closure of a two weeks' induction program for thirty (30) Senior and Mid-Level Foreign Service Officers deployed to Kenya Missions Abroad.

The program held at the Foreign Service Academy was aimed at equipping the officers with the necessary skills

and knowledge to effectively represent Kenya and promote its strategic interests abroad.

During their tour of duty, the officers are expected to articulate Kenya's Foreign Policy Agenda and project its strategic interests in various areas including Peace and Security, Economic, Environmental, Cultural, Consular, and Diaspora affairs.

Kenya Hosts the 36th EAC Regional Monitoring Committee Meeting

By David Gatobu

The East African Community Secretariat held its 36th Regional Monitoring Committee meeting on Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) from May 1 to 4, 2024, in Machakos County, Kenya.

The meeting brought together majority of the EAC Partner States, and key stakeholders to discuss reports of activities of the Partner States National Monitoring Committees as well as deliberate on the effectiveness of mechanisms towards resolution of Non-Tariff Barriers affecting trade in the East African Region.

The Secretariat, in addition to organizing the meeting, led discussions on how the Non-Tariff Barriers on products produced among the Partner States can be eliminated in order to increase the volume of trade and forge stronger bilateral relations between the Partner States. Participants present, representing their Partner States, were urged to have regular Bilateral meetings moving forward to address any pending Non-Tariff Barriers as well as other trade/economic related issues to foster better working relations.

Kenya, in particular, was urged to have a closer working relationship with the United Republic of Tanzania on any pending issues relating to trade and the movement of goods and services between the two countries. This was further

highlighted by the discussion of recognizing National Identity Cards/Inter-State Passes in all EAC Partner States to ensure there is free movement of persons, goods and services within the East African Community.

The Secretariat thanked participants and stakeholders for fruitful deliberations and stated that they looked forward to more discourse over trade matters.

The meeting was considered a success with a number of Non-Tariff Barriers eliminated to further one of the main goals of the East African Community which is a more cohesive and unified approach to resolving matters affecting the region.



By **Norah Kipruto**

African Heads of State and Government from over 12 African countries convened on April 29, 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya to advocate for increased support from affluent nations towards the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank concessional lending arm to bolster development and address climate change in developing nations.

During his opening speech, H.E President William Ruto welcomed the Heads of State and Government who included H.E. Azali Assoumani (Comoros), H.E. Ould Ghazouani (Mauritania), H.E. General Evariste Ndayishimiye (Burundi), H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (Somalia), H.E. Samia Suluhu (Tanzania), H.E. Dr. Lazarua Chakwera (Malawi), H.E. Yoweri Museveni (Uganda); H.E. Andry Rajoelina (Madagascar) and H.E. Julius Maada Bio (Sierra Leone) among other delegates in attendance.

President Ruto pointed out the need for solidarity in the face of mounting economic challenges and environmental crises. "Now more than ever, long-term concessional financing is vital. As many African and other developing nations face severe debt crises, this financial strain hampers our efforts to combat climate change, transition to a low-carbon economy, and adequately fund essential sectors like education, health, and social protection," he said. He added that, "our proposal and request entail a vision for Africa-driven socioeconomic development, executed with transparency and inclusiveness, and our case is straightforward: Significant capital injection into IDA is crucial."

President Ruto, echoing sentiments shared by his counterparts, urged wealthy nations to commit to a historic funding milestone of at least \$120 billion for IDA21. This plea comes at a time when African economies grapple with profound development hurdles compounded by escalating debt burdens and pressing climate emergencies.



H.E. President Dr. William Ruto addressed delegates during the opening session of IDA21 Summit at KICC, Nairobi on April 29, 2024

He further highlighted Kenya's first-hand experiences with devastating floods and the far-reaching impacts of severe droughts across Southern African nations. These crises, he stated, underscore the critical need for immediate and collective action to safeguard both economic stability and the planet's future.

"Should donors heed the call and meet the suggested minimum contribution, it would mark a significant milestone, surpassing the previous fundraising record of \$93 billion in 2021.", He added.

The IDA's lending framework, operating on a three-year cycle, plays a pivotal role in providing low-interest loans to 75 developing nations, with a substantial portion allocated to African countries. These funds are instrumental in expanding access to essential services such as energy and healthcare, fostering agricultural advancements, and fortifying critical infrastructure like transportation networks.

Addressing the delegates, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs said that the IDA Summit provided an opportunity for the World Bank, a key partner, to provide key levels of debt relief, as well as, granting countries low interest rate loans and supports climate financing to help improve lives and create safer and more prosperous communities.

The upcoming IDA conference, scheduled for December in Japan, serves as a pivotal moment for donor nations to pledge contributions towards this vital cause.



H.E. President Dr. William Ruto and his Zimbabwe counterpart H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa witness the signing ceremony at the presidential palace in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe on April 27, 2024.

Kenya and Zimbabwe Fostering Strong Partnerships for a Brighter Future

By Irene Kimeu

Kenya and Zimbabwe finalized the signing of 8 partnership agreements with a focus on strengthening bonds in areas of Security, Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Education, Health, Tourism, Capacity Development, Transport, Science, and Innovation, among others.

The signing was held at the presidential palace in Bulawayo, graced by H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and H.E. Dr. Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe on April 27, 2024.

President Ruto concluded the two-day official visit to Zimbabwe with a call to further deepen and fortify the longstanding bond of friendship between the two nations.

Earlier on, the 4th Session of the Kenya-Zimbabwe Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation was successfully conclusion on April 23, 2024, with both countries reaffirming their commitment to building strong partnerships to realize a brighter future for all.

The meeting, held in Harare was attended by a delegation from Kenya led by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi while the delegation from Zimbabwe led by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, H.E. Dr. Frederick Shava.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Mudavadi expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and emphasized the importance of the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation as a significant milestone in the enduring relationship between the two sisterly nations stating that together, both countries can overcome challenges and seize opportunities, forging a path of prosperity and progress for generations to come.

The discussions during the session revolved around ongoing cooperation in areas such as Security, Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Education, Health, Tourism, Capacity Development, Transport, and other sectors. Dr. Mudavadi was encouraged by the progress the two teams had made during the Joint Session in exploring new areas of cooperation such as Science, Technology and Innovation, Maritime and Blue Economy, Energy, Water and Irrigation, Urban Development among others.

"The constructive discussions and agreements reached stand as a testament to your dedication and commitment. This unwavering commitment reflects the cooperative spirit that has guided our bilateral relations since the inception of the Kenya-Zimbabwe Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation in 1989 in Nairobi" he said.

Dr. Mudavadi underscored the value of cooperation in spurring progress and prosperity. "By coming together and sharing our expertise, we have the power to achieve far greater outcomes than we could ever accomplish alone. Through collaboration, we can leverage each other's strengths, navigate challenges more effectively, and unlock innovative solutions to complex problems said Dr. Mudavadi."

The PCS further welcomed the proposal by the Senior Officials to elevate relations between the two Countries from the current Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation to a Bi-National Commission. The Bi-National Commission, which will be chaired at the Heads of State Level, will further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.



Kenya's Participates at the 2024 World Economic Forum in Riyadh

By Kawira Githinji

Kenya was represented at the World Economic Forum in Riyadh by a delegation led by Dr. David Ndii, Chairman of the Presidential Council of Economic Advisors (CEA), who attended on behalf of His Excellency President, Dr. William Ruto.

Dr. Ndii was accompanied by Kenya's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Mohammed Ramadhan, and Mr. Abdulshakur Hussein, Director of the Middle East Directorate at the State Department for Foreign Affairs.

The forum, themed '*Global Collaboration, Growth, and Energy Development*', was convened in Saudi Arabian capital from April 28 to 29, 2024, under the auspices of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Said, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting brought together influential leaders to exchange insights, analyze emerging data, and forge partnerships around three pivotal themes: inclusive growth, global collaboration, and energy for development.

In his address, His Royal Highness emphasized Saudi Arabia's significant role in promoting peace and security in the Middle East region. He outlined various initiatives undertaken by the Kingdom to bolster global partnerships and cultivate a more resilient and interconnected global economy.



On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh, Mr. Abdulshakur Sheikh Hussein, Director of the Middle East Directorate paid a courtesy call on his Saudi Arabian counterpart, H.E. Dr. Waleed Al-Hamoudi, Director for African Affairs at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Riyadh, on April 29, 2024

In parallel to the main sessions, the Kenyan delegation engaged in bilateral discussions with officials from the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Energy concerning the Oil Sustainability Project. This dialogue specifically centered on Kenya's Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) growth strategy for the period 2024 - 2030.

The bilateral talks underscored the potential of the Oil Sustainability Project to contribute to environmental conservation efforts by curbing deforestation and advocating for the adoption of affordable, clean cooking oil, among other benefits.





Highlights from the 6th PASET and RSIF Annual Conference

By Norah Kipruto

The 6th Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) Forum and Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF) Annual Conference convened from April 23 to 25, 2024, in Nairobi.

The conference themed "*Leveraging TVET in the Knowledge and Skills Ecosystem for Africa's Industrialization*," was inaugurated by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, representing H.E President William Ruto.

He emphasized the necessity of establishing a permanent PASET fund to drive Africa's socio-economic transformation noting that commitment underscores the significance that the government places on advancing education, technology, and innovation to drive Africa's socio-economic transformation

President William Ruto said that for Africa to thrive and become more climate-resilient and inclusive, the continent must skill its youth in sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics. "Bridging the skills gap in the fields of science, technology, and innovation will grow our economies, boost productivity, and create more green jobs," Ruto said, adding that investing in vocational training will help drive Africa into a new industrial era.

PASET was launched in 2013 with World Bank support and aims to enhance Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology's role in Africa's development. It focuses on addressing skills and knowledge gaps in priority fields, spanning from foundational skills to higher education and innovation. With 11 African governments as members and more joining, PASET continues to expand its impact.

The conference partnered with the State Department for TVET, PASET, the World Bank, RSIF, and International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) It aimed to explore avenues for economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards for African citizens.

The conference gathered stakeholders from the RSIF community, including policymakers, scientists, development partners, and the private sector, to discuss enhancing Africa's higher education sector's contribution to the continent's green economy and future workforce.

The Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Education Hon. Dr. Ezekiel Machogu highlighted Kenya's strategic partnership with PASET, emphasizing its potential as a hub for research, technical training, and quality education in Africa.

The Chair of the PASET Governing Council and Minister for Education for Rwanda Hon. Claudette Irere shared Rwanda's experience in digital skills training and its relevance to the future of work and industrialization and highlighted strategic initiatives in equipping its workforce with digital skills to meet the demands of evolving industries and technologies.

Paul Umukunzi, Director General of Rwanda TVET Board provided valuable insights into the policy measures and resource mobilization strategies and discussed Rwanda's strategy for mobilizing resources to sustain TVET programs. This involves securing funding from both domestic and international sources, engaging with private sector stakeholders to invest in TVET infrastructure and training, and leveraging partnerships with development agencies to support capacity-building initiatives in TVET.

Various speakers, including Dr. Miriam Attman, Prof. Aminata Sal Dialo, and Eng. Mike Hughes, emphasized the need for a sustainable PASET. Recommendations included developing a financial strategy, mobilizing resources, and strengthening the link between research, innovation, and employment.

The 6th PASET and RSIF Annual Conference provided a platform for robust discussions and collaborations aimed at advancing Africa's industrialization through leveraging TVET and enhancing higher education's role in the continent's socio-economic transformation.

Theme :

"Leveraging TVET in the Knowledge and Skills Ecosystem for Africa's Industrialization"



Kenya hosts 51st UNCTAD Regional Training

By Norah Kipruto

The 51st UNCTAD Paragraph 166 (P166) regional training concluded a remarkable five-year series, marking the third edition since 2019 and underscoring a profound commitment to advancing economic development in Africa. Hosted at the University of Nairobi from April 8 to 18, 2024, the training focused on trade, investment, and development.

The training drew participants from 19 African countries and focused on the urgent need to address the challenges facing developing and least developed countries in an increasingly globalized economy. The Paragraph 166 program, as articulated by the UNCTAD eLearning website, serves as a catalyst for regional and short courses aimed at exploring key issues on the international economic agenda.

At the core of this flagship program lies a comprehensive examination of the intricate links between trade, finance, investment, technology, and development. It seeks to identify pathways towards harnessing the potential gains from trade and investment to foster sustainable development.

Amb. Joseph Masila, Director of Economic Affairs and Commercial Diplomacy at the State Department for Foreign Affairs delivered a poignant message during the opening ceremony, emphasizing the pivotal role of the P166 training in fostering a nuanced understanding of the nexus between trade, investment, finance, and development. Against the backdrop of ongoing recovery efforts and multifaceted shocks, the course serves as a vital platform for policymakers to exchange insights and chart a course towards sustainable development.

"This course serves as a vital platform for fostering a deeper understanding of the interplay between trade, investment, finance, and development, particularly in the context of the ongoing recovery efforts and responses to multifaceted shocks. Further, this regional course provides an invaluable opportunity for the participants, who are mainly Government officials and policymakers in their respective capacities, to discuss and share views on topical economic issues at the regional and global levels, as they explore their implications for development strategies at the national level," noted Amb. Masila.



Amb. Lucy Kiruthu the Ag. Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs Directorate, during the closing ceremony of the the 51st UNCTAD Regional Course on April 19, 2024.



Amb. Joseph Masila, Director Economics Affairs and Commercial Diplomacy Directorate, Prof. Stephen Kiama, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Ms. Randa Jamal, UNCTAD representative and course coordinator during the official opening of the 51st UNCTAD Regional Course in Nairobi on April 19, 2024.

Built on UNCTAD's developmental expertise, the curriculum draws upon the collective wisdom of the United Nations economic regional commissions and national experts. Originating from the Bangkok Plan of Action, the program's mandate has been reaffirmed in successive UNCTAD conferences, underscoring its enduring relevance in shaping global economic discourse.

Ms. Randa Jamal, UNCTAD representative and course coordinator, praised the program's global acclaim and its pivotal role in shaping governmental transformations across Africa. The program's success has garnered special recognition, reaffirming its mandate and underscoring its enduring relevance.

Prof. Stephen Kiama, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, highlighted the university's pivotal role in nurturing Africa's economic prowess. He emphasized the need for professionals equipped to navigate both domestic and international economic landscapes, offering tailored solutions to propel the continent's development agenda forward.

At the end of the program, on April 19, 2024, Amb. Lucy Kiruthu, Ag. Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs Directorate represented Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Singoei during the closing ceremony of the two weeks' workshop.

The PS commended the participants for the successful completion of the course and also challenged them to take effective action toward sustainable economic growth in their own nations by utilizing the priceless insights they received from the program. He also expressed his gratitude to the facilitators and organizers for making the training possible.

The training stands as a testament to Africa's unwavering commitment to charting a path towards inclusive and sustainable economic development. Through collaborative efforts and informed dialogue, it is poised to unlock the continent's vast potential and usher in a new era of prosperity.



Kenya - India Enhance Bilateral Agricultural Cooperation

By Martin Owour and Glenna Moturi

The Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Singoei, hosted a delegation from India led by H.E. Mr. Dammu Ravi, Secretary for Economic Relations and In-Charge of Africa and Development Financing at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on April 11, 2024.

The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss enhancing bilateral agricultural cooperation between the two countries, following the signing of the agreed Joint Statement during the State Visit to India by H.E. William Ruto, President of The Republic of Kenya, in December 2023.

In his remarks, the Principal Secretary recalled the successful State Visit by H.E. the President which resulted in significant outcomes and the signing of Agreements, including Paragraph 22 of the Joint Statement that informed the delegation's visit to Kenya for cooperation in the agricultural sector.

PS Singoei expressed appreciation for the Government of India's offer of a Line of Credit of US\$ 250 million for the National Agricultural Mechanization Programme. He also welcomed the planned opening of the India Exim Bank office in Kenya and the signing of the Host Country Agreement on April 12th, 2024, at the Prime Cabinet Secretary's Office for the relocation of the office from Addis Ababa to Nairobi.

Regarding ongoing Kenya-India agricultural cooperation, H.E. Mr. Dammu shared his appreciation and emphasized the importance of value addition in agricultural production. He expressed India's interest in milk production and value addition, the cultivation of food crops such as millet, and investment in solar energy.

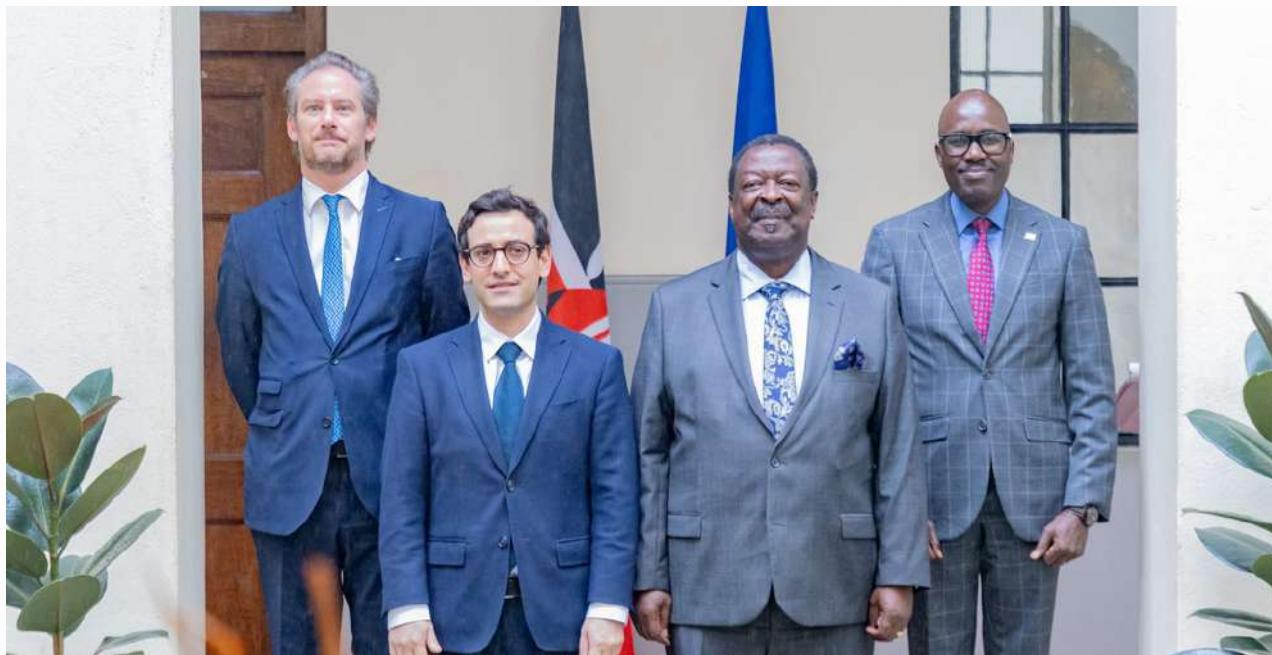


Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs and H.E. Mr. Dammu Ravi, Secretary for Economic Relations and In-Charge of Africa and Development Financing at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on April 11, 2024.

Both parties also discussed the pending Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Health sector, whose implementation would ensure the recognition of India's pharmacopoeia, allowing for the importation of affordable generic drugs into the Kenyan market.

The delegations further explored potential areas of cooperation in trade, wildlife conservation, ICT connectivity, Public-Private partnerships, and the upcoming India-Africa Summit, which would strengthen diplomatic relations between the two nations.





H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs with H.E. Stéphane Séjourné, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic on his official trip to Kenya on April 6, 2024.

Strengthening Ties: Kenya and France Bilateral Meeting

By Wayne Lumbasi

On April 6, 2024, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, hosted a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Stéphane Séjourné, France's newly appointed Foreign Minister, in Nairobi. This marked Mr. Séjourné's first visit to Africa in his new role, underscoring the importance of France-Kenya relations.

During the meeting, Mr. Séjourné highlighted recent exchanges including President William Ruto's participation in the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in June 2023, that strengthened ties between the two nations. President Ruto emphasized reforming the international financial institutions for equitable resource distribution.

Mr. Séjourné reaffirmed France's commitment to the Paris Pact for People and the Planet (4Ps) and its contributions to the Green Climate Fund. Concerns were raised about the inclusiveness of the upcoming 'Pandemic Agreement' vote at the World Health Assembly in May 2024, with the need for modifications to better address Africa's needs.

Economic cooperation was a key focus, with France's involvement in financing Kenya's infrastructure projects highlighted. Mr. Séjourné expressed a desire to expand French business presence in Kenya, praising the country's conducive business environment and urging exploration of new economic cooperation avenues.

On Peace and security issues, Mr. Séjourné reiterated France's support for Ukraine amidst the conflict with Russia and emphasizing the need for dialogue in resolving the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Kenya's commitment to the Haiti peace process was reaffirmed, and France assured support for Kenya's participation in the multilateral security support mission to Haiti. The upcoming International Humanitarian Conference on Sudan and its Neighbours was discussed, with Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary confirming attendance to bolster international humanitarian responses to the Sudan crisis.

Bilateral cooperation aspects were also covered, highlighting France's contribution to Kenya's transportation infrastructure, particularly through a loan agreement to modernize the Nairobi Commuter Rail. Collaboration between Win Win Afrique and the Kenyan government to build sports and culture complexes was emphasized, with a call for expeditious conclusion of the project's concept paper. The prolonged Dechaffour case, straining Franco-Kenyan relations, was discussed, with both parties agreeing on an initial payment plan. Resolving the Dechaffour case remains critical for maintaining momentum in French-funded projects in Kenya.

The meeting underscored France's strategic pivot towards eastern Africa and the importance of strengthening ties with Kenya for collaboration on peace, security, and development, aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030.



Kenya, Ghana Bolster Relations



H.E. President Dr. William Ruto during an official visit to the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat in Accra, Ghana on April 3, 2024

By Fatuma Ngwena

H.E. President Dr. William Samoei Ruto made a three-day State Visit to the Republic of Ghana from April 2, 2024, and held bilateral talks with the President of Ghana H.E. Nana Akufo Addo, to bolster relations between Kenya and Ghana, aimed at facilitating trade and investment between the two nations.

Kenya and Ghana have worked closely in their efforts to make African integration a reality. The history of Pan-Africanism from the 1940s has carved a path for the two countries to once again lead the way in Africa's agenda for trade integration in the 21st Century.

During a press conference held at President Akufo-Addo's office, the two presidents discussed various issues noting that Kenya and Ghana are determined to collaborate in tackling internal conflicts, wars, terrorism and violent extremism, aiming to safeguard peace and stability and thus promote regional development.

They also discussed institutional reforms at the African Union aimed at making the continental organization fit-for-purpose and for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063.

President Ruto was accompanied by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, who co-chaired the 2nd Kenya-Ghana Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation with his counterpart, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana.

The Session assessed the progress made in strengthening Kenya and Ghana cooperation. The Agreed Minutes of the JPCC provided for signing of additional bilateral arrangements to foster relations across security, political and diplomatic affairs and social-economic partnerships.

President Ruto witnessed the signing of seven MOUs including some signed by business associations from Kenya and Ghana, aimed at facilitating trade and investment between the two nations. The goal, he said, is to expand opportunities for business, the private sector and citizens of the two nations. Other MoUs include cooperation in science and technology, tourism, education, governance and defence.

The President also made a tour of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area headquarters. He said the two nations will use the opportunities provided by the AfCFTA to further boost trade between Kenya and Ghana.

President Ruto commended Ghana's decision to remove visa requirements for all Africans by the end of the year, a move aimed at enhancing the continent's integration. He pointed out that the free movement of people has contributed to growth in trade, investment and tourism between Kenya and Ghana. Kenya, too, removed visa requirements for visitors from all countries in January 2024.

The President reaffirmed Kenya's unwavering commitment to the elimination of trade barriers among African countries, recognizing that this is essential for facilitating rapid economic prosperity for the continent and its people.

President Ruto said through the unity of African leadership, the continent stands a better chance of effectively implementing its climate action agenda. He said the first-ever Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi last September served as a platform for the African leadership to define a clear common position in the global climate action discourse in the run up to COP28 last December and beyond.

The two states pledged to collaborate in tackling internal conflicts, wars, terrorism and violent extremism, aiming to safeguard peace and stability and thus promote regional development.

Wrapping up his visit, President Ruto accompanied by the Dr. Mudavadi, paid respects at the Kwame Nkrumah Museum and Mausoleum in Accra, reflecting on the enduring legacy of Africa's great leader, Kwame Nkrumah's vision for African unity and independence.

Ghana awarded President Ruto the country's highest honour, The Companion of the Order of the Star of the Volta. Confering the honour at a State banquet, President Akufo Addo, said President Ruto was an "example of a new generation of African leaders" who have applied the principles of accountability and due process to all citizens no matter their status in society".



Kenya and Pakistan Deepen Cooperation



Mr. Maurice Okoth, Director, Asia-Pacific Directorate with Amb. Shehryar Akbar Khan the Additional Foreign Secretary for Africa of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan accompanied by H.E. Ibrar Hussain Khan, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Kenya and Mr. Adnan Javed Khan, Deputy Head of Mission on March 14, 2024.

By Glenna Moturi

Amb. Shehryar Akbar Khan, the Additional Foreign Secretary for Africa of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, visited Kenya from March 14 to 15, 2024, to enhance bilateral ties between the two countries.

The visit concluded with a meeting between Amb. Khan and Kenyan government officials, during which they discussed various areas of mutual cooperation. Mr. Maurice Okoth, the Director for Asia and the Pacific Directorate, represented the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs during the meeting.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Okoth congratulated Pakistan on the recently held General Elections as well as the subsequent elections of the Prime Minister and President in the Legislature. Amb. Khan expressed gratitude for the warm welcome. Both parties acknowledged the existing cordial relations, which have been strengthened through effective collaborations between the resident Missions and respective Governments, as well as through trade

The delegation expressed a keen interest in enhancing cooperation in science and technology, particularly highlighting Kenya's Digital Identification project as a potential area for collaboration, given Pakistan's existing provision of IT services in several African countries.

Recognizing the significance of agriculture, both sides emphasized the importance of sharing best practices to improve the sector's resilience and productivity. Pakistan offered scholarships and educational opportunities for Kenyan students and public servants, which were warmly received. Further discussions focused on promoting non-scholarship courses offered by Pakistani universities through educational fairs and exhibitions in Kenya.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and expressed optimism about the prospects for increased cooperation. They anticipate further discussions on these matters during the upcoming 2nd Kenya-Pakistan Joint Trade Committee Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).





Navigating the silent storm: Burnout in the workplace

By Fartun Dahir

In today's workplaces, mental health and burnout are becoming increasingly significant issues that affect employee wellbeing and productivity. Factors such as high job demands, long hours, lack of support systems, and work-life imbalance contribute to heightened levels of stress among employees.

The World Health Organization recognizes mental health disorders, particularly depression and anxiety, as leading causes of disability worldwide. It is crucial for organizations to create environments that foster psychological wellbeing.

Burnout is not just feeling tired or stressed; it is a state of emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion resulting from prolonged exposure to stressors. It is characterized by energy depletion, cynicism or detachment from work, and reduced professional efficacy.

If left unaddressed, burnout can lead to diminished productivity, increased absenteeism, and long-term health problems. It gradually develops as individuals push themselves to meet professional expectations or pursue success.

The impact of mental health challenges and burnout extends beyond the individual to affect organizational health and performance. Employees facing mental health issues are more likely to experience lower job satisfaction, decreased morale, and higher turnover rates.

Additionally, the financial implications of absenteeism, and healthcare costs associated with mental health disorders can be substantial for individuals, families and even organizations.

Effectively addressing mental health and burnout in the workplace requires prioritizing employee wellbeing. Organizations should create a supportive culture that encourages open dialogue, eliminates stigma, and offers accessible resources. Key strategies may include:

Educational Programs: Provide training on stress management, resilience building, and identifying burnout signs.

Flexible Work Arrangements: Offer options like flexible hours and remote work to support work-life balance.

Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs): Implement confidential counselling services, mental health resources, and referral networks.

Leadership Support: Encourage managers to prioritize employee wellbeing and foster a psychologically safe environment.

Signs of Burnout



Exhaustion



Dreading work



Trouble sleeping



Depression



"Drowning"



Short temper



No time for non-work-related things



Promoting Innovation Diplomacy for Sustainable Development

By Stanley Kimani Mwangi

One of the greatest strengths that a country can have is the capacity to innovate. Innovation has become a key driver to economic, technological, social, political, cultural progress and it's a key determinant of a nation's ability to navigate emerging turbulent global environment. It's for this reason that in contemporary practice of foreign affairs, innovation diplomacy is a necessity and not a choice.

In 2022, Kenya was ranked 88th globally out of 132 countries and 4th in Africa in Global Innovation Index. The index focuses on country's innovation capabilities in areas such as institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, credit, investment; creation, absorption and diffusion of knowledge among others. In 2022 Kenya performed better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs.

Innovation entails coming up with new ideas that improve and develop services, products processes and systems making them more efficient, valuable and competitive. Concerning innovation diplomacy, it involves creative use of resources and tools to pursue and achieve foreign policy goals. This assists a nation to protect and promote its economic, political, social, cultural and technological interests. Some authorities have contended that innovation diplomacy evolved from science diplomacy which was aimed at supporting partnerships in international scientific research and influencing of foreign policy using scientific advice and evidence.

Behind the facade of courtesies and pleasantries in the practice of diplomacy, there exist protracted and intense competition for available opportunities and this trend is bound to continue and intensify fueled by threats of climate change, rising population, insecurity and fast changing technology. Using innovative diplomacy, a country is able to secure strategic trade deals, attract foreign direct investments, access social-cultural opportunities, accelerate technology transfer and harness best practices. This in turn leads to improved product and service competitiveness, enhanced prestige and prosperity.

Presently, innovation is at the center of sustainable development cutting across all sectors from agriculture, tourism, culture, finance, education, transport, health among others. Countries are relying on innovation to align their economies and productive systems to sustainable development goals as well as provide solutions to global challenges like climate change, poverty, insecurity and pervasive diseases.

The debilitating onslaught visited on the world community by Corona-19 pandemic has in many ways strengthened global health innovations and diplomacy as nations and non-state actors sought newer and creative ways of collaborating to tackle the challenge. This crisis required diplomats and health practitioners to re-examine their skills,

resources, arrangements and enhance collaboration to safeguard populations. The pandemic in many ways led to many ingenious, creative and innovative responses targeting response, communication, commerce, work related practices that will benefit humanity.

Digital Diplomacy

To keep track with the fast growing technological innovations many countries are harnessing emerging opportunities for instance use of digital media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, Wechat, Google, Facebook, Flickr and Tik Tok, You Tube among others to pursue their foreign policy goals and interests. Most of these platforms are fast, accessible, affordable and they assist enhance information sharing and accountability. Many departments of the Government of Kenya actively use several of these interactive platforms to communicate with their diverse audiences and gather feedback on various issues. Presently the government is in the process of innovatively digitizing services to enhance efficiency and competitiveness a development that will transform service delivery.

Today's statecraft demands use of new technological tools to augment traditional diplomatic practice and meet demands of the 21st Century. It's worth to note that the US State Department was the first to start an e-Diplomacy unit at the beginning of the twenty first century. Former United States of America President, Barrack Obama once observed that innovation was responsible for nearly two thirds of the country economic growth and it had tremendously contributed to improvement in the quality of life of Americans. He added that innovation was the bedrock of United States of America economic and technological growth.

At the center of innovation is an insatiable curiosity and interest which determines to a great extent one's ability to spot, pursue and seize opportunities for innovation. At some point governments may start considering training diplomats, policy makers and implementers on curiosity, tact and courage. An important question to pose is how curious are we on work related processes, improvements, new ideas, seeking solutions to existing challenges, following up on some leads, researching and enhancing our skills on problem solving.

As the resources continue to dwindle from the pressure exerted by growing population, climate change, consumerism and other emerging issues a situation that is compounded by rising conflicts, innovative diplomacy will be a critical factor in enhancing competitiveness, resolving conflicts and promoting prosperity. By its wide presence globally the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs could significantly contribute in enhancing innovation capacity of our country through purposefully exploring, informing about new trends, inclinations, opportunities for innovation partnerships, cultivating valuable relationships, scaling up collaborations and diffusion of innovations. Foreign service practitioners, policy makers and global citizens should actively play their role in creatively seeking solutions to national and global challenges as well as acting as innovation catalysts for attainment of sustainable development.



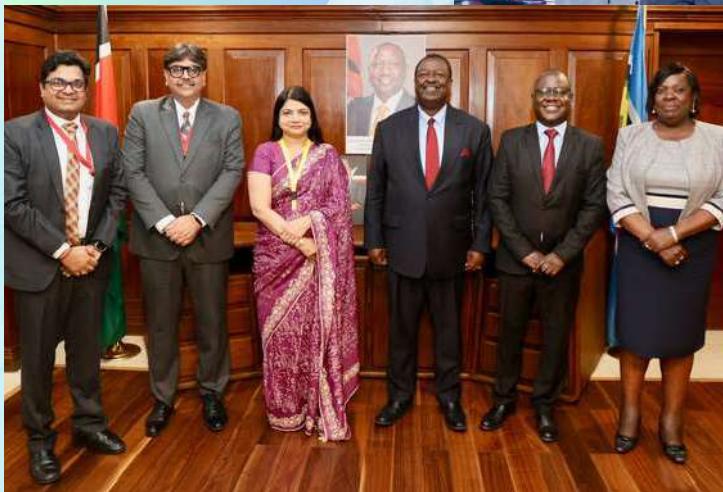
IN BRIEF



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs hosted H.E. Ville Tavio, Finland's Minister for Foreign Trade and Development on June 12, 2024.

Discussions focused on the long-standing partnership between Kenya and Finland in trade, development, and pro-people initiatives such as water, energy, environmental conservation, and ICT.

On June 8, 2024 H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs joined Amb. Margaret Whitman to mark the 248th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America at the Ambassador's Residence in Kenya. The celebrations coincided with the 60th Anniversary of the Kenya - US relations.



On May 29, 2024, The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs H.E Dr. Musalia Mudavadi held a meeting with Ms. Harsha Bangari, Managing Director of India Exim Bank who paid him a courtesy call.

Ms. Harsha Bangari was accompanied by Mr. Nirmal Ved, General Manager and Mr. Abhishek Misra, Assistant General Manager at the India Exim Bank. The delegation from the India Exim Bank were in Kenya attending the African Development Bank Annual meeting held at the KICC in Nairobi.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs

H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi met with the representatives of the Dawoodi Bohra Community living in Kenya at the Railways HQ offices on May 15, 2024





IN BRIEF

Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary for State Department for Foreign Affairs held a meeting with H.E. Roberto Natali, the Italian Ambassador to Kenya, to discuss the participation of H.E. President William Ruto at the G7 Summit to be hosted by Italy in mid June.

The G7 comprises seven of the world's advanced economies. President Ruto will join the heads of States of Mauritania (holding the AU chair), Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and South Africa as invited guests from Africa.



PS Dr. Korir SingOei, held a meeting with Mr. Abdulsalam Al Awadh, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Yemen in Nairobi, on May 17, 2024

They explored means towards reparation for the loss of life inadvertently occasioned upon a Yemeni national by a Kenyan, currently facing capital punishment imposed by a Saudi Court.



On June 5, 2024, PS Dr. Korir SingOei interacted with former UN Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki Moon on the sidelines of the Korea-Africa Summit.



On May 12, 2024 Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary State Department for Foreign Affairs joined a vigil in honour of Haitian mothers organized by Africa4Haiti Initiative.



IN BRIEF



Ambassador Dennis Mburu, the Director of the Africa Affairs Directorate paid a visit to the Malawi High Commission in Nairobi on June 14, 2024.

He signed the condolence book in honor of the late Vice President of Malawi, H.E. Saulos Chilima, who passed away in a plane crash on June 8, 2024.

H.E. Mrs. Joan Thomas Edwards, High Commissioner of Jamaica to Kenya resident in South Africa, paid a courtesy call on Amb. Beatrice Karago, Director Americas and the Caribbean Directorate, following the presentation of her credentials to H.E. President Dr. William Samoei Ruto.

Discussions centered on enhancing Kenya - Jamaica relations and promoting global and regional peace and security. The two committed to strengthening and deepening - ties.



On May 16, 2024 on the sidelines of the 4th Qatar Economic Forum in Doha, Qatar, Mr. Abdishakur Sheikh Hussein, Director of the Middle East Directorate accompanied by H.E. Amb. Mohamednur Adan, Ambassador of Kenya to Qatar paid a courtesy call on his Qatari counterpart, H.E. Amb. Dr. Abdullah Al-Jaber, Director of the African Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar

On June 5, 2024, Mr. James Kiiru, Director, African Union, Regional and Continental Organisations, hosted a delegation from Africa50 and Africa Health Networks (AHN) at the Ministry's Headquarters.

Key discussion of the meeting revolved around investment in the health sector, with a special focus on the investment in the health infrastructure for dialysis.





IN BRIEF



On May 16, 2024, Ambassador Nairimas Ole-Sein presented her Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain, accrediting her as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kenya to the Kingdom of Spain.

Amb. Betty Cherwon, Kenya's Ambassador to the Republic of France accompanied by the Kenyan Olympics Technical Team visits Olympics facilities in St. Dennis, Paris on April 18, 2024.



On May 14, 2024 Amb. Manoah Esipisu former High Commissioner of Kenya to the United Kingdom bid farewell to the famous No. 45 Portland Place London.

He thanked H.E. President Dr. William Ruto for the opportunity to serve Government in diplomacy and communication.

on June 6, 2024, H.E. Amb. Mohamed Nur Adan, held a meeting with Mr. Luis Phay, Managing Director of Group Security Systems Certis International Company to explore employment opportunities and strengthen the existing cooperative engagement with the Company.





IN BRIEF



The staff from the Global Assets Department led by Mr. Kiboi Waituru hosted a farewell retirement luncheon for Amb. Dr. Margaret Gachuru who retired from the civil service in April, 2024.



On behalf of Government of India, The High Commissioner handed over 2nd tranche of 40MT of humanitarian assistance for flood-affected Kenyans to Secretary to the Cabinet Hon. Mercy Wanjau and Cabinet Secretary for EAC, ASALs and Regional Development Hon. Peninah Malonza.

Mr. Maurice Okoth, Director Asia attended the ceremony on May 14, 2024.



On June 7, 2024, the 23rd Extra-Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State appointed and sworn in Ms. Veronica Mueni Nduva from the Republic of Kenya as the new EAC Secretary General.



Chambers of Commerce are vital in facilitating trade and are key drivers of economic growth, job creation and prosperity.

On June 3, 2024, Kenya High Commissioner to Nigeria, Isaac Parashina held a meeting with the President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Gabriel Idahosa, FCA, and the Chamber's Director General, Dr. Chinyere Almona, FCA

On June 24 2024, the Kenya High Commissioner to Malaysia, Ekitela Moru hosted a team of 12 Malaysian travel agents and companies for a meeting at the Chancery. This is part of the Mission's efforts to market Kenya as a desired tourist destination and increase the tourist number from the ASEAN region taking advantage of the impending Air Asia direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Nairobi to be launched on July 1, 2024.





FAREWELL



Amb. Yabesh Monari, Director General Foreign Service Administration, led staff from his Directorate in bidding farewell to Mr. Haggai Onguka on his posting to Kenya Embassy Mogadishu.



On April 25, 2024, Mr. Abdishakur Hussein, Director of the Middle East Directorate and the staff at the Directorate held a farewell lunch in honour of Mr. Kevin Thuo, Assistant Director, who was posted to the Kenya Embassy to the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Staff in the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs held a farewell party for the Chief of Staff Mr. Fred Eshikuta on posting to Kenya High Canberra, Australia.



Amb. Joseph Masila, Director Economic and Commercial Affairs presided over a farewell reception for three of his staff members, Ms. Alice Avedi posted to Kenya Embassy Beijing, Ms. Kerubo Omurwa, to Kenya Embassy, Abidjan and Reuben Ruto, to Kenya High Commission Islamabad



Tree Planting Towards the Presidential Initiative to grow 15 billion tree cover by 2030

VISION

A peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Kenya

MISSION

To project, promote and protect Kenya's interests and image globally through innovative diplomacy, and contribute towards a just, peaceful and equitable world.

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