



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND  
DIASPORA AFFAIRS

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# Diplomacy *Journal*



**Kenya at the Frontlines of  
Global Change**



## Vision

A peaceful, prosperous, and globally competitive Kenya.



## Mission

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



## Did You Know? (Public Information)

The Ministry oversees the management of 70 fully fledged Missions with multiple accreditations, 4 Consulates-General, 2 Missions in Nairobi, 1 Liaison office, and 31 Honorary Consuls spread across the globe.

The Ministry also serves ninety-three (93) resident Foreign Diplomatic Missions, and thirty-six (36) non-resident Diplomatic Missions; Forty-eight (48) UN Agencies and one hundred and thirteen (113) Inter-Governmental and International Organizations hosted in Kenya.



## Section 5 Cap 183E Laws of Kenya outline the Functions of the Foreign Service to include:

- Be responsible for the development and management of Kenya's foreign policy;
- Conduct and coordinate the international relations and cooperation of the Republic at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels;
- Enhance protection of Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- Enhance national, regional and international peace, security and stability;
- Protect, promote and project national interests globally;
- Establish and maintain good relations between the Republic and other countries, and international organizations;
- Manage the Kenya Missions Abroad;
- Serve and promote the legitimate interests of Kenyans living abroad;
- Administer diplomatic privileges and immunities;
- Administer all diplomatic representations in the Republic;
- Be the primary interface between Kenya and other states and international organizations or entities;
- Facilitate negotiation and conclusion of international treaties and agreements in consultation with relevant ministries;
- Maintain custody of ratified international treaties and agreements;
- Facilitate the integration of Kenya's foreign policy in national security;
- Coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the Republic's international obligations;
- Coordinate and provide protocol services to designated foreign and national dignitaries as prescribed;
- Provide consular services as prescribed;
- Coordinate relevant agencies in emergency evacuation of distressed Kenyans abroad; and
- Perform any other function as may be necessary for the discharge of its mandate as prescribed by any written law as prescribed by the Constitution and any other written law.

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## From the Desk of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs

I am pleased to introduce the second edition of the Diplomacy Journal. This journal is quickly becoming a trusted source for Kenyan foreign policy analysis, reflection, and thinking.

As we continue the journey that began with our transition from a newsletter into a journal, this issue comes at a moment of profound global shifts. Kenya remains at the vanguard of global change, be it through its advocacy for climate change, reforms of the international financial system, or our leadership in regional peace and security initiatives.

This current edition highlights Kenya's efforts in championing the Africa Climate Summit outcomes, advancing Africa's voice at the TICAD 9 and UN General Assembly's 80<sup>th</sup> session, and

deepening partnerships across Africa, the Caribbean, and the wider Global South. It also documents how our diplomacy is broadening into newer frontiers of digital and innovation diplomacy as well as harnessing the power of our diaspora who constitute Kenya's 48<sup>th</sup> county.

The Diplomacy Journal is a testament to the evolution from a record of interactions to a platform for information exchange, discussion, and thought leadership. It accomplishes this by uniting the perspectives of our Missions abroad, our internal governance, and our international allied organisations. With the passage of time, it is expected that this Journal will become the primary focus of discussion for all matters related to foreign affairs and

diplomacy in Kenya and Africa. This platform allows us to provide a linkage of the Kenya story to global narratives, while showcasing the depth of our diplomatic service.

I am profoundly grateful to the editorial board and authors for compiling up-to-date and forward-looking content that resonates with our policy objectives. As you peruse this issue, I invite you to reflect on how Kenya's diplomacy is shaping global conversations and advancing our national interests in a world of uncertainty.

As always, let us remain bold in telling Kenya's story, confident in defending our values, and innovative in shaping our future.

**Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H.**

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



## From the Desk of the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this edition of the Diplomacy Journal, our Ministry's platform for documenting, evaluating, and contemplating the scope of Kenya's diplomatic engagements. This journal continues to evolve from a newsletter to a comprehensive publication that not only records events but also examines the strategic thinking and policy decisions that shape Kenya's global position. The journal serves as a bridge between practice, scholarship, and public understanding, reinforcing our dedication to the establishment of a space where diplomacy is both recorded and interrogated.

Diplomacy is at a watershed moment, with issues such as climate change, financial uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and emerging technologies exerting pressure on the global nor-

native framework. Kenya continues to establish itself as a thought leader, a bridge-builder, and a voice of reason in response to this context. Needless to say, diplomacy is now more critical than ever, advancing outcomes amidst polarization and shaping conversations at the various fora that Kenya attends, including the recently concluded 80<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, while negotiating and sustaining regional peace.

This journal not only serves as a reflection of our diplomacy but also as a resource for learning for our officers in missions abroad and at headquarters as well as for all Kenyans. The Diplomacy Journal is an invitation to our readers and partners to further engage with Kenya's diplomacy and the principles that underpin it. Equally significant is the request to collaborate with all Ministries, Counties, Departments,

and Agencies (MCDAs), all Foreign Missions stationed in Nairobi, and International Organisations to create a theme-focused journal of diplomacy.

As the Journal develops, we will seek to produce focused content aligned to the thematic areas of Kenya's diplomacy including but not limited to the areas of Economic and Commercial Diplomacy, Peace and Security Diplomacy, Socio-Cultural Diplomacy, Diaspora Diplomacy, Environmental and Climate Change Diplomacy, Global Governance and Multilateral Diplomacy, Oceans and Blue Economy Diplomacy, and Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy. I call upon all of us to submit contributions that will grow our appreciation of Kenya's diplomacy and international relations.

**Dr. A. Korir Sing'oei, C.B.S.**

Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs



## From the Desk of the Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs

I am proud to contribute to the second issue of the Diplomacy Journal, a publication that encapsulates the dynamic nature of Kenya's diplomacy and our changing position on the global stage. This issue symbolises our dedication to a broader perspective, deeper analysis, and increased engagement with readers in the diaspora, academia, and government.

This platform provides the State Department for Diaspora Affairs with the opportunity to emphasise the critical role of our citizens abroad in the advancement of Kenya's foreign policy. In addition to serving as Kenya's 48<sup>th</sup> county, our diaspora remains a critical

factor in the development of remittances, innovation, skills, and interpersonal relationships. They are diplomats in their own right, contributing to national development and shaping perceptions of Kenya.

We are committed to emphasising the contributions, experiences, and concerns of Kenyans living abroad as this journal continues to develop. The Journal serves as a conduit between policy and individuals, strategy and lived experiences, as it commemorates their accomplishments in a variety of sectors and confronts the obstacles they encounter. As time progresses, we hope to see the contributions of the Di-

aspora in this journal as it is through them that we continue to utilise their networks to advance Kenya's interests while simultaneously establishing more robust support systems for them through structured policy initiatives.

I commend the editorial board for their vision and vigour in guiding this transition. I encourage our readers to view this journal as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, as well as a reflection of the principles that underpin Kenya's diplomacy: inclusivity, innovation, and service to our people, regardless of their location.

**Ms. Roseline Kathure Njogu, C.B.S.**

Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs



## Executive Engagements

*President William Ruto, PhD., at The Law Society, London, for the Kenya Investment Forum hosted on the sidelines of the Africa Debate.*

# The Kenya Investment Forum: A Turning Point in Economic and Health Diplomacy

President William Ruto presided over the Kenya Investment Forum at the Law Society in London on the sidelines of the Africa Debate 2025. The event, jointly organized by the Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) and Invest Africa, brought together senior government officials, international business leaders, and investors from diverse sectors. It served as a platform to position Kenya as East Africa's premier investment hub, while also showcasing the country's far-reaching economic reforms and the vast untapped potential in infrastructure, renewable energy, agribusiness, and financial technology.

The Forum was not just a convening of ideas, but a decisive moment that produced concrete results. Four landmark investment agreements and a strategic cooperation framework were signed, injecting an estimated USD 105 million, equivalent to KES 13.7 billion, into the Kenyan economy.

Among the notable commitments was Bupa's announcement of plans to establish a regional insurance hub in Nairobi, marking a significant global step for the company. Africa Specialty Risks pledged to unlock USD 2 billion in de-risking capital to safeguard foreign direct investment, while the Africa Finance Corporation entered into an infrastructure-focused partnership with the Nairobi International Finan-

cial Centre (NIFC). At the same time, Flamingo Group committed USD 15 million to expand operations in Naivasha and Nanyuki, a move that will create at least 3,000 jobs. Collectively, these agreements not only provide much-needed capital for strategic sectors but also generate employment, diversify the economy, and reinforce Kenya's role as a gateway for global investment in East Africa.

Beyond trade and finance, President Ruto's visit also delivered a major boost to Kenya's health diplomacy. Memoranda of Understanding were signed between the University of Nottingham and King's College London, bringing the two institutions into the Kenya-UK Health Alliance. Through this partnership, Kenya will establish centres of excellence for health education and research, institutions that will be among only three of their kind across the African continent. These centres are expected to drive medical innovation, advance cutting-edge research, and build world-class capacity in Kenya's healthcare sector.

Equally significant was the signing of an agreement between Kenya's Ministry of Health and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The collaboration will focus on enhancing local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity through the BRITE initiative at

the BioVax Institute. This partnership will strengthen vaccine research, boost local production, and reduce Kenya's dependence on imported medicines. Together, these initiatives dovetail with Kenya's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda by building local expertise, expanding equitable access to quality healthcare, and ensuring that medical innovations reach Kenyan communities directly.

Taken together, these outcomes mark a new chapter in Kenya-UK relations. The visit moved the relationship beyond historic friendship into a dynamic, results-oriented partnership that is already bearing fruit. Commitments worth KES 427 billion were secured across trade, finance, climate, health, and security, positioning Kenya as the undisputed economic gateway of East Africa and a rising powerhouse on the African continent. This partnership is rooted in ambition and delivery, evident in practical outcomes such as job creation at Nairobi Railway City, fresh horticultural investments in Naivasha, the establishment of world-class health centres, and the expansion of Lloyd's of London into Nairobi.

President Ruto's engagements in London demonstrated Kenya's ability to blend economic diplomacy with health diplomacy in a way that delivers tangible benefits to citizens. By securing transformative investments and strengthening bilateral cooperation, Kenya has reaffirmed its place as a hub of innovation, investment, and inclusive growth in Africa.

## Kenya at UNGA 80

### Kenya and Benin Waive Visas for their Nationals

By OPCS

From November 2025, citizens of Kenya and Benin will enjoy visa-free travel between their countries, following an agreement facilitated by Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi and Benin's Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Oleshegun Adjadi Bakari on the sidelines of the 80<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly. This agreement allows nationals of both nations to visit each other for up to 180 days without the ability to work, after which appropriate visas will be required based on the laws of the receiving country. Diplomatic personnel and their families will be required to obtain visas beforehand.

In a subsequent bilateral meeting, Dr. Mudavadi discussed strengthening Kenya's relationship with Venezuela alongside H.E. Mr. Yvan Gil Pinto, Venezuela's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Pinto emphasized Venezuela's intention to deepen ties with Africa, noting that a significant portion of their population



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi (left) with Benin Foreign Minister Oleshegun Adjadi Bakari during the signing of the visa waiver deal in New York.

is of African descent. He referenced the strategy of the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who encouraged partnership with African nations as pivotal for the future.

"Fifty seven percent of our population is African. Hugo Chavez (the Late President of Venezuela) always told us to be strategic with Africa because it is the future. We want to make progress and sign the pending agreements between the two countries," stated Mr. Pinto.

Discussions included advancing pending agreements in tourism, agriculture, and education, with promises from Dr. Mudavadi to expedite these discussions in future meetings in Brazil and Nairobi. He acknowledged the importance of multilateralism and reiterated a commitment to aligning Kenya's foreign policy with United Nations principles. Mr. Pinto also highlighted the importance of combating drug trafficking within legal frameworks in response to ongoing tensions with the USA.

# Kenya Ratifies the Global Ocean Biodiversity Agreement

By Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary

Kenya has officially deposited its Instrument of ratification for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). This milestone reaffirms Kenya's commitment to multilateralism, global ocean governance, fair benefit-sharing, and sustainable use of marine resources found beyond national boundaries.

The formal deposit took place during the 2025 UN Treaty Event held alongside the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (22–30 September 2025, New York, USA), attended by President William Ruto at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General.

## Benefits and Opportunities for Kenya

Prime Cabinet Secretary H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi welcomed the move, noting that by joining other nations supporting the BBNJ Agreement, Kenya stands to benefit in multiple ways:

- **Advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The Agreement supports poverty reduction, food security, and inclusive growth through equitable access to ocean resources. It also requires developed countries to contribute funding and share benefits, easing financial pressures on developing states.
- **Empowering Researchers:** Kenyan and African scientists will gain greater access to marine genetic samples, digital sequence data, and global scientific databases thereby boosting regional research and innovation.
- **Protecting Marine Ecosystems:** Stronger conservation and



management measures will safeguard marine biodiversity, enhancing ecological and socioeconomic resilience.

- **Combating Illegal Fishing:** Kenya will improve its capacity to monitor ecosystems and curb illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing near its Exclusive Economic Zone through open-access data and better environmental assessments.
- **Expanding Global Representation:** Kenyan experts will have opportunities to serve in international treaty bodies, ensuring national interests are represented globally.
- **Ratification positions Kenya as a regional center or Blue Economy Hub for BBNJ and Blue Economy governance** thus attracting investment, marine innovation, and new jobs. The move reinforces Kenya's image as a leader in ocean stewardship, environmental diplomacy, and multilateral cooperation.

## Path to Ratification

This achievement follows extensive steps, including public consultations led by the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (May 2025), parliamentary approval, and a regional workshop in Mombasa with neighboring coastal states to enhance technical capacity. These efforts demonstrate Kenya's commitment to inclusive governance and strategic diplomacy in

ocean matters.

Kenya continues to build on the success of the 2018 Nairobi Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, which established the country as a global voice for sustainable ocean management. In March 2026, Kenya will host the 11<sup>th</sup> 'Our Ocean Conference' the first time the event will take place on African soil. The conference will focus on marine protection, sustainable fisheries, maritime security, climate action, and pollution control.

Dr. Mudavadi noted that this milestone aligns with the outcomes of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) meeting chaired by President Ruto, and builds on commitments from COP28, to include among others: implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change; support for the Loss and Damage Fund; promotion of climate finance, green industrialization, and sustainable development through carbon markets and critical minerals.

The BBNJ Agreement will enter into force 120 days after the 60<sup>th</sup> ratification, as stated in Article 68. As of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 143 countries had signed and 60 had ratified the Agreement signaling strong global momentum. Kenya is thus ready to actively participate in the Agreement's institutional frameworks, including the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Clearing-House Mechanism, contributing meaningfully to the future of shared ocean governance.

# Kenya to Host the Commonwealth Ocean Ministerial Meeting, says Mudavadi

*By Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary*

Kenya is prepared to host the Commonwealth Ocean Ministerial Meeting (CMM) in 2026, Prime Cabinet Secretary Dr. Musalia Mudavadi confirmed during the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) held on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This upcoming meeting is designed to build upon the successes of the inaugural Commonwealth Oceans Ministers Meeting (COMM), which took place in Cyprus on April 18-19, 2024. Dr. Mudavadi referred to the significant outcomes from the 2024 Apia Commonwealth Ocean Declaration, emphasizing a collective commitment to combating sea level rise.

“As you may recall, our leaders adopted the 2024 Apia Commonwealth Ocean declaration under the theme: One Resilient Common Future and highlighted the strong affirmation of action to address sea level rise,” stated Dr. Mudavadi.

Kenya’s intention to host the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 2026 in Mombasa, underscores

the nation’s dedication to sustainable ocean governance and environmental conservation. Although official confirmation is pending, the commitment highlights Kenya’s proactive approach to global environmental issues. During the COMM, leaders acknowledged the importance of adhering to the Paris Agreement’s climate targets and the crucial roles of oceans, forests, and biodiversity preservation.

Dr. Mudavadi articulated the pressing impact of global warming on Kenya, advocating for enhanced biodiversity restoration through ambitious goals such as increasing forest cover by planting 1.5 billion trees by 2030. He urged Commonwealth Foreign Ministers to bolster international cooperation in addressing economic disparities and climate challenges, calling for reforms in the global financial architecture to counteract high financing costs and the adverse effects of climate change.

“In line with the challenges, Commonwealth Members States need to adopt a better, more responsive and fairer international development financial

architecture to address high financing interest rates, while also dealing with climate shocks and constrained government revenues,” stated Dr. Mudavadi.

Dr. Mudavadi called on the Foreign Ministers to leverage the collective strength of members nations to address the challenges and opportunities as grounded in resolutions taken in Apia CHOOGM 2024.

The resolutions from Apia CHOOGM 2024 reaffirmed the commitment to protect and use ocean resources sustainably against the backdrop of climate change, pollution, and resource exploitation. The Commonwealth operates on a voluntary membership basis, emphasizing the collaborative nature of decision-making without binding legal commitments. Kenya has been a Commonwealth member since 1963 and continues to align with the organization’s ideals, benefiting from its support in various sectors, including electoral reforms and national development initiatives.

## Africa Deserves Two Permanent Seats with Veto Powers – President Ruto

*By J. Ng’etich*

President William Ruto, during his National Statement at the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, emphasized the urgent need for reforming the UN Security Council to include Africa, advocating for two permanent seats with veto rights and two additional non-permanent seats. He argued that such reform remained



*H.E President William Ruto delivering his address during the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly*

necessary for the UN's legitimacy, asserting that Africa, which heavily influenced the Council's agenda while contributing significantly to peacekeeping efforts, continued to remain the only continent without permanent representation.

As the UN commemorated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, President Ruto highlighted Africa's long-standing call for justice and representation since the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, both pivotal milestones in advocating for a restructured Security Council. He criticized the UN's disregard for the voices of African nations and called for an end to Africa's marginalization in global governance.

Reflecting on the challenges the UN continued to face, Dr. Ruto warned that it risked becoming obsolete if it failed to adapt to contemporary realities

marked by conflicts and climate crises. He noted that Africa was proactively pursuing financial independence and development, citing initiatives like the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions aimed at mobilizing regional resources. The President recognized the essential role of the United Nations, despite its current crises, in addressing humanitarian needs and promoting global cooperation. He acknowledged the organization's achievements in conflict resolution and public health but pointed out the urgent need for reform to restore its credibility.

In addressing ongoing crises, President Ruto discussed Kenya's leadership in the Multinational Security Support mission in Haiti, where despite significant constraints, notable progress had been made in restoring order and stability. Dr. Ruto urged for continued

international commitment to Haiti's recovery and expressed concerns over humanitarian issues in Gaza and Sudan, advocating for peaceful resolutions and adherence to international law for the betterment of those regions.

On climate change, President Ruto reaffirmed Africa's proactive approach in adapting to climate challenges, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and embedding sustainability in various sectors. Furthermore, he highlighted the need for reforming global financial institutions, critiquing their outdated structures that continued to favor wealthy countries while disadvantaging poorer nations. Dr. Ruto called for a transformation of these institutions into equitable entities serving the global population, ensuring fair access to resources and decision-making.

## Mudavadi Lobbies Countries to Vote for Kenya for ICJ Seat

*By Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary*

On the sidelines of the 80<sup>th</sup> UNGA, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, actively campaigned for Professor Phoebe Okowa's candidacy for election to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). During discussions with Cyprus and Sierra Leone's foreign ministers, Dr. Mudavadi sought support for Professor Okowa's election, scheduled for the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council on November 12, 2025. He emphasized Kenya's interest in having representation on the ICJ bench, which has seen no prior Kenyan judges, advocating for the merit-based selection of Professor Okowa.

While Sierra Leone and Nigeria are also fielding candidates, H.E. Kabba expressed his country's willingness to consider supporting Okowa, and Cyprus confirmed its commitment to her candidacy. The vacancy followed the resignation of Justice Abdulqwani Ahmed Yusuf. Dr. Mudavadi underlined Professor Okowa's significant contributions to international law, not-



*Professor Phoebe Okowa*

ing her achievements including being the first African woman elected to the International Law Commission and her recent induction into the International Lawyers' Hall of Fame. Furthermore, Dr. Mudavadi secured support from H.E. Kabba for Kenya's other

candidate, Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Amin, for the Executive Committee of INTERPOL for the term of 2025-2028.



*President William Ruto, PhD., delivers his address at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, Spain*

## Kenya at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, Spain

Kenya was a leading participant at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), held in Seville, Spain, from June 30 to July 3. The delegation, led by President William Ruto, played a central role in shaping the global debate on sustainable finance and equitable growth.

In his national statement during the General Debate, President Ruto called for urgent reforms to the international financial architecture, emphasizing the need for stronger domestic resource mobilization and greater representation for developing nations in global financial institutions.

On the sidelines, Kenya played a piv-

otal role in the Seville Platform for Action, where 130 initiatives were launched. Kenya co-chaired the Coalition for Global Solidarity Levies alongside France and Barbados. The coalition proposed innovative taxes on premium air travel and private jets to finance climate action and sustainable development.

In addition, Kenya co-hosted the Pact for Prosperity, People, and the Planet (4P) High-Level Meeting with France and Spain. This forum launched measures to address debt, vulnerability, and investment challenges in developing economies. A key outcome was the appointment of former AU Commission Chairperson H.E. Moussa Faki as the first Special Envoy of the 4P.

Kenya's delegation contributed to critical roundtable discussions on sovereign debt and reforming the global financial system. The team also showcased innovative financing solutions in eleven side events, out of more than 470 sessions held during the conference.

During the conference President Ruto held seven high-level bilateral meetings aimed at strengthening economic, political, and strategic partnerships while reaffirming Kenya's role as a trusted partner in promoting sustainable development.

Kenya's strong participation in Seville advanced its foreign policy and development agenda, while consolidating its position as a thought leader in global financial reform. With upcoming global milestones, including COP30, UNEA-7, and the Second World Summit for Social Development, Kenya is now focused on implementing the commitments of FfD4, championing the Seville Outcome Document, and deepening partnerships to drive inclusive and sustainable growth.



President William Ruto (R) hosting President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda (L) at State House Nairobi during the signing of eight new memoranda of understanding on July 30, 2025.

## Kenya and Uganda reaffirm Historical and Diplomatic Relations

The development of regional transport infrastructure featured prominently during Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's visit to Kenya on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2025. The event which was marked by the signing of eight bilateral instruments of cooperation in different sectors, saw the two countries reaffirm their historical friendly and diplomatic relations, anchored on promotion on trade -economic relations, and promotion of people to people contacts to accelerate East African regional integration.

The signing of the bilateral instruments which was witnessed by President William Ruto and President Museveni at State House, in Nairobi, cover critical sectors including tourism, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, mining, transport, standards and quality assurance, investment promotion, and the Greater Busia Metro Project.

President Ruto in his remarks noted that the signing of the eight MoUs builds on the existing seventeen bilateral agreements, reinforcing the historic partnership between the two coun-

tries. He emphasized that the pacts will catalyse stronger cooperation, deepen people-to-people ties, and deliver tangible benefits for citizens.

Political commitments on development of key regional infrastructure for promotion of regional trade featured prominently, with both leaders agreeing to fast-track extension of the Standard Gauge Railway from Naivasha to Malaba and into Uganda, and upgrade of the Nairobi-Nakuru-Mau Summit highway to improve connectivity. President Ruto also announced plans for establishment of an integrated steel plant in Uganda by Kenyan entrepreneur which would reduce regional reliance on imports of iron and steel.

Regarding regional trade, the two leaders regretted the existence of persistent non-tariff barriers which have undermined East African Community (EAC) integration, and committed to resolving them at the forthcoming Joint Ministerial Commission Mid-Term Review and Joint Trade Committee meeting in October 2025. Conclusion of other bilateral agreements in future will en-

hance cooperation on food security, bolster veterinary and crop health systems, and strengthen collaboration between the Kenya Bureau of Standards and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards.

Addressing the long-standing Migingo Island dispute, both leaders pledged peaceful resolution, and greater cooperation in fisheries management and resource sharing. President Museveni reaffirmed Uganda's commitment, stressing that Africa's prosperity lies in expanding production and consolidating markets, noting that larger integrated markets have historically powered global economic growth.

### President Museveni on Importance of Building Resilient Institutions in Africa

As part of his visit, President Museveni delivered a High-Level Lecture on Opportunity at Kenya's National Defence College (NDC) in Karen where he was received by Hon. Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Defence, and NDC Commandant Lt. Gen. J. S. Mwinyikai. In his lecture, President Museveni called for a transformative shift in Africa's leadership ideology. He argued that past misdiagnosis of Africa's challenges fostered tribalism and division, thereby undermining development.

President Museveni emphasized the importance of building resilient institutions, fostering cross-border cooperation, and expanding economic production as the foundation for sustainable growth. He cautioned that national markets alone are insufficient, calling instead for continental integration to unlock Africa's full potential.

The lecture also highlighted the need to train a new generation of African leaders who are ideologically grounded, strategically aware, and capable of addressing emerging security threats and development challenges. During the interactive session, Museveni engaged participants on issues of regional stability, security, and Uganda's evolving defense policy.



*Insert photo: President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda delivering a high-level Lecture of Opportunity to participants of Course 28–2025/26 at the National Defence College (NDC), Karen, Nairobi.*



## President Ruto attends launch of GERD, Dam of the People

*By Amb. H. Wambuma and I. Agum*

Although Ethiopia had long envisioned harnessing the waters of the Nile, its efforts to construct a major dam were repeatedly hindered by financial, logistical, and political challenges. Since the 1920s, various attempts were made, but early opposition from Britain and Egypt stalled progress. The dream was further interrupt-

ed by the Italian invasion of Ethiopia (1935–1941).

Subsequent feasibility studies—supported first by the United States in the 1960s and later by the Soviet Union in the 1970s—revived hopes for development, yet Ethiopia's aspirations to exploit its water resources never fully materialized. The Ethio-Eritrean war

(1998–2000) and the country's difficult economic conditions again forced the suspension of these ambitions.

In 2011, Ethiopia boldly announced plans to construct the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)—a landmark project entirely financed by Ethiopians themselves. Dubbed the “Dam of the People,” GERD became a unifying national endeavor, with citizens from all walks of life—across social, cultural, and economic divides, both at home and in the diaspora—contributing to its realization.

The successful launch of the GERD

now stands as a symbol of Ethiopia's energy sovereignty, regional influence, and national pride. It marks a decisive step toward economic self-reliance through renewable energy generation, positioning Ethiopia to power its domestic growth and export electricity across Africa.

At the same time, the project underscores the complex dynamics of Nile Basin diplomacy, reflecting Ethiopia's determination to harness its natural resources while managing delicate relations with Egypt and Sudan, which depend heavily on the Nile's flow. Ultimately, the GERD represents both a milestone in Africa's infrastructural transformation and a test of regional cooperation and shared resource governance.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) was officially inaugurated on 9th September, 2025 by the Government of Ethiopia, under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The Chief guest was President of Kenya, Dr. William Ruto.

The inauguration ceremony held on the sidelines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Climate Summit, marked the start of full operations after years of phased construction and reservoir filling that began in 2011 under the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who first laid the foundation stone and championed the project as a symbol of national unity and self-reliance. While Meles Zenawi is credited as the visionary and initiator of the GERD, Abiy Ahmed presided over its completion and official launch, symbolizing the culmination of Ethiopia's century-long aspiration to harness the Nile for development and energy independence.



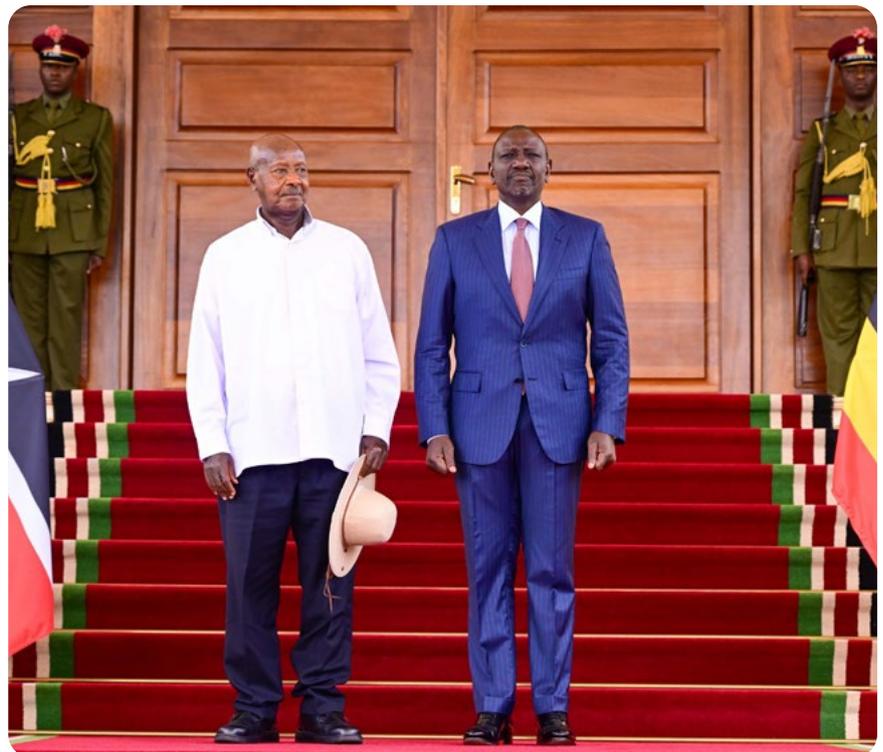


*H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni arrives in Nairobi for a 2 day official visit to Kenya*

## Strengthening Ties: Kenya-Uganda High-Level Engagements

In a testament to the enduring spirit of East African solidarity, Kenya and Uganda reaffirmed their deep-rooted diplomatic bonds through a series of high-level bilateral engagements that promise to reshape cross-border trade dynamics. At the forefront of these efforts was the official visit to Kenya by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, from 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025. This visit provided an opportunity for candid discussions aimed at fortifying the already robust bilateral relations between Kenya and Uganda, while systematically addressing longstanding bottlenecks that have impeded the free flow of goods and services across their shared borders.

The conversations delved into a wide array of issues, from enhancing supply chain efficiencies to harmonizing regulatory frameworks that could unlock untapped market potentials. Responding directly to the visionary directives issued by His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto of Kenya and his Ugandan counterpart, the respective Ministers for Trade convened a Technical Officers' Meeting from 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2025, where experts from both sides examined and proposed solutions for all outstanding Tariff Barriers (TBs) and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). The



*H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni poses for a photo with H.E William Ruto at State House, Nairobi, Kenya*

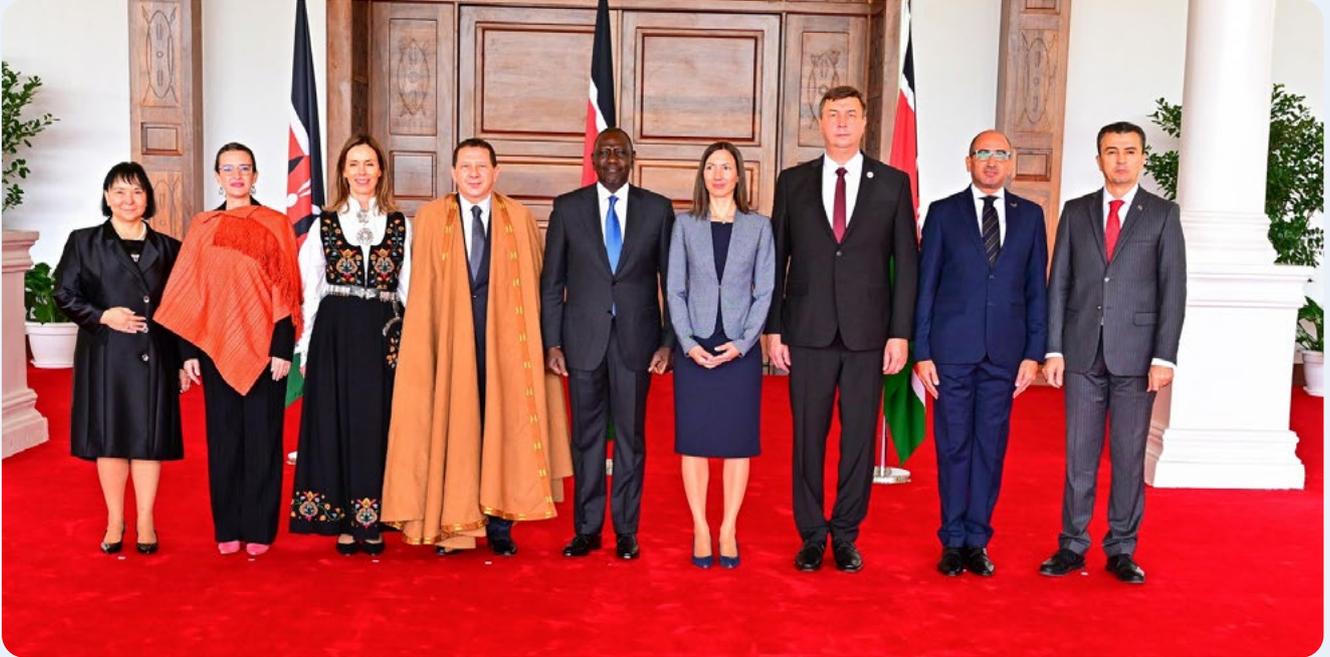
deliberations of this technical forum were instrumental, producing a slate of actionable recommendations.

Building on this momentum, a Ministerial Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, reviewed these recommendations, resolved the existing NTBs, and

proactively tackled emerging challenges. The outcomes of these engagements marked a significant stride toward a more seamless economic corridor within the East African Community (EAC).

# Presentation of Credentials

President Ruto received letters of credentials from newly-posted ambassadors to Kenya at State House, Nairobi on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2025. The ambassadors are Farid Ouahid Dahmane (Algeria), Katalin Nyirati (Hungary), Catherine Moe (Norway), and Yurii Tokar (Ukraine). Others are Ambassadors Gisele Fernandez Ludlow (Mexico), Hatem Yousri Hosni (Egypt), Kristina Radej (Slovenia) and Abdusalom Khatamov (Uzbekistan).



*H.E President William Ruto poses for a photo with the ambassadors of Algeria, Hungary, Norway, Ukraine, Mexico, Egypt, Slovenia and Uzbekistan.*





President William Ruto, PhD., delivers his keynote address at the Kenya Investment Forum in New York

## Kenya Seeks for More Investors at Landmark New York Forum

By W. Ochako

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025, on the sidelines of the 80<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80) in New York, President William Samoei Ruto presided over the Kenya Investment Forum, a landmark platform designed to deepen economic ties between Kenya and the United States.

The high-level gathering brought together more than 150 American companies alongside a senior Kenyan delegation comprising officials from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest), the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA). The forum positioned Kenya not only as a premier destination for global investment, but also as a gateway to Africa's fast-grow-

ing regional markets.

In his keynote address, President Ruto framed Kenya's investment case within the realities of a shifting global economy where supply chains are increasingly shaped by resilience, sustainability, and cost-efficiency. He outlined Kenya's unique advantages: a stable macroeconomic environment, a youthful, tech-savvy workforce, and a competitive edge from low-cost renewable energy.

To underscore the strength of U.S.-Kenya relations, he cited that bilateral trade reached USD 1.51 billion in 2024, with apparel exports under AGOA contributing USD 600 million. He further pointed to landmark U.S.-supported projects such as the Lake Tur-

kana Wind Power Project, the Kipeto Wind Farm, and the Olkaria III Geothermal Plant as examples of the strong partnership that already exists.

President Ruto then anchored his investment pitch around four key pillars:

- **Predictability and Stability:** Supported by hard data, including a stable inflation rate of 3.8%, doubled foreign exchange reserves in the last three years, and the Nairobi Securities Exchange's ranking as Africa's top performer in 2024.
- **Regulatory Clarity and Competitiveness:** Backed by reforms such as eliminating the 30% local equity requirement in ICT, zero-rating VAT on exported services, and the planned rollout of a fully digital One-Stop Investor Centre by mid-2026.
- **Strong Legal Protections:** Reinforcing investor confidence through a clear and enforceable framework.
- **Regional and Global Market Access:** Positioning Kenya as a strategic entry point into the continent's integrated markets under AfCFTA.

Concluding his remarks, the President issued a forward-looking call to action, formally inviting participants to Nairobi in March 2026 for the Kenya International Investment Conference (KIICO 2026). He urged American companies to seize the moment and forge transformative ventures that would generate jobs, create shared value, and drive sustainable development.

Reaffirming Kenya's position as Africa's financial and innovation hub, he challenged investors to move beyond viewing Kenya as a peripheral market and instead recognize it as a strategic anchor for expansion across Africa and beyond.

The forum ended with his emphatic declaration: "Kenya is open and ready for business." This powerful statement encapsulated the nation's unwavering commitment to being a reliable, forward-looking partner for global investors seeking to participate in Africa's growth story.



## Kenya Deepens Bilateral Ties with Algeria at IATF 2025

By F. Ngwena

The Intra-Africa Trade Fair (IATF 2025), held in Algiers from 4<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> September, provided a pivotal platform for Kenya to advance economic diplomacy as a central pillar of its foreign policy. Representing President William Ruto, the Deputy President, Professor Kithure Kindiki, led a high-level delegation that included Dr. Moses Wetang'ula, Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Lee Kinyanjui, Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry, Ms. Flois Mukabana, CEO of the Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (KEPROBA), alongside Members of Parliament and senior officials.

The visit reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to strengthening regional integration and leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a driver of economic growth and strategic partnerships.

A key highlight of the mission was the bilateral talks between Deputy President Kindiki and Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, which focused on translating dialogue into concrete action. Both leaders emphasized the need for expedited implementation of existing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), particularly in agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals. Algeria pledged to open its markets to Kenyan exports including

tea, coffee, meat, and dairy products. In turn, Kenya agreed to strengthen cooperation in pharmaceuticals and energy, marked by the signing of a new MoU between the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK) and Algeria's Sonatrach, covering oil and gas exploration, technical training, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply.

Kenya also seized the opportunity to showcase its diverse products, with companies such as Brookside, Silaf-rica, Bio Foods, and the Tea Board of Kenya exhibiting at the fair. This effort was bolstered by the support of KEPROBA, the UNDP, and a wide array of Kenyan small and medium-sized enterprises. With more than 2,000 exhibitors, 35,000 visitors, and projected trade deals worth USD 44 billion, the fair offered Kenya unrivalled access to markets and networking opportunities across the continent.

Technology played a transformative role in Kenya's promotion of economic diplomacy at the event. Through the Buyers' Lounge, a digital matchmaking platform powered by artificial intelligence, Kenyan exporters were able to connect with potential buyers from across Africa, streamlining business opportunities and expanding market reach.

Beyond trade, the Kenyan delegation also prioritized educational and diaspora engagement. They met with Ken-



Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki poses for a photo with the President of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune

yan students pursuing studies in Algerian universities as well as embassy staff in Algiers. Algeria currently offers over 100 annual scholarships to Kenyan students, especially in medicine and engineering, and during the visit pledged an additional 100 scholarships in disciplines such as pharmacy, computer science, and petroleum exploration. The delegation expressed deep appreciation for this gesture and committed to working with the Ministry of Education and other quality assurance bodies to streamline recognition of foreign qualifications, easing the burden of lengthy accreditation processes for students.

The issue of extending Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) support to scholarship students was also raised. Acknowledging the financial challenges faced by students from needy backgrounds, the delegation pledged to explore modalities for extending additional assistance beyond tuition scholarships.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Climate Summit, Ethiopia (8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2025)

THE SECOND AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT [ACS2]  
8-10 SEPTEMBER, 2025 | ADDIS ABABA



## Foreign Policy Insights from Kenya Embassy in Addis Ababa

From September 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia hosted the second Africa Climate Summit (ACS-2). Diplomacy Journal sat down with the Kenyan ambassador to Ethiopia for an in-depth conversation on Kenya Ethiopia relations. The conversation with Diplomacy Journal is here.

### Who is Amb. Orina?

“Amb. George Morara Orina is a seasoned Career Public Servant with 28 years in service. I joined the Public Service as an Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife in 1997. In 1999, I moved to the Office of President where I rose to position of Senior Assistant Secretary before I joined to Foreign Service.”

### When did you join the Foreign Service?

“I joined the Foreign Service in 2007, in the first cohort of Mid-Career Officers who joined the newly established Scheme of Service for Foreign Officers. I joined as Second Counsellor and have risen through the ranks, Counsellor, Minister-Counsellor, Minister and was finally appointed to the post of Ambassador in May 2019.

In the Foreign Service I have served in the Kenya Mission to UN New York, Kenya Mission to UN Nairobi and Kenya Embassy Addis Ababa. I have also served as Director, Africa and AU Directorate, Director-General for Mul-

tilateral Affairs and as Director General for Bilateral and Political Affairs.

In 2023, His Excellency the President appointed me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

I hold a Masters in International Public Administration from the London Metropolitan University and a Bachelors of Arts Honours Degree from the University of Nairobi. I also have a post-graduate Certificate in Strategic Management from the University of Connecticut and a Diploma in Diplomacy from the China Foreign Service University. I have also studied at Royal Institute of Public Administration and hold a Senior Leadership Development Programme Certificate from the Kenya School of Government.

I am married and have three sons.”

### Bilateral Relations with Ethiopia:

Kenya and Ethiopia share strong bilateral relations that precede Kenya’s independence and whose foundation can be traced to cordial and fraternal bonds of freindship that existed between the founding father of Kenya, H.E. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta and His Imperial Maj-



esty Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia.

As a reflection of this elevated state of relations, it is worth recalling that Kenya and Ethiopia had already signed a consequential bilateral Agreement in August of 1963, this was four months before Kenya’s independence. These served as a harbinger to other significant Agreements that have since been signed between the two countries.

### Among these include:

- The Abolition of Visa requirements between the two countries that has allowed free movement of our peoples;
- Special Status Agreement (SSA) signed in 2012, that has allowed for enhanced commercial and economic activities between our two countries;
- Memorandum of Cooperation in various sectors signed within the frameworks of Joint Commissions for Cooperation (JCCs), Joint Ministerial Commissions (JMC) and Bi-National Commission which is the apex framework for cooperation between our two countries, and chaired by the two Heads of State and Government.

All these are with the objective of facil-

itating trade and investments between the two countries and allowing our people, especially those living in the border area, to access basic daily commodities without any supply disruptions.

Cooperation between Kenya and Ethiopia has also seen the two countries, together with the Republic of South Sudan, jointly work and invest in the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) transport and infrastructure corridor project. The significance of this project is that other than being Kenya's second transport corridor, it has been vital in connecting the country with its northern neighbours, as well as promoting trade between the three countries.

Furthermore, it has allowed Ethiopia to diversify her importation routes, which is strategic for a country the scale of Ethiopia. In fact it will be recalled that Ethiopia has already utilized the LAPSSET Corridor to import 60,000 metric tons of fertilizer in May of 2024, arriving through the Port of Lamu in Kenya. This shipment was a significant step in operationalizing the LAPSSET project, a further demonstration of the active collaboration between Ethiopia and Kenya in developing the corridor into a strategic regional trade hub.

There have also been a number of High-Level Visits between the two countries, which continue to reinforce the long standing and friendly bilateral relations between Kenya and Ethiopia. For instance, H.E. President William Ruto has carried out three Official Visits to Ethiopia in 2025 alone and these include, attending the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU; the Second United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+4); the second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2); the second Africa-CARICOM Summit, and as the Guest of Honour during the historical inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

Ethiopia also continues to be an attractive investment destination for Kenyan corporations and establishments. Trade volume between Kenya and Ethiopia have been on an upward trend for the last five years, from a low of 74.9 million USD in 2019 to a total of 211 million USD in 2024. The balance of trade between the two countries has been in favour of Kenya throughout the period.



Official data from the Ethiopia Investment Commission indicates that there are over 100 Kenyan affiliated businesses that have invested and are operating in Ethiopia. They are drawn from various sectors such as telecommunication (Safaricom Ethiopia), aviation (Kenya Airways), banking (Equity Bank and KCB as representative offices) Manufacturing, Horticulture, consultancies, logistics and small businesses. Similarly, Ethiopian companies and investors have ventured in various sectors in the Kenyan market, including the construction, hospitality, transport among others.

Kenya and Ethiopia began partnership in the telecoms sector in 2013, when Ethio Telecom was granted an additional option to internet access through Kenya. This continues to date. The arrangement also led to knowledge exchange between Safaricom and Ethio Telecom over the years, a process that has contributed to supportive relations between the two companies.

As part of plans to revamp the telecommunications sector, Ethiopia issued a tender to award two licences to private telecommunication operators. In 2021, a consortium led by Kenya's Safaricom was awarded a licence to operate in Ethiopia, marking one of the largest foreign entries into the market. Currently, Safaricom Ethiopia has over 10 million active customers. On matters of renewable energy, KenGen collaborates effectively with its Ethiopian counterpart to assist in the development of Ethiopia's geothermal power infrastructure.

Kenya and Ethiopia maintain a strong diplomatic relationship through their Joint Border Administrators/Commissions (JBAC), which convene regularly to address strategic issues and ensure peace and security along their shared border. A significant advancement in this cooperation has been the formation of The Peace Committees which

consist of representatives from pertinent government institutions, local administrators from border regions, and community elders from both nations. Their purpose is to address and manage potential threats to the amicable relations, focusing particularly on the well-being of border communities.

## Regional Security and Stability

On matters of Regional Peace, Security, and Mediation Architecture, both Kenya and Ethiopia play crucial roles in promoting peace and stability within the region, particularly through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Their commitment to resolving conflicts is vital for regional integration and development, as peace is recognized as a necessary precursor to these goals.

The collaboration between the two countries has been noteworthy, as seen in their joint efforts to facilitate the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), also known as the Naivasha Agreement, which played a key role in ending the Sudanese Civil War and establishing a framework for Southern Sudan's independence referendum. Both nations are also ongoing partners in advancing the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), continuing their commitment to peace and security in the region.

In Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia have actively participated in various peace support missions, such as the IGAD Peace Support Mission to Somalia (IG-ASOM), the AU Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and, most recently, the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). Their joint initiatives focus on combating terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization related

to the Al Shabaab militant group, as both countries share vital intelligence to address regional security threats and work towards the welfare and sustainable development of their citizens.

Additionally, Kenya's former President Uhuru Kenyatta played a significant role in mediating peace talks between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which culminated in the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA). Kenya's status as a guarantor of the CoHA underscores its ongoing support for Ethiopia's peace initiatives, reaffirming the commitment of both nations to stability in the Horn of Africa.

## Kenya at the African Union and Multilateral Engagement

As a founding Member of the African Union (AU), Kenya has actively supported the principles and objectives of the union. The country plays a significant role in the implementation of Africa Agenda 2063, which represents the continent's plan for transformation into a global powerhouse, encapsulated in the vision of 'the Africa We want.'

In the context of the African Union (AU) Programme of Work, H.E. the President plays several pivotal roles, including serving as the AU Institutional Reform Champion, Champion for Digital Trade, Chairperson of the AU Assembly Committee on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC). Additionally, he is a member of both the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) and the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C-10), which advocates for Africa's stance on UN Security Council reform. These roles highlight Kenya's significant contributions to the continent's collective goals, as articulated in AU Agenda 2063.

At the Ministerial level, Kenya's influence within the AU is reinforced through the participation of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in the AU Executive Council, the AU Ministerial Committee on Candida-

tures, and the Ministerial Committee on Agenda 2063. Meanwhile, the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning is a member of the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) on Financing the AU and plays a role in the Bureau of the Conference of Ministers, the key executive organ for African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development under the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The AfCFTA, recognized as the largest continental market globally, is crucial for Kenya, promoting intra-Africa trade, economic integration, industrialization, and job creation. Kenya was one of the first countries, alongside Ghana, to ratify the AfCFTA Agreement and remains actively engaged in its implementation. H.E. the President's influential positions within the AU Program of Work guide Kenya's continuous active participation in the Permanent Representative's Committee (PRC), where he chairs the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination of Budgetary, Financial, and Administrative Matters (GSCBFAM).

The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), of which I am a Member as Kenya's Permanent Representative, plays a crucial role in the African Union (AU) by preparing agendas for the Executive Committee and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, conducting substantive negotiations, and supervising the day-to-day operations of the Policy Making Organs (PMOs). The PRC is tasked with drafting outcome documents and preparing agendas for AU Ordinary and Extraordinary Summits, as well as Partnership Summits. It also oversees the AU Commission to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of AU programs, thereby maintaining member states' confidence in the Union's ability to promote continental strategic interests.

Additionally, the PRC ensures accountability within the AU to enhance its effectiveness. Deliberations within the PRC reflect the positions of various countries, all aiming to achieve the African Common Position (CAP). Kenya's involvement at various levels within the AU aligns with its national philosophies advocating for a fair, eq-

uitable, and rules-based multilateral system, which emphasizes respect for international law as essential for economic transformation, industrialization, and job creation.

## Closing Question

**What is the one most significant thing of Kenya's foreign policy that people in Nairobi or across the world don't always notice or take for granted?**

"Kenya's credentials in Peace, Security, and Mediation are rooted in its strong advocacy for the Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts. This approach serves as a foundational principle for conflict management and resolution, underscoring the country's role as a neutral arbitrator and bolstering its standing in matters of peace, security, and mediation.

In addition, Kenya's belief that she is not in competition with her neighbours, that prosperity can be shared and that Kenya's development is not at the expense of any of our neighbours is a formidable demonstration of the country's commitment to mutually beneficial partnerships.

This principle has been emphasized by H.E. the President, particularly regarding transboundary resources, which frequently lead to conflicts on the continent. The President asserts that Kenya upholds the principle of equality and sustainability as the foundational guideline for the exploitation of these transboundary resources.

Kenya's role as an anchor state and guarantor of regional peace and security is highlighted through its active participation in peace initiatives, particularly the Somalia and Sudan Peace Processes, which were initiated and supported by Kenya. The country has established itself as a significant voice in Africa, influencing decisions on key issues from local to international platforms, as evidenced by its membership in both the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) during the period from 2019 to 2022. These councils are vital frameworks for the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, showcasing Kenya's commitment and strategic importance in regional and global contexts."



## Foreign Policy Insights from Kenya Embassy in Cuba on Kenya's engagement at CARICOM

The second Africa Climate Summit (ACS-2) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from September 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. While there, Diplomacy Journal met with Kenya's Ambassador to Cuba, who was also at the CARICOM Summit. Here is the interview with Diplomacy Journal.

### A. Who is Amb. Karisa?

“Ambassador Mwenda Karisa is a diplomat and public administration professional whose career reflects a deep grounding in governance, policy, and community development. Before her current posting as Kenya's Ambassador to Cuba, she built a rich career of leadership roles in both national and county governments. Her work as Chief Officer in the County Government of Kilifi, where she oversaw the Departments of Gender, Culture, Social Services & Sports as well as Education & ICT, demonstrated her ability to design and implement policies that touched the lives of ordinary citizens in tangible ways. She later enhanced her leadership further as a Senior Administration Officer at the Bandari Maritime Academy, an institution central to Kenya's growing blue economy agenda.

Her grounding in administration and goes back to her service as a District Officer in the Ministry of Provincial

Administration and Internal Security between 2007 and 2014, where she gained firsthand experience in governance and national service delivery. This journey has given her a unique blend of grassroots-level understanding and high-level policy execution. Today, as Ambassador in Havana, she brings this wealth of experience into her diplomatic work, building bridges between Kenya and the Caribbean with the same focus on service, inclusivity, and practical results that have defined her entire career.

Ambassador Mwenda is married and has three children.”

### B. Relations with Cuba and the Caribbean:

**1. What is CARICOM and why is Kenya engaged in that space? (Speak in detail about the Kenya CARICOM nexus and what its benefits are to Kenya. This includes H.E. President William Ruto's engagements and leadership role in the region. Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is part of President Ruto's broader South-South cooperation and Global South diplomacy strategy.**

“The Caribbean Community, or simply known as CARICOM, is a regional bloc of fifteen member states and five associates across the Americas, the Ca-



*Ambassador Mwenda Karisa*

ibbean and the Atlantic Ocean, united by the goals of integration, trade, and coordinated policy. All CARICOM countries are classified as developing countries and are all relatively small in terms of population and size, sharing common similarities and challenges. For Kenya, engaging with CARICOM is both inherent and strategic. Kenya and Africa in general, and the people of the Caribbean are of common origin and descent. Further, H.E. President William Ruto has consistently championed South-South cooperation, with the conviction that the Global South must speak with one voice in global platforms to influence decisions on the many common challenges that affect developing countries.

Our engagement with CARICOM has given us that precise opportunity. The region is a strong ally in advancing our principles as a country such as climate justice, reforming global financial architecture and creating fairer rules in trade. Economically, it opens up new corridors for our goods and services, including agriculture, ICT, tourism and even the creative industries. Politically, it extends our reach in the Americas and gives us valuable partners in multi-lateral fora. President Ruto's leadership, particularly through his role as Chair of the African Union's Committee of Heads of State on Climate Change, has

elevated these engagements. Kenya's voice resonates more strongly when echoed by like-minded states in the Caribbean."

## 2. What are the current and historical priorities that influence Kenya-CARICOM relations?

"Our ties with the Caribbean are rooted in our shared history. We share bonds that go back to the Pan-African movements during the struggles for independence. During this period, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta worked closely with Caribbean and Afro-American leaders and intellectuals such as Marcus Garvey, George Padmore and W.E. B. Du Bois among others. It is imperative to also note the critical pioneering role of former President Uhuru Kenyatta, who while in attendance to the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting held in August 2019 in Bridgetown, Barbados, made a proposal for an Africa-CARICOM Summit. Through Kenya's initiative, the AU adopted a Declaration on "Promoting Closer Collaboration between the African Union, the African Diaspora and People of African Descent in the Caribbean and Pacific Regions." Thereafter, Kenya was endorsed to host the inaugural Africa-CARICOM Summit on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021, which institutionalized the Summit as an annual event and declared 7<sup>th</sup> September as Africa/CARICOM Day. This outlines Kenya's anchor role in recognition of the Caribbean as Africa's "sixth region." Those bonds of solidarity remain central to our relationship today.

Over the years, our priorities have grown to include enhanced cooperation at the multilateral level, especially on issues of mutual support for candidatures, climate, debt, and UN reforms. We also share common positions on trade and investment as drivers for economic development. We are also initiating educational and cultural exchanges to promote people to people contacts and understanding. Many Kenyans know Cuba through its contribution to health cooperation, while Caribbean states are discovering Kenya through sports, culture, and higher education."

## 3. How does Kenya assess the CARICOM's status as a strategic partner in the context of trade, security, and development?

**a) What are the potential opportunities for collaboration in the fields of infrastructure, ICT, and renewable energy? (Speak on the CARICOM as an investment destination for Kenya)**

**b) What are the opportunities for Kenya in the Caribbean? What are the areas of strength?**

"Kenya views the CARICOM states as strategic allies in today's complex world. These are small and middle-income states that, much like Kenya, understand that working together magnifies our voices and strengthens our resilience.

On trade, the Caribbean offers vibrant new markets of over sixteen million people for our goods and a destination for our services, especially in ICT and financial sectors. Kenya's digital ID systems, mobile money and e-government models can be adapted to Caribbean contexts. There is a huge potential for renewable energy, and Kenya is eager to collaborate on geothermal, solar, wind, and similar green projects.

On development, CARICOM countries have pioneered innovative solutions in health that we can learn from. In Cuba, for instance, its strengths in biotechnology, health care and sports science present unique opportunities and we are already cooperating on medical training through scholarships. We are now looking to expand into research, vaccine development and joint pharmaceutical production.

With regard to tourism, Caribbean countries such as Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis just to name a few have made great strides in creating a niche for themselves in the cruise ship sector. We can partner with these countries to develop a joint cruise ship route and also serve as a market for our skills in the tourism sector."

## 4. Why was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-CARICOM Summit held side by side with the Africa Climate Summit?

"I believe this move was deliberate and symbolic. Climate change is the great threat of our time and does not respect borders, and binds Africa and the Caribbean together in shared vulnerability. Holding the Africa-CARICOM Summit alongside the Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa brought to-

gether political dialogue and climate action into the same space.

As developing countries with small economies, African and Caribbean countries are most affected by climate change. African countries are uniquely affected by this phenomenon through climate variation and unpredictability and desertification while Caribbean countries being small island developing states are affected by rise in the sea level and extreme weather events.

Therefore, this decision ensured that discussions about trade, investment, and cooperation were not divorced from the urgent question of how to finance adaptation and build resilience. It also allowed us to present a united front, amplifying our demands for fair climate finance, debt reform, and a more equitable global order. President Ruto's leadership in both spaces gave these meetings synergy, coherence and focus."

## 5. What is the nexus for CARICOM and Cuba in Africa? This is especially in view of President Ruto's broader South-South cooperation and Global South diplomacy.

**Speak to the journey and linkages of Kenya/ Africa with CARICOM. H.E. the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley has been a vocal voice and advocate for the South-South cooperation. What do you think possibly gives her the drive to this conversation? What has been the thrust/ scope of her conversations at 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-CARICOM Summit in Addis Ababa? Who are the other advocates for this conversation?**

"The links between Africa, CARICOM, and Cuba are historical and bear significant emotional attachments. From the pre-independence Bandung Conference of 1955, followed by the Non-Aligned Movement, and from Cuba's support and contribution towards African liberation struggles and the ending of apartheid, followed by Africa's diplomatic solidarity with the Caribbean, these bonds are part of our shared story. Today, we are rewriting that story in more practical dynamics, including joint ventures, shared ideologies, common platforms for trade, and aligned priorities in global negotiations.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados understands these ideologies and

has been one of the strongest voices in this conversation. Her advocacy stems from her recognition of the vulnerabilities small island developing states face and her conviction that our survival depends on collective action. In Addis Ababa, she spoke passionately about reparatory justice, resilient finance, and building an Africa–Caribbean economic bridge. President William Ruto has similarly taken up this cause in Africa and together, they are demonstrating that South–South cooperation is not just a usual phrase but also a road-map for transformation.”

**6. How does Kenya use its mission in Cuba to influence CARICOM decisions? What are Kenya’s main goals in the CARICOM, and how do these match up with Cuba in general?**

“The Embassy of Kenya in Havana is Kenya’s gateway to the Caribbean and a hub for engaging CARICOM states. At this Mission, we are able to engage government authorities and other stakeholders to project, promote and protect Kenya’s strategic interests in the region.

Kenya’s goals in Cuba and the CARICOM are climate-smart growth, health collaboration, enhanced trade and investments, cooperation in the blue economy, cooperation in education and research, among others. These are well aligned with Cuba’s and the CARICOM’s priorities in medicine, energy, blue economy and disaster preparedness. The Mission promotes linkages for these priorities, where Kenya, Cuba, and the broader CARICOM region can collaborate on projects that scale up local successes into regional programmes.”

**7. What are the potentials for Af-CFTA and CARICOM convergence? What is Kenya’s role in these conversations?**

“The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and CARICOM share a vision of integration and scale. The potential convergence between the two lies in building bridges across the Atlantic that lower trade barriers and expand markets. The market movement that could be created by 1.4 billion AfCFTA and the over 6 million CARICOM people is huge and worth exploring.

We see opportunities in harmonizing standards, in mutual recognition of

professional qualifications and standards, and in creating digital trade rules that enable services to move as easily as goods. The vision of direct sea and air linkages, perhaps a direct flight from Nairobi to the Caribbean, is an area we are working on to make this vision possible.”

**8. What can Kenya/Kenyans learn from Cuba? Cuba has previously been known as an exporter of labour skills especially in the medical space. How has Kenya gained from this and what opportunities can Kenya tap under the principle of reciprocity?**

“Cuba has taught the world the value of prevention-focused healthcare. It has built a reputation for exporting skills rather than commodities, and that in itself is a form of diplomacy. Kenya has benefited from this, where Cuban specialists at some point came to support our health sector. With regards to reciprocity, Kenya is already gaining from the health collaboration with Cuba, especially through the medical exchange programmes where currently about 17 Kenyan medical students are training in Cuba through scholarships.

We are now exploring ways of elevating this partnership further to other areas such as co-developing of vaccines, sharing research facilities and the possibility of joint research and production of pharmaceutical products.”

**9. How many Kenyans are presently engaged in Cuba and the larger Caribbean region? What have been the past challenges and how can Kenyans access this market for work, tourism and investment?**

“Our Kenyan presence in Cuba is modest, mainly comprising of medical students, trainees, and professionals in academia. In the wider Caribbean, we have a moderate community of approximately 500 people, but fast-growing, especially in the tourism, education, ICT, finance and entrepreneurship sectors.

The challenges are related to limited air connectivity and gaps in information on opportunities available. The Embassy is working closely with our Caribbean partners to negotiate labour agreements, among other engagements, to make it easier for Kenyans to study, work, invest and reside in the Caribbean.”

**10. What new areas of collaboration between Kenya and Cuba seem the most promising?**

“We see enormous promise in health and biotechnology, particularly in joint research and co-manufacturing vaccines and diagnostics. Sports medicine and science is another frontier where Cuba’s expertise and Kenya’s athletic prowess provide potential for collaboration. Disaster preparedness, agriculture and the creative industries, including film, music, and cultural festivals, are spaces where our collaboration can flourish. These are areas that will go a long way in building people-to-people connectivity.”

**11. What lessons has Kenya learned from Cuba’s diplomacy?**

“Cuba has over time demonstrated to the world the power of consistency. Despite the challenges resulting from the decades-long sanctions imposed on the country by the United States of America, it has remained steadfast in its values and priorities. Cuba’s resilience, its ability to do more with less, and its cultivation of networks that last across generations is admirable.”

**12. What do you believe the next 10 years will be like for Kenya and Cuba relations and to an extent the larger Caribbean?**

“I am very excited and optimistic about the next decade. I see our relations with Cuba deepening beyond educational programmes into full-fledged joint ventures in health, science, and renewable energy. I see our private sectors connecting more directly, our cultural exchanges enriching our peoples, and our voices in multilateral fora growing stronger because we share many common positions.

To the wider Caribbean, I see Kenya and the region co-creating a new model of South–South cooperation and a new world order. One where we do not simply share solidarity but also share markets, investments, people connectivity and innovations. I am honoured to be in a position to play a part to the success of the future of our two regions.”



H.E President William Ruto poses for a group photo with other delegates during the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in Yokohama, Japan

## President Ruto Leads Kenya's Delegation to TICAD 9 in Yokohama, Japan

By I. Kimeu

His Excellency President William Ruto led Kenya's delegation to the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) held in Yokohama, Japan, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025.

African Heads of State and Government, senior Japanese officials, the African Union Commission, international organisations, and private sector executives convened under the theme "Co-creating Innovative Solutions with Africa" to advance Africa's development agenda.

President Ruto reiterated Kenya's dedication to institutional reform throughout Africa and advocated for the continent's shared priorities of climate action, infrastructure expansion, digital innovation, and industrial growth as critical components of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in his address.

"TICAD is more than just a partnership; it's a shared goal to turn Africa's potential into wealth. We must now move from promises to actions, with a clear focus on infrastructure, renewable energy, and human capital," stated President Ruto during a high-level session.

The President outlined Kenya's strategy to increase investment in renewable energy by 30% over the next five years. This initiative is anticipated to generate over 20,000 green employment, strengthen local industry, and improve climate resilience. Kenya is currently leading the Region on sustainable development with over 75% of its energy coming from renewable sources.

Building upon Kenya's robust history with TICAD, the country hosted TICAD 6 in Nairobi in 2016. President Ruto conducted a series of strategic bilateral meetings with prominent Japanese corporations and global partners,

such as Toyota Tsusho, JICA, Marubeni Corporation, Fujita, Sumitomo, Nippon Foundation, IFC, UNDP, NEXI, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

During discussions with the GCF, Kenya disclosed its intention to host a GCF office in Nairobi and a dedicated focal point within the National Treasury to expedite the submission and execution of climate projects. The Fund demonstrated desire to acquire observer status at the African Union and to assist in the establishment of an African Credit Rating Agency and a continental policy framework to encourage private investment in climate-related projects.

Engagements with the Sumitomo Group underscored their expanding investments in Kenya, notably through the M-KOPA initiative, which provides affordable mobile devices to low-income households. The firm expressed interest in supplying construction machinery to institutions such as the National Youth Service, while the Government of Kenya pledged to fast-track processes that will accelerate such collaborations.

Kenya has also affirmed its readiness to host the 2026 Ocean Summit with the assistance of the Nippon Foundation. The summit will foster the sustainable

use and conservation of marine resources, enhance ocean governance, and stimulate innovation in the blue economy of Africa and Small Island Developing States.

President Ruto underscored the necessity of reshaping the global narrative on Africa in his remarks:

“For the longest time, Africa has been defined by the language of poverty and fragility, which has obscured its genuine narrative, which is one of innovation, ambition, and wealth.” Africa is on the brink of a transformation, thanks to its youthful population, abundant natural resources, and vibrant entrepreneurial spirit.

The TICAD framework has been a testament to Japan’s forward-thinking dedication to the development of Africa since its inception in 1993. The

future of global cooperation is poised to be redefined, as the renewed partnership, which is founded on mutual respect, innovation, and strategy, is poised to redefine new investments and promote sustainable growth.

Kenya’s partnerships with organisations like the Nippon Foundation and JICA serve as illustrations of this reimagined approach to development cooperation; one that merges Kenya’s youthful talent and digital innovation with Japan’s advanced technology and precision expertise. Kenya’s objective is to enhance healthcare access and resilience by adopting models from initiatives such as Japan’s drone-based medical delivery system.

President Ruto’s participation at TICAD 9 reaffirmed Kenya’s unwavering commitment to multilateralism, its po-

sition as a regional economic hub, and its vision of becoming a climate-resilient and innovation-driven economy. President Ruto’s diplomatic leadership continues to elevate Kenya’s global influence while opening pathways for strategic partnerships and sustainable development.

Accompanying the President to the TICAD 9 were Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs; Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary for Defence; Hon. Rebecca Miano, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife; Amb. Moi Lemoshira, Kenya’s Ambassador to Japan; as well as senior government officials, private sector representatives, and development partners.





Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi during the official opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Gigiri.

## Africa unites for Climate Action at AMCEN'S 20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session in Nairobi

By D. Mwangi, H. Golicha, G. Cheron and D. Maloba

The 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-20) took place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 concluding with a distinguished high-level commemorative session marking four decades of environmental leadership across the continent.

Hosted at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) by the Government of Libya, the event gathered over 1000 participants, including 35 environment Ministers, representatives from 53 African countries, development partners, UN agencies, and environmental stakeholders dedicated to environmental sustainability and climate resilience in Africa. It featured a technical segment, a ministerial segment, and a special high-level session marking AMCEN's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its inception in

Cairo, Egypt, in 1985.

AMCEN has served as the continent's premier platform for environmental governance, policy consensus, and regional coordination. Over the past 40 years, AMCEN has significantly amplified Africa's voice in global environmental negotiations, developed critical tools for environmental management, and advanced strategies to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and ecosystem degradation.

The theme for the Ordinary Session was "Four Decades of Environmental Action in Africa: Reflecting on the Past and Imagining the Future." The session was hosted at a critical time, as the African continent seeks to strengthen its collective voice and enhance coordination ahead of key upcoming global climate negotiations, including COP30 on plastic pollution, and UNEA-7. The gathering aimed to celebrate Africa's progress in environmental conser-

vation and sustainable development while reaffirming a collective vision for a greener, more resilient continent.

The session was officially opened by Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary, and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, who delivered a powerful keynote address highlighting the gravity of the climate crisis. "Climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is an economic crisis, a health emergency, and a humanitarian disaster," he said. "But Africa has the solutions and the voice to lead." Reflecting on AMCEN's 40-year milestone, he remarked that "life begins at 40, and so does a renewed commitment to Africa's environmental future." He further called for the strengthening of Nairobi's role as a global hub for environmental governance and diplomacy.

His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Ken-

ya, delivered his remarks during a visit to the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), where he inspected ongoing renovations and new office block construction. He emphasized Kenya's commitment to strengthening the UN presence in the Global South and to hosting a modern, sustainable facility. "This is the only official UN global headquarters in the Global South, it is our facility, and we are proud to host it here in Nairobi," President Ruto stated. He called for increased climate financing, strengthened regional partnerships, and bold, pragmatic leadership to confront the existential threat of climate change. President Ruto emphasized the need for increased climate financing, strengthened regional partnerships, and bold, pragmatic leadership to confront the existential threat of climate change.

As Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), Kenya reaffirmed its dedication to continental climate advocacy and strategic action. Dr. Deborah Mulongo Barasa, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, expressed pride in hosting this milestone event. She noted AMCEN's enduring commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development, noting its vital role in shaping international agreements from the Rio Conventions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She highlighted that AMCEN@40 should be remembered as the meeting where ministers recommitted to achieving positive impacts for Africa. She underlined that Africa is not "waiting to be rescued; we are rising to lead." Dr. Barasa called on all stakeholders to sustain momentum through inclusive dialogue, innovative institutional approaches, and shared responsibility, emphasizing that Africa's future hinges on collaborative and transformative efforts.

During the session, UNON Director-General, Zainab Hawa Bangura commended AMCEN's leadership in climate action and biodiversity conservation. She described the anniversary as both a celebration of achievements and a call to action, emphasizing the necessity of a whole-of-society approach to confront climate change, re-

source depletion, and pollution.

The African Development Bank's Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate, and Green Growth, Dr. Kevin Kariuki, highlighted AMCEN's alignment with the Bank's climate strategies, including investments in climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, and green infrastructure. He reaffirmed the Bank's ongoing support for AMCEN's initiatives, emphasizing Africa's need to lead a transformative shift toward inclusive, green growth.

Dr. Ibrahim Munir, Minister of Environment of the State of Libya, officially assumed the presidency of AMCEN, taking over the leadership from Hon. Jacques Assahoré Konan, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

He urged African nations to reaffirm their commitment to principles of equity, environmental justice, and sustainable development. He stressed that Africa's natural resources should serve as the foundation for prosperity, peace, and resilience across the continent. The transition marked a continuation of the Conference's commitment to advancing Africa's environmental agenda through collaborative leadership and shared responsibility.

The conference concluded with the commemoration of AMCEN@40, marking four decades of continental environmental leadership. The session culminated in the adoption of a High-Level Political Declaration, which reaffirmed Africa's steadfast

commitment to climate justice, increased adaptation financing, sustainable trade and development, and the reinforcement of multilateral cooperation. The Declaration underscored the importance of advancing a unified African voice in global environmental negotiations and decision-making processes.

Throughout its 40-year history, AMCEN has achieved notable milestones, including the launch of the Africa Green Stimulus Programme, the formulation of common African positions in global negotiations, and the production of influential reports such as the Africa Environment Outlook and the Africa Atlas of Natural Capital. These initiatives have informed policy making and mobilized resources across the continent. Hosting AMCEN@40 has also reinforced Kenya's growing diplomatic and environmental leadership. The event has generated significant economic benefits, including increased tourism and hospitality activities, further underscoring Kenya's commitment to sustainable development and regional cooperation.

Notable attendees included Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Outgoing Executive Secretary, UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), H.E. Moses Vilakati, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, Dr. Korir A. SingOei, Principal Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Ababu Namwamba, Kenya's Permanent representative to the UN among others.



President William Ruto inspecting ongoing renovations and new office block construction at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).



First Lady, Mrs. Rachel Ruto delivers her address during the second Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa

## Financing Clean Cooking: From Pilots to Decisive Delivery

By I. Agum

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Climate Summit in Addis Ababa, Kenya's First Lady, Mrs. Rachel Ruto, called for urgent action to accelerate access to clean cooking solutions, framing the issue as both a development and health priority.

She noted that millions of women and families across Africa continue to rely on toxic fuels — “silent killers” that compromise health, dignity, and the environment. Clean cooking, she stressed, is not merely a matter of health, but a vital cog in Kenya's economic renewal and transformation. Universal access, she argued, would protect children — especially those under five — from household air pollution, conserve forests currently stripped bare for firewood, and reduce the spread of pollution-related diseases.

Speaking at the Presidential High-Level Event on Financing Clean Cooking: Shifting from Pilots to Decisive Delivery, Mrs. Ruto pledged to raise Kenya's adoption of clean cooking solutions from the current 10–30 percent to 80 percent within two years. She called for innovative financing models to unlock capital and emphasized the central role of women and youth in driving clean

energy innovations.

The session also heard from the United Kingdom's Special Envoy, Racheal Kyte, who highlighted global momentum in the sector. She pointed to advances in technology, rising financial interest, and new equity models that give women greater access to resources. The UK, she noted, has already invested £110 million in clean fuel projects, extended partnerships to Saudi Arabia, and remains committed to mobilizing further funding for Africa's clean cooking agenda. Importantly, she urged governments and financiers to listen to women's voices, recognizing them as the most informed advocates of community needs.

From across Africa, panellists reinforced the urgency of action. Former Ghanaian First Lady Samira Bawumia warned that the environmental cost of unclean cooking stood at an estimated USD 40 billion annually, and called for stronger government commitment. A representative from Mozambique revealed that the continent loses another USD 17 billion annually from inaction on clean cooking. Mozambique itself has introduced biomass production, improved stoves, and smaller LPG bot-

ties to expand access for households.

Sierra Leone's Special Representative from the Ministry of Energy underscored the importance of political leadership, admitting that clean cooking had too often been treated as an afterthought. Recent reforms, however, were changing this narrative: duty waivers for fuels and appliances, increased LPG investments, and programs to phase out firewood and kerosene in schools. The representative also pointed to women's political participation — with 30 percent of Sierra Leone's parliamentarians now female — as a driver of advocacy for clean cooking in West Africa. The conference was reminded that only seven African heads of state have elevated clean cooking to a top political priority, underlining the need for greater commitment across the continent.

The discussions were firmly anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals. Clean cooking is central to:

- **SDG 3 (Health & Well-being):** by reducing child and maternal mortality, curbing disease, and addressing pollution-related deaths.
- **SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** by ending harmful practices, empowering women, and reducing the disproportionate burden they face from unsafe cooking.
- **SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy):** by expanding modern energy access, cutting reliance on biomass and kerosene, and promoting renewable solutions.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** by reducing carbon emissions, curbing deforestation, and strengthening resilience against climate-related disasters.

The session closed with a strong call to action: Africa must transition from fragmented pilot initiatives to a cohesive humanitarian and climate financing agenda that makes clean cooking a cornerstone of resilience and sustainable development. Strategic messaging, cross-sector collaboration, and integrating clean cooking into all international climate and development dialogues were identified as essential to ensuring that Africa's concerns are not only voiced, but also acted upon.



Strategic

## Bridging The Divide: Aligning Climate and Humanitarian Financing for Resilience in Africa

By I. Agum

Various conversations were had on the sidelines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Africa Climate Summit. The panel on Bridging the Divide: Aligning Climate and Humanitarian Financing for Resilience in Africa brought together experts including Mr. Tobias Ogweno of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. James Muraguri of the Institute of Public Finance, Mr. Tendai Kasinganeti, Climate and Security Advisor at UNOAU, and Ms. Elise Nalmandian of OXFAM, where it was agreed that the world must rethink humanitarian financing in order to build long-term resilience in the face of escalating climate shocks.

The panellists reviewed the history of humanitarian financing in Africa, noting that traditional models—largely centred on food aid such as flour, salt, rice, and oil—continued to create a cycle of dependency and were not sustainable. Instead, communities are calling for dignified, predictable, and sustainable solutions that empower them to adapt. Climate-smart agricultural techniques, such as artificial intelligence, have been recognised as effective for weather forecasting in drought and flood scenarios. Innovations such

as anticipatory drought and famine insurance were cited as examples of humanitarian funding approaches that help mitigate vulnerability. It was highlighted that local innovations across communities have resulted in a transition from food aid dependence to food surplus, with Machakos cited as an example of generating enough to feed Nairobi despite previously relying on food aid. Success stories of community-led water pan construction in arid and semi-arid countries for animal watering and irrigation were also highlighted.

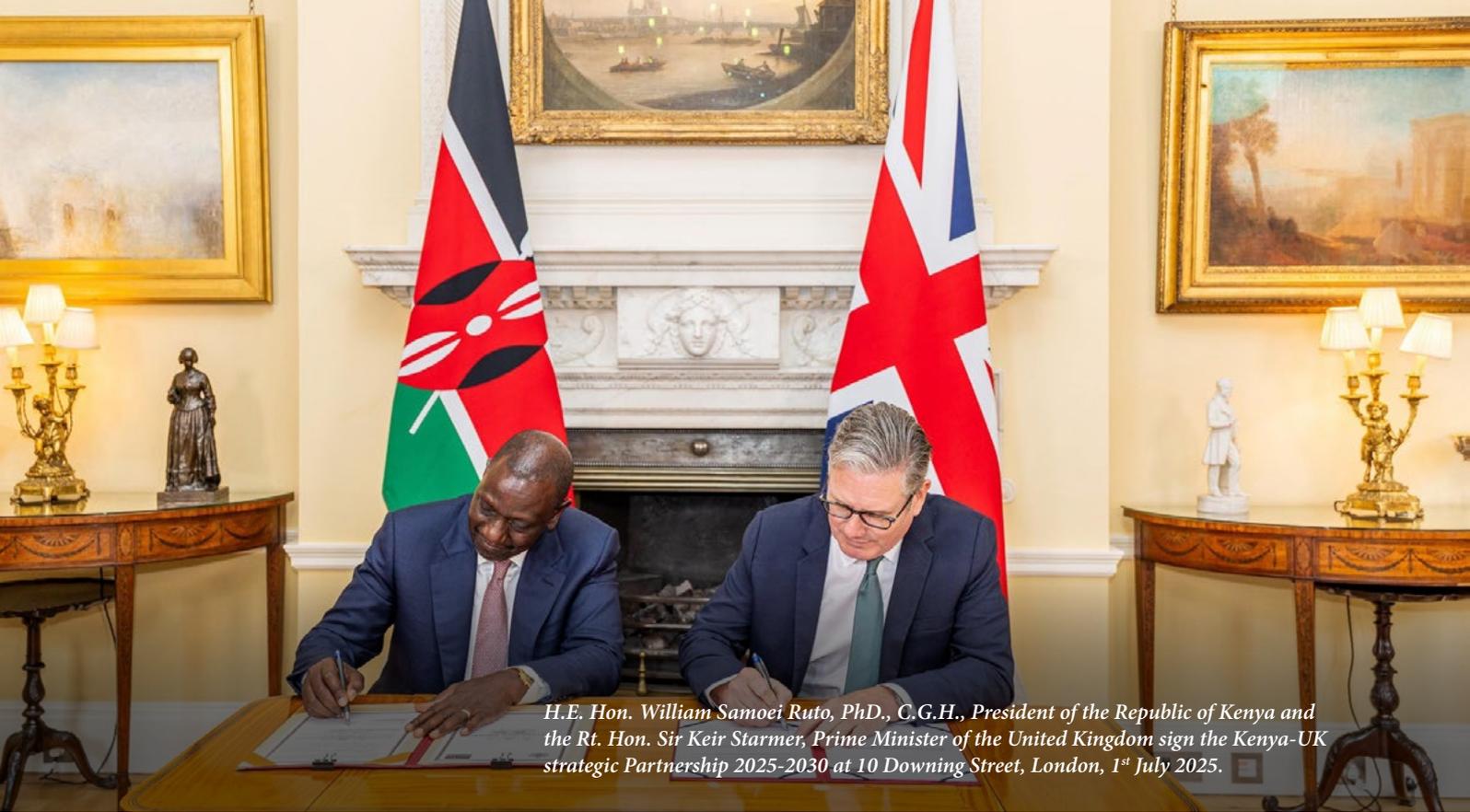
Climate and Security Advisor, Tendai Kasinganeti called for a continental climate-security mechanism that integrated the work of UN agencies, linking climate change, peacebuilding, and conflict stabilization. The panel further emphasized that national adaptation policies and strategies ought to be adopted and incorporated within national budgets for effective implementation.

Speakers pointed to the high cost of inaction, with major droughts and floods across Africa fuelling public anger and cycles of crisis. They also stated that, although global financing systems remain fragmented owing to donor pri-

orities, the public finance systems and emergency funding mechanisms remained ill-prepared to attract private sector engagement, due to a lack of supportive policy ecosystem.

The session was informed of the need to prepare coherent and well articulated national and regional positions in readiness for COP30 and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) scheduled to take place later in the year. As the UN marks its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, participants asked hard questions as to whether the institution had delivered on its mandate and whether it was adequately prepared to respond to modern crises.

The session concluded with a strong call to action: Africa must move from fragmented humanitarian assistance to a cohesive humanitarian financing agenda that integrates climate resilience, disaster risk management, and long-term adaptation. Networking, strategic messaging, and cross-referencing humanitarian and climate priorities in all international engagements would remain critical to ensuring that Africa's concerns are not only heard but acted upon.



*H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD., C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya and the Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom sign the Kenya-UK strategic Partnership 2025-2030 at 10 Downing Street, London, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025.*

## Kenya United Kingdom renew Strategic Partnership

Kenya's bilateral and diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom were bolstered when President William Ruto's and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer signed the Kenya -United Kingdom Strategic Partnership Framework for the year 2025 - 2030. The signing ceremony which took place in London during the official visit by President William Ruto to the United Kingdom in July 2025 builds on the progress achieved under the inaugural Kenya -United Kingdom Strategic Partnership Framework launched in January 2020 at the sidelines of the United Kingdom-Africa Trade -Investment Summit in London.

Renewal of the Kenya -UK Strategic Partnership unlocks transformative bilateral engagements in trade and investment worth over KSh 427 billion across the five-year period. The bilateral engagement under the strategic partnership is structured around four pillars namely: trade, investment and green growth; climate and nature; science and technology; and security and stability. The bilateral Strategic Framework sets out a comprehensive platform to accelerate economic growth, creation of decent jobs, strengthening

of technological cooperation, and advancement of shared commitments to climate action and public safety.

The visit also provided an opportunity for the President of Kenya to engage in high-level meetings and strategic engagements that positions Nairobi as a regional commercial and investment gateway into Eastern and Central Africa. Planned bilateral transformative ventures such as the Nairobi Railway City, to be developed at a cost of Ksh 26.6 billion by United Kingdom based firms is a flagship development that is expected to generate up to 10,000 jobs, showcasing the scale of opportunity that deepening and elevation of bilateral partnership can unlock.

Another significant outcome of the visit was the announcement of the entry of Lloyd's of London into Nairobi's insurance market through a partnership with the Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC). Under the agreement, Lloyd's will establish a regional insurance underwriting office in Nairobi, potentially managing up to KSh 75.5 billion in insurance premiums. This move reinforces Kenya's stature as a regional hub for international capital, financial services, and enterprise,

while giving Kenyan businesses access to specialised risk solutions, boosting economic resilience, and unlocking new growth opportunities across the East African insurance market.

As regards green growth and technology as part of global efforts to combat climate change, UK pledged support for climate adaptation through support for green energy, nature-based solutions, and keeping 1.5°C climate goal within reach. Science and technology ties will expand to include joint work on Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies, areas that promise inclusive growth and new industries for the country.

### Kenya-UK Security Compact

During the Africa Debate 2025, Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, and the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, Rt. Hon. David Lammy, signed a landmark Kenya-UK Security Compact.

The compact is a significant step in strengthening bilateral cooperation on security matters. It is designed to respond to both traditional security concerns and emerging global threats, reflecting the evolving nature of risks that affect both countries.

Key priorities of the Security Compact include Cyber and Digital Security seeking to mitigate risks arising from digital platforms and safeguarding citizens from online threats; New and Emerging Technologies seeking to enhance cooperation on the responsible use of technologies and countering their misuse; Irregular Migration seeking to work jointly to address drivers of irregular migration, while supporting safe, legal, and orderly mobility and, Countering Illicit Finance seeking to improve mechanisms to detect, prevent, and combat the flow of illicit funds that undermine economic and national security.

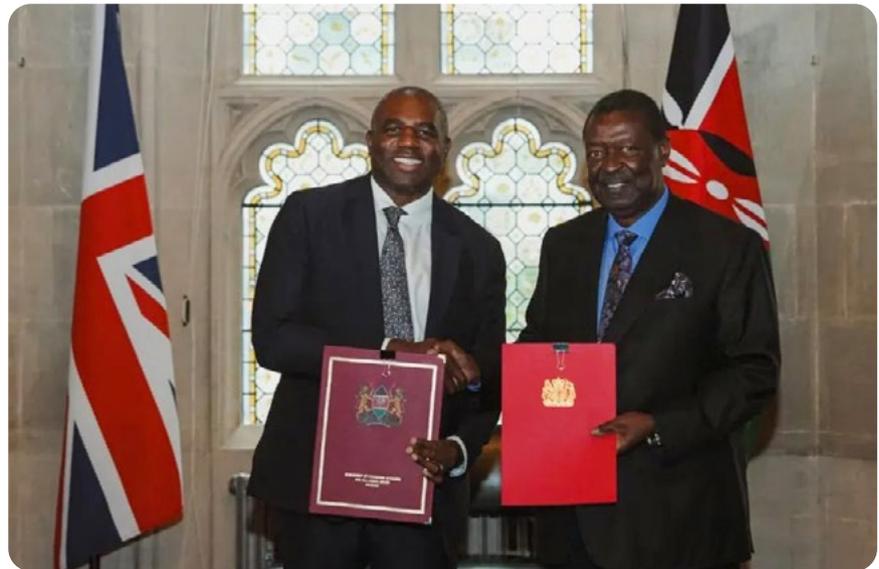
This agreement underscores the long-standing Kenya–UK strategic partnership, while providing a framework to deepen collaboration on shared security challenges. It demonstrates both countries’ commitment to working together for stability, resilience, and sustainable development.

### Partnership in health

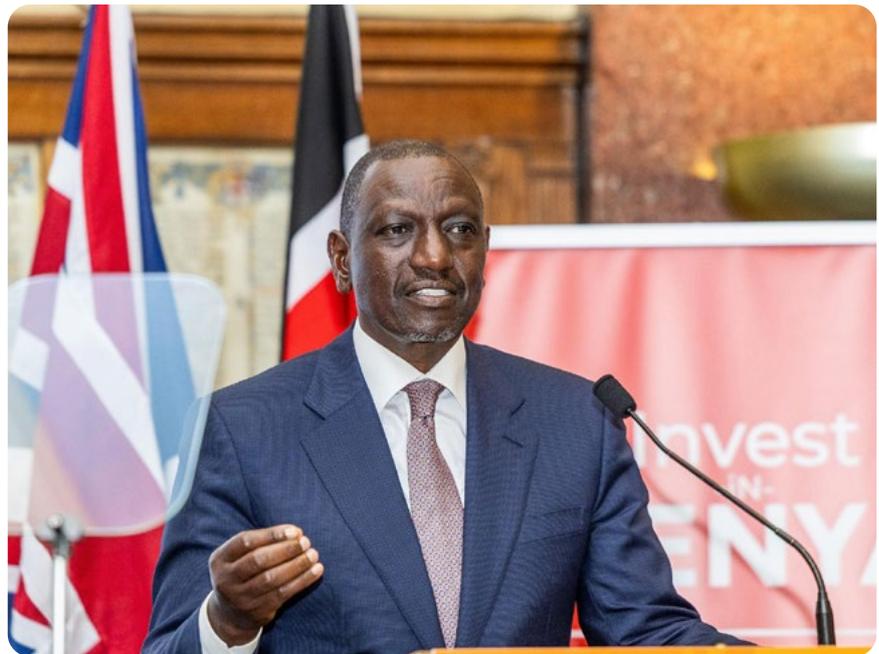
Collaboration in the health sector also took a centre stage during the official visit with President William Ruto visiting King’s College London to witness the signing of trilateral MoU between the Government of Kenya with both the University of Nottingham and King’s College London for collaboration in the health sector. The signing of the trilateral MoU would enable the two institutions of higher learning to both join Kenya–UK Health Alliance, and establish Centres of Health Education and Research Excellence in Kenya. The medical research centres to be established will be amongst the only three of their kind in the whole of Africa, conducting advanced cutting-edge research, innovation, and world-class medical capacity building in Kenya.

The Ministry of Health also signed an MoU with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine to advance local pharmaceutical manufacturing through the BRITE initiative at the Kenya BioVax Institute. This collaboration will strengthen vaccine research, boost local vaccine production, and reduce reliance on imported medicines.

These collaborative initiatives will deepen Kenya–UK health partnership, aligning directly with the Government of Kenya’s universal health coverage



*H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H., Prime Cabinet and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora and the Rt. Hon. David Lammy, MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom holding the Kenya-UK Security Compact.*



*H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya at the Law Society, London, for the Kenya Investment Forum hosted on the sidelines of the Africa Debate.*

under BETA, by building local expertise, expanding equitable access to quality care, and ensuring that health innovations directly benefit Kenyan communities.

President Ruto’s July, 2025 visit to London, United Kingdom heralds a turning point in Kenya–UK relations, shifting from historic bilateral and diplomatic relations to a high-impact partnership delivering tangible benefits for Kenyans. With over KSh 427 billion in investment commitments across trade,

finance, climate, health, and security, Kenya is firmly positioned as East Africa’s economic gateway and a rising continental powerhouse.

From the creation of thousands of jobs at Nairobi Railway City and new horticultural investments in Naivasha, to the establishment of world-class health research centres, and the establishment of Lloyd’s of London office in Nairobi, the outcomes of the visit demonstrate a partnership grounded in ambition and delivery.



*H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H., chairs the meeting with members of the Arab Group of Ambassadors to Kenya*

## Prime Cabinet Secretary engages with Arab Ambassadors on Palestine and Kenya Foreign Policy Approach

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, held constructive discussions with members of the Arab Group of Ambassadors to Kenya. The Group was led by the Dean, H.E. Hazem Shabat, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Republic of Kenya.

The engagement focused on the evolving situation in Palestine and broader issues concerning Kenya–Middle East relations. On behalf of the Group, Ambassador Hazem Shabat delivered a collective statement outlining their shared perspectives and concerns. He underscored the urgency of addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Palestine and appealed for Kenya’s support in the pursuit of a lasting peaceful resolution. He also extended an invitation

for Kenya to participate in the upcoming High-level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, scheduled for July 28–29 in New York.

The Ambassadors commended Kenya’s openness to dialogue and its consistent support for international efforts aimed at promoting peace, stability and humanitarian relief in conflict-affected regions.

In his remarks, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi expressed deep concern over the protracted conflict and humanitarian crisis in Gaza, reiterating Kenya’s long-standing position for a two-state solution. He reaffirmed Kenya’s unwavering commitment to international law, multilateral diplomacy, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi emphasized the need for a

humanitarian ceasefire and called for the resumption of negotiations towards a two-state solution, based on the United Nations resolutions and in line with the position of the African Union.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary underscored Kenya’s commitment to its position on Palestine, noting that it has been endorsed by Parliament and formally embedded in the country’s Foreign Policy Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, making Kenya the only country in the region to anchor its stance on the issue within an official policy framework.

He further acknowledged the significance of the upcoming high-level conference and expressed Kenya’s willingness to support mediation efforts and foster dialogue that will lead to a sustainable and peaceful resolution.

The engagement set the stage for enhanced and regular diplomatic engagements between Kenya and the Arab Group of Ambassadors, with a shared commitment to advancing key bilateral and multilateral priorities, including the finalization of pending cooperation agreements with countries in the Middle East.



*H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H., during UNGA 80 held in New York*

## Promoting Kenya's Interests: Key Engagements of the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (July–September 2025)

From Nairobi to Tokyo, New York to Addis Ababa, Kenya has sustained its momentum as a climate leader, economic hub, and diplomatic bridge-builder. Over the past three months, under the leadership of Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the nation has made notable progress in climate diplomacy, economic partnerships, health cooperation, and humanitarian outreach — advancing its vision of inclusive and sustainable development.

### July 2025: Strengthening Governance and Regional Cooperation

The quarter began with renewed focus on governance and accountability as Dr. Mudavadi launched the Ministerial Audit Committee (MAC) to strengthen transparency and financial oversight across ministries.

On the regional front, Kenya played a pivotal role in EAC–SADC consultations on peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), reaffirming its position as a trusted peace broker in the Great Lakes region.

Economic diplomacy also featured prominently in July. During the London Investment Forum and the London Stock Exchange Market Opening, Dr. Mudavadi joined President William Ruto in promoting Nairobi as Africa's financial hub. The delegation showcased the Nairobi Railway City Project to leading investors, including AfriExim Bank and Standard Bank, under the framework of the Kenya–UK Strategic Partnership 2025–2030.

Back home, the Prime Cabinet Secretary welcomed newly accredited envoys from Cyprus, Israel, Spain, Jordan, Norway, Slovakia, and Egypt, reaffirming Kenya's bilateral ties. He also hosted the Arab Ambassadors' Roundtable and engaged Kenyan diaspora communities in both the UK and the United States.

July also saw the inauguration of the TechPlomacy Connective, an initiative integrating technology and diplomacy, and Kenya's hosting of AMCEN@40, which emphasized the intersection between digital innovation and environmental stewardship.

### August 2025: Expanding Economic Partnerships

### and Cultural Diplomacy

In August, Kenya deepened its economic and development diplomacy during the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) held in Tokyo, Japan. Kenya secured a KSh 22 billion Samurai Financing Facility to support infrastructure and renewable energy projects, while promoting Kenya's industrial growth and transition to e-mobility and energy efficiency.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary also held strategic meetings with Toyota Tsusho and other Japanese corporations to expand investment in electric vehicles (EVs), agriculture, and manufacturing. Further engagements with IFC, JICA, and AfriExim Bank strengthened Kenya's partnerships in infrastructure development and trade finance. While in Tokyo, Dr. Mudavadi met UN Secretary-General António Guterres to discuss peace and security in the Great Lakes region, the Horn of Africa, and Haiti.

Back in Nairobi, Dr. Mudavadi hosted Prince Rahim Aga Khan V during his maiden visit to Kenya since succession, a symbolic moment of cultural diplomacy celebrating shared heritage and

collaboration. The Ministry also welcomed the new UNDP Resident Representative, advancing cooperation in governance, youth empowerment, and climate projects.

August closed with a reflection on Kenya's democratic gains as the country marked 15 years since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, reaffirming commitment to rule of law, inclusivity, and accountable governance.

## September 2025: Advancing Multilateral Diplomacy and Global Cooperation

September marked a high point for Kenya's multilateral engagements. At the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80) in New York, Dr. Mudavadi served as Vice Chair, presiding over sessions and con-

ducting a record number of high-level bilateral meetings.

During the assembly, Kenya signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Georgia, Singapore, Antigua & Barbuda, and Portugal, and concluded a visa-free agreement with Benin. Cooperation with Venezuela was also deepened, underscoring Kenya's expanding global network.

Representing President William Ruto at the Global Centre for Adaptation, Dr. Mudavadi launched the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme (AAAP 2.0), a flagship continental initiative aimed at enhancing climate resilience. He also championed sustainable financing for AUSSOM (Somalia), reinforcing Kenya's leadership in regional climate diplomacy.

The month also featured extensive engagements with global health and

development partners, including the Gates Foundation, the Global Fund, and the World Food Programme (WFP), focusing on cancer care, maternal and child health, and food security.

In the spirit of humanitarian diplomacy, Kenya celebrated the release of Stephen Muniyako from Saudi Arabia, reflecting the government's steadfast commitment to the welfare of its citizens abroad.

Additionally, Dr. Mudavadi addressed the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM), where he announced that Kenya would be hosting the Commonwealth Ocean Ministerial Meeting in 2026. He also joined in celebrating China's 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary, reaffirming Kenya's strong partnership through the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

# Promoting Kenya's Interests: Key Engagements of the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs (July–September 2025)

A snapshot of the various activities the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs has been engaged:

From bilateral consultations to regional summits and multilateral dialogues, the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs has continued to advance Kenya's diplomatic priorities and strengthen its position as a global and regional leader. Between July and September 2025, engagements spanned partnerships in trade, peace, investment, climate diplomacy, cultural exchange, and institutional accountability, all geared toward promoting Kenya's national interests and sustainable development.

## July 2025: Strengthening Bilateral Relations and Governance Cooperation

The month of July saw an active series of diplomatic engagements aimed at consolidating Kenya's global partnerships. The Principal Secretary attended the 249th U.S. Independence Day

celebrations on July 3, followed by a farewell meeting with outgoing U.S. Ambassador Marc Dillard on July 11, commending Washington's continued support for Kenya's creative economy and innovation agenda.

On July 4, the PS also bid farewell to Sweden's Ambassador Caroline Vicini, acknowledging Sweden's role in fostering investment, education, and innovation. A week later, on July 9 and 10, he held political consultations with Spain's Secretary of State Diego Belio and met French officials to prepare for the forthcoming Africa–France Summit.

Regionally, the PS welcomed Rwanda's new High Commissioner, Ernest Rwamucyo, on July 10, reaffirming Kenya's commitment to East African Community (EAC) integration. On July 7, he also met the Sudanese chargé d'affaires, focusing on peace and security efforts in Sudan.

Engagements extended beyond diplomacy into governance and account-

ability. On July 28, the PS convened consultations with regional Principal Secretaries to review progress in EAC and continental cooperation. Additionally, he recognized the African Guarantee Fund (AGF) for its role in supporting SME financing during a visit to its Nairobi headquarters on July 12.

Food security remained a policy priority. On July 14, the PS held discussions with FAO Kenya on strengthening food systems and protecting land tenure.

## August 2025: Expanding Economic Diplomacy, Regional Partnerships, and Thematic Initiatives

In August, Kenya's diplomacy intensified across continents. The PS led the Midterm Review of the Kenya–Uganda Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) on August 13, which culminated in a communiqué covering 25 areas of cooperation, including trade, infrastructure, education, immigration, and security.

At the continental and regional level, the PS met the IGAD Secretariat leadership on August 7 to review reforms and ongoing peace and security initiatives. Later in the month, on August 20, he debriefed with Kenya's Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat, Amb.

Nakhumicha, on housing programs and the Nairobi Rivers Regeneration initiative, reflecting Kenya's commitment to sustainable urban development.

The PS also strengthened multilateral engagement through meetings with UNON Director General Zainab Bangura on August 4, reaffirming Kenya's leadership in multilateralism.

Trade and investment diplomacy took centre stage with a review of EU-Kenya trade relations and implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) on August 6. The European Union, which accounts for 17.2% of Kenya's trade, remains a critical partner in Kenya's economic transformation agenda.

On August 14, the PS launched Film Africa, a new platform to promote African talent and cultural diplomacy through the creative economy. A week later, he joined the Belgian Embassy in Nairobi for the launch of its Net Zero facility on August 21, underscoring Kenya's leadership in climate diplomacy and sustainability.

In the field of sports diplomacy, the PS met the National Olympic Committee on August 23, discussing ways to improve athletic performance and global branding for Kenya's sports industry. Between August 25-28, he represented Kenya at the 5th Singapore-Africa Ministerial Exchange and the Africa-Singapore Business Forum, promoting trade, digital innovation, and political dialogue. During this mission, he also met members of the Kenyan diaspora and engaged with African counterparts to deepen cooperation in Asia. Further engagements included a meeting with Somalia's State Minister on August 28 to discuss security cooperation, and the issuance of a statement on the DRC agrément process on August 16.

Humanitarian diplomacy was evident as the PS condoled with Ghana following a tragic helicopter crash on August 12, and later expressed condolences after the passing of South Africa's High Commissioner Mahlangu on August 26.

## September 2025: Consolidating



*Foreign Affairs PS Dr. A Korir Singoei pictured with Ambassador Marc Dillard during the 249<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Independence of the United States held in Nairobi*

## Multilateral Partnerships and Institutional Accountability

In September, the PS's focus shifted toward deepening Kenya's multilateral and institutional partnerships. On September 5, he attended a briefing with Arise Industrial Platforms in preparation for the upcoming Kenya Investors Forum, reaffirming the country's drive toward industrialization and private sector growth.

On September 9, the PS met ICGLR Secretary-General Joao Caholo ahead of the Kinshasa Summit, strengthening Kenya's engagement on peace and governance in the Great Lakes region. A day later, on September 10, he welcomed Romanian Ambassador Gentiana Serbu, discussing cooperation in

digitalization, cybersecurity, and public safety.

The PS also participated in the Quarterly Diplomatic Briefing with the Prime Cabinet Secretary on September 11, where he briefed the diplomatic corps on Kenya's multilateral priorities and regional peacebuilding initiatives.

Institutional accountability remained a key theme as he appeared before the Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) on September 11 to address issues raised by the Auditor General, underscoring transparency in foreign service operations.

Economic cooperation continued through engagements with the Impact Fund Denmark on September 19, exploring investment opportunities in healthcare, energy, and water.



*Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'oei poses for a group photo with the Kenyan Embassy in Vienna staff*

## Historic Visit to Austria: Advancing Bilateral, Multilateral and Diaspora Diplomacy

*By Kenya Embassy, Vienna*

Between 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025, the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abraham Korir Sing'oei, undertook a historic visit to Austria, engaging in high-level diplomatic, cultural, and diaspora-focused activities across the cities of Vienna, Innsbruck, and Salzburg. The visit, which included both formal engagements and symbolic cultural moments such as attending the Corpus Christi procession and visiting the James Bond Museum, was designed to strengthen Kenya–Austria relations, inaugurate a new consulate, and project Kenya's thought leadership on continental and global platforms.

Upon arrival in Vienna on 17<sup>th</sup> June, the Principal Secretary met with the Head of Mission and staff at the Kenyan Chancery. He expressed his gratitude for their tireless work in championing Kenya's foreign policy and urged them to continue executing their roles with diligence and agency. He also

briefed the team on recent developments at the Ministry, including the revised Kenya Foreign Policy framework, the transformation of the Foreign Service Academy into a state corporation, the repositioning of the Ministry within the national security cluster, and the renewed emphasis on economic and commercial diplomacy. He further highlighted new frameworks for managing Kenya's global assets in partnership with the National Treasury, signalling a shift toward stronger public–private collaboration.

On 18<sup>th</sup> June, Dr. Sing'oei officially inaugurated the Kenyan Honorary Consulate in Innsbruck, an important milestone in expanding Kenya's diplomatic presence in Western Austria and the Tyrol region. The ceremony, attended by senior Austrian government officials, academia, business leaders, and Kenya's diplomatic staff, introduced Mr. George Hoffherr as the new Honorary Consul. In his remarks, Mr. Hoffherr praised Kenya's democrat-

ic credentials and economic promise, drawing parallels between Tyrol's innovative spirit and Kenya's dynamism. He pledged to promote bilateral cooperation in renewable energy, education, tourism, and culture, while also supporting the Kenyan community in Tyrol. The Kenyan Head of Mission to Austria underscored Africa's growing global importance, noting the opportunities presented by its youthful population, while the Principal Secretary emphasized investment opportunities in tourism, banking, and infrastructure, highlighting flagship projects such as the Great Rift Valley Highway.

The following day, 19<sup>th</sup> June, the Principal Secretary held interactive discussions with representatives of the Kenyan diaspora in Innsbruck. He informed them that the new consulate would serve as a key contact point for consular services, investment promotion, and tourism outreach. He also encouraged diaspora members to play an active role in national development,

assuring them of the government's commitment to address their concerns.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, the Principal Secretary visited Med-El Electronics, a global leader in cochlear implant technology. The visit provided an opportunity to review Med-El's collaboration with Kenya, which includes partnerships with the University of Nairobi to establish a Bachelor of Science program in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, the training of local healthcare professionals, and community outreach initiatives to address hearing impairment. Dr. Sing'oei reaffirmed the government's readiness to deepen collaboration with Med-El through the Ministry of Health, aiming to leverage the firm's expertise in innovative medical technologies.

Later in the visit, the Principal Secretary participated in the Salzburg Global Weekend 2025, themed "Centring Africa". Delivering a keynote address, he highlighted Africa's vast assets—including critical minerals, renewable energy potential in hydro, solar, and geothermal resources, as well as the continent's youthful demographic dividend. He stressed the need for greater investment to unlock these opportunities, while also affirming Africa's central role in global peace and security conversations.

On 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June, discussions turned to the theme "A View from the G-77: Centring Africa's Role Across the Global South". The forum reviewed the history and importance of the Group of 77 (G-77) in strengthening the voice of developing countries in global trade, promoting South-South cooperation, and bridging inequalities with the Global North. Kenya's Head of Mission highlighted the G-77's role as a critical voting bloc in advancing Africa's interests and called for reforms to make multilateral systems more responsive to modern challenges.

In the final session, themed "A Diplomat's View: Representing Kenya and Africa Abroad", the Head of Mission reaffirmed Kenya's foreign policy priorities, placing emphasis on culture, education, tourism, digital diplomacy, and economic engagement. He also noted Kenya's rising innovation profile, referencing the country's ranking at position 96 in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Global



*Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'oei during a meeting with the Kenya Embassy in Vienna staff*



*Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'oei during a conversation with Kenya's ambassador to Austria, Dr. Maurice Makoloo*

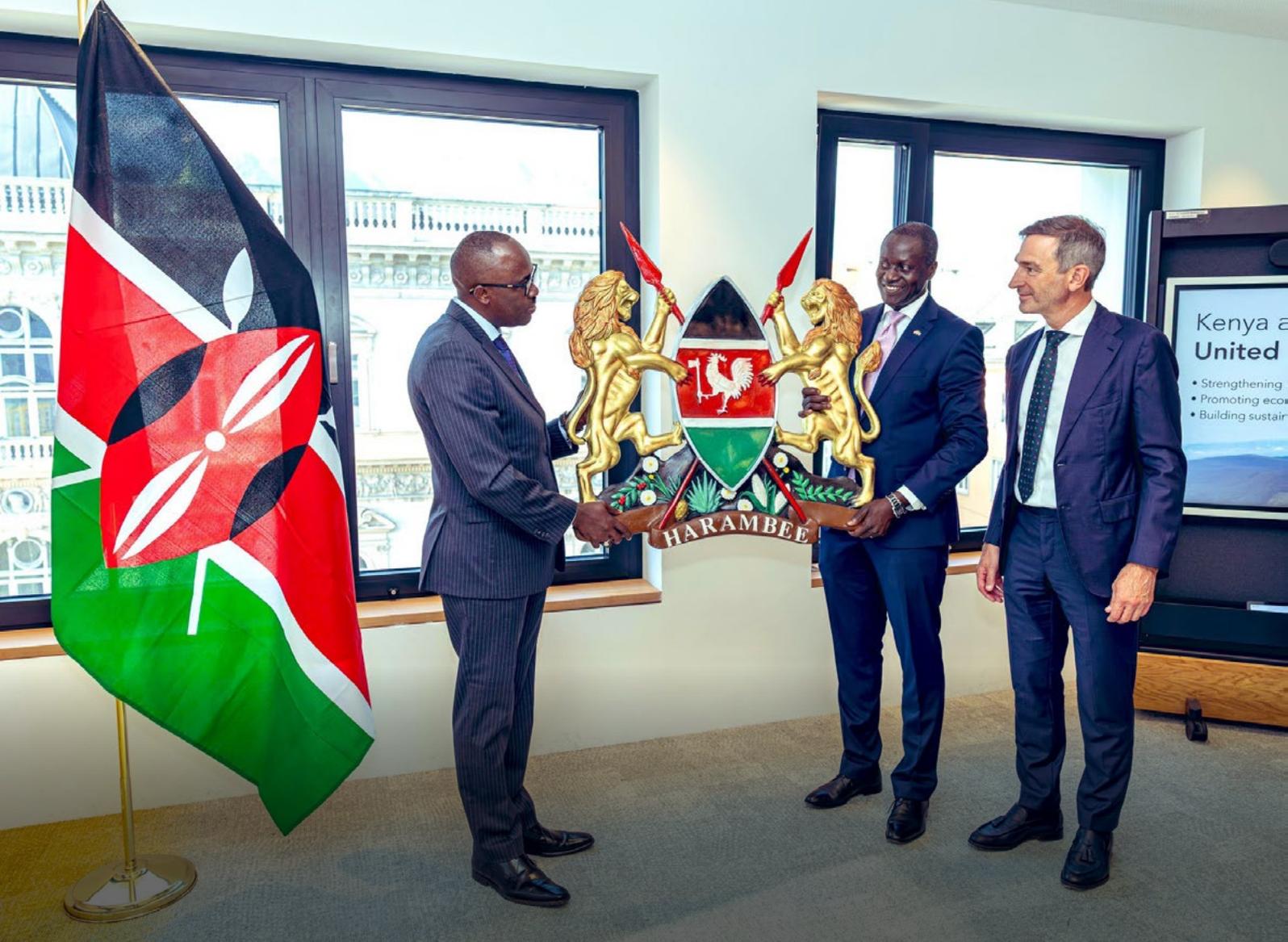


*Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'oei poses for a photo with Deputy Head of Mission Ambassador Valerie Rugene*

Innovation Index.

### Key Achievements from the visit:

- Strengthened bilateralism and multilateralism with Austria:
- Operationalised Kenya's honorary consulate in Innsbruck:
- Improved engagement with the Diaspora in Western Austria:
- Improved networks, collaboration and stakeholder engagement:
- Amplified Kenya's diplomatic presence and thought leadership at the Salzburg Global Weekend 2025.



## Inauguration ceremony of the Honorary Consulate of Kenya in Innsbruck, Austria

by Kenya Embassy Vienna

In an era marked by unprecedented and multifaceted global challenges ranging from economic crisis, climate change to cybersecurity, Honorary Consulates recognized under International Law through the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, have emerged as cost-effective extensions of diplomatic missions, playing a critical role in promoting economic diplomacy, cultural outreach, soft power projection, provision of essential consular services, supporting diaspora communities, and fostering bilateral ties in regions where resident embassies or consulates may not be feasible.

Kenya assumed its rightful position as a respected member of the international community upon gaining inde-

pendence by establishing bilateral and multilateral relations to advance its strategic interests. This involved deepening engagement with sovereign states and non-state actors and expanding its global diplomatic footprint through the opening of new missions. In 1994, Kenya established a resident mission in Vienna, marking a significant milestone in its diplomatic outreach. Over the years, Kenya recognized the imperative of establishing an Honorary Consulate in Western Austria, a region renowned for its economic vitality, vibrant tourism sector and significant Kenyan diaspora presence.

The appointment of H.E. Georg Hoffherr, as Kenya's Honorary Consul in Innsbruck, Tyrol province, on 17th

January 2025 to promote the economic, cultural and educational ties between the two countries, further underscores Kenya's commitment to building robust and mutually beneficial partnerships.

At the end of June, 2025, the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr. Korir SingOei officiated the launch of the Kenya Honorary Consulate in Innsbruck, marking an important step in strengthening Kenya's diplomatic representation and outreach in the Tyrol region and greater part of Western Austria. Dignitaries in attendance included, H.E Maurice Makoloo, Kenya's Ambassador to Austria, Mr. Georg Hoffherr, the newly appointed Honorary Consul, Austrian regional and government authorities, academia, business stakeholders and the Ministry and Mission's officials.

Mr. Hoffherr hailed Kenya's economic potential, democratic credentials and vibrant society, drawing parallels between Tyrol and Kenya's triple passion on innovation, nature, and regional identity. He expressed commitment

to advancing bilateral cooperation in renewable energy, education, tourism, and culture and supporting the Kenyan community in Tyrol.

The Head of Mission highlighted Africa's growing global relevance, driven by its dynamic youthful population and potential for transformation. He lauded Mr. Hoffherr's extensive experience spanning over two decades in media, law, business, public relations and international affairs as instrumental in elevating Kenya-Austria relations.

The Principal Secretary underscored the potential investment opportunities in tourism, banking and infrastructure sectors, and informed of the recent government reforms aimed at boosting investor confidence exemplifying the Great Rift Valley highway project as part of Kenya's economic recovery strategy. The establishment of the Honorary Consulate was seen as pivotal in enhancing sub-national cooperation and diaspora outreach.

The Principal Secretary later held consultative discussions with Kenyan diaspora representatives in Innsbruck. The meeting illuminated the Honorary Consulate's role in enhancing consular services, promotion of tourism, investment and fostering people-to-people ties. He encouraged active diaspora participation in national development, affirming the government's commitment to addressing diaspora concerns.



SINGAPORE  
MINISTERIAL EXCHANGE VISIT  
26-28 AUGUST 2025



## Kenya Participates at the Fifth Singapore-Africa Ministerial Exchange Visit (SAMEV 2025)

THE DIPLOMACY JOURNAL JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

The fifth Singapore Africa Ministerial Exchange Visit (SAMEV) was attended by the Principal Secretary State Department for Foreign Affairs Dr. A. Korir SingOei, who was representing the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs between the 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August in Singapore. The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs was invited alongside 14 other Ministers and Deputy Ministers from across the continent. Of importance to note is that this was the first time Kenya attended the visit despite multiple invitations previously, ever since the forum was first conceived in 2014.

Singapore has been hosting the SAMEV as a way of deepening ties with African countries while promoting dialog and share its development experiences in fields including, Education, Human Capital, Urban planning, and improve people-to-people ties.

The delegation of Ministers and Deputy Ministers also attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Af-

rica Singapore Business Forum (ASBF 2025), facilitated by Enterprise Singapore. This year's theme was "Bridging Capabilities, Charting Sustainable Growth". The Ministerial itinerary included visits to Singapore City gallery, The Marina Barrage, The Sustainable Singapore Gallery, Gardens by the Bay and The National Museums of Singapore. Collectively, these visits were designed to give the Ministers insight into Singapore's experiences in water management, urban planning, port management and sustainable development.

The opening of the Africa Singapore Business Forum at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel was geared on bringing together business leaders from Africa and Asia in order to foster economic exchanges and to uncover potential business opportunity thanks to the expanding consumer market and the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement. The ASBF focuses on investment opportunities in the areas of digitalization, manufactur-

ing and sustainability.

On the sidelines of the ASBF, the Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) took part in a round table on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025. This round table sought to place Kenya as a top investment hub by showcasing bankable investment opportunities as well as engaging with targeted investors in key sectors of financial services, infrastructure, ICT/BPO, manufacturing, agriculture and green energy. Other members of the Kenyan delegation who took part in the panel discussions during the visit include, John Mwendwa, CEO of the Kenya Investment Authority, Karim Anjarwalla, Senior Partner ALN Kenya and Stephen Jennings, Found and CEO of Rendeavour.

At the same time, the Principal Secretary took the opportunity to engage in a bilateral forum with his Singapore counterpart, so as to develop modalities of revitalizing negotiations on matters of mutual interest. Equally the meeting sought to fast track pending issues and explore other avenues of cooperation.

The Principal Secretary held bilateral meetings with ministers for foreign affairs of Singapore, Côte d'Ivoire and Somalia.



## Thoughts

# AUSSOM's success hinges on global solidarity and collective responsibility

By *H. Onguka*

Leaders from the Troop-Contributing Countries to the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) convened on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 under President Yoweri Museveni's leadership in Entebbe, Uganda. This summit, organized at Somalia's request, marked a critical moment for Somalia's future. The participants embraced a unified, African-led approach to stabilization. The hope emanating from Entebbe was clear—that the international community would renew its solidarity with Somalia. However, as global conversations grow increasingly fragmented, the essence of this solidarity risks being lost. Somalia's plight is not a question of dividing costs among partners, but of reigniting a commitment to shared responsibility and multilateral cooperation in this pivotal period.

For over two decades, Somalia has been at the centre of regional and glob-

al stabilization efforts. Between 2012 and 2022, the nation held four presidential elections, signifying its steady, albeit challenging, progress toward democracy. Somalia has navigated deeply rooted clan-based politics, strengthened governance systems, and fostered peaceful leadership transitions. Formerly war-scarred Mogadishu now hums with commerce, diplomacy, and civic life, signalling a hopeful path forward. Somalia has reasserted itself on the global stage, securing a seat on the United Nations Security Council as an elected member and also joining the East African Community as a full participant. These achievements showcase both resilience and an enduring commitment to peace.

None of these milestones could have been accomplished without the unwavering dedication of African-led peace efforts. The African Union, responding decisively to a grave security crisis, mobilized to address the challenges posed

by Al-Shabaab, a complex and consequential actor in Somalia. While Al-Shabaab is widely acknowledged for its violent actions, it is important to also recognize that its localised influence extends beyond violence, touching on governance and socio-political dynamics in some communities in Somalia. While these dynamics shouldn't justify the group's actions, an inclusive lens is essential to understanding the broader complexities of Somalia's ongoing peace process. A sustained focus on dialogue, reconciliation, and inclusivity, even toward actors with contentious histories, is essential for a durable resolution in Somalia.

The Entebbe summit reaffirmed the need for sustainable peace mechanisms, as Al-Shabaab's influence in parts of central and southern Somalia persists. This does not diminish the pain and loss experienced by victims of violent acts attributed to the group. Their suffering must never be overlooked. Instead, it highlights the urgency of a comprehensive strategy that incorporates socio-political solutions alongside security efforts. Somalia's path forward demands that we address root causes of instability while fostering hope for all its people without fur-

ther polarizing narratives.

Unfortunately, history offers sobering reminders about the high cost of retreat and disengagement. The failings of the international community in Somalia in the 1990s remains a poignant moment in our history, not only due to its profound human toll, but also because it symbolized a broader global retreat from Somalia during a critical period. For many, this period underscores the dangers of reactive, fragmented interventions instead of sustained, collective commitments. It serves as a lesson—not of failure, but of catastrophe which could happen when the world steps back from shared responsibility. International partners have since demonstrated remarkable leadership in advancing international peace and security, and Somalia continues to require that support within the framework of broader global partnerships.

Over the years, African-led missions like AMISOM, ATMIS, and now AUSSOM have played pivotal roles in stabilizing Somalia. These operations, however, have come at a significant human and financial cost to African nations. More than 3,500 African peacekeepers have lost their lives over the last two decades for a cause that transcends their borders. Their sacrifices

are a testament to Africa's commitment to global peace, but they also raise an urgent question: Will the international community honour these sacrifices through tangible support?

The adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719, although falling short of Africa's aspirations, marked a step in the right direction. By establishing a framework for financing African Union Peace Support Operations through assessed UN contributions, the resolution offered a necessary but insufficient response to longstanding resource shortages. UNSC Res. 2719 is not about generosity; it is about fairness. It acknowledges Africa's disproportionate contributions to global peace while providing a mechanism to address the chronic underfunding of African-led missions. However, funding remains uneven, and it is crucial that the international community not allow this framework to become a hollow promise. Realizing Somalia's stabilization requires more resources, reliable logistical backing, and sustained political will.

Viewing Somalia's peace efforts as a "burden" ignores both history and the global stakes. If Somalia's stability falters, the challenges won't stop at its borders. Terrorism, maritime piracy, human trafficking, and forced

displacement threaten to spread, with consequences for international security and humanity. This is not just Somalia's fight; it is a shared global challenge. Supporting Somalia is not charity, nor an elective engagement; it is an investment in collective security and human potential. The question is no longer why we should act, but rather why we haven't acted more decisively and sooner.

To ensure success, the international community must shed narratives of transactionality and instead approach Somalia's stabilization with principled solidarity. This is not a favour to Africa or a region-specific issue. It is a shared obligation rooted in fairness, mutual respect, and historical accountability. Sustained partnerships, not fleeting coalitions, must define the next chapter of Somalia post conflict reconstruction. The world cannot afford complacency when the stakes are so high. Somalia stands today as a symbol of both perseverance and potential. It is up to global community to assist transform Somalia's potential into enduring peace.

This is the moment for practical, sustained action. Anything less would betray the spirit of solidarity, the sacrifices made, and the vision of a stable and prosperous Somalia contributing to global peace and security.



# Strengthening Kenya's Role in International Peacekeeping Through Diplomacy

By Peace and Security Division

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025, in Nairobi, the State Department for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence jointly convened a Technical-Level Workshop on International Peacekeeping, under the theme “Leveraging Diplomatic Practice to Enhance Kenya’s Participation in Regional and International Peacekeeping”. The workshop brought together foreign service officers, defence officials, practitioners, and policy experts to reflect on Kenya’s historic contributions to peace operations and to chart a forward-looking agenda. Held amid renewed global momentum for UN peacekeeping reform, the forum reaffirmed Kenya’s resolve to remain a trusted partner in advancing international peacekeeping that is credible, adaptive, and globally responsive, anchored in historical lessons and guided by a forward-looking vision.

Opening the workshop, Ambassador Josphat Maikara, Director-General-Political Diplomatic Affairs at the State Department for Foreign Affairs, underscored that “peacekeeping today is not just about boots on the ground—it is about the diplomacy that shapes, sustains, and multiplies mission success.” He emphasized that diplomacy transforms military experience into political capital, giving Kenya a stronger voice in global decision-making. Brigadier Stephen M. Huria of the Ministry of Defence reinforced this point, reminding participants that “influence in peacekeeping is not given—it is earned.” He stressed that Kenya’s credibility lies not just in the bravery of its forces, but in the ability to shape mandates, mobilize resources, and champion fair burden-sharing.

From frontline deployments across Africa to influential roles in global forums, Kenya’s record in peace support



*Amb. Josphat Maikara Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs during a training Workshop on International Peacekeeping in Embakasi*

initiatives reflects the enduring link between its national security interests and its commitment to regional and international stability. Since its first participation in the late 1970s, Kenya has consistently stood at the forefront of multilateral peacekeeping efforts, providing personnel, resources, and leadership across diverse theatres. From the United Nations peacekeeping missions to more recent engagements under the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti (MSS), Kenyan soldiers and police officers have exemplified professionalism, resilience, and sacrifice in the service of global peace.

Beyond global peacekeeping operations, Kenya has also played a pivotal role in regional interventions. Its deployment in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), later reconfigured into the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), was decisive in degrading Al-Shabaab and stabilizing Somalia. More recently, Kenya’s contribution to the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, reflected its dual commitment to continental peace and regional security.

What underpins Kenya’s approach is the recognition that peacekeeping is not only a military undertaking but also a strategic instrument of diplomacy. Peace operations serve as a platform for Kenya to advance multilateralism, deepen defence partnerships, and enhance its credibility in the global fora. They also bolster national security by curbing cross-border threats, mitigate terrorism and violent extremism, and reinforcing regional stability.

The Nairobi workshop illuminated this diplomatic dimension, highlight-

ing how Kenya’s peacekeeping record strengthens its voice in shaping international debates. Participants emphasized that diplomacy—through negotiation, coalition-building, and agenda-setting—is a force multiplier that magnifies the impact of deployments on the ground. This synergy between diplomacy and peacekeeping has allowed Kenya to project influence beyond its immediate region, positioning it as a respected leader in the global security architecture.

As peacekeeping confronts the twin challenges of asymmetric threats and intensifying geopolitical rivalries, Kenya’s continued leadership will be indispensable. Participants at the Nairobi workshop underscored the need to adapt peacekeeping to modern realities—through enhanced training, technological integration, and closer alignment between defence and diplomacy. Recommendations included strengthening institutional coordination, leveraging Kenya’s Defence institutions for peacekeeping doctrine development, and deepening partnerships with like-minded states to champion reform at the UN.

The Nairobi workshop was more than a technical gathering; it was a moment of strategic reflection and recalibration. It crystallized a forward-looking vision: that Kenya’s role in peacekeeping must go beyond participation to leadership, grounded in historical experience and driven by innovation. By leveraging its diplomatic weight, Kenya is uniquely positioned to influence the trajectory of UN peacekeeping reforms and to advance a model that is not only effective and sustainable but also anchored in African perspectives and global solidarity.

# Digital Platform Integration and Algorithmic Engagement in Transforming Kenya's Practice of Contemporary Public Diplomacy

By *Amb. J. N. Waweru*

## Introduction

Kenya's digital public sphere has expanded rapidly, by early 2025 there were an estimated 27.4 million internet users and 15.1 million social media identities, signalling nearly half the population online. These platforms have become frontline instruments of statecraft enabling ministries to project narratives and engage diasporas through coordinated messaging. Kenya's Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs actively uses X (formerly Twitter) and other channels for policy updates, consular alerts, and cultural diplomacy. As algorithms increasingly prioritize engagement, emotionally charged content from cultural outreach to satire can often outpace sober policy messaging, reshaping who hears a

country's voice. Digitally native activists and Gen-Z mobilisers have demonstrated how algorithmic amplification can quickly turn domestic debates into international narratives, creating both diplomatic opportunities and democratic strains. This article examines how platform integration and algorithmic engagement are reshaping Kenya's public diplomacy, and what that means for outreach, credibility, civic space, and policy strategy.

## The Shift to Digital Public Diplomacy

The adaptation of emerging digital technology tools has transformed the standard operating procedures in diplomatic practices in several ways. This has caused changes to the socio-economic

environment where diplomacy is conducted. New policy topics in negotiations have emerged, key being data governance. New digital tech tools have become centrepieces in Missions doing away with telex cables, facsimiles and hard land lines. Diplomacy has traditionally thrived on closed-door negotiations, carefully worded communiqués, and highly curated public statements. Today, however, diplomacy increasingly unfolds in open, digital arenas where states must compete for attention alongside influencers, corporations, and activists. The rise of digital diplomacy has shifted power from embassies and press releases to timelines, hashtags, and viral videos. Globally, foreign ministries have embraced social platforms not just to inform, but to persuade, listen, and mobilize audiences. African states have also joined this shift. From South Africa's online campaigns on human rights to Nigeria's digital cultural outreach, the continent is leveraging digital platforms to amplify soft power. Kenya has been particularly active, positioning itself as a regional hub of digital innovation and carrying that reputation into diplomacy. Its leaders and diplomats have increasingly bypassed traditional media, speaking directly to global publics

through social media. This transformation has redefined the nature of our public diplomacy. It is no longer a one-way broadcast but a contested, participatory space shaped by algorithmic visibility and audience engagement. For Kenya, this shift offers new reach and agility, but also new pressures to constantly adapt its messaging to the fast-moving logic of digital platforms.

## Digital Platform Integration in Kenya's Public Diplomacy

Kenya's public diplomacy has increasingly intertwined with the country's reputation as one of Africa's most dynamic digital ecosystems. Platforms such as Twitter (X), Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok now serve as primary venues for the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and diplomatic missions abroad to shape perceptions and communicate with diverse publics. Unlike traditional press briefings, these platforms provide immediacy, interactivity, and measurable reach. For instance, Kenya's foreign ministry frequently uses X to share updates on international negotiations, solidarity messages during global crises, and announcements about trade or cultural exchanges. Kenyan embassies worldwide use Facebook and Instagram to highlight diaspora activities, promote tourism, and showcase national culture. Beyond official channels, senior officials including cabinet secretaries and ambassadors maintain personal accounts that blend policy advocacy with informal engagement, humanizing diplomacy and expanding its reach.

This integration is not limited to government. Civil society, diaspora groups, and cultural institutions often coordinate with or complement official messages online, creating a multi-actor ecosystem of digital diplomacy. The success of campaigns such as #KenyaAtUNSC, which helped secure Kenya's seat on the UN Security Council, demonstrated how online platforms can amplify diplomatic visibility. The benefit of this digital integration lies in reach and agility: messages can bypass traditional media filters, target specific audiences, and adapt quickly to unfolding events. Yet, this openness also demands constant strategic management to ensure coherence, accuracy,



and alignment with broader national interests.

## Algorithmic Engagement and Its Influence

If digital platforms provide the stage, algorithms decide who gets a spotlight. Content distribution on X, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok is increasingly shaped by algorithmic systems that prioritize engagement likes, shares, comments, and watch time. For public diplomacy, this means Kenya's visibility online depends not only on what is posted, but also on how algorithmic formulas judge its relevance and emotional appeal. Kenya's foreign ministry has experienced this dynamic during high-profile campaigns. Hashtags such as #KenyaAtUNSC or posts tied to international summits can trend when amplified by retweets and user interactions, propelling Kenya's diplomatic messages into global feeds. Similarly, cultural diplomacy videos from wildlife conservation clips to Olympic highlights often perform well because algorithms favour visually engaging, shareable content.

Yet algorithmic engagement is a double-edged sword. The same mechanics that boost positive messaging can also amplify satire, misinformation, or polarizing narratives. Studies show that emotionally charged content often

spreads faster than factual communication, creating a challenge for diplomats tasked with maintaining credibility while staying visible. In Kenya's context, online debates about elections, governance, or regional conflicts sometimes spill into diplomatic spaces, shaping how foreign publics perceive the state. Moreover, reliance on algorithmic visibility risks narrowing audiences into echo chambers, where content circulates mainly within supportive communities rather than reaching sceptics or undecided publics. For Kenya, balancing algorithm-friendly content with substantive, policy-driven messaging is becoming a central test of its digital diplomacy strategy.

## Case Study: Kenya's Digital Diplomacy in Action

Kenya's embrace of digital platforms has been most visible during high-stakes diplomatic moments. A prominent example was its successful campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2021–2022. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs launched a coordinated online effort using the hashtag #KenyaAtUNSC to highlight Kenya's peacekeeping record, regional leadership, and multilateral commitments. By blending official updates with visuals and en-

dorsements from influential voices, the campaign gained traction not only in diplomatic circles but also among domestic audiences, reinforcing national pride. Another case is Kenya's digital diplomacy during the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi in 2023. Hashtags and video snippets from speeches circulated widely, positioning Kenya as a continental leader in climate action. Algorithmic amplification ensured that clips emphasizing urgency and innovation reached beyond African audiences, capturing the attention of policymakers and environmental advocates worldwide.

These examples demonstrate how algorithmically driven platforms can expand the reach of Kenya's diplomatic agenda. Success depended not only on the content itself but on its ability to generate interaction retweets, shares, and likes which algorithms then rewarded with greater visibility. The result was a hybrid form of diplomacy: policy-driven yet deeply attuned to the rhythms of digital engagement.

## Challenges, Risks and Opportunities

While Kenya's digital diplomacy has expanded its global voice, it faces persistent challenges. The country still grapples with a digital divide, leaving rural populations less connected to online narratives. The rise in the use of digital tools also places the older (analogue) members of society at a disadvantage as they are left out of these conversations. Algorithmic bias further complicates engagement, as platforms may favour sensationalism over substance. Algorithmic dissemination of content and the circumvention of traditional media filters, fact checking and human gatekeepers makes disinformation spread faster, reach deeper and more emotionally charged. Kenya has also confronted misinformation campaigns and disinformation threats, which risk undermining trust in official communications and denting the Executive's credibility. Moreover, the fast pace of digital debates pressures diplomats to respond instantly, sometimes at the expense of accuracy or nuance. Balancing openness with credibility and safeguarding civic space remain central dilemmas for Kenya's

digital diplomacy strategy.

Online diplomacy, largely done via Zoom, Webex and other like technologies, has reduced physical contact, which is important for relationship building and management, forging trust, expressing empathy that are essential in the practice of diplomacy particularly when dealing with controversial and geopolitical issues. The humanness that makes the cogs of diplomacy turn cannot be left to machines and bots or coding, no matter how advanced they may be. To prepare Kenyan diplomats for the realm of digital public diplomacy, it is crucial to integrate modern digital tools. Diplomats need to become adept at utilizing digital platforms like social media, video conferencing, and data analytics to guide policy decisions, handle crises, and engage in negotiations. The Foreign Service should shift from traditional one-way communication to engaging in interactive online dialogues with international audiences, promoting mutual understanding and enabling authentic interaction. The Foreign Service Academy should be tasked with developing skills such as content creation, data analysis, and emotional intelligence to craft a comprehensive diplomatic strategy that captures attention, competes effectively, and shapes narratives in the digital landscape.

In response to this transformation, foreign ministries must redefine diplomatic functions, grasp the digital landscape, and focus on engaging audiences and managing narratives in a digital environment with numerous participants. The Ministry should implement adaptable and inclusive diplomatic strategies that bridge online and offline interactions. Diplomats are required to develop emotional intelligence, as emotions significantly influence how foreign audiences interpret messages. They must be sensitive to and skilfully employ representations that align with common values and emotions.

## Conclusion

Digital diplomacy presents Kenya a great opportunity to showcase our diplomatic, political and or economic heft and positively shape the views of the global public and increase our diplo-

matic standing in bilateral or multilateral contexts.

The Foreign policy should not view digital diplomacy as separate, it must be integrated into a blended approach, where digital and traditional practices are inseparable. While digitization cannot replace age-old traditions, it can help channel the strength they already have more efficiently and productively. Foreign ministries may struggle to adapt, sometimes preferring traditional one-way broadcast methods over the relational aspects of digital engagement. However, the rise of digital diplomacy necessitates the development of new informal "rules of the game".

Kenya's embrace of digital platforms and algorithmic engagement reflects a broader transformation of diplomacy in the 21st century. Leveraging tools like X, Facebook, and TikTok, the state has expanded its reach, mobilized Diasporas, and positioned itself as a leader in Africa's digital diplomacy. Yet the same platforms introduce vulnerabilities from misinformation to algorithmic distortions that demand careful navigation. The future of Kenya's public diplomacy will depend on balancing visibility with credibility, speed with accuracy, and innovation with responsibility. If managed well, Kenya could set a benchmark for digital diplomacy across the continent.

From the standpoint of skill development, it is crucial for the Ministry to reassess the skill set that its Diplomats need to thrive in the digital era. Specifically, we must determine which traditional skills have become obsolete or less significant, which skills remain pertinent but require modernization, and what new competencies are essential for integrating digital technologies into the activities of MFDA. Diplomatic training in this digital age must encompass a range of skills that will inevitably necessitate a re-evaluation of the training methods and delivery platforms currently employed by diplomatic academies. Skills in communication, reporting, and cultural engagement will continue to be important, but they must also be adapted for effectiveness in digital formats. The nascent Foreign Service Academy has its work cut out for it.



## News from the Capital

*Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer (right), and Kenya Airways Group Managing Director, and CEO Mr. Allan Kilavuka (left) during the signing of the Agreement*

## Kenya - Qatar Airlines forge Strategic Partnership

Kenya has reached a landmark moment in its pursuit of aviation diplomacy and economic cooperation with the signing of a groundbreaking agreement between Kenya Airways (KQ) and Qatar Airways (QA). The agreement was witnessed by senior officials from both nations, among them Kenya's Ambassador to Qatar, H.E. Amb. Mohammed Nur Adan. It is the first time in history that the two national carriers have entered into a clear legal framework guiding their strategic collaboration.

The deal is a testament to Kenya's growing influence on the global aviation stage and its ability to harness air trans-

port as a catalyst for trade, tourism, and investment. Beyond air connectivity, the partnership reflects the government's broader ambition to leverage diplomacy in advancing Kenya's position as a regional and international hub.

### Passenger Connectivity and Tourism Growth

One of the centre-piece achievements of this agreement is the expansion of direct flights between Kenya and Qatar. Qatar Airways will now operate three daily flights from Nairobi to Doha, significantly increasing connectivity for both business and leisure passengers. This enhanced frequency

will make travel more seamless for investors, tourists, and Kenyans abroad, strengthening people-to-people exchanges between the two nations.

In parallel, Kenya Airways will operate a weekly direct flight from Mombasa to Doha. This new route has special significance for the coastal economy, as it is designed to boost tourism and support regional development. For the first time, a direct flight from Mombasa to the Gulf region will be fully owned and operated by Kenya Airways but marketed globally through Qatar Airways' extensive networks. A unique feature of the agreement guarantees a minimum occupancy rate of 60 percent, ensuring profitability and sustainability for the route while simultaneously giving Kenya greater access to Gulf markets. This innovative arrange-

ment not only strengthens Mombasa's standing as a tourism destination but also showcases Kenya Airways' resilience and ambition in carving out new regional opportunities.

## Cargo and Trade Facilitation

Equally important is the focus on cargo transportation, which directly aligns with Kenya's national objective of becoming a leading export hub. Through Qatar Airways' global cargo network, Kenyan exporters—particularly in the horticultural and agricultural sectors—will benefit from faster logistics, reduced transit times, and broader market access. High-value exports such as flowers, tea, and fresh produce are poised to experience substantial growth in both volume and value. This development is expected to increase Kenya's foreign exchange earnings while delivering prosperity to rural farming communities that rely on global trade.

The partnership therefore addresses one of the country's most critical economic needs: improving the efficiency and reach of Kenya's exports in highly competitive international markets.

## Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation

Beyond the immediate economic benefits, the agreement lays a strong foundation for technical collaboration in aircraft maintenance, professional training, and capacity building. Such initiatives will enhance Kenya Airways' operational resilience in the long term and contribute to the development of a highly skilled aviation workforce in Kenya. By fostering knowledge transfer and technical expertise, the partnership will significantly boost efficiency and safety standards, while also positioning Kenya as a centre of aviation excellence in Africa.

## Positioning Kenya as a Regional Hub

From a strategic perspective, the agreement places Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) firmly on the map as a major logistics and travel hub between Africa and the Middle East.

JKIA will now serve as a key gateway for passengers and cargo, reinforcing Nairobi's role as a continental transport hub and aligning perfectly with Kenya's long-term ambition of becoming East Africa's premier centre for trade and connectivity.

The Mombasa–Doha route complements this positioning by ensuring that Kenya's coastal region is not left behind in international aviation development. Together, Nairobi and Mombasa will provide dual gateways to global markets, enhancing national integration and regional competitiveness.

## Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Dimensions

The agreement also carries profound implications for Kenya's foreign policy. It strengthens bilateral ties with Qatar, a country globally recognized for its leadership in aviation and investments. By aligning itself with Qatar's expanding role in Africa, Kenya gains a competitive advantage at a time when Doha is actively building partnerships with other African carriers.

This collaboration projects Kenya's soft power in aviation diplomacy and economic diplomacy, demonstrating the country's capacity to negotiate and secure agreements that serve its strategic interests. It reinforces Kenya's image as a credible partner on the international stage and as a nation capable of leveraging diplomacy to deliver tangible socio-economic gains.

The Kenya–Qatar aviation agreement is far more than a commercial deal. It represents a strategic milestone in aviation diplomacy, combining enhanced passenger connectivity, stronger cargo services, expanded training opportunities, and deepened bilateral relations. It underscores Kenya's rising profile as a hub for trade, tourism, and logistics, while also promoting its long-term economic and foreign policy objectives.

In sum, this agreement positions Kenya to soar to new heights—strategically, economically, and diplomatically. It is a bold example of how aviation can serve as a bridge between nations, a driver of prosperity, and a tool of mod-

ern diplomacy.

## Brewing Excellence: Africa Hosts Its First Orthodox Tea Festival

The inaugural African Orthodox Tea Festival was held on July 18, 2025, at the Sapphire Hotel in Mombasa, organized through a partnership between the Tea Board of Kenya and the East African Tea Trade Association. The two-day celebration concluded with a golf tournament at the Mombasa Golf Club on July 19, 2025.

Unlike conventional black CTC teas, which dominate production but suffer from price stagnation, orthodox teas command a premium in global markets. Their handcrafted processing, distinctive flavours, and recognized health benefits make them highly sought after, enabling growers to earn higher returns. With Kenya producing over 12 million kilograms of orthodox tea in 2024, the festival highlighted Africa's potential to position itself as a leader in this high-value niche.

The event featured expert-led workshops on artisanal processing, exhibitions of African tea culture, and tasting sessions that showcased rare and prized varieties such as purple and white teas, celebrated for their antioxidant properties.

Participants included tea producers, exporters, buyers, financial institutions, and investors, creating a vibrant platform for dialogue and collaboration. Discussions explored the evolution of the industry, stressing the importance of training and certification to guarantee consistent quality. Delegates also examined the use of digital platforms to expand global market access for East African teas and promoted sustainable practices—from climate-resilient farming to ethical sourcing—to meet the growing demand from eco-conscious consumers.

The festival not only celebrated Africa's rich tea heritage but also underscored its capacity to compete in global premium markets through innovation, quality, and sustainability.



*Third Contingent of Kenya Police personnel arrival in Port au Prince Haiti on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

## Reflections: Consolidating Kenya's Legacy and Taking the Lead in the Next Frontier for International Peacekeeping Operations

*By G. Kinuthia*

Since attaining independence in 1963, Kenya has consistently stood in the vanguard of efforts to advance peace and security across Africa and on the global stage. Peacemaking, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping have been more than policy choices, they have become defining pillars of Kenya's peace and security diplomacy, grounded in the conviction that stability at home is inextricably linked to peace beyond its borders. Through sustained participation in the United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), and regional peacekeeping and peace support operations, Kenya has demonstrated an enduring commitment to collective security while pragmatically safeguarding its national interests.

Kenya has deployed in diverse configurations and with varied mandates,

regional and UN peacekeeping operations and has established a solid record in reducing the duration and intensity of conflicts, facilitating political settlements, protecting civilians, and containing regional spillovers. This is despite the increasing complexity of contemporary conflicts, exacerbated by enduring resource constraints and shifting geopolitical dynamics, that have placed considerable strain on the deployment and the operational effectiveness of peacekeeping missions. These challenges have intensified policy debates in both regional and international fora on the future of peacekeeping, underscoring the urgent need to recalibrate international peacekeeping practices to align with current realities.

For Kenya, these evolving debates are

not abstract but deeply connected to her historical and contemporary role. Peacekeeping has long stood as a cornerstone of Kenya foreign policy, reflecting both principle and strategy. Spanning more than four decades, Kenya's peacekeeping journey began in 1979 with its participation in the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Zimbabwe, setting the stage for a sustained leadership role in Africa's pursuit of stability. The early 1980s marked a catalytic moment, when under the leadership of the late President Daniel Arap Moi, the then Chairperson of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), spearheaded the first deployment of an OAU Neutral Force to Chad in 1981. This groundbreaking initiative not only demonstrated Africa's resolve to shoulder responsibility for its own peace and security but also laid the founda-

tion for African-led peace operations. In this regard, Kenya contributed tremendously to the establishment of the precedence that African solutions must drive the Continent's response to African conflicts.

Kenya's first United Nations (UN) deployment was in 1988, with military observers in the UN Iran–Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). Since then, Kenya has participated in over 26 peacekeeping operations across five continents contributing personnel, resources and equipment. Notable deployments include in Namibia (UNTAG), Croatia ((UNPROFOR), Liberia (UNMIL), Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Lebanon (UNIFIL), East Timor (UNTAET), the Democratic Republic of the Congo both under MONUSCO and EACRF, Darfur (UNAMID), South Sudan (UNMISS), and Somalia (AMISOM/ATMIS). Kenyan military observer missions have also served in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kuwait, Western Sahara, Mozambique, Rwanda and Angola. This wide-ranging record of deployment underscores Kenya's unique peacekeeping identity and today, it is the only country simultaneously engaged in three distinct models of peace operations under the United Nations, the African Union, and the Ad Hoc Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti. This triple engagement underscores Kenya's credibility and adaptability to evolving peace operations. They also highlight Kenya's identity as a reliable troop-contributing country to United Nations operations and a regional anchor state willing to assume responsibility for peace enforcement and stabilization efforts.

Kenya's diplomatic leadership has been equally pivotal. Its 2021–2022 tenure on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) underscored the vital nexus between operational contributions and mandate formulation. During this period, Kenya played an instrumental role in the transition of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS); advanced efforts to strengthen mandates of UNMISS in South Sudan, UNISFA in Abyei, MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo, MINUSCA in the Central African Republic, and MINUSMA in Mali; led the Security Council mission to the Sahel; vigorously championed African

Union positions; and laid the groundwork for future multinational security support mission to Haiti.

These achievements stand as a testament to Kenya's capacity to shape global peace operations from both field and policy perspectives, influencing African-led and international efforts alike through principled and consistent multilateral engagement. More recently, in February 2025, His Excellency President William Ruto, in his role as the African Union Champion on Institutional Reforms, presided over a landmark decision of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, to initiate a comprehensive review of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including the envisaged operationalization of the African Standby Force.

Kenya's peacekeeping journey has not been without challenges. The country has borne the costs of service in both blood and treasure, exemplified by the tragic El Adde attack of January 2016, and more recently, the death of Police Officer Samuel Kitwai in Haiti in February 2025 and Major Paul Njoroge Ndung'u in the Central African Republic in March 2025. Diplomatic challenges have also arisen, notably in November 2016 when Kenya withdrew its battalion from UNMISS following the dismissal of Lt. General Johnson Mogoia Kimani Ondieki as Force Commander by the UN Secretary-General. This episode prompted a national reflection on Kenya's engagement in UN peacekeeping, underscoring the imperative of safeguarding the country's reputation, honour, and integrity.

Today, as international debates on the future of peacekeeping gather urgency amidst shifting geopolitical situations, Kenya's legacy and credibility place it in a unique position, not only as a steadfast contributor to peace operations but also as a thought leader charting the next frontiers of global peacekeeping. A significant milestone in this debate was the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference held in Berlin in May 2025, which brought together representatives from 135 UN Member States, including more than 60 Foreign and Defence Ministers, in an unprecedented show of political commitment. Alongside 74 Member States that collectively pledged 88 military and police units,

Kenya reaffirmed its leadership by committing expanded contributions, including a heavy transport company, an armed helicopter unit, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, mine action capacities, and support for enhanced Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) and the Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP), with emphasis on technology training and gender-responsive operations. The conference also advanced substantive dialogue on the future of peacekeeping, building on the September 2024 Summit of the Future, where Member States adopted the Pact for the Future, mandating the UN Secretary-General to propose strategic reforms to make UN peacekeeping operations more agile, flexible, and responsive to emerging challenges.

Prior to these developments, the UN Security Council had convened its annual debate on the future of peacekeeping on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024, pursuant to resolution 2378 (2017), under the theme "Strengthening Peacekeeping: Reflections for the Future". A highlight of the meeting was the briefing by Dr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, President and CEO of the International Peace Institute (IPI), whose reflections underscored both the historical legacy and current challenges of UN peacekeeping. Citing examples from Croatia in the 1990s, where Kenya stood alongside contingents from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East in one of the UN's most diverse operations, Dr. Zeid highlighted the unique moment when peacekeeping symbolized the collective will of the international community. He lamented, however, the narrowing scope of the Council's agenda in recent years, which has disproportionately focused on Africa and declining commitments to peacekeeping, while affirming the importance of countries such as Kenya that continue to deploy peacekeepers selflessly in service of global security, as evidenced by Kenya's leadership in Haiti. The inclusion of Kenya's legacy in his remarks underscored not only its credibility in peace operations but also its potential to shape the future of both regional and international peacekeeping.

Looking ahead, several priorities stand out for Kenya and the international community. As peacekeeping grapples



with asymmetric threats and heightened geopolitical contestation, Kenya's leadership will remain vital in advancing models that are adaptive, nimble, innovative, and sustainable, anchored in both regional realities and global responsibilities.

First, peace operations must adapt to digital-age threats through technological innovation and integrated strate-

gies. Second, African leadership and sustainable financing for AU-led operations must be operationalized, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2719, to ensure burden-sharing and complementarity in UN missions. Third, Kenya must continue to invest in readiness- through training, logistics, and doctrine- to deliver credible and flexible contributions to future missions. Ultimately, as the world re-

imagines peacekeeping, Kenya's role is not only to lead by example in the field but also on the table to shape ideas, diplomacy, and institutions. Its legacy affirms that even small states can make a big difference when they act with consistency, principle, and purpose, to shape the reforms and practices that will define the next era of international peace and security.

*(This article draws on a presentation delivered at the Technical-Level Workshop on International Peacekeeping, jointly convened by the State Department for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence in Nairobi on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025)*

## Kenya - Iraq Move to Deepen Bilateral Ties

On 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, Amb. Joseph Masila, the Deputy Director General in charge of the Middle East Directorate, received Dr. Akram Jameel Slaiman, the Head of Mission of the Embassy of Iraq in Nairobi, who paid him a courtesy call.

They discussed issues of mutual interest to Kenya and Iraq, such as the pending Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Kenya and Iraq. The MoUs

cover a broad spectrum of cooperation, including diplomatic training, political consultations, labor recruitment, economic and trade relations, scientific and technical collaboration, cultural exchange, visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic and service passports, anti-corruption efforts, and security cooperation.

Ambassador Masila reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to concluding these

agreements and emphasized the State Department's readiness to work closely with relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to expedite their finalization and signing. He noted that the MoUs will serve as a strategic framework for deepening bilateral ties and unlocking new avenues of collaboration between the two Countries.



*Spanish class of 2025 during the launch at 316 chambers, Upperhill*

## FSA Launches a three-month Spanish Language Class

*By I. Kimeu*

The Foreign Service Academy (FSA), led by Ag. Director General Amb. Patrick Wamoto, launched a three-month Spanish Language course for the 2025 cohort at the Academy's training room in 316, Upper Hill Chambers.

The official opening was presided over by H.E. Ambassador Álvaro Cortés, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to Kenya, who underscored the

significance of Spanish as a global language and reaffirmed Colombia's commitment to fostering international cooperation through cultural exchange.

Ambassador Wamoto expressed appreciation to the Embassy of Colombia for supporting this initiative and reaffirmed the Academy's dedication to producing world-class, multilingual diplomats capable of advancing Kenya's representation and visibility on the

global stage.

The training also brought together a student participant from Daystar University, a move that underscores the Academy's growing stature and its strong linkages with leading academic institutions across the country.

This training initiative advances the Foreign Service Academy's strategy to expand Kenya's diplomatic engagement, foster cross-cultural understanding, and strengthen relations with Spanish-speaking countries. It supports the Academy's objective of developing a globally competitive diplomatic corps through advanced training and strategic partnerships.

## Kenya - Spain Hold 2<sup>nd</sup> Political Consultations to Deepen Strategic Partnership

*By P. Mwangi*

Kenya and Spain held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kenya-Spain Political Consultations on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at the Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. A. Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, and Mr. Diego Martinez Belio, Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs of Spain.

The consultations reviewed progress in bilateral ties, explored new areas of cooperation, and reaffirmed the two

countries' shared commitment to multilateralism in addressing global challenges.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Sing'Oei highlighted Kenya's longstanding ties with Spain and emphasized the importance of aligning cooperation with Kenya's development agenda, particularly the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). He also underscored Kenya's role as a regional financial, technological, and logistical hub, with strong potential for deepening collaboration.

Mr. Belio praised Kenya as a model of

stability and proactive diplomacy in East Africa. He noted that Spain's Africa Strategy 2025-2028 identifies Kenya as a strategic partner and pledged to amplify Kenya's voice within the European Union and United Nations, while Kenya would reciprocate within the African Union.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening relations following recent high-level exchanges, including President William Ruto's meeting with King Felipe VI and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez in Seville in 2024.



*The Kenya - Spain political consultative meeting in session*

Kenya outlined its focus on MSMEs, affordable housing, universal health-care, renewable energy, digital innovation, and regional peace and security, while emphasizing people-to-people ties in education, culture, sports, and tourism.

Spain, through its Africa Strategy, stressed five priority pillars: strengthening governance, fostering economic growth, deepening connectivity, protecting the environment, and enhancing coexistence. Spain reiterated its support for multilateralism, climate adaptation, youth skills development, and migration frameworks, and invited Kenya to the Open Government Partnership Global Summit in Vitoria-Gasteiz in October 2025.

Kenya raised concerns about visa processing delays for students and professionals, as well as transit visa restrictions. Spain acknowledged the challenges, citing increased demand and irregular migration, but pledged to deploy additional staff, digitize visa processes, and explore long-term and multiple-entry visas.

Both sides agreed to explore a bilateral labour mobility agreement, drawing lessons from Kenya's successful partnership with Germany in deploying skilled professionals.

Bilateral trade continues to grow, with Spanish exports to Kenya rising to \$80 million in 2023. Kenya proposed establishing a Kenya–Spain Joint Business Council (JBC) to enhance investment and business-to-business collaboration, which both sides agreed to operationalize.

Spain also proposed a follow-up to the 2023 Kenya–Spain Business Forum held in Madrid, with Kenya hosting a similar event soon.

Kenya invited Spanish companies to invest in tourism, renewable energy, infrastructure, and Agro-processing, while also expressing interest in Spain's expertise in artificial intelligence, data governance, and cybersecurity.

Kenya called for Spain's support on African representation in global decision-making, particularly permanent seats on the UN Security Council, and sought backing for its candidates to international bodies. Spain reaffirmed its commitment to fair representation and ethical governance of new technologies, including AI.

Both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation in peace and security, with Kenya updating Spain on mediation efforts in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and the DRC. Spain emphasized the

risks of external interference in African conflicts and stressed the importance of safeguarding territorial integrity.

On geopolitical issues, Spain reiterated its strong support for Ukraine, calling for sustained European leadership in countering Russian aggression and upholding international law.

Both sides committed to fast-tracking pending MoUs and agreements in areas including cultural cooperation, agriculture, crime prevention, taxation, and sports. Spain pledged to double the intake for its Spanish language training program for Kenyan diplomats, while Kenya proposed expanding Swahili language exchange programs.

The consultations concluded with a joint commitment to translate discussions into concrete action, guided by mutual respect, long-term strategic cooperation, and institutionalized dialogue. Both countries reaffirmed their vision of a forward-looking partnership that bridges Africa and Europe in addressing shared global challenges.



*The third session of political consultations between Kenya and Ukraine in session*

## Europe and Commonwealth Directorate Takes Charge of Various Political Consultations to Expand Kenya's Diplomatic Reach in Europe

By P. Mwangi

Kenya and Ukraine held the third session of political consultations virtually in July 2025, co-chaired by Amb. Josphat K. Maikara, Director General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs, and H.E. Mr. Malym Subkh, Ukraine's Special Representative for Africa and the Middle East. The consultations built on earlier sessions held in Nairobi (2016) and Kyiv (2021), reflecting a growing partnership founded on mutual respect, shared values, and commitment to the principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter.

In his opening remarks, Amb. Maikara highlighted the broad agenda of the consultations, covering issues from food security and education to global peace and security. Mr. Subkh emphasized the importance of acceler-

ating negotiations on key cooperation frameworks while praising the shared commitment of both nations to multilateralism and a rules-based international order.

On trade and investment, Kenya acknowledged a decline in trade volumes over the past two years and encouraged stronger partnerships to reverse this trend. Ukraine attributed the decline to the ongoing Russian aggression but expressed optimism for recovery. Kenya further invited Ukrainian firms to invest in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Agriculture emerged as a key area of cooperation, with both sides agreeing to finalize an MOU to strengthen collaboration. Kenya praised Ukraine's

grain support initiatives, while Ukraine offered to transfer drought-resistant sunflower seeds and access to the COMESA market.

In education, Kenya acknowledged Ukraine's historic contribution to training professionals in medicine and engineering. New initiatives under discussion include scholarships, digital learning, joint research, and an MOU on education. The session also welcomed a June 2025 agreement between Kenyatta University and Ostroh Academy to promote Kiswahili and Ukrainian language instruction.

Ukraine recognized Kenya's leadership in digital transformation and expressed interest in partnering on Kenya's planned smart cities. On climate change, Kenya sought Ukraine's support for its bid to host the Global Plastic Treaty Secretariat in Nairobi, while Ukraine reiterated its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

The consultations concluded with a commitment to deepen bilateral relations and advance concrete cooperation across sectors. Both sides agreed that the next round of political consultations will be hosted by Ukraine in 2027, reflecting optimism for stronger collaboration in the years ahead.



Coordinating team (CPPMD) led by Director Dorothy Mwera, with the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs during the signing ceremony.

## Strengthening Performance and Accountability through Performance Contracts

By CPPMD

To strengthen the performance management and reporting within the State Department for Foreign Affairs, the Central Planning and Project Monitoring Department (CPPMD) coordinated the signing ceremony of the cascaded Performance Contracts (PCs) and Annual Work Plans (AWPs) for the Financial Year 2025/26, for all the Directorates, Departments, Divisions, and Units.

This signing ceremony was held at the Railway's Headquarters on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and brought together Heads of Directorates, Departments, Divisions, and Units to commit to delivering on clearly defined performance targets. This is in line with the Government's Results-Based Management (RBM) approach that is aimed at enhancing accountability, operational efficiency, and service delivery both at home and in Missions abroad.

The Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abraham Korir Sing'Oei, graced the occasion, and emphasized the critical role of PCs and AWPs in aligning departmental efforts with the State Department's strategic objectives, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and Kenya's For-

eign Policy priorities. He called on all staff to translate these commitments to measurable outcomes that directly impact Kenyans.

The Principal Secretary further underscored that the exercise reflects a shared commitment to deliver on strategic priorities with excellence, accountability, and impact, ensuring that every action taken serves the best interest of Kenyans at home and abroad.

The exercise, which was successfully coordinated by CPPMD, highlighted the State Department's resolve to enhance evidence-based reporting



Dr. Abraham Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, giving his remarks during the signing ceremony.

through the Performance Management System (PMS); and foster a culture of transparency, efficiency, and continuous improvement in the public service delivery.



Heads of Directorates/Departments/Divisions/Unit with their signed Performance Contracts & Annual Work Plans



H.E. President William Ruto (centre) poses for a photo with Hon. Robert B. Evnen, Secretary of State of Nebraska (right) and Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu (left)

## Kenya and the State of Nebraska deepen Ties and Unlock Opportunities

By R. Asirikwa

In a historic ceremony witnessed by His Excellency President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025, the Republic of Kenya and the State of Nebraska, of the United States signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aimed at strengthening the cooperation in the field of diaspora affairs, students and apprenticeship training, skills and technology transfer, and cultural exchange.

The cooperation framework, a pioneering initiative championed by the vibrant Kenyan diaspora community in Nebraska, was formalized by the Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, CBS, and the Secretary of State of Nebraska, Hon. Robert B. Evnen.

This strategic MoU marks a significant milestone in the Kenya-U.S. relations, with a focus on deepening people-to-people connections. A central pillar of the agreement is facilitating the placement of skilled Kenyan talent in critical sectors within Nebraska, which sectors are experiencing workforce shortages. This initiative is designed to be a mutually beneficial partnership, addressing Nebraska's labor needs, while providing valuable opportunities for Kenyan professionals.

The signing ceremony was a key part of a week-long visit by a high-level delegation from the State of Nebraska to Kenya. The delegation engaged in an extensive program to explore and identify concrete opportunities for collaboration across a diverse range of sectors of mutual interest.



Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu and Secretary of State of Nebraska Hon. Robert B. Evnen sign the MoU

This partnership between Kenya and the State of Nebraska is more than a government-to-government agreement; it is also a testament to the powerful role of diaspora communities in building bridges between nations. It also promises to foster greater economic prosperity, cultural understanding, and a strengthened relationship that benefits the citizens of both countries.



*Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi looks on as H.E. Kang Hyung-Shik, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea signs the visitor's book*



*Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi looks on as H.E. Kang Hyung-Shik, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea pose for a photo*

## Kenya - Korea Strengthen Strategic Alliances

*By A. Rugendo*

Kenya and the Republic of Korea have taken significant steps to deepen their longstanding partnership, with renewed focus on trade, technological innovation, and green development. High-Level officials from both nations have underscored their commitment to fostering mutual growth through ongoing collaborations and new ventures.

Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, recently hosted H.E. Kang Hyung-Shik, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, during a courtesy visit in Nairobi. During the meeting, Dr. Mudavadi highlighted the enduring friendship spanning over sixty years, emphasizing Korea's vital role in Kenya's national

development across sectors including ICT, Education, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Socio-Economic progress.

Key projects illustrating this partnership include the groundbreaking Konza Technopolis initiatives, notably the Konza Digital Media City and the upcoming Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (Kenya-AIST), scheduled to launch in September, 2025. The establishment of the International Vaccine Institute offices at Konza was also noted as a promising stride toward bolstering cooperation in health, science, and innovation.

The discussions further focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in areas such as Trade, Labor mobility, Energy, Maritime Security, and Climate Change mitigation. Kenya expressed appreciation for Korea's support through initiatives like the Economic Development Promotion Facility, KOICA projects, the K-Rice agricultural partnership, and the anticipated opening of Korea Exim Bank offices in Nairobi.

The two nations aim to deepen collaboration in renewable energy, climate resilience, sustainable infrastructure, and

the green and blue economies. Kenya has also expressed interest in joining Korea's Global Green Growth Institute and advancing green hydrogen technology to accelerate its transition to cleaner energy sources.

Both leaders reaffirmed their dedication to strengthening a partnership rooted in shared values, sustainable development, and mutual prosperity, promising a future of continued collaboration and growth for Kenya and Korea.



## Kenya Egypt Relations

*By Africa Affairs Directorate*

Kenya-Egypt relations have been characterised by cordiality as demonstrated in recent times. In July this year, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, attended the national day celebrations of the Republic of Egypt at the Egyptian Ambassador to Kenya's official residence as the chief guest, marking 220 years of the modern Egyptian nation-state, 103 years of independence, as well as 73 years since the advent of the first Egyptian Republic.

In his capacity as Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Mudavadi expressed his heartfelt felicitations to

the people and government of Egypt as the occasion represented a profound moment of reflection and introspection within the context of a rich history, huge leaps forward and a strong national identity.

Dr. Mudavadi took the opportunity to appreciate and congratulate outgoing Egyptian Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Amb. Wael Nasreldin Attiya for his steadfastness during his tour of duty and to bid him farewell, noting with profound gratitude the Ambassador's efforts to enhance bilateral relations between the two nations. This resulted in the signing of the declaration of a strategic and comprehensive partnership by the Heads of State of the two

countries amongst a plethora of other milestones geared towards the enhancement of bilateral relations.

During his remarks the Cabinet Secretary reiterated that the occasion represented the long and historic bonds between the two nations, while re-emphasising the resolve of the two countries to cooperate in areas that foster peace, stability and prosperity across Africa. It is worth noting that the agreements signed between the two countries continue to foster and broaden opportunities in trade, investments, technology, research, education, creating avenues of mutual growth and benefit to the populations of both countries.



## Kenya unveils E.A Halal Expo and Forum 2026

By Africa Affairs Directorate and D. Maloba

With the world economy increasingly becoming both multicultural and diverse due to differences in culture and tradition, the Government of Kenya on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025, officially launched the East Africa Halal Expo & Forum 2026. This landmark initiative is aimed at positioning East Africa as a leading player in the fast-growing global halal economy, which is projected to exceed USD 7 trillion. The Expo which is expected to take place in May 2026 in Nairobi, is expected to have attendance by governments, investors, certification bodies, and entrepreneurs from across Africa, Middle East, and Asia.

The launch, hosted in partnership between the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (MFDA) and the Future Growth Forum (FGF), brought together diplomats, business leaders, and development partners in Nairobi.

Delivering a keynote speech on behalf of Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'oei, Ambassador Jacklyne Yonga underscored the Expo's strategic role in advancing Kenya's foreign policy and economic diplomacy agenda. Amb. Yonga emphasized that halal trade is not merely a market segment but a standard of quality, authenticity, and trust in many regions of the world now. She elaborated that presence of large vibrant Muslim community in Kenya, and the country's strategic geographic location, coupled by a modern business environment makes Ken-

ya uniquely positioned to lead Africa in halal innovation.

The launching of the East Africa Halal Expo and Forum aligns with Kenya's foreign policy goals of economic diplomacy, inclusive trade, and values-based development. Amb. Yonga further emphasised that by embracing halal trade, Kenya is positioning itself to access a market of over two billion consumers worldwide, while building bridges across cultures, communities, and continents.

The members of the diplomatic community in Nairobi who profess Islamic faith including the Arab diplomatic Corp strongly welcomed the initiative. Speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, the Dean of Arab Ambassadors and Ambassador of the State of Palestine, H.E. Hazem Shabat, praised the Ministry for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and FGF for spearheading the Expo. He underscored that the initiative would not only address growing consumer needs in the Arab world, but also create new frontiers for Kenya and East Africa region in the global halal supply chain from production to certification.

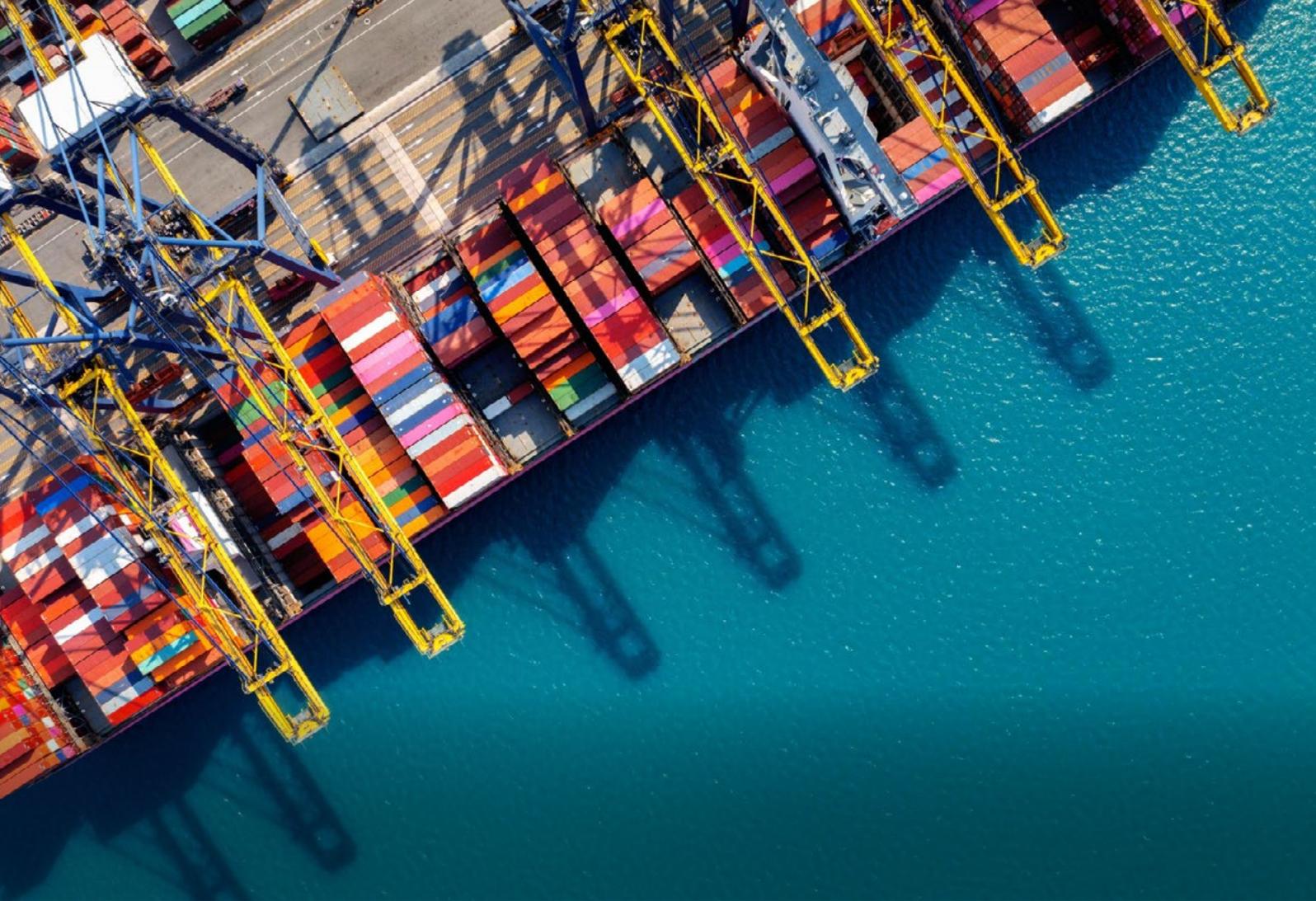
While providing private sector insights into the initiative, FGF Chairman Mohamed Abdiqani Sidow framed the Expo as more than just an event, describing it as a platform to showcase East Africa's potential, by facilitating investment, and empowering communities through sustainable growth. He

stressed that despite the East Africa region immense resources and strategic location, little effort has been focused on promotion of halal trade, and the launch of the Expo in 2026 present opportunity for harnessing full potential of the region in the halal global industry.

Similar sentiments were echoed by FGF CEO Abdulaziz Billow Ali that the launch of East Africa Halal Expo and Forum in 2026 marks the beginning of a bold journey that would strengthen certification standards, promote innovation, and build investor confidence in East Africa's halal products and services.

The event organizers emphasised that the Expo is envisioned as a dynamic platform that will showcase East Africa's halal potential to global markets, facilitate trade and investment linkages, strengthen certification systems to boost consumer trust, and empower local communities by creating jobs and fostering entrepreneurship, particularly among youth. By connecting governments, industry leaders, investors, and certification bodies, the Forum is expected to unlock new markets, enhance regional economic resilience, and position Nairobi as a hub of halal innovation and trade.

The event drew widespread international attention, with Ambassadors from Arab League countries, African and Asian trade representatives, and members of the diplomatic corps in attendance. Their participation underscored growing global recognition of Kenya's potential to lead Africa's halal transformation.



## Charting New Trade Paths: Kenya-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

*By Economics and Commercial Diplomacy Directorate*

The Kenya-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), a cornerstone of Kenya's trade architecture, continues to evolve as a beacon of stability and opportunity in an era of global economic instability. Formally signed in Nairobi on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, and entering into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2024, following ratification by both Kenya and the European Union, this agreement has already begun to weave a stronger fabric of economic interdependence. The EU stands as one of Kenya's most vital trading partners, commanding a substantial 17.2% share of the country's overall trade volume. Beyond commerce, the bloc serves as Kenya's second-largest development partner, trailing only the World Bank and contributes a generous 15% to the government's annual development budget, funding critical infrastructure,

education, and health initiatives.

In 2024 alone, Kenya's exports to the EU surged to an impressive €1.4 billion, encompassing high-value goods like horticultural products, coffee, and apparel, while imports from the EU totalled €1.9 billion, dominated by machinery, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals. These figures not only underscore the EPA's immediate impact but also highlight the agreement's potential to drive balanced growth through enhanced market access and reduced tariffs.

Implementation efforts have gained significant traction, beginning with the inaugural EPA Council meeting on May 12, 2025, hosted in Nairobi. This high-level forum brought together policymakers and trade experts from both sides to reaffirm the profound importance of their bilateral trade relations.

Amid the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties and volatility in the international trading system, the Council emphasized the EPA's role as a safeguard of predictability and reliability for traders and investors alike.

In September 2025, Kenya hosted two pivotal meetings as part of the implementation of the EPA: the kick-off negotiations for the Rules of Origin and the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Customs and Trade Facilitation. These forums focused on expediting border procedures, harmonizing documentation, and leveraging digital tools to cut down on trade costs.

Complementing these institutional strides, the State Department for Trade is crafting a comprehensive EPA implementation strategy that will outline phased actions for export promotion, capacity building, and monitoring mechanisms. As the Kenya-EU partnership matures, the EPA is poised to not only elevate trade figures but also empower Kenyan industries to compete globally, fostering a legacy of inclusive prosperity.



H.E President William Ruto lays a brick in place during the ARISE IIP Kenya Investment Forum held in Vipingo Ridge, Kilifi County

## Industrial Momentum: ARISE IIP Kenya Investment Forum

*By Economics and Commercial Diplomacy Directorate*

The ARISE IIP Kenya Investment Forum 2025 was convened at Vipingo Ridge, Kilifi County on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2025, bringing together key public and private sector stakeholders, policy makers, and international development partners to explore opportunities in Kenya’s industrialization agenda. The forum, held under the theme “Unlocking Kenya’s Industrial Future”, served as a platform to deliberate on Kenya’s positioning in the continental and global free zones ecosystem.

Organized in partnership with Centum Investments and fortified by the support of Afreximbank, the forum dissected Kenya’s strategic positioning within the continental and global free zones ecosystem, with a laser focus on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as engines of the AfCFTA-fuelled growth.

The event explored policy innovation, infrastructural ambition, and sustainable industrialization, all aimed at catapulting Kenya into its role as Africa’s

premier industrial gateway. Discussions reverberated with optimism about job creation, export diversification, and eco-friendly manufacturing that aligns with global sustainability imperatives.

Panel discussions looked into policies setting the foundation for SEZs and invaluable lessons from other African nations. In his remarks, the Principal Secretary for Investment Promotion, Mr. Abubakar Hassan Abubakar welcomed investors to Kilifi, an emerging jewel in Kenya ripe for agro-industrial and logistics booms. Echoing this enthusiasm, Kilifi Deputy Governor Ms. Flora Chebule unveiled plans to allocate a sprawling 3,000 acres in the county for targeted investments in agribusiness, tourism, and logistics.

The Centum Investments Chief Executive Officer, Mr. James Mworira and Principal Secretary Abubakar, advocated for multi-agency synergies to instil investor confidence through streamlined approvals and fiscal incentives.

Other lessons highlighted were from TRIFIC SEZ CEO Ms. Brenda Mbathi, ARISE IIP Executive Director Nikhil Gandhi, and other luminaries, who dissected governance models, financing strategies, and adaptive blueprints tailored to Kenya’s unique terrain. UNIDO Country Representative Ms. Tally Einav pledged deepened collaborations with KenInvest, SEZA, and ARISE IIP to cultivate inclusive growth and resilient value chains.

Kenya Ports Authority Managing Director Capt. William K. Ruto underscored the symbiotic dance between infrastructure and SEZs, citing the transformative potential of Dongo Kundu Port in supercharging the Mombasa SEZ, aligning with Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The Investment Forum culminated in the launch of the Vipingo Special Economic Zone by President William Ruto. The President’s keynote address framed Kenya as a crucial hub for AfCFTA-driven industrialization and spotlighting SEZ perks like a 10% corporate tax rate for the first decade, alongside duty exemptions and expedited visas.

## KDC Partners with Saudi EXIM Bank

*By Economics and Commercial Diplomacy Directorate*

On 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025, the Kenya Development Corporation (KDC) signed a historic partnership with the Saudi EXIM bank in a bid to enhance trade ties and investments between

Kenya and Saudi Arabia. The areas of focus include Agriculture, Livestock, Tourism, Hospitality, and Insurance.

Once in effect, the accord will enhance export competitiveness, open financing

opportunities as well as deepen economic cooperation through guaranteeing of credit, joint project funding, as well as technical cooperation.



## Kenya and Iran Reignite Trade Through Strategic Diplomacy

By W. Aluoch

The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Kenya-Iran Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Cultural Cooperation was held from August 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Nairobi, signaling a revitalization in the bilateral relations of the two nations after an 11-year pause since their last meeting in Tehran in 2014. This meeting was particularly significant following President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Nairobi in July 2023, which set an optimistic tone for discussions centered around outstanding trade issues, specifically addressing the ban on Kenyan tea exports to Iran.

During the session, delegates reviewed the implementation of previous agreements while forging new partnerships, culminating in the signing of seven bilateral agreements across various sectors such as housing, renewable energy, foreign service training, investment promotion, and business cooperation. Additionally, discussions led to the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between the University of Nairobi and Iran's University of Isfahan, and a sister-city agreement was established to link Mombasa County with Bandar

Abbas, marking a significant step in cultural and economic relations.

A pivotal outcome of the meeting was the signing of the Agreed Minutes and a Joint Communique, which established a Joint Technical Committee entrusted with resolving the tea trade dispute within 60 days. Both countries expressed their dedication to continuing political dialogue and collaboration in alignment with the United Nations Charter principles, with plans to convene the next commission meeting within two years.

Meanwhile, the Kenya-Iran Business Forum took place concurrently, attracting over 140 participants, including government officials and business leaders, showcasing significant investment opportunities, e-commerce platforms, and trade facilitation mechanisms. The forum facilitated the signing of two landmark agreements aimed at deepening economic cooperation.

The Iranian delegation visited the Coffee Bee Factory in Mlolongo, further highlighting the mutual interest in agricultural collaboration, particularly in

agro-processing and coffee production. This cooperation is expected to yield favorable outcomes for Kenyan producers and Iranian consumers.

Trade activities between Kenya and Iran are on the rise, with Kenyan tea leading exports. Kenyan brands have developed local processing capabilities in Iran, boosting value addition and market access. The strategic geographic positions of both countries position them as gateways to both East African and Central Asian markets, enhancing regional trade opportunities through the Caspian Sea.

Industrial cooperation is also gaining traction, exemplified by an agreement between the Iranian automotive manufacturer Zamyad and Kenyan Quip Bank Trust Ltd to locally assemble pickup trucks aimed at regional markets. Both nations are working together to enhance customs cooperation, share intelligence, and integrate digital trade data to secure supply chains and combat smuggling, while also modernizing trade administration through training programs for customs officers.

In the domains of education and healthcare, collaborations are in progress. The Kenyan Foreign Service Academy and Iran's School of International Relations aim to enhance diplomatic training programs, while Kenya's Min-

istry of Health collaborates with Iran's Red Crescent Society to improve access to affordable medical services and build healthcare capacity. In agriculture, both countries have identified critical areas for partnership, emphasizing technolo-

gy transfer and food security.

Overall, the renewed partnership between Kenya and Iran signifies a comprehensive and multi-dimensional strategy for mutual growth. Through strengthened trade relations, industri-

al partnerships, capacity building initiatives, and cultural exchanges, both nations are establishing a robust foundation for a resilient and prosperous future that will benefit their populations and the larger regional community.





## Kenyan Diaspora Powers Digital Inclusion with Landmark Scholarship for Persons Living with Disabilities

By R. Asirikwa

Kenya's diaspora is fundamentally reshaping the nation's socioeconomic development, solidifying its role as a pivotal development partner.

This influence extends far beyond financial remittances, encompassing the strategic application of expertise, technology, and international networks to redefine engagement with their homeland.

A prime example of this impact is the launch of a Ksh 480 million (€3.1 million) scholarship program exclusively for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). This transformative initiative is led by Nominated Senator Crystal Asige through her foundation, in partnership with the European Business Institute of Luxembourg (EBU).

Notably, EBU was founded by a member of the Kenyan diaspora, Prof. Dr. James Mulli. Together, they will provide fully-funded scholarships to over 4,000 Kenyan PWDs within five years, equipping them with cutting-edge skills in Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain Technology, and Cybersecurity. This training is designed to secure future employment and place beneficiaries at the forefront of the digital economy.

The partnership was facilitated by the Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline Kathure Njogu, who linked Senator Asige's Foundation with Prof. Mulli. This collaboration directly fulfills the State Department's mandate to integrate the diaspora into national development by harnessing their sav-

ings, facilitating direct investments, and enabling skills and technology transfers.

The groundwork was laid earlier this year when the Principal Secretary met with Prof. Mulli in Nairobi to discuss collaboration in digital training, aligning with Luxembourg's 2030 AI and Data Strategy. This dialogue reinforced the Government's commitment to securing Kenyans a place in globally competitive sectors while fostering domestic innovation.

The program's impact is already being realized. From 4,000 national applicants, 850 PWDs have been selected and commenced their studies on September 15, 2025. Senator Asige praised the diverse cohort as being "ready to inspire and make us proud," underscoring that inclusion is now an indispensable element of Kenya's development journey. By leveraging diaspora talent and global linkages, Kenya is not only building critical capacity but also ensuring inclusive progress that strengthens the nation's socioeconomic fabric.



*Delegates from the State Department of Diaspora Affairs and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) pose for a photo following a consultative meeting*

## Broadening diaspora participation in Kenya's electoral process

By R. Asirikwa

The Government of Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding the participation of Kenyans in the diaspora in the country's electoral process. This follows a consultative meeting between the State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA), led by Principal Secretary Ms. Roseline Kathure Njogu, and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), led by Vice Chairperson Ms. Fahima Abdallah.

During the meeting, both institutions acknowledged that while steady progress has been made since the 2010 Constitution enshrined the right of citizens

abroad to vote, diaspora participation remains limited to a few countries. From an initial pilot in four East African countries during the 2013 General Election, the exercise expanded to 22 countries by 2022—marking important but gradual progress.

Principal Secretary Njogu reiterated that voting is a fundamental democratic right that empowers citizens to shape governance and national development. She emphasized that the State Department, in collaboration with the IEBC, is working to remove logistical and legal barriers that have constrained participation, through the Diaspora Technical

Working Group.

“Our goal is to ensure that Kenyans abroad are not left out of the democratic process but are fully included in shaping the nation's future. Through sustained cooperation, legislative reforms, and the use of technology, we aim to make diaspora voting more inclusive and accessible,” said Ms. Njogu.

The partnership between the SDDA and the IEBC seeks to expand voter registration and polling centres, strengthen tailored voter education, and leverage digital tools for simplified access and information-sharing. This initiative is part of the Government's broader effort to ensure that, as Kenya marks the 25th anniversary of the 2010 Constitution in 2025, plans are at an advanced stage to enable Kenyans living in all countries where the nation has a diplomatic presence to cast their Presidential vote in future elections.



## Intensifying Campaign Against Illegal Recruitment, Human Trafficking in Mombasa County

By R. Asirikwa

The State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA) took its public sensitization campaign to the grassroots of Mombasa County, hosting comprehensive forums in Mvita and Changamwe Sub-Counties. The initiative aims to arm citizens with critical knowledge to safeguard against illegal recruitment and human trafficking.

The outreach team engaged a diverse audience, including youth, community and religious leaders, and National Government Administration Officers (NGAO). The forums served as a platform to educate the public on the Department's mandate, its #DiasporaFirst principle, and the significant mile-

stones achieved since its establishment.

A core component of the sessions was a practical demonstration on how to verify the legitimacy of overseas recruitment agencies through the National Employment Authority (NEA). Ms. Irene Karari, Director-Skills and Expertise Division, detailed the warning signs of fraudulent agents, such as the insistence on applying for a tourist visa instead of a legal work visa.

Further, the Welfare and Rights Division, headed by Director Ms. Emma Gicheha, outlined the government's intervention measures against human trafficking. This included an exposé on the tactics traffickers use to lure Ken-

yans into non-existent jobs abroad, particularly in Southeast Asia, and highlighted the Division's crucial role in the repatriation and evacuation of Kenyans in distress.

The forums also promoted the government's broader strategy to combat unemployment through the Kazi Kwa Vijana initiatives: Kazi Kwa Ground (local jobs), Kazi Mtandaoni (online jobs), and Kazi Majuu (jobs abroad).

In a message delivered on her behalf, Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, C.B.S., reiterated the government's commitment to a "whole-of-government" approach, ensuring collaborative efforts with all stakeholders to provide the public with vital information.

This outreach follows similar successful sensitization sessions at the Bandari Maritime Academy, the Technical University of Mombasa (TUM), Likoni TVC, and the National Youth Service (NYS) Mombasa.

## Presentation of Credentials

*Colonel (Rtd) Shem Ishahilidza Amadi, High Commissioner of Kenya to Ghana (L), presenting his credentials to H.E. President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana (R) on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025*



## CSR - Ng'ate Primary School, Murang'a Gets Facelift

*By Amb. Kiboino 'ndc'*

Ng'ate Primary School has received a major facelift following the completion and official handover of renovated facilities, spearheaded by Kenya's cohort of 40 Ambassadors appointed in 2023.

The refurbished school block, which includes a fully repaired staffroom and classroom roof, was handed over to the school's Board of Management in late June 2025 during a colourful ceremony

attended by local administrators, Ministry of Education officials, parents, and students.

The renovation project was fully funded by the Ambassadors, who have been contributing from their personal emoluments after learning about the dire need of the school at an earlier engagement while in Thika two years ago. The initiative, launched in November 2023,

sought to facilitate the urgent infrastructural developments at the school.

During the handover, Ambassador Kiboino, Secretary for Foreign Service Management and representative of the Ambassadors, said the diplomats were deeply inspired by the learners' potential and moved by the challenging conditions in which they study.

"These Ambassadors come from diverse professional backgrounds—military, academia, corporate, and public service—but what unites them all is the power of education. They saw a chance to give back and chose to invest directly in the future of these children," said Amb. Kiboino.

Like many rural schools across Kenya, Ng'ate Primary has long struggled with inadequate infrastructure and overcrowded classrooms. The school's leadership expressed heartfelt appreciation for the intervention.

"This is a big step forward for our school, we are grateful for this support, and we believe it has inspired both our staff and students," said the Head Teacher.

Amb. Kiboino noted that the Ambassadors, though stationed across the

globe, continued to follow the school's progress and remain committed to supporting it further where possible.

Though none of the 40 Ambassadors could attend the ceremony in person due to their overseas postings, Amb. Kiboino conveyed their warm wishes and affirmed their pride in the completed project.

"This isn't the end of the relationship. Ng'ate Primary School remains close to their hearts," he added.

The initiative has been praised as a model of public service and community partnership—demonstrating that leaders in high office can still make meaningful, tangible contributions at the grassroots level.

The renovated facilities are expected to significantly enhance the school environment, improve learning conditions, and boost morale among both teachers and students.



## Kenya Mourns South Africa's High Commissioner

On August 24, 2025, Kenya joined the government and people of the Republic of South Africa in mourning the passing of H.E. Mr. Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu, after a short illness. At the time of his passing, he served as South Africa's High Commissioner to Kenya, and had been Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federal Republic of Somalia, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON).

Ambassador Mahlangu will be remembered as a bridge-builder who strengthened Kenya-South Africa relations. His most significant achievement was securing visa-free travel for Kenyans visiting South Africa for up to 90 days annually. He was also a powerful voice for the Global South on environmental and climate issues. Kenya stands with South Africa in mourning,



*Ambassador Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu who served as the High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federal Republic of Somalia, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON).*

remembering him as a true patriot and Pan-Africanist.



*Dr. Fancy Too, Kenya's Ambassador/ Permanent Representative to the WTO presents the Instrument of Acceptance to Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the WTO*

## News from the Missions

# Entry into force of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries subsidies

*By Amb. F. Too*

Kenya continues to play an important role as a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). On September 15 this year, Kenya deposited its instrument of acceptance to the WTO agreement on Fisheries subsidies.

### Key points to note:

- With Kenya's deposit, the total number of member states party to the agreement is now over the two thirds threshold of members of the WTO required for the agreement to be legally binding;
- The agreement was first adopted on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at the WTO's 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial conference.

The WTO agreement on Fisheries Subsidies seeks to:

- Greatly reduce subsidies that contribute to illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Deal with subsidies linked to overfished stocks:

- Fishing subsidies or fishing-related activities in the unregulated open ocean;
- The coming into effect of this agreement is a significant contributor in implementing the UN SDG 14 on the sustainability of the ocean;
- Simultaneously, this agreement supports existing instruments that strive to improve the ocean's sustainability;
- Specifically, it complements and reinforces the agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) which was ratified by UN member states in 2023 under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea;
- Since Kenya is a coastal nation, it will incur immediate and long-term benefits from the curbing of subsidies that play a huge part in illegal unreported and unregulated



*Dr. Fancy Too, Kenya's Ambassador delivers a statement after depositing the Instrument of Acceptance*

fishing.

While Kenya is proud to have ratified this latest instrument on Fisheries Subsidies demonstrating its commitment to preserving marine biology through the prevention of illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, the extent of international commitment to enforce this agreement particularly from wealthier industrialised nations remains to be seen. More often than not, less developed countries are expected to champion enforcement of many accords yet they have the least capacity to enforce them. Equally developing countries bear the effects of environmental degradation yet they contribute the least to events such as climate change and other forms of environmental destruction.

## Angola Airlines launches direct flights to Kenya

By U. Halake

**T**AAG Angola Airlines officially launched its new direct flight service between Luanda, Angola, and Nairobi, Kenya, on September 1, 2025. This significant milestone strengthens air connectivity between Southern and Eastern Africa, marking a new era for regional travel and commerce.

The new service will operate three times a week—on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays—using a modern Airbus A220-300 aircraft. The plane offers 135 seats across Business, Premium Economy, and Economy classes, with a flight time of approximately four hours.

This new route highlights the growing ties between Kenya and Angola in

trade, investment, tourism, and people-to-people connections. By positioning Nairobi as a strategic hub for connections to Asia, Europe, and the wider African continent, the service is expected to facilitate greater business engagement, enhance tourism, and create new avenues for cultural exchange.

Kenya has welcomed this development as a sign of its deepening bilateral cooperation with Angola. Direct air con-

nectivity is a key driver of economic diplomacy, and the Luanda-Nairobi route will act as a vital bridge for businesses, investors, and travellers seeking opportunities in both countries.

This initiative aligns with Kenya's broader agenda of expanding regional integration, strengthening partnerships within Africa, and promoting seamless mobility.

*TAAG Angola Airlines marks a historic milestone with the arrival of its inaugural direct flight from Luanda, Angola, to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA)*





*Heads of State and Government, representing the Bureau of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) and Chairpersons of the Eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), pose for a photo during the Seventh Mid-Year Coordination Meeting held at the Sipopo Conference Center in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.*

## African Union Seventh Mid-Year Coordination Meeting

*By Kenya Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

The African Union (AU) held the Seventh Mid-Year Coordination Meeting (7<sup>th</sup> MYCM) on July 13, 2025, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. This event was part of the AU's theme for 2025, which focuses on "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations." Prior to the MYCM, the 47<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council took place from July 10 to 11, 2025, featuring participation from various heads of state, the Bureau of the Assembly, and chairpersons of eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs).

Several key outcomes emerged from these meetings. Firstly, the Executive Council chose to postpone the approval of the AU Strategic Plan for 2024-2028 until the February 2026 Summit, which would allow for additional internal consultations. Secondly, on the topic of Multilateral Cooperation, the Executive Council made significant decisions regarding upcoming summits including the 7<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit scheduled for November 24-25, 2025, in Angola, and the recently concluded 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa CARICOM Summit that took place on September 7, 2025, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



*H.E. Amb. George M. Orina, M.B.S., Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) led the Kenyan Delegation through the 7<sup>th</sup> MYCM in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.*



MoFA-AGA-KAF Trilateral Roundtable in session

## Kenya Participates in MoFA-AGA-KAF Trilateral Roundtable

*By Embassy of the Republic of Kenya, Seoul*

The Deputy Head of Mission, Ambassador Jacqueline Kenani, took part in the MoFA-AGA-KAF Trilateral Roundtable, convened by the Korea Africa Foundation (KAF). The session brought together representatives from the African Group of Ambassadors (AGA), the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)—including the Director-General for African and Middle Eastern Affairs—and ex-

perts from Africa Insight.

Established in 2018 under Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, KAF works to deepen partnerships between Korea and African nations by promoting joint research, developing professional networks, and facilitating collaboration between public and private sectors. Its focus spans political, economic, cultural, and academic exchanges, while

strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation.

The roundtable provided a valuable platform for open dialogue, allowing participants to explore practical pathways for cooperation and to review follow-up actions arising from the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit.

During the meeting, KAF outlined its upcoming initiatives, while Africa Insight shared progress on the preparations for the 8<sup>th</sup> Seoul Africa Festival, an event that continues to promote cultural exchange and stronger people-to-people ties between Africa and Korea.



## Kenya awarded Best Safari and Wildlife Destination in New Delhi, India

By J. Kariuki

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Kenya was awarded the best Safari and Wildlife destination by International Tourism Conclave & Travel Awards of India (ITCTA) at a ceremony held in New Delhi. The

award was a recognition honouring Kenyan outstanding achievements, entrepreneurial excellence and her contribution to the growth of the travel and tourism industry.

The award was received by Amb. Peter Munyiri, O.G.W., Kenyan High Commissioner to India. ITCTA is a premier platform dedicated to promoting Tourism through strategic promotional and publicity initiatives. In his speech, Amb. Munyiri reaffirmed that Kenya's National Parks and Coastal resorts are premier tourist destinations. He assured the audience of a unique experience in Kenya.

## Kenya Showcases Climate-Security Model

By I. Agum

Kenya has positioned itself at the forefront of linking climate change to national security, unveiling an innovative model that embeds climate resilience at the grassroots level during the Second African Climate Summit (ACS-2) which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on September 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Dr. Raymond Omollo, the Principal Secretary in the State Department for Internal Security, spoke on the sidelines of the Africa Climate Summit where he highlighted the Kenya's National Climate Change Security Resilience Programme (NCCSRP) as a groundbreaking program that combines envi-

ronmental protection with governance and peacebuilding.

"Climate change is no longer a distant environmental concern; it has evolved into the defining security challenge of our time, threatening livelihoods, fuelling conflicts over scarce resources, destabilizing economies, and undermining peace within and across our borders," Dr. Omollo told delegates.

Launched under the leadership of President William Ruto, the NCCSRP has placed Kenya's 4,000 Chiefs and National Government Administrative Officers at the heart of climate response.



*Internal Security and National Administration PS Raymond Omollo on the sidelines of ACS2 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*

Through the programme's flagship initiative, Chiefs Climate Action Day, administrators mobilize their communities on the first Friday of every month to plant trees, restore landscapes, and promote environmental stewardship.

Since its inception less than a year ago, the programme has recorded remarkable progress: over 114 million trees have been planted thereby, contributing to Kenya's National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign, which targets 15 billion trees by 2032.

In this program, more than 2 million citizens have been mobilised nationwide for the tree planting exercises with 6.4 million seedlings distributed, achieving a 60% survival rate as the community is charged with taking care of the planted trees, including those within their respective homesteads.

The Principal Secretary indicated that these achievements had been made possible without external funding, underscoring the power of community-driven climate action.

"This is living proof that communi-

ty-driven action works, with the right investment, it can be scaled not only across Kenya but throughout the IGAD region and the African continent," he remarked.

In addition to tree planting, the NCCSRP facilitates the resolution of climate-induced conflicts among the communities. Chiefs and administrators are required to arbitrate conflicts, and will use community-wisdom and intelligence to support early warning systems.

Dr. Omollo outlined the programme's guiding philosophy, built on three pillars: Climate action must be locally owned yet nationally coordinated; Resilience is strongest when built from the bottom up, from villages, locations, and the entire communities; chiefs, with their convening power and trusted position, are invaluable 'force multipliers' for peace and sustainable development.

Speaking on regional partnerships and innovation, Dr. Omollo stated that the country's collaboration with IGAD and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Ap-

plications Centre (ICPAC) remained central to building capacity for local officers. This had been achieved through the introduction of a specialised Climate, Peace, and Security Curriculum and a Digital Decision Support Framework, a mobile platform that allows Chiefs to report and monitor climate actions in real time.

PS Omollo stressed that financing grassroots climate-security solutions had the potential of delivering 'triple dividends' of peace, resilience, and green growth. The Principal Secretary concluded with a call to scale up investment in community-led climate leadership, 'the battle against climate change will not be won in boardrooms or policy forums alone. It will be won in our villages, locations, farms, rangelands, and forests, where ordinary citizens, guided by visionary leadership, transform resilience into reality. Together, let us make climate security a governance imperative, the foundation of a peaceful, safe, and prosperous Africa.'

## Kenya champions Science and Innovation at A.R.I.S.E. High-Level Forum in Ghana

By D. Kottut and D. Maloba

Kenya has re-affirmed its commitment to advancing Science, Research, and Innovation as central pillars of Africa's social and economic transformation during the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (A.R.I.S.E.) High-Level Forum in Accra, Ghana.

The meeting, held under the theme "Unpacking the Pact for the Future: Imperatives for Advancing Scientific Cooperation with Africa," brought together Heads of State and Government, ministers, policymakers, researchers, the private sector, and global partners to deliberate on strengthening Africa's scientific ecosystem.

Cabinet Secretary for Education, Julius Migos Ogamba, delivered a keynote address on behalf of H.E President William Ruto, emphasizing the need

to treat research funding as a Pan-African priority. He underscored that science-driven solutions are indispensable in addressing Africa's pressing challenges, including public health, sustainable agriculture, digital inclusion, climate action, and peacebuilding.

President Ruto stressed the importance of empowering scientists, fostering regional networks, and creating home-grown solutions to accelerate sustainable development. He called for stronger continental collaboration in Research and Innovation, adding that Africa's future depends on bold investment in science and knowledge-sharing across borders.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Science, Research and In-

novation, and Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, Governor of Kisumu County.

The forum was officially opened by H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, and also addressed by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria, who both emphasized the role of political will and sustained funding in advancing Africa's scientific agenda.

At the High-Level closing ceremony, presided over by Ghana's Vice President, H.E. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, participants adopted the Accra Declaration – a Continental compact committing African nations and their global partners to invest boldly in Science and Research, collaborate across borders, and ensure evidence-based research informs social and economic policy.

On the sidelines of the Conference, CS Ogamba met with Kenyan Diaspora professionals in Ghana at a dinner hosted by Amb. Col. (Rtd) Shem Amadi, Kenya's High Commissioner to Ghana. The gathering provided an opportunity to reflect on Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), focusing on affordable

housing, universal healthcare, and education reforms. Kenyan professionals shared their experiences in Ghana's private sector, and at regional institutions such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, where they continue to make signifi-

cant contributions.

Among those present were Emily Mburu-Ndoria, Director of Trade in Services, Investment, IPR and Digital Trade at the AfCFTA Secretariat, and Ms. Emma Wenani, leader of the Kenyan Community Association in Ghana.

CS Ogamba reaffirmed the Kenya Kwanza Administration's commitment to supporting Kenyans in the diaspora, recognizing their critical role in boosting the economy through remittances and in projecting a positive image of Kenya through professional excellence.



Second from right- PS State Department for Science, Research and Innovation in Kenya, Professor Shaukat Abdulrazak, CS for Education -Kenya, Julius Migos Ogamba, (In black suit), President of Ghana H.E. John Dramani Mahama, former President of Nigeria H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo (in white) during the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE) High-Level Forum in Accra

## Showcasing Colours of Africa in Bangkok, Thailand

By Kenya Embassy, Bangkok

The Kenya Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand joined other African Embassies in showcasing the 'Colours of Africa' held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at the Central World mall, Bangkok. The event, held annually under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in conjunction with African Embassies accredited to Thailand seeks to showcase the diverse cultures and traditions of Africa to the Thai public and other visitors and deepen socio-cultural relations between African countries and Thailand.

The 2025 edition made possible through the support of Kenya Airways, Ethiopian Airlines, and PTT Exploration and Production Company, high-

lighted Africa's rich traditions through music, dance, speeches, art, cuisine, and fashion. Since its inception in 2017, the event has become a vibrant platform for African nations to share their heritage with the Thai public, promote cross-cultural understanding, and strengthen people-to-people ties. This year's theme emphasized expanding knowledge of Africa among the Thai youth while fostering sustainable cooperation between Thailand and African countries.

The opening ceremony was marked by a lively blend of cultural showcases, including live African music and dance performances, fashion shows featuring traditional attire, cooking demonstrations, and a spirited performance of

Shakira's "Waka" by a Thai youth choir. The immersive experience celebrated Africa's vibrant diversity while building bridges between cultures.

The Kenya Embassy stand, manned by the commercial team led by the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Mrs. Nancy Mwangi attracted large crowds who were interested in sampling Kenya's renowned products such as coffee and tea, macadamia. The Kenya Airways was at hand too, to popularise itself and the various Safari tourism products. Guests enjoyed freshly brewed Kenyan coffee and tea while from the while exploring tourist attractions such as the big five and the sandy and blue beaches of the Kenyan Coast.

# Kenya Embassy Fetes the Needy at New Year Charity Drive

By Kenya Embassy, Addis Ababa

On Friday, September 12, 2025, the Head of Mission, Amb. George M. Orina MBS, joined hands with the Minister of Women and Social Affairs, H.E. Ergogie TESFAYE (PhD) in a charity drive aimed at directly benefitting over 100 vulnerable families in and around Addis Ababa. This initiative was developed by Amb. George M. Orina, who rallied the Kenyan Diaspora in Addis Ababa to the charity drive. The significance of the charity event is that it was held being held after the Enkutatash Holidays, which mark Ethiopian New Year celebrations.

In thanking the Head of Mission on behalf of all the Kenyans in Ethiopia, the Minister of Women and Social Affairs paid tribute to the spirit of kindness and compassion that had been demonstrated by Amb. George M. Orina and his team at the Embassy, noting that such acts served to engender communal harmony, goodwill and companionship between the two countries.

On his part, Amb. George M. Orina pointed to the close bonds of friendship between His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto and His Excellency Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali as the aspira-



Amb. George M. Orina MBS, pictured with the Minister of Women and Social Affairs, H.E. Ergogie Tesfaye during the charity drive

tions and guiding principles behind the cordiality of relations between Kenya and Ethiopia. The Head of Mission further pointed out that the charity drive was in keeping with the profound interconnectedness between our respective peoples.

Amb. Orina also took the opportunity

to thank Kenyans in Addis Ababa by highlighting that their generosity was not out of abundance, but rather informed by the Kenyan spirit of good neighbourliness and of being each other's keeper. This initiative, the Ambassador noted, would serve as a launching pad for similar activities aimed at helping the less fortunate in our societies.

## Promoting Economic Diplomacy: Building Trade Bridges, Not Barriers

By H. Onguka

Economic diplomacy has long been a cornerstone of Kenya's foreign policy, and in the case of Somalia, this pillar has gained renewed importance in recent years. As Somalia slowly transitions from decades of conflict toward reconstruction and integration, the economic dimension of its engagement with Kenya has emerged as both a challenge and an opportunity. On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025, H.E. Kubai Iringo, Kenya's ambassador to Somalia, held a bilateral meeting with Hon. Mohamed Nur Abu-

bakar Shariff, Somalia's State Minister for Commerce and Industry, to deliberate on ways of strengthening economic ties. Central to this discussion was the finalization of a Kenya-Somalia Trade Cooperation Framework aimed at addressing historical trade imbalances and dismantling bureaucratic obstacles that have hindered bilateral commerce.

This initiative reflects a broader recognition that political stability cannot be sustained without economic interde-

pendence and shared prosperity. For years, cross-border trade between Kenya and Somalia has been vibrant yet largely informal, with goods ranging from livestock and agricultural produce to textiles and household items flowing across porous borders. While this informality has provided livelihoods for thousands, it has also deprived both governments of revenue and complicated efforts to enforce quality and safety standards. The envisaged trade framework therefore seeks to bring order, predictability, and mutual benefit to a relationship that has been largely shaped by market forces operating outside formal structures.

The bilateral dialogue emphasized sectors where complementarities are most evident. Kenya, with its established Agro-processing, retail, logistics, and



*Amb. Hon. Kubai Iringo, the Ambassador of Kenya to Somalia, with Hon. Mohamed Nur Abubakar Shariff, the Minister of State of Commerce and Industry of the Federal Republic of Somalia*

light manufacturing industries, is well placed to meet Somalia's demand for consumer goods and technical expertise. Somalia, on the other hand, offers Kenya untapped opportunities in livestock, fisheries, and maritime trade. Both sides expressed interest in facilitating private sector collaboration, with Somalia pledging openness to Kenyan investments and Kenya committing to support Somali businesses through trade missions, exhibitions, and training programs. This reciprocal approach highlights the potential for a mutually reinforcing economic partnership.

The strategic importance of trade cooperation is underscored by Somalia's geographic position. With access to key maritime routes and ports such as Mogadishu, Kismayo, and Bossaso, Somalia can serve as a gateway for regional commerce linking the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula and beyond. For Kenya, aligning these maritime routes with its own port infrastructure in Mombasa and the emerging Lamu Port under the LAPSET Corridor Project could create a powerful logistical network that boosts regional integration and competitiveness. Such connectivity would not only facilitate bilateral trade but also enhance the Horn of Africa's role in global value chains.

At a policy level, the Kenya–Somalia Trade Cooperation Framework is expected to address long-standing obstacles to commerce. Licensing proce-

dures, customs harmonization, dispute resolution, and mutual recognition of standards are among the priority areas. The removal of non-tariff barriers and the streamlining of cross-border processes will create a more conducive environment for business. Importantly, these measures also align with Somalia's recent accession to the East African Community (EAC), which requires harmonization with regional trade protocols. By helping Somalia adapt to EAC practices, Kenya can both strengthen bilateral ties and advance the broader project of regional integration.

Economic diplomacy is also about building trust. Historical suspicions, security concerns, and policy inconsistencies have at times strained Kenya–Somalia trade relations. For example, intermittent restrictions on miraa (khat) exports and other goods have disrupted commerce and undermined confidence. The Trade Cooperation Framework offers an opportunity to depoliticize trade by embedding it within institutionalized processes. By ensuring that disagreements are managed through dialogue and structured mechanisms, both countries can reduce volatility and build a climate of predictability for businesses and consumers alike.

The private sector will be at the heart of this transformation. Kenyan entrepreneurs have already begun exploring opportunities in Somalia, from banking

and insurance to ICT and retail. Somali businesses, many of which are part of a global diaspora network, bring resilience, innovation, and transnational linkages that can enrich bilateral cooperation. Facilitating these interactions requires diplomatic support in the form of trade fairs, business councils, and investment forums. The Embassy's active role in convening and supporting such initiatives will be key to translating political commitments into commercial realities.

Beyond economics, trade cooperation carries broader diplomatic significance. It creates constituencies for peace on both sides of the border by embedding material interests in stability. Farmers, traders, transporters, and consumers who benefit from cross-border commerce are more likely to support policies that sustain cooperation and resist those that fuel conflict. In this sense, economic diplomacy functions as a stabilizing force, complementing security and political efforts.

The challenges, however, should not be underestimated. Security risks, infrastructural gaps, and regulatory inconsistencies remain formidable obstacles. Somalia's private sector, though dynamic, still faces barriers such as limited access to credit, weak institutional frameworks, and the lingering effects of insecurity. For Kenya, balancing the protection of domestic industries with the promotion of regional trade will require careful calibration. Both Governments will need to commit not only to frameworks on paper but also to practical measures that ensure real benefits are felt at the grassroots level.

Kenya's economic diplomacy towards Somalia represents an intentional shift from viewing the neighbour solely through a security lens to recognizing its role as a partner in growth and integration. By building trade bridges rather than barriers, Kenya and Somalia can create a foundation for durable peace and shared prosperity. The Embassy's efforts to finalize a Trade Cooperation Framework mark an important step in this direction — one that promises to transform historical challenges into opportunities for economic and diplomatic renewal.

# Kenya's Young Scholars Shine at the World Scholars Cup

By Kenya Embassy, Bangkok

Over 300 young Kenyan scholars participated in the prestigious World Scholars Cup Global Round, held in Bangkok, Thailand from September 5–6, 2025. The global academic event brought together more than 1,000 students aged 10 to 18 from around the world to compete in debating, collaborative writing, problem-solving, and team challenges. And once again, like in the previous year, the young scholars from Kenya shone their academic prowess in all the competing categories and ultimately qualified for the “Tournament of Champions” to be held in the United States later in the year. Their excellent performance among the over 1000 young scholars from around the

world highlighted not only their academic brilliance but also Kenya's growing reputation in nurturing globally competitive young minds.

Later after the competitions, the young minds paid a courtesy call at the Embassy where they were hosted by the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., of the Embassy, Mrs. Nancy Mwangi. While welcoming them, the CDA a.i. commended the students for their outstanding achievement and lifting the name of Kenya high and praised them for embodying the values of debate, collaboration, and problem-solving. She informed them that their participation provided not only a platform for academic excellence

but also an invaluable opportunity for inter-cultural exchange and global networking and congratulated them for qualifying to the global round in the US later in the year.

The CDA a.i. pointed out that their success was due to the high levels of discipline they had shown through out the competitions and encouraged them to maintain discipline and teamwork in their future endeavours. While quoting that “iron sharpens iron,” the CDA a.i. encouraged the students to embrace the experiences learnt from the competition and their peers, and carry the lessons forward in shaping Kenya's future leadership.

In her concluding remarks, the CDA a.i. urged the students to remain focused and determined, reminding them that their success abroad would serve as an inspiration for their peers back home and a beacon of motivation for generations to come.

# Kenya-Ghana Legislators Champion Parliamentary Diplomacy for Africa's Integration

By D. Maloba and A. Kigathi

Hon. Irene Mayaka, Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Integration in Kenya's National Assembly, paid a courtesy call on Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, in Accra, Ghana.

The meeting highlighted the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in advancing Africa's unity, economic growth, and continental transformation.

Hon. Ablakwa warmly welcomed the Kenyan delegation, recalling the long-standing ties between Kenya and Ghana dating back to the pre-independence struggles of both nations. “Our historical foundations continue to inform and inspire present-day collaboration in diplomacy, education, and trade,” he said, noting that this enduring bond offers a solid platform for achieving the African Union's integration agenda.



Hon. Irene Mayaka, (Fourth from left) with the Kenyan delegation during a courtesy call on Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, (Fifth from left) in Accra, Ghana.

On her part, Hon. Mayaka emphasized the importance of legislatures in Africa's integration journey. “We cannot advance the continental agenda without the active involvement of legislative bodies that reflect the will and aspirations of African citizens,” she stated, underscoring the growing influence of parliamentary diplomacy in shaping

Africa's future.

Discussions also touched on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), where Ghana lauded Kenya's leadership. Hon. Ablakwa commended Kenya's role in operationalizing the AfCFTA and cited the export of Kenyan tea to Ghana under the Guided Trade

Initiative as a practical example of integration in action. “Kenya has been a strong voice for the East African Community within the AfCFTA framework, and we applaud this proactive engagement,” he said.

In addition, Hon. Mayaka requested Ghana’s support for the establishment of a Kenya Airways secondary hub in Accra, which she noted would significantly boost air connectivity between East and West Africa. In response, Hon. Ablakwa explained that the proposal was under technical review by a multi-sectoral committee set up by President John Dramani Mahama to advise on the revival of Ghana Airways. “We have received similar interest from other partners, including the UAE, and the matter is receiving careful evaluation,” he said, promising to follow up with Ghana’s Transport Ministry once the committee issues its report.

The meeting concluded on a note of mutual goodwill, with both leaders acknowledging the centrality of parliamentary cooperation in deepening



*Hon. Irene Mayaka, Chairperson on the Committee on Regional Integration of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya, with Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Member of Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana.*

bilateral ties and advancing Africa’s integration under Agenda 2063. “This engagement serves as a model of intra-African solidarity and the power of legislators to drive continental transformation,” Hon. Ablakwa remarked.

Hon. Mayaka, for her part, thanked the Minister for the warm reception, pledging Kenya’s commitment to sustaining Kenya-Ghana ties as part of Africa’s broader integration journey.

## Kenya Affirms Youth Empowerment at UN Youth Conference

*By Kenya Embassy, Bangkok*

The youth of Kenya is an important cog in the national development agenda of Kenya. In a speech read by the Deputy Head of Mission of the Kenya Embassy Bangkok, Mrs. Nancy Mwangi at the Fifth International Youth Forum held on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2025 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, on behalf of the Head of Mission, the Kenya government re-affirmed its commitment to continue empowering the young people to contribute meaningfully to development of Kenya.

The Deputy Head of Mission highlighted the various youth empowerment programmes that the Kenya government had put in place including the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA), the Ajira Digital, which equips the youth with digital skills and opportunities to thrive in the global gig economy and the Kenya

Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP) as well as the Youth Enterprise Fund among other youth-led projects. The programmes had fostered innovation and entrepreneurial, project management and ICT skills. The Youth Enterprise Fund provides access to government tender financing.

The Deputy Head of Mission further highlighted the success of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the government had implemented including SDG 3 on good health and well-being through the introduction of the Universal Health Coverage; SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls by eliminating discrimination and violence; SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy; SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities; SDG 13 on climate action; SDG 14 on life under water; SDG 15 on life on land through the protection,

restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and combating desertification, among other SDGs.

In her concluding remarks, the Deputy Head of Mission urging the global community to join Kenya in building a future where no young person is left behind. She stressed the importance of creating environments where every young mind has the chance to imagine, innovate, and implement solutions that advance a fairer, greener, and more inclusive world.

The International Youth Forum brought together policymakers, youth leaders, and international partners to exchange ideas on how to strengthen youth participation in shaping sustainable societies. Kenya’s strong representation underscored its leadership role in advancing youth empowerment on the global stage.



## Honouring delegates during the Pakistan Rice Road Show-2026

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Ambassador of Pakistan hosted a strategic dinner at Novotel Hotel in Abidjan, welcoming the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Côte d'Ivoire as well as fellow ambassadors representing their countries in Cote d'Ivoire. The gathering served as a platform for open dialogue on strengthening economic cooperation and exploring opportunities to enhance trade and investment

among participating nations.

Discussions focused on streamlining customs procedures to facilitate trade, promoting investment through joint ventures, and advancing economic cooperation in sectors such as technology and infrastructure. His Excellency Ambassador Christopher A. Langat represented Kenya and particular attention was given to Kenya's leadership in agricultural innovation especially in

rice production through its work with AfricaRice and Côte d'Ivoire's strategic geographic position as a regional trade hub.

The meeting highlighted several areas for collaboration, including agricultural development to improve food security, infrastructure investment to support regional connectivity, and the negotiation of favourable trade agreements. Participants reaffirmed a shared commitment to fostering stronger diplomatic ties and working collectively to unlock economic potential through South-South and multilateral partnerships.

## AUDA-NEPAD Africa Roundtable Discussion

On the sidelines of the 7<sup>th</sup> MYCM, AUDA-NEPAD held a pivotal Africa Roundtable Discussion to transform the political endorsements of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 into actionable strategies. Key deliverables included: the endorsement of a High-Level Declaration designating the Africa Team as the sole investment interface for the

African Union, compelling Member States and entities to align their initiatives; the approval of the Africa Team Roadmap-Phase II, outlining concrete milestones for responsive project prioritization and accountability measures; and a push for partner commitments from various financial institutions aimed at fostering investment through co-financing and blended-finance in-

struments.

The agenda also prioritizes project alignment with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) objectives to enhance trade routes and regional value chains. AUDA-NEPAD will provide quarterly updates on funding, impact metrics, and gender-responsive results. Furthermore, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) will oversee the Africa Team's financing methods during its upcoming session, ensuring fair distribution as pledged by its President. Plans to introduce private-sector facili-



*African Union Commission Chairperson H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf and CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas flanked by delegates at the Africa Team Round Table at the sidelines of the 7<sup>th</sup> MYCM in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.*

tation tools ahead of the February 2026 AU Summit were also highlighted. The overarching message emphasizes the need for unified and collaborative ef-

forts to achieve Africa’s developmental goals, with AUDA-NEPAD at the forefront of fostering joint programming and mobilizing resources for sustain-

able economic growth and improved livelihoods across the continent.

## Kenya Engages in Seoul Talks on AI and Climate Action

Kenya was amongst the participants at the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Climate Change which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The event which was organised by the Korea Ministry for Foreign Affairs brought together government officials from different countries, academia and intergovernmental organisations, including the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) to discuss how use of AI could support global climate action and energy transition initiatives. Kenya was represented by Amb. Jackline Kenani, Deputy Head of Mission in Korea.

Amb. Keeyong Chung, Korea’s Deputy Minister for Climate Change, in his opening remarks called for international cooperation in responsible use of AI due to amongst others high energy

consumption by electronic products during the use of AI which could have unintended consequence, thereby resulting in increased demand for energy.

The panel discussion during the event focused on two themes: “AI for Climate” and “AI for Energy” which explored how AI could assist in tracking carbon emissions, improve forecasting, support adaptation, and optimize renewable energy use. Experts at panel discussion concurred that AI presents an opportunity for both incremental, and transformative climate solutions, albeit with minor challenges including growing carbon footprint of AI infrastructure, lack of standardized data, and a global shortage of skilled personnel.

Participants at the conference urged cooperation among governments, busi-

nesses, and academia to build data systems, develop skills, and ensure ethical use of AI technologies. Civil society and international organizations were also called upon to evaluate how AI could support global climate goals, with recommendations for development of AI literacy programs, data sharing policies, and inclusion of AI in school and university curriculum.

State parties to UN Climate Change framework were urged to monitor emissions from AI infrastructure and establish AI-focused offices within their respective ministries for climate and energy. The conference participants affirmed the importance of transparency, global coordination, and policy readiness on handling of AI, since AI is pre-destined to serve as an essential tool in the fight against climate change.

# Kenya Seeks Collaboration with Ireland on Cooperatives Development

Although Kenya is already a regional leader in the global south in cooperative management and development, the Government in its quest to modernize Kenya's cooperative sector through adaptive policy frameworks, digital transformation, and capacity-building initiatives undertook a benchmarking visit to Dublin, Ireland from 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> August, 2025.

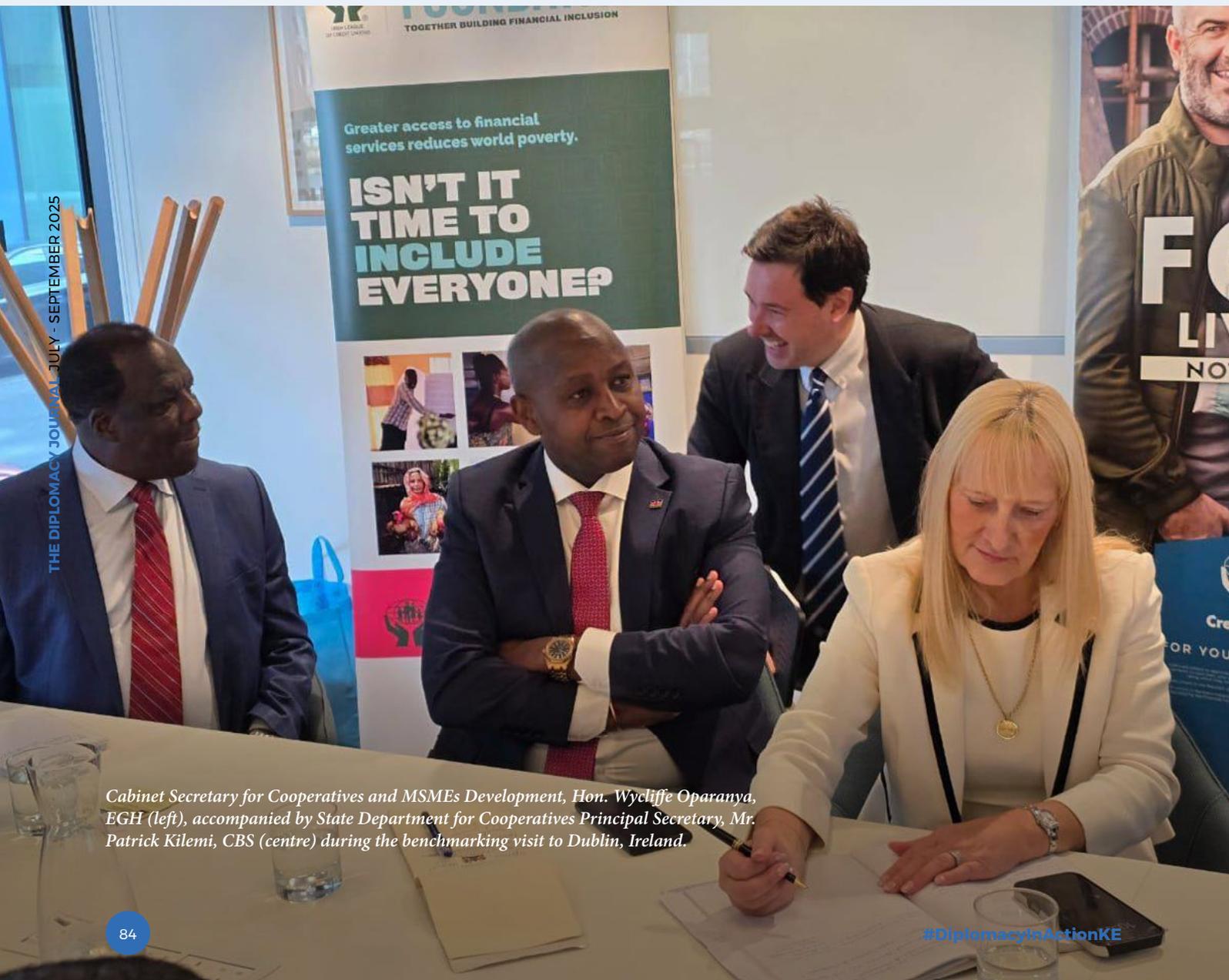
The Government of Kenya delegation which was led by Hon. FCPA Wickliffe Oparanya, Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives, and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development of Kenya were on a mission to advance the transformation of Kenya's Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The visit was part

of the Government of Kenya's broader commitment to positioning cooperatives and SMEs as pivotal engines of sustainable economic growth for realisation of the Bottom -Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and Vision 2030.

During the visit, the Cabinet Secretary and delegation had insightful engagement with various stakeholders from the cooperatives sector in Ireland. At Donore Credit Union, one of Ireland's most established cooperative financial institutions, the delegation explored innovative strategies which have contributed to the Union's success in member engagement, financial inclusion, and sustainable growth.

The Cabinet Secretary and members of the delegation also paid a courtesy call on the Kenya Embassy in Dublin where they got affirmation of the Mission's commitment and were received by Embassy staff. The Embassy reaffirmed its dedication to advancing and supporting consultations on prospective institutional collaborations, exchange visits, and joint research initiatives, with the goal of enhancing not only cooperative and SME ecosystems but also fostering growth across other key sectors in Kenya and Ireland.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Mr. Patrick Kilemi, Principal Secretary for Cooperatives Development and officials from the State Department.



Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSMEs Development, Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya, EGH (left), accompanied by State Department for Cooperatives Principal Secretary, Mr. Patrick Kilemi, CBS (centre) during the benchmarking visit to Dublin, Ireland.



*Ambassador Hon. Kubai Iringo, the Ambassador of Kenya to Somalia, and Mr. Hamza Haadow, the Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia*

## Revitalizing Bilateral Cooperation: Kenya–Somalia Joint Commission in Focus

*By H. Onguka*

Bilateral relations between Kenya and Somalia have historically oscillated between moments of cooperation and periods of tension, shaped by shared geography, cultural linkages, economic interdependence, and complex political realities. In recent years, both countries have demonstrated a growing resolve to recalibrate their ties through structured platforms of engagement. Central to this process is the Kenya–Somalia Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC), which serves as the principal bilateral framework for advancing shared interests and resolving outstanding differences.

Earlier in the year, H.E. Kubai Iringo, Kenya’s Ambassador to Somalia, held a follow-up meeting with Mr. Hamza Haadow, the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia. This engagement built on the momentum generated by the 3rd Session of the Kenya–Somalia JCC, which was convened in Nairobi

in May 2024. That session was particularly significant, producing agreements across a wide spectrum of bilateral cooperation including trade, security, health, education, infrastructure, and immigration. The February 2025 review meeting was therefore an opportunity to evaluate progress, identify gaps, and lay the groundwork for a Mid-Term Review ahead of the 4th JCC Session.

The JCC is more than a diplomatic formality. It represents a deliberate effort by both governments to institutionalize dialogue and cooperation, thereby insulating bilateral relations from the volatility of shifting politics or external shocks. For Kenya, the JCC provides a structured platform through which it can advance its strategic interests in trade, security, and people-to-people connectivity. For Somalia, the JCC offers recognition of its sovereignty, as well as practical support in consolidating its state-building agenda. The process embodies the principle that neigh-

bours with shared challenges must also embrace shared solutions.

One of the major achievements of the JCC is its ability to broaden the scope of Kenya–Somalia relations beyond security concerns. While counter-terrorism cooperation remains central, the JCC has expanded the agenda to include socio-economic priorities. For instance, agreements on education collaboration open pathways for Somali students to access Kenyan institutions, while joint initiatives in healthcare aim to address cross-border public health challenges. Infrastructure discussions, including transport connectivity and energy linkages, further highlight the transformative potential of bilateral cooperation. By diversifying the agenda, the JCC ensures that the relationship is not reduced to reactive crisis management but anchored in forward-looking development cooperation.

Despite this progress, the February 2025 review meeting acknowledged that challenges remain. Implementation of agreements has been uneven, often hindered by limited institutional capacity, resource constraints, and at times, differing political priorities in Nairobi and Mogadishu. There is also the ever-present challenge of managing public perceptions, as historical griev-

ances and suspicions occasionally cloud diplomatic gains. Both parties therefore agreed that stronger coordination mechanisms, political will, and regular technical-level engagements will be critical to translating agreements into tangible outcomes. The planned Mid-Term Review is expected to provide an important platform for recalibrating timelines, reaffirming commitments, and addressing bottlenecks.

The strategic value of the JCC also lies in its ability to manage sensitive issues diplomatically. Kenya and Somalia have, in the past, encountered disagreements ranging from maritime boundary disputes, to cross-border security operations. Left unchecked, such disputes risk derailing broader cooperation. Through the JCC, however, both sides now have a forum for dialogue, confidence-building, and consensus-seeking. By providing a structured avenue for problem-solving, the JCC minimizes the likelihood of escalation and fosters a climate of predictability in bilateral relations.

The JCC further aligns with region-

al and continental integration efforts. Somalia's accession to the East African Community (EAC) in 2023 has created new opportunities for trade, investment, and mobility. The JCC can therefore, serve as a conduit for supporting Somalia's integration into EAC architecture, thereby strengthening regional cohesion. Additionally, the bilateral agreements crafted under the JCC often complement frameworks advanced through IGAD and the African Union, positioning the Kenya–Somalia cooperation as part of a wider regional stability and development agenda.

From a long-term perspective, the JCC has the potential to transform the Kenya–Somalia relations from transactional interactions into a partnership based on trust, mutual respect, and shared prosperity. It reflects a paradigm shift in which diplomacy is not reactive but proactive, not episodic but continuous. This aligns with Kenya's broader foreign policy vision of being a regional anchor state that champions dialogue and development. This also signals Somalia's readiness to engage constructively with its neighbours, even as it navigates in-

ternal consolidation.

Looking ahead, the success of the JCC will depend on sustained political commitment at the highest levels, as well as practical follow-through at the technical and ministerial levels. Embedding monitoring mechanisms, ensuring inclusivity of stakeholders, and mobilizing resources will be essential. The Embassy of Kenya in Mogadishu will maintain close coordination with Somali institutions and continue to play a central role in keeping the process alive and responsive.

In sum, the Kenya–Somalia Joint Commission for Cooperation is emerging as one of the most promising instruments for revitalizing bilateral relations. It is a reminder that structured dialogue, even amidst challenges, provides the best pathway for managing differences, harnessing complementarities, and building a relationship that is resilient and forward-looking. The JCC could be a model of bilateral engagement in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

## Kenya - Somalia: Recalibrating Diplomatic Engagements for Regional Peace, Labour Mobility, and Economic Growth

By *H. Onguka*

As the Horn of Africa stands at the intersection of post-conflict reconstruction, state consolidation, and economic resurgence, Kenya continues to assert its role as a principal actor in shaping regional outcomes. Through a multidimensional diplomatic strategy anchored in peace, economic cooperation, and people-to-people connectivity, the Kenya Embassy in Mogadishu, under the stewardship of H.E. Amb. Hon. Kubai Iringo, has in recent months intensified its engagements with Somali institutions and international partners.

These engagements are more than ceremonial; they speak to Kenya's long-term interest in a stable, prosperous, and sovereign Somalia. From addressing the welfare of Kenyan expatriates

to supporting regional stabilization frameworks and unlocking trade synergies, Kenya's mission in Mogadishu has demonstrated that diplomacy must be adaptive, purposeful, and responsive to the evolving realities on the ground.

### Strengthening Labour Diplomacy: Responding to a Growing Kenyan Diaspora in Somalia

Labour diplomacy has increasingly become a central pillar of Kenya's foreign policy, particularly as labour migration continues to shape bilateral and multilateral relations across the region. In the context of Somalia, this dimension of diplomacy has assumed heightened

importance owing to the remarkable growth in the number of Kenyans seeking employment in Somali cities and towns.

In Mogadishu, Kismayo, Hargeisa, and other urban centres, Kenyans are employed in construction, healthcare, education, hospitality, ICT, logistics, beauty, and retail industries. This trend is emblematic of a deepening interdependence between the two countries. For Somalia, Kenyan professionals provide essential technical expertise and help fill skills gaps that are critical to post-conflict reconstruction and service delivery. For Kenya, the migration of its citizens translates into remittances, expanded markets for its skilled workforce, and stronger people-to-people ties that complement traditional diplomatic engagements.

Yet, this growing movement of labour is not without its challenges. Many Kenyan workers enter Somalia through informal recruitment processes, exposing them to risks of exploitation, wage disputes, and lack of social protection. The absence of a formal bilateral labour framework means that issues such as

contracts, remuneration standards, health and safety measures, and dispute resolution mechanisms are often left ambiguous. For Kenya, this raises the dual responsibility of safeguarding its citizens abroad while also ensuring that its labour migration policies align with national development goals.

The Embassy's advocacy for a structured bilateral labour agreement therefore comes at a pivotal time. Such an agreement would establish clear frameworks for recruitment, standardize employment terms, and create mechanisms for addressing grievances. More importantly, it would institutionalize labour mobility as a legitimate and mutually beneficial aspect of Kenya–Somalia cooperation. By elevating labour diplomacy to the same level as trade or security, Nairobi and Mogadishu can ensure that their growing diaspora linkages are not left to chance but are actively harnessed to foster development.

The Somali context is particularly instructive. After decades of conflict and state collapse, the country is witnessing an emergent private-sector-led recovery. New hotels, airlines, medical centres, schools, and construction projects are reshaping the urban landscape. In this environment, demand for skilled and semi-skilled labour has outpaced domestic supply, creating openings that Kenyans have been quick to fill. The influx of Kenyan professionals, many of whom bring prior experience from Nairobi, Mombasa, or international assignments, is facilitating knowledge transfer, managerial capacity, and customer service standards. These contributions, though often understated, are laying the foundation for a more modern and integrated Somali economy.

Labour diplomacy also carries strategic implications for Kenya's broader regional posture. By proactively negotiating frameworks to protect its workers abroad, Kenya signals that it values the welfare of its citizens as much as its commercial and security interests. This enhances Nairobi's credibility as a responsible regional partner and sets a precedent for labour relations with other countries, not only in the Horn of Africa but also in the Middle East and Gulf region where large numbers of Kenyans are employed. In the Somali case, it additionally complements other



*Amb. Hon. Kubai Iringo, the Kenyan Ambassador-Designate to Somalia presented his Copies of Credentials to Hon. Ali Omar, the Ag. Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, on 11th February 2024.*

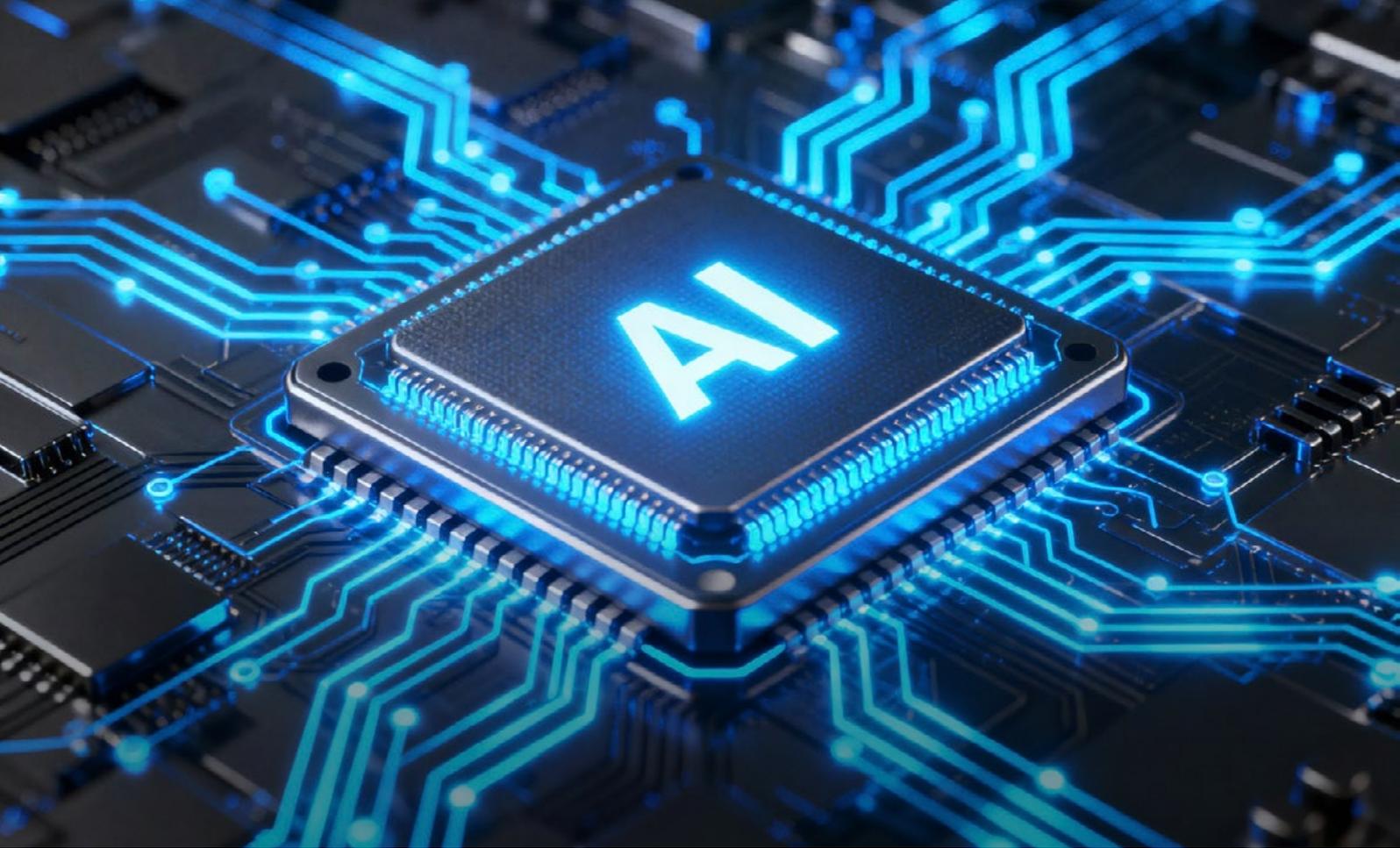
diplomatic tracks, for example, trade cooperation and security collaboration, by weaving human mobility into the fabric of bilateral ties.

The potential dividends are significant. A formal labour mobility agreement could open doors for structured recruitment of Kenyan teachers, nurses, engineers, ICT experts, and artisans, with guaranteed protections and remittances channelled through secure financial systems. It could also incentivize Somali firms to establish training partnerships with Kenyan institutions, further expanding the ecosystem of cooperation. At a policy level, such arrangements could feed into Kenya's national strategies on diaspora engagement, youth employment, and skills development, while simultaneously advancing Somalia's reconstruction and service delivery priorities.

Nonetheless, this agenda is not without obstacles. Political fragility, limited institutional capacity, and ongoing security challenges in Somalia create uncertainties for workers and employers alike. Furthermore, clan dynamics and shifting alliances can complicate

the implementation of uniform labour standards. For Kenya, balancing the promotion of its citizens' economic interests with the imperative of ensuring their safety will require constant vigilance and adaptive policy responses. The Embassy's role, therefore, extends beyond negotiation to include monitoring, advocacy, and crisis management whenever Kenyan workers encounter difficulties.

Looking forward, the Embassy's initiative to prioritize labour diplomacy represents a forward-thinking recalibration of Kenya–Somalia relations. It recognizes that beyond the high politics of peace missions and bilateral commissions, the everyday experiences of citizens, their employment, dignity, and security, are at the core of sustainable diplomacy. A robust labour framework will not only safeguard Kenyans in Somalia but also embed labour mobility as a cornerstone of regional integration. Ultimately, this approach illustrates how diplomacy can be human-centred, development-oriented, and directly impactful to the lives of ordinary people.



## Semiconductors in the Age of the AI Revolution: Opportunity for Kenya

By T. Kinyua Mppa.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new frontier for economic growth and development. It has proven to be an indispensable aspect for economic growth by transforming tasks that traditionally required human intelligence such as decision making, perception and problem solving. This is made possible through advancements in computer vision (object identification), Machine Learning (data learning for prediction & decision making) and Natural Language processing (understanding, interpreting and generating human language). The application of these aspects at a macro level in an economy such as in manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, data analysis and military applications, has a multiplier effect on economic power, military capability and ultimately political stature of a state, translating directly to a higher index on the polarity scale in geopolitics.

AI is powered by semiconductors,

which in layman terms can be described as the hardware on which AI (software) is based. Semiconductors are miniature node sized (3nm – 5nm) conductors of electrical current that are widely used in electronics such as phones, computers and smart devices to enable critical functions through diodes and transistors. Semiconductors can be made from Silicon, Germanium and Gallium arsenide. Silicon which is the most common raw material for semiconductors (owing to its abundance and high melting point) is initially purified to yield a highly crystalline form, that possess excellent mechanical properties, this is further processed into microchips bases by adding impurities through a meticulous process known as doping.

Science, Technology and Innovation has been identified as a key focus area in Kenya's revamped foreign policy. This has among others, the objective

of fostering sustainable technological growth, green technologies, supply chain diversification, strategic talent and location decisions. For supply chain diversification, it is prudent for the Kenyan policy makers to enhance the scope and shift the country from being a net importer of technological hardware to participating in the global supply chains for semi-conductor production as a preliminary step in manufacturing.

Despite the often-cited challenge associated with high initial start up costs for this industry, the presence of raw material deposits such as Germanium in Marimanti, vein quartz in Kitui and Taita Taveta counties, quartzite in Taita hills and granite pegmatite in Meru County, may provide impetus for investors. These aggregator level industries can be complemented by other raw materials, sourced from neighbouring countries that have them in abundance. This outlook of posturing Kenya as a gateway FROM east and central Africa, is essentially tweaking extractive capitalism to serve the developmental goals of the Republic of Kenya through strategic positioning in the global supply chains of the rapidly growing AI tech industry.



## Capacity building: Strengthening Kenya's Economic and Negotiation Diplomacy

By D. Mwera and R. Meki

Kenya continues to deepen its commitment to international cooperation and capacity building through strategic participation in the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), hosted by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in Kuala Lumpur. In 2025, officers from the State Department for Foreign Affairs (S DFA) participated in two key MTCP initiatives, the Economic Diplomacy Programme and the Negotiation Course for International Participants, both of which provided invaluable lessons for advancing Kenya's foreign policy and development agenda.

From 9th to 21st August 2025, representatives from Kenya joined participants from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Libya, Qatar, Namibia, Sri Lanka, and Turkmenistan for a two-week programme on Economic Diplomacy. The training, hosted by IDFR, explored how nations can effectively leverage diplomacy to drive economic transformation, an area directly aligned with Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Through lectures, workshops, and site visits, the course examined Malaysia's journey from a commodity-based to a knowledge-driven economy. Ex-

pert-led sessions on the National Automotive Policy and the semiconductor industry highlighted how targeted government support can foster innovation and industrial growth. These lessons mirror Kenya's ambitions under Vision 2030 to advance industrialization and attract high-value investment.

The programme also addressed the evolving landscape of multilateralism, emphasizing the need for rules-based global systems and regional integration. Malaysia's experience within the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) provided practical insights for the East African Community (EAC) on expanding markets, enhancing competitiveness, and fostering shared resilience.

Equally significant were sessions on Renewable Energy Diplomacy and Islamic Finance, which demonstrated how sustainability and economic growth can be pursued simultaneously. Malaysia's global leadership in Islamic finance, founded on equity, ethics, and social welfare, offered a model for inclusive economic development that Kenya can draw upon.

A key highlight of the training was a field visit to the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ), where

participants observed how complementary regions can drive mutual growth through seamless investment facilitation. The programme also fostered vibrant peer-to-peer learning, enabling participants to share experiences and build new bilateral and multilateral linkages.

The closing ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025, presided over by Ms. Maslina Ngah Mamud, Director at IDFR, marked the culmination of a successful programme. Kenya's delegation was honored by the presence of Mr. Julius Bargorett, Ambassador and Deputy Head of Mission at the Kenya High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

In a proud moment for Kenya, Ms. Rebecca Meki, Economist I, delivered the closing speech on behalf of the 2025 graduating class. She underscored how the lessons learned, from strategic investment to sustainable finance, would strengthen Kenya's approach to global economic engagement.

The MTCP momentum continued with a Negotiation Course for International Participants, held from 9th to 17th September 2025 at IDFR. The nine-day course brought together delegates from 15 countries, including Malaysia, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Cambodia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Libya, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Venezuela.

Kenya was represented by Ms. Dorothy K. Mwera, Ag. Director, Central Project Planning and Monitoring Department (CPPMD), nominated by the Foreign Service Academy.

The course provided a hands-on plat-

form to sharpen negotiation frameworks and techniques, enhance confidence in representing national interests, and build cross-cultural understanding. Through simulations, interactive sessions, and collaborative discussions, participants developed essential competencies for managing complex negotiations in international settings.

Kenya's participation in these MTCP programmes reflects its growing investment in professional diplomacy and international learning partnerships. The insights gained are expected to:

- Strengthen integration of economic diplomacy into Kenya's BETA and Vision 2030 frameworks;
- Enhance regional engagement within EAC, COMESA, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
- Expand partnerships in sustainable finance, renewable energy, and ethical investment; and
- Build a cadre of skilled negotiators



*Ms. Dorothy K. Mwera, Ag. Director, CPPMD, on the far right, with other participants from 15 countries, outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia*

and economic diplomats capable of advancing Kenya's global interests.

Kenya's engagement with Malaysia through the MTCP underscores the value of South-South collaboration in shaping responsive, innovative, and sustainable diplomacy. By drawing on

Malaysia's experience, Kenya reaffirms its commitment to fostering partnerships that drive inclusive growth, enhance global competitiveness, and position the country as a key player in shaping the future of international co-operation.

## Kenya Marks a Historic Commercial Milestone with Inaugural Wheat Flour Shipment to Somalia

*By Mr. Haggai Onguka, Minister I*

In March 2025, Kenya and Somalia achieved a landmark moment in their commercial relations when Mogadishu Port received the first Kenyan-owned shipping consignment carrying wheat flour. This historic shipment, facilitated under the stewardship of H.E. Amb. Hon. Kubai Iringo, Ambassador of Kenya to Somalia, was more than just a logistical achievement — it symbolized the gradual transformation of Kenya-Somalia relations from informal cross-border transactions to structured, large-scale trade partnerships. The event, officiated by Somalia's State Minister for Commerce and Industry, underscored the growing recognition that economic cooperation is the surest pathway to cementing political goodwill and regional integration.

The significance of this milestone lies in its timing and broader context. For decades, Kenya-Somalia trade was largely informal, driven by small-scale traders operating across porous borders or along maritime routes. While this informal trade supported livelihoods, it was vulnerable to disruptions caused by insecurity, policy restrictions, and lack of regulatory harmonization. The arrival of a formalized, Kenyan-owned shipping consignment in Mogadishu signalled a deliberate shift toward institutionalized trade relations. It demonstrated that private sector actors, with diplomatic backing, could pioneer initiatives that complement state-to-state agreements and generate tangible benefits for ordinary citizens.

The wheat flour shipment also speaks to the strategic priorities of both coun-

tries. For Somalia, a country still rebuilding its agricultural and industrial base after decades of conflict, imported staples such as wheat remain essential to food security. Reliable supply chains are therefore a lifeline for urban populations, particularly in Mogadishu, where demand for affordable and quality food products is high. For Kenya, the shipment represents an opportunity to position its agro-food processing industry as a key player in the Somali market.

During the event, Ambassador Iringo highlighted the crucial role of the private sector in advancing bilateral trade, emphasizing that Kenyan exporters had shown initiative and confidence by venturing into Somalia's market. He added that the efforts should be viewed as trailblazing steps toward deeper economic integration. The Somali State Minister for Commerce and Industry, as Chief Guest, echoed this sentiment, affirming that Somalia welcomed Kenyan investment and expertise as part of its broader economic recovery strategy. Both leaders recognized that trade is not merely about goods but about trust, stability, and long-term partnership



*The Hon. Kubai Iringo, Kenya's Ambassador to Somalia with Hon. Mohamed Nur Abubakar Shariff, the Minister of State of Commerce and Industry of the Federal Republic of Somalia alongside officials from the Kenyan owned shipping company.*

From a regional perspective, this development aligns with the broader goals of the East African Community (EAC), which Somalia formally joined in 2023. Intra-African trade remains among the lowest globally, with African countries often trading more with external partners than with their neighbours. Initiatives such as the Kenyan wheat shipment directly respond to this challenge by promoting regional trade and contributing towards achievement of the objectives EAC notably of lowering barriers, harmonizing standards, and fostering inclusive growth across member states. The shipment stands as a practical demonstration of regional integration in action.

The commercial milestone also holds symbolic importance for Kenya's foreign policy doctrine of "economic diplomacy." Over the past decade, Nairobi has increasingly emphasized trade, investment, and development as central pillars of its diplomatic engagements. The wheat consignment illustrates how Embassies can act as enablers of economic opportunity by facilitating linkages between businesses, Governments, and regulatory institutions. It highlights the Embassy's evolving role from being a platform for political dialogue alone to becoming a hub for trade facilitation and economic cooperation.

At the same time, the shipment provides important lessons about the challenges that remain. Logistics in the Horn of Africa are often complicated by security risks, inadequate infrastructure, and inconsistent customs practices. Kenyan exporters entering the Somali market must navigate these hurdles carefully. The role of diplomatic missions becomes crucial in providing support, advocacy, and problem-solving for businesses encountering regulatory or operational obstacles. Additionally, sustainability will require that such initiatives move beyond symbolic "firsts" to become regular, reliable trade flows supported by clear frameworks such as the Kenya-Somalia Trade Cooperation Agreement currently under discussion.

Looking forward, the wheat flour shipment sets the stage for diversification of exports and expansion of trade volumes. Kenya should diversify its export portfolio to Somalia in order to tap into the immense growth potential and strengthen its foothold in the country. The Kenyan sectors — including dairy, tea, horticulture, and manufactured goods could follow suit, establishing supply chains into Somali markets. Conversely, Somali exporters of livestock, fisheries, and other commodities could find easier access into Kenyan markets. Over time, this reciprocity

would strengthen economic interdependence, creating constituencies on both sides that are invested in sustaining peace and stability.

Most importantly, this development underscores the principle that diplomacy and trade are mutually reinforcing. Political agreements create an enabling environment for business, while business partnerships generate tangible benefits that reinforce political goodwill. The inaugural wheat shipment was thus not only an economic event but also a diplomatic success, showcasing how public and private actors can collaborate to transform relations between two historically interlinked neighbours.

In conclusion, Kenya's first wheat flour consignment to Somalia represents a milestone in bilateral trade relations, carrying significance far beyond the immediate transaction. It is a signal of confidence in Somalia's recovery, a demonstration of Kenya's economic diplomacy in practice, and a concrete step toward realizing the vision of a more interconnected Horn of Africa. By continuing to support such initiatives, Kenya and Somalia can ensure that their bilateral partnership is anchored not just in shared borders, but in shared prosperity.

## Stephen Munyakho Returns Home After Release from Saudi Death Row

On 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025, Mr. Stephen Munyakho returned back to Kenya after being released from jail in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He was received at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Munyakho was jailed and sentenced to death for murder in Saudi Arabia. His freedom was secured through continued high-level diplomatic interventions and payment of diyya (blood money) valued at approximately KSh.129 million to the aggrieved family. The money was raised through the collective efforts of the Muslim World League as well as the generous contributions and prayers of millions of Kenyans. In his remarks, Dr. Sing'Oei commended the solidarity of Kenyans and partners who rallied behind the cause and thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its cooperation. Mr. Munyakho expressed grat-



itude for the support and described his return as a second chance at life”.

## Brewing Excellence: Inaugural African Orthodox Tea Festival

On 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, the Tea Board of Kenya in collaboration with the East African Tea Trade Association held the inaugural African Orthodox Tea Festival at Sapphire Hotel. The festival was launched with the aim of fulfilling the growing demand for orthodox teas, which appeal to premium market segments considering they are handcrafted and have a variety of flavours.

Because of their quality and health advantages, orthodox teas provide growers with larger returns compared to black CTC (Cut-Tear-Curl) tea, whose prices have stagnated. In 2024, Kenya produced more than 12 million kilograms of orthodox tea, a demonstration that Kenya has a huge potential to

take the lead in supplying this specialized market. Unlike the Cut-Tear-Curl (black teas) faced by price stagnation, orthodox varieties command premium prices, offering growers a pathway to enhanced livelihoods through quality and differentiation.

The festival also featured immersive workshops on artisanal processing, vibrant exhibitions of Africa's tea heritage, and intimate tasting sessions that spotlighted rarities like purple and white teas coveted for their antioxidant riches and wellness appeal. The meeting attracted tea producers and packers sharing production secrets; buyers and exporters scouting for trends; financial institutions scouting scalable opportu-

nities; and investors eyeing the sector's green potential.

The expert-led discussions examined the evolution of the industry, advocating for rigorous training and certification to ensure unwavering quality and consistency. Participants explored the power of digital platforms and e-commerce to catapult East African teas onto the global shelves, while championing sustainable practices from climate-resilient farming to ethical sourcing that resonate with eco-aware consumers.

# A Glimpse of the Economic and Commercial Diplomacy White Paper

By D. Muhambe

The State Department for Foreign Affairs is finalising the Economic and Commercial Diplomacy White Paper, an important document that outlines a comprehensive framework to coordinate the implementation of the Focus Area on Economic Diplomacy of the Kenya Foreign Policy 2024. It serves as a critical tool to guide the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in positioning Kenya to be globally competitive by leveraging diplomatic channels to expand trade, attract investments, promote tourism, facilitate technology transfer, foster the creative economy, and secure strategic economic partnerships.

The White Paper was developed out of the need for a more focused approach to Economic Diplomacy, as well as the alignment of Kenya's foreign policy with Kenya's economic transformation agenda. This is in appreciation of the evolving global landscape, which is be-

coming more complex and competitive, calling for agility, coherence and purpose. To help achieve Kenya's economic aspirations, the White Paper provides for refocusing Kenya missions abroad to proactive economic hubs, building their capacity to garner commercial intelligence, acquire sectoral expertise and the requisite tools to navigate global markets.

The Paper consists of a compendium of information on the genesis and evolution of Kenya's Economic Diplomacy; tools that are deployed in economic and commercial diplomacy; and the various economic cooperation frameworks that Kenya engages in to actualize its economic aspirations. In addition, the White Paper delves into the important and contemporary subject of debt sustainability and global financial governance. The paper further lists concrete strategies for realization of economic and commercial diplomacy objectives,

as well as the key stakeholders in the implementation of the identified strategies.

The White Paper also seeks to provide a coordinated, whole-of-government, and multi-stakeholder approach to economic engagement abroad, ensuring that Kenya positions itself as a regional and global leader. It identifies challenges, opportunities and risks in the pursuit of economic and commercial diplomacy, proposes appropriate remedies, and outlines a monitoring and review framework to guarantee measurable outcomes.

By harnessing diplomatic tools, strengthening partnerships, and addressing structural challenges, Kenya will be well positioned to increase its exports, attract more FDI, enhance competitiveness, and influence the global economic agenda.

The White Paper sets the stage for a coherent, coordinated and forward-looking approach to Kenya's global economic engagement, emphasizing on the priorities and partnerships that will drive Kenya's diplomatic efforts to secure long-term benefits for its people and position the country as a regional and global economic leader.





## Reflections

# Kenya's Winged Export: How an East African Nation Became a Global Pilot Powerhouse

By I. Cox (first published on X account)

In the high-stakes world of international aviation, where shortages of skilled pilots have airlines scrambling like passengers during turbulence, one African country stands out for its disproportionate contribution to the cockpit. Kenya, with a population of just over 50m, produces and exports commercial pilots at a rate that rivals far larger economies on the continent. While South Africa's aviation sector benefits from its industrial heft, Ethiopia from its flag carrier's expansive network, and Nigeria from sheer demographic scale, Kenyan aviators have quietly spread their wings across the globe, from the gleaming hubs of the Gulf to humanitarian missions in conflict zones. This phenomenon, akin to Kenya's dominance in marathon running or tea exports, begs the question: why does this mid-sized East African nation punch so above its weight in the skies?

The roots of Kenya's aviation prowess trace back to the colonial era, when the British Empire's aerial ambitions laid the groundwork for a lasting legacy. East African Airways (EAA), estab-

lished in 1946 as a joint venture between the territories that would become Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, was one of the continent's earliest and most ambitious carriers. Operating from Nairobi's Embakasi Airport (now Jomo Kenyatta International), EAA quickly became the second-largest British colonial airline in Africa after South African Airways, boasting routes that stretched from London to Johannesburg and beyond. It even claimed the distinction of being the first non-British airline to fly a reigning monarch, ferrying Queen Elizabeth II in 1952.

When Kenya gained independence in 1963, EAA's infrastructure, airports, training facilities, and a cadre of experienced personnel, provided a head start for local pilots. Unlike in apartheid-era South Africa, where black aviators faced systemic barriers until the 1990s (with South African Airways reporting only 15% black pilots as late as 2012), Kenyan pilots, many of them black, entered the global market decades earlier. The airline's dissolution in 1977 led to the birth of Kenya Airways, which inherited EAA's routes and ethos, further

cementing Nairobi as an aviation nexus.

Today, that legacy manifests in a robust training ecosystem centred on Wilson Airport, Nairobi's bustling hub for general aviation and tourism flights. Often dubbed Africa's busiest airport for non-commercial operations, Wilson hosts over a dozen flight schools, including the Kenya School of Flying and Flitestar Academy, which churn out hundreds of pilots annually with licences recognised internationally. These institutions offer everything from private pilot licences to commercial endorsements, often at costs far below those in Europe or America, around \$50,000-80,000 for full training, compared with up to \$150,000 elsewhere. The airport's focus on single-engine bush planes and tourism charters provides aspiring pilots with hands-on experience in challenging terrains, from the savannas of the Maasai Mara to coastal routes. This "bottom-up" pathway, from light aircraft to jetliners, mirrors Kenya's entrepreneurial spirit, allowing pilots to log hours affordably before graduating to major carriers. Indeed, many alumni of Wilson-based schools have ascended to captain roles at global giants like Emirates and British Airways.

Geography and geopolitics have also played a pivotal role, turning necessity into opportunity. Kenya's proximity to conflict-riven neighbours like Somalia and Sudan has made it a linchpin

for humanitarian air operations. Kenyan pilots frequently fly for the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), delivering aid to remote areas amid civil wars and famines. In Sudan, where ongoing strife has displaced millions, Kenyan aviators have been involved in cargo drops and evacuations, sometimes at great personal risk, one pilot was killed in a 2025 airstrike while ferrying supplies. Similarly, in Somalia, pilots navigate volatile airspace to support anti-famine efforts, as seen in a tragic 2025 crash involving a Kenyan aviator enroute from humanitarian drops in South Sudan. These missions not only build invaluable flight hours but also foster a reputation for resilience, making Kenyan pilots attractive to international employers. UNHAS's 2024 report highlighted major operations in these regions, with Africa accounting for the bulk of its flights.

This export of talent echoes broader patterns in Kenya's labour diaspora. Just as graduates of Utalii College have fanned out to manage hotels and

front desks across the Middle East's hospitality sector, where Kenyans are prized for their English proficiency and service ethos, pilots are following suit in aviation. An estimated 30,000 Kenyans work in the United Arab Emirates alone, many in skilled roles bolstered by bilateral labour agreements. In the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, Kenyan pilots fly for behemoths like Emirates, Qatar Airways, and Etihad, drawn by tax-free salaries that can exceed \$10,000 monthly for captains. Codeshare agreements, such as the recent one between Qatar Airways and Kenya Airways expanding to 19 destinations, further integrate Kenyan talent into GCC networks. Meanwhile, in America, Kenyans dominate healthcare niches like nursing; aviation follows a similar script, with pilots leveraging strong English skills and adaptability honed in diverse African skies.

Yet challenges loom. Domestically, Kenya Airways has grappled with pilot shortages and strikes, exacerbated by high training costs and competition

from abroad. The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority has flagged declining graduate numbers, though demand remains robust amid Africa's projected aviation growth, IATA forecasts a 47% rise in passengers over the next two decades. Gender diversity lags, with women comprising just 5% of African pilots, though trailblazers like Captain Irene Koki Mutungi, Kenya's first female Dreamliner commander, inspire change.

In an era of global pilot deficits, Boeing estimates a need for 790,000 new aviators by 2042, Kenya's model offers lessons for the continent. By blending colonial inheritance with modern grit, it has turned airspace into a soft-power asset. As Kenyan captains command Boeing 787s over the Arabian Peninsula or ferry aid into war zones, they embody a nation that, like its famed long-distance runners, excels by starting early and enduring the course.

*Ian Cox is a regular media commentator.*





## Kenya Showcased as “Heart of Africa” at 2025 Korea Coffee Awards

By Kenya Embassy Seoul

Kenya’s rich coffee tradition was highlighted at the 2025 Korea Coffee and Dessert Fair in Suwon, which included a spectacular exhibition and award ceremony honouring Kenyan coffee. The Coffee Critics Association (CCA), well renowned for its World Coffee Competition, organised the event, which this year showcased Kenya under the subject ‘Express Kenya’s Soul, the Heart of Africa, through Coffee.’

Amb. Jacqueline Kenani, Deputy Head of Mission, represented the Embassy of Kenya at the award ceremony, emphasising Kenya’s presence and commitment to expanding cultural and business connections with Korea.

The ceremony drew coffee aficionados, baristas, industry experts, and the general public, providing an in-depth look at the quality and variety of Kenyan coffee. Guests were treated to speciality brews produced from Kenyan beans. Winners of the annual coffee competition were recognised for their great contributions to the art.

The CCA President gave a compelling presentation that highlighted the

unique qualities of Kenyan coffee, grown in rich volcanic soil and different climatic zones to its diverse genetic variants and distinct flavour profiles. This detailed analysis served to educate guests on how Kenya’s geographical diversity influenced taste and how producers could create blends that catered to global customer tastes.

The format of combining educational presentations, tastings, and an awards ceremony proved highly effective in promoting Kenya’s coffee not only as a premium product but also as a symbol of the country’s culture and identity. The event strengthened Kenya’s soft power, enhanced its cultural diplomacy, and positioned Kenyan coffee as a desirable, high-value product in the Korean market.

The event piqued significant interest among Korean consumers and trade stakeholders, an indication that there existed opportunity to expand Kenya’s presence at similar events in Korea, particularly those focused on coffee, culture, and trade.

It is recommended there is increased collaborations between relevant Ken-

yan government agencies and Korean distributors, including organizing side events such as cupping sessions, barista demonstrations, and educational seminars. The availability of updated promotional materials about Kenya’s coffee-growing regions, export-ready producers, and value-added coffee products would further enhance Kenya’s branding at such events.

As a direct follow-up to the ceremony, the Embassy is now coordinating an origin trip to Kenya later this year, organized by the CCA. The delegation will include baristas, roasters, importers, distributors, and university students from Korea studying under barista training programs. This visit aims to provide a hands-on, immersive experience for Korean stakeholders, strengthening business linkages and encouraging direct sourcing and investment in Kenya’s coffee sector.

The 2025 Kenya Coffee Award Ceremony was more than just a celebration. It was a strategic platform for trade promotion, cultural exchange, and market expansion. With growing appreciation in Korea for high-quality, ethically sourced coffee, Kenya’s participation couldn’t have come at a better time.

## World Kiswahili Language Day

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025 the High Commissioner joined H.E. CP Hamad Khamis Hamad, High Commissioner of Tanzania in Mozambique, other diplomats and members of the public on World Kiswahili Language Day. This day is celebrated on 7 July each year to honour Kiswahili as one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa and the world, with over 200 million speakers. It is a vital tool of communication and integration across East, Central, and Southern Africa, and serves as an official language of the African Union (AU), SADC, and the EAC.

Kiswahili is more than a language, it is a vessel of African identity, unity, and culture. From its role in liberation movements, including those led by Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, to its modern use in education, diplomacy, and media, Kiswahili continues to foster regional cohesion and global cultural understanding.



## CHAN PAMOJA 2024/25: When Football Became East Africa's Cultural Stage

By D. Maloba

The loud cheers of football fans donning colours of the Kenyan flag reverberated through the Nairobi sky bringing the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani to life. On that historic night, Morocco edged Madagascar 3-2 to lift their third African Nations Championship (CHAN) title. Yet, beyond the scoreline, the greatest victory belonged to Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, who together delivered the first-ever trilateral Confederation of African Football tournament, CHAN PAMOJA 2024/25, and turned it into a living theatre of cultural diplomacy.

For Kenya, the moment was extraordinary. The national team, Harambee Stars, entered the tournament not just as footballers, but as ambassadors of Kenya's rich culture. Their opening clash against two-time champions, DR Congo drew a sold-out crowd of 44,000 at Kasarani. Fans streamed in early, proudly wearing the Kenyan jersey, waving flags, and filling the air with



chants that spoke of hope, patriotism and unity.

Against the odds, Kenya rose to the challenge, stunning heavyweights Morocco, DR Congo, and Zambia, while holding Angola to a draw. Emerging unbeaten from the proverbial 'Group of Death', the Stars made history by securing a place in the quarterfinals of

the tournament and inspiring a wave of national pride.

President William Ruto, captured the nation's mood with his surprise appearance before the opening game. Donning sports gear, he kicked a ball alongside the Harambee Stars and reminded Kenyans that "when the national team wins, Kenya wins." His presence, along

side other leaders including Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula, elevated the tournament to a national celebration.

The government's support went further with the Head of State pledging cash rewards and even housing support for players, indicating that their triumph was a national investment in morale and unity.

Beyond the cheers at the terraces, the magic of CHAN PAMOJA extended far beyond the pitch. Culture was woven seamlessly into the football narrative, starting with the official anthem "Pamoja." A collaboration between Kenya's Afrobeats singer Savara, Tanzania's Phina, and Uganda's Elijah Kitaka, the anthem became the heartbeat of the tournament whenever it was played in stadiums across the three host nations, broadcast across Africa, and sung passionately in fan zones. The anthem was more than a song, it was a declaration of East African identity: three nations, one voice.

The football fans themselves were a revelation. From Nairobi to Kampala and Dar es Salaam, they became cultural commons when football met art, food and performance. Spectators from all walks of life gathered around giant screens surrounded by markets of traditional crafts, food stalls serving local delicacies, and stages alive with dance and music. For many, the fan zones were as memorable as the matches themselves, miniature cultural embassies under the banner of football.

Ceremonial performances reinforced this narrative, opening and halftime shows showcased swahili heritage, regional dance troupes, and youth ensembles. Television audiences across the continent tuned in not only for football but also for East Africa's cultural story, told in rhythm, colour, and movement. It was cultural diplomacy at its most organic, unifying, engaging, and broadcast in real time to millions.

On the pitch, Kenya's journey reached an emotional crescendo, after a tense quarterfinal against Madagascar ended 1-1, the Harambee Stars bowed out in a heartbreaking penalty shootout. But



rather than disappointment, the nation responded with admiration. President Ruto praised their resilience and unity, declaring that they had "silenced doubters." Fans on social media echoed the sentiment, with legends like Victor Wanyama and everyday Kenyans alike hailing the Stars for reigniting national pride. The jersey itself, the bright red kit, became a symbol of solidarity, worn proudly by fans in stadiums, fan zones, and homes across the country.

The dividends of CHAN PAMOJA were clear. Kenya demonstrated its ability to host high-stakes international events, reinforcing confidence ahead of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). The creative economy flourished, with artists, dancers, and cultural perform-

ers gaining new visibility and opportunities. Most importantly, the tournament projected East Africa as a united, culturally vibrant region. The shared PAMOJA brand proved that when nations tell one story together, their voice is amplified far beyond borders.

As the celebrations faded and attention turned to AFCON 2027, the lessons of CHAN PAMOJA remain vivid. Cultural planning, fan engagement, and shared storytelling proved as powerful as goals on the pitch. For Kenya, the tournament underscored football's potential as a tool of cultural diplomacy, capable of binding citizens, showcasing heritage, and projecting soft power on a continental stage.



Former President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Mwai Kibaki holds up the Kenyan constitution after its promulgation in 2010

## Sovereign Internationalism: How the 2010 Constitution Rewired Kenya's Foreign Policy

By P. Kariuki

The 2010 Constitution changed how Kenya interacts with the world by embedding foreign policy principles in the supreme law, and anchoring Kenya's foreign policy within the framework of sovereign internationalism.

In effect, the Constitution now shapes our actions abroad; how we make friends, negotiate trade, and project influence.

When Article 2 declared that "general rules of international law shall form part of the law of Kenya," and "the Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic and binds all persons and all State organs at both levels of government", it quietly rewired the country's diplomacy.

Foreign policy is now yoked to a constitutional order that links domestic law to international law.

Article 1 makes it clear that all sovereign power belongs to the people, not the government. When Articles 1 and 2 are read together, one can only conclude that the 2010 Constitution operates by the philosophy of Sovereign Internationalism.

Sovereign Internationalism is the idea that nations stay independent and secure themselves, but choose to cooperate and advance common goals only with the consent of their people.

This central idea of Sovereign Internationalism, that foreign policy is not solely the domain of presidential discretion, and that states act abroad only with the consent of their people, is reflected in various articles of the constitution that prioritise the people's interests and Parliament's role in foreign affairs..

Article 132(2)(c) explicitly mandates the President to "submit a report for debate to the National Assembly on the progress made in fulfilling the international obligations of the Republic." This constitutional directive ties foreign policy directly to parliamentary oversight, breaking from the old era where diplomacy was conducted largely in State House and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Article 10 commits the state to values such as human dignity, equity, social justice, and good governance. Inevitably, these values extend outward as guiding principles in Kenya's relations with other states and international organizations. Article 43 expects foreign engagements to advance the material well-being of citizens, which explains the state's pivot to economic diplomacy since 2010. Article 69 obliges the state to protect and conserve the environment, driving Kenya's international stance on climate justice and ecological diplomacy as a constitutional duty, not a progressive policy preference.

Devolution has also had foreign policy impact. Article 6, which establishes the devolved system of government, recog-

nizes that since counties share borders, resources, and populations with neighbouring countries, foreign policy cannot ignore them. Although the central national government takes the lead on foreign policy, diplomatic cooperation and coordination with county governments is a constitutional expectation.

## The Four Trends in Kenya's Foreign Policy

Looking back, four trends have stood out in Kenya's foreign policy since 2010: the professionalization, democratization, legalization, and normatization of diplomacy.

### A. The Professionalization of Diplomacy

For decades, Kenya's foreign policy was guided by presidential priorities and ministry briefs. That changed after the 2010 Constitution. Since then, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published three landmark foreign policy documents that have created a legal and professional framework for Kenya's diplomacy.

**Kenya's First Written Foreign Policy:** President Uhuru Kenyatta launched Kenya's first written foreign policy in 2014. Unapologetically pragmatic, it defined five pillars (peace, economic, diaspora, environmental, and cultural diplomacy) anchored in Article 10 values. This policy guided Kenya's external relations for a decade, rooting diplomacy in constitutional principles, thereby insulating diplomacy from being seen as the personal project of a president or a political party.

**The Foreign Service Act, 2021:** The Foreign Service Act of 2021 legally recognised the Foreign Service as part of the public service and created a blueprint for transforming what was once a loosely managed cadre of diplomats into a structured public service. Section 19 requires competitive recruitment overseen by the Public Service Commission and the Ministry, with candidates subjected to examinations set by the newly established Foreign Service Academy. The Academy itself, set out in Part V, is tasked with training, continuous professional development, and maintaining standards for officers already in the field. The Act sets clear ranks, promotion criteria, and terms

of service for diplomats. It requires missions to follow strict financial and procurement rules and spells out qualifications for ambassadors. By codifying recruitment, training, and discipline, the Act creates a legal framework for making Kenya's foreign service a regulated, professional body.

**Revised Foreign Policy 2024:** Under President William Ruto, Kenya published the 2024 Foreign Policy document, which updated the 2015 document. The reviewed policy changed the five pillars of the 2015 document to eight focus areas by adding 3 new pillars: digital diplomacy, health diplomacy, global governance and multilateral diplomacy (linked with sustainable oceans diplomacy). The language shifted to multipolarity, climate justice, and pan-African solidarity, explicitly tying diplomacy to Article 69 on environmental protection.

In a nod to Sovereign Internationalism, Foreign Principal Secretary Sing'oei Korir said: "This policy centres citizens and the diaspora as both owners and drivers of Kenya's foreign policy... integral to the realization of our foreign policy objectives."

**Sessional Paper Number 1 of 2025 on Kenya's Foreign Policy:** With the adoption of Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, Kenya's foreign policy has a permanent, parliamentary-backed framework. Unlike the 2015 and 2024 policies, which were executive blueprints, the 2025 Sessional Paper was debated and adopted in Parliament, making it binding and long-term. The Sessional Paper frames Kenya's foreign policy around nationalism and sovereignty, good neighbourliness and non-interference, regionalism and Pan-Africanism, humanitarianism and reciprocity, non-alignment, and engagement with plurilateral blocs (like BRICS). It lays out the priority tracks: peace and security, economic diplomacy, climate and blue economy, global governance, science and innovation, diaspora, culture and sports, and digital diplomacy. It also places strong emphasis on diaspora rights, calls for a review of the Foreign Service Act to ensure a 70:30 ratio of career diplomats to political appointees, and expands citizen participation through Foreign Policy Mashinani. It further obligates MDAs, counties, the private sector, and non-state actors to coordinate with the

MFA.

### B. The Democratization of Diplomacy

By mandating a consultative framework for foreign policy development that includes all stakeholders, the 2010 constitution transformed how foreign policy is conceived and implemented. Although the central national government, acting through the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, retains the lead in foreign policy, Article 6 on Devolution, read with Articles 132 and 132(2)(c), and the Treaty Act, obliges the state to pursue an internally cooperative policy formulation and international relations approach. This means that although foreign policy is an exclusive central national executive function under the Fourth Schedule, the central national government is required to consult with devolved governments and citizens in keeping with the logic of Sovereign Internationalism. Put differently, Kenya speaks with one voice abroad because many voices have been heard at home.

### C. The Legalization of Diplomacy

The courts have emerged as foreign policy actors. Article 2(6) has had the profound impact of transforming international treaties from abstract commitments into domestic legal obligations enforceable in Kenyan courts. Kenya's compliance with International Criminal Court processes, however contentious, is driven by this article. Beyond the ICC, courts have adjudicated matters on cross-border trade (EAC Common Market disputes), maritime boundaries (the Somalia-Kenya ICJ case, where domestic courts guided executive compliance), and refugee management in relation to international humanitarian obligations. In 2013, Kenya's Supreme Court issued Advisory Opinion No. 2, affirming that treaties touching on sovereignty or security require parliamentary approval under Article 94. This decision established the courts as constitutional referees in foreign policy.

### D. The "Normatization" of Diplomacy

Normatization is a term of art that is different from the more familiar nor-

malization. Normatization refers to the normative framework, that is, the values of Article 10, which tether diplomacy to the values of patriotism, inclusivity, transparency, good governance, and sustainable development. Kenya's diplomacy is value-driven rather than purely transactional because, by constitutional mandate, national values are now national interests. Article 10 values must be embedded in how treaties are negotiated, how security partnerships are structured, and how Kenya positions itself globally. A normative approach to diplomacy strengthens Kenya's soft

power in Africa and beyond, positioning the country as a credible voice on democracy, climate justice, and peace-building.

**Conclusion: Key Takeaways:** The 2010 Constitution has imposed itself as Kenya's passport to the world. Diplomacy is no longer the preserve of the executive alone. It is now anchored in both the constitution and law, and must be reported, debated, and ultimately judged against the people's sovereign will in accordance with Sovereign Internationalism.

Kenya's foreign policy has also evolved from ad hoc to structured and the courts have become involved. The written foreign policy documents illustrate how successive governments reinterpret constitutional obligations to fit shifting geopolitical currents. The test ahead is to ensure Kenya's foreign policy is always legally robust and fiscally prudent, and that Kenya enters into agreements that protect Kenya's sovereignty and deliver domestic benefits.

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