



Republic of Kenya

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR THE THIRD QUARTERLY MEDIA BRIEFING ON KENYA'S FOREIGN POLICY HELD AT THE MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS

NOVEMBER 12th, 2025

Distinguished members of the Fourth Estate,

1. I warmly welcome you to this press briefing to update on issues related to the implementation of Kenya's Foreign Policy.

First let me take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to this **Third Quarterly Media Engagement**. I am joined by the **Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary in the State Department for Foreign Affairs**, and **Ms. Roseline Kathure Njogu, Principal Secretary in the State Department for Diaspora Affairs**, together with other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

This briefing is among the key initiatives by the Ministry aimed at fostering regular engagements with the media, regularly for purposes of providing updates on key developments related to the implementation of Kenya's Foreign Policy.

The Ministry continues to value your partnership as journalists and communicators, as you play a crucial role in informing the public, shaping narratives, and enhancing national understanding of Kenya's engagement with the rest of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. Allow me to begin by reporting on the various achievements of the Ministry in a thematic approach that we have realized over the past few months, in our engagements at the national, regional and global spheres.
3. Over the past few months, the Ministry has had several engagements that speak to the eight thematic areas of Kenya's foreign policy including; peace and security, diaspora diplomacy, economic and commercial diplomacy, oceans and blue economy, environment and climate change diplomacy, science, technology and innovation as well as socio-cultural diplomacy.

Expanded diplomatic footprints

4. **Kenya expanded its diplomatic footprint with our new Consulates in Guangzhou, China, and in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,** operationalized on 1st August 2025 and on November 3rd, 2025 respectively.
5. Yesterday, the Cabinet meeting chaired by H.E. President William Ruto endorsed the establishment of an **Embassy of the Republic of Kenya to the Vatican City,** home to the **Holy See and the seat of the Roman Catholic Church,** to strengthen diplomatic engagement with the Holy See and advance Kenya's global, moral, and development diplomacy.

The move will also boost cooperation with Catholic development agencies that run more than **7,700 schools and 500 health facilities** in Kenya, supporting the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda through expanded partnerships in education, healthcare, and social welfare. Kenya has a Catholic population of approximately 17 million.

6. Cabinet further approved the establishment of **new embassies in Copenhagen (Denmark) and Hanoi (Vietnam).**

Recent Global engagements

7. In recent months, Kenya has participated in several international fora including;
 - 1) The **Ninth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD9)** in Tokyo, Japan. Kenya secured a **Kshs. 22 billion** Samurai Financing Facility which will be channeled towards promotion of green industrialization and e-mobility.
 - 2) The **Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)**- Kenya is set to receive 100% duty-free market access to China for all its

export products, the zero-tariff policy aims to boost Kenyan exports like coffee, tea, and avocados to China

- 3) The **2nd Africa Climate Summit (ACS2)** in Ethiopia.
- 4) The **80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80)** in New York, US.
- 5) The recent **UN Second World Summit for Social Development** in Doha, Qatar.
- 6) The ongoing **Climate Summit (COP 30)** in Belém, Brazil among others.
- 7) COMESA- The 24th Comesa Summit of Heads of State in Nairobi, hosted by H.E. President William Ruto, the Current Chair.

Each of these global events has come with several benefits to the country including, trade and investments, diaspora jobs as well as positioning Kenya as a strategic partner in the global engagements.

Kenya Foreign Policy *Mashinani* Initiative

8. Last month, our Ministry launched the **Kenya Foreign Policy *Mashinani* Initiative** in Kisumu County from 13th to 15th October 2025, bringing together representatives from all six Nyanza counties. This initiative themed "***Kenya Foreign Policy Mashinani: Together, advancing Kenya's Interests in a changing world,***" is aimed at deepening citizen awareness and engagement on Kenya's foreign policy priorities and their linkage to national development

Under Kenya diaspora diplomacy,

9. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs cognizant of the rising unemployment among the youths and has signed off various **Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs)** that has resulted in the employment of over **430,000 Kenyans abroad** since 2023, as well as access to thousands of digital jobs through the ***Ajira* ecosystem**.

According to the Central Bank of Kenya, **Kenyans abroad sent home Sh651.7 billion in 2024, marking an 18 percent increase of Sh98.4 billion compared to Sh543.3 billion** received in 2023, which is a significant contribution to our economy.

10. **In the recent past, Kenya has engaged with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, ranked as the third-largest global labor market for foreign workers, employing over **200,000 Kenyans**, seeking an additional agreement for skilled and semi-skilled workers, pending approval from Saudi Arabia. Near similar engagement with **the United Arab Emirates**

for mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications.

- 11.** Kenya is also negotiating amendments to the 2012 **Bilateral Labour Agreement with the State of Qatar** to streamline recruitment, following the recent recruitment of 3,000 Kenyans and an additional offering of 5,000 jobs which includes (300 Teachers, 300 Nurses and 4400 Security Personnel). **In the Kingdom of Jordan**, there is potential for skilled employment opportunities, and **negotiations are ongoing for a Memorandum of Understanding to open more job opportunities.**

Human Trafficking, a matter of concern

- 12.** Though significant progress has been made in Diaspora Diplomacy, we are also cognizant of weaknesses that put our citizens in harm's way by virtue of unscrupulous foreign agents. The Government has had successful and safe repatriation of Kenyans from conflict-affected and high-risk regions.

- 13.** Notably, **approximately 400 Kenyans have been lured by unscrupulous agents with promises of lucrative job opportunities** in the Far-East, including in countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar only to end up working in conditions akin to modern slavery.

The human trafficking situation in Southeast Asia, particularly for Kenyans, has become a significant and alarming concern, largely driven by the rise of forced criminality in online scam compounds.

- 14.** It is a sophisticated menace where our citizens, often lured by fraudulent job advertisements and agents purportedly in places like Thailand, are trafficked to South East Asia for exploitation, including forced labor, online scamming, illegal cryptocurrency trade, and even the horrific prospect of human organ harvesting.

Since July 2022, the Kenya Embassy in Bangkok has rescued and facilitated the repatriation of approximately 500 Kenyan victims. As of now, **126 Kenyans are currently awaiting repatriation, 69 in Thailand and 57 in Myanmar, with additional groups being held by militia.**

- 15.** A media story highlights the case of a Kenyan arrested at a Thai airport for using a fake immigration stamp. Having been previously repatriated from a scam compound in March 2025, he illegally re-entered Thailand to work for a Chinese-owned scam company in Myanmar. After a

crackdown, he was arrested while attempting to fly home. This is a case to show that some of the victims are not innocent but part of the criminal network.

- 16.** A major concern is that rescued individuals, now trained in cybercrime, pose a national security risk by potentially establishing scam operations in Kenya upon their return. Recommendations focus on a nationwide awareness campaign, strengthening legal frameworks, and enhancing victim support and integration.

The **Kenya Mission in Bangkok, Thailand** which is accredited to these countries has been instrumental in providing timely advisories and labour-related information to forestall cases in which Kenyans are held in exploitative working conditions.

- 17.** Since the start of the **conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2022**, recruitment exercises in Russia have reportedly expanded to include African nationals, including Kenyans. The Ministry has continued to receive inquiries from families regarding relatives allegedly involved in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

- 18.** **Reports suggest that over two hundred Kenyans** may have joined the Russian military, with some being former members of Kenya's disciplined services. It is estimated that recruitment networks are still active in both Kenya and Russia. The Kenyan Embassy in Moscow has reported injuries among nationals and others stranded after attempting recruitment into the war efforts.

- 19.** As you may be aware, on 24th September 2025, a multiagency security-led raid was conducted in Athi River where 21 Kenyans were found housed awaiting processing to the warzone. One agent was arrested for coordinating the processing of Kenyan recruits under the guise of overseas jobs. The agent is presently in court for luring unsuspecting Kenyans to fight in the war. Intelligence sources indicate that victims are reportedly signing contracts with unscrupulous agencies with promises of payment of up to \$18,000 (Kshs 2.7 million) for visas, travel, and accommodation.

- 20.** Unfortunately, those who have been rescued have said they were misled about the nature of the work they were to do including assembling drones, handling chemicals, and painting works without proper training or protective gear. These are worrying concerns for us, and we must be able to tell you to guard our brothers and sisters against being exploited.

- 21.** The crime of **human trafficking for forced criminality** has taken various forms including online scamming and illegal crypto-currency trade, forced labour, slavery, harvesting of human organs, money laundering, and sexual exploitation among other crimes. These crimes, in addition to illegal drug production and trafficking as well as trafficking in wildlife products, presents a serious threat to not only the national security of Kenya but global security as well.
- 22.** According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), human trafficking has become one of the world's largest criminal enterprises, generating over \$ 150 billion annually in profits for traffickers. The saddest thing is that it spiraling out of control as more victims are trafficked from Africa and to as far as South America, and Europe. The victims are attracted to the fake job adverts that are purported to be in the Asian continent.

Operations of the criminal networks

- 23.** These **networks have been placing online adverts on Facebook, Instagram, Signal, X (formerly Twitter) YouTube** among others, advertising various job opportunities ranging from receptionists, sales jobs, crypto currency traders, cooks, drivers, public relations officers, translators, factory workers among other menial jobs.

Once Kenyan applicants apply for the job, they are quickly interviewed and offered the job. The victims have been swindled to travel on tourist visas, procure one-way tickets and book for non-existent hotel reservations. Since July 2022, reports indicate that many young Kenyans have fallen victim.

- 24.** The situation is so dire that our Missions are constantly rescuing citizens who manage to reach to the missions in bad shape. There may be many out there waiting to be rescued. **We appeal to Kenyans to undertake due diligence at all times.**
- 25.** **To mitigate this,** the Government further continues to encourage all Kenyans seeking employment opportunities abroad to do so through agencies that have been vetted by the Ministry of Labour as well as through the National Employment Agency (NEA). NEA is tasked with regulating and accrediting recruitment agencies, as well as ensuring

compliance with ethical recruitment standards, conducting pre-departure training and safeguarding the welfare of workers and accountability in cases of abuse or repatriation.

Repatriation

- 26.** On the issue of repatriation, the Government has to date rescued and **repatriated over 500 victims since 2022**; further, the relevant Government agencies have investigated and **delisted close to 600 rogue foreign job agencies**. This is not enough as discussions are on-going for a proposal to publicly list these agencies that exploit the vulnerability of our people.

Recently, the Ministry has also facilitated the successful repatriation of a Kenyan woman and her Daughter from Qatar to Kenya after they found themselves in a distressful situation in the country.

Equally, the Ministry last month repatriated a toddler from Jakarta, Indonesia whose Kenyan mother is facing a jail sentence. The toddler arrived at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and was handed over to his grandmother and aunt.

- 27.** In Saudi Arabia, **given the huge populations of Kenyans working in the country**, the problem of mothers with undocumented children is prevalent, and the government is pursuing bilateral interventions. The government of Kenya through a drive dubbed, **Mobile Consular Services (MCS)** has conducted DNA tests and collected **707 DNA samples**. Upon verification of parenthood, following positive mother-child DNA matches, it has processed birth certificates to facilitate the immediate repatriation of the children and their mothers.

- 28.** Through the lobbying of the Kenyan government, a **Joint Interdepartmental Working Group ("JIWG") formed in January 2025**, comprising the Kenyan Embassy, Saudi ministries of MoFA, Labour, Interior, and the Saudi Arabia General Directorate of Passports helped in the provision of Emergency Travel Documents ("ETD") for both mother and child. Since inception, the deliberate efforts by the JIWG have resulted in the safe repatriation of **59 mothers and 73 children** back to Kenya.
- Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Regional Diplomacy and the Welfare of Kenyans Abroad:

- 29.** Kenya enjoys favorable trade relations with its neighbours within the East African Community with the trade balance between Kenya and

Tanzania as well as with Uganda, being positive. A case in point, as at 2024, the value of **Kenya's exports to Uganda** were valued at **Kshs. 125billions** while imports from Uganda were valued at **Kshs. 36billions**. While for the case of Tanzania, as at 2024, the value of **Kenya's exports to Tanzania** were valued at **Kshs. 65billions** while imports from Tanzania were valued at **Kshs. 57billions**.

- 30.** The trend of trade with the EAC over the last five years indicates continued export growth and a growing trade surplus in favour of Kenya. In 2024, total exports to EAC was estimated at **KShs 321.4 Billion, a 103% increase from the Ksh 158.3 Billion** worth of exports recorded in 2020. During that period, the trade surplus has widened from **KShs 102.1 Billion in 2020 to KShs 217.6 Billion** in 2024, an increase of 113%.

Kenya–Uganda Relations

- 31.** As appreciated above, Kenya and Uganda continue to enjoy cordial and steadfast relations. Uganda is Kenya's largest export destination, accounting for 11.3% of total exports in 2024. The two countries will hold the **14th Session of the Joint Border Commission** and the **2nd Joint Technical Commission** later this month in Kampala and Mbale.
- 32.** On the now resolved missing Kenyan Activists in Uganda. I would like to inform the country that the **Ministry closely monitored the case of two missing Kenyan nationals, Mr. Bob Njagi and Mr. Nicholas Oyoo, who disappeared on 1st October 2025**. High level diplomatic engagements between Kenya and Uganda eventually led to their release on Friday. They have **since been reunited with their families**.

Kenya-Tanzania Relations

Following **Tanzania's General Election on 29th October 2025**, tensions arose due to perceptions of foreign interference by non-state actors from Kenya. Kenya recognizes President Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration and remains committed to cooperation under the EAC framework. Meanwhile, the Kenyan High Commission in Dar-es-Salaam continues to provide consular support, including visa amnesty requests and the repatriation of affected citizens.

- 33.** I would like to update Kenyans on the status of our citizens in Tanzania, that **eight Kenyans arrested in the different police stations across Tanzania** have been released. **Three Kenyans are**

still being held, two in Arusha and one in Dar es Salaam police stations. However, there are two unresolved cases.

One, a **Kenyan by the name Mr. John Ogutu was shot dead on 29th October, around 7.00 pm in Goba Centre, Ubungo District in Dar es Salaam.** He was a teacher at Sky Schools iHi Rabson. **His body has not been traced to date.** The list of those affected above are in the comprehensive written statement to be released.

Peace Process in the DRC

- 34.** Kenya has and will continue to **play a constructive and impartial role and reiterates its full support for ongoing regional efforts to pacify Eastern DRC under the African Union Mediator as well as the ongoing international efforts in Doha and Washington.**

Kenya has consistently supported peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, notably through the Nairobi Peace Process, a comprehensive regional initiative launched under the auspices of the East African Community (EAC). More recently, President William Ruto, in his capacity as the Chair of the EAC has actively been involved in facilitating the joint EAC/Southern African Development Community (SADC) initiative.

Situation in the Sudan.

- 35.** The situation in Sudan remains dire, and the country risks being fragmented. **Kenya calls on both sides of the divide to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and a return to the negotiating table, because only dialogue can resolve the conflict.**

Kenya also supports regional efforts led by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union which recently appointed President Museveni as the mediator for the Sudan conflict, as well as international efforts by the Quad comprising the United States of America, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and the ongoing work by Ramtane Lamamra, the United Nations Secretary General's Personal Envoy for the Sudan.

Kenya will continue to stand ready to contribute in any way towards the realization of peace in the Sudan.

Situation in South Sudan

- 36.** Kenya remains seized of the situation in South Sudan and is exploring several options of jumpstarting talks in the country with a view to achieving sustainable peace. IGAD, the African Union, and the United Nations have warned of the potential collapse of the **Revitalized Agreement for Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS)** agreement if corrective measures are not urgently taken. Implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement remains slow amid political mistrust, security violations, and delayed unification of forces. Dialogue mechanisms, including **the *Tumaini Initiative***, remain frozen.

Situation in Ethiopia

- 37.** Kenya and Ethiopia continue to work together through enhanced cooperation and information sharing to address the anticipated cross-border threats in an effort to confront shared threats and maintain peace and stability in the region.

Situation in Somalia

- 38.** Somalia continues to face persistent insecurity driven by Al-Shabaab's resilience, federal-member state tensions, and limited fiscal support for the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). Emerging cooperation between Al-Shabaab and Yemen's Houthis continues to pose a widening transnational threat along the Red Sea corridor. The political friction between Mogadishu, Puntland, and Jubaland continues to undermine stabilization efforts ahead of elections.

Kenya will continue to play an active mediation role, engaging national leaders, Federal Member States, and clan elders to bridge political divides, build trust, and address underlying grievances.

Situation in Haiti

- 39.** On the issue of Haiti, Kenya takes pride in stability efforts in the country. Through the spirit of international solidarity, the Kenya-led mission of 800 Kenyan officers continues to make progress that has resulted in the re-opening of schools, health facilities in areas controlled by the Mission. This is progress for the Haitian people, and we will continue to lend support as the **Mission transforms into a Gang Suppression Force (GSF) with a UN-led mandate**. The support to Haiti is part of

Kenya's contribution to international peace and security and positions Kenya as an exporter of peace.

On-going Global Engagements

- 40.** Kenya is taking part in the COP30 meeting taking place in Belém, and this underscores our stature as the home of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and amplifies our historically strident voice on climate justice and climate resilience funding especially for the Global South.

This further augments H.E. the President's role as the current chairperson of the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude,

- 41.** The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs remains committed to strengthening **Kenya's anchor status** built on a remarkable history of robust working relations with its neighbours most notably the Republic of Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of South Sudan, the Federal Republic of Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo hinged on the tenets of shared progress that recognizes peace as a prerequisite to development.
- 42.** Kenya remains a trusted ally in regional and global affairs as evident in our role as the **Champion for Institutional Reforms at the African Union** led by H.E. the President.
- 43.** The Ministry counts on your support and goodwill as we work towards the protection, promotion, and projection of the national interests of our great motherland.

I thank you most sincerely for your time and attention.

God bless you, and God bless Kenya

12TH NOVEMBER 2025
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS
NAIROBI