

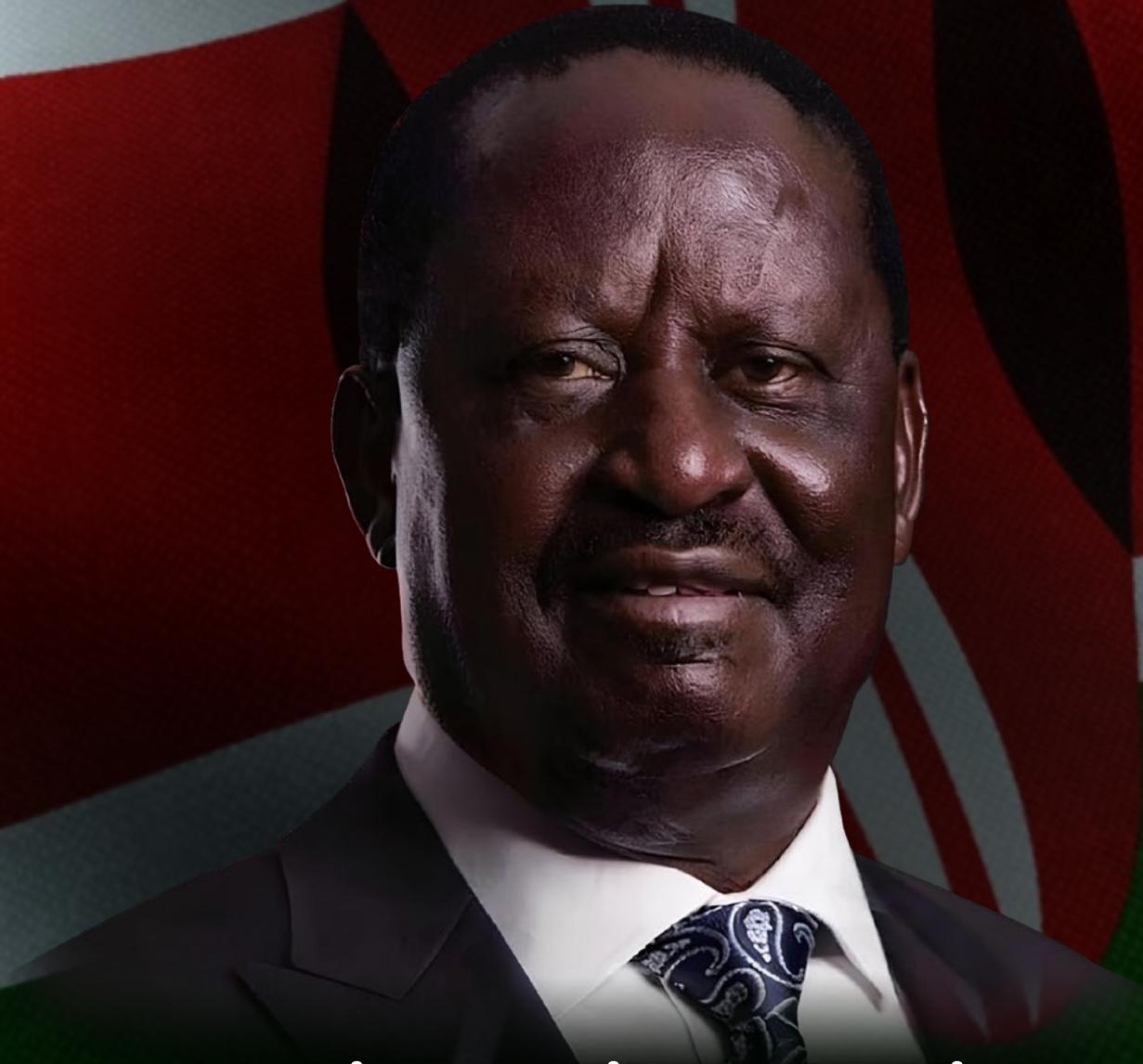


MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND
DIASPORA AFFAIRS

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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Diplomacy *Journal*



Celebrating Rt. Raila Amolo Odinga

A Pan-African Statesman and the Architect of Kenya's
Constitutional Democracy



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 62 fully fledged Missions with multiple accreditations, 6 Consulates-General, 2 Missions in Nairobi, 2 Liaison offices, and 40 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 foreign 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.

62 Fully fledged Missions with Multiple Accreditations

6 Consulates-General

2 Missions in Nairobi

2 Liaison Offices

40 Honorary Consuls

93 Resident Foreign Diplomatic Missions

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

I am delighted to present the third edition of the Diplomacy Journal for the period October to December 2025. It is a remarkable period for me as I completed two years as Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

During the quarter under review, the government made considerable strides in expanding and deepening diplomatic engagements, anchored on the Kenya Foreign Policy 2024.

Kenya participated in a host of regional and global events that provided opportunities for us to voice our support for greater cooperation in peace and security, trade, investment and climate

action. The climate agenda was the central theme during the 7th United Nations Environmental Assembly held in Nairobi.

A key achievement was the peace deal for Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) signed in Washington, D.C. by the leaders of DRC and Rwanda, which Kenya has advocated for.

At the 24th COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit that H.E. President William Ruto hosted in Nairobi, a shared commitment emerged to deepen regional trade, enhance economic integration and advance peace, stability and prosperity across Eastern

and Southern Africa.

At the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2025, President Ruto continued championing for reform of the United Nations, to align it with the complex challenges of the 21st Century including conflicts, climate change, and inequality and governance dynamics and reiterated his call for reforms of the global financial architecture.

Kenya's bilateral engagements also remained on course. Political consultations with Saudi Arabia and Qatar will enhance our trade and investment relations with the two countries, also expanding our presence in the Middle East.

These achievements give us the confidence to move forward more proactively to deepen strategic alliances that will expand opportunities for Kenya.

Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H.

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs



From the Desk of Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Diplomacy is rarely measured in moments; it is shaped over time, through decisions taken under pressure, partnerships patiently built, and institutions steadily strengthened. This edition of *The Diplomacy Journal* is published at a moment of reflection on my tenure as Principal Secretary for the State Department of Foreign Affairs, following three years of service during a period of significant geopolitical challenges and regional transition. The State Department's focus has been to consolidate Kenya's Foreign Policy into a disciplined and credible instrument of statecraft, anchored in economic diplomacy, peace and security leadership, multilateral engagement, and the strengthening of internal systems.

Over the course of my tenure, several defining milestones have shaped the Ministry's trajectory. These include the transition of the Ministry into the Security Sector Working Group; the launch of Kenya's Foreign Policy; the expansion of Kenya's diplomatic footprint alongside a strategic shift toward ownership of diplomatic assets globally; the strengthening of Kenya's international legal and treaty obligations; and the deepening of bilateral and multilateral engagements in support of peace, security, and regional stability.

This period also saw Kenya's growing leadership in environmental diplomacy and global sustainability governance, including advocacy on climate action and plastics, alongside the establishment of the Foreign Service Academy as a State Corporation. In parallel, Kenya actively contributed to reform discussions on multilateralism and the international financial architecture, while advancing economic partnerships of strategic national importance.

In the last quarter unanimous adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2793 (2025) on Haiti, which transitioned the Multinational Security Support Mission to a more robust, intelligence-led security framework. Kenya publicly underscored the lessons learned, affirmed its support for the transition, and reinforced its commitment to responsible international security partnerships grounded in effectiveness and respect for human life.

Beyond Haiti, Kenya remained actively engaged on peace and security issues across the Middle East and Africa. A ceasefire agreement was welcomed between Israel and Hamas as a critical step toward alleviating humanitarian suffering in Gaza, while urging all parties to build on the breakthrough in pursuit of a lasting political solution consistent

with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. Regionally, Kenya engaged counterparts and partners on peace processes in South Sudan, Libya, the Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes region. On the margins of the AU-EU Summit in Angola, the Ministry participated in consultations with African and international partners to advance coordinated support for South Sudan, reinforcing Kenya's long-standing role as a mediator and stabilizing actor in the region.

A defining feature of the quarter was the State Department's direct involvement in consular diplomacy and the protection of Kenyan citizens abroad. Through close coordination with Kenya's Missions and sustained engagement with foreign counterparts, we oversaw efforts that led to the safe return of Kenyans irregularly recruited into foreign conflicts, including those caught in the Russia-Ukraine war. Engagements were held with the Ambassadors of both Ukraine and the Russian Federation to Kenya to raise concerns over the treatment of Kenyan nationals, seek assurances on consular access, and reaffirm Kenya's expectation that the rights and dignity of its citizens be respected irrespective of geopolitical context. During the same period, the State Department provided timely public updates on cases involving missing or detained Kenyans in the region and confirmed the safe return of nationals following extensive diplomatic

engagement.

These interventions were complemented by engagements with affected families, where the State Department reaffirmed the Government's commitment to accountability, dignity, and closure. We caution Kenyans on the risks associated with unverified overseas employment while affirming the State's readiness to intervene when citizens are in distress.

Economic diplomacy featured prominently in the State Department's engagements during the quarter. Kenya–Belgium Political Consultations were held reviewing progress in trade, investment, aviation connectivity, education partnerships, and regional peace cooperation.

In the Gulf region, we inaugurated the Consulate General of Kenya in Jeddah and launch of their 2024–2027 Strategic Plan and met members of the Kenyan diaspora, reaffirming the Government's commitment to improved service delivery and diaspora mainstreaming.

Shortly thereafter in Oman, we attended the inaugural Kenya–Oman Political Consultations in Muscat. Discussions expanded cooperation in agriculture, green energy, maritime trade, labor mobility, education, and logistics, including enhanced air and sea connectivity, such as Salam Air's direct flights and planned port cooperation between Mombasa and Salalah. The Embassy of Kenya in Muscat's launched their 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, aligning mission priorities with Kenya's revised Foreign Policy.

The State Department continued to frame economic actors as strategic partners in Kenya's diplomacy. In engagements with Kenya Airways leadership, we discussed the national carrier as both a commercial entity and a symbol of Kenya's global connectivity and ambition. The State Department attended TAD Motors' unveiling of five new electric vehicles assembled in the Naivasha Special Economic Zone, a

bold step for Kenya's green transition and regional ambitions in automotive manufacturing. We pledge continued government efforts to create a conducive environment through stable policies, strong institutions and robust infrastructure.

A major highlight of Kenya's multilateral diplomacy was the successful election of Professor Phoebe Okowa as a Judge of the International Court of Justice after multiple rounds of voting in the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. We commend the Kenyan teams in New York and Geneva and the outcome as a reflection of confidence in Kenya's legal tradition and international standing. We further sought support for Kenya's candidacy to the IMO Council, and worked with international partners and the Institute for Integrated Transition (IFIT) on the development of a new branch of international law on mediation, aimed at strengthening peaceful settlement of disputes in line with the UN Charter.

In Addis Ababa and Paris, Kenya participated in high-level discussions on Africa's role in a shifting global order, describing the current moment as an interregnum in global governance and urging greater African agency in shaping international norms and institutions. These engagements reinforced Kenya's positioning as both a diplomatic convener and a contributor to global policy thinking.

As the year drew to a close, engagements increasingly converged around preparations for the Africa France Summit, a flagship diplomatic priority for 2026 to be co-hosted by Kenya and France. Through meetings with senior French officials at the Élysée and key partner institutions, the State Department helped shape the strategic direction, ambition, and architecture of the Conference, with preparations in high gear for the May 2026 convening. The Summit is expected to bring together over 2,000 participants, including Heads of State, private sector leaders,

civil society, and media, to advance Africa's development agenda and shared prosperity across thematic pillars spanning health, agriculture, green energy, industrialization, artificial intelligence, and investment.

The passing of Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga marked a moment of profound national mourning and reflection. The State Department for Foreign Affairs played a central role in managing the international dimensions of this historic transition, working closely with the Government of India to support the repatriation process and coordinating the collation of tributes and messages of condolence from Heads of State, former leaders, and partners across the region and beyond. In parallel, the Department undertook demanding diplomatic and protocol arrangements in support of the State Funeral, ensuring that engagements with foreign dignitaries were conducted with dignity, precision, and solemnity befitting the stature of the late former Prime Minister.

Recognizing the centrality of young people to Kenya's future and its diplomacy, the State Department elevated engagement with youth, affirming Kenyan youth as an integral consideration in foreign policy implementation. Through convening an inter-generational dialogue on trust in global cooperation, regional integration, and national cohesion, we underscored the importance of inclusive diplomacy and signaled commitment to exploring structured avenues for youth advisory input and meaningful pathways into multilateral institutions.

The journey ahead remains one of deepening partnerships, expanding opportunity, and projecting Kenya's voice with confidence and clarity. This edition reads not only as a record of work undertaken, but as a continuing conversation on Kenya's place and purpose in the international system.

Dr. Abraham Korir SINGOEI, CBS

Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs



From the Desk of the Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs

In this edition of the newsletter, I join the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in marking three years since President William Ruto's Government took office—an important milestone that also ushered in the establishment of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs.

As the inaugural Principal Secretary, I am honoured to share the progress, milestones, and achievements of the State Department in its mission to serve over four million Kenyans living and working abroad.

Under President Ruto's leadership, the Kenyan diaspora has gained renewed recognition, a stronger voice, and a clear place at the centre of national policy. You are not only our ambassadors abroad, but a vital partner in Kenya's transformation journey. The diaspora is no longer watching from the side-

lines; it is actively helping drive the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda and shaping the country's future.

The diaspora remains one of the strongest pillars of our economy, remitting over USD 4.9 billion annually to support families, build enterprises, and fuel national growth. Beyond financial flows, the diaspora contributes knowledge, skills, technology transfer, and global networks that connect Kenya to the world.

The Government of Kenya continues to treat the welfare and success of every Kenyan abroad as a reflection of our national strength and dignity. We have taken deliberate steps to ensure that government remains present, responsive, and accountable to our diaspora.

Key initiatives include:

- Strengthened consular and legal assistance through Diaspora Welfare and Legal Aid Programmes, alongside Mobile Consular Services that have reached over 17,000 Kenyans across 55 countries;
- Review and implementation of the Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024, supported by the Strategic Plan 2023–2027 and the Mental Health Action Plan;
- Establishment of a 24-hour Diaspora Call Centre and a Psychosocial and Counselling Unit, which have supported Kenyans in distress and facilitated the evacuation and repatriation of over 6,000 citizens from 21 countries, while also driving nationwide sensitisation efforts to combat human trafficking and smuggling;
- Expansion of labour mobility frameworks with partner countries, including Qatar, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States, guided by the Global

Labour Market Strategy. Of the one million jobs created so far, 420,000 are overseas placements, enabling Kenyans to acquire skills and technologies that can drive transformation back home;

- Establishment of the Diaspora Investment Support Office and launch of the Kenya Diaspora Investment Strategy 2025–2030, a bold roadmap to convert remittances into productive investments that create jobs, generate wealth, and catalyse sustainable growth;
- Modernisation of the Diaspora

Integrated Information Management System (DIIMS) to enhance engagement, service delivery, and integration of diaspora communities into national development programmes;

- Leadership in regional and multilateral forums on migration, diaspora welfare and protection, portability of social benefits, and the fight against human trafficking and smuggling.

The Kenyan diaspora continues to fly our national flag high across all sectors and regions of the world. Your commitment and resilience are central to Ken-

ya's rising global profile and reinforce the importance of working together as one people.

I reaffirm that the Kenyan diaspora remains at the heart of Kenya's foreign policy and economic transformation agenda. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs will continue to protect your rights and welfare, expand opportunities, and strengthen the bonds that connect us.

Together, we will harness the full power of our diaspora to build a more prosperous Kenya and a stronger global partnership for generations to come.

Ms. Roseline Kathure Njogu, CBS

Principal Secretary, State Department For Diaspora Affairs



Executive Engagements

H.E President William Ruto delivers his address during the signing of a landmark peace agreement between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo

President Ruto Champions Regional Peace and Strategic Partnerships.

By A. Kuria

President Ruto was among several African leaders invited by United States President Donald J. Trump to witness the signing of a landmark peace agreement between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. This highlights Kenya's anchor state status. In attendance were the Presidents of Angola, Burundi, and Togo, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and representatives from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, demonstrating broad international support for the peace process.

The agreement marked a critical turning point in one of Africa's most protracted conflicts. President Ruto described the accord as a "monumental diplomatic milestone," underscoring that sustainable peace in Eastern Congo is essential not only for regional stability but also for Africa's long-term economic and security prospects.

He noted that prolonged instability in the region has devastated livelihoods, fueled displacement, undermined cross-border trade, and constrained development across the Great Lakes Region. The agreement reflects renewed commitment by regional leaders and international partners to; dialogue, accountability, and cooperative security arrangements.

The Washington visit also reinforced Kenya's strategic bilateral partnership with the United States. President Ruto witnessed the signing of the Kenya-United States Health Cooperation Framework, a far-reaching agreement designed to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage and strengthen health-system resilience.

The framework was signed by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi.

Under the agreement, the United States committed USD 1.6 billion over five (5) years, to be channeled directly through Kenyan government institutions to enhance accountability, sustainability, and national ownership.

The cooperation will prioritize deployment of modern medical equipment, reliable delivery of essential health commodities, expansion of the health workforce, and broader health insurance coverage. President Ruto noted that the framework aligns health outcomes with productivity, human capital development, and economic transformation under Kenya's broader development agenda.

The President also held a series of high-level bilateral engagements focused on trade, investment, and development financing. In a meeting with US Trade Representative Amb. Jamieson Greer, discussions focused on establishing a trade and investment framework to deepen trade and investment relations. Priority sectors identified included apparel and textiles, agriculture, leather and footwear, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and ICT and digital services. President Ruto welcomed

the proposed one-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), pending U.S. Congressional approval, as a bridge toward a longer-term trade framework.

To deepen cooperation in sustainable development and private-sector financing, the President held a meeting with Mr. Ben Black, C.E.O. U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. The talks explored mobilizing capital for catalytic investments in infrastructure, clean energy, agribusiness, technology, and SMEs, key pillars of Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

President Ruto also met the IMF Managing Director, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva to review Kenya's economic reform programmer and growth prospects. He acknowledged IMF's support in debt management and technical assistance, noting that prudent macroeconomic reforms had elevated Kenya from the eighth to the sixth-largest economy in Africa within two years. Both sides agreed to deepen a forward-looking partnership anchored on transparency, fiscal discipline, and sound economic governance.

Further engagements with International Finance Corporation (IFC) Managing Director, Mr. Makhtar Diop highlighted Kenya's innovative development-financing approaches, including the proposed Infrastructure Fund. The IFC expressed strong interest and indicated plans to dispatch a delegation to Kenya to advance priority projects, including; the modernization of JKIA, expansion of major road corridors, and investments in renewable energy generation and transmission, through a Public-Private Partnership model.

During a dinner convened in partnership with the U.S.-Africa Business Center, led by its President, Ms. Kendra L. Gaither, President Ruto engaged executives from the energy, health, education, finance, and technology sectors in exploring investment opportunities in Kenya.

The President encouraged deeper public-private partnerships and invited investors to leverage Kenya's young and



From left to right: Presidents Donald J. Trump (USA), Paul Kagame (Rwanda) and Félix Tshisekedi (DRC) sign the landmark peace agreement in Washington D.C.



skilled workforce, and robust legal and regulatory framework anchored in the rule of law. He emphasized that Kenya's stability, regional connectivity, and reform momentum position the country as a strategic gateway for investment in East Africa and the wider continent.

President Ruto's Washington engagements underscored Kenya's dual-track diplomacy, advancing peace and security in the region while deepening strategic economic partnerships that support inclusive growth, resilience, and long-term development.

مؤتمر القمة العالمي الثاني للتنمية الاجتماعية
SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

4-6 November 2025 — 6-4 نوفمبر
Doha - Qatar - قطر



From Copenhagen to Doha: The Second World Summit for Social Development

by Kenya Embassy, Doha

The First World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, was a watershed moment that placed people at the center of development. It brought together Heads of State and Government, policymakers, civil society, and development partners around a shared Programme of Action, anchored on three pillars; eradicating poverty, achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, and promoting social integration.

Five years later, the Geneva “Copenhagen+5” review assessed progress and challenges, reinforcing the centrality of social development to peace, stability, and prosperity. However, as the world entered the third decade of the 21st century, it became clear that new global realities demanded a renewed framework capable of responding to widening inequality, ageing populations, forced migration, climate shocks, and technological disruption.

30 years after the Copenhagen conference, the global community recon-



H.E. President William Ruto received by H.E. Annalena Baerbock, President of the 80th UNGA at the Opening Ceremony of the 2nd World Summit for Social Development.

vened in Doha under the auspices of the UN in the face of increasing global challenges. The Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD-2) was therefore conceived not as a commemorative exercise, but as a platform for renewed political commitment and concrete action.

Central to the objectives of WSSD-2 were;

- The adoption of the Doha Political Declaration, reaffirming the commitments of 1995 while adapting them to contemporary global challenges, including economic inequality, environmental degradation, and digital transformation.
- The mobilization of high-level participation to bring together Heads of State and Government,

Ministers, UN leaders, Civil Society, the Private Sector, Academia, and Development Partners to ensure shared ownership and accountability.

- The launch of a Solutions Platform, designed to showcase, track, and scale practical initiatives across social protection, employment, social inclusion, demographic change, and care systems.

Collectively, WSSD-2 sought to reposition social development at the heart of national and global policy-making and accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Kenya’s Engagement at the WSSD-2

President William Ruto led the Kenyan delegation to Doha from 3rd–6th November, 2025, underscoring Kenya’s

strong commitment to people-centered development and signaling Kenya's active role in shaping global social-development discourse.

Kenya highlighted social development as a cornerstone of national policy, aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The delegation underscored progress and commitments related to poverty eradication, food security, health and well-being, and strong institutions. Emphasis was placed on improving rural livelihoods, strengthening social cohesion, and reducing inequality as foundations for sustainable growth.

Kenya's engagement at the summit reflected its integrated approach to social development, linking economic transformation to diaspora welfare, education, food security, and social protection.

Kenya's participation focused on protecting migrant workers. At a high-level panel on social protection for migrants, Kenya presented its diaspora protection strategy, especially for Kenyans in GCC countries. The strategy aligns with SDG 8 on decent work, labor rights, and safe working conditions, reflecting Kenya's people-centered approach to labor mobility.

While speaking at the high-level dialogue on education, skills and future of work, President Ruto, stressed on the need to align learning systems with the demands of the digital economy and evolving labor markets. The President highlighted Kenya's transition to a learner-centered Competency-Based Education and Training system, designed to equip learners with practical skills, innovation capacity, and critical thinking.

On food security, President Ruto urged the integration of food-system strategies into national policies and stronger governance for accountability. He emphasized on the adoption of research findings, technology and innovation, including AI, climate-smart agriculture, and financial tools like M-PESA to support small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs. The President highlighted Kenya's investments in local systems, including the doubling of funding for the national school-feeding programmer to strengthen local food produc-



Dr. Musalia Mudavadi paid a courtesy call on the former Defense Minister of Qatar on the sideline of the 2nd UN World Summit for Social Development 3rd - 6th November 2025.



Dr. Musalia Mudavadi paid a courtesy call on the former Defense Minister of Qatar on the sideline of the 2nd UN World Summit for Social Development 3rd - 6th November 2025.

tion.

Beyond national initiatives, Kenya joined broader discussions on poverty, inequality, health, and the financing gaps facing developing countries in achieving social-protection goals. The Summit provided an important platform for strengthening international cooperation and mobilizing resources to support inclusive and resilient social systems.

Summit Outcomes

The adoption of the Doha Political Declaration marked the Summit's central outcome, reaffirming global commitments to poverty eradication, decent work, and social inclusion.

The summit adopted the Solutions Platform to serve as a mechanism to track progress, scale innovation, and foster collaboration among states, UN



His Excellency President Ruto visits a milk processing Plant outside Doha.

Agencies, Civil Society, and the Private Sector. From Copenhagen to Doha, the World Summits on Social Develop-

ment reflect an evolving global commitment to dignity, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

From Partnership to Action: President Ruto at the Seventh AU-EU Summit in Luanda

By H. Chado

President William Ruto led Kenya's delegation to the 7th AU-EU Summit, held in Luanda, Angola, from 24th to 25th November 2025, reaffirming Kenya's commitment to a reinvigorated Africa-Europe partnership anchored in peace, prosperity, and effective multilateralism.

Convened under the theme "Promoting Peace and Prosperity through Effective Multilateralism," the Summit marked 25 years of the AU-EU partnership, bringing together the leaders to chart priorities for the next decade.

Setting the Agenda for the Next Decade

The Summit focused on strengthening cooperation in peace and security,



President William Ruto arrives in Luanda, Angola, for the 7th African Union-European Union Summit

governance, effective multilateralism, regular migration and mobility, and fostering inclusive economic growth. Leaders reaffirmed a partnership grounded in trust, solidarity, and results while aligning policy priorities to contemporary global challenges.

Among the Summit's key outcomes was strong support for trade and econom-

ic cooperation, including accelerated implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), development of regional value chains particularly in critical minerals and advancement of strategic connectivity projects such as the Lobito Corridor. These initiatives are expected to enhance intra-African trade while deep-

ening Africa–Europe economic ties.

The Summit noted that under the European Union’s EUR 150 billion Global Gateway package, 120 billion had been mobilized to promote investments in infrastructure and connectivity projects in Africa.

Under the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative, the leaders committed to delivering clean electricity to at least 100 million Africans by 2030.

The leaders underscored the importance of achieving international peace and security and the need for enhanced coordination, collaboration, transparency, and complementarity of collective efforts. They reaffirmed adherence to the UN Charter, called for de-escalation in Sudan and the Dem-

ocratic Republic of Congo, and agreed to strengthen AU–EU cooperation to counter terrorism and organized crime.

The AU–EU Business Forum (AEBF 2025) was held on the sidelines of the summit, bringing together business leaders, policymakers, and innovators from across Africa and Europe. The forum provided a platform for high-level engagement and practical deal-making, connecting capital with opportunity across Africa’s most dynamic sectors. The leaders underscored the central role of the private sector in delivering sustainable solutions, particularly in infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, technology, and value-chain development.

Reflections from the Summit

For Kenya, the Luanda Summit reinforced the value of principled, results-oriented multilateralism. By aligning peace and security with trade, investment, climate action, and youth empowerment, the AU–EU partnership demonstrated its capacity to translate shared ambitions into practical outcomes.

As the partnership enters its next phase, Kenya’s engagement in Luanda reflected a calculated diplomatic posture: advancing African priorities while deepening cooperation with Europe to deliver prosperity, resilience, and opportunity for citizens across both continents.





Kenya Assumes COMESA Leadership

H.E. President William Ruto assumed the Chairmanship of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) from H.E. President Évariste Ndayishimiye of Burundi during the 24th COMESA Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi from 6th –9th October, 2025.

In his opening remarks, President Ruto commended President Ndayishimiye for his “wise and steady leadership,” which guided COMESA’s achievements during his tenure. He urged member states to harness digital technology as a catalyst for deeper regional integration, expanded trade, and inclusive economic growth.

The Summit which was convened under the theme “Leveraging Digitalization to Deepen Regional Value Chains for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth,” brought together Heads of State and Government, senior policymakers, and business leaders from across COMESA

member states to explore pathways for economic transformation and enhanced cooperation.

President Ruto emphasized that Africa must transition from being a consumer of technology to becoming a global producer and innovator. He cited M-Pesa, Kenya’s homegrown fin-tech innovation, as a powerful example of African ingenuity that has transformed financial inclusion and improved the lives of millions across the continent. He emphasized that the future of our prosperity will be defined by how effectively we harness the transformative power of digital technology.

To advance this vision, the President called on COMESA member states to work towards the establishment of a single digital market, supported by harmonized policies on e-commerce, data protection, and cross-border payments. He announced that Kenya would increase its investment in the Trade and Development Bank (TDB) by USD 100 million, underscoring the country’s commitment to strengthening Africa’s financial autonomy and regional development financing.

Reaffirming Kenya’s commitment to a

borderless Africa, President Ruto reiterated the country’s visa-free policy for African nationals, noting that genuine regional integration could only be achieved when Africans were able to travel, work, and invest freely across the continent. The President highlighted the strong link between peace, stability, democracy, and economic growth, urging regional leaders to uphold good governance as a foundation for sustainable development. He concluded by stating that...

“Together, we can build a COMESA that is digital, dynamic, and deeply inclusive, a bloc that truly reflects the promise of a rising Africa,”

The Summit was attended by several Heads of State and Government and senior leaders from Comoros, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Eswatini, and Egypt, as well as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the COMESA Secretary-General, and AfCFTA Secretary-General.



Foreign Policy Insights from UNGA @ 80

Diplomacy Journal caught up with the Deputy Director-General of the Multilateral Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Amb. Njambi Kinyungu on the sidelines of the UNGA 80 Summit in New York. Here is her interview:

What has Kenya's main priority been at this year's UNGA?

During this year's UNGA, Kenya's engagement was strategically focused on advocating for structural reforms and addressing pressing global challenges, anchored by our commitment to peace and multilateralism.

Our core priorities were fourfold:

- **First**, advocating for equity in global governance. We championed the long-overdue reform of the UN Security Council, pressing for Africa's rightful place through the Ezulwini Consensus by calling for two permanent and two non-permanent seats for the continent. We argued this is not a favour, but

essential for the UN's legitimacy in a multi-polar world.

- **Second**, advancing peace and security, and sustainable development. We led high-level diplomatic engagements on stabilizing hotspots like Sudan, Somalia, the DRC, and Haiti. Peace and Security are at the heart of Kenya's Foreign Policy and thus, H.E. the President leveraged on UNGA80 to engage select Heads of State and Government to discuss some of these issues.

Concurrently, we drove the agenda on reforming the international financial architecture to ensure developing nations can access affordable climate and development finance. This followed the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), held from 30th June – 3rd July 2025, in Seville, Spain.

- **Third**, showcasing Kenyan leadership on specific global issues. This included chairing Africa's climate position ahead of COP30 during the Committee of the African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) which was convened on the margins of the UNGA80 in New York. It further included mobilizing support for affordable



Amb. Njambi Kinyungu, Deputy Director-General of the Multilateral Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs

housing as a global champion, and strongly backing Kenya's historic candidature to the International Court of Justice where Prof. Phoebe Okowa is expected to participate in.

- **Lastly**, to showcase and promote Kenya as a preferred investment destination. The President engaged the private sector and multinational companies to position Kenya as a preferred investment destination and a regional hub anchored on stability, a strong economy, digital connectivity, green energy, and expanded opportunities through

AfCFTA, EAC, and bilateral agreements with the EU, UK, UAE, and the U.S. under AGOA.

In essence, we used the platform to assert Kenya's role as a principled bridge-builder and a proactive leader on the world stage.

How has Kenya leveraged on UNGA to strengthen its global profile? How has it been in the past compared to today?

In the past, Kenya's approach at UNGA was largely consistent with that of many non-aligned, developing nations. We were a respected voice on decolonization, anti-apartheid, and the solidarity of the Global South. Our participation focused on affirming our commitment to the UN Charter and broad international norms. Kenya leverages UNGA with a much more proactive and entrepreneurial strategy: for instance, on matters,

- **Agenda-Setting Leadership:** We don't just attend; we set the table. As you saw this year, we chaired the African Union's Climate Committee (CAHOSCC) to consolidate the continent's position for COP30. We convened a high-level meeting of 25 Heads of State on Affordable Housing, positioning a domestic priority as a global solution. This moves us from a participant to a convener.
- **Strategic Bridge-Building:** UNGA is now our primary venue for "multilateral deal-making." His Excellency the President uses the High-level summit for targeted, bilateral engagements with key partners; from Security Council members to major financiers to advance specific goals on peacekeeping (e.g., Haiti, Somalia), debt relief, and investment. We act as a bridge between the Global South and traditional powers.
- **Platform for National Champions:** We proactively showcase Kenyan expertise. The vigorous campaign for Prof. Phoebe Okowa's ICJ candidature is a prime example. We did not just submit a name; we used UNGA's corridors to lobby, demonstrate Africa's legal prowess, and argue for Kenya's place at the

highest tables of global justice.

- **Branding as a Solution Provider:**

Beyond crises, we now market Kenya as a source of innovation. By championing our affordable housing model and our leadership in green energy and digital finance, we rebrand our profile from an aid recipient to an investment and partnership destination.

How is Kenya advancing Africa's position during this year's deliberations?

During UNGA 80, Kenya positioned itself as Africa's leading destination for global investment, highlighting an enabling business environment, a fully digital One-Stop Centre for investors, and opportunities in sectors like the digital economy, green manufacturing, and the apparel industry.

When it comes to the global financial architecture, Kenya pushed for the operationalization of African-led financial institutions, such as the African Monetary Fund and African Investment Bank, to strengthen the continent's financial independence and increase intra-African trade, and further called for reforms within the IMF and World Bank as well.

Kenya also took a leadership role in the G77 plus China negotiations on AI and Data Governance, ensuring that developing nations have a unified and influential voice in shaping the future of AI policies.

At the sidelines of UNGA 80, H.E. the President participated in the 7th Summit of the Committee of Ten (C-10) Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the UNSC convened by Sierra Leone on 21st September, 2025. The meeting deliberated on strategies for reinforcing engagements with P5 members and other key stakeholders to strengthen support for the Common African Position. It was also an opportunity to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the Common African Position on UN Security Council Reforms.

The Summit adopted a communiqué reaffirming Africa's unity and commitment to advancing the Common Af-

rican Position, endorsed two (2) permanent seats for Africa on the UNSC with all the rights and prerogatives of permanent membership, including the right to veto with a view to achieve a more equitable, representative, and effective Council.

There are many other issues we amplified such as our position on climate action and even peace and security looking at our commitment to regional stability while leading the Multilateral Security Support (MSS) mission in Haiti and urging sustained international support.

Highlight some of the critical bilateral or multilateral meetings that Kenya has held on the fringes of UNGA 80. The Housing and Health fora have been very important as they are aligned to BETA, speak to those as well.

H.E. the President participated in over 10 key bilateral engagements and other multilateral meetings that enhanced Kenya's profile and enabled the country advance her strategic goals; including creating opportunities particularly under the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Just to mention a few, the President attended a High-Level Event on Innovative Domestic Resource Mobilization for the "Big Push" Toward Malaria Elimination convened by the President of Botswana and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA). The event highlighted the urgent need for reform of the global health architecture which remains unequal with Africa left behind on vaccines, diagnostics and treatment.

Another meeting was the High-Level Event co-hosted by Slovenia and the World Health Organization (WHO), themed "Social participation and health equity as drivers of sustainable and prosperous societies". During the engagement, H.E. the President advocated for reduced health disparities as a moral duty and economic necessity and called for strengthened multilateral cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

Kenya and Norway co-hosted a high-level side event on "Closing in on the Global Plastic Pollution Treaty".



H.E. President William Ruto delivers his address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly held in New York

The event brought together 11 Ministers and the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with the aim to mobilize global consensus and build momentum for an ambitious plastics treaty. Kenya has expressed interest in hosting the secretariat of the proposed treaty.

A Bilateral meeting was held with Nana Baffour, Executive Chairman of the Enda Group of Companies, a global manufacturer of sports shoes and apparel. The objective was to explore opportunities in production of sportswear and sponsorships for Kenyan athletes.

H.E. the President addressed the US-Kenya Business and Investment Forum, bringing together CEOs of leading American multinationals, with the aim to deepen and further expand the robust partnership between Kenya and the USA. He extended an invitation to participants to attend the Kenya International Investment Conference (KIICO 2026) in March 2026.

Notably, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs chaired the 80th Session of the

General Assembly Debate in Kenya's capacity as the Vice-President of the 80th Session of the UNGA 2025, on 23rd September 2025. The Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs chaired the High-level multi-stakeholder informal meeting to launch the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance. I also chaired a Session of the General Assembly Debate on 26th September 2025.

President Ruto alluded that Kenya's foreign policy is neither aligned to the East or the West, but rather forward looking. How is Kenya working to deepen the partnerships with both traditional and emerging allies?

Kenya is positioning itself not as a passive ally but as a dynamic partner in a network of global partnerships where we are driving our own agenda. It means our partnerships are not dictated by historical blocs, but by a clear-eyed assessment of Kenya's national interests: achieving economic transformation, ensuring security, and amplifying our global voice. With the traditional allies, we are elevating the

relationship beyond aid and security to investment and innovation.

With emerging allies, we are building new and complementary platforms for growth. Here we are looking at infrastructure and financing, technology and manufacturing as well as South-South cooperation where we are focusing on agricultural technology and climate smart agriculture. Whatever the partnership may be, Kenya is looking at it through a forward-looking lens and benefits they will bring to boost various sectors within our economy.

How has Kenya been able to position itself as an anchor state in New York? Has Kenya taken up any leadership role in advocating for Diplomacy, Trade and Sustainable Development?

Absolutely. Kenya has methodically positioned itself as an indispensable anchor state and strategic convener during UNGA 80, particularly by leveraging its role as a consistent voice for the Global South and a pragmatic bridge-builder. When it comes to diplomacy and peace and security, Kenya acted not just as a participant, but as a mediator and security guarantor. Beyond statements, we convened critical, closed-door meetings with Heads of State on the crises in Sudan, the DRC, and Haiti. Our commitment to leading the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission in Haiti was a tangible, high-risk demonstration of leadership, proving our willingness to back diplomatic advocacy with concrete troop contributions.

Secondly, on trade and sustainable development, Kenya used UNGA 80 to pivot the conversation from aid to investment and partnership. We moved beyond general appeals by championing specific reforms to the International Financial Architecture, arguing for improved access to affordable development finance. In addition, the high-level meeting on Affordable Housing was not just a discussion; it was a diplomatic effort to attract partners and investments.



UNGA@80

By W. Ochako

Kenya's participation in the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80), held from 21st –30th September 2025 in New York, reaffirmed Kenya's influence in shaping global dialogue, strengthening multilateral cooperation and expanding strategic partnerships. Kenya's high-level presence was significant as the UN commemorated eight decades of global diplomacy, peace efforts, and multilateral cooperation.

Kenya was represented at the highest level by H.E President William Ruto accompanied by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and senior officials. Kenya's participation cut

across many thematic areas that advanced global conversations on peace, development and human rights.

Under the theme "Better Together: 80 Years and More for Peace, Development and Human Rights," Kenya championed bold reforms of global governance institutions, including the urgent restructuring of the UN Security Council, and pressed for an international order that reflects the aspirations and realities of developing nations, particularly within Africa. Kenya called for accelerated climate action, reforms to the global financial architecture and the establishment of predictable financing for peace and security initiatives such as the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti.

During the General Debate, President Ruto, told the Council that it had no choice but to undertake substantive re-

form or lose relevance, while reaffirming Kenya's continued commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration—a clarification of Africa's demand for two permanent and five non-permanent seats on the Council. Kenya co-chaired a High-Level Event on Haiti with the United States, at which the President underscored the gains recorded by the MSS mission and emphasized sustained financing and logistical support, as well as a coordinated transition to a proposed Gang Suppression Force. This side event brought out Kenya's leading role in global peace and security diplomacy.

Kenya further convened the High-Level Round-table on Adequate and Affordable Housing, mobilizing global support for Resolution 2/7 and culminating in an affirmation of a strong Call to Action, affording adequate housing a universally recognized human right.

Additionally, Kenya's engagements at UNGA80 demonstrated our unwavering commitment to multilateralism across health, climate, gender equality, youth empowerment, and sustainable development.

On the reform of global health, Kenya underscored the urgent need to address glaring inequalities in access to vaccines, diagnostics, and treatment. On climate action and ocean governance, Kenya deposited the instrument of ratification for the BBNJ Agreement, joining other nations in reinforcing global commitments to protect marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Kenya equally delivered national statements, reassuring its commitment to the inclusion of youth, gender equality, and the protection of vulnerable communities, highlighting transformative national initiatives such as the Kenya Centre of Innovation and the NYOTA Programme.

At the ministerial level, Kenya's delegation actively participated in high-stakes engagements on peace-building, efforts toward de-escalation in Sudan, African Union financial stability, and nuclear

disarmament, further cementing the country's position in regional and global governance. On the economic front, UNGA80 provided a critical platform to showcase Kenya's economic diplomacy within the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.

Some of the outcomes which were recorded among these many engagements include further consolidating the California–Africa Climate and Economic Partnership in areas that touch on sustainable transport, electric mobility, renewable energy and green infrastructure; US–Kenya Business and Investment Forum, a unique position where Kenya was pitched as an investment destination and where global partners were invited to KIICO 2026; Sports, Creative Industries and Digital Innovation engagements, including meetings with the leadership of the NBA on elite sports development and expansion of infrastructure in Nairobi. Kenya engaged on the diplomatic front where key highlights involved new co-operation agreements sealed with Uzbekistan, Cyprus, Benin and Antigua and Barbuda on various areas border-

ing agriculture and visa facilitation.

Kenya's position at UNGA80 was marked by an assertive and coherent foreign policy agenda that continues to earn global respect. By championing multilateral reforms, firmly defending Africa's collective positions, and mobilizing partnerships on peace and security, climate action, economic transformation, and human development, Kenya reaffirmed its standing as an influential and forward-looking voice in global diplomacy. This was especially significant as the international community commemorated 80 years of the United Nations and looked ahead to many more in the pursuit of peace, development, and human rights.

Kenya's interventions at UNGA80 reinforced its credibility as a constructive global actor, with several partners acknowledging Kenya's leadership on climate justice, peacekeeping, and global financial reform. The outcomes from UNGA80 are expected to shape Kenya's international agenda over the next year, particularly ahead of UNEA-7 and other high-level global forums.

New Envoys Urged to Uphold Integrity, Professionalism, and Advance National interests

By. A. Kuria

Kenya's newly appointed Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and Consuls General have been called upon to uphold integrity, professionalism, and patriotism as they prepare to assume their diplomatic duties abroad. The call was made by senior leadership of the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs following the completion of a comprehensive two-week pre-departure training programme conducted by the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) in November 2025.



The training, which forms part of the Ministry's ongoing capacity-building efforts, was designed to equip diplomats with the knowledge, skills, and strategic orientation necessary to represent Kenya internationally in a rapid-

ly shifting global landscape.

Speaking during the closing ceremony at the Foreign Service Academy, Amb. Josphat Maikara, Director-General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs, em-



phasized the weight of responsibility borne by the new envoys. He noted that the reputation and effectiveness of Kenya's diplomatic service depend on the conduct and commitment of its representatives abroad. The training covered Kenya's contemporary foreign policy priorities, diaspora engagement, economic and commercial diplomacy, protocol, etiquette, and mission security, areas that the DG said are critical for Kenya's diplomatic representation.

Amb. Patrick Wamoto, the acting Director-General of the Foreign Service Academy, echoed the message, urging the envoys to remain agile and adaptable amid evolving geopolitical dynamics. He stressed the need for continuous learning, consensus-building, and innovation, especially as diplomacy increasingly intersects with global issues such as climate change, cyber security, infectious diseases, and transnational crime.

Amb. Wamoto stated that the training had equipped the diplomats with a strong foundation to advance Kenya's foreign policy, promote economic diplomacy, support diaspora communities, and contribute to global climate action and security efforts.

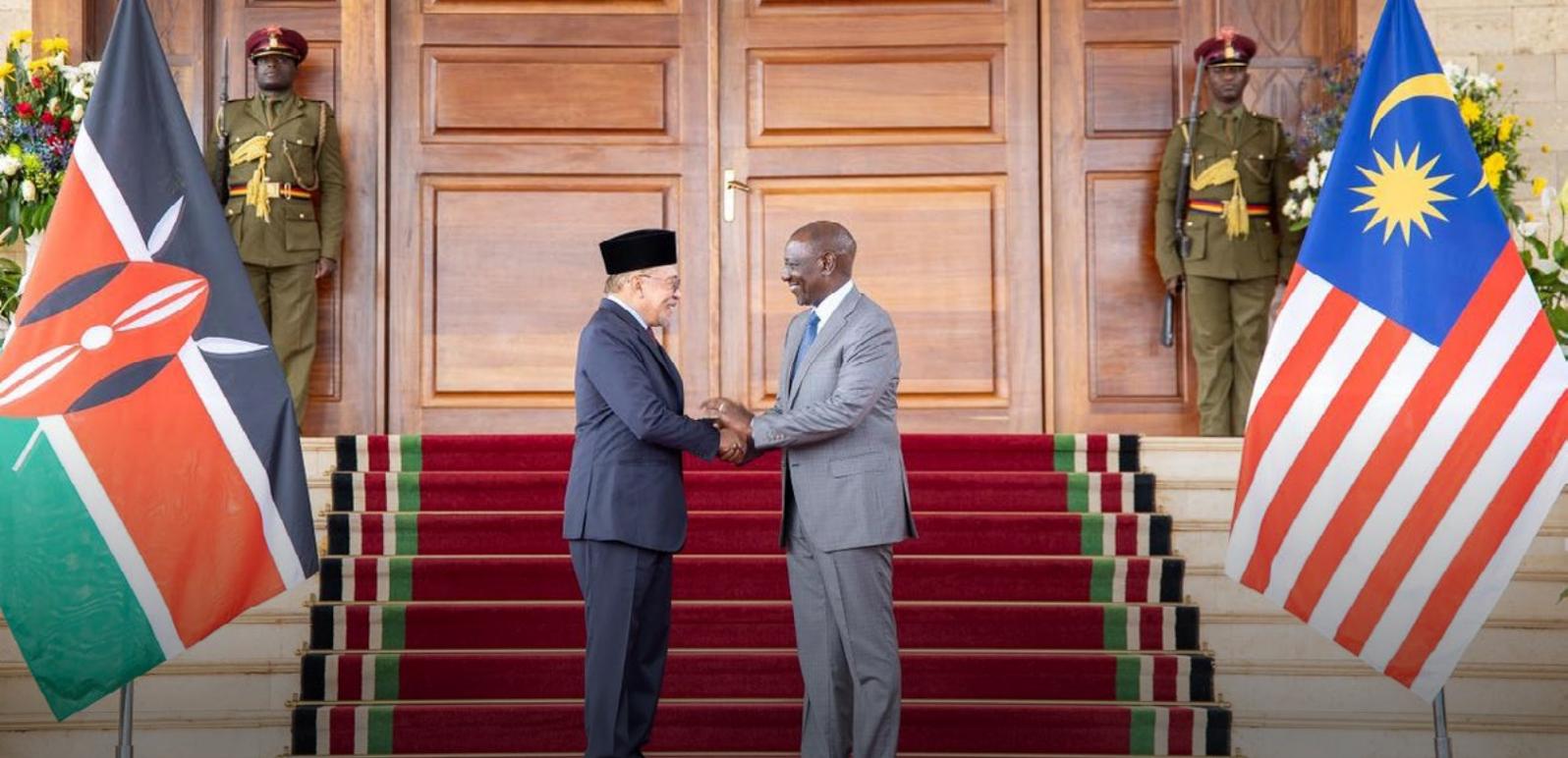
While receiving the newly appointed envoys in his office, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs congratulated them on their appointments and noted that representing Kenya abroad is both "an honor and a profound responsibility."

The PCS urged the envoys to ground their work in the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, which outlines Kenya's contemporary foreign policy direction, emphasizing that economic diplomacy is the cornerstone of the country's external engagement. He urged the Ambassadors-designate to leverage diplomatic missions as economic hubs. He

reminded the envoys that diplomacy must remain people-centered, hence they must engage proactively with Kenyans at home and abroad to ensure foreign policy remains inclusive, data-driven, and responsive to national needs.

Dr. Mudavadi informed the envoys that the government was expanding Kenya's diplomatic footprint to strengthen strategic partnerships through the establishment of new diplomatic missions in Denmark, Vietnam, and the Vatican City.

The newly appointed envoys' extensive experience in diplomacy, governance, protocol, and public administration will play a vital role in promoting the nation's strategic interests, strengthening partnerships, and elevating Kenya's profile in global affairs. They are set to take up postings in Europe, Asia, Middle East, and Africa.



Kenya and Malaysia Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership

By Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary

Kenya and Malaysia elevated their relations to a strategic level during the State visit to Kenya, by the Hon. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia on 23rd and 24th November, 2025. This marked a significant milestone as the two countries celebrated 60 years of diplomatic relations.

During the historic visit, the two leaders held a bilateral meeting in which they discussed matters of mutual interest and exchanged views on regional and global issues. The discussions reaffirmed the longstanding friendship and the elevation of relations to a Strategic Bilateral Partnership (SBP), thus establishing a more structured framework for collaboration.

Bilateral Cooperation

Among the areas discussed to strengthen bilateral cooperation were agriculture, energy transition, manufacturing (semiconductors), technology (AI and digital transformation), and research. The two countries also committed to the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers that have long hindered trade, with the intent to expand market access

and stimulate new investment flows.

Kenya and Malaysia further agreed to work together in expanding the semiconductor industry in Kenya, identifying it as a high-growth frontier sector with significant potential for technological and economic transformation. Also highlighted were plans to place cooperation in STEM research, innovation, and education, positioning human capital development at the center of future collaboration.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of four legal instruments: A Bilateral Air Services Agreement aimed at improving connectivity between the two countries; an MoU on Tourism cooperation to enhance joint marketing, capacity-building and sectoral collaboration; and an MoU between the respective Chambers of Commerce aimed at strengthening private sector linkages with the attendant gains of spurring manufacturing, agribusiness and digital innovation; and a Letter of Intent to twin the cities of Nairobi and Kuala Lumpur was also signed, to open avenues for cooperation in urban planning, smart city development, technology integration, and improved service

delivery.

The Multilateral Front

At the level of multilateral cooperation, the leaders exchanged views on major global developments, including the conflict in the Middle East where they welcomed the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving lasting peace in Gaza. Further, both leaders acknowledged Kenya's pivotal contributions to peace in Eastern Africa, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, as well as Malaysia's efforts to promote stability in South East Asia.

Kenya and Malaysia reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening advocacy for the reform of the global financial architecture and ongoing efforts to reform the UNSC for effective global governance. President Ruto appreciated Malaysia's support for the UN efforts to upgrade the UNON, describing it as a vote of confidence in Nairobi's growing role as a hub for global diplomacy. He underscored the importance of continued collaboration in supporting the work of UNON, UNEP and UN-HABITAT, in line with the spirit of advancing the UNGA 80 initiatives.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia also took the opportunity to participate in the Malaysia-Africa Higher Education Forum 2025 (MAHEF2025) and undertook a visit to the Nairobi National Park.



Kenya and Morocco Deepen Cooperation in Healthcare

By G. Cheron

Kenya's public healthcare system has received a major boost with the roll out of the first large-scale cochlear implant surgeries at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). This follows a donation of 70 cochlear implant devices valued at Ksh. 120 M from the Kingdom of Morocco. The donation is expected to support approximately 70 children living with severe hearing loss, offering renewed hope to families across the country.

The KNH surgeries build on Kenya's growing capacity in specialized hearing care, following the first public-sector cochlear implant operation conducted at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in 2023. The initiative aligns with the broader Cochlear Africa Programme, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess (H.R.H) Lalla Asmaa, which works with African First Ladies to expand access to hearing care and strengthen early intervention for children across the continent.

During the medical mission at KNH, H.E. Mrs. Rachel Ruto, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, expressed

appreciation to H.R.H. Princess Lalla Asmaa and the Government of Morocco for the support, noting that the donation will significantly improve access to life-changing treatment for children with hearing impairments. To further strengthen cooperation on health care, the Voice of Children Foundation and the Lalla Asmaa Foundation signed an agreement to enhance humanitarian support for paediatric hearing care on 5th November 2025.

In addition to the implants, Morocco contributed specialized surgical equipment as part of a joint humanitari-

an medical mission involving KNH, MTRH, the Ministry of Health, and the partner foundations. The three-day official visit by H.R.H Princess Lalla Asmaa at the invitation of H.E. Mrs. Rachel Ruto, underscored the warm and longstanding relations between Kenya and Morocco. The First Lady is expected to reciprocate the visit further advancing medical cooperation under the auspices of the Lalla Asmaa Foundation. A further 30 surgical procedures are scheduled to be carried out in February 2026, during Mrs. Ruto's visit to Morocco.





Angola Posthumously Honours Mzee Jomo Kenyatta

By. F. Kosgey

The Republic of Angola has posthumously conferred a national honor on the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's founding President, in recognition of his contribution to Angola's liberation struggle and broader African independence movements.

The honor was bestowed during Angola's 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations, held in Luanda on 6th November 2025. As part of the commemorations, H.E. João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, awarded Mzee Kenyatta the Medal of Honour (Honour Class), acknowledging his enduring legacy as a Pan-Africanist leader and his support for Angola's liberation movement.

The decoration was received on behalf of the Kenyatta family by Mr. Muho-ho Kenyatta, witnessed by Amb. Joyce M'maitsi.



In a statement issued on 8th November 2025, former President Uhuru Kenyatta noted that the recognition honours the deep historical ties and shared struggle for freedom between Kenya and Angola. He further observed that the award reinforces the strong diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He extended warm congratulations to the people of Angola on their Golden

Jubilee and wished them continued peace and prosperity in their journey of national development.

The honor was also accorded to other prominent African leaders and individuals from Algeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ghana, and other countries, who played significant roles in supporting Angola's struggle for independence.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Quarterly Diplomatic Round-Up

Kenya continues to project a robust Foreign Policy under the leadership of Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. Between October and December 2025, the PCS participated in a number of engagements to advance Kenya's Foreign Policy priorities cutting across various sectors including, peace and security, regional integration, global health, climate change, innovation and diaspora.

In Washington, D.C., the PCS signed a landmark Kenya–United States Health Cooperation Framework worth USD 1.6 billion that will strengthen national health sovereignty and expand the health workforce over the next five years. The framework shifts Kenya's healthcare system from donor-driven models to a government-led approach, and aligns with Kenya Vision 2030 its Fourth Medium Term Plan and the BETA.

In Nairobi, the PCS hosted Mr. Toshia-ki Takagi, Chairman of Japan's Terumo Corporation and welcomed their plans to establish Africa's first Pan-African Medical Training Centre in Nairobi, positioning Kenya as a continental hub for medical innovation, training, and health tourism.

The PCS held a meeting with representatives of the Gates Foundation to reflect on the shared commitment to improving lives across the continent. The discussions underscored Kenya's leadership in advancing maternal and child health and highlighted the country's strengthened collaboration with the Global Fund in building resilient health systems. The engagement is a follow up of the Goalkeepers Event held in New York in September, 2025.

During the inaugural Software and AI

Summit at Moi University in November 2025, the PCS positioned Kenya as a continental digital powerhouse, highlighting youth-driven innovation, the country's strong ICT ecosystem, and the need for sustained investment in digital skills, infrastructure, and public-sector innovation.

On regional integration, peace, and security, the PCS played a central role at the 20th COMESA Ministerial Meeting and the 24th COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit in Nairobi, culminating in the installation of President William Ruto as COMESA Chair. Discussions addressed regional peace and security challenges, digitalization of value chains, and economic integration.

Building on the Nairobi and Luanda Peace processes, the PCS accompanied President Ruto to Washington to witness the historic Eastern DRC Peace Accord, which reaffirmed Kenya's leadership in peace and security diplomacy.

Kenya's leadership and commitment to the fight against counter-terrorism were further reinforced through high-level engagement with UN Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and Kenya's election to the INTERPOL Executive Committee.

Economic and trade diplomacy advanced across multiple fronts. Engagements with Spain, Australia, Malaysia, the United States, Qatar, and multilateral partners focused on trade access, investment, labor mobility, mining, blue economy, housing, digital economy, and agriculture.

In Washington, the PCS engaged in discussions on extending AGOA and laying the groundwork for a new Kenya–US trade framework, while also advancing an innovative USD 1 billion

Debt-for-Food-Security Swap with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation to support climate-resilient food systems in arid and semi-arid areas. In Qatar, he held discussions with Baladna Food Industries LC, on promoting investment in the dairy sector in Kenya to reinforce food security.

Multilateral governance and norm-setting remained central. The PCS chaired preparations for Kenya's effective participation in the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha. He was briefed on Kenya's preparedness for the upcoming 2026 World Economic Forum in Davos, which brings together political, business, cultural and societal leaders to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Its work sits at the crossroads of three (3) defining areas; Fourth Industrial Revolution, safeguarding the global commons, and addressing emerging security challenges.

Diaspora and labor diplomacy were a consistent priority. The PCS led updated Parliament on reforms in labor migration, particularly in Saudi Arabia, and the strengthened oversight of recruitment agencies, worker insurance, and bilateral labor agreements.

While in Qatar, he engaged Kenyan workers and highlighted the growing importance of diaspora remittances, approaching KES 1 trillion annually.

Strategic communication and public diplomacy were advanced through regular media briefings and the Foreign Policy *Mashinani* initiative, which brought foreign policy discussions to counties, linked diplomacy to livelihoods, and deepened youth and county-level engagement, particularly around the blue economy, digital diplomacy, diaspora investment, and county branding.



PCS Mudavadi Commends 24-Hour Diaspora Call Centre

By P. Githua

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, paid a working visit to the State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA), where he toured the 24-hour Diaspora Call Centre and the Department's Counselling Unit, reaffirming the Government's commitment to protecting and supporting Kenyans abroad.

During the visit, the PCS received a firsthand briefing on the operations of the Call Centre and experienced its work in real time. In a live interaction, he personally received a call from a distressed Kenyan seeking assistance to locate a relative who had contacted them from an unknown foreign number before going silent. The incident highlighted the range of urgent and emotionally charged cases handled by the Centre daily.



At the Counselling Unit, the Prime CS met officers providing psycho-social support to Kenyans through walk-in consultations, referrals, and remote engagement platforms. He was briefed on the Unit's role in addressing trauma, distress, and mental health challenges faced by Kenyans in diaspora.

Dr. Mudavadi also held engagements with staff in the State Department, during which the divisions outlined their mandate in advancing diaspora welfare and protection. In his address, the PCS noted the wide mandate of the Diaspora Department in protecting the rights and welfare of Kenyans. He urged the young officers to put the

country first, always be dedicated and disciplined in their service to the country, and exhibit patience and resilience in their day-to-day activities.

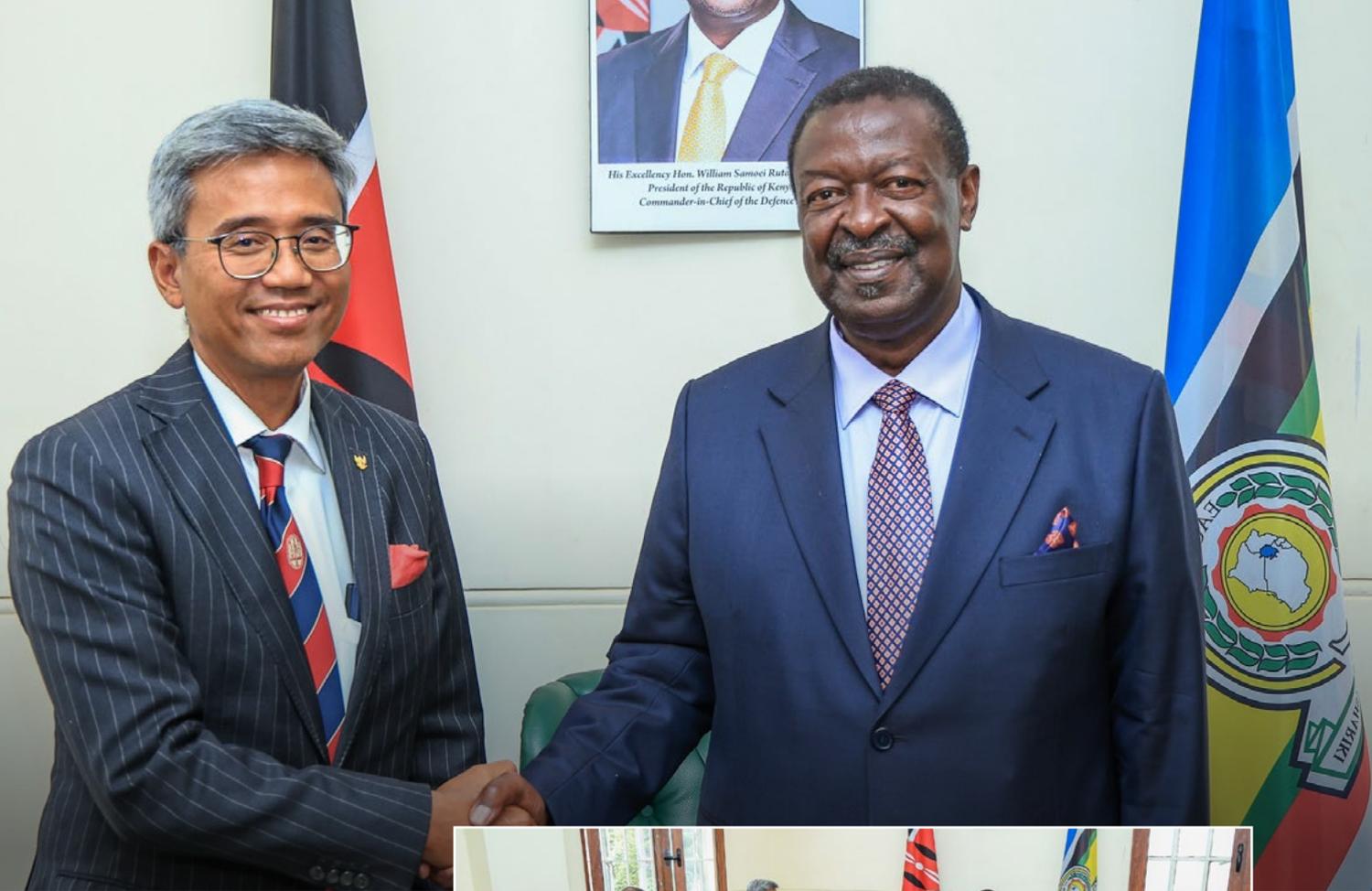
In a meeting with the senior leadership of the Department, the PCS commended the team for establishing strong systems and building a solid foundation for the three-year-old, award-winning State Department. He challenged them to remain innovative in addressing the concerns faced by Kenyans abroad.

Dr. Mudavadi reaffirmed his commitment to championing initiatives that place the Kenyan diaspora at the center of national development agenda

by mobilizing support across the government. The visit underscored the Government's deliberate efforts to protect the rights, welfare, and dignity of Kenyans overseas. Dr. Mudavadi commended PS Roseline Njogu and the SDDA team for their focused and impactful work in prioritizing the needs of the Kenyan diaspora.

Dr. Mudavadi's engagements during the quarter reflected a coherent, people-centered foreign policy anchored in regional peace and security, economic transformation, innovation, health diplomacy, strengthened multilateralism, and diaspora protection. The engagements projected a Country that is not only safeguarding its interests, but actively shaping regional and global agendas with its citizens, youth, and diaspora at the core.



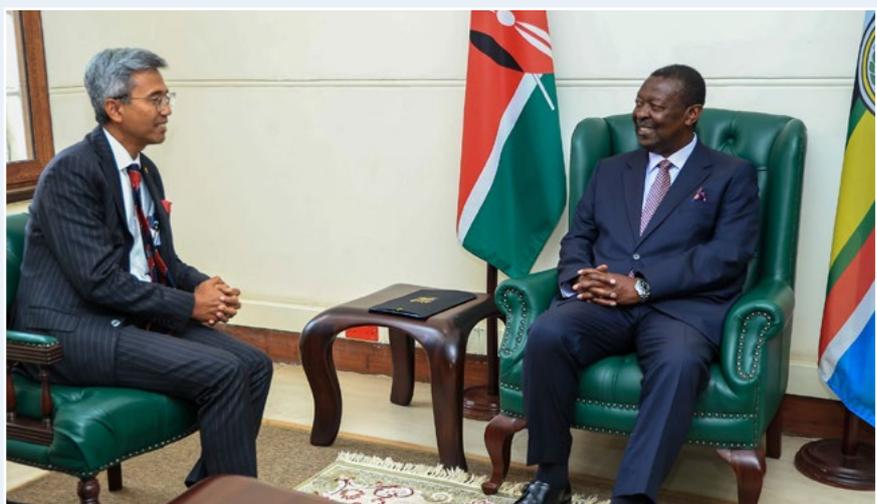


Kenya-Indonesia Relations Strengthened

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, received H.E. Tyas Baskoro Her Witjaksono Adji, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Kenya, during a courtesy call at his office.

Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, education, energy, and South-South partnerships. Dr. Mudavadi congratulated Ambassador Adji on his accreditation and welcomed him to Kenya, commending the longstanding friendship between the two countries rooted in shared values and historic solidarity dating back to the 1955 Bandung Conference in West Java.

Dr. Mudavadi reaffirmed Kenya's readiness to host the second session of the Kenya-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) in 2026, aimed at expanding opportunities for mutual growth. The Prime Cabinet Secretary also appreciated In-



donesia's continued support in education and capacity building, noting that more than 40 Kenyan students and civil servants are currently pursuing studies in Indonesia.

Dr. Mudavadi wished Ambassador Adji a successful tour of duty and assured him of the Ministry's full cooperation and goodwill.



Kenya- Luxembourg Deepen Bilateral Relations

*By Office of the Prime Cabinet
Secretary*

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, held bilateral talks in with H.E. Xavier Bettel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg in Nairobi on 15th October, 2025.

The discussions focused on strengthening Kenya-Luxembourg relations and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Dr. Mudavadi underscored the longstanding friendship between the two countries and reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to elevating the partnership, noting shared values in innovation, sustainability, and global cooperation. He proposed enhanced academic and research collaboration between the University of Luxembourg and leading Kenyan institutions in STEM, innovation, and sustainable



finance, alongside scholarships and exchange programmes to develop future leaders.

Dr. Mudavadi commended Luxembourg's active role in multilateral diplomacy and the mutual support extended by both countries in international fora. He sought Luxembourg's support for Kenya's candidature of Prof. Phoebe Okowa to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), reaffirming Kenya's readiness to reciprocate in future candidacies.

He also emphasized the need to conclude key bilateral instruments, including the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Bilateral Air

Services Agreement, to boost trade, investment, and connectivity. He proposed regular bilateral political consultations to guide cooperation and welcomed Luxembourg's plan to open a diplomatic post in Nairobi, noting its value for engagement with Kenya and the wider East African region.

At the multilateral level, Dr. Mudavadi invited Luxembourg to support Kenya's bid to host the Secretariat to End Plastic Pollution in Nairobi and to participate in the 11th Our Ocean Conference, which Kenya will host in March 2026. He concluded by reaffirming Kenya's commitment to deepening relations with Luxembourg across bilateral, regional, and multilateral platforms.

Advancing Kenya's International Candidatures

At the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Kenya's principal priority was to advance a set of strategic international candidatures through sustained diplomacy and targeted bilateral engagement. Kenya prioritized three candidatures for the IMO, ICJ and the INTERPOL Executive Committee. These are:

Kenya's candidature to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council, Category C, (2026-2027) with elections scheduled for 28th November 2025 in London.

The candidature of Professor Phoebe Okowa for election as a Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to fill the 2025–2027 casual vacancy, with simultaneous voting at the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council on 12th November 2025.

The candidature of Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Amin, Director of Criminal Investigations, for election to the INTERPOL Executive Committee as Delegate for Africa, with elections scheduled during the 93rd INTERPOL General Assembly on 27th November 2025, for the period 2025-2028.

Kenya campaigned for Prof. Phoebe Okowa as a highly qualified, independent, and impartial candidate, guided solely by the mandate of the Court and the principles of international law. Prof. Okowa's candidature carried particular national significance, as her election would mark a historic milestone, making her a Kenyan woman of many firsts, including serving on the ICJ bench.

Beyond academia, Professor Okowa has appeared as counsel and advocate in numerous international legal proceedings, underscoring her practical readiness to contribute meaningfully to the Court's work.

Other international candidatures

Kenya continues to advance both individual and country candidatures as part of its broader strategy to deepen representation and leadership within

multilateral institutions.

Individual candidatures include:

- Ms. Nancy Gathungu, nominated as External Auditor for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) for 2026–2027, with elections scheduled in Vienna in November 2025.
- Ms. Nancy Gathungu, also Kenya's nominee for External Auditor of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the 2026–2031 term.

Country and multilateral candidatures include Kenya's bids for:

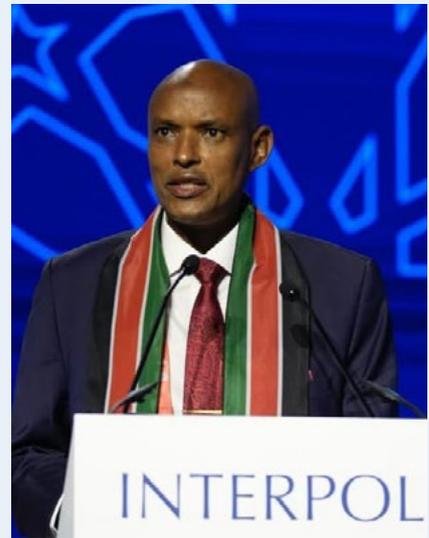
- IMO Council, Category C (2026–2027);
- African Union Peace and Security Council (2026–2028);
- UN Economic and Social Council (2027–2029);
- UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2027–2029);
- UNESCO Executive Board (2027–2031);
- UNCITRAL (2028–2034);
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs (2028–2031); and
- Re-election to the Human Rights Council (2028–2030).

Additionally, Kenya has positioned itself to host the Secretariat of the proposed Global Plastics Treaty and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (AAMFI).

Together, these candidatures reflect Kenya's deliberate strategy to strengthen its voice in global governance, promote equitable representation, and contribute high-calibre expertise to multilateral institutions, anchoring diplomacy firmly in professionalism, credibility, and long-term national interest.



Professor Phoebe Okowa



Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Amin



Ms. Nancy Gathungu



PS Foreign Affairs Quarterly Round-Up

As part of enhancing Kenya's active participation in global peace and security, the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir SingOei, engaged various partners in Luanda on the sidelines of the AU–EU Summit on South Sudan's transition, Libya's path to stability, and broader peace efforts in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region. The partners included South Africa, the Troika (UK, USA and Norway) and the EU.

In Addis Ababa, during a conference on "Africa's Rising Influence: Advancing Agency in Foreign Policy and Global Governance", the PS joined regional and global leaders to reflect on Africa's role in a shifting multipolar world. He described the current period as an "interregnum" in global governance and urged Africa to draw on its collective experience to define a stronger, more coherent global posture.

On the protection of Kenyan citizens abroad, Dr. SingOei met the Ambassadors of Ukraine and Russia separately, and raised the plight of Kenyans traf-

ficked to fight on the Russia–Ukraine war frontline. He sought for consular access and repatriation of the affected Kenyans. Both meetings underlined Kenya's commitment to the protection of its citizens. On the Russia-Ukraine war, the PS called for a negotiated settlement to the conflict that has devastated both countries.

During post-electoral disturbances in Tanzania, a Kenyan teacher John Okoth Ogutu lost his life. Dr. SingOei met the family and assured them of the government's commitment to locating and repatriating the remains.

The Principal Secretary co-chaired Kenya–Belgium Political Consultations with Belgian Foreign Affairs leadership, reviewing progress on double taxation prevention, renewed Brussels–Nairobi flights, university linkages, and BIO-Invest's over €100 million portfolio in Kenya. The talks identified further areas for cooperation in trade, regional peace, and multilateral coordination.

As part of deepening relations between

Kenya and Hungary, the PS joined H.E. Katalin Nyirati, Hungarian Ambassador to Kenya on the occasion of Hungary's National Day at the Hungarian Embassy in Nairobi. In his remarks, the PS applauded the cordial relations between Kenya and Hungary that had seen the expansion of cooperation in: education; water management; and agriculture, including support to Kabonyo Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Centre of excellence and Ahero irrigation projects.

On Kenya Japan and China relations, Dr. SingOei held meetings with their representatives on diverse dates in November. During the meeting with the Japan Ambassador, the PS reaffirmed collaborations in infrastructure, energy and human resource development. In the meeting with Ms. Sun Qiuyue, Deputy Director General of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), both sides reviewed ongoing development cooperation in health, education, infrastructure and emergency response.

In enhancing Economic Diplomacy, Dr. SingOei met with outgoing Kenya Airways CEO Allan Kilavuka, where he described KQ not just as a com-

mercial entity but as a national brand that mirrored Kenya's bold and forward-looking identity. He emphasized the synergy between Kenya's diplomatic function and its national carrier in connecting the country to the world.

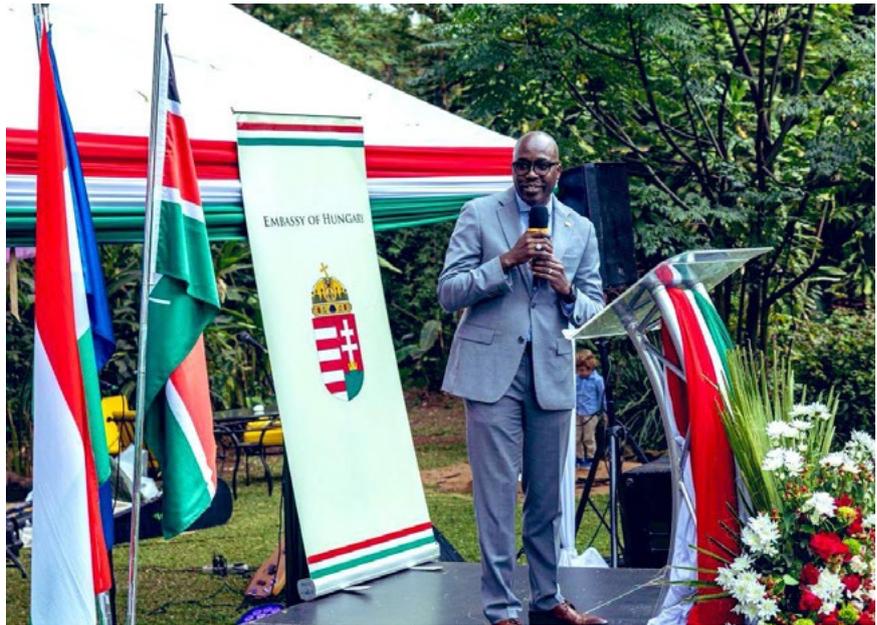
In Nairobi, the PS witnessed the unveiling of five new electric vehicle prototypes assembled by 'TAD Motors' at the Naivasha Special Economic Zone, calling it a bold step for Kenya's green transition and regional ambitions in automotive manufacturing. He pledged continued government efforts to create a conducive environment through stable policies, strong institutions, robust infrastructure and stronger partnerships with the private sector.

At the "Ambition Africa" forum in Paris, the PS underscored opportunities in Agriculture, Energy transition, Innovation and Digital transformation. In Luanda, he joined partners from the Netherlands, EU and Invest International, to witness the signing of a Letter of Intent on the Northern Corridor under the Eu's Global Gateway. The initiative will support physical infrastructure and smart digital trade systems to strengthen Kenya's export capacity, particularly through climate-smart logistics, and a shift from costly air freight to more sustainable sea freight.

A key achievement of the quarter was the election of Prof. Phoebe Okowa as a judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) following months of intense lobbying by the Ministry's leadership. The PS hailed the result as a mark of confidence in her competence and Kenya's international standing.

In the Governance sphere, during an engagement with the Commission on Administrative Justice on the State of Openness Report, the PS described it as a pioneering exercise in translating open government norms into practical governance tools. PS SingOei reiterated the State Department's commitment to transparency and accountability through the Open Government Partnership (OGP) framework.

In an effort to improve the Ministry's communication, the PS participated in an internal public communication



Dr. Abraham SingOei speaks during the celebration of Hungary's National Day



Dr. Abraham SingOei presides over the inauguration of the Consulate General of Kenya in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

knowledge session with PR practitioners Gina Din Kariuki and Thebe Ikalafeng. He challenged the Ministry staff to see their work as stewardship of Kenya's story and dignity on the global stage.

As part of preparation for the upcoming Africa France Summit ('Africa Forward' Conference), to be co-hosted by Kenya and France in May 2026, the PS

held a series of meetings with senior officials in Nairobi and Paris. The key thematic pillars of the Summit will include Health, Agriculture, and Green energy, Industrialization, Artificial Intelligence and Investment for the advancement of Africa's development agenda and shared prosperity between Africa and France.



Dr. Korir SingOei and Mr. Al-Shehri preside over the cake cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the Consulate of Kenya in Jeddah.

Expansion of Kenya's Diplomatic Footprint in the Middle East

By S. Galmagar

Kenya celebrated a key diplomatic milestone with the official opening of its Consulate General in Jeddah and the launch of the mission's first Strategic Plan for 2024–2027 on 3rd November, 2025.

The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and attended by Mr. Fareed Al-Shehri, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Makkah Region, Kenya's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Consul General, Jeddah, Deputy Director General of the Middle East Directorate; Consuls General from other missions in Jeddah; among other officials.

In his keynote address, Dr. SingOei expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its continued partnership and described the Consulate as a symbol of enduring friendship. He officially launched the Strategic Plan



Principal Secretary, Dr. Korir SingOei, alongside the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Makkah Region, Mr. Fareed Al-Shehri, and the Consul General, Amb. Aden Mohamed, launch the Consulate's Strategic Plan for the period 2024–2027.

themed “Strengthening Partnership for Effective Diplomatic Engagement and Shared Prosperity,” emphasizing its alignment with Kenya's Foreign Policy and Vision 2030.

Amb. Aden Mohamed, the Consul General, hailed the inauguration as a defining moment in bilateral relations and committed to delivering the plan's objectives with excellence.

The new consulate is set to decentralize services for over 200,000 Kenyans living in the Kingdom, nearly half in Jeddah, Madinah, and surrounding areas and provide critical support to Kenyan pilgrims during Hajj and Umrah. It will

also serve as a hub for trade promotion, investment opportunities, and deeper economic and cultural cooperation in the Red Sea corridor and the wider Middle East.

Opening of the Consulate in Jeddah aligns with Kenya's foreign policy to strengthen its global presence, enhance diaspora engagement, and advance skills-based labor diplomacy. Some of the most immediate tangible benefits include improved access to consular services, greater support for religious travelers, and a stronger platform for economic and cultural diplomacy.



Kenya and Oman Hold Inaugural Political Consultations in Muscat

By V. Otieno

Kenya and the Sultanate of Oman successfully held their inaugural session of Political Consultations in Muscat. The Kenyan delegation was led by Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, while the Omani delegation was headed by Khalid bin Hamad Al Harthy the Undersecretary for Political Affairs at the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The consultations held within the framework of the existing MOU on Political Consultations were conducted in a cordial atmosphere. Both sides engaged in open and constructive dialogue aimed at strengthening the long-standing historical ties between Kenya and Oman and expanding cooperation across areas of mutual interest and benefit.

A key outcome of the consultations was the agreement to finalize several bilateral instruments designed to deepen cooperation and facilitate economic engagement. These include Memorandum of Understanding and

Agreements on the regulation of employment, tourism cooperation, maritime cooperation, trade facilitation, investment protection and facilitation, avoidance of double taxation, and a visa-waiver arrangement for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

The delegations also reviewed the overall state of bilateral relations and explored new opportunities for collaboration. Discussions focused on strengthening political and economic cooperation based on shared interests and a common vision for the future. In the agriculture and livestock sector, both sides committed to facilitating the export of Kenyan meat and meat products to Oman through the fast-tracking of approvals, certifications, and health protocols. On trade and investment, the two countries agreed to pursue a dynamic and forward-looking economic partnership to support transformative growth.

The consultations further underscored the importance of cooperation in in-

formation and communications technology, with commitments to strategic collaboration and joint innovation initiatives to support digital transformation and industrial modernization. At the Multilateral level, Kenya and Oman reaffirmed their intention to support each other in international fora on issues including peace and security, climate change, the blue economy, maritime security, and reform of the global financial architecture.

The two delegations welcomed the imminent finalization of the Bilateral Air Services Agreement, noting that enhanced air connectivity would significantly boost tourism, trade, and people-to-people exchanges. They agreed that the inaugural consultations had successfully established a structured mechanism for sustained high-level dialogue and follow-up. The delegations expressed confidence that the consultations marked the beginning of a new and promising chapter in Kenya–Oman relations, laying a strong foundation for deeper cooperation and mutual prosperity. The second round of Political Consultations is scheduled to be held in Nairobi on dates to be mutually agreed.



Strengthening Ties: Kenya and Denmark Deepen Strategic Cooperation Through Inaugural Political Consultations

By D. Wairimu

During a two-day official visit to Denmark, Dr. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, led a Kenyan delegation for high-level engagements with Danish government officials and private sector leaders, aiming to strengthen bilateral relations and unlock new opportunities for collaboration. Kenya and Denmark share a longstanding development cooperation history dating back to the 1960s. Denmark is one of Kenya's key partners in green transition, governance, and private-sector development, making these inaugural political consultations an important step in elevating the relationship from development assistance to strategic partnership. The visit underscored shared priorities in diplomatic relations, sustainable development, trade, culture, technology and innovation, and infrastructure.

At the Confederation of Danish Industry (DI), discussions focused on

enhancing economic diplomacy and attracting more Danish investments to Kenya. With over 50 Danish companies already operating in Kenya, DI pledged to support further collaboration, including the establishment of a Danish Innovation Centre in Nairobi by 2026. Danish investments in Kenya is largely in the areas of renewable energy, agribusiness, logistics, and digital solutions. Kenya urged DI to invest in energy infrastructure and agriculture, calling for support to improve agricultural value chains and food safety standards. On green transition and climate cooperation, the two countries explored avenues for cooperation in energy efficiency, water resource management, and the green transition. Denmark's success in decoupling economic growth from energy consumption was of particular interest to Kenya. A proposal was made for an energy dialogue between the two countries to exchange knowledge on balancing growth with sustainability.

Maritime and Logistics Cooperation

Meetings with Maersk focused on enhancing Kenya's maritime and logistics sectors. Maersk expressed readiness to invest in modernizing the Port of Mombasa, proposing a Joint Technical Working Group to fast-track reforms in port operations, manage port inefficiencies, regulatory challenges, noting the need for improved governance. Maersk committed to working with the government to optimize the Standard Gauge Railway and strengthen cold chain logistics for exports between Malaba and Mombasa.

Political Consultation

The 1st Session of Political Consultations was held between PS Korir SingOei and his Danish counterpart Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Foreign Policy at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These talks were aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation, renewing and expanding the Kenya-Denmark partnership which has existed for over 60 years, across key sectors. Denmark thanked Kenya for their strong, long-standing cooperation. Given recent global shifts, from geopolitical tensions to changing international alliances, both sides agreed that enhanced strategic collaboration is

more essential than ever. Student and people to people exchanges, including cultural cooperation are expected to feature prominently in the renewed strategy. Other areas earmarked for deeper cooperation include: Energy efficiency, green transition, post-harvest losses reduction in agriculture, health diagnostics leveraging Danish technology and Kenya's skilled labour, and digital connectivity, especially with respect to port infrastructure at Mombasa and Lamu.

Further, Denmark is increasing its engagement in conflict situations such as the Great Lakes and Sahel, with special envoys appointed. Kenya welcomes Denmark's new role at the UN Security Council and sees room to collaborate on shared interests including engagements on Haiti. Kenya emphasized the urgency of preserving territorial integrity, supporting regional peace processes, and ensuring humanitarian access to conflict zones including the Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and Eastern DRC. Kenya highlighted its diplomatic efforts on Sudan and South Sudan through Tumaini initiative to facilitate dialogue and ensure representation. For Somalia, concerns were raised about rising instability and the need for greater regional support as the country gears up for elections in 2026.

Multilaterism

Kenya and Denmark affirmed the value of multilateral engagement, especially through the African Union and IGAD and committed to dialogue through the AU-EU Summit in Angola, as well as the Africa-Nordic Foreign Ministers in Victoria Falls. Denmark commended Kenya's involvement in international missions, including in Haiti, where Denmark has made financial contributions to the MSSM mission. Both parties stressed that clarity in the mandate of the mission remained essential, amidst a proposed transition from MSSM.

Development Cooperation and Health Investments

Impact Fund Denmark highlighted

investment opportunities in public infrastructure and healthcare, particularly diagnostics and health financing under Kenya's new social health insurance scheme. The Fund expressed interest in co-financing critical medical equipment and expanding support to county-level hospitals. Political consultations included a meeting with H.E. Elsebeth Krone, the State Secretary for Development Policy at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting addressed a new five-year development partnership, with focus areas including water, agriculture, food safety, and health.

State Secretary Krone affirmed that Kenya continues to occupy a central place in Denmark's climate, foreign, and multilateral policy agendas. She outlined Denmark's 2025 integrated development policy, which aims to couple deeper business investment with aid and mobilise private and foundation resources in joint ventures, and in Kenya's context will leverage her innovation strengths. While the Kenya-Denmark Strategic Sector Cooperation already targets water, agriculture, and health, new focus areas under joint consideration include, job creation and economic growth; trade and investment; climate change and green transition; solutions to long term displacement; democracy and human rights; peace and security; as well as Health. For Kenyan stakeholders, including private sector actors, this evolving framework presents new opportunities for collaboration, export diversification, technology transfer, and capacity building. For Danish partners, Kenya offers a stable, evolving market, a well-equipped labour-force and a strategic partner in Africa.

The Danish government plans to launch its first **Africa Innovation Centre** in Nairobi by 2026, the Danish Innovation Centre and Regional Hub. Kenya welcomes this as pivotal to its digitization and trade agenda and as a platform to spur technology transfer and capacity building. Kenya also welcomes cooperation under cBrain project, aimed at digitizing all government ministries. Discussions also included

cooperation in tourism and support for Danish firms operating in Kenya, with calls for improved investment climate and regulatory predictability. In a concerted effort to elevate bilateral commercial relations, the Principal Secretary also met Lina Gandløse, the State Secretary for Trade and Investments in Denmark. The discussion centered on how government can catalyze deeper cooperation by removing trade barriers, promoting public-private partnerships, and deploying enabling policy instruments. These topics reflect a holistic vision: linking commercial, technological, and institutional dimensions of the relationship.

Kenya and Denmark reaffirmed their commitment to deepening trade and investment ties. Discussions also included cooperation in tourism and support for Danish firms operating in Kenya, Denmark called for improved investment climate and regulatory predictability in the country. Kenya pledged to protect property rights, and resolve disputes to attract Danish investment, and agreed to follow up on outstanding issues for swift resolution. To symbolise their partnership's breadth, both sides signed a Letter of Intent for cooperation in restoring the Karen Blixen Museum in Nairobi. By aligning priorities such as energy, health, agriculture, digital infrastructure, and peace and security, Kenya and Denmark are positioning their partnership to respond to both regional and global challenges.

The new strategic agreement is expected to build on the existing **Denmark Kenya Strategic Framework (2021-2025)**, which focuses on green, sustainable growth, democratic governance, peace, and stability. Stronger cooperation will not only drive development outcomes in Kenya but also enhance Denmark's role and relevance in Africa, particularly in areas of innovation, diplomacy, and crisis response. To this end, the Memorandum of Understanding on Political and Diplomatic Consultations was signed by both sides, to ensure regular consultations.



Kenya Reaffirms Strong Partnership as ICIPE Unveils Vision for Africa's Bio-Economy

While presiding over the launch of the of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) Vision and Strategy 2026-2030 at ICIPE Headquarters in Nairobi on 21st November, 2025, Dr. SingOei reaffirmed Kenya's strong partnership with ICIPE in the development of Kenya's/Africa's Bio-Economy.

The launch, which brought together Director General and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, Governing Council members, scientists and international partners was part of the institution's Science Week themed 'Impacting Nature and Society.'

The Principal Secretary welcomed the new strategic blueprint, noting its strong focus on addressing key challenges in human, animal, plant, and environmental health through enhanced scientific innovation and integrated solutions. He highlighted how ICIPE's

innovations, such as the nature-based Push-Pull technology that boosts yields and combats invasive pests like stem-borers and Striga, continue to empower smallholder farmers.

"Today, ICIPE stands as a beacon of scientific excellence in Africa, with the ability to translate scientific discoveries into practical solutions capable of addressing critical challenges including climate risks, biodiversity loss, poverty, hunger, and unemployment through innovative insect-based science", said the PS.

Dr. SingOei praised the Centre's eco-friendly pest management solutions and the use of technology in addressing Kenya's national development efforts, including programs such as the Kenya Climate-Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) and the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP), the Agricultural

Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP), and the Eastern Africa Agricultural Productivity Project (EAAPP).

The PS called for deeper collaboration to strengthen public-private investment, joint research programmes and increased youth participation in scientific entrepreneurship and innovation. In addition, funding is critical to unlock the full potential of Africa's bio-economy.

The PS emphasized that the success of the country's sustainable growth continues to depend on how boldly institutions, government and the private sector invest in knowledge-driven development.

The launch of ICIPE's Vision and Strategy 2026-2030 offers a timely roadmap for advancing Africa's development priorities through cutting-edge science, innovation and partnerships. It aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and H.E. the President's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).



A Meet-up with the Kenyan Diaspora in Australia

By O. Vincent

The Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, reiterated that the protection of Kenyans abroad is a non-negotiable duty, noting that in the past three years, the Government of Kenya has made deliberate efforts to strengthen how it protects and serves Kenyans abroad.

Speaking during a diaspora engagement with Kenyans in Perth, Australia, the PS noted that the State Department for Diaspora Affairs had put in place structures, and rapid-response systems designed to prioritize the rights, safety, and welfare of citizens abroad. Ms. Njogu noted that these efforts had led

to successful emergency repatriations, evacuations and assistance to Kenyans in distress.

PS Njogu added that through the Mobile Consular Services (MCS) outreach programmer, key services from passport renewals to welfare assessments were now being delivered directly to diaspora communities, reducing delays, expenses and lowering vulnerability.

“The Government’s position is clear: the protection of Kenyans abroad is a non-negotiable duty. We will continue to invest in systems, partnerships and safeguards to ensure no Kenyan is left without support, regardless of location or circumstance,” PS Njogu affirmed.

The Government acknowledges that the Kenyan diaspora constitutes a community of investors, innovators and strategic partners in the country’s global development agenda. In line with this recognition, Kenya is advancing from routine engagement to the

full integration of diaspora participation within national priorities through targeted programmes in economic empowerment, labor mobility, investment facilitation, civic inclusion and social protection.

Kenya’s High Commissioner to Australia, Dr. Wilson Kogo, emphasized that Kenya’s diplomatic mission in Australia remained fully aligned with the diaspora agenda, actively strengthening consular capacity, deepening partnerships with host institutions to support labor mobility, skills recognition and diaspora welfare.

He noted that these efforts have already resulted in faster consular processing and improved access to assistance for Kenyans across Australia. The meeting provided Kenyans with a platform to raise concerns, seek clarifications, and propose practical solutions to the issues affecting them, strengthening the government’s capacity to respond effectively to diaspora needs.



Diaspora Affairs Digital Initiative Wins Continental Accolade

By V. Odhiambo

The Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, CBS, received an award on behalf of the Government of Kenya, at the 6th Africa Public Sector Conference and Awards (APSCA 2025) held in Cape Town South Africa, on 7th to 9th October, 2025. The State Department for Diaspora Affairs was honored in the category of Innovation in Digital Public Service Delivery.

The award recognizes Kenya's Diaspora Integrated Information Management System (DIIMS), a comprehensive web platform integrated into e-Citizen platform to enable Kenyans abroad to access government services online. The event brought together Government officials, chief executives, policymakers, and innovators from across Africa.

The Principal Secretary was accompanied by Mr. Idris Dokota, Principal Secretary for Cabinet Affairs, the Kenya High Commissioner to South Africa, Amb. Jane Ndurumo, the Director of Planning, Mr. Daniel Mwaura, and the Director of ICT, Mr. John Masika.

In her remarks, PS Njogu acclaimed the Government of Kenya's bold strides in digital transformation, describing the progressive shift to online public service delivery as a defining step toward efficient, transparent and citizen-centered governance. She noted that Kenya's growing investment in digital platforms is not only modernizing how services are delivered but also reshaping the relationship between government and citizens, making access faster and simpler.

"This award affirms our commitment to building a government that works for all Kenyans wherever they are. Through DIIMS, we are not only offering services but also rebuilding trust and connection with our diaspora community," the Principal Secretary said.



Under the theme *Innovation in Africa's Public Sector: Building a Digitally-Driven, Sustainable & Integrated Continent*, the conference aimed to chart a bold path for governance transformation. The event was pivotal as Africa undergoes a digital revolution, with Kenya's e-Citizen highlighted as a transformative initiative designed to bring services closer to the people.

APSCA 2025 also examined how governments can leverage technology for efficiency, promote sustainable policies, foster cross-border collaboration and trade, strengthen public-private partnerships, and advance people-to-people connections.

مؤتمر القمة العالمي الثاني للتنمية الاجتماعية SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

4-6 November 2025 — 6 نوفمبر 2025
Doha - Qatar الدوحة - قطر



Kenya Outlines its Diaspora Welfare Policy in Doha, Qatar

By R. Asirikwa

The Government of Kenya is implementing a multi-layered, whole-of-government strategy to safeguard its citizens working in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations.

Speaking at a high-level panel discussion themed- Extending Social Protection to Migrant Workers and their Families in the South-East Asia-Gulf Corridor- at the Second World Summit on Social Development in Doha, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, the Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, outlined Kenya's efforts on the protection of migrant workers. The session brought together key players including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Oman, to share solutions

and reinforce global commitments.

The Principal Secretary outlined the cornerstone of Kenya's approach including robust policy frameworks such as the Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024 among others, designed to create a structured and ethical system for labor migration. Beyond domestic policy, the Principal Secretary emphasized Kenya's proactive diplomatic engagements including negotiating and signing of Bilateral Labor Agreements (BLAs). She stated that Kenya is pushing for enhanced BLAs which incorporate stronger, more enforceable worker protection.

The PS also added that part of the strategy involved strengthening support systems on the ground, including the establishment of in-country protection mechanisms, which involve close collaboration between Kenyan Embassies and Diaspora Associations in host nations, to provide immediate assistance and advocacy for workers in distress.

Ms. Njogu pointed that the Kenyan

model also focused on prevention through pre-departure and pre-migration preparedness. This includes training potential migrants on their rights, the terms of their employment, and the cultural landscape of their destination countries, ensuring they are well-informed before they leave home.

The PS, who has been a global champion for the diaspora social benefits portability ensuring migrant workers can access benefits like pensions and healthcare across borders, stressed the necessity of broad partnerships to solve this, not just bilaterally, but through regional blocs like the African Union (AU) and the East African Community (EAC), where work on a regional diaspora policy is underway.

The PS cited Kenya's collaboration with international bodies like the UN and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The panel served as a platform for sharing best practices, revealing common challenges faced by migrants across Asia and Africa and how to circumnavigate them.



Perspectives from Practice

Human Trafficking to Myanmar for Forced Criminality: The Role of the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs

By Amb. L. Kiptiness ndc (K)

Human trafficking for forced criminality in the Mekong region, popularly known as the 'Golden Triangle' comprising of Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia has emerged as a major transnational crime of great global security concern. The vice has become one of the most lucrative forms of organized crime and a major source of billions of dollars for criminal networks operating in the region. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that Trafficking in Persons rakes in approximately 150 billion USD per year.

Approximately 300,000 victims of human trafficking to the Golden Triangle come from China and Southeast Asia, with over 120,000 being trafficked into Myanmar. However, in the last 4 years, hundreds of Kenyans and other Africans have been caught up in the intricate networks of human traffickers,

using Thailand as the transit country before entering the 'Golden Triangle'.

The emergence of the Golden Triangle region as the epicentre for human trafficking and other Transnational Organized Crime presents a serious threat to Kenya's national security, hence the need for strategic vigilance and a concerted awareness campaign to sensitize Kenyans to avoid traveling to the region.

As part of its mandate to protect and promote the welfare and rights of Kenyans around the world, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, through its Embassy in Bangkok, working closely with its partners has successfully rescued and repatriated over 600 Kenyans and other Africans from scam compounds in Myanmar and Lao PDR since 2022. However, though hundreds have been rescued and repatriated, it is estimated that hundreds of others are

still being held in the scam compounds and rebel camps as fighting rages between government forces and insurgents.

The Kenya Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand has been working closely with the families of the victims, Government of Thailand and Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to repatriate tens of others who escaped to Thailand from Myanmar to repatriate them home. Hundreds of other Kenyans are reported to be held in scam compounds in Cambodia and the Embassy and Ministry are active in their repatriation.

Journey from Heaven to Hell

The journey to Myanmar and the criminal world begins with online job advertisements purported to be in Thailand. Once gullible Kenyans apply, they are quickly interviewed on line and offered the jobs which include customer care officers, receptionists, drivers, crypto currency traders, translators, PROs and ICT experts.

However, there are no such jobs in Thailand, which has been used conveniently as a trap door to lure unsuspecting victims to Myanmar and the Golden Triangle in the Lao PDR. Once

victims board their flights at JKIA, to Bangkok Thailand, they are on their own because the agents in Kenya cut off communication.

Upon arrival at Suvarnabhumi airport in Bangkok Thailand, the victims are received by local Chinese or Thai agents based in Thailand and the reception and clearance through immigration is quite elaborate and well executed. They are then driven in high end vehicles for up to 9 hours to the border town of Maesot on the Thai-Myanmar border. Depending on the time they arrive, they are booked in local hotels, before attempting border crossing through illegal routes and into high walled gated compounds guarded by armed men. This is when victims realize that they are not in Thailand and the jobs they were promised were not in Thailand after all non-existent. Instead, the victims are provided with several mobile phones and a lap top and trained for ten 10 days on scamming operations inside a network of hundreds of desk-top computers in scam factories.

Victims are then given the job description and instructed to ensure that they deliver 4 victims per night, and failure will result in torture that includes whipping with electric wire, electrocution, denial of food, solitary confinement, often in a dark room for up to seven days. Sometimes victims are stripped and whipped and assaulted including sexual assaults. Many victims have been tortured to death and one Kenyan lost her life due to a botched operation on her stomach, suspected to have been performed to remove one of her kidneys. Several Kenyans returned home with broken limbs, semi-blind and with malnutrition. One Kenyan described the experience as a 'journey

from heaven to hell'.

The biggest rescue and repatriation operation involving hundreds of Kenyans occurred between February and April 2025, when the government, through the Kenya Embassy in Bangkok and the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, rescued and repatriated 154 victims in three batches using Kenya Airways. The rescue and repatriation efforts were supported by the Thai and Myanmar Governments, as well as the rebel Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and the Border Guard Force (BGF).

The Chinese government, conducted commando raids into the scam compounds, which led to the freeing of over 7000 victims and the arrest of 200 Chinese scammers. The government through the Embassy in Bangkok continues to work with the governments of the affected countries and NGOs to rescue and support the remaining victims to return home.

Apart from the rescue and repatriation operations spearheaded by the Kenya Embassy, both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy have been involved in sensitization campaigns at home to warn and dissuade Kenyans from travelling to Myanmar for forced labor and criminality. The Embassy and Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs have issued numerous warnings to Kenyans through print and electronic media as well as online platforms.

At exit points, both land and air ports, the government through a multi-agency team has maintained vigilance on tourists traveling to Thailand to ensure that only genuine travelers were entering Thailand. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has also worked

closely with the Thai Embassy in Nairobi to ensure that there is very strict vetting of tourist visa applicants seeking to travel to Thailand and this vigilance has borne fruit. Unfortunately, these efforts have not prevented dozens of Kenyans from traveling to Myanmar through other routes. The victims are now being duped to travel through Malaysia, which is an easier route because Kenyans have a one-month free visa entry to Malaysia.

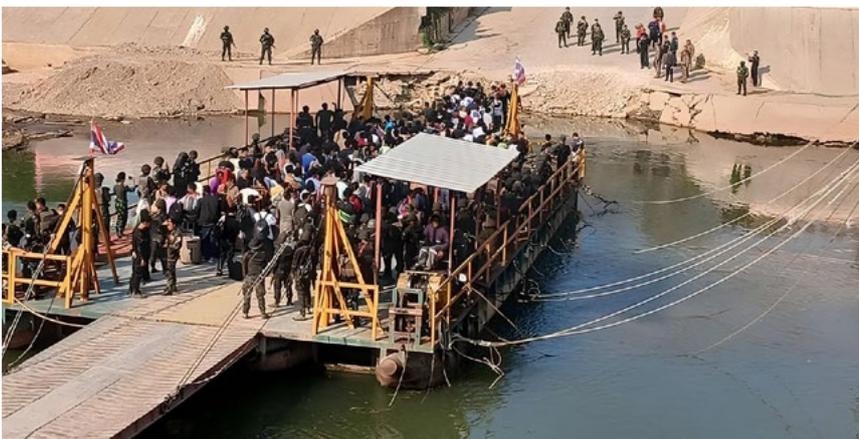
The Kenyan government, through its diplomatic Missions and the State Department for Diaspora affairs, continues to prioritize the protection and welfare of its citizens abroad. Through its Foreign Policy 'Mashinani' project to sensitize Kenyans on the Sessional Paper No.1 on Kenya's Foreign Policy and the role of the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in the national development agenda, the Ministry has sensitized Kenyans on job offers abroad and the need for due diligence before taking up any job offer.

Given that prevention is better than cure, the Ministry is crafting a comprehensive communication strategy that will be used to disseminate critical information to Kenyans in the Counties to avoid falling victim to online job and trafficking scams. The Ministry will also map out risky regions for Kenyans to avoid.

Voices of Gratitude from Some of the Victims Rescued

The rescue and repatriation of hundreds of Kenyan citizens from the scam compounds in Myanmar was both an operational and diplomatic challenge for the Kenya Embassy Bangkok and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. Without formal diplomatic relations with the military government in Myanmar and constant danger of encountering dangerous Chinese mafia gangs, rescuing the victims from the scam compounds was a risky and impossible mission.

In addition, transferring the rescued victims from rebel camps and government of Myanmar holding facilities was slow, tedious and uncertain. Rescued victims were held in makeshift camps without food, water, sanitation



medical care and the constant danger of falling bombs dropped by the Myanmar Air force on rebel positions. However, despite all these challenges, the Embassy, working closely with the State Department of Diaspora Affairs, governments of Thailand and Myanmar and the Kenya Airways success fully rescued and repatriated over 600 Kenyan and other victims from several East African countries.

The return of those who are already home proved both operationally noteworthy and highly significant for the victims and their families, with many of them expressing deep appreciation for the support they received from the Government of Kenya through the Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand and the State Department for Diaspora Affairs. These heartfelt messages of gratitude reflect the trauma they endured and the importance of the collaborative efforts that brought them home. Below are some of the powerful messages shared by the families of the victims of human trafficking for forced criminality in Myanmar.

Message 1:

“Hello Mr. Kimwole, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you and your team for your swift and dedicated efforts in ensuring the safe return of my brother from Myanmar. Your support during this incredibly difficult time has brought immense relief to our family and we are truly grateful for the tireless effort you put into securing their safety. Please extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the operation. Your kindness, professionalism and commitment have made a profound difference and we will remain forever grateful. Thank you once again for all your help.”

— Anonymous, Survivor of Human Trafficking

Message 2:

“We all arrived home safe thank you and we are grateful for all your efforts with your team. Always be blessed.”

— Anonymous, Survivor of Human Trafficking

Message 3:

“We landed home safely sir as Peter I

am so grateful and thankful to you and your team, we are humbled.”- Peter, Survivor of Human Trafficking

Message 4:

“Karibu Kenya.....! I thank God for the same, not forgetting Ambassador team and everyone in this group for standing with us at these moments, we were in dilemma and flabbergasted not knowing what next but God have made it. Thank you...Have a nice weekend all...#welcome home ours.”

- Anonymous, Survivor of Human Trafficking

Message 5:

“Glory to Jesus today am testifying the goodness of the Lord, the answered prayers, our people are back home.”

Family Message of a Survivor of Human Trafficking

Message 6:

“Asante sana Mr Kimwole na wale wote ambao walijitolea kuokoa hao watoto mubarikiwe Kimwole with your group thank you may God bless you.”

- Family Message of a Survivor of Human Trafficking

Message 7:

“God bless you, our Ambassador. You have done well for us here and our beloved country, our God, who sees us through every day is a witness of your good deeds and according to His word. He is the only one who rewards us justly; may He reward you abundantly and righteously. We thank our good Lord for the good health and wisdom; he has given you during your term. New and better beginnings come after good endings. We welcome you back home and wish you well in your new endeavors, Bw. Ambassador, we can't forget your team...wacha mungu awape Baraka na neema siku zote Maisha yao”.

- Message from the wife of the rescued victims.

Message 8:

“Greetings to you sir, we acknowledge your commitment and devotion to our country Kenya. You have been an angel to many, gave us hope at our most trying edge. With the team you worked

with, we speak blessings upon you and your families. God has been faithful to us and our rescued relatives, we will live to testify”.

- Message from one of the parents of the victims.

Due Diligence!

Human trafficking for forced criminality in Myanmar serves as a warning to all young Kenyans and their parents and relatives searching for jobs abroad. Many individuals were lured into Myanmar under the promise of lucrative jobs in Thailand, only to be subjected to forced labour and exploitation in illegal scam operations. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs advise Kenyans to always conduct due diligence before taking up any job offer abroad.

The due diligence includes the following actions;

- Always confirm employment offers. Avoid jobs with high wages but little information or that require payment of upfront fees.
- Authenticate all job offers through the State Department for Diaspora Affairs on kazimajuu@diaspora.go.ke or Tel 0114757002 and Kenya Embassies abroad in this Kenya Embassy Bangkok, Thailand, also accredited to Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR.
- Use only licensed agencies for job placements, advertised through National Employment Authority neamis.go.ke.
- Have correct documents: When traveling for work or studies, ensure you have the appropriate visa (work, study, or tourist). Apply directly at embassies to avoid fraud.
- Use trusted contacts: Have a trusted point of contact, such as the Kenyan Embassy in Bangkok or any Kenyan Mission in the host country where the jobs are advertised to be.
- Report suspicious activities to local authorities or Embassies if you suspect human trafficking or scams.



President Ruto receives the high delegation from California at State House, 11 August, 2025 (photo credits: State House)

Deepening Subnational Diplomacy between Kenya and California

By B. Muthigani 'ndc' (K)

In August, 2025, Mr. Toks Omshakin, Secretary of Transportation of the State of California, led a high-level delegation to Kenya. The delegation included Commissioner Naomi Gallardo of the California Energy Commission, Ms. Alice Reynolds, President of the California Public Utilities Commission, and Ms. Dilpreet Sidhu, Deputy Mayor of the City of Los Angeles (International Affairs), representatives of California businesses, and University of California campuses. The trip was part of a broader African tour that also entailed visits to Ethiopia and Nigeria.

The delegation participated in a round-table that was hosted by H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of Kenya, on 11 August, 2025 in State House, where discussions centered on strengthening ties and discussing collaboration in climate action, technology and clean transportation. The goal was to tap into the experience and expertise of California, and fuse it with Kenya's startups and nascent innovations, while also leveraging Kenya's leadership in renewable energy and a skilled workforce.

Among the key outcomes of this meeting was the announcement by the Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS) of the University of California (UC) in Davis, of the launch of the Africa Clean Transportation (ACT) Initiative in Nairobi, which will see the establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Transportation in partnership with the Government of Kenya and African universities. The aim of this partnership is to accelerate policy, technology, and finance pathways for zero-emission and equitable mobility.

The visit was a follow-up to the California Climate Policy Summit of 2025, which took place on 22nd April, 2025 in Sacramento, California. Kenya was represented by Amb. Ezra Chiloba, Consul-General, Amb. Walkowa Odinga, Deputy head of Mission and Amb. Ali Mohamed, Special Envoy for Climate Change. The forum helped to lay the groundwork for subsequent bilateral and cross-continental cooperation. Further, on 24th September, 2025, Kenya and California signed a Memorandum of Understanding on "Strengthening Cooperation in Cli-

mate, Environment and Trade", on the sidelines of the 80th Session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. The signing of the MOU by Mr. Omshakin and Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry (MITI), was witnessed by H.E. President Ruto and Governor Gavin Newsom, 40th Governor of the State of California, and formally established the framework for cooperation. Significantly, Kenya became the first African country to sign such a climate and economic partnership MOU with the state.

The signing of the MoU joins the growing trend of deepening sub-national partnerships between States in the USA and sovereign states globally. In traditional diplomacy, subnational entities usually take the cue from their national governments on international affairs. While the US federal government in Washington D.C. holds the ultimate constitutional authority in guiding foreign relations, individual states are playing an increasingly important role in bilateral relations through sub-national diplomacy, focused on shared strategic areas like trade, technology, and the environment. The presence of the Consular Corps in major cities in the United States has nurtured the practice, which is driven by advantages

that the particular states may have, as well as the expansiveness of the country.

California, in particular, has carved out a reputation of practicing subnational diplomacy, which has entailed engaging sovereign states and local actors in foreign policy matters. It has, for instance, taken leadership over climate-related matters, going as far as making commitment to the Paris Agreement, despite withdrawal from the same by the Trump Administration. The MoU that was signed with Kenya is a manifestation of this climate leadership, which complements Kenya's climate leadership in Africa. Thus, implementation of the MOU presents an opportunity for the country to benefit immensely from a State that is not only the largest economy in the USA,

but also the fourth largest economy in the world, driven by strong sectors like technology, entertainment, and agriculture, and with a GDP of nearly US\$4 trillion.

Other states in the US have perfected the art of subnational diplomacy through the robust Sister-Cities International program. This is a program that builds lasting partnerships between communities across different countries to foster global collaboration, cultural exchange, and economic growth through citizen-led diplomacy. Many cities globally have successfully harnessed these partnerships for mutual benefit. Seventeen (17) US cities have a sister-city relationship with Kenyan cities or towns. Among these are Nairobi-Denver (Colorado); Mombasa-Long Beach (California) and

Eldoret- Minneapolis sister city partnerships, among others, but their levels of success vary greatly. If effectively nurtured, people-to-people relations often become the bedrock for greater collaboration at the various levels of engagement.

While a lot of engagement still remains at the national bilateral level, a strong case could be made for pursuing and/or enhancing at the subnational level, particularly in advancing a majority of the focus areas of Kenya's foreign policy. Kenya could benefit from identifying the strategic advantages presented by individual states and going for targeted interaction. Expanding Kenya's footprint in other states, by establishing more Consulates, would go a long way in making this a reality.



President Ruto and Governor Gavin Newsom of California witness the signing of the MoU on “Strengthening Cooperation in Climate, Environment and Trade” on 24 September, 2025, in New York.



Food Security Diplomacy: Tapping into the UAE Market

By. A. Machogu

Kenya is keen to tap into the UAE market for its agricultural and livestock products. Following the signing and ratification of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in January and December 2025 respectively, the two countries are in the process of putting in place a bilateral food-security task force which will harmonize and oversee standardization, supply chain flexibility, and investment promotion. The task-force is expected to put in place digital traceability, tracking the agricultural produce right from the farms in Kenya to the final consumer in the UAE to ensure that the produce meets the UAE's safety and quality standards.

However, the expanding market has

Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mutahi Kagwe accompanied by the Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to the UAE, Kenneth Milimo Nganga and the Consul General Amb. David Lokemer during a visit to Ali Gholami Fruits and Vegetables LLC in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the sidelines of Gulfood 2025.

not come without its challenges: Unmatched quality standards remain elusive especially among small scale farmers; Limited cold-storage facilities affect agricultural produce between harvest and export points; and inadequate financing.

In November 2018, the UAE launched its National Food Security Strategy 2051, an ambitious footprint aimed at making the Country one of the most food-secure nations globally. This will be largely achieved through global sourcing partnerships and investment in sustainable farming. Kenya, a Country with fertile soils, enriched climate, and active export ecosystem, fits the bill in helping the UAE achieve food security.

Data obtained from the Kenya Horticultural Crops Directorates indicates that between 2022 and 2024, Kenya's

exports of fresh produce to the UAE grew by 14.5 per cent with mangoes, avocados, pineapples and freshly cut flowers making the highest exports. In 2025, chilled-meat products from Kenya equally found a growing demand in the UAE thanks to improved cold-chain logistics on both sides of the export chain and the alignment of halal certification. Data from Trading Economics show that Kenya exported meat and meat products worth USD 83.26 million to the UAE in 2024. The CEPA is likely to facilitate further growth of Kenya's agricultural produce to the UAE since it will reduce tariff barriers, improve access and simplify custom procedures for key products thus attracting more Kenyan farmers and agribusiness exporters to the UAE market.

The operationalization of CEPA will be

a great opportunity for Emirati investors and Kenyan partners to engage in joint ventures to build sustainable agricultural value chains. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and other UAE agribusiness firms have shown remarkable interest by putting up greenhouse agricultural projects in Kenya's semi-arid areas including Laikipia and Isiolo, powered by modern solar irrigation and smart agricultural farming methods.

Further, the signing of an MOU between Al Dahra - a UAE-based global agribusiness organization engaged in large-scale farming, processing, and supply-chain operations, with National Irrigation Authority (NIA) and the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) to promote food security. The MOU seeks to expand the Galana-Kulalu irrigation project into an \$800 million investment agricultural venture over the next 10 years.

Al Dahra will develop and manage up to 180,000 acres of irrigated farmland within the scheme. To complement the agricultural export chain, DP World, another UAE firm has invested in the installation of cold-chain equipment at JKIA and the Port of Mombasa. The cold-chain technology facilitates seamless export of perishable agricultural produce from inland Kenyan farms, reducing post-harvest losses which have in the past affected Kenya's competitiveness in international markets.

The success of implementing the CEPA in the agriculture sector will largely depend on how effectively Kenya can help small-scale farmers to meet the quality requirements of export produce. Food security diplomacy must go the extra mile to build capacity of farmers and transfer technology. Terms like water-efficiency, climate smart farming, and agri-tech, must resonate with farmers as much as they do with policy makers to guarantee mutually beneficial gains. With proper implementation, food security diplomacy would become the most visible success story of the CEPA, driving Kenya – UAE relations in the next decade.



Kenyan meat products on sale at Carrefour Hypermarket- Mall of the Emirates, Dubai.

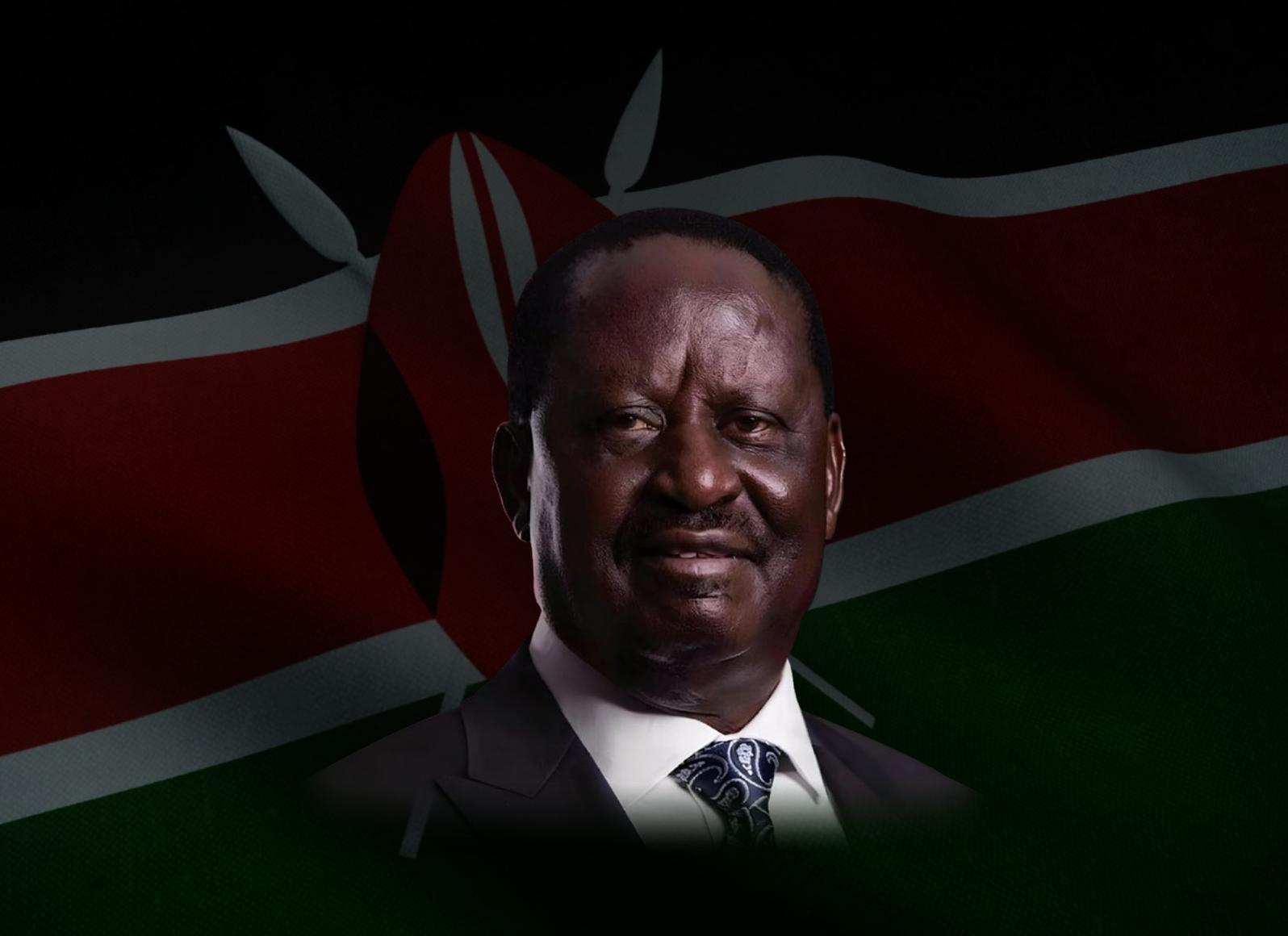


Kenyan mangoes on sale at Lulu Supermarket, Al Wahda Mall, Abu Dhabi

Special Edition

THE LATE RT. HON. RAIA AMOLO ODINGA

7TH JANUARY 1945 - 15TH OCTOBER 2025



Celebrating the Life of a Pan-African Statesman and the Architect of Kenya's Constitutional Democracy

The late Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, C.G.H., was one of the most consequential and charismatic figures in Kenya's political and diplomatic history since the advent of the multiparty democracy in Kenya in 1992 upto present day. Over decades of his public service, including serving as a Member of Parliament, Minister, Prime Minister, and African Union High Representative for Infrastructure Development, he manifested continental statesmanship, profoundly shaping both Kenya foreign policy orientation and Africa's integration and governance agenda.

His untimely passing on 15 October 2025 in India was met with a global outpouring of condolences and grief from both current and former Heads of State

and Government, heads of multilateral institutions and agencies, and business leaders from across Africa and the world. This outpouring of condolences, underscored the extraordinary personality, and respect that he commanded across Africa and the world.

Raila Odinga's foreign policy and developmental agenda legacy towards Africa was hinged on four enduring areas of, Pan-Africanism, democracy, infrastructure-led development, and people-centred diplomacy.

Early Foundations: Germany and the Making of a Visionary

Raila's Odinga's worldview was shaped during his formative years in East Ger-

many, where he studied engineering in Leipzig and Magdeburg in the 1960s. As a young person, he was immersed in a new environment defined by central planning, industrial productivity, and state-led development in the formerly East Germany at the height of cold war, where he developed a pragmatic approach to governance for realisation of socio-politico-economic development. These experiences nurtured his belief in infrastructure as the backbone of economic transformation, strategic, long-term planning by the state, and social democracy and Pan-African solidarity.

These early influences would later define his strong conviction for championing of national infrastructure development, constitutional and governance reforms, and continental integration for realisation of the vision of Pan -Africanism and African renaissance, espoused by founding fathers following the decolonisation.

Restoring Kenya's Image: Prime Minister and Statesman (2008–2013)

As an astute politician, Raila Odinga assumed office as Prime Minister at a pivotal moment in Kenyan history following the 2007–2008 post-election crisis, through a mediation process brokered by the late Mr. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General. The National Accord and Reconciliation which undergirded the mediation process, would later form part of the Constitution of Kenya, creating the first coalition government since Kenya attained its independence in 1963, during these process, Hon. Raila Odinga, played a central role in contributing towards stabilizing the country and restoring confidence among citizens, investors, and international partners as a partner in the coalition government.

During his tenure as the second Prime Minister of Kenya since independence, he helped restore Kenya's credibility as a stable, reforming democracy; championed the negotiation and adoption of 2010 Constitution, which anchored the principles of democracy, devolution, human rights, rule of law and good governance, as the overarching tenets of the people-centred governance process espoused in the new constitutional dispensation, and also led diplomatic outreaches to re-assure development partners and regional actors of Kenya's commitment to peace and reform.

His statesmanship was manifested in his willingness to prioritize national stability over personal political gain, projected Kenya as a country capable of attaining constitutional governance, utilizing homegrown solutions to address internal governance problems.

Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Economic Diplomacy

A defining golden thread running through Raila Odinga's foreign policy legacy was his unwavering commitment to regional integration supported by regional infrastructure projects for attainment of socio-economic development. As Prime Minister and later as AU High Representative for Infra-

structure, he, advocated for deepening of East African Community (EAC) integration, championed transformative cross-border infrastructure projects including LAPSET, and promoted South-South cooperation through engagements with leaders and entrepreneurs from Africa, Asia, Middle East and South America for promotion of trade and investment as opposed to aid which he believed had undermined economic development of Africa. During these engagements, he positioned Kenya as Africa's strategic hub for trade, logistics, and connectivity to any part of the world.

Champion of Peace and African Solutions

As a Pan-Africanist, Hon. Raila Odinga, throughout his career strongly articulated and advocated for African solutions to African problems. He in particular supported peace efforts in Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Great Lakes Region, addressed global platforms such as the Istanbul Conference on Somalia, urging for support from both African and non-African countries towards AMISOM troops in Somalia, and complemented both IGAD and AU mediation efforts in the both Horn of Africa and wider Africa, reinforcing Kenya's leadership in regional stability. To Raila Odinga, peace was not merely the absence of war, but presence of justice, opportunity, and inclusivity, thereby establishing the linkage between diplomacy and national security.

Global Voice for Climate Justice and Environmental Stewardship

Due to his strong affection for environmental conservation, Raila Odinga always had an interest in championing for sustainable development, climate justice, and protection of the most vulnerable. At various multilateral forums including at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN General Assembly, Raila Odinga framed climate change as a profound threat to humanity, disproportionately affecting Africa and its most vulnerable communities; advocated for climate

justice and equitable burden-sharing taking into account respective contribution by countries towards global warming; strengthening of both UNEP and UNON in Nairobi and supported major national environmental initiatives including restoration of water towers and expansion of renewable energy.

His later engagements as the AU High Representative for Infrastructure connected climate action, to Africa's industrialization and global leadership in sustainability.

Continental Impact: AU High Representative for Infrastructure Development (2018–2023)

Appointed in October 2018 as the AU High Representative for Infrastructure Development, Hon. Raila Odinga was integral in planning, advocacy and execution of Africa's long-term infrastructure connectivity and integration agenda. In this role as the AU High Representative for Infrastructure, he amongst others; championed PIDA and Agenda 2063; promoted flagship initiatives such as the Trans-African Highway, Continental High-Speed Rail, and SAATM; elevated infrastructure as a diplomatic tool essential for AfCFTA and continental unity; mobilized political support among Heads of State, RECs, partners, and financiers and advocated creative financing solutions to close Africa's infrastructure gap.

His leadership entrenched the concept of infrastructure connectivity as diplomacy, making infrastructure a pillar of Africa's continental transformation.

Africa Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Candidature: Kenya's Continental Leadership Moment

Raila's candidature for AU Commission Chairperson (2024–2025) signified both his personal stature and Kenya's rising influence. His platform championed peace and security as the foundation for sustainable development, alongside infrastructure-driven

integration to unlock trade, connectivity, and shared prosperity across the continent. It placed strong emphasis on youth empowerment and innovation as engines of growth, while advancing institutional reform to strengthen governance and effectiveness. The platform also prioritised climate resilience to safeguard livelihoods and ecosystems, and asserted African agency in global governance, ensuring the continent plays a decisive role in shaping international decisions that affect its future. The campaign became one of Kenya's most extensive diplomatic undertakings, strengthening Kenya's continental ties and reinforcing Pan-African solidarity.

Pan-Africanism, Symbolism, and Diaspora Engagement

Beyond formal roles, Raila embodied Pan-African ideals. During his engagements, he mobilized African diaspora communities as agents of development; amplified Africa's dignity and agency in international forums; and advocated partnerships based on mutual respect and inclusivity. His voice helped align regional positions on AfCFTA, energy transition, infrastructure, and climate justice.

Global Diplomacy and South-South Cooperation: Expanding Kenya's Reach Across Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and the Middle East

Asia and Indo-Pacific Diplomacy

Dr. Raila Odinga's engagements in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, and China advanced Kenya's cooperation in industrialization, ICT, digital innovation, and public-sector modernization, now central to Kenya's BETA agenda. His visit to **Singapore in 2010** included meetings with President S.R. Nathan, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and leading state agencies. The

Kenya-Singapore Bilateral Air Services Agreement was signed, while his proposal for a Singapore-EAC Free Trade Agreement remains influential.

As AU High Representative, he participated in the **Indonesia-Africa Infrastructure Dialogue in 2019**, strengthening Africa-Asia infrastructure and investment cooperation. His benchmarking visit to **Malaysia in 2012** supported Kenya's interest in Malaysia's "Vision 2020" transformation. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Limkokwing University for his leadership and Pan-African contributions. Dr. Odinga deepened **Kenya-India relations from 2009** through engagements with Indian leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi by promoting trade, technology transfer, and industrial development. His admiration for Indian culture made him an effective cultural diplomat.

Middle East and Gulf Relations

Raila contributed significantly to Kenya's labour diplomacy, development partnerships, and strategic engagements with Gulf states. Under his premiership, relations between Kenya and Saudi Arabia expanded through infrastructure financing and enhanced cooperation on labour migration and development. His official visit to Türkiye accelerated the opening of the Kenyan Embassy in Ankara and facilitated the establishment of TIKA in Nairobi, contributing to programmes in education, health, and agriculture.

A Global Statesman with a Vision Beyond Borders

Across Asia, the Indo-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, China, the Americas, and the multilateral system, Hon. Raila Odinga championed a globally connected Kenya that learns, innovates, and collaborates. Dr. Odinga consistently engaged the European Union on governance, trade, and development. His roles in AU and Commonwealth election observation mis-

sions strengthened Africa's democratic norms. His AU engagements with Europe advanced infrastructure financing and renewable energy cooperation. Raila strengthened Kenya-US ties by advocating AGOA expansion, engaging USAID and MCC, and supporting counterterrorism cooperation. He mobilized the diaspora, promoted investment, and delivered influential lectures at Harvard, Stanford, Brookings, and CSIS.

Dr. Odinga engaged China extensively through FOCAC, advocating support for major Kenyan infrastructure projects and positioning Kenya as a key African partner in the Belt and Road Initiative. He cultivated cooperation with Cuba and Brazil, especially in public health, renewable energy, and agricultural modernization, and supported strengthening AU-CARICOM relations on reparations, trade, and diaspora advocacy. Dr. Odinga also championed climate justice, peacebuilding, AU reforms, and Africa's permanent representation at the UN Security Council, reinforcing Kenya's leadership in global diplomacy.

The former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga leaves behind a monumental legacy that shaped Kenya's foreign policy for more than four decades. His dedication to Pan-Africanism, peace, democratic governance, climate justice, and continental infrastructure development elevated Kenya's status as a respected regional and global actor. His vision and diplomatic philosophy will continue to guide Kenya's global engagement and inspire future generations across Africa.

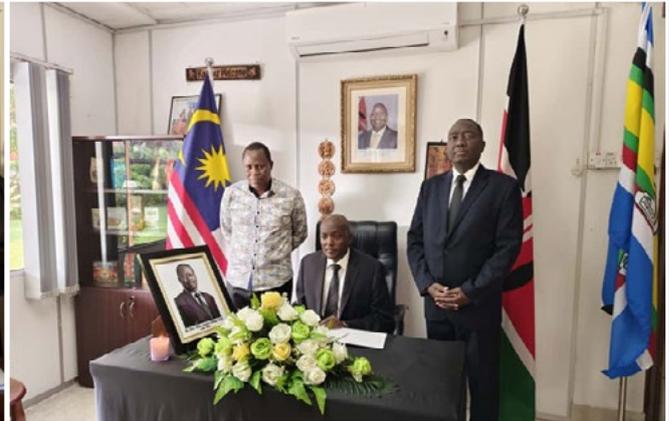
As messages of condolence and tribute continue to flow from across the world, they affirm what many already knew, Dr. Raila Amolo Odinga was more than a national leader. He was a global statesman whose vision and courage helped shape Africa's place in the 21st century.¹

¹ The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has prepared memorabilia containing all the condolence messages received from across the world. This Memorabilia has been presented to the family of late former Prime Minister Dr. Raila Amolo Odinga. Copies of the Memorabilia are available to the Ministry's Headquarters Library with additional copies having been availed to the Kenya National Library Services, the Kenya National Archives and at the Foreign Affairs Gallery at the Uhuru Gardens National Monument and Museums.

Pictorials of Signing of the Condolence Book



Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, signs the condolence book on 22nd October 2025 at the Kenyan Embassy in Harare.



Amb. Ekitela leads the Kenya Mission in Malaysia in signing the condolence book



Amb. Jessica Gakinya in Morocco



Kenya Embassy Doha

Message of Condolence from Seychelles President-elect Dr. Patrick Herminie

I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of His Excellency Raila Odinga, a towering figure and great African statesman.

His decades of dedicated service to the people of Kenya, and his profound influence on the wider continent, will not be forgotten.

On behalf of the people of Seychelles, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Odinga family, and to the government and the people of the Republic of Kenya during this time of profound loss.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



Dr. Patrick Herminie
Dr. Patrick Herminie
President-elect of the Republic of Seychelles

JAMHUURIYADDA FEDERAALKA SOOMAALIA
XAFSIKA MADAXWEYMHADA
جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
مكتبه الرئاسية

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Ref: JFS/XM/OLAKEN/CT/01/15/25

Date: 15 October 2025

Your Excellency and Dear Brother,

It is with profound sorrow that we have learned of the passing of H.E. Raila Amollo Odinga, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya — a distinguished statesman whose lifelong service, vision, and unwavering commitment to democracy and justice have left an indelible mark on Kenya and the African continent.

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and on my own behalf, I extend our deepest condolences to you, Your Excellency, and through you to the Government and the brotherly people of Kenya during this moment of national mourning. Somalia stands in solidarity with Kenya as you honour the life and legacy of one of Africa's most respected leaders.

The late H.E. Raila Odinga will be remembered for his steadfast pursuit of freedom, equality, and unity — values that strengthened Kenya's democracy and inspired generations across our region. His leadership and courage will continue to guide those who believe in the promise of a just and prosperous Africa.

May the Almighty grant him eternal peace and provide strength and comfort to his family and to the people of Kenya in this time of great loss.

Please accept, Your Excellency and Dear Brother please accept once again our heartfelt condolences.

Sincerely,

Hassan Sheikh Mohamed
Hassan Sheikh Mohamed, PhD
President of the Federal Republic of Somalia

H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto
President of the Republic of Kenya,
and to the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya



News from Nairobi

Ministerial Achievements at a Glance

By CPPMD

Between FY 2022/23 and FY 2024/25, the Ministry recorded wide-ranging milestones that strengthened Kenya's diplomacy, service delivery, multilateral influence, and institutional capacity. A major focus was the expansion of Kenya's diplomatic footprint, with the establishment of four fully-fledged Missions in Jakarta, Maputo, Abidjan, and Rabat, alongside five Consulates General in Goma, Arusha, Jeddah, Port-au-Prince, and Guangzhou, a Liaison Office in Hargeisa, and the appointment of an Honorary Consul in Tyrol, Austria. These steps enhanced Kenya's representation, access, and responsiveness in priority regions.

Diaspora engagement was also significantly deepened, reflecting the Ministry's deliberate efforts to integrate Kenyans abroad into national development. The Department convened diaspora conferences and side events during major international meetings, strengthened diaspora umbrella associations across regions with diplomatic presence, and supported the registra-

tion of Kenyans abroad under NIIMS. It worked closely with the IEBC to facilitate diaspora participation in the 2022 Presidential Elections, while also expanding structured dialogue through diaspora roundtables and consultative engagements in Missions including Belgium, the USA, Kinshasa, Canberra, Goma, and Abuja, as well as outreach efforts in Jordan (Amman and Aqaba), including visits to Kenyan students and nationals in detention abroad.

To strengthen diaspora investment and grow annual remittances from KSh 400 billion (2022) toward KSh 1 trillion by 2030, the Ministry engaged key financial stakeholders, including the Central Bank of Kenya and commercial banks, resulting in the fast-tracking and eventual launch of DhowCSD, a digital platform enabling Kenyans, including those abroad, to invest conveniently in Treasury Bills and Bonds. Further engagements were initiated with the National Treasury and CBK toward more diaspora-friendly investment policies and instruments, alongside consulta-

tions with institutions such as the African Institute of Remittances and the Kenya Revenue Authority, including dissemination of information packages on the privileges and obligations of returning diaspora.

Consular protection and labor mobility remained central. The Ministry supported the release and return of Kenyans held abroad, facilitated the repatriation of 210 mortal remains, and coordinated the evacuation of 1,436 Kenyans in distress from countries including Sudan, Laos, Myanmar, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia.

In partnership with Immigration and other State Departments, it rolled out Mobile Consular Services in locations such as Dublin, Jamaica, Muscat, Jakarta, Bangkok, and Bern, while Missions continued to provide essential services of document authentication, travel documentation, oversight of professional examinations, and welfare outreach in hospitals, prisons, and student communities. The Ministry also contributed to finalizing the National Labor Mobility Policy and co-developed the Kenya Global Labor Mobility Strategy, while intervening in labor dispute cases to secure improved terms and payment of dues for affected Ken-

yans.

In infrastructure and property management, the Ministry advanced the modernization and cost-effectiveness of Kenya's diplomatic presence by prioritizing ownership over leasing and expanding the portfolio of owned properties, now comprising 22 Chanceries, 20 Ambassadors' residences, 76 staff houses, 2 commercial buildings, and 3 plots across 29 Missions—about 25% of the total portfolio. It completed key refurbishments in Washington D.C., Islamabad, and Mogadishu, and identified a Chancery property in London, paying a 20% commitment deposit with transfer anticipated in September 2025, even as budget cuts constrained planned acquisitions and refurbishments across additional Missions.

On treaties and international legal obligations, the Ministry successfully managed the ratification process for 20 treaties, including major instruments on hazardous waste, maritime and coastal protection, tax cooperation, fisheries subsidies, and continental health and industrial frameworks. It further strengthened constitutional accountability by preparing and submitting the 8th to 11th Presidential Annual Reports on international obligations and the 5th to 8th Cabinet Secretary's Annual Reports on treaties ratified, while initiating preparations for the 12th Presidential Annual Report.

Protocol services remained robust, with the coordination of 149 inbound and 113 outbound state and official visits, 12 credential presentation ceremonies, facilitation of visas and accreditation for delegations, and the provision of airport courtesies for visiting dignitaries. The Ministry also supported the Diplomatic Corps through government engagement facilitation, issued diplomatic IDs, processed diplomatic clearances for aircraft and vessels, and launched a Protocol Manual.

Kenya's bilateral and multilateral engagement expanded substantially. The Ministry facilitated high-impact frameworks and agreements, including the Kenya–EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), legal scrubbed, translated, signed, and ratified in April 2024 and supported the ratification

and deposit of the Multilateral Convention to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) in January 2025.

The Ministry also facilitated the signing of the Kenya–Somalia Bilateral Air Service Agreement (August 2023), enabling the resumption of Kenya Airways flights to Somalia in February 2024, with frequency increasing from three to five flights per week, supporting trade and movement, including exports such as miraa. In addition, the Ministry oversaw the conclusion of 124 Memoranda of Understanding and agreements in FY 2023/24 alone across sectors including agriculture, tourism, digital economy, education, and food safety, and supported the signing of 233 bilateral cooperation frameworks at various stages of implementation.

Peace, security, and regional stability remained a priority, with the Ministry undertaking 18 peace and stability engagements in FY 2024/25 and sustaining leadership through AU, IGAD, ICGLR, and EAC frameworks. The Ministry supported the Tumaini Initiative for South Sudan, strengthened conflict-resolution efforts in Ethiopia and eastern DRC, and played a key role in the Nairobi Process (inter-Congolese dialogue). It also contributed to Somalia's security transition from ATMIS to AUSSOM, participated in R-JMEC engagements, and supported defence coordination through Joint Defence Committees and regional peace initiatives.

Kenya's international profile and multilateral leadership were further advanced through structured lobbying for the placement of Kenyans in global institutions and membership in key decision-making bodies. The Ministry also coordinated Kenya's participation and articulation of national positions in major global forums, while Nairobi continued to consolidate its role as a premier convening capital—hosting numerous high-level meetings and conferences including UN, AU, EAC, IGAD and other multilateral engagements.

Environmental diplomacy and global governance featured prominently, with Kenya advancing reform discussions on multilateralism, international financial architecture, and UN

reform, while shaping environmental outcomes at COP processes, UNEA engagements, and marine and climate platforms. Kenya also sustained leadership in global plastics treaty negotiations through the INC process, and advanced major climate and green industrialization outcomes, including the mobilization of significant investment commitments for sustainable development initiatives.

Economic and commercial diplomacy was equally strengthened. The Ministry facilitated and participated in extensive trade and investment promotion, including 70 bilateral and conference-level business forums across multiple regions, while supporting private sector participation and public-private partnerships through engagements with KEPSA, KAM, KNCCI and international business platforms. It also supported bilateral economic frameworks and negotiations through JTCs, JECs, and strategic trade and investment processes including Kenya–USA STIP, Kenya–UAE CEPA, and frameworks under FOCAC, AGOA, TICAD and other major summits—while advancing Kenya's interests within regional integration and multilateral trade bodies such as the EAC, COMESA, AfCFTA, WTO and UNCTAD.

On capacity development, the Ministry achieved a significant institutional milestone through the establishment of the Foreign Service Academy as a State Corporation on 9 August 2024, alongside development of its governance structures, strategic plan, curricula, website, and an AI training manual. Over the period, it trained 512 officials from Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Affairs, expanded training to other public institutions, conducted pre-departure training for 155 officers and newly appointed heads of mission, and strengthened language capacity through Spanish training. The Ministry also expanded partnerships through multiple MoUs with diplomatic academies and collaborations with universities and international institutions.

Internally, the Ministry strengthened service delivery and operational governance through infrastructure upgrades at headquarters, reviewed and expanded the Citizens' Service Delivery

Charter (including an audio version), enhanced transport capacity through the procurement of 24 vehicles, and strengthened audit and accountability systems, including audits in 14 Missions and operationalization of the Ministerial Audit Committee. Performance management was reinforced through Monitoring and Evaluation exercises in 32 Missions (FY 2022/23) and 28 Missions (FY 2023/24), directly linked to compliance and budget decisions. Human resource development included the promotion of 934 officers, appointment of 69 Ambassadors and 122 entry-level officers, deployment of 267 officers to Missions abroad, and support for staff training, internships and attachments.

ICT modernization advanced rapidly through the roll-out of IFMIS to 25 Missions, automation of 14 services on boarded to eCitizen, strengthened cybersecurity tools, acquisition of ICT equipment, and the launch of a new official website (www.mfa.go.ke). Records management also improved markedly, with structured appraisals, secure disposal processes, establishment of records units in Missions, sensitization on information security, and reorganization of extensive financial records and diplomatic correspondence.

Staff welfare was enhanced through disability mainstreaming, wellness programs, resilience training, and

sustained health-risk prevention initiatives, while environmental commitments were reinforced through the planting of 95,000 tree seedlings in support of the national tree-growing agenda.

Collectively, these achievements reflected a deliberate strengthening of Kenya's diplomatic reach, diaspora integration, economic diplomacy, peace and security leadership, institutional modernization, and service delivery. These are anchored in national priorities under Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, and Kenya's evolving foreign policy and development agenda.

Kenya to Host Historic Africa–Forward Summit 2026

By Professor F. Iraki

Kenya is set to host the 29th Africa–France Summit in May 2026, a historic milestone as it marks the first time in the Summit's 52-year history that the event will be held in a non-Francophone African nation. This

pivotal decision underscores Kenya's rising diplomatic profile and demonstrates France's intention to broaden its engagement beyond its traditional Francophone sphere. Since 1973, the Africa–France Summit has primarily been hosted in Francophone capitals, making the 2026 Nairobi Summit a symbolic departure aimed at reflecting Africa's linguistic, political, and regional diversity.

The Summit not only elevates Kenya's standing as a strategic partner but also signals a fresh era in Africa–France

relations, one that values diverse perspectives, embraces mutual respect, and prioritizes collaboration on shared challenges such as climate change, economic transformation, regional security, and reforms in global governance. By bringing the Summit to Nairobi, both nations reaffirm their commitment to shaping a dynamic, inclusive, and forward-looking agenda for Africa's future.

Why Kenya?

The decision to convene the Summit in Kenya comes at a moment of significant geopolitical transition, where Africa is increasingly asserting its voice and agency in international affairs. In contrast to earlier Africa–France summits often criticized for symbolic declarations with limited implementation, the Nairobi Summit provides an opportunity to redefine the partnership, anchoring it in shared prosperity, innovation, and constructive multilateralism.

The Summit allows Kenya to champion a model of cooperation where African priorities lead the agenda, ensuring the Summit moves beyond legacy frameworks and aligns with the aspirations of African Union's Agenda 2063 and its push for equitable partnerships. As a trusted diplomatic actor and regional hub, Kenya is strategically placed to elevate Africa's agency within the shifting landscape of "Africa-Plus-One"



H.E. President William Ruto and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron

engagements and ensure that external geopolitical interests do not overshadow African development priorities.

Seven Pillars of the Summit

The Nairobi Summit will center on seven (7) thematic pillars that reflect Africa's strategic concerns and the evolving nature of Africa–France relations. These include:

1. Reforming the international financial architecture;
2. Accelerating the energy transition and expanding universal access to electricity;
3. Advancing green industrialization and value-chain development;
4. Unlocking opportunities in the blue economy;
5. Strengthening sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty;
6. Harnessing artificial intelligence and digital transformation for inclusive development; and
7. Rethinking global health through resilient national systems and strengthened manufacturing capacity such as vaccine production.

These pillars align with Kenya's own development priorities under the BETA and position Nairobi as a natural convener of discussions aimed at delivering actionable outcomes.

Geopolitical Context

The Summit comes at a critical time for the continent. Africa is simulta-

neously confronting severe climate shocks, persistent food insecurity, rising debt vulnerabilities, and disruptions in global supply chains. Yet, the continent is increasingly recognized as a frontier for investment, green industrialization, technological innovation, and supply-chain diversification. International partners including France, are increasingly aware that sustainable collaboration with Africa is essential for addressing these global challenges. The 2026 Summit therefore offers a timely platform for forging new, long-term partnerships that respond to Africa's development ambitions while benefiting both sides.

Opportunities for Africa

France enters the Summit with strong incentives to deepen and diversify its engagement with Africa. Europe's shifting geopolitical dynamics, energy security needs, and the global competition for strategic minerals have heightened Africa's relevance in French foreign policy.

Paris is seeking to diversify supply chains through "friend-shoring," strengthen climate-related cooperation, expand French private-sector investment in high-growth markets, and build a more equitable framework for cooperation. Kenya and France already enjoy robust bilateral cooperation across priority sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable urban transport, agriculture, digital innovation, and public health demonstrating the potential for a more modern and pragmatic partnership. The Nairobi Summit offers an opportunity to con-

solidate these gains, explore new areas of collaboration, and promote transparency and co-creation as guiding principles.

A central strategic question for Kenya and Africa is; how can the Africa–France Summit distinguish itself from other 'Africa-Plus-One' platforms and deliver concrete, measurable, and transformative results aligned with Africa's development agenda? African nations increasingly expect engagement based on equality, transparency, and mutual benefit not authoritarianism or geopolitical manipulation. For the Summit to be meaningful, Africa must engage France as a strategic partner, clearly articulate its continental priorities, and leverage collective diplomatic influence through the African Union and Regional Economic Communities. Kenya, as host, is uniquely positioned to facilitate this unified approach.

Ultimately, the 2026 Summit presents Kenya with a historic opportunity to reset Africa–France relations and steer them toward a modern, pragmatic, and mutually beneficial partnership. It marks a decisive shift away from post-colonial dynamics toward transparent, forward-looking diplomacy rooted in shared goals. By anchoring the Summit in Africa's aspirations for sovereignty, climate justice, digital governance, industrialization, and fairer development financing, Kenya can help shape a legacy that endures beyond the event itself. The Nairobi Summit thus represents not only a diplomatic milestone for Kenya but also a defining moment for Africa's collective future.

Principal Secretary Champions Youth Agency in Kenya's Foreign Policy

By *H. Adan and E. Yegon*

The Principal Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Korir SingOei has called on the nation's youth to play a central role in shaping the country's foreign policy, describing them as 'architects and prime movers' of Kenya's diplomatic future. In a meet-

ing with the Kenyan youth to celebrate the Ministry's Africa Youth Month activities, the PS observed that Kenya's foreign policy has remained cognizant of the growing confidence in youth-led democratic governance processes and their participation in Foreign Policy

discourses and actual participation in diplomacy.

Present were representatives from the Belgian Embassy, Conrad Adenauer Stiftung, and youth networks. This provided a platform to examine diplomacy amid digital disruption, geopolitical uncertainty, and rising civic engagement. The PS emphasized the importance of intergenerational dialogue as essential to National and continental governance and pledged to explore avenues for structured youth advisory



input and pathways into multilateral institutions. Dr. SingOei highlighted the dual impact of digital platforms which, while creating unprecedented opportunities for youth engagement, was also responsible for the amplification of misinformation and weakened public trust.

In another meeting with Shujaaz Inc., East Africa's largest youth media platform, he encouraged the youth to explore partnership opportunities in both local and international spheres. The PS's remarks to the youth aligned with the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025 on the Foreign Policy, which advocates for inclusive, citizen-driven diplomacy.

Since assuming office three years ago, the PS has continued to observe Kenyan youth, academia, media, and civil society increasingly shaping foreign policy, signaling a shift from elite-driven diplomacy to a participatory, national approach. Reflecting on the 2024 intergenerational dialogue during cel-

ebrations marking Kenya's 60 years of Diplomacy since independence, the PS praised young diplomats for delivering "thoughtful, research-driven pitches on climate violence, cybersecurity, misinformation, and global governance." These engagements continue to inform key priorities, including strengthening digital diplomacy, expanding mentorship programs, embedding youth perspectives in policy, and scaling initiatives such as the rolling out of the Foreign Policy Mashinani Initiative which brings foreign policy sensitization and discussions to universities, all 47 counties, and civic spaces beyond Nairobi, thereby fostering national ownership and practical engagement with Kenya's international agenda.

Placing these initiatives in a broader continental and global context, Dr. SingOei appreciated that Africa's youth was projected to constitute 22% of the global population by 2030, thereby underscoring the continent's transforma-

tive potential. Referencing outcomes from the EU-AU Summit in Angola, he highlighted discussions on migration, industrialization, and strategic partnerships with Europe, stressing that addressing these challenges required bold, innovative leadership from Africa's young generation leaders who are required to harness technology, capital, and human talent to drive sustainable development.

During the panel discussions, the issue of restoring public trust emerged as critical in light of the adaptation of digital governance, responsible technology, and civic engagement that strongly supported youth-led initiatives in strengthening institutional credibility. Dr. SingOei urged young Kenyans to actively shape the national agenda and translate foreign policy into tangible community impact, a principle embedded in Session Paper No. 1 – Foreign Policy of 2025.

Foreign Policy Mashinani: A New Era of People-Centred Diplomacy

By I. Agum / Political and Diplomatic Affairs Directorate

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (MFDA) in 2025, embarked on a transformative initiative, Foreign Policy Mashinani, a national outreach programmer that brings Kenya's foreign policy directly to citizens at the grassroots. The initiative seeks to demystify diplomacy, foster citizen participation, and align foreign policy with local development priorities.

Rooted in the review of Kenya Foreign Policy, which culminated in Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025 and the Kenya 2024 Foreign Policy document, Foreign Policy Mashinani enhances Kenya's people-centered approach to global engagement. It operationalizes the eight thematic pillars of the revised policy: Peace and Security, Economic and Commercial Diplomacy, Oceans and Blue Economy, Global Governance and Multilateral Diplomacy, Environment and Climate Change, Science,



Technology and Innovation, Diaspora and Migration Diplomacy and Socio-Cultural Diplomacy. The initiative reflects the Government's commitment to incorporating grassroots insights into national decision-making.

Nyanza Region Edition:

The State Department for Foreign Affairs convened the inaugural Kenya Foreign Policy Mashinani initiative in Nyanza Region, Kisumu County from 13th-15th October 2025. The engagement brought together stakeholders from the entire six counties of the Nyanza Region, including National Administration, County Governments, private sector, academia, women, civil society, faith-based organizations,

youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

The sessions provided the first real test of the Foreign Policy Mashinani concept in which Ministry officials were able to dialogue and clarify Kenya's global engagements and available opportunities.

Emphasizing that foreign policy must be understood not as a distant concept but as a driver of jobs, trade, tourism, and security, Amb. Josphat Maikara, Director General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs, described the Kisumu forum as a "historic first interface" between MFDA, county leaders, and ordinary citizens.

While addressing wananchi in the

same forum, Amb. Lucy Kiruthu, Director of Policy and Research, reiterated that “Foreign policy is no longer the preserve of the national government; counties are now co-creators and co-implementers.” She highlighted the need to translate presidential engagements and international agreements into tangible benefits for local communities.

Characterizing the diaspora as Kenya’s “48th county”, Amb. Hellen Gichuhi, Secretary for Diaspora Welfare and Partnerships, noted that diaspora remittances are approximately Kshs 4.6 billion annually. She reiterated the need for safe migration, protection of migrant workers, and investment opportunities for Kenyans abroad as pillars of Kenya’s evolving diaspora diplomacy.

Kisumu County highlighted all the available opportunities in the areas of shipbuilding and maritime tourism, inland fisheries and aquaculture, processing industries, cross-border trade and climate-resilient development.

County leaders urged the Ministry to consider the establishment of County Foreign Affairs Desks to coordinate the diverse engagements between the Counties and the international community, specifically for the advancement of County development and investor engagement. The Ministry officials held targeted consultations with various agencies, among them the Kenya Shipyards Limited (KSL) which showcased opportunities in shipbuilding, marine transport, and renewable energy; the Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA) which prioritizes aquaculture, catchment rehabilitation, flood mitigation, and climate-smart farming. Discussions with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Kisumu Chapter called for stronger MFDA-private sector collaboration to attract foreign investment and combat illicit trade.

During the public forums held at the Mama Onyango Cultural Centre in Kisumu from October 13th to 15, 2025, the citizens raised pertinent concerns on critical issues such as safe migration and recruitment agencies, youth access to scholarships, protection of Kenyans abroad, environmental challenges and

county-level accessibility of MFDA services. These questions underscored the public’s appetite for active participation in foreign policy.

Participants at the Public Forum at the Mama Grace Onyango Cultural Centre during the Nyanza edition of the Kenya Foreign Policy Mashinani Initiative

Coast Edition:

Following the conclusion of the Kisumu edition, the team moved to the coastal region, covering the counties of Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu, and Tana River, from 25th – 27th November, 2025. It was hosted at the Bandari Maritime Academy and launched by Amb. Josphat Maikara, together with senior Ministry officials on behalf of the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He was joined by H.E. Governor Issa Timamy of Lamu County, who represented the Mombasa County Governor, H.E. Abdulswamad Nassir.

The team held consultations with officials from the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Mombasa Chapter. These engagements interrogated opportunities and bottlenecks in Kenya’s maritime sector.

A central theme during the meeting was Kenya’s campaign for a Catego-

ry C seat at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with calls for strengthening Kenya’s influence in global maritime rule-making observed as fundamental towards securing shipping, trade, and blue economy interests. Of particular interest were the various issues raised by the respective agencies. KMA drew attention to continued visa delays and blacklisting challenges for Kenyan seafarers, outstanding Bilateral Labor Agreements, gaps in ship registry uptake, growing dry dock repair demand and the need for stronger coordination between missions and agencies.

The EPZA highlighted existing opportunities in the areas of fisheries and value addition, port-based industrialization, cashew processing and the need for increased diaspora investment. The Chamber of Commerce Mombasa Chapter raised concerns ranging from visa fees and document attestation costs and human-trafficking-related disruptions. These challenges have negatively impacted Kenya’s competitiveness in maritime trade and investment.

Governor Issa Timamy of Lamu County expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs for bringing this initiative directly to the people, describing it as a people-centered project rooted in delivering tan-



gible benefits to communities in the Coast Region. He said,

“These sensitization efforts aim to strengthen partnerships across counties and provide grassroots perspectives that enrich the country’s foreign policy. The full representation of all six counties reflects the importance of the issues at hand and the strong interest they generate,” the Governor stated.

Governor Timamy highlighted Lamu County’s central role in Kenya’s blue economy and its strategic significance as the home of LAPSET, which links Kenya to East and Central Africa. He noted that the county stood to gain significantly from maritime trade, maritime security cooperation, climate adaptation support, diaspora engagement, cultural diplomacy, and expanded trade and commerce. He referenced the annual Lamu Festival as a key cultural diplomacy platform celebrating the region’s rich Swahili heritage. He reaffirmed Lamu County’s commitment to harnessing these opportunities for the benefit of the youth, who form a vital part of the region’s workforce. He further pledged Lamu’s support for the Kenya Foreign Policy and welcomed the Mashinani engagements as a means of strengthening both global and local linkages.

Kilifi County Deputy Governor Ms. Flora Chibule, speaking on behalf of Governor Gideon Mungaro, conveyed their appreciation for the Foreign Policy outreach being conducted outside Nairobi, bringing discussions to regions where national priorities, are part of daily life and noted that this approach aligned local experiences with global aspirations, particularly citizen engagement. This affirmed Kilifi County’s commitment to supporting the implementation of the policy through intergovernmental cooperation by creating opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs along the Coast Region and emphasized the need for actionable solutions that can drive meaningful progress.

Ms. Chibule concluded by stressing that active involvement in foreign pol-



icy remained essential for accessing trade opportunities, jobs, and scholarships for citizens. She also challenged counties to prepare investment-relevant content to attract potential partners.

A major theme across both Nyanza and Coast regions was the role of youth in shaping Kenya’s future diplomacy. Amb. Lucy Kiruthu highlighted particular discussions on digital diplomacy and the role of youth at the heart of Kenya’s modern diplomacy. The youth were apprised of opportunities for Youth Engagement through the Public Service Commission Internship Programme, University partnerships with MFDA, job shadowing opportunities, youth inclusion in historical and archaeological documentation, county branding initiatives with calls for the alignment of County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) with foreign policy.

Dr. Christine Onyango, Deputy Vice Chancellor at the Taita Taveta University advocated for stronger MFDA–university partnerships to prepare youth for global opportunities. With successful engagements in Kisumu and the Coast, MFDA will roll out Foreign

Policy Mashinani across all other regions. Each county forum will contribute to a National Foreign Policy Impact Report summarizing citizen input and county-level priorities.

The initiative aims to decentralize diplomatic awareness, strengthen county-national coordination, expand diaspora protection and investment pathways, provide links for local industries to global markets, foster youth leadership in diplomacy and improve Kenya’s international competitiveness. Foreign Policy Mashinani demonstrates that foreign policy is not crafted solely in conference rooms or distant capitals; it is co-created with citizens, shaped by local realities, and implemented through national county collaboration.

By taking diplomacy to the grassroots, Kenya affirms that foreign policy belongs to all Kenyans. It is a tool for economic opportunity, cultural expression, security, environmental stewardship, and global influence. The initiative signals a new era where diplomacy is lived, felt, and understood at the county level, ensuring a globally engaged Kenya that draws strength from its people.

Iran Hospital Expands its Footprint in Nairobi

By G. Moturi



Iran Medical Hospital and Hemodialysis center, which is a Social Health Authority (SHA) accredited facility based in Park Road was officially opened marking a major milestone in expanding the hospital's presence and service capacity in Nairobi on 19th November, 2025.

The hospital will offer quality and affordable medical care by offering specialized services such as dialysis, maternity, general medicine, diagnostics, and more, the hospital can help expand access to critical care across socioeconomic groups. The hemodialysis center is equipped with 12 dialysis machines donated by the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS), underscoring Iran's continued support towards Kenya's Universal Health Care Agenda. Iran Medical Hospital has been providing quality and affordable health care in Kenya for over 28 years.

In his remarks, H.E. Dr. Pir Hossein Kolivand, President of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran who graced the event virtually, reaffirmed the Red Crescent's mission of promoting health and community well-being globally. He described the new hospital as an embodiment of humanitarian diplomacy: offering affordable services to needy people globally, supplying medicines and medical

equipment, and enabling knowledge exchange.

Dr. Andrew Toro, Director for Curative and Nursing Services, Ministry of Health welcomed the launch as a timely boosting of health services. He noted that the facility brings critical services closer to people and complements the Government's health goals. Dr. Toro affirmed that the hospital's mission resonated with Kenya's commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). He further pledged the Ministry of Health's support to the hospital and other private providers, offering an

enabling environment for further investment not only within Nairobi, but across other counties.

Echoing the sentiment, Amb. Lindsay Kiptiness 'ndc' (K), Deputy Director General, Middle East Directorate, expressed gratitude to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Nairobi, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), and all partners whose coordination and support made the hospital a reality. The DDG noted that this expansion is more than just a facility launch; but a symbol of a shared vision between the two nations to uplift health outcomes, and pave the way for deeper collaboration in medical infrastructure, pharmaceutical production, technology transfer, research, and capacity building.

Amb. Kiptiness emphasized that the hospital aligned with Kenya's national health priorities. Given Kenya's commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030, the new facility would support efforts to ensure quality healthcare is within reach for all Kenyans. He noted that the opening of the Iran Hospital and Hemodialysis Centre marked a significant stride in strengthening Nairobi's healthcare landscape. Built on nearly three decades of service, the expanded facility now stands as a symbol of cooperation, innovation, and shared commitment between Kenya and the Islamic Republic of Iran, setting the stage for deeper collaborations and future investments between the two Countries.





COMESA-EU Forum Commits to Grow Africa's Horticulture Exports

The COMESA-EU Horticulture Connect Forum held on 8th October, 2025 at the sidelines of the 24th COMESA Summit of Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, saw a renewal of commitment for enhancement of regional cooperation, digital transformation, and value chain development to increase Africa's horticulture exports. The event attended by ministers, business leaders, and development partners deliberated on strategies for enhancing trade integration and agribusiness across the continent. The forum was aimed at providing a platform for engagement between African exporters and European buyers of horticultural products, showcasing innovation, technology, and investment opportunities in the horticulture sector.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Mutahi Kagwe, the Kenya Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, outlined the Government of Kenya initiatives to modernize the horticulture sector, and improve its global competitiveness. The CS underscored the importance of the horticultural sector to the Kenya economy through job creation and forex exchange, thereby enhancing economic development. He informed that in 2024, Kenya's horticulture industry generated Kshs. 137 billion in revenue from exports; Kenya

exports more than 60 million flower stems per day, which accounts for approximately 40% of the total volume of roses sold in the European Union. The horticultural industry currently employs over 200,000 persons directly in Kenya and indirectly, supports an estimated 4,000,000 individuals through associated value chains.

The Government of Kenya has implemented a variety of initiatives to strengthen the sector, including the National Horticulture Traceability System, which was launched in April 2025, negotiation of new bilateral trade agreement with the EU to provide for duty free and quota free market access, and engagement in new partnerships such as Italy's Lab Innova Programme, which facilitates exporter training and the establishment of a Horticulture Centre of Excellence in Kenya. As regards access to the COMESA market, the Government of Kenya is still engaged in consultation with various COMESA Member States for elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers that currently impede cross-border trade. Harmonization of standards, digital customs systems, and improved logistics amongst the COMESA member states are expected to ease the movement of goods and enhance market access once fully implemented.

Meanwhile, the Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary Mr. Lee Kinyanjui in his remarks at the Forum highlighted the importance of integrating horticulture into regional and global value chains. He noted that COMESA, through the EU-funded Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP), continued to strengthen Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) competitiveness, support compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and promote direct linkages between African exporters and European buyers.

Ms. Chileshe Kapwepwe, the Secretary General of COMESA, emphasized that agriculture remained a critical component of the region's economic development and that horticulture continued to present one of the promising opportunities for inclusive growth. She reiterated the COMESA-EU partnership plays a critical role in strengthening regional trade linkages, promoting sustainable value chains, and positioning African farmers for international competitiveness.

The Forum concluded with a commitment by governments, the private sector, and development partners to deepen cooperation, strengthen value chains, and position COMESA as a leading hub for sustainable agricultural trade. The participants urged for expansion of digital traceability, removal of trade barriers, and promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices amongst the COMESA member states.



Environmental and Climate Change Diplomacy: State Department for Foreign Affairs Advances 15 billion Tree Initiative at Konza

By I. Kimeu and J. Kimire

The State Department for Foreign Affairs recently marked another tree-planting exercise at Konza Technopolis, marking a significant step towards Kenya's ambitious goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2030, a Presidential directive aimed at restoring ecosystems and combating climate change. The exercise was led by Director of Administration, Ms. Stella C. Langat.



The exercise brought together government officials and staff in a collective effort to promote environmental conservation and underscore the importance of sustainable practices in daily operations. A total of approximately 30,000 tree seedlings were planted during the exercise, thereby contributing actively to Kenya's national tree-growing agenda.

Ms. Langat emphasized Kenya's commitment to climate action and sustainable development and that tree-growing initiatives enhance forest cover, strengthen carbon sequestration, conserve biodiversity, and mitigate climate-related disasters. The exercise also supports Kenya's BETA agenda, which aims to enhance livelihoods, climate resilience, and green job creation.



Kenya's Bid to Host the 2029 World Geothermal Congress

Kenya has emerged as a leading contender to host the World Geothermal Congress 2029 (WGC 2029). On 4th June 2025, the IGA confirmed receipt of bids from eight countries, of which Kenya and Germany were shortlisted in July 2025 as the final candidates to host the Congress. The bid, jointly advanced by the Geothermal Association of Kenya (GAK) and the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, positions Kenya as Africa's foremost geothermal producer and a strategic hub for clean-energy innovation.

A successful assessment visit by a delegation from the International Geothermal Association (IGA) marked a critical milestone in the competitive bidding process and underscored Kenya's growing stature as a global leader in geothermal energy and renewable-energy diplomacy.

As part of the formal assessment process, the State Department for Foreign Affairs, through its Directorate of International Conferences and Events (DICE), coordinated a multi-sectoral engagement with the IGA delegation in Nairobi. The programmer evaluated Kenya's institutional readiness, confer-

ence infrastructure, logistical capacity, and security arrangements, alongside its technical leadership in geothermal development. Proposed venues included the UN Office in Nairobi (UNON) for plenary sessions and KICC for exhibitions and side events—facilities that reflect Nairobi's established role as a global conferencing center.

Kenya's candidature is underpinned by its long-standing investment in geothermal energy as a cornerstone of national development and climate policy. The country has demonstrated that geothermal power can deliver reliable baseload energy while supporting industrial growth, energy security, and emissions reduction. This experience provides a compelling case for hosting a global forum dedicated to advancing geothermal science, policy, and investment, particularly from an African perspective.

Beyond its technical credentials, Kenya's bid carries significant diplomatic and economic implications. Hosting WGC 2029 would elevate Africa's visibility in global clean-energy discourse, reinforce South-South cooperation, and position Nairobi as a gateway for

geothermal investment across the continent. The Congress would also generate substantial economic benefits through conference tourism, technology transfer, and expanded investor engagement in geothermal, energy storage, and related green industries.

The bid further aligns with Kenya's broader climate and energy diplomacy objectives, including its commitments to the global energy transition and its advocacy for equitable access to climate finance and clean technologies. By hosting WGC 2029, Kenya would provide a platform for amplifying African voices in shaping the future of renewable energy, while fostering collaboration between governments, industry, research institutions, and development partners.

In this context, Kenya's bid for WGC 2029 represents more than a hosting opportunity; it reflects international recognition of the country's ambition in renewable energy and its capacity to convene high-level global processes. With sustained political support, coordinated stakeholder engagement, and strategic diplomatic outreach, Kenya is well positioned to secure the hosting rights and deliver a World Geothermal Congress that advances both global energy goals and Africa's clean-energy ambitions.



Advancing AU Institutional Reforms

The High-Level Retreat on African Union (AU) Institutional Reforms took place in Nairobi from 9th -10th November, 2025, and brought together senior AU officials and policy experts, to consolidate proposals on key priority areas for inclusion at the Special Summit on AU Reforms held on 26th November, 2025 in Luanda, Angola.

The Nairobi meeting provided a platform for key AU stakeholders, including the AU Commission and the High-Level Panel on Governance, Peace, and Security Frameworks, to deliberate on priority areas such as the revitalization of peace and security frameworks; sustainable financing of the Union; operationalisation of the African Court of Justice; revamping of the Pan-African Parliament; streamlining of the Assembly's format and agenda; and categorization of AU Assembly and Executive Council decisions.

The retreat aimed to develop concrete



and actionable proposals that would guide the focus of the Special Summit, and recalibrate the course of the reform agenda toward realizing an effective, well-resourced, and fit-for-purpose Union. The recommendations from the Nairobi retreat were presented to President Ruto before being shared with the Ad-Hoc Oversight Committee, and submitted for consideration at the Special Summit in Angola.

The AU Institutional Reforms, championed by President Ruto seek to strengthen governance structures, streamline decision-making processes, and enhance the impact of continental organs, such as the Pan-African Parlia-

ment and the African Court of Justice.

The retreat team comprised H.E. Ibrahim Gambari, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria; H.E. Sam Kutesa, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uganda; H.E. Amre Moussa, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt; H.E. Mahamat Annadif, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chad; Dr. Donald Kaberuka, High Representative for the Financing of the Union; H.E. Pierre Mukoko, Head of the AU Reform Unit; Amb. Lazarus Amayo, Special Envoy for AU Institutional Reforms; Amb. Tom Amolo; and Amb. Joseph Magutt.



Third Quarterly Media Briefing on Kenya's Foreign Policy

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs held its third Quarterly Media Briefing on 12th November 2025, at the Ministry Headquarters, offering an extensive account of Kenya's recent diplomatic achievements, global engagements, and emerging challenges.

The briefing by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, was part of the Ministry's sustained effort to enhance transparency and regular communication with the media. It provided a thematic overview of Kenya's growing diplomatic footprint, diaspora diplomacy, regional cooperation, and national security concerns. He was accompanied by the respective Principal Secretaries for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs

The PCS enumerated Kenya's significant progress in strengthening its global presence, having operationalized new Consulates in Guangzhou, China,

and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, within the year. The Cabinet has also approved the establishment of new embassies in Copenhagen (Denmark), Hanoi (Vietnam), and Vatican City. The Embassy to the Holy See is expected to deepen Kenya's engagement with the Roman Catholic Church, whose development agencies run over 7,700 schools and 500 health facilities in the country, enhancing cooperation in education, healthcare, and social welfare. Kenya is home to an estimated 17 million Catholics.

Over the past quarter, Kenya has taken part in key international summits, including the TICAD9 Conference in Japan, where it secured a Ksh 22 billion Samurai Financing Facility for green industrialization and e-mobility. Other engagements included the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), where Kenya is set to benefit from 100% duty-free access of its exports to China's market. Kenya also participated in the 2nd Session of the Africa

Climate Summit (ACS2) in Ethiopia, the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80) in New York, the UN World Summit for Social Development in Qatar, COP30 in Belém, Brazil, and the 24th COMESA Heads of State Summit held in Nairobi. These engagements continue to bolster trade, investment flows, and Kenya's leadership on global issues.

In October, the Ministry launched the Foreign Policy Mashinani initiative in Kisumu, engaging representatives from all six counties in the Nyanza and Coast region. The programmer aims to deepen the public understanding of Kenya's foreign policy priorities and their connection to national development. Efforts are underway to roll out the program in all the 47 Counties.

The PCS also highlighted notable progress in Kenya's labor mobility, reporting that more than 430,000 Kenyans had secured jobs abroad since 2023 through various Bilateral Labor Agreements (BLAs). Diaspora remittances continue to be a major economic pillar, with USD 4.9 billion having been sent by Kenyans abroad in 2024, an 18% in-

crease from the previous year. Ongoing negotiations with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, and Jordan seek to expand opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled workers. Kenya is particularly focused on ensuring mutual recognition of qualifications and improving conditions under existing labor agreements.

A major segment of the briefing was dedicated to the alarming rise in human trafficking and forced criminality affecting Kenyans in Southeast Asia. It was reported that more than 600 Kenyans had been rescued since 2022 from trafficking rings in countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar, while 126 victims were still awaiting repatriation. It was also noted that some of the victims were now highly experienced in cybercrime activities, and this would pose significant national security risks if unchecked. The government warned that global crime syndicates were using sophisticated social media recruitment schemes to lure Kenyan youth with fake job offers, only to subject them to forced labor, online scamming, illegal cryptocurrency operations, and even organ harvesting. Authorities have delisted 600 rogue employment agencies. The National Employment Agency has also been tasked with strengthening ethical recruitment and worker protection.

The PCS further informed that repatriation efforts had intensified with a Kenyan woman and her daughter having been rescued from distress in Qatar. A toddler was also brought home from Indonesia after the mother was imprisoned. There are ongoing efforts in Saudi Arabia to repatriate undocumented Kenyan children, supported by DNA verification and joint cooperation with Saudi authorities. At the time of this publication, 59 mothers and 73 children had been repatriated.

With respect to regional integration, the briefing highlighted that Kenya continued to maintain strong trade relations with EAC partner states. The country recorded a positive trade balance with both Uganda and Tanzania in 2024, complementing a 103% increase in total exports to the EAC over

the past five years.

On relations with Uganda, diplomatic interventions led to the safe release of two Kenyan activists who had gone missing in Uganda. Following tensions linked to Tanzania's October elections, Kenya confirmed that eight Kenyans who had been arrested during the election period had been released.

On peace and security in the region, the PCS reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to regional peace processes, noting the continued involvement in the stabilization of the DRC through the EAC-SADC initiative and support for the Nairobi Peace Process. There was a call for an immediate ceasefire between warring parties in the Sudanese conflict and a need for continued diplomatic efforts to revive the stalled peace processes in South Sudan.

On joint counterterrorism and security cooperation with Ethiopia, Kenya continues to support Somalia's stabilization amid persistent threats from Al-Shabaab and emerging links to Houthi militants.

In addition, Kenya continues to support the Haitian Police to combat gang violence, applauding the 800-officer contingent that was deployed in Hai-

ti, which has helped to reopen schools and health facilities. The mission is expected to transition into a Gang Suppression Force (GSF) with a UN led mandate. This contribution reinforces Kenya's status as a global exporter of peace.

On climate leadership, Kenya's participation at COP30 underscored its role as a global climate advocate and host of UNEP. President William Ruto continues to chair the African Union's Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), emphasizing climate justice and financing for the Global South.

The Prime CS reiterated the Ministry's commitment to safeguarding Kenya's national interests and maintaining strong relations within the region and beyond. He concluded by noting...

"Kenya remains a trusted ally in regional and global affairs, anchored on a legacy of peace, cooperation, and shared progress," calling on the media to continue supporting the dissemination of accurate and constructive information. The Ministry pledged to continue strengthening Kenya's diplomatic engagement and protection of citizens abroad as part of its mandate to project Kenya's image on the global stage.





Strengthening Kenya-Qatar Relations

Middle East Directorate

The Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Kenya, Mohamed bin Mutair Al-Enazi, paid a courtesy call on Amb. Lindsay Kiptiness, Deputy Director-General for the Middle East Directorate at the State Department for Foreign Affairs, on 28th November 2025. The meeting reviewed the state of bilateral relations and explored priority areas for enhanced cooperation between Qatar and the Republic of Kenya.

Both sides commended the warm and cordial relations between the two countries and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration across political, economic, labour, and people-to-people spheres. Ambassador Kiptiness congratulated Qatar on the successful hosting of the Second United Nations World Summit for Social Development in Doha, and conveyed

Kenya's appreciation for the hospitality extended to the Kenyan delegation led by William Ruto. The two sides agreed to expedite implementation of outcomes from recent high-level engagements.

Labour cooperation featured prominently, with Kenya expressing gratitude to Qatar for providing employment opportunities to over 75,000 Kenyan nationals across sectors including hospitality and aviation. Ambassador Kiptiness noted that ongoing negotiations on a bilateral labour agreement could see this number rise to over 90,000, strengthening labour mobility and skills exchange.

On the welfare of Kenyan nationals in Qatar, assurances were provided that Qatar offers a safe and secure environment where citizens and foreign

workers are protected by law without discrimination. Ambassador Al-Enazi highlighted the high regard in which Kenyan workers are held for their professionalism, skills, and strong work ethic, acknowledging their positive contribution to Qatar's economy.

Economic cooperation was also discussed, with Kenya encouraging increased Qatari investment and tourism, citing Kenya's competitive business environment, robust private sector, and diverse tourism offerings. Kenya further urged consideration of lifting the ban on imports of Kenyan livestock and livestock products, noting ongoing consultations to address the health concerns that informed the restriction.

The engagement concluded with a shared commitment to further strengthen Kenya-Qatar relations and advance cooperation in labour, trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges for mutual benefit.



Kenya Undertakes Landmark Study to Strengthen Role as a UN Host Country

By. Privileges and Immunities Directorate

Kenya has taken significant steps to reinforce its position as a leading host of United Nations agencies following an extensive multi-agency comparative study tour to Switzerland, Austria, and the United States. The 15-member delegation, drawn from key government institutions that manage diplomatic privileges and immunities, undertook the mission between 10th October and 2nd November 2025. The study aimed to benchmark best practices and ensure Kenya remains competitive, attractive, and responsive as a UN Headquarters in the global south.

The study comes at a pivotal moment. Under the UN80 Reform Initiative, the United Nations is repositioning itself to ensure cost-efficiency and greater global accessibility. The decision to relocate UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women Headquarters to Nairobi by

the end of 2026 is widely seen as a vote of confidence in Kenya's stability, strategic location, and diplomatic leadership. As competition intensifies among countries seeking to host UN Offices, Kenya is consolidating its identity as a multilateral hub and aligning with its Foreign Policy commitments.

During the study, the delegation reviewed how Geneva, Vienna, New York and Washington DC administer privileges and Immunities for diplomats, UN staff, and international organizations. The comparative analysis covered legal frameworks, policy instruments, security arrangements, ICT systems, dispute-resolution mechanisms and inter-agency coordination. The team also examined structures used in other countries to institutionalize relations between the UN and host governments, and explored what Kenya can learn to improve its offerings and competitiveness.

Key Findings of the Study: Kenya Performs Well, but Competition is rising

The study revealed that Kenya compares favorably with other UN host countries, particularly in its administration of privileges and immunities. Nairobi is regarded as one of the most preferred duty stations due to its favorable host country agreement, climate and cost-effectiveness. However, the mission found that other countries are aggressively expanding incentives for UN agencies. Geneva, for example, provides an interest-free USD 300 million grant to UNHCR, while others are developing new office complexes in anticipation of winning future relocations.

The delegation also observed that host countries have invested heavily in one-stop systems and specialized agencies privileges and immunities to manage diplomatic services. In the US, the Office of Foreign Missions handles all privileges using an integrated custom and secure digital platform. Vienna

and Geneva similarly operate integrated systems linking diplomatic IDs, duty-free cards, driving licenses and residence permits, enabling seamless verification and service delivery. These countries also run robust induction programmes, stakeholder engagement forums, and mediation mechanisms for diplomats.

Other findings touched on taxation and VAT exemptions, administration of domestic workers, security arrangements, housing support, infrastructure capacity, and reciprocity in diplomatic treatment. Concerns raised by UN agencies planning to relocate to Nairobi include gaps in health facilities for terminal illnesses, availability of international curriculum schools, internet stability, and perceptions of insecurity around diplomatic residences.

Key Recommendations to Strengthening Kenya's Attractiveness

The report proposes wide-ranging reforms to ensure Kenya remains a top-tier UN Headquarters. Among the major recommendations include:

- Establishing a semi-autonomous agency modelled on the US Office of Foreign Missions to manage all
- Creating a dedicated diplomatic

enclave outside the UN complex to host agencies involved in service delivery.

- Reviewing laws such as the East Africa Customs Management Act to align first-arrival privileges with global standards.
- Raising the age limit for dependants of UN staff to 25 years, harmonizing Kenya's rules with those of other duty stations.
- Introducing a duty-free card system for tax exemption at the point of purchase and setting clear ceilings for VAT refunds.
- Strengthening data-sharing between MFDA, Immigration, NTSA, KRA and other MDAs through integrated digital platforms.
- Expanding driving license reciprocity, introducing eye tests for road safety, and enhancing training of police on diplomatic protocols.
- Documenting and regulating the employment of local staff and domestic workers in line with labor laws.
- Establishing a national dispute resolution mechanism for Kenyans working in international organizations.

- Enhancing Kenya's diplomatic messaging and involving the private sector in public communication around Nairobi's role as a UN80 reform champion.

The report also calls for improvements in infrastructure, creation of additional duty-free commissaries, better coordination at airports, and documenting land contributed by Kenya to the UN system.

Looking Ahead

A key finding from the study is that while Kenya has strong institutions and legal frameworks for administering privileges and immunities, there is a need for a greater mindset shift and continuous sensitization on the importance of hosting the UN. Maintaining and enhancing Nairobi's competitiveness requires ongoing investment, streamlined systems, and whole-of-government coordination.

The recommendations chart a clear roadmap for Kenya as it prepares to welcome additional UN Headquarters and strengthen its role as Africa's diplomatic capital. The Government, through the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, will continue to champion reforms that enhance service delivery, support UN operations and elevate Kenya's global standing.



The team with Amb. Fancy Too at the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the UN in Geneva when she welcomed the delegation.



Diaspora-Led Partnership Advances Girls' STEM Education through Robotics Scholarship

By R. Asirikwa

A Kenyan diaspora-led partnership has launched a pioneering robotics scholarship programme aimed at expanding girls' participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The initiative, jointly implemented by the Kenya Girl Guides Association (KGGA) and the European Business University (EBU), was formally unveiled in Nairobi during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding at the KGGA grounds on Arboretum Road.

The programme was launched with the

participation of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, represented by Ms. Irene Karari, Director in charge of the Skills and Expertise Division, on behalf of the Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs. Also in attendance was Hon. Hulda Momanyi Hiltzley, a representative in the Minnesota House of Representatives, alongside the leadership and members of the KGGA.

The occasion served to honor the legacy of Mrs. Evangeline C. Mulli, the first African Chief Commissioner of the KGGA, whose leadership laid the foundation for girls' empowerment and civic engagement in Kenya.

At the center of the collaboration is the Robotics for Rookies Scholarship Programme, which targets girls aged 11 to 18. The initiative provides practical, hands-on training in robotics, with an emphasis on problem-solving, teamwork, and innovation. Beyond technical skills, the programme is designed to build confidence and leadership capacity, positioning participants for future careers in STEM fields. A distinctive

feature of the scholarship is its global outlook, with outstanding participants expected to access international exposure and placement opportunities abroad.

The partnership is the brainchild of James Mulli, a Kenyan academic based in Luxembourg and founder of the European Business University. His vision reflects the growing role of the Kenyan diaspora in advancing education diplomacy, skills development, and people-to-people linkages between Kenya and the global community.

The robotics scholarship underscores the strategic value of diaspora engagement in national development and speaks to the Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy. By combining local institutions with global expertise, the initiative demonstrates how education partnerships can serve as effective tools of soft power, promote gender inclusion in technology, and contribute to Kenya's broader diplomacy and human-capital development agenda.



Presentation of Credentials

Ambassador Betty Cherwon hands her letters of credence to HSH Prince Albert II (Credits: Michaël Alesi / Princely Palace)

Kenya - Monaco Relations Take a Significant Step

In Her Own Words

by Amb. B. Cherwon

I presented my letters of credence on 14th October 2025 to His Serene Highness the Prince of the Principality of Monaco, Albert II. This marked a significant step in the relations between Kenya and Monaco, being the first ambassador of Kenya to present credentials and be fully accredited.

Kenya's Participation

During a private conversation following the official handover ceremony I reaffirmed my commitment to enhancing the relations between Kenya and Monaco. Our discussion centred on key areas of mutual interest, including forest and wildlife conservation, tourism and sports diplomacy.

Prince Albert is an avid sportsman and represented Monaco at five winter Olympics. He is also an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member and the Patron of the annual World Athletics Awards, which are traditionally held every November/December in Monaco. The Prince also champions environmental protection through the Prince Albert II Foundation. These strong credentials provide an avenue for the advancement of our mutual interests and elevation of the relationship between Kenya and Monaco.

Strategic Value

While in Monaco, I held a meeting with officials from the Monaco Economic Board (MEB), which is the government of Monaco's operational arm that promotes the Principality's

economy and actively participates in its development. It is equivalent to our Chamber of Commerce and the Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (KEPROBA). I also met with the Secretary General of the Club des Entrepreneurs Monegasques en Afrique (CEMA), which is an association of companies based in Monaco with active business participation in Africa. It was evident there is a significant potential for collaboration between Kenya and Monaco. The opportunities span several sectors, including the Blue Economy and Marine Industries, renewable energy and sustainability, hospitality and tourism, forest conservation, sports diplomacy, technology and innovation smart cities and digital economy and, education. All these areas align with the focus areas of Kenya's

Foreign Policy.

The rich deliberation unpackaged a Monaco that is eager to do business with Kenya, one that has shared values and aligned policy visions. MEB and CEMA reaffirmed their commitment for collaboration.

Honorary Consul

The Honorary Consul of Kenya to Monaco is Mr. Geoffrey Kent who is the owner of Abercrombie and Kent, a pioneering internationally renowned luxury travel company that was the first to introduce tented Safaris in Kenya. Mr. Kent is a British citizen who spent most of his youth and early adult life in Kenya where his parents lived in

South Kinangop as part of British settlers in Kenya. Mr. Kent, a well-established businessman settled in Monaco and has been Kenya's Honorary Consul since 1990's representing Kenya well, especially in promoting tourism and using his connections at the Principality to link Kenyans and Monegasques. He continues to be a valuable asset to Kenya and maintains strong cooperation with the Embassy.

The visit to Monaco will no doubt open doors to enhanced relations between the two countries. It is expected in the short term that a webinar will be held between MEB and KEPROBA followed by arranged business forums to connect investors and entrepreneurs to

explore business opportunities. In the long run, the signing of MOUs and exchange of high-level visits will lead to the growth of relations between the two countries and an increased balance of trade and people-to-people connections.

Fun facts about Monaco

Monaco is the second-smallest country in the world after the Vatican City; it has more police officers per capita than any other country; Monaco has the highest GDP per Capita in the world and is a tax haven with no income tax for residents, attracting the wealthy and famous.



Amb. Betty Cherwon with officials of the Monaco Economic Board (MEB)- (Credits: Michaël Alesi / Princely Palace)



News from Diaspora and Kenya Missions Abroad

The Deputy Head of Mission, Commercial Attaché, attending and presenting at the Pakistan Business Africa Trade Forum Hosted by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistan's Look to Africa Policy and the Real Opportunities for Kenya

By. K. Soita and B. Njuguna

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, with a population of approximately 250 million, has adopted the “Look Africa Policy” as part of a broader strategy to deepen its economic and diplomatic engagement with African countries. In recent years, Pakistan has increasingly turned its attention to Africa to diversify trade partnerships, expand foreign direct investment, and strengthen diplomatic and strategic partnerships. The policy is anchored on harnessing Africa's growth potential, particularly in priority sectors such as agriculture and agricultural machinery, textiles, pharmaceuticals and surgical equipment, as well as manufacturing, building, and construction.

In the last few years, Pakistan's public and private sectors have intensified efforts to penetrate the African market through the hosting of local and international investment forums and trade promotion events. These engagements, including targeted sessions with Afri-

can diplomatic missions in Pakistan, have focused on showcasing Pakistan's investment potential and fostering dialogue with investors and key stakeholders. The overarching objective has been to position Africa as a future growth market and a strategic gateway to global opportunities.

Kenya's strategic geographical position, sustained economic growth, and political stability present a compelling opportunity for partnership within this framework. By positioning itself as Pakistan's gateway to Africa (while Pakistan serves as Kenya's gateway to Central Asia), Kenya emerges as a pivotal partner in the effective implementation of the Look to Africa Policy. Within this context, Kenya stands to leverage Pakistan's Look Africa Policy to enhance bilateral trade, attract investment, and deepen long-term economic cooperation between the two countries.

Key Activities on the Look to Africa

Engagement

Given its strategic position in East and Central Africa, Kenya stands to gain a lot in terms of opportunities that the policy will create in Africa. To have a full understanding of the policy and to support Pakistan's interest in Africa, the Kenya High Commission to Pakistan, participated in various meetings and forums. Among the key activities include presentation on trade and investment opportunities in Kenta at the Center of Pakistan and International Relations. In addition, Embassy officials participated in the Business Africa Trade Forum organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on 2nd October 2025.

The forum convened African Diplomatic Missions accredited to Pakistan, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, trade envoys, business leaders, and policymakers to explore opportunities for trade and investment, joint ventures, and enhanced economic cooperation between Pakistan and African countries. Discussions at the forum focused on key sectors, including textiles, agriculture, information technology, leather, agro-processing, and ma-

chinery. During the engagement, the Mission highlighted priority areas for collaboration with Kenya, aligned with national development priorities, namely Universal Health Coverage, food security, affordable housing, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the digital economy.

A leading Pakistani think tank, the Institute of Strategic Studies, has initiated structured discussions on Pakistan's policy engagement with the African market. Through regular forums and policy dialogues, the Institute seeks to raise awareness of trade and investment opportunities across Africa. The Mission has actively participated in these engagements, highlighting and advocating for concrete opportunities for trade and investment collaboration in Kenya.

The engagements revealed strong interest within Pakistan's business community in partnering with Kenya across priority sectors, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, sports and surgical equipment, leather and apparel, agriculture, steel, and manufacturing. To translate this interest into tangible investment, Kenya should intensify targeted awareness-building and investment promotion efforts, while simultaneously strengthening an enabling business environment that supports market entry, joint ventures, and value-chain integration. Proactive engagement with Pakistani investors, chambers of commerce, and industry associations will be critical in converting expressed interest into bankable projects.

Kenya should also move decisively to anchor this positioning within its economic-diplomacy framework by capitalizing on its strategic geographic location, political stability, and well-developed regional infrastructure. By serving as a hub for access to East Africa and the wider continent, Kenya offers Pakistan a reliable and efficient platform for African market entry. The revitalization and deepening of bilateral relations between Kenya and Pakistan would be mutually beneficial,



From left to right Deputy Director General MOFA (Africa), High Commissioner Rwanda, Ethiopia Ambassador, High Commissioner, Kenya, Somalia Ambassador, Somalia Ambassador, Additional Secretary MOFA, High Commissioner, Zimbabwe, Dean of African Ambassadors/ High Commissioners, CDA South Africa, and the Director General (MOFA) for a meeting OF African Missions held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan to discuss trade and investment opportunities in Africa.



The Head of Mission, Commercial Attaché, Meeting the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Islamabad.



The Head of Mission, Commercial Attaché, meeting the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Islamabad.

fostering increased trade and investment flows, strengthening diplomatic ties, and advancing broader regional integration objectives.

Kenya at Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Assembly and Council



Eng. Dr. Festus Ng'eno, PS Participating at the GGGI Assembly and Council Meetings

Kenya marked a historic milestone in its environmental and climate diplomacy, making its first appearance as a full Member State at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Assembly and Council meetings during the 2025 GGGI Week, held from 21st to 24th October, 2025, in Seoul, South Korea.

The 14th Assembly and 18th Council sessions, chaired by H.E. Ban Ki-moon, brought together delegates from across the globe to chart the future of sustainable development. Kenya's participation followed its formal accession to GGGI on 18th April 2025, a move endorsed by the National Assembly. Eng. Dr. Festus Ng'eno, Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, led the Kenyan delegation, accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, and the Embassy of Kenya in Seoul, led by Ambassador Prof. Emmy Jerono Kipsoi.

In his address to the Council and Assembly plenary, Dr. Ng'eno underscored Kenya's commitment to advancing green growth that uplifts communities while safeguarding the environment. He highlighted ongoing initiatives including carbon market regulations under the Paris Agreement, the rollout of e-mobility projects such as the Bus Rapid Transit system,

and significant investment in a green hydrogen roadmap. Kenya is also advancing a circular economy strategy to reduce plastic waste, and promote sustainable resource use.

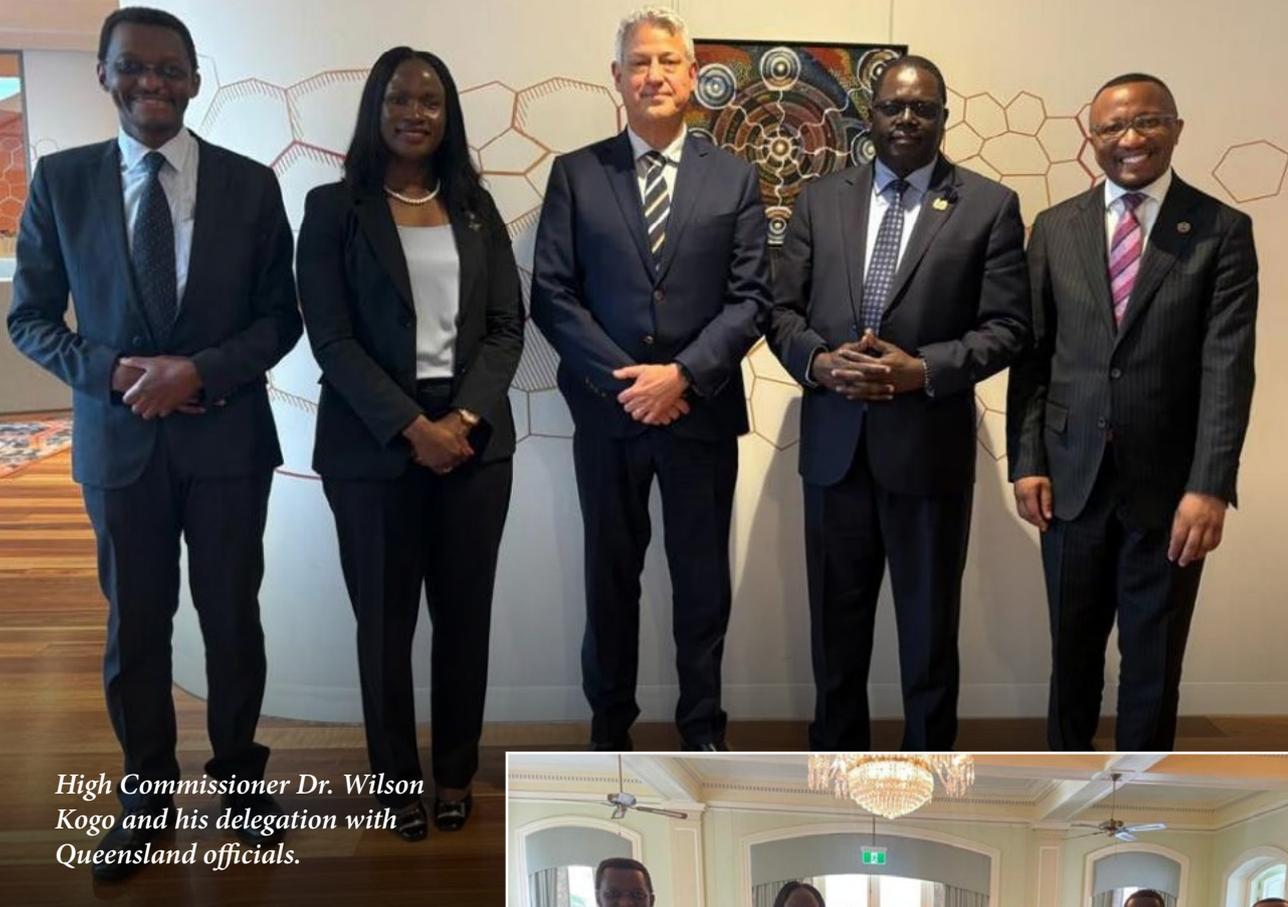
The Assembly and council meeting approved GGGI's Updated Strategy 2030 (2026–2030), with Kenya actively contributing to discussions on climate finance, green hydrogen, and nature-based solutions. The country showcased its achievements in renewable energy, noting that more than 90 percent of its electricity is generated from clean sources.

Dr. Ng'eno also participated as a panel discussant during the Water and Renewable Energy for Climate Resilience Session where he emphasized Kenya's integrated legal frameworks, adaptive permitting, catchment protection, and multi-purpose storage infrastructure to safeguard hydropower reliability, and sustainable water management. Leveraging its leadership in geothermal and hydropower, Kenya has diversified generation through wind and solar, while upgraded telemetry stations provide real-time data to reduce hydrological risks. These measures, he said, ensure a climate-resilient water–energy nexus that guarantees stable electricity supply, and equitable water access even under increasing climate variability.

On the Margins of the 2025 GGGI week, Dr. Ng'eno also held a bilateral meeting with GGGI Director-General Dr. Frank Rijsberman. The Director-General praised Kenya's prominent position in Africa's green transition, emphasizing that the country's leadership is seen as crucial for advancing future climate, and sustainable development initiatives. As the 2025 GGGI Week concluded, Kenya was nominated to co-chair a newly established working group on green industrialization in emerging economies. The appointment underscored Kenya's growing influence in global sustainability governance, and its determination to shape collective strategies for a greener, more resilient future.



Eng. Dr. Festus Ng'eno, Ambassador Kipsoi, Dr. Frank Rijsberman, GGGI Director-General (in the Middle) and GGGI Staff at the GGGI headquarters during the GGGI Week



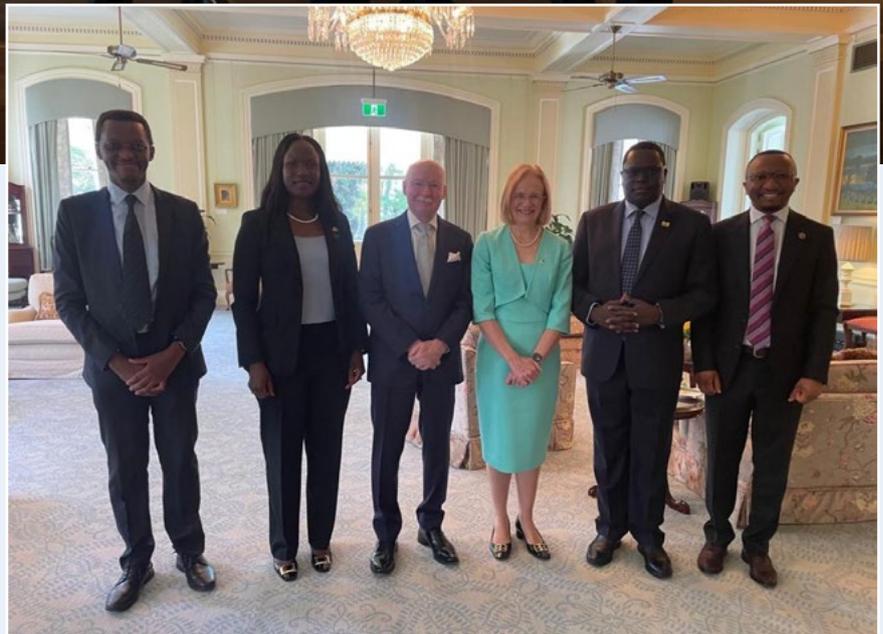
High Commissioner Dr. Wilson Kogo and his delegation with Queensland officials.

Kenya Strengthens Ties with Australia in Queensland

By D. Ndeda

As part of promoting bilateral cooperation with the State of Queensland, Australia, Dr. Wilson K. Kogo, Kenya's High Commissioner to Australia, undertook his inaugural official visit to Queensland from 10–11 September 2025. The visit, facilitated by the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet, marked a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral cooperation as Kenya and Australia commemorate 60 years of diplomatic relations.

During the visit, the High Commissioner paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Queensland, where discussions focused on expanding cooperation in priority areas including trade and investment, agriculture, mining, education, and opportunities linked to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games. The engagement underscored



Courtesy call on the Governor of Queensland.

shared interests in leveraging major global events and economic complementarities to drive mutually beneficial partnerships.

The High Commissioner also held engagements with leading academic and training institutions, including the University of Queensland, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, and TAFE Queensland. These discussions explored opportunities for scholarships, joint research initiatives, and technical and vocational training partnerships aimed at strengthening skills development and facilitating labor mobility between

Kenya and Queensland.

In parallel, meetings with multicultural and Parliamentary leaders, the High Commissioner acknowledged the positive contribution of the Kenyan diaspora in Queensland and examined avenues for enhanced diaspora engagement and future collaboration. A judicial engagement with the Chief Justice of Queensland further opened pathways for cooperation through exchange programmes and benchmarking, particularly in areas of judicial administration and best practice.

The visit laid a strong foundation for

deeper cooperation in education, trade, diaspora engagement, and cultural exchange. As a result of these various engagements, Kenya will benefit in various ways including the inclusion of Kenya in Queensland's International Education and Training Strategy, establishment of a sister-city partnership between Brisbane and Mombasa, the finalization of an MOU between TAFE Queensland and Kenya's TVET institutions, and support for the proposed Kenyan Scholars' Conference.

The High Commissioner reaffirmed Kenya's position as a strategic partner and gateway to Africa, emphasizing the country's readiness to work closely with Queensland to advance shared priorities and unlock new opportunities for collaboration.



Meeting with Queensland's Chief Justice to explore judicial cooperation.



Engagement with Queensland's parliamentary leaders.

Kenya Showcases Opportunities at Africa Down Under (ADU) Mining Conference

By D. Ndeda

Kenya took centre stage at the Africa Down Under Mining Conference (ADU), held in Perth, Western Australia, from 2 to 5 September 2025. Now in its 23rd edition, the conference attracted more than 1,500 delegates

from across Africa and Australia, reaffirming its position as a leading platform for dialogue on mining, energy, trade, and investment.

During the conference, Ali Hassan Joho, Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs, and leader of Kenya's delegation, underscored Kenya's commitment to responsible, transparent, and sustainable mining, while inviting investors to explore opportunities across the country's mineral resources and blue economy sectors. Kenya adopted an integrated Country-Brand Pavilion approach, presenting a cohesive national

offering that brought together mining, trade, tourism, and investment promotion under one platform.

The conference also highlighted Australia's expanding engagement with Africa. Penny Wong, Australia's Foreign Minister, noted that Australian mining investments across Africa had reached approximately AU\$60 billion, identifying clean-energy transition minerals as a key frontier for future cooperation.

Kenya further hosted the Make it Kenya Investment Forum, which attracted strong interest from Australian companies exploring opportunities in liquefied natural gas (LNG), rare

earth minerals, renewable energy, and green methanol. Complementary engagements with Curtin University and Kenyan diaspora groups reinforced education, research collaboration, and diaspora investment as important cross-cutting enablers of economic diplomacy. Kenya's participation generated tangible investor interest in mining, LNG, renewable energy, and critical minerals. The Country Pavilion effectively positioned Kenya as an integrated hub for trade, investment, and cultural exchange, while reaffirming the country's standing as a trusted partner for Australia. The engagements aligned investment opportunities with Kenya's national development priorities and reinforced its strategic positioning in Australia–Africa economic cooperation.



Cabinet Secretary Ali Hassan Joho delivering Kenya's keynote address at ADU 2025 in Perth.



Kenya's delegation engaging potential partners during the ADU 2025 Conference.



Showcasing Kenya's tourism, trade and investment opportunities at the national pavilion.



The Kenyan delegation at the 'Make it Kenya' Pavilion in Perth.



Kenya Canada Relations Deepened

From September to November 2025, the Kenya High Commission in Ottawa intensified its diplomatic engagements across Canada and on key international platforms, advancing Kenya's foreign policy priorities in aviation diplomacy, labour mobility, trade, education, human rights, and multilateral cooperation and forward-looking global actor.

Aviation Diplomacy and Strategic Engagement at ICAO and ICAN

Civil aviation and air connectivity remained a central pillar of the Mission's foreign policy work, with Amb. Kamende playing a dual role as High Commissioner to Canada and Kenya's Permanent Representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In September 2025, on the sidelines of the 42nd ICAO Assembly in Montreal, the Kenyan delegation led by Mr. Nicholas Otieno Bodo, Director of Air Transport, and Amb. Kamende held a series of high-level meetings

with key aviation partners including:

- The International Air Transport Association (IATA), led by Senior Vice President and Chief Economist Ms. Marie Owens Thomsen, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to advancing sustainable aviation, particularly in climate policy and sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), and strengthening resilience in the sector.
- The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and European Commission delegations, focusing on aviation safety, climate action, SAF, and opportunities for technical and regulatory cooperation.
- The U.S. Transportation Security Administration, represented by Mr. Anthony Q. Monreal, exploring deeper collaboration on aviation security.
- Qatar Airways, through a meeting with Senior Vice President Mr. Fathi Atti, to discuss enhanced

commercial and technical cooperation.

These engagements reinforced Kenya's reputation as a constructive voice in global aviation policy and aligned with national priorities to develop Nairobi and other hubs as competitive, sustainable, and secure aviation gateways for the region.

In November 2025, during the ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN 2025) in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Kenyan aviation diplomacy was further elevated through bilateral talks with The United Republic of Tanzania, Iceland, The Democratic Republic of Congo, The Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Malaysia, and The Netherlands. These discussions focused on reviewing existing air services frameworks, enhancing connectivity, supporting traffic growth, and expanding technical cooperation. By engaging partners from Africa, Europe, and Asia, Kenya positioned itself as an emerging aviation hub and strengthened its network of bilateral Air Services Agreements in support of trade, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.

Labour Mobility and Skills Partnerships

Labour mobility and human capital development featured strongly in the Mission's activities, in line with Kenya's broader foreign policy focus on economic diplomacy and job creation. In September and October 2025, the High Commission hosted several delegations from the State Department for Labour and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, led respectively by PS Shadrack Mwangolo Mwandime and Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred N. Mutua. Their visits to various Canadian cities and provinces were dedicated to assessing and expanding opportunities for structured, safe, and mutually beneficial labour migration.

Trade, Investment and Diaspora Diplomacy

The Mission also advanced Kenya's economic diplomacy by cultivating relationships with Canadian business, trade, and diaspora networks. At the Impact Diaspora International Business Forum 2025 in Ottawa, themed "Building Canada–Africa Economic Bridges," Amb. Kamende joined policymakers, business leaders, and entrepreneurs to promote new avenues of trade, investment, and innovation between Canada and Africa. In a panel on diaspora diplomacy, she highlighted the critical role of the African diaspora, especially Kenyans in Canada towards driving mutual growth and strengthening bilateral relations. Earlier in September, on the margins of the 2nd International Post-COVID-19 Conference in Brampton, Ontario, she held discussions with the Toronto Board of Trade and the World Trade Centre Toronto on opportunities to deepen Kenya–Canada trade and investment links. These conversations focused on connecting Kenyan businesses with Canadian markets and partners, boosting Kenya's profile as an investment destination, and leveraging the private sector as a key engine of foreign policy. To complement these high-level engagements, the Mission conducted

Mobile Consular Services in Brampton and London, Ontario, alongside diaspora cultural and thanksgiving events. This ensured that foreign policy remains people-centred, responsive, and accessible to Kenyans abroad, while reinforcing the diaspora's recognised role as a pillar of Kenya's development.

Multilateral Engagement and Global Governance

In addition to sectoral diplomacy, the High Commission maintained strong engagement with Global Affairs Canada and multilateral partners in advancing shared values and global governance priorities. These meetings focused on shared regional priorities and deepening bilateral relations, exploring cooperation on human rights and multilateral engagement and advancing shared commitment to good governance, strong judicial institutions, and a rules-based international order. The Mission also participated in thematic multilateral events, including a Commonwealth of Learning session on multilateralism and education, and the LSE IDEAS Women in Diplomacy Project Dialogue, where Amb. Kamende underscored Kenya's commitment to inclusive diplomacy and women's leadership in international affairs.

Public Diplomacy and Soft Power

Throughout the period, the Mission actively participated in National Day celebrations of partner countries including Algeria, Latvia, and Uganda and supported cultural initiatives such as the Mully Children's Family choir tour in Toronto. These engagements strengthened Kenya's visibility, built goodwill, and fostered people-to-people connections that underpin long-term foreign policy relationships. A particularly significant public diplomacy moment came with the Condolence Book Signing for Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, E.G.H., held at the Mission in October 2025. Diplomats, members of the public, and friends of Kenya, in-

cluding representatives from several foreign missions, paid tribute to the late former Prime Minister. Their messages reflected global recognition of his role as a champion of democracy, justice, and Pan-African unity, and underscored the respect Kenya enjoys on the international stage.

Strategic Education, Professional and Institutional Partnerships

The Mission continued to promote educational and professional cooperation as a key strand of foreign policy. This was carried out through the hosting of Bow Valley College (Calgary) to explore collaboration in healthcare and technology training; engaging KASNEB on strengthening professional certification linkages and opportunities for Kenyan students and professionals and facilitating judicial and governance exchanges through a courtesy visit by Justice Luka Kiprotich Kimaru, Judge of the Court of Appeal of Kenya. These initiatives contribute to skills development, institutional strengthening, and long-term capacity-building- key enablers of Kenya's international competitiveness.

Advancing Kenya's Foreign Policy from Ottawa

Taken together, these engagements demonstrate how the Kenya High Commission in Ottawa is operationalising Kenya's foreign policy priorities: deepening strategic partnerships, promoting economic diplomacy, enhancing regional and global connectivity, supporting diaspora communities, and actively contributing to multilateral solutions. Through sustained, targeted diplomacy in Canada and at international platforms such as ICAO, the Mission continues to project Kenya as a reliable partner, regional hub, and constructive global actor committed to peace, prosperity, and shared progress.



Kenya Highlights Youth Employment Solutions at ALES 2025

By W. Kigathi and D. Maloba

Kenya's strategies for tackling youth unemployment took center stage at the Africa Labor and Employment Summit (ALES 2025) held in Accra, Ghana. The summit brought together African policymakers, diplomats, development partners, and labor institutions to reflect on the future of work, labor migration, and inclusive employment systems across the continent.

The summit was organized by Sustainable Development in Africa Advocacy (S-DIAA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, Jobs and Employment and the National Labor Commission. Mr. Kweku Kakah, S-DIAA Executive Director described the inaugural summit as a defining moment for the continent, underscoring its focus on actionable solutions, policy innovation, and multi-stakeholder dialogue to support inclusive, resilient, and future-ready employment systems. He

noted that the summit seeks to create real pathways to decent work for young people, women, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable workers, both domestically and across borders.

Turning to Kenya's experience, Mr. Daniel Kottut, Deputy Head of Mission at the Kenya High Commission in Accra, outlined comprehensive and forward-looking interventions aimed at reducing youth unemployment. He highlighted flagship government programmes designed to create employment opportunities both locally and internationally, while equipping young people with relevant digital, entrepreneurial, and technical skills. These initiatives include the National Youth Service, the Public Service Commission one-year Internship Programme, the Ajira Digital Programme, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), the Youth Employment

Scheme Abroad (YESA), the Future Bora Initiative, and Kazi Mtaani Kwa Vijana.

Mr. Kottut emphasized that Kenya's approach goes beyond job creation to building sustainable, long-term pathways for innovation, skills development, and global competitiveness. He reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to sharing best practices and learning from other African countries, noting that investing in young people and facilitating labor mobility is central to Africa's economic transformation.

ALES 2025 provided a strategic platform for Kenya to showcase its youth employment agenda, contribute to continental policy conversations, and reinforce its commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable labor solutions in Africa.

Kenyan Creatives Join Continental Peers at Connect Africa Festival in Ghana

By L. Njau and D. Maloba

Kenya was among the key participants at the inaugural Creatives Connect Afrika Forum & Festival, held from 24th to 26th November, 2025 in Accra, Ghana. The event brought together leading creators, policymakers, investors, and cultural institutions to advance Africa's creative and cultural industries as drivers of trade, tourism, and continental integration.

The forum was organized by the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat in partnership with the Government of Ghana, Africa Tourism Partners, and the Black Star Experience Secretariat. It attracted participation from creatives and officials drawn from across the continent.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Wamkele Mene, AfCFTA Secretary-General underscored the growing importance of Africa's creative industries as engines of economic growth, innovation, and youth employment. He noted that the 2025 edition focused on film, music, and fashion sectors that exemplify Africa's creative capabilities and entrepreneurial spirit and emphasized their role in socio-economic development and cultural exchange. Mr. Mene called for seamless cross-border operations for creatives under AfCFTA protocols on Trade in Services, Intellectual Property Rights, and Digital Trade. He highlighted the need for a continental digital marketplace, harmonized intellectual-property regimes, and stronger metadata systems to enable creators to scale their work and earn sustainably across borders. Citing the success of African creatives on global digital platforms, he noted the sector's potential to boost intra-African trade, employment, and Africa's soft power.



Ambassador Shem Amadi, Kenya's High Commissioner to Ghana (5th from left) with Kenyan creatives on the sidelines of Creatives Connect Afrika in Accra, Ghana.

Plenary sessions focused on reducing trade barriers affecting creative goods and services, strengthening regulatory harmonization, and improving the enabling environment for the creative economy. Emily Mburu-Ndoria, Director for Trade in Services, Intellectual Property Rights, and Digital Trade at the AfCFTA Secretariat, emphasized the importance of robust digital infrastructure and targeted support to help creators commercialize their work regionally. Masterclasses addressed practical issues such as copyright and digital-rights management, monetization models, film distribution, and cross-border mobility. Participants also identified persistent challenges facing the sector, including limited access to finance, fragmented regulatory systems, weak intellectual-property enforcement, inadequate metadata systems, and uneven digital infrastructure across the continent.

Kenya's delegation comprised fashion designers, filmmakers, digital-content creators, musicians, performing artists, creative-industry entrepreneurs, ICT experts, and media practitioners. Participating entities included Zebra Production, Content Pulse East Africa,

Mediakits.io Kenya, and LAM Sisterhood, alongside officials from the Kenya High Commission in Accra. Kenya's participation aimed to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation, showcase the country's creative talent, and explore AfCFTA-enabled market opportunities.

Kenyan designers stood out during the fashion showcase with vibrant Afro-fashion and contemporary designs reflecting the country's cultural diversity and creative depth. Musicians, digital creators, and entrepreneurs also took part in business-to-business engagements that opened pathways for partnerships and market expansion within West Africa.

The forum achieved key milestones, including strengthening continental dialogue on harmonized trade and intellectual-property policies, enhancing awareness of digital rights and creative licensing, and expanding market-entry opportunities for African creatives. Exhibitions featuring Made-in-Africa products ranging from textiles and natural cosmetics to crafts and design works further celebrated Africa's ingenuity, cultural identity, and growing creative economy.



The Head of Mission, Amb. Stella Mokaya Orina giving her opening remarks during the Open Day

Kenya Embassy Open Day 2025 – Berlin

By Kenya Embassy Berlin

The Kenya Embassy in Berlin hosted its inaugural Kenya Open Day 2025 at the Chancery, bringing together Kenyans, Germans, and international friends to showcase Kenya’s identity, investment potential, and growing role as a regional skills hub. Held under the theme “Explore. Invest. Thrive,” the Open Day blended cultural diplomacy, investment promotion, diaspora engagement, and diplomatic outreach, supporting Kenya’s Economic and Commercial Diplomacy priorities under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Kenya’s Ambassador to Germany, Stella Mokaya Orina, invited German investors to explore opportunities in Kenya, describing the country as a strategic and vibrant business environment. She noted that the Open Day highlighted Kenya’s strengths in business, tourism, skills, sports, and culture, while deepening Kenya–Germany relations dating back to Germany’s early recognition of Kenya’s independence in 1963. She emphasized the importance of strengthening ties not only between



The Chief guest, Mr. Jonas Koll, Deputy Head of Section Crisis Early Warning from German Federal Foreign Office giving his remarks

governments, but also between peoples.

Guests experienced Kenyan hospitality through food, tea, and coffee, alongside performances by a Kenyan solo artist and a German performer, capped by a Kenyan DJ. The cultural showcase highlighted Kenya’s creativity and people-to-people connections as a key pillar of cultural diplomacy.

The Open Day also served as a networking platform, with exhibitor booths and engagement spaces connecting entrepreneurs, investors, recruiters, development partners, and diaspora professionals. A central feature was the Conversation Corner, a panel moderated by diaspora leaders and experts, which examined labor mobility,

skills development, migration pathways, and talent alignment. Panelists including diaspora champions shared practical perspectives on safe, orderly and regular migration, stronger skills training, and challenges affecting Kenyan workers seeking opportunities in Germany.

The event attracted a diverse audience comprising diplomats, business and political leaders, civil society actors, academia, German labor market recruiters, and members of the Kenyan diaspora. Mr. Jonas Koll, Deputy Head of Section for Crisis Early Warning at the German Federal Foreign Office, commended Kenya’s growing relevance as a source of skilled labor for Germany’s evolving economy. He further high-

lighted the expanding cooperation between the two countries in labor mobility, development partnerships, and climate action.

Amb. Orina referenced the Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement signed in 2024, describing it as a forward-looking framework that creates opportunities for Kenyan youth to work and gain

skills in Germany, while supporting German industries with needed talent. Throughout the day, Kenyan exhibitors showcased crafts, tourism products, fashion, and locally produced goods, reflecting Kenya's rich culture and enterprise. The Embassy also highlighted Kenya's BETA focus on job creation, industrial partnerships, innovation, and youth empowerment, and emphasized

readiness to collaborate with Germany in renewable energy, digital innovation, agriculture, manufacturing, sports, health, and climate solutions.

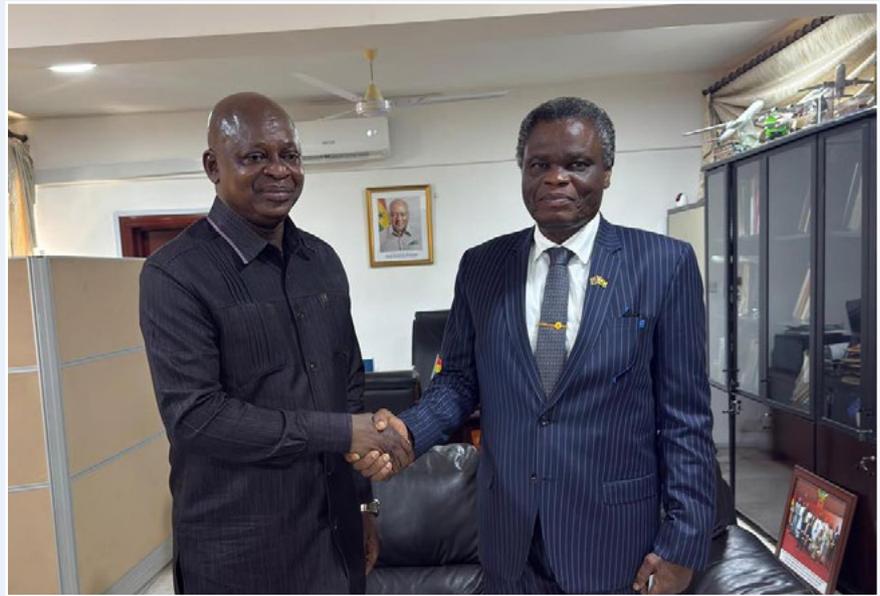
The inaugural Kenya Open Day 2025 strengthened Kenya's profile in Germany, deepened diaspora linkages, and opened new avenues for Kenya-Germany cooperation.

Kenya and Ghana Advance Plans for Aviation and Maritime Hubs

By W. Kigathi

In a significant step toward boosting intra-African connectivity and trade, Kenya and Ghana have reaffirmed their commitment to establishing major aviation and maritime hubs in both countries. This follows a courtesy call made on 12th November, 2025 by Amb. Shem Amadi, High Commissioner of Kenya to Ghana's Minister of Transport, Hon. Joseph Bukari Nikpe, at the Ministry of Transport in Accra.

The High Commissioner was accompanied by Mr. Peter Musomi, Kenya Airways Country Manager in Ghana, alongside three officers from the High Commission. The meeting focused on advancing Kenya's proposal for a Kenya Airways (KQ) secondary hub at Kotoka International Airport in Accra and exploring opportunities for strengthened maritime collaboration between the Port of Mombasa and the Port of Tema. Discussions were anchored in the framework of existing Bilateral agreements, including the Agreement on General Cooperation and the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA), which both countries view as pivotal to expanding joint initiatives in the aviation and maritime sectors. Both sides acknowledged the critical role of efficient and reliable transport systems, particularly maritime transport, which carries more than 80 percent of global trade in driving economic development and regional integration.



(L - R), Hon. Joseph Bukari Nikpe, Minister of Transport of the Republic of Ghana, with Amb. Shem Amadi, High Commissioner of Kenya to Ghana

With this in mind, Kenya and Ghana expressed renewed determination to work collaboratively toward operationalising the proposed hubs.

A key outcome of the meeting was the mutual agreement to establish a joint working committee composed of two representatives from each country. The committee will be responsible for technical coordination, policy harmonisation, and structured planning to move the hub proposals from concept to implementation. Work is expected to commence immediately. The High Commissioner emphasised that the initiatives seek to position Kenya and Ghana as strategic gateways for East and West Africa, respectively, thereby enhancing continental logistics, promoting competitiveness, and accelerating the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Both

parties underscored the importance of timely collaboration and sustained follow-through, citing the need for close engagement with institutions such as the Kenya Airports Authority, Kenya Ports Authority, Kenya Airways, and corresponding entities in Ghana.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the strong Kenya-Ghana partnership and a shared commitment to leveraging aviation and maritime infrastructure to advance Africa's broader integration agenda. Kenya expressed readiness to work closely with Ghana's Ministry of Transport to expedite the KQ secondary hub proposal, deepen maritime cooperation between Mombasa and Tema, and support the newly established joint committee in delivering rapid and coordinated progress.

Kenya Showcases Coffee, Art, and Culture at Seoul Africa Festival

By Kenya Embassy Seoul

The Kenya Embassy in Seoul showcased its cultural heritage at the 2025 Seoul Africa Festival, held on November 13, 2025, at the Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP). This annual event, organized by the African Group of Ambassadors (AGA) and Africa Insight, aimed to celebrate Africa's diversity under the themes "Building Bridges, Creating Opportunities" and "African Luxury." The festival featured a variety of performances, exhibitions of visual art, and diverse African cuisine, with highlights including a parade, dance battles, and a youth forum. Visitors enjoyed sampling African



Crowd of Festival guests at the Kenya Embassy booth

dishes and beverages, including wine and premium Kenyan coffee. The Kenyan booth, coordinated by the Embassy and the Kenya Community in Korea (KCK), presented artifacts, paintings, and an authentic cultural experience. The evening culminated in a fashion show showcasing designers from various African countries, emphasizing the festival's purpose of fostering cultural ties between Africa and Korea.



Soapstone sculptures on display at the Kenya booth

Festival attendees admiring Kenyan beaded accessories



Amb. Kipsoi lectures on Kenya's Ocean and Blue Economy

Kenya's Public Diplomacy in Focus

By Kenya Embassy Seoul

The Graduate School of International Studies at the Korea University (KUGSIS) hosted a lecture on 6th November 2025 as part of the course titled “**Key Issues in Public Diplomacy**” for Korean and international graduate students specializing in diplomacy, international relations studies. **Ambassador Prof. Emmy Kipsoi, Kenya's Ambassador to the Republic of South Korea**, at the invitation of (KU-GSIS), delivered a guest lecture focusing on the evolving role of public diplomacy in shaping global relations.

The Ambassador's presentation, titled “**Public Diplomacy: The Kenyan Experience, A Journey Through Kenya's Voice in the World**,” lay focus on the concept of public diplomacy as an extension of foreign policy and a strategic



Group picture with the KU-GSIS public diplomacy students

approach to engaging the public within and without in the interest of building trust, mutual understanding and fostering cooperation.

The Ambassador highlighted Kenya's position of influence through the effective deployment of soft power in peace mediation efforts in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, leadership in climate negotiations, cultural exports including music and art as well as the global visibility of Kenyan athletes and the consequent positive projection of Kenya's identity and values globally.

Ambassador Kipsoi situated Kenya's approach within broader global trends, noting that modern public diplomacy

increasingly relies on digital platforms, cultural exchange programs, and educational partnerships to reach diverse audiences and in this regard underscored the critical role that youth and innovation play in modern diplomacy. The Ambassador also highlighted the renewed focus of the Government of Kenya to invest in science and technology as important propellers for international engagement. By framing Kenya's foreign policy pillars within the wider discipline of public diplomacy, Ambassador Kipsoi underscored the country's commitment to dialogue, cultural exchange, and innovation as essential tools for amplifying its voice in the international arena.



Embassy Staff and Kenya Innovators at the Kenya Corner

Kenya Showcases Agricultural Innovation at the EU Innovation Fair 2025 in Brussels

By Kenya Embassy Brussels

The Kenya Mission in Belgium and to the European Union participated in the EU Innovation Fair 2025, held on 23 October 2025 in Brussels, positioning Kenya as a key partner in agricultural innovation, technology-driven value chains, and sustainable trade with Europe.

The EU Innovation Fair is a flagship platform under the European Union's research and innovation framework, bringing together innovators, scientists, policymakers, investors, and private-sector actors from Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean. The 2025 edition, hosted at Maison de la Poste

under the theme “Enabling That Step Forward,” focused on scaling innovations that strengthen value chains, promote inclusive growth, and address shared development challenges. The Fair builds on previous editions held in Nairobi (2022), Cape Town (2023), and Cairo (2024), and supports strategic frameworks such as the AU–EU Innovation Agenda (2023–2033) and related Euro–African cooperation initiatives.

Kenya's participation provided a timely platform to advance innovation diplomacy and economic diplomacy, particularly in agriculture. Led

by Ambassador Bitange Ndemo, the Mission showcased how digital and climate-smart technologies are being deployed across Kenya's agricultural value chains to improve productivity, resilience, and market access for smallholder farmers. The engagement highlighted Kenya's capacity to link innovation directly to export readiness and compliance with European market standards.

At the dedicated “Kenya Corner,” visitors interacted with Mission officials, sampled premium Kenyan coffee and tea, and explored a range of Kenyan agricultural products. This engagement reinforced Kenya's agricultural branding while demonstrating how innovation supports quality, traceability, and sustainability; key requirements for accessing EU markets. A notable area of interest during the Fair was Kenya's indigenous herbs and spices, an emerging frontier in European markets

where demand for natural, plant-based health products is growing. Scientists, research institutions, and pharmaceutical companies expressed interest in Kenyan botanicals such as moringa, hibiscus, baobab, turmeric, ginger, black cumin, and aromatic herbs, particularly for use in nutraceuticals, functional foods, and vitamin supplements. These engagements underscored the potential for Kenya to develop high-value export niches through improved branding, quality assurance, phytosanitary certification, and strengthened research partnerships.

While no formal agreements were concluded during the Fair, the Mission recorded strong expressions of interest from European innovation hubs, research institutions, and agri-tech investors. These interactions expanded Kenya's networks in digital agriculture, sustainability, value addition, and market linkages, laying the groundwork for future collaboration, joint research, and investment. Kenya's participation directly advanced national priorities outlined in the Revised Foreign Policy (2024) and Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, which emphasize economic diplomacy, technology partnerships, and deeper engagement with the European Union. It also supported Vision 2030's Economic Pillar and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) by promoting agrarian modernisation, empowering smallholder farmers, encouraging value addition, and expanding access to high-value international markets.

Kenya's engagement at the EU Innovation Fair 2025 strengthened the visibility of its agricultural innovation ecosystem, enhanced the Mission's profile within EU research and innovation networks, and positioned Kenya as an active and credible partner within the AU-EU Innovation Agenda. The Fair provided a strategic platform to promote Kenyan products, attract investment, deepen innovation cooperation, and open new pathways for trade and technology transfer in line with Kenya's development and foreign policy objectives.



Guests of the Kenya corner stand engage the Dr Kaibi the Agriculture Attache at the exhibitions



Amb. Bitange Ndemo gifts the EU Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation, Ms Signe Ratso



The Kenya-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation

By Political and Diplomatic Affairs Directorate

The 2nd Session of the Kenya-Philippines Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) was convened in Manila on 18th and 19th November, 2025. The Kenyan Delegation was led by Ambassador Josphat Maikara, the Director General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs while the Philippines side was led by Ms. Germinia V. Aguilar-Usudan, Assistant Secretary, Middle East and African Affairs Office in the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Philippines.

Consultations were centered on up-scaling the JCBC to Ministerial levels in the effort to enhance collaboration in areas of mutual interest including Trade Relations, Education, Maritime,

Labour and Diaspora Management, Security Sector, Disaster Management while exchanging views on Regional and Multilateral matters affecting the two countries. The co-chairs underscored the importance in enhancing people to people interaction, boosting tourism as well as improving economic cooperation and trade whose balance is currently skewed in favour of the Philippines. The signing of Memoranda of Understanding was proposed for the consideration of both countries in the areas of Agriculture with focus on value addition, Tourism, Blue Economy, Labour Movement and Diaspora Management.

The Director General also held a

meeting with Mr. Elmer G. Gato, the Assistant Secretary in the Office of Intelligence and Security Service which is charged with coordinating counter-terrorism as well as combating transnational crime, human and drug trafficking. The Ambassador expressed Kenya's interest in concluding the MoU on Counter Terrorism with the Philippines in view of the common security threats including terrorism, cyber-crimes and transnational crimes such as drug and human trafficking. The two sides committed to greater engagement that will bring on board the respective intelligence and counter-terrorism agencies.



The Inaugural Kenya–Austria Job Fair

By R. Asirikwa

The Governments of Kenya and Austria, through Kenya’s State Department for Diaspora Affairs and the Austrian Embassy in Nairobi, jointly held the inaugural Kenya–Austria Job Fair in Nairobi on 5th December 2025. The event marked a significant milestone in formalising and expanding bilateral cooperation on labour mobility.

The Job Fair represented a key step in operationalising the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Mobility and Migration between Kenya and Austria. The MoU seeks to establish structured, ethical, and mutually beneficial pathways for Kenyan professionals to access Austria’s labour market.

The forum provided a practical platform for Austrian employers to present their labour needs, outline sector-specific skills requirements, and clarify the professional qualifications sought across key industries. Participants were also briefed on relevant legal frameworks, including work permits, residence permits, and visa processes, enabling Kenyan recruitment and training institutions to better facilitate orderly and compliant labour mobility.

In a keynote address delivered on behalf of the Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, Amb. Isaiya Kabira, Secretary for Diaspora Investments, Skills and Entrepreneurship, underscored Kenya’s

strategic approach to labour mobility. He reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to ethical recruitment, worker protection, and skills development, while highlighting Kenya’s readiness to deepen cooperation with Austria in priority and emerging sectors of the economy.

Echoing this emphasis on ethics, Christian Fellner, Ambassador of Austria to Kenya, stressed that Austria is firmly committed to ethical employment practices. He cautioned prospective applicants against paying for job placements, noting that no individual should be charged to access employment opportunities in Austria. The Ambassador also highlighted Austria’s need to address skills gaps across several sectors of its economy.

Amb. Valerie Rugene, Deputy Head of Mission, Kenya Embassy in Vienna, commended the Refocus Programme as an important initiative linking Kenyan job seekers with international employment opportunities. She outlined the Embassy’s role in supporting Kenyan nationals throughout the labor-mobility process, including arrival orientation, consular assistance, and engagement with Austrian employers to facilitate successful placements.

Beyond formal presentations, Kenyans who have lived, studied, or worked in Austria provided first-hand perspectives on professional life and social integration in Austria. Language institutions, present at the Fair, emphasized

the importance of German-language proficiency as a foundation for effective integration and career progression, while offering guidance on accessible learning pathways, consular assistance, and engagement with Austrian employers to facilitate successful placements.

Beyond formal presentations, the Job Fair offered practical insights for prospective applicants. Testimonials from Kenyans who have lived, studied, or worked in Austria provided first-hand perspectives on professional life and social integration. Language institutions also emphasized the importance of German-language proficiency as a foundation for effective integration.

The Job Fair sought to translate the Kenya–Austria MoU into concrete action by fostering direct linkages between Austrian employers and Kenyan talent and promoting mutual recognition of skills and qualifications. Expected outcomes included expressions of employer interest in recruiting Kenyan professionals and the strengthening of institutional partnerships. The inaugural Kenya–Austria Job Fair went beyond a recruitment exercise, symbolising a deepening bilateral partnership centred on human capital development. By aligning Austria’s labour-market needs with Kenya’s skilled and dynamic workforce, the initiative demonstrated how managed labour mobility can drive economic growth, skills exchange, and stronger diplomatic ties, while safeguarding the rights and welfare of workers.

Global HR Excellence Conference & Awards NOV. 18 – 19 State of Kuwait



Kenya Champions Diaspora Talent at Global HR Summit through “Why Hire a Kenyan – Kuwait Edition”

By A. Masambaga

From 18 to 19 November, 2025, Kenya, through the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, participated in the Global HR Excellence Conference and Awards 2025 in Kuwait, leveraging the high-level international platform to promote Kenyan professional talent and advance frameworks for ethical labour migration in the Gulf region.

The two-day conference, a premier gathering of Kuwait’s human-resources sector, brought together leading HR practitioners, policy experts, and key stakeholders in international labour mobility. Representing the Government of Kenya, Irene Karari, Director of Skills and Expertise at the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, delivered a presentation under the banner “Why Hire a Kenyan: The Kuwait Edition.” The presentation outlined the strong value proposition of Kenyan professionals, highlighting their solid educational background, fluency in English, strong work ethic, cultural adaptability, and innovative capacity.

Kenya’s participation extended beyond

talent promotion to active labour diplomacy. The delegation, comprising Agabio Mutege, Head of Chancery at the Kenya Embassy in Kuwait, Ms. Jennifer Wanami, Assistant Director, and Mr. Amir Mohammed, Foreign Service Officer, engaged stakeholders with a view to strengthening bilateral cooperation on labour mobility.

In the course of the visit, Ms. Karari joined Halima Mohamud, Ambassador of Kenya to Kuwait, for a courtesy call on officials of the International Labour Organization (ILO) at the United Nations House in Kuwait. Discussions focused on Kenya’s commitment to promoting decent work and safeguarding the rights and welfare of Kenyan nationals working in the Gulf. Ms. Karari reaffirmed Kenya’s dedication to structured and ethical labour-mobility pathways aligned with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and international labour standards.

The engagement resulted in a proposal to establish a structured collaboration framework between Kenya’s State De-

partment for Diaspora Affairs and the ILO–Kuwait Office. The proposed partnership aims to advance labour-governance objectives through joint capacity-building initiatives, targeted awareness tools for diaspora workers, and the exchange of global best practices. The ILO–Kuwait Office expressed its readiness to provide technical support to standardize and harmonize Kenya’s pre-departure training curriculum for citizens seeking employment in the Gulf Cooperation Council region. Ambassador Mohamud commended the ILO for its continued support in promoting the welfare of Kenyan diaspora workers.

As part of broader knowledge-sharing efforts, Ms. Karari also visited the Embassy of the Philippines in Kuwait to explore avenues for collaboration in diaspora management, drawing on the Philippines’ extensive experience in overseas employment governance. Kenya’s participation at the Global HR Excellence Conference underscored the Government’s strategic approach to labour diplomacy, championing the skills of its people, strengthening international partnerships, and ensuring the protection, dignity, and prosperity of Kenyan citizens abroad.



Kenya's Digital Infrastructure Agenda at the 3rd Luanda Financing Summit for Africa Infrastructure Development

By F. Kosgey

Kenya participated in the 3rd Luanda Financing Summit for Africa Infrastructure Development, held in Luanda, Angola, from 28th to 31st October 2025, reaffirming its commitment to infrastructure-led growth anchored on digital transformation. The Kenyan delegation was led by John Mbadi, Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning, and included John Tanui, Principal Secretary for the State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy, Mr. Boniface Munzala from the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, and other senior government officials. The delegation was received and supported by the Embassy of Kenya in Angola.

Co-hosted by the African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the Summit convened African leaders, investors, and development partners to advance sustainable financing for infrastructure across the continent. Held under the theme “Capital, Corridors, Trade: Investing in Infrastructure for the AfCFTA and Shared Prosperity,” the Summit highlighted investment opportunities aligned with the African Union’s Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), with

a strong focus on enabling the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Kenya’s engagement throughout the Summit underscored the centrality of digital infrastructure to economic growth and regional integration. The delegation highlighted Kenya’s approach to infrastructure development through partnerships with global technology firms and local internet and mobile service providers, emphasizing the critical role of the private sector in delivering reliable and sustainable infrastructure. Kenya also showcased its enabling policy environment, including the development of ICT, cloud, and artificial intelligence policies, alongside sustained investments in digital skills development extending to rural and underserved areas.

Regional cooperation featured prominently in Kenya’s interventions, with emphasis placed on strategic digital collaboration with neighbouring countries, including South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Tanzania. Kenya further highlighted its progress in the digitisation of public services, noting that 22,000 government services are now accessible online, serving approximate-

ly 14 million users and generating close to USD 5 billion in revenue—demonstrating the fiscal and governance dividends of digital transformation.

On the margins of the Summit, on 29 October 2025, the Kenyan delegation paid a courtesy call on Mário Augusto da Silva Oliveira, Minister for Telecommunications, Information Technologies and Social Communication of the Republic of Angola. The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy, Joyce K. M’maiti, Ambassador of Kenya to Angola, and officials from the National Treasury, the State Department for ICT and Digital Economy, and the Kenya Embassy in Angola.

During the engagement, Cabinet Secretary Mbadi highlighted Kenya’s rapid expansion of digital government services, from 450 services in 2022 to 22,000 by 2025, underscoring its positive impact on non-tax revenue mobilisation and public-service delivery. He reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment to deepening cooperation with Angola, particularly through the implementation of the existing Memorandum of Understanding on ICT. Kenya’s participation at the Luanda Summit positioned digital infrastructure as a cornerstone of Africa’s development agenda and reinforced Kenya’s role as a regional leader in digital transformation, infrastructure financing, and South–South cooperation.

Repositioning Kenya in a Shifting North: The Kenya–Nordic–Baltic Nexus

By *Amb. A. Musili*

The international system is being reshaped by geopolitical realignments, climate diplomacy, and rapid technological change. In this environment, influence is increasingly exercised not only through size or military and economic might, but through the ability to set rules, standards, and norms. Few regions demonstrate this reality more clearly than Northern Europe's Nordic and Baltic states—Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Iceland, together with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Though compact in geography and population, these countries are consequential agenda setters in climate governance, green energy, digital regulation, sustainable trade, innovation, and institutional integrity. Their policy choices often become reference points across Europe and beyond.

For Kenya, deeper engagement with this “shifting north” is strategically essential. It is relevant not only for trade and investment, but increasingly for tourism, sustainable travel markets, and people-to-people exchange—areas where consumer values and regulatory standards are becoming decisive determinants of competitiveness.

From Development Cooperation to Strategic Partnership

Historically, Kenya's ties with Nordic partners were anchored in development cooperation, particularly in social sectors, governance, and infrastructure. That foundation remains valuable. However, the relationship has evolved: cooperation is now increasingly defined by trade, investment, innovation, tourism, and co-creation. This shift is reinforced by institutions that operate at the intersection of public policy, private capital, and research ecosystems— Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - SIDA and SWEDFUND (Sweden), Danish International Development Agency -

DANIDA (Denmark), The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation - NORAD (Norway), FINNFUND (Finland), and the Icelandic Centre for Research - RANNÍS (Iceland), alongside Enterprise Estonia, the Latvian Investment and Development Agency, and Lithuania's Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology.

This evolution reflects a broader global reality: development, investment, trade, and tourism are no longer separate policy arenas. They are mutually reinforcing and increasingly shaped by sustainability requirements, climate commitments, and consumer expectations.

Trade in a Standards-Driven Global Economy

Global commerce is being governed less by tariffs and more by standards—climate performance, labor and due diligence obligations, data protection, traceability, and corporate accountability. Nordic and Baltic states are at the forefront of this regulatory transition. As early implementers of climate-linked trade frameworks and sustainability reporting requirements, their approaches frequently shape wider European norms and market entry conditions.

For Kenya, engagement with the Nordic–Baltic region is therefore not only in terms of expanding export volumes; it is about future-proofing competitiveness. This applies equally to tourism, where sustainability, conservation credibility, and community impact are becoming essential components of destination appeal and market access.

Coffee Diplomacy and the Influence of Northern Consumers

The Nordic countries are among the world's leading coffee consumers, with a deeply embedded coffee culture and sophisticated demand for special-

ty, ethical, and sustainably produced products. With Kenya's globally recognized premium coffee, this is more than a commercial opportunity. This entrenched coffee culture will position the Nordics as strategic demand centers capable of shaping value chains and sustainability benchmarks that can later diffuse across Europe. The Embassy is therefore keen to deepen cooperation in the coffee sector to support Kenyan coffee farmers expand their market outreach.

The same consumer logic extends to travel. Nordic and Baltic travelers increasingly seek experiences aligned with ethical values, environmental responsibility, and authenticity—an evolving preference structure that aligns well with Kenya's tourism proposition.

Climate Governance and Sustainable Tourism Competitiveness

Nordic and Baltic climate ambition is closely tied to their economic strategy. The region has long treated climate policy not as a constraint, but as a driver of competitiveness accelerating innovation in renewable energy, biodiversity protection, and circular economy models. This approach is directly relevant to Kenya's tourism sector.

Nordic and Baltic travelers are among the most environmentally conscious globally. They favour destinations that demonstrate credible conservation practice, community inclusion, low-carbon operations, and protection of natural heritage. Kenya's comparative strengths wildlife conservation, national parks, community conservancies, eco-lodges, and geothermal-powered infrastructure align strongly with these preferences.

As climate considerations increasingly shape travel decisions, Kenya's investment in sustainable tourism, conservation finance, and community-based models strengthens its positioning to attract higher-value, longer-stay visitors from Northern Europe. Complementary cooperation with Nordic development partners and private investors can further support green hospitality, climate-resilient tourism infrastructure, and low-carbon mobility.

Digital Governance and Tourism Innovation

Digital governance is another domain where Nordic–Baltic leadership intersects with Kenya’s strategic interests. Estonia and Finland, in particular, have demonstrated how secure, interoperable digital systems improve service delivery, build consumer trust, and enable seamless mobility. Kenya’s digital ecosystem anchored in mobile money, digital public services, and expanding e-government capabilities creates a strong platform for collaboration in digital tourism solutions.

Partnerships in smart payments, data-driven destination management, digital marketing, and cybersecurity are increasingly relevant to attracting digitally savvy Northern European travelers who expect frictionless, secure, and transparent travel experiences. Digital cooperation therefore supports Kenya’s broader fintech and GovTech ambitions while directly enhancing tourism competitiveness and service quality.

From aid to Co-Investment in Tourism and beyond

Across the Nordic–Baltic region, engagement is shifting from traditional aid to outcome-oriented co-investment. Public institutions increasingly work with private capital and research bodies to support commercially viable, socially responsible ventures. For Kenya, this creates opportunities to scale investment in sustainable tourism, including eco-lodges, renewable-powered hospitality, conservation finance models, and skills development in hospitality and destination management.

Nordic and Baltic investors bring more than capital: they contribute expertise in sustainability certification, environmental management, and experience-based tourism. Stronger connectivity, improved logistics, and deeper people-to-people exchange can further expand tourism flows and broaden the relationship beyond conventional diplomatic engagement.

A strategic northern platform for Kenya

The Nordic and Baltic states influence global outcomes through institutional quality, regulatory foresight, and innovation ecosystems. Their standards increasingly shape how trade, investment, and tourism operate internationally. For Kenya, structured engagement with this region is an investment in future competitiveness across exports, digital services, sustainable tourism, and cultural exchange.

The Nordic–Baltic nexus should therefore be understood not as peripheral, but as a strategic northern platform that offers Kenya early access to emerging standards, high-value consumer markets, and tourism segments that reward sustainability, authenticity, and quality. In repositioning itself within this shifting North, Kenya is not merely adapting to change; it is strengthening its ability to compete and to shape its place in a global economy where standards, values, and experiences increasingly matter as much as volumes.

Deepening Kenya–International Energy Agency Relations for a Secure and Clean Energy Future

By Amb. B. Cherwon

Energy has moved to the center of global geopolitical debate and crisis management. Cyber-attacks, vulnerabilities in critical energy infrastructure, unequal access to modern energy systems, and insecurity around critical minerals are increasingly shaping national security and economic resilience. As new energy players set global trends and demand rises, countries that can combine energy security with clean transition pathways will have greater strategic leverage.

Against this backdrop, Kenya’s collaboration with the International Energy Agency (IEA) has intensified, reflecting Kenya’s growing profile as a regional leader in renewable energy, climate change mitigation, and environmental stewardship. The partnership is an-

chored in practical cooperation particularly on clean cooking, renewable energy development, evidence-based policy support, and capacity building areas that directly advance Kenya’s development priorities and strengthen long-term energy resilience.

Under Kenya Vision 2030, energy is a core infrastructural enabler for industrialization, job creation, and inclusive growth. With energy demand expected to rise as the economy expands, Kenya requires credible data, robust planning, and policy tools to meet future demand while sustaining a low-carbon pathway. The IEA’s role as a global reference institution, aligns with Kenya’s vision 2030—providing comparative energy data, trend analysis, and policy guidance supports Kenya’s ability to antic-

ipate demand shifts, strengthen system planning, and align energy security objectives with climate commitments.

This expanding cooperation has been reinforced through high-level engagement between Kenya and the Agency. During a meeting at the Kenya Embassy in Paris between Ambassador Betty Cherwon and Mr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the IEA, the Agency commended Kenya’s progress and leadership in advancing clean energy initiatives under the leadership of H.E. President William Ruto. Kenya was also been recognized for hosting the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi in 2023 an important milestone in strengthening Africa’s climate and green growth agenda.

Clean cooking remains a central pillar of the Kenya–IEA partnership and a strategic priority for Kenya’s energy access agenda. The IEA has consistently positioned clean cooking as a high-impact intervention for public health, women and children’s wellbeing, climate mitigation, and sustainable devel-



Mr. Fatih Birol and Amb. Betty Cherwon (middle)

opment. Over the past two decades, the Agency has contributed to clean cooking progress through advocacy, awareness, and data-driven approaches, and it is now prioritizing wider stakeholder engagement to mobilize financing for African countries.

IEA recognition of Kenya's leadership in clean energy access and climate mitigation has translated into tangible opportunities. Kenya has previously benefitted from clean cooking support, and there is a proposal for Kenya to co-host together with Norway and the United States the second edition of the Clean Cooking Summit in Nairobi in 2026. If realized, the Summit would reinforce Kenya's convening power, attract investment and partnerships, and elevate clean cooking as a practical, scalable solution within Africa's energy transition.

Strategic Context:

Emerging Global Energy Trends

Kenya's engagement with the IEA is also informed by the broader direction of global energy systems. Several trends are shaping the policy environment and will influence Kenya's planning and partnerships. Renewables remain pivotal, with solar energy continuing to be a critical driver of electrification and energy access across Africa. Development of Nuclear energy is re-emerging globally as states reassess caseload power options within decarbonization pathways.

The demand for gas based energy supply remains significant, influenced by evolving energy policies and the search for transitional fuels in certain markets. It critical for Kenya to align its energy security strategies with climate goals, ensuring that resilience measures do not undermine mitigation and

adaptation commitments. And with Africa's growing demographic trends, energy demands will intensify, requiring accelerated investment, new transition measures, and stronger regional approaches to energy access.

Positioning Kenya for a resilient, investment-ready transition

Overall, deepening relations with the IEA strengthens Kenya's ability to navigate a complex global energy landscape while advancing national development objectives. By leveraging IEA policy support, data, and convening platforms alongside Kenya's demonstrated leadership in renewable energy and climate action Kenya is better positioned to enhance energy security, scale clean cooking solutions, and mobilize partnerships that support a just, investment-ready energy transition.



Kenya–OECD Cooperation: Positioning Kenya as a Policy Shaper in a Data-Driven Global Economy

By Amb. J. K. Lusenaka

Kenya's engagement with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has expanded significantly in recent years, reflecting the country's foreign policy objective of advancing rules-based multilateralism, strengthening Africa's voice in global policy spaces, and attracting partnerships that support inclusive growth. From Nairobi to Paris, Kenya is leveraging OECD platforms to advance national and continental priorities moving beyond participation to shaping policy conversations, standards, and evidence frameworks that influence development pathways.

This cooperation is anchored in an equal-footing dialogue and shared priorities, particularly in regional integration through trade, investment and value chain resilience; resource mobilization for economic transformation; human capital development; green

transition for sustainable growth; and statistics and data development. These areas align closely with Kenya's foreign policy agenda, Kenya Vision 2030, and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which emphasize competitiveness, jobs, climate resilience, and innovation-led growth.

From Participation to Policy Influence

Kenya's relationship with the OECD has evolved from periodic engagement to sustained, issue-based collaboration. Increasingly, Kenya is contributing to OECD policy discussions relevant to Africa's development trajectory covering priority sectors such as ICT and digital governance, agriculture and agrifood systems, market competition and regulation, global value chains, education, health systems, and climate change mitigation.

This shift matters because global competitiveness is now shaped as much by data, standards, and regulatory choices as by traditional economic indicators. By engaging with the OECD's evidence and policy ecosystems, Kenya is strengthening its capacity to influence and adapt to global policy trends that affect trade access, investment flows, innovation governance, and sustainable development finance.

Kenya's growing profile within the OECD framework is reflected in the organization's decision to convene key Africa-facing initiatives in Nairobi in 2026. These include:

Conference on "Mobilizing the Private Sector for Sustainable Trade and Investment in the Agrifood Sector in Africa" scheduled for 9th to 10th February 2026 in Nairobi an initiative that supports Kenya's economic diplomacy objectives, value chain strengthening, and food systems transformation.

AI Policy Toolkit Workshop for African countries, planned in collaboration with the United Kingdom and the French Development Agency (AFD), which happened on the 22-23rd January in Kenya. This engagement builds

on the OECD–African Union Artificial Intelligence Dialogues held in Paris and Cairo in 2024, which emphasized the need for accessible, context-appropriate support to advance trustworthy, safe, and human-centric AI. For Kenya, this aligns with national priorities on digital transformation, innovation governance, and responsible technology adoption.

Hosting these engagements reinforces Kenya's standing as a regional anchor state and a credible convenor for policy dialogue that links global expertise with African development imperatives.

Advancing Africa-Focused Dialogue within the OECD

Kenya is also strengthening its engagement with the OECD through its active role in the OECD Friends of Africa Group (FoAG). Notably, Ambassador Betty Cherwon, Kenya's Ambassador to France, serves as a co-facilitator in the Group's regular sessions. This role enhances Kenya's capacity to elevate African perspectives, promote policy coherence, and ensure that OECD deliberations remain responsive to Africa's transformation priorities.

Kenya is using OECD platforms not only for external positioning but also to strengthen domestic policy systems and reform outcomes through peer learning with the OECD. At the Global Forum on Competition (1st to 2nd December 2025), the Competition Authority of Kenya underwent an OECD peer review on competition law and policy. The review process generated key recommendations to strengthen Kenya's competition regime and institutional effectiveness supporting Kenya's broader goals on fair markets, investor confidence, and inclusive private-sector growth.

Toward an OECD Country Programme for Kenya

A further opportunity to deepen cooperation has emerged through a proposal to establish an OECD Country Programme for Kenya, following an OECD delegation visit to Kenya on 25 September 2025. Since then, Ambassador Cherwon has held follow-up engagements with OECD teams at the Embassy in Paris to sustain momentum and explore targeted initiatives that would support the programme's development.

A Country Programme would provide a structured framework for policy collaboration, technical support, and domestication of best practices enhancing Kenya's ownership of reform priorities while supporting national implementation in areas that directly advance foreign policy objectives, economic transformation, and institutional strengthening. As Kenya consolidates its anchor-state posture, maintaining momentum toward this programmer is essential to ensure full benefit from the shared Kenya–OECD agenda and to translate international cooperation into measurable national outcomes.

Kenya's partnership with the OECD reflects a deliberate foreign policy posture: to be present where global rules are shaped, to champion Africa's priorities through credible evidence and policy engagement, and to convert multilateral cooperation into practical reforms and investment-ready opportunities. By strengthening its role as a convenor, contributor, and reform partner within the OECD ecosystem, Kenya is positioning itself and the continent to compete more effectively in a standards- and data-driven global economy.

Kenya Reaffirms Support for Youth-Led Environmental Action at YEA 2025

By Kenya Permanent Mission to UNON and UNEP

Kenya has reaffirmed its support and commitment to youth-led environmental action. This message was echoed by H.E. Hon. Ababu Namwamba, EGH outgoing Kenya's Permanent Representative to UNEP, who participated in the Youth Environment Assembly (YEA) 2025. In his remarks at the Plenary discussions, on 29th November 2025, Hon Namwamba underscored Kenya's commitment to ampli-



Over 1,000 youths from across the world gathered in Nairobi for the 2025, Youth Environment Assembly.

fyng youth voices within multilateral environmental processes.

The Permanent Representative emphasized that youth engagement must be meaningful, structured, and adequately resourced to drive more ambitious and implementable environmental outcomes. He commended YEA for providing an inclusive platform where young people can shape policy discussions, share solutions, and directly convey priorities to policymakers. He further highlighted the value of intergenerational cooperation and encouraged youth to advance clear, solution-oriented proposals that can effectively inform negotiations.

Amb. Namwamba reiterated Kenya's support for youth-led initiatives in climate resilience, the circular economy, and environmental governance, noting that young people are indispensable partners in strengthening global environmental diplomacy and accelerating green development.

On 7th December 2025, he once again held engagements during the High-Level Closing Plenary of YEA 2025, reflecting on Kenya's role as host of UNEP and UNEA and stressing the need to integrate youth across the full cycle of multilateral policymaking from participation at UNEA through to national-level implementation of

agreed outcomes.

The Assembly, convened by the Children and Youth Major Group with support from Germany, Monaco, Sweden, the European Union, UNEP, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), brought together over 1,000 participants in person, alongside additional online participation.

Overall, Kenya's engagement at YEA 2025 reinforced the Mission's broader commitment to inclusive multilateralism, participatory decision-making, and environmental stewardship, while positioning youth as essential partners in shaping durable global solutions.



The arrival of H.E. the President for the High-Level Opening Plenary of UNEA-7

Kenya Advances Multilateral Environmental Leadership at UNEA-7

The Kenya Permanent Mission to UNON and UNEP actively participated in the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), held from 8th to 12th December 2025 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters in Nairobi. The Assembly was preceded by the Seventh Session of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-7), convened from 1–5 December 2025,

during which the Mission contributed to refining draft resolutions and decisions, supported consensus-building, and advanced Kenya's strategic priorities ahead of the ministerial segment.

Convened under the theme "Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet," UNEA-7 adopted 11 resolutions and decisions addressing the interconnectedness of environmental protection, economic growth, and social development. The session, chaired

by the UNEA President from Oman, brought together Heads of State, Ministers, and senior officials, alongside civil society, scientific communities, Indigenous Peoples, and other Major Groups and Stakeholders reinforcing UNEA's role as the world's highest-level decision-making forum on the environment.

In the opening segment, Dr. Deborah Mlongo Barasa, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, reaffirmed Kenya's role as the permanent host of UNEP and a key champion of the global environmental agenda. She underscored the urgency of science-based action to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and emphasized the importance of translating global commitments into tangible benefits for local communities particularly in the Global South. She called on Member States to pursue ambitious yet practical outcomes through compromise, innovation, and scalable solutions.

At the High-Level Opening Plenary, H.E. President William Samoei Ruto addressed the Assembly, reinforcing Kenya's commitment at the highest political level to multilateral environmental governance. He urged the international community to move from declarations to delivery, calling for strengthened cooperation and increased financing to address the "triple planetary crisis" and to support large-scale restoration efforts, including

Kenya's 15-billion-tree initiative.

Key Thematic Focus Areas

Deliberations under the UNEA-7 theme emphasized integrated approaches to environmental governance. Discussions highlighted the growing relevance of technology and the environment, including how digital tools can strengthen environmental monitoring while ensuring that emerging technologies do not create new environmental burdens. A second area of emphasis was public participation and inclusion, with strong attention to youth and community engagement, building on momentum from the Youth Environment Assembly (YEA) and reinforcing the need for meaningful integration of youth perspectives across decision-making and implementation.

Kenya's Priority Outcomes

Kenya advanced and supported outcomes that address emerging and under-served policy gaps, while re-

inforcing its foreign policy objectives on multilateralism, rule-making, and global environmental leadership. Key resolutions included:

- **Environmental Dimensions of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):** This resolution strengthened the global response to AMR by focusing on environmental drivers including pollution pathways such as pharmaceutical waste and agricultural runoff and advancing a One Health approach that integrates human, animal, and environmental health.
- **Promoting Sustainable Solutions through Sports for a Resilient Planet:** The resolution recognized sports as a powerful platform for public engagement and behaviour change, encouraging sustainability in sporting events and promoting non-motorized mobility—such as cycling—while linking environmental action to public health outcomes.
- **Safe, Responsible, and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Systems: UNEA-7 adopted, by consensus, the first-ever UN resolution addressing the environmental sustainability of AI systems. The resolution calls for strengthened international cooperation to assess, manage, and mitigate AI's environmental impacts across its lifecycle, while supporting innovation aligned with global environmental objectives. The outcome marked a significant step in positioning Kenya—and Africa—within global discussions on responsible governance of emerging technologies.

UNEA-7 reinforced Kenya's strategic role as a convening hub for international environmental diplomacy and as a leading voice in multilateral environmental rule-making. Through active engagement in the OECP process and the Assembly's high-level and thematic deliberations, Kenya contributed to the adoption of forward-looking resolutions that address contemporary global risks while advancing sustainable, inclusive, and science-based solutions for a resilient planet.



Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director General UNON alongside H.E. Hon. Ababu Namwamba, EGH, welcomed H.E. the President to UNON Complex ahead of UNEA7 High level Opening segment.



The President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Alassane Ouattara, during a ceremony bringing together several personalities and producers from various backgrounds.

Coffee and Cocoa Production in Cote d' Ivoire: Lessons for Kenya's Agribusiness Diplomacy

By Kerubo Omurwa

Côte d'Ivoire has launched its 2025/2026 coffee and cocoa marketing season, signaling renewed emphasis on farmer welfare, value addition, and sustainability in the world's most influential cocoa economy. The launch held at the Exhibition Centre in Port-Bouët, Abidjan and organized by the Coffee-Cocoa Council brought together government leaders, the diplomatic corps, traditional authorities and over 8,000 farmers, underscoring the sector's central role in livelihoods and national exports.

In remarks delivered during the event, President Alassane Ouattara announced farm-gate prices described as the highest in three decades 2,800 FCFA per kilogram for cocoa and 1,700 FCFA per kilogram for coffee. The Government framed the pricing decision as part of a broader strategy

to strengthen producer incomes and stabilize the sector amid global price fluctuations and intensifying climate pressures.

Speakers at the launch highlighted growing production risks linked to climate variability and the need for stronger sustainability and transparency across value chains. The Government also set out priorities to expand local processing, reinforce sustainability standards, and improve governance arrangements in the coffee and cocoa sectors an agenda intended to increase national value retention and strengthen market confidence.

Kenya was represented by Ambassador Prof. Hon. Christopher A. Langat and Minister Counsellor Kerubo Omurwa, reflecting Kenya's interest in deepening cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire and

exploring practical lessons for agricultural modernization. The Embassy used the engagement to strengthen bilateral visibility and to identify areas for collaboration in trade, investment, and agricultural innovation, including opportunities linked to processing, climate adaptation, and sector governance.

Lessons for Kenya

For Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire's approach offers insights into how targeted producer pricing, value addition, and sustainability measures can reinforce agricultural competitiveness. The engagement aligns with Kenya's economic diplomacy objectives under the Foreign Policy 2024 and Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, as well as Kenya Vision 2030, which prioritize agricultural transformation, sustainable growth, and expanded regional partnerships. The Embassy will continue to monitor developments in Côte d'Ivoire's commodity governance and assess areas of relevance for Kenya, particularly in incentives for producers, sustainability compliance, and strategies for scaling local processing.



Kenya Embassy Paris Hosts Annual Students Welcome Reception for Newly Arrived Kenyan Students

By Lynette Lokuruka

As part of its Socio-Cultural orientation, the Kenya Embassy in Paris hosted its Annual Kenya Students' Welcome Event on 4th October 2025, bringing together newly arrived Kenyan students and language assistants beginning the academic year in France. Hosted by H.E. Ambassador Betty Cherwon and Embassy staff, the engagement aimed to orient new arrivals on life in France. The Ambassador underscored the fact that the engagement strengthens linkages with the Kenyan

Students Association, and reaffirms the Embassy's commitment to support the students as a key segment of Kenya's Diaspora Diplomacy

The reception an annual programme of the Mission was held in a hybrid format, enabling both in-person and virtual participation. During the session, the Embassy outlined its core mandate, with particular emphasis on consular support, and provided practical guidance on services available to Kenyans in France. Students received information on documentation processes and channels for assistance, helping to ease their transition into the new academic and social environment.

Beyond consular orientation, the Embassy team encouraged the students to be responsible and conduct themselves honourably, be patriotic and cultural representatives of Kenya abroad, while fostering unity within the Kenyan community. The Ambassador further highlighted the value of academic and cultural exchanges in advancing bilateral relations, noting that student

mobility contributes to innovation, shared learning, and the development of long-term professional networks between Kenya and France.

Approximately 50 students participated and interacted directly with Embassy officials in an open and supportive forum that combined information-sharing and counselling, reinforcing the Mission's readiness to provide ongoing assistance throughout the academic year.

The initiative forms part of the Embassy's broader efforts to deepen Kenya-France educational and cultural cooperation. Amb. Cherwon underscored the role of education exchanges in strengthening people-to-people ties, expanding academic partnerships, and building sustainable cooperation with French institutions. The programme also supports Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) by equipping Kenyan youth with skills and knowledge that enhance employability and contribute to national development.

Celebrating 25 Years of UNSCR 1325: Kenya's Diplomacy and Action on Women, Peace and Security

By Peace and Security Division

Twenty-five years after the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women,

Peace and Security (WPS), the agenda remains a defining benchmark for effective conflict prevention, durable peace agreements, and resilient societies. UNSCR 1325 fundamentally re-

shaped global peace and security policy by affirming that women's rights, leadership, and participation are not peripheral concerns, but core determinants of sustainable peace.

The Resolution's framework rests on four mutually reinforcing pillars: participation (women's full and meaningful inclusion in peace and security decision-making), protection (safeguarding women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence and other violations), prevention (gender-responsive early warning, accountability, and rule-of-law mechanisms), and relief and recovery (gender-sensitive recovery that reflects women's priorities and capacities in post-conflict settings).

Kenya marks the anniversary with a new National Action Plan

Kenya's national commemoration of the 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 took place on 23rd October 2025 in Nairobi, bringing together government representatives, diplomatic partners, women peacebuilders, civil society, and community actors. The event—held under the theme “Women Lead, Peace Follows”—also served as the official launch of Kenya's Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (KNAP III 2025–2029).

Presiding over the launch, Hon. Hannah Cheptumo, Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, emphasized that KNAP III reaffirms Kenya's commitment to placing women at the centre of peace, security, and development, while recognising women's continuing role in shaping Kenya's future and regional stability.

Speaking on behalf of the State Department for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Arthur Olanda, Director, Peace and Security Division, underlined the strategic logic of UNSCR 1325, noting that peace is more durable when women participate not as beneficiaries of peace, but as architects of it.

Kenya's leadership within a challenging global context

The anniversary comes at a time of uneven global progress. The UN Secretary-General's 2025 Report on Women, Peace and Security (September 2025)

warned of regression amid rising conflicts, persistent exclusion of women from peace processes, and increasing civilian harm—particularly conflict-related sexual violence affecting women and girls. The report calls for closing gender data gaps, scaling predictable financing for women-led peace initiatives, and mainstreaming WPS across prevention, mediation, peacekeeping, and recovery rather than treating it as a stand-alone agenda.

Against this backdrop, Kenya's WPS investments carry both national and continental significance. Kenya's established role in regional mediation, hosting peace negotiations, and contributing personnel to peace operations reinforces the importance of a strong WPS architecture that improves the effectiveness, legitimacy, and sustainability of peace efforts.

Ms. Antonia Ngabala-Sodonon, UN Women Country Representative in Kenya, echoed this perspective, describing Kenya as a continental leader on WPS and noting that KNAP III will strengthen partnerships across government, civil society, youth networks, and development partners to advance inclusive peace.

Building on progress, focusing on emerging threats

Kenya's WPS journey reflects sustained institutional commitment. Implementation of the first two National Action Plans (2016 and 2020) strengthened coordination, expanded women's roles in peacebuilding and early warning, and improved the operationalization of gender-responsive approaches.

KNAP III (2025–2029) builds on these gains while responding to emerging and complex security risks. Priority areas include:

- Strengthening women's leadership in climate–peace responses
- Deepening gender integration within security institutions
- Addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence

- Enhancing regional and transnational cooperation on WPS implementation

Regional diplomacy: translating commitments into practice

Kenya reinforced its regional leadership by hosting the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) High-Level Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security from 30 July to 1 August 2025 under the theme “Translating UNSCR 1325 into Action—Driving Regional Security and Global Commitments in Eastern Africa.” The dialogue brought together EASF Member States, diplomatic missions, policymakers, regional organizations, international partners, and civil society.

Discussions focused on practical measures to mainstream gender across peace support operations, including mediation, mission planning, deployment, and post-conflict stabilization. Participants identified persistent barriers resource constraints, institutional silos, cultural norms, and rising gender-based violence and called for innovative financing, stronger coordination among defence, diplomacy, and civil society actors, and a deliberate shift from token inclusion to genuine empowerment of women as decision-makers.

Conclusion

Kenya's commemoration of UNSCR 1325—anchored by the launch of KNAP III and reinforced through regional platforms such as the EASF High-Level Dialogue signals a clear diplomatic and policy message: the Women, Peace and Security agenda is a strategic imperative for effective conflict prevention, credible mediation, and sustainable peace.

Twenty-five years on, Kenya's approach reflects a shift from aspiration to institutionalization positioning WPS not as a niche concern, but as a core tool of modern peace and security diplomacy in Kenya, the region, and the wider multilateral system.



News from the Foreign Service Academy

By. A. Kuria

The Foreign Service Academy (Academy) has continued to strengthen Kenya's diplomatic preparedness through a series of high-level engagements and specialized training programmes, including an educational visit by officers from the National Defence College (NDC) and a new regional diplomacy course conducted in partnership with the League of Arab States (LAS).

NDC Officers Receive In-Depth Briefing on Kenya's Foreign Policy

A delegation from the National Defence College visited the Academy as part of their strategic studies programme, seeking to deepen their understanding of Kenya's foreign policy and diplomatic operations. Director-General Amb. Josphat Maikara, led the briefing and offered a comprehensive overview of the mandate of the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the evolution of Kenya's foreign policy. He highlighted major milestones, including the development of Kenya's first written Foreign Policy Document in 2014, which articulated the pillars of peace, economic, diaspora, environmental, and cultural diplomacy.

Amb. Maikara also outlined Kenya's new Foreign Policy Framework and

Sessional Paper on Kenya Foreign Policy (2025), explaining that the updated framework modernizes the country's diplomatic approach to align with shifting geopolitics, emerging economic trends, and rapid technological advancements. He emphasized Kenya's current diplomatic priorities, including regional peace and security, climate diplomacy, enhanced economic cooperation, diaspora engagement, and the growing influence of digital diplomacy. He further underscored the interdependence between diplomacy and national security, stressing that Kenya's strategic interests can only be safeguarded through a coherent and forward-looking foreign policy.

The session concluded with an engag-

ing question-and-answer segment, where officers from Kenya and partner countries explored Kenya's role in regional blocs, the nation's responses to global challenges, and the deep link between diplomatic initiatives and national security. Amb. Maikara emphasized the importance of collaboration between defence and diplomacy in promoting Kenya's strategic goals.

Major General Yahya Sheikh Abdi, who led the NDC delegation, expressed appreciation to the Academy for the comprehensive engagement, noting that the visit had enriched the officers' understanding of diplomacy as a critical complement to national defence.



FSA Launches Training on Middle East Diplomacy in Partnership with the League of Arab States

During the month of October, 2025, the Academy, in collaboration with the League of Arab States, officially opened a five-day training programme on Diplomacy in the Middle East. The course was designed to strengthen the capacity of Foreign Service Officers to effectively engage with countries across the region.

Speaking on behalf of Ambassador Josphat Maikara, Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs, Ambassador Stella Munyi, Deputy Director General, Americas and the Caribbean Directorate, emphasized the importance of the training in advancing Ken-

ya's diplomatic ties with the Arab world. She hailed the collaboration with the LAS as a testament to strong South-South cooperation.

Ambassador Munyi highlighted the Middle East's strategic significance, citing its geopolitical influence, vast energy resources, and growing economic linkages with Kenya. She noted that the region is a key source of trade, investment, and employment opportunities for Kenyans abroad.

Ambassador Kennedy Mokaya, Deputy Director General, Foreign Service Academy, reiterated the centrality of

the Middle East to Kenya's foreign policy objectives, noting that the course would help officers better understand the region's opportunities and challenges.

Ambassador Mohand Sala Ladjouzi, Assistant Secretary General Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries under the LAS, reaffirmed the League's commitment to deepening Africa-Arab cooperation. He noted that Africa remains a priority in the League's efforts to build mutually beneficial partnerships.

The five-day seminar was facilitated by H.E. Ambassador Ashraf Mowafi, former Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. Participants engaged on key themes, including Middle East diplomacy, regional security, and economic cooperation.

UAE Diplomatic Academy Delegation Visits Kenya's Foreign Service Academy to Study Humanitarian Leadership

The Foreign Service Academy also hosted a delegation from the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) of the United Arab Emirates, who visited Nairobi in November, 2025 to learn from Kenya's leadership in humanitarian action, peace support operations, and international cooperation.

The delegation, led by Professor Eric Canal Forgues, Dean of Graduate Programmes at AGDA, comprised faculty members, programme participants,

and senior officials seeking to deepen collaboration in humanitarian diplomacy and capacity-building.

Welcoming the delegation, Ambassador Kennedy Mokaya reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in diplomatic training and humanitarian engagement. He noted that Nairobi has become a major hub for regional humanitarian coordination, hosting more than 3,700 humanitarian and charitable or-

ganisations as of January 2024. He also highlighted Kenya's ranking as the second most generous country globally in the 2020 World Giving Index, as well as Kenya's humanitarian support to countries such as Malawi, Mozambique, Japan, and Iran.

Deputy Director for Multilateral Affairs, Mr. Michael Miriti, delivered an in-depth briefing on Kenya's humanitarian and development frameworks, outlining the country's role in crisis re-

sponse, refugee protection, and regional peace initiatives. He also highlighted ongoing efforts toward the operationalisation of the Kenya Humanitarian Centre.

Deputy Director for Peace and Security, Mr. Gideon Kinuthia, led the technical session, taking the delegation through Kenya's practical experience in humanitarian action, including peacekeeping missions, refugee inclusion programmes, and cross-border emergency response. He noted Kenya's participation in 43 peacekeeping and peace support missions, its leadership of the multinational security mission in Haiti, and its facilitation of over 15 regional peace processes. He also highlighted Kenya's refugee inclusion model under the Shirika Plan, noting that Kenya hosts over 854,800 refugees, making it the fifth-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa.

Ambassador Lindsay Kiptines, Deputy Director General and Head of the Middle East Directorate, also addressed the delegation, highlighting the growing Kenya-UAE relations and the deepening humanitarian partnership between the two countries. He cited the UAE's 2024 support to Kenya, including 200 tonnes of emergency relief aid worth KSh 2 billion for flood-affected communities, as well as continued assistance through UAE charitable organisations.

In his remarks, Professor Eric Canal Forgues commended Kenya's leadership in humanitarian diplomacy and its strong commitment to regional stability. He noted that AGDA views Kenya as a key partner in shaping future diplomats grounded in humanitarian values and practical experience.

Through continuous learning programmes, strategic partnerships, and engagement with defence and international counterparts, the Foreign Service Academy continues to equip Kenya's diplomats and policy practitioners with the skills and perspectives required to navigate an increasingly complex global environment. These engagements reflect Kenya's commitment to professional diplomacy, humanitarian leadership, and constructive international engagement.





Sports and Culture

Kenya Unveils Astro-Tourism Experience in Samburu

By Cultural Directorate

Kenya has launched its inaugural Astro-tourism experience at Samburu Sopa Lodge, positioning the country as a leading destination for celestial tourism by leveraging its equatorial location and pristine dark skies.

The two-day event, held from 7–8 September 2025, coincided with a lunar eclipse and drew government leaders, tourism stakeholders, and partners from Kenya and abroad. Diana Kiamuthi, Deputy Director-General for Cultural Diplomacy, represented A. Korir SingOei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs.



Officiating as Chief Guest, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Rebecca Miano described Astro-tourism as “a new frontier where the earth meets the heavens,” complement-

ing Kenya’s iconic wildlife and landscapes with extraordinary night-sky experiences. She noted that the niche strengthens Kenya’s global tourism appeal while meeting the expectations of

modern travellers.

The launch brought together senior officials and industry leaders, including Hillary Kipkosgey, Director-General of the Kenya Space Agency; Jonathan Lati Lelelit; Francis Gichaba, Chair of the Kenya Tourism Board; Kennedy Ayoti; and Raphael Lenayiarra, alongside private-sector partners. Representatives of Leo Sky Africa highlighted collaborations aimed at sustaining the product.

Guests experienced a dawn game drive in Samburu National Reserve before engaging in discussions on innovation and sustainability. The Kenya Tourism Board noted that Samburu's clear skies are unmatched on the continent, giving Kenya a competitive edge in celestial tourism.

Speakers underscored Astro-tourism's

role in diversification and sustainability. Mr. Gichaba said the niche reflects Kenya's commitment to innovation, while Brig. Kipkosgey emphasized the opportunity to grow an inclusive, innovation-driven space sector that supports jobs and economic diversification. Governor Lelelit highlighted Samburu's biodiversity, including both the "Big Five" and the "Special Kenyan Five" and urged participants to champion northern Kenya.

In her remarks, Ambassador Kiambuthi drew a strong link between tourism and cultural diplomacy, noting tourism as Kenya's third-largest source of foreign exchange after diaspora remittances and agriculture. Referencing Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, she emphasized socio-cultural diplomacy as a pillar of Kenya's foreign policy and

called for closer collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to scale impact.

The celebrations concluded with Samburu cultural performances, dinner under clear night skies, and a bonfire, an apt close to an experience that blends science, culture, and conservation.

Other emerging Astro-tourism destinations include Mount Kenya National Park, the Laikipia Plateau, the Southern Rift Valley (Maasai Mara and Amboseli), Lake Turkana (Eliye Springs and Central Island), Loisaba Conservancy, Saruni Samburu, Ol Donyo in the Chyulu Hills, Ngare Ndare Forest, the Limuru Highlands, and parts of northern Kenya.

Culture as a Soft Tool for Diplomacy: Maa Cultural and Tourism Festival 2025

By Cultural Directorate

The Cultural Diplomacy Directorate participated in the Maa Cultural and Tourism Festival 2025, held from 4 to 9 November 2025 at Amboseli National Park. The festival demonstrated the strength of culture as a tool of soft diplomacy by bringing together Maa-speaking communities from Kenya and Tanzania in a shared celebration of identity, unity, and regional cooperation.

The event convened the Maasai, Samburu, Ilchamus, Laikipia, and other Maa communities, creating a practical platform for people-to-people engagement across borders. The participation of Maasai communities from Tanzania reinforced long-standing cultural ties that transcend national boundaries and highlighted the role of shared heritage in strengthening regional cohesion.



Amb. Diana Kiambuthi, Deputy Director General for Cultural Diplomacy Directorate, welcoming the Governors of Kajiado, Narok, and Samburu Counties to the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs' exhibition booth during the Maa Cultural and Tourism Festival 2025 at Amboseli National Park.

The Ministry supported the festival through the acquisition of a Bronze Package, which secured an exhibition booth and enhanced Kenya's visibility in promoting cultural exchange, tour-

ism, and foreign-policy objectives. Through direct community engagement, the Ministry further advanced the Foreign Policy Mashinani approach by ensuring that foreign policy remains

connected to grassroots realities.

Traditional dances, fashion displays, oral storytelling, and craft exhibitions provided avenues for dialogue and mutual understanding, demonstrating how cultural engagement can complement formal diplomacy. The festival also delivered socio-economic benefits by boosting tourism in the Amboseli region and creating income opportunities for youth and women artisans through the creative economy.

The Maa Cultural and Tourism Festival 2025 reinforced Kenya's efforts to integrate culture into international cooperation and affirmed the country's leadership in people-centred diplomacy. It highlighted how cultural heritage can strengthen relationships, build trust, and advance national interests at both regional and international levels.



The President and the PCS Foreign and Diaspora Affairs stepped out in full Maasai regalia, proudly celebrating and promoting the rich Maa culture at the Festival.



The President of the Republic of Kenya presiding over the historic transfer of the management of Amboseli National Park to the Governor of Kajiado County. This milestone honours the heritage of the Maa community, resolves the long-standing question of ownership, and empowers the host community to take its rightful place in stewarding this national treasure. The handover marks a new chapter in advancing sustainable development, strengthening inter-generational equity, and placing local communities at the centre of conservation for the benefit of Kajiado and the entire nation.

Diplomatic Football Tournament Unites Nations in Maputo

By D. Amoiti

The international diplomatic community in Maputo came together on Friday, 31 October 2025, at the Maputo Sports Complex for the Friendship Cup soccer tournament. The event was organized to celebrate diplomatic relations between Mozambique and the international community resident in Maputo, bringing together the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique, the City of Maputo, diplomatic missions, civil society organizations, and local communities.

The Kenya High Commission participated through Africa United, a football team formed by members of the African Group of Diplomats and established in 2024 by the High Commissioner, who also serves as the

team's captain. The tournament aimed to promote friendship, inclusion, and cultural exchange, while strengthening engagement between the diplomatic corps and the people of Mozambique through sport.

The Friendship Cup featured six-a-side matches with mixed teams, reflecting the inclusive spirit of the event. A total of sixteen teams participated, including teams representing diplomatic missions, Mozambican institutions, non-governmental organizations, and former Mozambican football players. A youth tournament was held in the preceding week, with finalist boys' and girls' teams joining the main event to play the final match, promoting youth participation and women's empowerment in sport.

Kenya High Commission officers, together with the Foreign Relations Officer and the High Commissioner, actively participated in the tournament. Africa United emerged as the overall tournament winner, significantly enhancing the visibility of the Mission and reinforcing Kenya's reputation as a sporting nation. The engagement

aligns with Kenya's Foreign Policy 2024, which identifies sports under the social-cultural pillar as a key tool for public diplomacy, people-to-people relations, and soft power. It also supports the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) by promoting youth development, social inclusion, and community empowerment through sport.

The event further provided an opportunity for the Mission to showcase its community social-responsibility initiatives, including youth mentorship and support through the provision of sports equipment for young players involved in regular community matches. This football engagement is part of an ongoing partnership between the Kenya High Commission and Eduardo Mondlane University, established in 2024. The Friendship Cup was organized by Favela United, a Mozambican non-governmental organization that has positively impacted over 70,000 young people from disadvantaged and conflict-affected communities across the country.

Kenya Shines at the 2025 Africa Youth Games in Luanda

By F. Kosgey

The Republic of Angola hosted the African Youth Games from 10 to 20 December 2025, coinciding with the country's 50th anniversary of independence. The fourth edition of the Games brought together young athletes from across the continent in a multi-sport event focused on youth development, excellence, and continental unity.

The Games featured athletes aged 14 to 17 competing in approximately 33

sports disciplines across six host cities, including Luanda, Benguela, and Bengo Province. Organized by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) under the theme "Youth in Motion, United Africa," the Games welcomed delegations from 26 African countries. The Africa Youth Games aim to nurture young talent, provide early international competitive exposure, and serve as part of the qualification pathway for the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026. The event offered National Olympic Committees and emerging athletes an important platform to build experience and progress toward global competition.

Team South Africa topped the medal table with a dominant performance, followed by Algeria in second place

and Egypt in third. Tunisia and Cameroon completed the top five, while Ghana secured a place in the top ten. Kenya made a strong and historic debut at the Games, finishing seventh overall with a total of 35 medals, comprising 7 Gold, 11 Silver, and 17 Bronze. This marked Kenya's first-ever participation in the African Youth Games, with the young athletes demonstrating resilience, talent, and competitive spirit on the continental stage.

Kenya's performance reflects the country's growing investment in youth sports development and aligns with national priorities on nurturing young talent, promoting excellence, and strengthening Kenya's sporting profile across Africa and beyond.

Poetically Speaking

The following poem reflects the resilience, spirit, and contribution of Kenyans living abroad

Diaspora (Poem)

A wonderful tapestry of enterprising Kenyans beautifully dots the world
elevating our national colours

With boundless hope the illustrious citizens diligently toil and sweat
to harness global opportunities

The distinguished patriots faithfully invest at home remitting the proceeds
and offering social support

A strategic resource of skills and expertise valued experiences
for national prosperity

Rage on diaspora with abounding courage thrive and flourish home and abroad.

By Kimani Mwangi

Legacy of Peace

Mortality of the day
eventually comes to pass
as the sunset slowly extinguish
the gentle dying brilliance

All have a history
few leave a legacy
of uplifting deeds
and inspiring lessons

Unlike the day
that slowly capitulates
our moment is abrupt
without ceremonial fanfare

Today is the moment
to write our story
a golden opportunity
to construct the legacy

The cycle comes and goes
the seeds of life watered and nurtured
in the fullness of time
the mysterious bell comes tolling

While the sun still shines
plant a seed of hope
build a monument of inspiration
and leave a legacy of peace.

The service or disservice
the seeds sowed determine
the fullness or emptiness
of the life that was

By Kimani Mwangi, Goma Consulate



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