



**OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. DR. MUSALIA
MUDAVADI, E.G.H., PRIME CABINET SECRETARY
AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AND
DIASPORA AFFAIRS, DURING THE MEDIA
ROUNDTABLE ON THE REVIEW OF THE FOREIGN
POLICY-NAIROBI, 17TH OCTOBER 2024**

- **Chairman of the Media Council of Kenya, Mr. Maina Muchiri,**
- **Chief Executive Officer, Mr. David Omwoyo,**
- **President of the Kenya Editors Guild, Madam Zubeidah Kananu,**
- **Heads of Media Houses,**
- **Distinguished Members of the Fourth Estate,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Good morning,

1. I would like to begin by appreciating you all for accepting our invitation and making time to be here.
2. I welcome you to this breakfast Roundtable that brings together media professionals and thought leaders, to engage with us on a vital conversation about Kenya's foreign policy in today's complex global environment.

3. This event is part of our consultative process with all stakeholders on the review process of Kenya's 2014 Foreign Policy document. Your engagement in this process demonstrates the importance that Government attaches to the media fraternity as a key stakeholder in enhancing public understanding of national policies, projects and programmes.

4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs under my docket kick-started the process by holding a successful colloquium on 30th July, 2024 that generated useful insights towards the review of the Kenya Foreign Policy Document.

5. During the colloquium, the participants drawn from a wide spectrum of stakeholders engaged in candid discussions on various aspects of national and strategic interests.

These include the emerging issues that have not been part of the traditional foreign policy discourse, and which are increasingly demanding their prominent place within the global agenda.

6. It is evident that Foreign policy is no longer solely the purview of diplomats and political leaders. The Fourth Estate plays a critical role in shaping and influencing foreign policy, serving as a key intermediary between governments, policymakers and the citizens.

7. You play an essential role in shaping narratives, encouraging dialogue on topical issues and holding political leaders and decision-makers accountable. Your importance in agenda setting and influencing national and global insights is well recognized.

8. This is more profoundly evident in the present time, that is marked by rapidly shifting geopolitical landscapes, emerging power dynamics and challenges that cross borders—from climate change and cybersecurity to human rights and economic instability.

9. In this era of “breaking news”, 24-hour news cycles, social media and instant global communication, how the media reports on the global affairs not only informs but also influences policy, public opinion and international relations.

10. It is in recognition of your role as a key partner in conducting public diplomacy that I invite you to use this opportunity to journey with us in expanding and deepening our engagement with the public on Kenya's foreign policy issues.

11. Together, we shall help unbundle the nexus between journalism and diplomacy for the good of Kenya.

12. Let me conclude by urging you to use this forum to candidly share your thoughts, experiences and challenges, in order to help us shape the trajectory of the revised foreign policy.

13. I look forward to fruitful proceedings that will contribute to Kenya's socioeconomic transformation and shared prosperity.

It is now my singular honor to declare this Roundtable officially open.

Thank you.