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**Kenya, France
pledge co-operation
in development
projects**

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President William Ruto and President Emmanuel Macron of France at Elysee Palace in Paris on January 24, 2023

Kenya, France pledge co-operation in development projects

By Anne Juma

President William Ruto and President Emmanuel Macron of France on January 24, 2023, held a meeting at Elysee Palace in Paris during his one-day official visit to the European nation.

The meeting centered on the strengthening of trade ties with the two leaders committing to seek diversification and harnessing of existing business opportunities.

The two also agreed to enhance cooperation in development projects. President Ruto noted that the sustained cooperation in trade and infrastructure was a manifestation of the strong ties that exist between the two countries. He said this had manifested through sustained cooperation in areas of trade, energy, health, water, infrastructure, and agriculture among others.

President Ruto also discussed with his host the involvement of Kenya in security operations to restore peace within the East and Central African region where they agreed to further cooperation in peace and security in the East African region.



President William Ruto and President Emmanuel Macron of France held bilateral talks at Elysee Palace in Paris on January 24, 2023

President Ruto who also met senior representatives of the French Business community where he pushed for increased trade and investment, says his administration will establish stronger trade ties with friends and reduce heavy on borrowing.



U.S. President Joe Biden hosted leaders from across the African continent in Washington, DC on December 13-15, 2022, for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.

Ruto visit to USA focuses on Trade and Investment

By Edwin Limo

Kenya and USA must widen and diversify commerce for their economic growth. This will entail trade and market expansion that benefits the two countries. These remarks were made by President William Ruto when he spoke during the Executive Business Roundtable and Investment Forum in Washington, D.C. where he attended the US-Africa Summit.

"The U.S.-Africa Summit presents the opportunity for us to trade more," the President said. He reiterated that the two countries enjoy long-running ties of friendship and cooperation that offer a solid foundation for sustained economic relations.

He said for the world to defeat poverty and inequality, countries must escalate partnerships that spur investments. He said Kenya offers a geo-strategic address in the eastern part of Africa an additional compelling attraction to foreign businesses.

"Kenya has an elaborate and robust policy and legal framework that guide the conduct of trade and investment." He said the Government will continue pursuing pro-business policies and incentives, a demonstration that Kenya is indeed an investment destination of choice.

In a separate engagement at the Thunderbird School of Global Management, the President addressed a roundtable of Government, private sector, academia, and innovators; interested in re-imagining the possibilities and engaging with the opportunities of the digital space in Kenya.

The President underscored his bold economic vision for an inclusive and shared prosperity. He added that there was need to secure jobs, held by lower-wage workers, who in Kenya's context are the 'Hustlers', majority of whom are women and youth, from various disruptions, especially the globalization and the 4th industrial revolution.

"The world is experiencing unprecedented disruption across many sectors. The Fourth Industrial Revolution as an era of human evolution, through technological advancement, is rapidly transforming how we live, learn, work, and communicate offering opportunities, while presenting new and significant challenges to our development," said the President.

The President also said that Kenya had taken deliberate action to prioritize digital transformation through the expansion of universal access to broadband, embarking on the digitization of public services, supporting our robust start-up ecosystem, enhanced access to digital credit, and improved monetization of digital public goods by young entrepreneurs. The newly established State Department for Digital Economy is mandated to fast-track on this commitment.

He invited U.S. tech firms to take advantage of the opportunity presented in Kenya's plans for a digital superhighway, paperless and digital government, and the establishment of robust Data Hubs as the country continues to strengthen its position as the technology gateway for the larger Eastern and Central Africa region.

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Ruto visit to USA focuses on Trade and Investment

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And speaking to Kenyans in the US, the Head of State said the government will improve and take services close to them.

"We are going to decentralize and use technology to bring as many services as we can online. We know many Kenyans spend hours and days travelling to get consular services," the President said adding that Diaspora was a crucial player in Kenya's economy.

The President said the newly created State Department for Diaspora Affairs will boost service delivery to Kenyans abroad especially on consular matters.



H.E. President William Ruto meets Kenyans in Washington DC, USA on the side-lines of the US-Africa Summit

"When you support your families back home you are also making a valuable contribution to the economy. Diaspora remittances are now Kenya's biggest source of foreign exchange," he said adding that the government was keen to work with diaspora and to utilize their networks to bring investments to Kenya and create opportunities that will develop the country.

Kenya, US sign MOU on collaboration in nuclear energy



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua, AG Hon. Justine Muturi and Amb. Bonnie Denice Jenkins, Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security, Department of State in USA on December 15, 2022

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua presided over the signing of a MOU on Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation with USA Government's Amb. Bonnie Denice Jenkins, Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security, Department of State on December 15, 2022.

The MOU establishes basis for continued collaboration in the field of peaceful nuclear energy in which the participants engage multilaterally through the International Atomic Energy (IAEA) and other international organizations.

Further in this MOU, the governments of Kenya and the United States of America commit to work together to develop solutions for the former's nuclear energy needs consistent with their paramount and mutual security interests.



Kenya and South Africa open borders for their citizens



As from January 1, 2023, Kenyans enjoy visa-free travel to South Africa for a period of 90 days in a year. The announcement was made on November 9, 2022, in a joint press briefing, by H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto and H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa.

The reciprocal arrangement between the two countries is a concrete demonstration of the deep bonds of friendship and a commitment to nurture closer ties.

Kenya and South Africa share strong bonds of friendship, anchored on mutual respect, common values and solidarity not only on issues of bilateral concern, but also on regional, and international matters.

The conclusion on the visa exemption further reflects conscious efforts and political good will by leaders of the two countries to eliminate any barriers to building greater business, cultural and communal relationships. It is the recognition that easier movement of people will promote integration and Pan-Africanism as envisioned in the African Union Free Movement of Persons Protocol of 2018.

Trade and Economic Cooperation remains a key pillar of Kenya's bilateral relations with South Africa. Kenya is among South Africa's leading trading partners in Africa.

The new policy complimented by the already existing Strategic Partnership Framework between South African Airways and Kenya Airways will not only facilitate tourism exchanges but also boost trade and investment.



By Catherine Muigai Mwangi
High Commissioner, Kenya
High Commission Pretoria

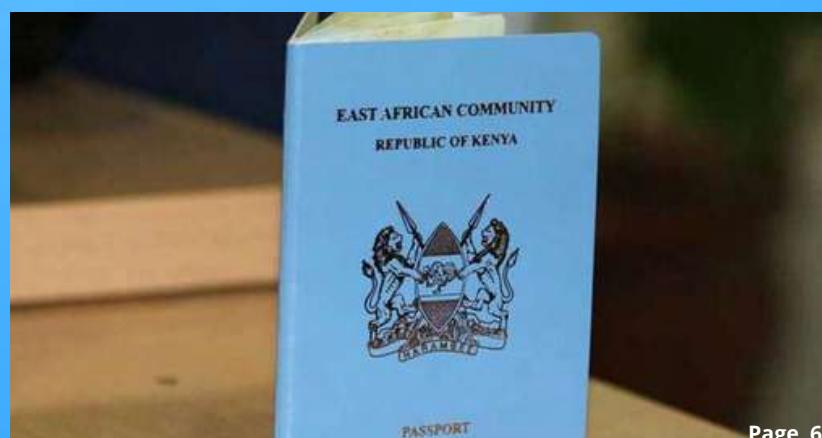
At the time of the announcement, President Cyril Ramaphosa was in Kenya for his first official trip to the country from November 8 - 9, 2022 at the invitation of President Ruto.

Happening two months after Kenya's 2022 general-election and barely a year after another successful State Visit to South Africa by former President Uhuru Kenyatta in November 2021, the reciprocal State Visit was an important statement of the will to maintain and deepen the sound and steady relations through high-level visits and diplomatic exchanges.

During the November 2022 State Visit, Kenya and South Africa signed three (3) Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and one (1) Agreement on: Cooperation in the Field of Correctional Services; Cooperation in the Field of Housing and Human Settlement; Cooperation between the Kenya School of Government and the South Africa National School of Government; and an Agreement on Audio Visual Co-Production. This is in addition to eight other legal instruments signed in November 2021.

The signed Agreements and several others under negotiation cover the wide scope of cooperation and a deep determination by the two countries to elevate the nature and level of relationship.

Kenya seeks to deepen the new chapter of engagement with the South African people under the visa free regime.





African Leaders discuss 'Food' in Senegal



African Leaders at Dakar 2 Summit - Feed Africa in Dakar, Senegal - January 25 -27, 2023

By Ruth Ngugi

President William Ruto this past week was in Dakar, Senegal, where he was the keynote speaker at the Dakar 2 summit themed; **"Feed Africa: food, sovereignty and resilience"**.

During the visit, President Ruto said that the government is engaging governments in the continent with a view to mutually beneficial business.

He urged the business people to push hard for access for African markets. He noted that Africa will account 25 per cent of the world population by 2050, a market Kenya must plan and strategies for.

He assured investors that the government would support them to access investment opportunities across the continent.



In Dakar, Senegal, President William Ruto officially opened the Kenyan Embassy, the first in Francophone Africa that will serve the region.

While in Dakar, the President officially opened the Kenyan Chancery. The Chancery is the first in francophone Africa and will serve the region. He announced that Kenya will open an embassy in Rabat, Morocco, later in the year.

The President was accompanied by Dr. Korir Sing'oei, Principal Secretary State Department of Foreign Affairs and Kenyan Ambassador to Senegal Amb. Purity Muhindi.

President Ruto also met Kenyans living in Senegal and assured them of government service through the Embassy and online.





Kenya participates at the C-10 meeting



Members of the C10 include the Heads of State and Government of Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Republic of Congo, Uganda and Zambia.

Kawira Githinji

Kenya participated in the Ministerial meeting of the African Union Committee of Ten (C10) Heads of State and Governments on the reforms of the United Nations Security Council, held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on 11 and 12 January 2023.

The Ministerial meeting was held on the request of the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone who is the Coordinator of the C10, and hosted by the President of the Republic of Congo.

Kenya's Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua was represented in the meeting by Amb. Susan Mwangi, Director-General, Multilateral, International Affairs and UNON, who led a delegation comprising of officials from Permanent Mission of Kenya to New York and Addis Ababa.

The focus of the meeting was to assess the progress made by the C10 in the negotiation process at the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on United Nations Security Reforms. In this regard review the efforts made to promote the Common African Position (CAP) that calls for the Continent to be allocated two Permanent seats and increase the non-permanent representation to five seats at the UN Security Council as espoused in the Ezulwini consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

In a speech read by Amb. Mwangi, CS Mutua urged the C10 Ministers to address the issues of historical injustices on Africa. He noted that Africa's peace and security matters compose the bulk of the Security Council Agenda and urged the Ministers to come up with recommendations that will give Africa a voice.

Thanking the C10 Ministers for continued commitment and collaboration in the efforts to reform the UN Security Council, CS Mutua applauded the African Permanent Representatives based in New York for the continued engagement with Member States and interest groups to defend, popularise and restate the Common African Position, which has led to expression of broad support towards the CAP.

"While the broad support for CAP is encouraging, we still have a long way to go, we must keep the momentum going," the CS stated.

He added, "we must leverage on the current geopolitics to build and gain support for Africa's quest for two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats in the security council."

The CS said Kenya's two-year tenure at the security council, working together with the members demonstrated that Africa is ready to resolve Africa's issues with African solutions and is able to obtain consensus with other elected members to articulate and defend Africa's interests.

During the deliberations, Kenya asked the Committee to reflect on the following; - build consensus particularly on correcting the historical injustice including Africa's historical exclusion and the extent of attention the Council pays to its conflicts; push for substantive and procedural reforms of working methods of the Security Council; consider how to empower Ambassadors to continue defending and broadening support for the Common African Position; and build political momentum at the African Heads of State and Government, and Foreign Ministerial levels by ensuring Africa's common position on Security Council reforms.

The Ministers called for heightened engagements at all levels including by Heads of State, Ministers and Permanent Representatives on lobbying for the Common African position.

The outcomes of the meeting document will inform the decisions of the Heads of State and Government during the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2023.



Amb. Susan Mwangi, Director General - Multilateral, International Affairs and UNON represented the Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua at the Tenth Ministerial meeting of the C10 in Brazzaville on January, 11-12, 2023



Pictorial - CS Mutua participates at the Cabinet Retreat



CS Alfred Mutua arrives at the Fairmont Mt Kenya Safari Club, Nyeri County for the Cabinet Retreat



CS Alfred Mutua keenly follows proceedings during the opening of the Retreat on January 5, 2023



CS Alfred Mutua with colleagues at the Fairmont Mt Kenya Safari Club, Nyeri County



CS Alfred Mutua with CS Water, Sanitation and Irrigation exchange ideas during the Retreat



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with colleague during the Retreat on January 7, 2023.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with Machakos Governor Wavinya Ndeti and Makueni Governor Mutula Kilonzo at Fairmont Mt Kenya Safari Club on January 7, 2023



“Voice of the South Summit”



By Kevin Thuo

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua participated in the **“Voice of the South Summit”** virtual meeting convened by India in the context of the county's Presidency of the G20 India.

The meeting chaired by External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S Jaishankar brought together over 100 participating countries.

In his remarks, CS Mutua congratulated India on its assumption of the Presidency of the G20 and welcomed the **“Voice of the South Summit”** virtual meeting as an appropriate platform to generate ideas that would feed into the process leading to the G20 summit in 2023.

CS Mutua presides over the Diaspora Homecoming Conference



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua addresses the 9th Annual Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Conference in Nairobi on December 7, 2022.

By Kawira Githinji

Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua presided over the 9th Annual Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Conference (KDHC-2022) held in Nairobi on December 7, 2022.

The three-day event organised by the Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) was themed **“Leveraging Diaspora Resource for Inclusive growth.”**

Speaking at the event, CS Mutua said the theme of the Convention was in sync with President William Ruto's government policy which recognises the importance Kenyan diaspora play in the nation's economy. The creation of a new State Department specifically for Diaspora Affairs underscores this recognition.

The CS encouraged the diaspora to take advantage of the opportunities availed by the government for personal growth and urged them to invest back home.

Theme: "Leveraging Diaspora Resource for Inclusive growth."

The meeting which was held both in person and online, targeted diaspora communities, their families and associates, investors, corporates, professionals, embassies, students, support organisations, service providers, among other stakeholders.

The Overall objective of the conference was to sensitize the diaspora on the opportunities available to invest back home as opposed to just sending money for consumption and subsistence.

The conference also sought to reassure the diaspora of safeguards already in place for their investments as well as considerations and efforts being made to further secure their interests and remittances.



Saudi delegation visits Kenya



PS Dr. Korir Singoei chairs the bilateral meeting with the Saudi delegation that visited Kenya on January 11, 2023

By Kuria Muigai

Principal Secretary State Department for Foreign Affairs Dr. Korir Singoei, led Kenyan delegation from across Ministries in a bilateral meeting with visiting Saudi delegation on humanitarian and development cooperation on January 11, 2023.

During the meeting the officials from both countries deliberated on ways of further deepening and supporting cooperation in field of development and humanitarian affairs.

In his opening remarks the PS acknowledged the cordial relations that exist between Kenya and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and expressed Kenyas willingness towards deepening and strengthening ties for mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

PS Singoei expressed Kenya's readiness to work with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for mutually beneficial investment engagement in areas of agriculture development, trade and investment as well as labour and skills development.

He further thanked the Saudi Government for support in Kenya's Infrastructure development and humanitarian interventions through Saudi Fund for Development and King Salman Humanitarian Aid.

The Saudi delegation was in Kenya for five days where they met Government officials for series of meetings.

The delegation was led by Mr Yosef Al Balawi, Minister Plenipotentiary Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia together with representative from ministries of Energy, Culture, Commerce, Environment, Water, Agriculture, Finance, Human Resources, Saudi Fund and King Salman Humanitarian Aid.



Saudi delegation led by Mr Yosef Al Balawi, Minister Plenipotentiary Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



PS Njogu official visit to Riyadh



CS for Labour Hon. Florence Bore and the Kenyan delegation in a meeting with officials from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on January 12, 2023.

By Kawira Githinji

Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary, Ms. Roseline Njogu on January 12, 2023 made an official visit to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as part of a Kenyan delegation to the Middle East Country.

The delegation led by Hon.. Florence Bore, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection engaged in a series of meetings with officials from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to discuss contribution of Kenyans in Diaspora towards KSA economy, opportunities for Kenyans to work in professional categories of the economy and policies to better protect migrant works rights.

PS Njogu said that Saudi Arabia government has set up a toll free helpline for employees to raise concerns, complaints and receive information in an effort to improve workers' rights.

While in Riyadh, PS held talks with Mr Rommel Romato, Charge' d'affairs of the Philippines Embassy and exchanged ideas on best practices in the diaspora policies, migrant labour protection and international job sourcing and management.

Later on, the PS visited the Sakan Holding Centre in Riyadh. The centre gives shelter to female domestic workers in distress. She noted that , over the last two years, the Sakan Centre in collaboration with the Kenya Embassy in Riyadh had evacuated over 8,000 Kenyan women back home at no cost.

The PS engaged the women at the Sakan centre who confirmed that they had access to food, shelter, medical and psychological care and facilitation of exit visas .

Ms. Njogu urged domestic workers in distress in KSA to go to Sakan Centres near them for assistance. She, however, cautioned those who are out of status and working illegally that the government will not be able to protect them.

Speaking at the Sakan Centre, PS Njogu said the fastest way to get a distressed worker help is for them to get to a Sakan Centre. Other options available include calling 19911 or +966500755060. Last resort is to go the Kenyan Embassy Riyadh.

The State Department of Diaspora can be reached on email diaspora_KE@mfa.go.ke;



CS for Labour Hon. Florence Bore (L), PS Diaspora Affairs Ms. Roseline Njogu (R) met with Philippine's Charge d'affairs Mr. Rommel Romato in Riyadh on January 12, 2023



PS Roseline Njogu with female domestic workers at Sakan Shelters in Riyadh, South Arabia



Kenya participates in IORA Council of Ministers Meeting



Amb. Josphat Maikara, Secretary Foreign Service Administration, at the 22nd Meeting of the IORA Council of Ministers and the IORA Committee of Senior Officials meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from November 22 - 25, 2022.

By Kawira Githinji

Amb. Josphat Maikara, Secretary Foreign Service Administration on November 24, 2022 represented the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua at the 22nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The ministerial meeting attended by representatives from 23 Member States and Partners of IORA was themed, *"Harnessing the opportunities of the Indian Ocean Sustainability for Inclusion Development: Saving the environment of the Indian Ocean"*

The COM adopted important policy and strategic documents including IORA's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and Regulations related to Dialogue Partnerships.

Speaking at the meeting, Amb. Maikara said that Kenya remains committed to sustainable and inclusive development and management of the Indian Ocean Blue Economy resources.

"Kenya is currently developing a National Blue Economy Strategy that is inclusive and multi-stakeholder oriented; integrated maritime/marine spatial plan to enhance the rational planning, management and governance of Kenya's ocean space and the environment around the coastline," Amb. Maikara said.

He said Kenya is committed to pursuing regional collaborations in the maritime and marine-culture sector to enhance capacity building for the actualization of the strategy and spatial plan.

On prevention of marine pollution, which remains one of the threats to conservations of oceans, Amb. Maikara informed the meeting that Kenya since 2017 has banned the manufacture and use of polythene bags and extended the same to single-use plastics in protected areas. He said this has been a key milestone in regenerating oceans health.

Another global landmark for Kenya was during the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA5) held in Kenya this year, where Kenya co-sponsored the "end of plastic pollution resolution."

"Against this backdrop, Kenya Government remains committed to ensuring the actualization of the establishment of the legally binding instrument by 2024 for complete elimination of Marine Plastic Litter," Amb. Maikara stated, adding, Kenya has also developed a critical National Marine Spill Contingency Plan and a National Marine Litter Management Action Plan.

The Ambassador underscored that Kenya is committed to enhancing capacity building; maritime security; revitalization of its national carrier, the Kenya National Shipping line and is also keen to tap into ocean resources.

He reiterated Kenya's commitment to continue offering her support to sustainable development and management of the Indian Ocean.

He congratulated the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (current Chair) and the IORA Secretariat for hosting the meeting.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a dynamic inter-governmental organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 23 Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners.



CS Mutua meets Japanese Special Envoy for Horn of Africa

By Kevin Thuo

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua held a meeting with H.E. Shimizu Shinsuke, Japan's Special Envoy for Horn of Africa on January 11, 2023.

Discussions focused on issues of mutual importance between Kenya and Japan and lauded the strength of Kenya-Japan relations that have been in existence for over 60 years.

The Cabinet Secretary appraised the Special Envoy on the regional peace and security architecture, including Kenya's efforts and desire towards total and lasting peace in the region.

The CS also apprised the Envoy of Kenya's peace efforts in the Horn of Africa Region through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) platform as well as interventions in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through the East African Community (EAC) led Nairobi Process.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua with Japanese Special Envoy for Horn of Africa H.E. Shimizu Shinsuke on January 11, 2023.

Distressed Kenyan evacuated from Albania



PS for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline Njogu receives Ms. Joyce Aoko at Wilson Airport on January 25, 2023.

By Kuria Muigai

On January 25, 2023, Ms. Roseline Njogu, Principal Secretary, State Department of Diaspora Affairs, received a Kenyan evacuated from Albania following injuries inflicted after a brutal attack at her place of work in August 2022.

Ms. Joyce Aoko suffered serious injuries following an attack by unknown persons while on duty in Tirana, Albania. She was admitted in hospital and remained in critical condition requiring round the clock monitoring. To access the neurological specialized care, that was not available in Albania, the Government of Kenya conducted an emergency medical evacuation.

Speaking at Wilson Airport, PS Njogu urged the Government of Albania to conduct speedy and thorough investigations to bring the perpetrators to book.

On arrival at Wilson Airport, Ms. Aoko who was accompanied by her mother alongside the AMREF medical team was immediately taken to Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) for further treatment.

"The State Department for Diaspora Affairs has organised for free counselling service to the family," PS Njogu said.

She thanked the teams that facilitated the successful evacuation including, staff from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Kenya Embassy in Rome, AMREF International and KUTRRH.



Dr. Alfred Mutua at the African Union's 9th High-Level Seminar on Promotion of Peace and Security in Africa held in Oran, Algeria on December 7-8, 2022

Peace and Security, Economic Growth and Climate Change

On December 8, 2022, Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs participated at the African Union's 9th High-Level Seminar on Promotion of Peace and Security in Africa held in Oran, Algeria.

In attendance were African ministers, ambassadors, United Nations Representatives, as well as delegates from Switzerland and Norway among other dignitaries

Speaking at the seminar, the Cabinet Secretary underscored that Kenya, Ghana and Gabon (A3) have made commendable achievements within the UN Security Council as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

He said that peace efforts must include climate change and development issues in order to counter terrorism, extreme radicalization and also reduce conflicts.

CS said negative effects of climate change are a threat to peace and stability and so is extreme poverty.

He reiterated that sanctions needed periodic reviews with a view to assessing their effectiveness so as not to become counterproductive and lead to hardening of positions.



Dr. Alfred Mutua during panel discussion at the 9th High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security in Africa held in Oran, Algeria.

During the panel discussion, the CS said that sanctions should not be seen as the panacea to conflict situations in Africa but rather be complemented with a comprehensive conflict management strategy with regard to the situation on the ground where they are applied.

He also emphasized that cooperation, mutual understanding and respect between the African Union and the United Nations needs to be a central part of application of sanctions in African contexts.

"While the UNSC retains the original mandate for the maintenance of international peace and security, it is also critical to note that the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, sub-regional organisations and regional initiatives cannot be wished away," the CS stated.



PS Njogu meets Mombasa-based Recruitment Agencies

By Phillip Opwora

On January 24, 2023, Ms. Roseline Njogu, Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs met and held discussions with Recruitment Agencies and their representatives based in Mombasa County. She was accompanied to the meetings by Amb. Washington Oloo, Director, Diaspora and Consular Affairs and other Ministry officials.

The discussions focused on ethical recruitment of migrant workers, especially those headed to the Gulf countries, and also on ways of enhancing partnership between government and the recruitment agencies in the management of immigrant labour.

The PS decried the high rate of unemployment in the country, and affirmed the State Department's mandate to seek safe and secure employment for Kenyans abroad. She observed that the recruitment agencies were a critical stakeholder in job creation, and urged them to work closely with different government



PS Roseline Njogu, address Recruitment Agencies and their representatives based in Mombasa County on January 24, 2023

agencies in finding solutions to the challenges facing the Diaspora as they work abroad. She informed that the State Department was keen to resolve issues related to migrant workers and assured that her office was open to communication from the Public.

PS Njogu pledged Kenya mission's abroad support and shared vital contacts and emergency numbers to be used by both the agents and Diaspora in distress.

The PS, while responding to issues raised by the Agents, assured them that the State Department will begin engagements with other relevant stakeholders and respond appropriately soon.

Israel Embassy in Kenya opens new chancery



PS Dr. Singoei Korir and Israel Amb. Michael Lotem cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the new chancery of the Embassy of Israel in Nairobi on January 17, 2023

By Kawira Githinji

On January 17, 2023, Dr. Singoei Korir Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs presided over the flag-hoisting ceremony at the new premises of the Embassy of Israel in Nairobi.

The PS underscored the reliable partnership Kenya has with Israel and Kenya's development in areas agriculture, health, education and security among others.

The PS reaffirmed Kenya's commitment as a willing partner, keen on working with Israel towards the fulfilment of its strategic interests in the global arena.

He reiterated the country's readiness for strategic and purposeful engagement on areas of mutual interest.



Flag Hoisting of the new chancery of the Embassy of Israel in Kenya



Kenya hosts visiting UK Foreign Secretary



H.E. President William Ruto with The Rt. Hon. James Cleverly, The Secretary for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom at State House Nairobi on December 7, 2022

By Philip Opwora

The Secretary for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom, James Cleverly, made an official visit to Kenya on December 7, 2022. He was received by Dr. Korir Singoei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Prior to meeting H.E the President at State House, Nairobi, the visiting Foreign Secretary held a bilateral meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Alfred Mutua.

During the bilateral meeting attended by Hon. Moses Kuria, Cabinet Secretary for Trade, Investment and Industry, Dr. Korir Sing'oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Roseline Njogu, Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs and Dr. Anyang' Nyong'o, Governor, Kisumu County, the two sides explored avenues of enhancing collaboration and strengthening the existing bilateral relations.

A Letter of Intent on United Green Project, one of the five (5) Kenya-UK Flagship Green Investment Projects was signed by Hon. Moses Kuria, Dr. Anyang' Nyongo and Unites Green Project.

The UK Foreign Secretary met H.E the President where he commended Kenya for the role it continues to play in advancing peace in the Horn of Africa. He said Kenya remains the beacon of peace, and has the responsibility of ensuring stability in the region.

The official visit was concluded with a ground-breaking ceremony of a railway renovation project at the Kenya Railways headquarters in Nairobi where the UK Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly noted the continued partnership between Kenya and the United Kingdom.





Dr. Alfred Mutua participated at the 48th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Council of Ministers, in Khartoum, Sudan on November 30, 2022

Kenya joins Member States at the 48th ordinary session of the IGAD Council of Ministers

By Phillip Opwora

Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs participated at the 48th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Council of Ministers that took place in Khartoum, Sudan on November 30, 2022. The meeting comprising of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the seven Member States took place under the chairmanship of the Republic of Sudan.

In attendance were Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. Uganda was represented by its Ambassador in Sudan. IGAD Secretariat, led by Executive Secretary Mr. Workneh Gabeyehu were also present. Italy, which co-chairs the IGAD Partners Forum and representatives from the European Union and the United States of America was represented.

In a speech, Dr. Alfred Mutua acknowledged the congratulatory messages received from his colleagues on his appointment and expressed his gratitude on joining the Council. The CS thanked his Sudanese counterpart and Chair of the Ministerial meeting for his invitation to participate in the meeting, noting that the 48th session creates an opportunity for members to deliberate on strategies and issues of shared interest.

Dr. Mutua recognised the continental leadership and institutions that continue to make progress in the African Union (AU). Noting the Tigray conflict peace talks, that led to the signing of the permanent cessation of hostilities on November 2, 2022 in Pretoria and the Commanders' agreement signed Nairobi on November 12, 2022 in Nairobi. He also welcomed the recent positive developments on peace in Sudan, Somalia and South Sudan, saying that if maintained would translate to gradual sustainability of peace, security and development in the region.

On Security matters, Dr. Mutua noted that terrorism and violent extremism fueled by radicalization have emerged as major threats to peace and security in the region.

"Our region continues to be a major target for terrorists due to our geo-strategic location and our commitment in the fight against terrorism." CS Mutua said. He emphasized on the need for continued collaboration and coordination through regional counter-terrorism cooperation and investigation, prosecution as well as incident response.

The CS said Kenya was a global champion on climate change in Africa and urged other IGAD Member States to double their efforts in addressing the alarming threat for a climate resilient region, and to mobilize the global community to honour their numerous commitments on addressing climate change.

While reaffirming Kenya's solidarity with all IGAD Member States in their pursuit for sustainable solutions to long lasting peace, security and development in the region, Dr. Alfred Mutua called on his colleagues to give unreserved contribution and support to the organisation to ensure absolute implementation of its mandate. He also welcomed the establishment of the IGAD Leadership academy to be hosted by Kenya.

The Executive Secretary gave the Council a regional situation report and the report of the IGAD Experts Meeting. He also briefed the session on the Organization's progress on projects, institutional reforms as well as administrative and financial status of its programmes. The Council was also informed of the current political and security status in the Horn of Africa including the recent progress in the Ethiopia Peace Process.

IGAD Partners present called for sustainable economic integration in the Horn of Africa, lauding the efforts made by IGAD in addressing specific economic and development challenges.

The session concluded with the launch of the IGAD Scholarships Programme and a signing ceremony of the IGAD Protocols for Free Movement and Transhumance.

The Cabinet secretary was joined by Amb. Ngewa Mukala, Kenya's Ambassador to the Sudan and Amb. Salim Salim, Kenya's Ambassador to Djibouti and IGAD.



Upgrade of UNON gathers momentum



PS Dr. Korir Singoei with Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, USG and DG UNON on January 17, 2023

By Fartun Dahir

Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Under-Secretary-General (USG) and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) paid a courtesy call on Dr. Korir Singoei, Principal Secretary on January 17, 2023 at the Ministry Headquarters.

The PS welcomed Mrs. Bangura and appreciated the significance of the timely meeting between UNON and the Ministry towards achieving common goals.

Mrs. Bangura briefed the PS on the United Nations presence and operations in Kenya. She informed that UNON is the 3rd largest UN Secretariat duty station and serves as the only one in Africa and the Global South.

Among UNON's current investment and partnerships with Kenya include a project to replace A-J office blocks over the next two years which is the current largest UN investment in Africa, as well as the approval to begin design phase of Conference Facilities Upgrade Project, among other projects.

The PS referred to the comprehensive brief the UN delivered on the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly relating to Capital projects in UNON and the upcoming visits of the fifth Committee Members and the Chief Executive Board respectively.

He noted that the visits of both the UN Fifth Committee Members and the UN Chief Executives Board shall be used as an emphasis to demonstrate the urgency of the renovation and expansion needs for UNON to the highest strata of the UN decision making body.

The PS underscored the Government of Kenya's full commitment towards supporting the initiatives of UNON and the upgrading the UNON's facilities to match Vienna, Geneva and even New York.

He reiterated that the projects for collaboration between the Ministry and UNON initiated by his predecessor such as the symposium of the Ministry's Junior Political Officers engagement with the United Nations shall carry on in a bid to have the UN System benefit from the diverse Human Resource.

PS Singoei assured the USG of the support of the Government of Kenya through the Ministry to provide any assistance UNON may require to fulfil its mandate and actualise the objectives.

CS Mutua pays courtesy call on PCS and AG



On January 12, 2023, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua paid a courtesy call to the Prime Cabinet Secretary Hon. Musalia Mudavadi in his office in Nairobi.

Discussion centred on how Kenya will tap into the foreign market both in terms of strengthening bilateral trade and also ensuring that the Kenyan workforce fits well in the foreign market

CS Mutua brought the PCS to speed on Kenya's obligations as pertains to treaties and agreements that require a legislative push and agreed on the strategies that will enable speedy conclusion of desired ends.



The CS also paid a courtesy call on the Attorney General of Kenya Hon. Justin Muturi in his Sheria House office, Nairobi.

They discussed the various pending international MOU's and bilateral agreements that will bring investments and other opportunities to Kenyans.

They also discussed how to strengthen the Kenyan passport which will greatly reinforce Kenya's development, political, economic, social and diplomatic objectives, to help Kenya have an edge internationally.

The two leaders also reviewed the many promises we gave Kenyans during the campaigns and how best we can play our roles to actualize them in a timely manner.



Business deals, scholarships and trade agreements - Kenya, Algeria meeting

By Martin Wahogo

In a high level bilateral meeting held in Oran city, Algeria on December 9, 2022, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Alfred Mutua bagged a handful of goodies for Kenya when he met with his Algerian counterpart, His Excellency Ramtane Lamamra.

Noting the various opportunities available for Kenya in Algeria are in education, trade, tourism, sports and cultural diplomacy, the two diplomats agreed to aggressively pursue them for mutual benefit.

The meeting focused on among others agricultural and horticultural products (such as avocados, tea, coffee, nuts, flowers, milk and meat etc.), fertilizer, oil and gas, pharmaceutical manufacturing among others with a view to benefiting Kenyan farmers, students and industrialists.

In the education sector, the Algerian government committed to provide 200 scholarships to Kenya in the areas of pharmacy, medicine, geology, dry farming and engineering.

In industry, Kenya will benefit from subsidized fertilizer and oil & gas as well as pharmaceutical industries through Public Private Partnership (PPP) deals.

To facilitate movement of goods and people, they agreed to speed up for signing in the first quarter of 2023, the Bilateral Air Services Agreement to facilitate direct air travel between Nairobi to Algiers.

"Kenyans should take advantage of these new opportunities so as to increase their earnings, education and grow our economy," said Dr. Mutua after the meeting.



Dr. Alfred Mutua with H.E. Ramtane Lamamra, Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Oran, Algeria on December 9, 2022.

Other areas of collaboration identified include joint diplomatic training and the twinning of Mombasa and Oran cities.

To speed up these deals, Kenya Pharmacy & Poisons Board will be visiting Algeria in January to look at their products, processes and standards, while the Trade team led by the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industrialization and Kenya Promotions Board will also visit Algeria in January to actualize these trade deals.

The meeting also agreed on an inaugural Algeria-Kenya Joint Commission for Cooperation for March, 2023 in Nairobi.



Dr. Alfred Mutua held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ramtane Lamamra on December 9, 2022.



Kenya Tanzania hold Midterm Review of JCC



By Andrew Kuria

The first Midterm Review of the 4th Session of the Kenya Tanzania Joint Commission For Cooperation (JCC) came to a close with the signing of Agreed Minutes on January 26, 2023.

The Senior officials from both countries met for three days to review the status of implementation of the agreed minutes of the 4th session of the Kenya-Tanzania JCC held in August 2021 and to consider new areas of cooperation.

The Kenya delegation was led by Mr. Alfred Ombudo PS. State Department for Trade on behalf of Dr. Korir Singoei PS Foreign Affairs while Tanzania delegation was led by Amb. Joseph Sokoine PS Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation.

In his closing remarks PS Ombudo observed that a number of MOUs signed are operational and urged all sectoral Ministries and other stakeholders to continue to strengthen communication, engagement, interaction and working together so as to finalise the pending MOUs.

Amb. Sokoine expressed Tanzania's commitment to continue working closely on areas of mutual interest to ensure the development aspirations for the benefit of people of both countries.



Group Photo : Senior officials during the first Midterm Review of the 4th Session of the Kenya Tanzania Joint Commission For Cooperation held in Nairobi.



Amb. Yobesh Monari, Director Africa and AU Directorate with Amb. Isaac Njenga, Kenya's High Commissioner to Tanzania during the Midterm Review meeting.



CS Mutua visits Cuba



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua met Cuban President, H.E. Miguel Díaz-Canel in his office in Havana and presented a special message from H.E. President William Ruto - December 20, 2022

By Sophia Wamuti

From December 18 – 20, 2022, the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Alfred Mutua, embarked on an official visit to La Havana, the Republic of Cuba at the invitation of his counterpart, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Bruno Eduardo Rodríguez Parilla.

The CS while in Havana called on the President of Cuba, H.E. Miguel M. Díaz-Canel Bermudez. The two underlined the strong Kenya-Cuba relations, founded on historical and cultural cooperation in the past.

The President expressed his appreciation to the Government of Kenya for the efforts towards the safe return of the two Cuban doctors who were abducted. The Cabinet Secretary informed that both Governments of Kenya and Somalia remained seized on the matter.

The meeting underlined the importance of expanding new areas of cooperation, especially on trade and investments through Foreign Investments Prospecting. They noted there was minimal trade investments between Kenya and Cuba which can be boosted by continuous engagements between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and Chamber of Commerce of Cuba (CCC).

The President of Cuba extended an invitation to the President of Kenya, to visit Cuba in 2023.

In the bilateral meeting with H.E. Bruno Rodríguez Parilla, the CS underlined the strong Kenya-Cuba relations and pledged to enhance cooperation for mutual benefit.

The two Ministers addressed Visa Exemption Agreement with CS Mutua stressing that Kenya was keen on an Agreement to waive visa requirements for ordinary passport holders to ease travel between the two countries.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the scholarships offered by Kenya for the Cuban youth to study hospitality.

The CS took the opportunity to ask for support for the candidature of Amb. Nancy Karigithu for the post of Secretary-General of International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The CS also paid courtesy call on the Minister of Public Health of Cuba, Dr. José Angel Portal Miranda. CS Mutua noted that both countries currently share four MoUs on health. These Agreements are expiring in June 2023 and the two leaders agreed on the need to not only renew but also explore new avenues for cooperation.

He also applauded Cuba's advanced Health sector and its ability to produce their own vaccines. Kenya looks forward to learning from Cuba as it seeks to be a pharmaceutical hub in Africa. CS Mutua invited Cuba to invest in pharmaceuticals and vaccine production in the country.

During the visit to Cuba, CS Mutua met over 100 Ambassadors from all over the world residing in Cuba during a reception hosted by the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs in his honour. The Cabinet Secretary ended his ended the visit with interaction with Kenyan diaspora.

He met with medical students who are pursuing degrees under the Cuban government scholarship programme and visited the Kenyan Embassy in Cuba, headed by Amb. Gathoga W. Chege.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua in a bilateral meeting with H.E. Bruno Rodríguez Parilla, Minister for Foreign Affairs Cuba on December 20, 2022



IN BRIEF



On January 17, 2023, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua signed the official condolence book in honour of the Late Uganda High Commissioner to Kenya, the Late Dr. Hassan Galiwango Wasswa at the Uganda High Commission, Nairobi.

The CS offered his heartfelt condolences to the President, H.E Kaguta Museveni and the great people of Uganda.

On January 17, 2023, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua graced a high level dinner held in honour of the Council of East Africa Community Ministers.

The Dinner was hosted by Cabinet Secretary for East African Community, Arid and Semi Arid Lands and Regional Development, at Serena Hotel, Nairobi



While in Cuba, CS Mutua met and interacted with Kenyans living in Cuba. Majority students are beneficiaries of the scholarship program between Kenya and Cuba - December 21, 2022.



On December 21, 2022, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua visited the Kenyan Embassy in Cuba. He met with the staff at the Embassy and had a candid talk upon which the CS pledged his personal support and commitment to their welfare and that of Kenyan Diaspora.



IN BRIEF

PS Dr. Korir Singoei received the UK Secretary for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Rt. Hon. James Cleverly at JKIA on December 7, 2022.

The UK Secretary of State was on an official visit to Kenya



The Ambassador of the State of Israel to Kenya, Amb. Michael Lotem, called on PS Dr. Korir Singoei on January 12, 2023.

The two countries affirmed their perpetual willingness to closely work together in further enhancing relations and moving into new areas including trade and people to people interactions.



PS Dr. Korir Singoei hosted H.E. Ms. Namgya Khampa, India's High Commissioner to Kenya in his office on January 10, 2023.

During the meeting the PS underscored that Kenya greatly values the cordial long-standing relations with India, reinforced by historic common values and strong people-to-people links.



IN BRIEF

On January 19, 2023, Ambassador Gabriela Martinic of the Argentine Republic paid a courtesy call to PS Roseline Njogu.

Where they discussed areas of mutual cooperation and how they can better engage with Kenyans in the diaspora.



On January 23, 2023 PS Roseline Njogu had a fruitful engagement with Senator Veronica Maina where they discussed the Diaspora agenda as was captured in the run up to the election and how the mandate of the Department is addressing diaspora concerns.



PS Roseline Njogu (fourth L), Amb. Peter Ogego (fifth R) and the Kenya Embassy in Riyadh staff during her official visit to Saudi Arabia - January 13, 2023



IN BRIEF

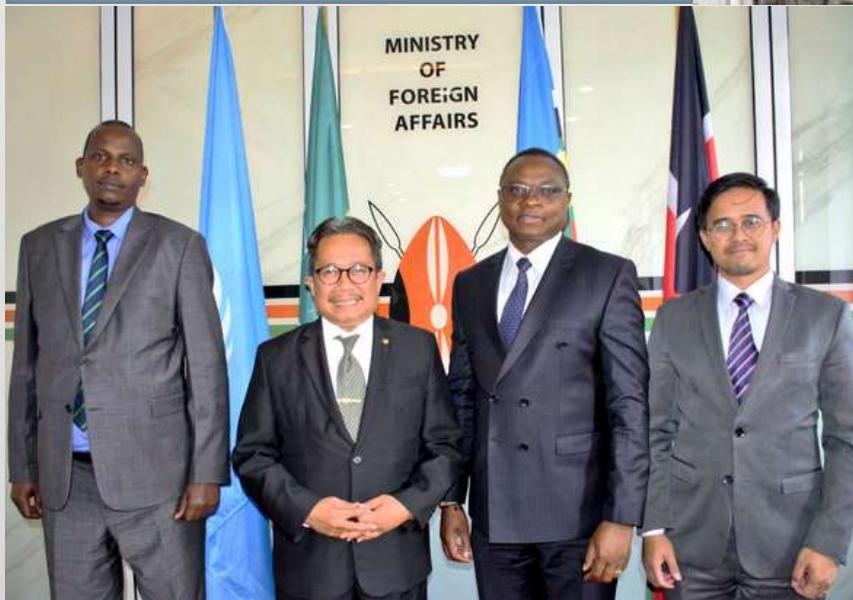


Amb. George Orina, Director General Bilateral and Political Affairs met with officials from AUDA/NEPAD Kenya Secretariat led by Rose Kitur on January 19, 2023.

They discussed the programmes of the AUDA/NEPAD in Kenya and ways of further energising the programme in Africa.

On January 10, 2023, Amb. Martin Kimani was elected President of the Executive Board of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for 2023.

Amb. Kimani thanked the members of the Executive Board for honouring Kenya by electing him as President of the Board for 2023. He stated that the aim is to give a political boost to development as fundamental to the UN's other core missions to protect peace & human rights



The Indonesian Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Dr. Mohamad Hery Saripudin paid a courtesy call on Amb. George Orina, Director General Bilateral and Political Affairs on December 21, 2022.

They discussed Kenya-Indonesia relations and Amb. Orina reaffirmed Kenya's warm bilateral relations with Indonesia.



THE TROUBLED HORN

**Ethnicity is a tragedy
power is a sword
oil is a scourge
amidst boundless promise**

**Savage winds wildly rage
shaking the troubled horn
that stabs the Indian waters
ruffling the restless region**

**Vicious conspiracies
treacherous interests
ruthless power
trample the common good**

**Unforgiving forces
of conflicts and droughts
poverty and violence
fiercely rattles the haunted horn**

**Against perilous storms
and resilient dilemmas
uneasy neighbours and friends
tenderly soothe the weary horn**

**Across distant horizons
exciting beams of a golden dawn
of freedom and enduring peace
beautifully smiles on the horn of Africa.**

**Kimani Mwangi
Asia Directorate**

For any Kenyan in distress in KSA,
Reach out to us through any of the
channels below.

Call 19911 (Its free)

Call the embassy +966500755060

Go to the Embassy/Sakan Centre for shelter

Email us at diaspora@mfa.go.ke

DM [us@Diaspora_KE](mailto:Diaspora_KE)

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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