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## Kenya takes up UNSC Presidency in October, 2021



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# Kenya at the United Nations



*Amb. Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya introduces the pre-recorded statement of H. E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya during the 76th Session of the UNGA in New York on September 23, 2021.*

## By Amb. Raychelle Omamo

This time of the year is always a busy time as world leaders converge at the United Nations General Assembly complex in New York to deliberate on various issues. Kenya is optimistic that the deliberations will chart a way forward for the future of diplomacy post-COVID 19.

Kenya's participation at 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly focused on the key issues, which dovetails with Kenya's Big 4 Agenda - Energy Matters; Food Systems Agenda; Climate Change Issues; Global Governance and Oceans Agenda Progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals; Regional Peace and Security.

His Excellency the President, has, on several occasions, called for strengthened global governance that is cognizant of the global fragilities being witnessed, owing not just to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also due to the environmental issues being exacerbated by climate change.

In regards to climate change, Kenya has been one of the countries taking a leadership role in addressing this challenge. The call for action on climate change requires States to make ambitious commitments. I am pleased that Kenya has increased her Nationally Determined Contributions from 30% to 32%. I am further convinced that global support in terms of climate financing is paramount for Kenya to achieve her targets by the year 2025.

Kenya just concluded hosting the Africa Green Revolution Forum, a global Summit that brought together world leaders to chart a way forward towards a sustainable food system. Kenya has been at the forefront of advocating transformative agriculture, which fits appropriately with the High Level Event on United Nations Food Systems Summit.

Additionally, Kenya has also been at the forefront in championing clean energy. Energy can and will continue to play a central role in countries' efforts to recover from the COVID-19 crisis in ways that make them better, stronger and more resilient. Kenya has played her role as a Global Theme Champion on Energy Access, with a specific focus on clean cooking.

It will be recalled that for the past 9 months, Kenya has dutifully and dependably continued to execute continental and regional mandates at the United Nations Security Council, following the African Union's resounding endorsement and Kenya's subsequent election to the Council. It is also worth pointing out that Kenya's membership to the UNSC is coinciding with the country's concurrent membership in the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) for the period of 2019-2022.

Both the UN Security Council and the AU's Peace and Security Council are critical infrastructures for the maintenance and furtherance of International Peace and Security. In addition to Kenya's Presidency of the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), our membership in these global security institutions only serves to illustrate Kenya's expanding influence on the international stage. This also aptly dovetails with our philosophy and belief as a country that global challenges are only surmountable if the world's rules-based multilateral system is deployed in a manner that attracts consensus. This is only just in the appreciation of the challenges, but also in the evolution of practical response strategies.

It is against this background that Kenya will be presiding over the affairs of the UN Security Council as the President for the month of October, 2021. Admittedly, our Presidency of the UN Security Council will be taking place at a critical juncture in the international arena. Unlike the 1997-1998 term when Kenya last served at the Council,

the nature and character of diplomatic actors has changed considerably. An increasingly globalizing and interconnecting world, coupled with advancements in Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and increased migration, among other factors, have birthed emerging security challenges such as terrorism and cybercrime.

In addition, the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic and its attendant disruptions, as well as increasingly divergent philosophical and political approaches to issues of global interests, particularly among the leading powers, call for skillful engagements to build bridges and galvanize consensus towards sustainable global peace.

I remain convinced though that Kenya's experiences, ethos and philosophy will stand the country in good stead in pursuing mutually beneficial outcomes during our Presidency of the Council in October and even throughout our term at the Security Council. In particular, Kenya will continue to advance good neighbourliness and Pan Africanist ideals on the basis of our four broad priority objectives: Regional Peace and Security; Peace Support Operations; Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism; and Climate and Security.

This is actually reflected in the choice and range of the high-level signature events that Kenya will anchor our Presidency in the month of October, 2021 as follows;

On October 12th, 2021, His Excellency President Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta will convene an in-person Heads of State and Government Level Open Debate on Peacebuilding and Sustainable Peace, with the theme of "Identity, State Building and the Search for Peace."

In convening this High-Level Open Debate, Kenya will be inviting the Security Council to consider how the combination of information revolution, globalization, urbanization, inequality, environmental stress and demography have arguably made identity the core determinant of conflicts. These conflicts are underpinned by group-based grievances, which often fan deep-seated feelings of injustice and unfairness.

This implies that a core imperative for effective peace and state building is to successfully mediate important group dynamics and differences centred around such factors as colour, ethnicity, religion, history, social status among others, to reinforce the sense of broadly shared nationhood and belonging.



# Kenya at the United Nation

I need to underscore that this high-level debate will provide a unique opportunity for deeper consideration of state building and identity, and how they interact in the search for peace, with delegation encouraged to consider sharing their national experiences in the mediation of group grievance.

The Second-High Level Event will also be a Heads of State and Government High Level debate, which will be convened virtually by His Excellency President Hon. Uhuru KENYATTA, C.G.H on October 28th, 2021. This will be on the Cooperation between the UN and the Regional and sub-regional Organizations, with specific reference to the African Union.

The theme for this High-Level Debate, is "Leveraging the African Union Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and sub-regional mechanisms for the continent's peace, security and prosperity", which speaks to seeking practical and innovative ways of strengthening partnership between the UN and the AU, while highlighting the important role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs).

In convening this High-Level debate, Kenya remains persuaded that the maintenance of international peace and security is a collective responsibility based on strong partnerships and shared responsibility. Therefore, collaboration and productive burden sharing is the practical and pragmatic approach of sustainably addressing contemporary threats.

Indeed, central to Africa's relationship with the rest of the world is the pursuit of African solutions to the challenges of peace and security by prioritizing regional and sub-regional organizations' leadership, as well as meaningful engagements through strengthened partnership and shared responsibility.

In advocating for African peace promoted and maintained by Africans themselves, the High-Level Open Debate will seek to bring together H.E António Guterres, UN Secretary-General and H.E. Moussa Faki, the AU Commission Chairperson, as well as the sitting chairpersons of the AU and subregional organizations in Africa to participate and to share the perspectives of their respective sub-regions.

The third High Level event will be an in-person Ministerial level which will be an Open briefing on the Great Lakes Region, convened under the theme, "Supporting the renewed commitment of the Great Lakes countries in seeking sustainable solutions to the root causes and drivers of conflict".

This is scheduled for October 20, 2021 and I am looking forward to convening this meeting at the UN Security Council Chambers in New York.

It may be stressed that countries of the Great Lakes Region (GLR) continue to be afflicted by many security challenges. However, in recent years, countries in the GLR have made commendable progress in addressing the root causes and drivers of conflict.

The peaceful transfers of power in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi, as well as the signing and implementation of peace agreements in the Central Africa Republic (CAR) and in South Sudan, illustrate the positive momentum. More recent developments include the normalising of bilateral relations between the brotherly countries of DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

Meanwhile these countries, with the assistance of the international community, are keen on implementing the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict prevention and Conflict resolution in the Great Lakes Region, which the Special Envoy of the Secretary General to the region will report to the Security Council during the October briefing.

The High-Level Ministerial briefing of October 20th, 2021 under my leadership will, therefore, provide an opportunity for the Security Council to renew its commitment to the region, and to support the implementation of the priority projects aimed at interalia: Promoting a shared vision of regional peace, security and socio-economic development and strengthening cooperation in addressing the drivers of conflict and instability with a specific focus on transforming the productive use of natural resources.

Similarly, I will be chairing a Ministerial Level Open debate on Women and Peace and Security, under the theme of "Investing in women peacekeepers and women peacebuilders", on October 21st, 2021. This will be the fourth High Level event under Kenya's Presidency of the Council in October of this year.

It will be recalled that the 2020 Report on Women and Peace and Security, the Secretary-General proposed goals for the decade ahead, which include a call for "A radical shift in the meaningful participation of women in our peace-making, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, ensuring that women are fully involved as equal partners in peace and from the earliest stages in each and every peace and political process that the United Nations supports."

This Ministerial Open Debate, therefore, will be another opportunity to share insights on progress, trends and challenges, as well as best practices and lessons learnt with a view to make recommendations for investing in women peacekeepers, women peacebuilders, and their networks to accelerate the implementation of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda and to ensure sustainable peace outcomes during and post- peace operation and mission transition settings.

It will also serve to recognize and showcase local women's contribution and influence in all stages of peacekeeping, peace-making and peacebuilding. To this end, the debate will be preceded by the official launch in conjunction with the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) of the Photoville travelling exhibition to several African mission settings dubbed "In Their Hands: Women Taking Ownership for Peace". The literature for this exhibition – which will be made available after this briefing – is in recognition that women across the globe are actively preventing conflict, pushing for peaceful transitions from conflict and building peace as peacekeepers, peacebuilders, mediators, decision-makers, change makers and activists.

Kenya is assuming the Presidency of the Council at a crucial juncture, not just for our region, but also for the larger international community. The scale and breath of our agenda for the Presidency of the Council and indeed during our tenure of the Council – is a testimony to this fact.

Even as we look forward to presiding over the Security Council affairs in October, the state of affairs in today's world brings to mind an observation made by the great son of Kenya, the late Professor Ali MAZRUI. The late Prof. Mazrui remarked that there exists a tension between the need for global order versus the need to achieve justice in the world community.

Indeed, the ongoing global pandemic of the corona virus has served to highlight the fragmentation within our societies, revealed and compounded existing inequalities, as well as unevenness of power in global governance. This has also been compounded by skewed vaccine access and inequalities, climate change, challenges associated with unmitigated urbanization and the challenges associated with reluctance to offer debt relief to the most affected countries. All these ultimately contribute and translates into social and economic inequality in the face of the current pandemic.

Kenya looks forward to vibrant engagement and positive outcomes during the October UNSC Presidency.





# Estonia's President, Kersti Kaljulaid makes historic visit to Kenya



*President Uhuru Kenyatta received visiting Estonian President, Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid at State House, Nairobi on September 9, 2021*

Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia made a four-day's State Visit to Kenya from September 8 to 11, 2021 on invitation by Kenya's President, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta.

On arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, President Kaljulaid was received by Cabinet Secretaries Amb. Raychelle Omamo (Foreign Affairs) and Amb. Monica Juma (Defence), who was her Escort of Honour.

During her visit, Her Excellency Kaljulaid held high level consultations with her host His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta at State House Nairobi. The two leaders discussed several matters of mutual interest to Kenya and Estonia.

President Kenyatta, applauded President Kaljulaid for being the first female president of Estonia and congratulated her on being appointed the United Nations Global Advocate for 'Every Woman and Every Child' and expressed appreciation for choosing Kenya for her maiden visit to the continent.

The two heads of State reiterated their commitment to continue strengthening bilateral cooperation in various sectors such as ICT, Trade and Investment; digital transformation and environment. To further strengthen the existing bilateral cooperation, the two leaders witnessed the signing of bilateral framework of cooperation on political consultations, health as well as a letter of intent in the area of environment.



*Kenya and Estonia signed a bilateral framework of cooperation on Political Consultations, Health and Environment.*

On the issue of Covid-19, they were in agreement that the devastating effects of the pandemic require immediate and effective action by the international community as a whole. They agreed on the need for universal access to vaccines to ensure vaccines for all and embraced multilateralism as the most appropriate path for economic and social recovery in times of the pandemic.

On peace and security, they committed to work closely as Non-Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council with a view to contribute to peace and security, respect for democracy and human rights, gender equality and women empowerment.

The two leaders, reiterated their commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals the 2030 Agenda and the 2063 Agenda of the African Union as the way to build sustainable, just, inclusive and resilient economies

During her visit, President Kersti Kaljulaid addressed the Kenya-Estonia Business Forum focusing on ICT and e-solution to sustainable development in education, health, energy, petroleum and mining.

At a separate event and accompanied by Kenya marathoners (Douglas Wakiihuri, Tegla Loroupe and Catherine Ndereba), President Kaljulaid participated in a 10k marathon at Karura Forest. The race was flagged off by Sports Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohammed.

At the tail end of her successful official visit to Kenya, she visited Michuki Park for a tree planting exercise, the Elephant Sanctuary in Karen and the Kenya Red Cross offices.

On the sidelines of the historic visit, Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo met with Estonia's Foreign Minister H.E. Eva-Maria Liimets and discussed areas of cooperation in the field of information technology and investments.



*H.E. Kersti Kaljulaid visited the Elephant Sanctuary in Karen on September 11, 2021*



# Kenya makes history by hosting the inaugural Africa – Caribbean Community Summit



*First Africa Caricom Summit hosted by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta under the theme 'Unity Across Continents and Oceans: Opportunities for Deepening Integration on September 7, 2021*

History was made on September 7, 2021, when Kenya hosted the first ever African – Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit themed “Unity Across Continents and Oceans: Opportunities for Deepening Integration.”

The summit held virtually was an initiative by Kenya and was chaired by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta. The meeting brought together African and Caribbean Heads of States and Government to discuss the deepening of cooperation and leveraging on opportunities for development and shared prosperity.

The objective of the historic summit was to reaffirm the bonds of ancestry and friendship between Africa and CARICOM and build a foundation for lasting, robust socio-economic and political engagements as well as partnerships between the two regions for a collective prosperous future.

Speaking at the event, President Uhuru Kenyatta advocated for the forging of closer working partnerships between African and the Caribbean nations so as to raise their power of overcoming common challenges such as Covid-19, climate change and public debt.

The President Kenyatta urged leaders of the two regions to deepen the existing historical and cultural ties that

bind their nations so as to build strong socio-economic and political linkages that will promote shared prosperity and social progress.

He challenged the leaders to exploit the opportunities presented by historical relationships to achieve aspirations of African and the Caribbean states through enhanced economic, social and cultural cooperation.

“Our common historical experiences of slavery and colonialism inspired Africa’s founding fathers to form the Pan-African Movement in the early 1900’s. This movement was championed by Africans in the diaspora, which established the foundations of a rich and vibrant African-Caribbean relationship,” President Kenyatta said.

The Head of State outlined five key areas of cooperation namely; the blue economy, climate change, health and Covid-19, debt sustainability and technology which he said are crucial as the two regions initiate working partnerships.

The Summit expressed concern on the rapid mutation and spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and deleterious economic and social impact it has had on societies, health and infrastructure. They called for increased access to vaccines,

production of vaccines in the African continent and within the Caribbean and for the waiver of specific articles of the TRIPS agreements by the World Trade Organization Member States on the Intellectual Property Rights protection for technologies needed to prevent and contain Covid-19.

Heads of State and Government of the African Union and the Caribbean Community Member States, as well as Chair of the African Union Commission, Chairs of Africa Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the CARICOM Troika, the CARICOM Secretariat, the Secretary General of the Organization of the African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and the President of Caribbean Development Bank attended the virtual meeting.

The historic meeting was held nearly Five hundred years after the commencement of the displacement of enslaved Africans to the Caribbean and Seventy-six years after the seminal 5th Pan-African Congress that was held in Manchester, England in 1945, and that brought together the political activists of Africa and the Caribbean to conceive plans to bring about the decolonization of these two regions.

The Summit also took place Fifty-eight years since the 1963 establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Fifty-three years after the founding of Caribbean Free Trade Organization (CARIFTA) and Forty-eight years after the establishment of CARICOM.





# President Kenyatta calls on African leaders to prioritize agricultural transformation



*H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta during the 11th African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Summit on September 10, 2021.*

Kenya hosted the Eleventh Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Summit under the leadership of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta on September 7 to 10, 2021 in Nairobi. The global Summit brought together world leaders to chart a way forward towards a sustainable food system. Kenya has been at the forefront of advocating transformative agriculture.

The Summit held under the banner “Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems,” aimed to elevate the single coordinated African voice to the United Nations Food System Summit (UNFSS) and to identify immediate actions and steps needed to accelerate progress and recovery towards inclusive agricultural transformation.

Speaking when he hosted this year’s virtual AGRF Summit at State House, President Uhuru Kenyatta rallied African nations to accelerate efforts aimed at attaining greater food security on the continent and called on African leaders to prioritize initiatives that will cause inclusive agricultural transformation.

The President emphasized that Kenya was committed to the agenda of transforming its food systems by re-engineering the country’s agriculture to leverage more on its large and vibrant youth populations.

President Kenyatta outlined the actions taken by Kenya to boost the country’s food security within the Big Four economic blueprint, saying since 2013, Kenya had focused on attaining 100 percent food and nutrition security through crop diversification, e-voucher programmes that support staple crops, livestock and dairy value chains, growing of indigenous food crops and vegetables, developing seed systems for sorghum, millet and cassava as well as establishing flour blending and fortification policies.

Guided by the Africa Common Position Document and the UN Food System Summit areas of action, areas of urgent priority, African countries committed to: catalyze rapid expansion in agriculture and food productivity, with a particular focus on smallholder farmers and

women; boost investment financing for Africa’s food systems; ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; strengthen Africa’s local and regional food markets; Build resilience especially through social safety nets, and early warning systems.

Major commitments were reached in areas of nutrition, innovation, renewable energy, climate change, regional food trade, and investment towards the transformation of food systems. Participants committed to resilient value chain development for farm input. The summit honoured women and youth entrepreneurs for their leadership and achievement on the pathway to inclusive business development and advocacy.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing challenges and raising ambition to meet the demands of this and future generations to end hunger, the AGRF called upon leaders, institutions, investors, coalitions, and individuals to accelerate action towards the 2030 SDGs, and unlock change for people, prosperity and planet by building resilient food systems.

The five-day event held both virtually and physically attracted 8300 participants bringing together global and African stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

Speakers at the virtual meeting, among them Presidents Paul Kagame (Rwanda), Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), Lazarus Chakwera (Malawi), Hage Geingob (Namibia), and UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed as well as Kenya’s former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, decried Africa’s weak food systems despite the continent’s abundant nutritional resources endowment.

The AGRF is an annual Summit that aims at bringing together global and African stakeholders in the agricultural sector to come up with practical solutions and share lessons that will help develop Africa’s Agricultural systems. The forum was established by YARA in Norway in 2006 and later moved to Africa in 2010.

To facilitate the Summit, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives constituted a Multi-Agency Local Organising Committee (LOC) comprising of various Government Ministries and non-governmental organizations.



## CAS Namwamba participates at the Bled Strategic Forum 2021 focusing on the 'Future of Europe'



CAS Hon Ababu-Namwamba, joined by India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar, Slovenia Foreign Minister Anze Logar and Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos on a panel to discuss "Partnership for a Rules-based Order in the Indo-Pacific" at the 16th Bled Strategic Forum in Slovenia on September 3, 2021

Chief Administration Secretary, Hon. Ababu Namwamba made an official visit to the Republic of Slovenia to attend and participate at the 16th Bled Strategic Forum titled "The Future of Europe" held from August 31 to September 2, 2021 in Bled, Slovenia.

The Forum gave Kenya a unique opportunity to share its position, particularly as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Council and to seek support towards Kenya's priorities in the European union, notably support for AMISOM post-December 2021, designation of Kenya as a manufacturing hub for vaccines and conclusion of the proposed Kenya- EU Strategic Dialogue.

Speaking as a panelist during the Forum on the topic 'Partnership for a Rules-based Order in the Indo-Pacific,' Hon. Namwamba reaffirmed Kenya's geostrategic position as the Indo-Pacific gateway to Africa, isolated latent threats, and urged win-win partnership models that spur trade, investment and shared prosperity.

Hon. Namwamba emphasized the fact that the region has many opportunities for countries in the Indo-Pacific and the recent Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a platform that presents real opportunities for engagements and shared prosperity.

He further pointed out the heterogeneous nature of the Indo-Pacific and described it as a "melting pot of people, cultures, interests and could be looked at geographically as the Eastern, Central and the Western Indo-Pacific where Kenya falls.

"Kenya is a believer in multilateralism and believes in partnerships. The EU- India Partnership is significant and a gateway for further future engagements in Africa and the Western Indo- Pacific, particularly in the Horn of Africa," CAS Namwamba highlighted.

Others panelists' included India's External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Slovenia Foreign Minister Dr. Anze Logar and Portuguese Foreign Minister Dr. Augusto Santos Silva.

The 16th edition of the Bled Strategic Forum hosted more than 170 panelists' and speakers from all over the world including EU high representatives, heads of state and government, foreign ministers, representatives of think tanks, civil society, research and academic sphere.

On the sidelines of Forum, Hon. Ababu Namwamba held bilateral talks with Slovenian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Acting Minister for Development Cooperation Dr. Stanislav Raščan at the Foreign Office in Ljubljana. They discussed bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, and multilateralism.

Hon. Namwamba emphasized that the visit would open opportunities to deepen relations between the two countries. He extended an invitation to the Slovenian Foreign Minister Dr. Anze Logar on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo.

The CAS drew the State Secretary's attention to the absence of an Embassy in Nairobi stating that it would facilitate enhanced engagement and collaboration between the two countries.

"This would be a great foundation to bolster bilateral cooperation," CAS Ababu said, adding that Kenya desires to bolster the low bilateral trade figures.

He lauded the Joint Health Care Assistance project worth Ksh.21 million that the governments of Slovenia and Hungary have implemented in Kenya with the aim of deepening and expanding productive relations.





# PS Macharia holds bilateral talks with his Ugandan counterpart



*PS Amb. Macharia Kamau met with Mr Vincent Waiswa, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda where they engaged on bilateral and regional areas of cooperation touching on social, economic and infrastructure development for the two countries on September 2, 2021*

Uganda's Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary, Mr. Vincent Waisawa Bagiire made an official visit to Kenya on September 2, 2021 at the invitation by his Kenyan counterpart Amb. Macharia Kamau. The visit aimed at taking stock of the bilateral relations between the two friendly nations and chart ways of strengthening and deepening the relations.

During bilateral talks between the two principals, PS Kamau lauded the historical bonds of friendship between Kenya and Uganda noting the shared values and aspirations in various sectors including - political, social-economic, cultural and diplomatic exchanges.

Both principal secretaries appreciated the strong relations and shared matters of mutual interest at regional, continental and multilateral level and the cooperation in areas of transport, trade and investment fight against terrorism, immigration and security.

On trade and investment, the two leaders took note of the persistent Non-Tariff Barriers and Technical Barriers to Trade that continue to frustrate trade and investment in the two countries. They agreed to work towards improving the trade relations in order to guarantee the socio-economic development of the people of the two nations.

"Amb. Kamau commended Uganda for the leading role it continues to play in the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and underscored that it is imperative that the two nations work together in fighting the menace of extremism and terrorism.

He highlighted that, Kenya as a Non-Permanent Member of the UN Security Council seeks to work closely with Uganda in addressing some of the problems affecting the Horn of Africa. He called for closer working relations between their respective missions in New York.

On his part, PS Wasiwa was in support of working in close coordination in the spirit of Pan Africanism and for regional interest and reiterated Uganda's eagerness to work together in championing the ideals of the region.

He invited Kenya to create and analyze possible scenarios in the case of AMISOM and the future possibility of both parties pulling out of Somalia.

PS Macharia thanked his counterpart for accepting his invitation and for the successful deliberations





## Cuban Ambassador ends tour of duty



*H.E Mr. Ernesto Gomez Diaz, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Kenya paid a farewell visit to Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo on September 18, 2021.*

Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo hosted a farewell ceremony in honour of His Excellency Ernesto Gomez Diaz, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Kenya on September 17, 2021 whose four years' tour of duty comes to an end.

CS Omamo noted with satisfaction the excellent relations that exist between Cuba and Kenya and expressed gratitude for the outstanding work by the career diplomat to expand relations between the two countries.

On bilateral cooperation, the CS noted with appreciation the continued benefits from the program for control of vectors of Malaria and other vector borne disease as well as provision of training and capacity building.

She thanked the government of Cuba for the continued support in sectors of health and education. She applauded Cuba for development of manufacturing vaccines locally to help in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

On multilateral cooperation, CS Omamo lauded the shared values and ideals and the imperative of the South-South Cooperation.

The CS wished the outgoing Ambassador good health and best wishes in his next assignment.

## Kenya, Sri Lanka boost long standing relations



*Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo met with H.E Veluppilai Kananathan, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Kenya, on September 23, 2021.*

His Excellency Veluppilai Kananathan, High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to Kenya, held a courtesy meeting on Cabinet Secretary Ambassador Raychelle Omamo on September 13, 2021.

Speaking at the meeting, the Cabinet Secretary applauded the cordial and longstanding relations between Kenya and Sri-Lanka dating back to 1970 since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

CS Omamo expressed solidarity with the Government and People of Sri Lanka due to the current Covid-19 pandemic stating it has ravaged the entire globe and caused a significant loss of life and disrupted economies. She commended Sri-Lanka for the efforts and measures put in place in the fight against the pandemic.

On bilateral cooperation, Kenya considers Sri-Lanka a key partner in Kenya's National development agenda, particularly in key areas such as, trade and investment; agriculture, sports; agroforestry, textile and manufacturing sectors.

Noting that the two countries have a standing Joint Trade Committee, the CS indicated that both countries need to work closely to enhance economic ties through sharing of information on trade and investment opportunities, promoting more partnerships and people-to-people exchange in order to increase the value and volume of trade since opportunities on both sides are immense.

Kenya's High Commission in New Delhi is accredited to Sri Lanka. The High Commission of the Republic of Sri-Lanka in Nairobi is accredited to Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana and Senegal.

CS Omamo reiterated Kenya's support to the High Commissioner during his tour of duty.





## Sierra Leone Deputy Foreign Minister makes bench-marking tour in Kenya

Hon. Ms. Mamadi Gobeh Kamara, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone and her delegation made a study visit to Kenya from September 6th to 11th 2021. The study tour comprised several activities which culminated in a visit to the Foreign Service Academy for bench-marking.

During her visit, the Deputy Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo on September 8, 2021 where they discussed several matters of mutual interest between Kenya and Sierra Leone including bilateral issues, tourism and diplomatic training.

The Cabinet Secretary thanked the Deputy Foreign Minister for choosing Kenya for bench-marking noting that it was an honour and a reinvigoration of Kenya – Sierra Leone cordial relations.

The delegation visited Kenya's Foreign Service Academy on September 9, 2021 for a bench-marking tour. Amb. Michael Oyugi, Director Foreign Service made a presentation highlighting FSA's history, operations, achievements, challenges and the future of the Academy.



*CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo met with Hon. Ms Mamadi Gobeh Kamara, the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone on September 8, 2021.*

Hon. Kamara, appreciated the enlightening presentation and gave tribute to the Academy's achievements. She reiterated her satisfaction saying that they had gathered enough from the Academy to enable them establish a sustainable Foreign Service Academy in Sierra Leone.

The FSA organized a trip for the visiting delegation to the Nairobi National Park where they enjoyed a safari walk and game drive. They appreciated Kenya's rich and beautiful heritage and the uniqueness of the only park in the world within a city.

## Kenya, Senegal to launch JCC

Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo held bilateral talks with His Excellency Mr. Ndong Dieng, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to Kenya on September 13, 2021 and deliberated on strategic issues of shared interest between Kenya and Senegal.

The Cabinet Secretary noted the excellent relations between the two nations founded on historical linkages, strong bonds of friendship, shared values and common aspiration for socio-economic prosperity.

To further enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries, the leaders agreed to launch the Kenya-Senegal Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) established in 2014. Kenya committed to host the first session of the JCC. Possible areas of engagement discussed included Security; education; hospitality, tourism, trade and investment.

On his part, Amb. Dieng informed that Senegal will host the 7th edition of the International Dakar Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, under the theme, "The Challenges of Stability and Emergency Facing Africa in Post-Covid-19 World" on December 2021. He extended an invitation to the Cabinet Secretary.



*C.S Raychelle Omamo met with H.E. Mr. Ndong Ndieng, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to Kenya on September 15, 2021.*

The Ambassador also informed that Senegal had joined Egypt, Morocco and South Africa in the list of African Countries that have successfully secured the rights to produce the Covid-19 vaccines after signing a deal with a Belgium biotech group Univercells to produce the jabs from next year.

CS Omamo, reiterated Kenya's valued friendship and continued support and collaboration with Senegal.



## MFA Staff awarded on retirement



On September 2, 2021, Director Human Resource Management and Development Mr. John Gitu graced the occasion of Office Administrators from Foreign Affairs proceeding on retirement.

Mr. Gitu presented Certificates of Service to the three Office Administrators namely; Ms. Elizabeth Omondi, Ms. Florence Masidza, Ms. Diana Khayadi.

## My Journey at MFA



My name is Elizabeth Ajiambo Omondi, I was employed on 10th August 1981 and retired on 18th May 2021.

My working experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which I enjoyed and treasure very much, made me go through various Directorates/Divisions including; Press and Publicity; Africa & OAU; Office of the Chief of Protocol, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Political and Diplomatic Secretary among others.

I also had the privilege of being seconded to the Office of the Head of the Public Service at the Office of the President, Harambee House from 8th October, 2001 to 1st April, 2005.

In my almost 40 years of service, I was able to serve on full tours of duty in Ottawa, Canada and Pretoria, South Africa.

I thank God for bringing me this far and feel proud for having worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## MFA facilitates staff to participate in a WTO course



**Ms. Patricia Mukiri, Second Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated Ms. Patricia Mukiri, Second Secretary to participate at the first ever online Regional Trade Policy Course (eRTPC) for English speaking African countries, organized by The World Trade Organization (WTO), with support from the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation and the University of Mauritius.

The course that ran from 17th May to 20th August 2021 was attended by a total of 26 government officials from 16 WTO African member and observer states.

The objective of the course was to extend participants' expertise on the multilateral trading system and the work of the WTO. Kenya was represented by two government officials from Foreign Affairs and State Department of Trade Ms. Maseline Kamasara.

The course prepares government officers to participate in multilateral negotiations and covers the WTO agreements, the organization's functions, rules and procedures and trade policy issues related to the African region.





# Let's Talk About Mental Health in The Workplace



By Fartun Dahir

The topic of mental health in the workplace is one that is being discussed more and more. It's no longer something that employers or employees can ignore. However, the subject is often shrouded in confusion, myths, and stigma. This article looks at mental health in the workplace and highlights some of the things one can do to improve their mental health in the workplace.

What is mental health? It is important to note that mental health is more than the absence of a mental illness. You can have a good mental health with an illness and likewise have poor mental health without having a mental illness.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as "a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community."

It's no secret that mental health affects a lot of people in the workplace, with common issues such as depression and anxiety affecting millions of people in the world. In fact, mental health is the biggest cause of sickness absence from the workplace, with the average worker missing over six days a year due to their mental health.

Every day we come to work, get busy with our tasks, and go home at the end of the day. Work is good for mental health, but a negative working environment can lead to physical and mental health problems.

A recent study by the American Psychological Association found that the number of Americans who experienced a mental health issue in the last year has increased by a staggering 18 percent in the last 5 years.

The Covid-19 pandemic has heightened the slew of negative emotions among employees' lives such as stress, anxiety, depression, and a lot of times grief. The stress of working during the pandemic has been magnified by the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19.

An individual's poor mental health affects their job performance and productivity, communication with coworkers, physical capability and daily functioning and their engagement with their work. It is important for both the employer and employees to work towards the mental well-being of the employees.

Not all mental health issues are obvious, and sometimes it is not easy to tell the difference between a mental illness and a temporary mood. If you think you are struggling with mental health issues, know that you are not alone. There are many people who are working with their mental health every single day. And there are many resources available to help you tackle your mental health head on.

Watch out for warning signs such as dramatic sleep or appetite changes, rapid mood changes, withdrawal, drop in functioning, increased sensitivity, apathy, feeling disconnected, illogical or irrational thinking, nervousness and any other unusual behavior which could indicate mental health concern in you or a coworker.

There are different ways of coping with mental health issues, both healthy and maladaptive. I'd advise that you go for the healthy coping mechanisms for the obvious reasons that the maladaptive ways such as drinking, and gambling will in the long be destructive towards your health, relationships and work.

Here are a few healthy mechanisms for the most common workplace mental health concerns:

**Coping with Stress:** Some of the healthy coping mechanism to practice when coping with stress include emphasizing work-life balance, exercising regularly, eating well, making time for hobbies, connecting with a support system, meditating, or practicing yoga, getting enough sleep, spending time with a pet/loved one.

**Coping with anxiety:** When experiencing anxiety attack, one can do the following to ease the anxiety attack; Practice focused deep breathing, aromatherapy, take a walk, meditate, practice yoga or exercise, write down thoughts and identify triggers so you can resolve them.

**Coping with depression:** When going through depression, try and stay connected with others, prioritize face-time (even virtually), try pet therapy, do things you enjoy (or used to), try to get enough sleep, exercise, don't skip meals, take a walk in the sunlight, challenge negative thoughts, read a good book/watch a funny movie.

**Coping with Grief:** Grief can be a crippling feeling and most of the time we don't feel like other people understand what we are going through. Many of us have lost loved ones during this Pandemic. It is therefore necessary to equip ourselves with coping mechanisms when experiencing grief. You can lean on friends and family, accept and face your feelings, express feelings creatively (writing, drawing, etc.), try to maintain hobbies/interests, preserve memories (photo album, memorial, etc.) or even join a support group.

Mental health is and will always remain a sore and sensitive topic for most people. A positive mental health is great for individual's physical health and performance in the workplace. Nairobi Metropolitan Services has announced a list of 32 health facilities where one can get psychological services. Don't be afraid to seek help if experiencing any mental health issue. The hardest step is reaching out and admitting that you need help.

The Ministry of Health, Kenya provides a 24 hour access to tele-counselling services and psychological care via hotline numbers 119 and 719.



# KENYA AT #UNGA76

On September 2021, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kenya, Amb Raychelle Omamo met with H.E Abdulla Shahid, the current president of the General Assembly and the Foreign Minister Maldives



On September 27, 2021, CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo attended a virtual high-level opening event of the Berlin Climate and Security Conference 2021.

She said climate change is a threat multiplier in the region and exacerbates other present challenges such as poverty and called for a holistic approach.

BERLIN  
CLIMATE AND SECURITY  
CONFERENCE 2021

OPENING SESSION

Berlin Climate and Security Conference 2021  
27 September – 8 October 2021

CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo met with Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's Minister for External Affairs on September 26, 2021.

She lauded India as an important partner and a pivot country in terms of South-South Cooperation and the need to cooperate and coordinate positions within the UNSC



CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo met Félix Plasencia, Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela on September 25, 2021.

They affirmed the role of multilateralism in solving global challenges including the covid 19 pandemic; committed to reinvigorating existing bilateral ties/ MoU in oil and gas.





## KENYA AT #UNGA76

On September 24, 2021, Cabinet Secretary Amb Raychelle Omamo met Her Excellency Ms. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica at the sidelines of UNGA76



H.E. Ms. Gisele Ndaya Luseba, Minister of Gender, Family and Child of the Democratic Republic of CONGO held talks with Cabinet Secretary Amb Raychelle Omamo on September 24, 2021.

On September 24, 2021, CS Amb Raychelle Omamo held bilateral talks with Mr. Augusto Santos Silva Foreign Minister of Portugal on the sidelines of #UNGA76 in New York.



CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo and H.E. Lisandro Rosales Banegas, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation minister of the Republic of Honduras met on the sidelines of the 76th Session of UNGA and signed a Communique establishing Diplomatic Relations between Kenya and Honduras on September 24, 2021.



## IN BRIEF

President Uhuru Kenyatta on September 1, 2021 at State House, Nairobi received credentials from nine High Commissioners and Ambassadors recently posted to Kenya.

Speaking during the event, President Kenyatta assured the envoys of Government's support as they discharge their mandate, saying Kenya is committed to building strong and friendly relations with their respective countries.



CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo held bilateral meeting with the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Ms. J. Amina Mohammed on September 10, 2021.

The two applauded the excellent partnership between the Government of Kenya and the United Nations.

They further discussed ways of enhancing Nairobi as a Multilateral hub.

Eritrea Ambassador to Kenya and Dean of African Diplomatic Corps H.E Beyene Russom on September 15, 2021 paid a courtesy call on PS Amb Macharia Kamau.







## IN BRIEF

On September 18, 2021, Kenya received the first consignment of Pfizer vaccine totaling 795,000 doses from the US Government.

The consignment was received by Principal Secretary Ministry of Health Susan Mochache together with the Chief Administrative Secretary Hon Ababu Namwamba.



Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb Macharia Kamau held bilateral talks with H.E Aline Kuster- Menager, Amb. of France to Kenya to discuss progress, and implementation on MoUs agreed between the two countries on September 15, 2021

Amb. Galma Boru, Director General Bilateral and Political held talks with Amb. Annett Gunther, Germany Ambassador to Kenya on September 13, 2021.

Discussions focused on German-Kenya relations and how to intensify cooperation the between the two friendly nations.





## IN BRIEF

CAS Hon. Ababu Namwamba presided over the occasion commemorating the 91st National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on September 23, 2021.

He on behalf of the Government and People of Kenya conveyed congratulations to the government and people of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia as they marked this day.



Principal Secretary Amb. Macharia Kamau held a meeting with Maj (Rtd) John Seii, EBS, Chairman Kenya National Council of Elders (KENCOE) and Amb. Mussie Hailu, Founding and Executive Director for the Ethiopian Council elders on September 13, 2021.

Their discussions centered on how to enhance efforts of elders in society by tapping the full potential of national and regional organizations of the elderly in promoting a culture of peace, reconciliation, human dignity, interfaith & inter-cultural harmony.

Foreign Affairs team at the AGRF Summit 2021 held on September 9, 2021.

The hybrid summit focused on exploring the pathways and actions needed to accelerate recovery process and steer the continent towards resilient food systems.







**VISION**

A peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Kenya.

**MISSION**

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

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