



JULY 2022
ISSUE NO. 025

NEWSLETTER

Diplomacy

A Publication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Kenya readies for 2022 general elections



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Kenya readies for 2022 general elections



The last batch of ballot papers arrives in Kenya in readiness for the electoral process set to climax with voting on Tuesday August 9, 2022

By Pauline Opemo

It's all systems go as Kenyans prepare to go to the ballot. The 2022 General Elections scheduled to be held on August 9, 2022 will be the 3rd elections since promulgation of the 2010 constitution. Once again, the country will demonstrate its ability to conduct free and fair elections.

The August 9 polls will see approximately 22 million registered voters, exercise their right to elect new leaders to serve the country for the next 5 years. The presidential race has attracted four contenders with the two leading candidates being former Prime Minister Raila Odinga and Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto.

Kenyan citizens living in 12 countries have registered to participate in the forthcoming General Elections. The Diaspora voter registration exercise took place in January and February this year and was conducted by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its missions in the 27 polling stations facilitated the process that saw a total of ten thousand four hundred and forty-three Kenyans register and amend their voter registration status to participate in the presidential election.

As Kenya readies for the elections, International Observers have been deployed in the country ahead of the polls. The Africa Union Observer Mission has deployed international expert missions in different parts of country.

Ms. Ellen Dingani, head of the African Union Delegation called for candid engagements between stakeholders involved in the forthcoming elections, saying that the experts are assessing the state of affairs as far as preparedness toward peaceful and credible elections in the country. The COMESA, IGAD and EAC observers are also in the country to monitor the elections.

The European Union Election Observation Mission consisting of 12 election experts has also arrived in Nairobi, following an invitation from the Republic of Kenya. The experts will be joined by an additional 48 long-term and 48 short-term observers who will remain in the country until the completion of the electoral process.

The Chief Observer of the EU EOM Mr. Ivan Štefanec said the mission will engage key institutions playing critical roles in the ongoing electoral process. The Mission will issue a preliminary statement through a press briefing at the conclusion of the elections, thereafter releasing a report detailing its recommendations in the future electoral processes.

Similarly, the UK, through its High Commissioner to Kenya H.E Jane Marriot OBE, has pledged its support to the Government of Kenya as it prepares for the August Elections. Speaking at the Kenya National Elections Conference on June 11, in Nairobi, the British diplomat said, "As a friend of Kenya, the UK government calls on all present across all six types of election – and those whom they represent – to do their part in contributing to free, fair, credible and peaceful elections, before, during, and after the 9th August elections".

This year's general elections has seen the highest number of voters registered yet. While announcing the results of the Register of Voters last month, IEBC Chairman Mr. Wafula Chebukati said that the commission had registered an increased number of polling stations by 13.08% per cent at 46,232 compared to 40,883 in the 2017 elections. Further, the number of registered voters had risen from 19,611,423 million to 22,120,458 million.

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Kenya readies for general elections

Continued from page 3 ...

In its preparations towards conducting the forthcoming elections, Kenya's electoral agency IEBC has concluded the Election Security Arrangement Programme. The project has been carried out in conjunction with the National Police Service and other security stakeholders. The training programmes targeted sub-county commanders, OCPDs, OCSs took place in all 47 counties as part of preparations for the General Elections.

Similarly, the IEBC has conducted two dry runs of electronic transmission of results in a bid to assure the country of its ability to carry out credible elections. The trial runs took place at the Bomas of Kenya, the designate venue of the national tallying centre. The Results Transmission System (RTS) recorded a 94 % success rate, allaying fears of failure on the election day.

To further secure the results of the August 9, elections, IEBC has assured Kenyans that it has sealed all loopholes that might interfere with results transmission. During the trials the Commission also laid out a four-step verification of results from polling stations before transmission to the national tallying centre.

The trial run also picked out challenges in transmission of electronic results which serve as provisional results at the national tallying centre. The trial demonstrations were attended by IEBC Chairman Wafula Chebukati, Commissioners Irene Masit, Boya Molu, Abdi Guliye and CEO Hussein Marjan. The exercise was also witnessed by members of political parties taking part in the elections.

DIASPORA REGISTERED VOTERS AND POLLING STATIONS

S/NO	CENTRE	POLLING STATION CODE	POLLING STATION	REGISTERED
1	Kenya Embassy Dar Es Salaam	048291500000101	Kenya Embassy Dar Es Salaam	496
2	Kenya Embassy Dar Es Salaam	048291500000102	Kenya Embassy Dar Es Salaam	496
3	Kenya Consulate in Arusha	048291500000201	Kenya Consulate in Arusha	410
4	Kenya High Commission in Kampala	048291500100301	Kenya High Commission in Kampala	471
5	Kenya High Commission in Kampala	048291500100302	Kenya High Commission in Kampala	470
6	Kenya High Commission in Kampala	048291500100303	Kenya High Commission in Kampala	470
7	Kenya Embassy in Kigali	048291500200401	Kenya Embassy in Kigali	545
8	Kenya Embassy in Kigali	048291500200402	Kenya Embassy in Kigali	545
9	Kenya Embassy in Bujumbura	048291500300501	Kenya Embassy in Bujumbura	201
10	Kenya Embassy in Pretoria	048291500400601	Kenya Embassy in Pretoria	479
11	Kenya Embassy in Pretoria	048291500400602	Kenya Embassy in Pretoria	479
12	Kenya Embassy in Juba	048291500500701	Kenya Embassy in Juba	489
13	Kenya Embassy in Juba	048291500500702	Kenya Embassy in Juba	488



Kenya readies for general elections

DIASPORA REGISTERED VOTERS AND POLLING STATIONS

S/NO	CENTRE	POLLING STATION CODE	POLLING STATION	REGISTERED
14	Kenya Embassy in Berlin	048291500600801	Kenya Embassy in Berlin	314
15	Kenya High Commission in London	048291500700901	Kenya High Commission in London	399
16	Kenya High Commission in London	048291500700902	Kenya High Commission in London	399
17	Kenya Embassy in Doha	048291500801001	Kenya Embassy in Doha	479
18	Kenya Embassy in Doha	048291500801002	Kenya Embassy in Doha	479
19	Kenya Embassy in Doha	048291500801003	Kenya Embassy in Doha	479
20	Kenya Embassy in Abu Dhabi	048291500901101	Kenya Embassy in Abu Dhabi	103
21	Kenya Consulate in Abu Dhabi	048291500901201	Kenya Consulate in Abu Dhabi	642
22	Kenya High Commission in Ottawa	048291501001301	Kenya High Commission in Ottawa	112
23	Kenya Honorary Consulate in Toronto	048291501001401	Kenya Honorary Consulate in Toronto	167
24	Kenya Honorary Consulate in Vancouver	048291501001501	Kenya Honorary Consulate in Vancouver	87
25	Kenya Embassy in Washington DC	048291501101601	Kenya Embassy in Washington DC	314
26	Kenya Consulate in New York	048291501101701	Kenya Consulate in New York	298
27	Kenya Consulate in Los Angeles	048291501101801	Kenya Consulate in Los Angeles	132
	TOTAL			10,443

Source: IEBC – Register of voters residing outside Kenya
https://www.iebc.or.ke/registration/?Statistics_of_Voter_2022



Kenya leads in securing the easing of the arms embargo on the Central Africa Republic

Amb. Macharia Kamau

The month of July offered an example of the geopolitical cut and thrust in the United Nations Security Council that is often hidden from public view. The negotiations over Resolution 2648 (2022) on the arms embargo against the Central African Republic (CAR) illustrated how the Council deals with Africa, and the critical importance of Pan Africanist positions by its three African members.

During the Friday 29th July vote on the adoption of the resolution — drafted and presented by France — Kenya abstained alongside Gabon, Ghana, China and the Russian Federation. The resolution was adopted with ten affirmative votes.

The abstentions reflected the countries' disaffection with the Council not fully lifting the arms embargo against the government as demanded by the African Union and the regional economic communities.

The African position has emerged in response to the significant political progress made by the Central African Republic government and its need to equal the military means deployed by armed groups that have resisted the peace process.

The resolution's adoption came after a spirited negotiation in which Kenya and Gabon insisted that the African position be respected by the Security Council. This in light of Chapter 8 of the UN Charter which "provides the constitutional basis for the involvement of regional organisations in the maintenance of international peace and security".

The African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) have argued that the embargo disadvantaged the government in its fight against the armed groups, which are illegally acquiring increasingly sophisticated weaponry.

In arguing against extending the sanctions measures, Kenya also observed that armed groups had been acquiring superior arms through illicit trafficking networks, financed by illegal exploitation of the country's natural resources. This had then greatly compromised the ability of government forces to impose law and order in the country.

Furthermore, Kenya called on the Council to take into consideration the views of the AU and its regional organisations, arguing that they had a better understanding and analysis of what was going on in the CAR.

On the back of the strong insistence by Kenya and Gabon, the Russian Federation offered an alternate draft resolution that was in keeping with the African Union position. This action suggested a willingness by the permanent member of the Council to use its veto against the French draft.

Kenya and Gabon also signaled their determination to vote 'no' if there were no amendments to the French draft in line with the African position and the views of the CAR. The alternate draft's presentation, with the support of the African countries, forced the 'penholder' France to quickly amend its draft.

The resulting resolution lifted the arms embargo against the government with exception that the 2127 Sanctions Committee will be notified of the supply, sale or transfer of arms, plus technical assistance related to military activities. The arms embargo in its full strength was extended against the armed groups.

The five abstentions came just one vote shy of the resolution not mustering the necessary numbers to be adopted. It was noticeable that the other elected members, who very often profess their support for the African position, in this instance chose to go against it. If at least a few embrace practical solidarity, rather than rhetorical stances, next year when the Council next considers the matter, there will be a full lifting of the arms embargo.

The concessions to the African position were hailed by the CAR Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sylvie Baïpo Temon. She welcomed progress in reversing the limitation of access to weapons for Government forces and for equipment purchases that would further security sector reform.

Kenya, in insisting that African files on the Council be considered from the region's perspective, was strengthening Africa's peace and security architecture. This is a continental capability that is key to resolving serious political and violent conflicts. Its success allows the African countries to sustain their hard-won sovereignty and political independence.

Last week, even as Kenya argued for the lifting of the arms embargo, its Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Martin Kimani, called on the Government of CAR and all parties in the country to redouble their efforts in implementing the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation through the Luanda Roadmap.



EAC Summit



President Uhuru Kenyatta during a high-level retreat on the EAC Common Market held at the EAC headquarters in Arusha on July 21, 2022

By Ian Abwao

His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya attended the 22nd Ordinary Summit of the East African Community (EAC) Heads of State in Arusha, Tanzania from July 20 – 21, 2022.

The Summit, whose theme was “**EAC: Deepening Integration, Widening Cooperation**” was preceded by a high-level retreat on the EAC Common Market where the East African leaders took stock of the progress of implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

In attendance were other Heads of State from the region; Excellences Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), Evariste Ndayishimiye (Burundi) and Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (Somalia - special guest of the summit). Also present at the function was the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.E. Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge, who represented President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo. South Sudan's Presidential Affairs Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin, who represented President Salva Kiir, Rwanda's Prime Minister Édouard Ngirente, who represented President Paul Kagame.

The High Level Retreat for the Summit on the EAC Common Market was held under the chairmanship of President Uhuru Kenyatta. During the summit deliberations were made at length on the vast opportunities available to the region under the protocol and how to exploit them for the benefit of all Partner States.

In his remarks, President Kenyatta said that infrastructure development was critical in attaining the region's objective of being one big market stretching from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. He said that East Africa would only attain the Common Market if its citizens were able to communicate easily, and to move and ferry goods freely across the region.

President Kenyatta stated that Kenya was keen to build transnational roads extending to all her borders, adding that the Multinational Bagamoyo-Horohoro-Lunga Lunga-Malindi Road stretching along the coasts of Kenya and Tanzania was currently under construction and would be launched soon.

He noted that the massive infrastructure development including modern railroads on both the Northern and Central Transport Corridors was meant to reduce the cost of movement of people and goods across the region. President Kenyatta stated that until the region is linked by infrastructure, it will remain a market for other nations and blocs rather than a producer of commodities for sale.

He indicated that by exporting minerals and raw materials, the region would essentially be exporting jobs, as it is currently, and that adding value to national products was critical. President Kenyatta stated that the EAC had a huge opportunity to prosper with its ever-expanding market and so minimize economic dependence on the developed world. He defended his government's policy of taking Chinese loans, claiming that without infrastructure development, Kenya, and by extension the EAC, will continue to be a major producer of raw materials.

The summit appointed H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta as a facilitator to oversee the implementation of the Nairobi process as provided for in the modality for the functioning of the EAC Panel of Eminent Persons and for the deployment of special envoys/representatives.

The summit commended H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta for chairing the community and for his stewardship of the affairs of the community during his tenure. The summit noted that the Republic of Kenya will conduct elections on 9th August 2022 and wished the government and the people of Kenya peaceful elections.



EAC achievements under President Uhuru Kenyatta as Chair

His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta on July 22, 2022 handed over the Chairmanship of the EAC to Burundi's President His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye after a very successful Chairmanship.

The achievements of EAC under President Uhuru Kenyatta's Chairmanship include:-

Strengthening economic, political and socio-cultural ties

The President of Kenya oversaw various State actions by Partner States that helped reaffirm social, political and trade relations between the EAC Partner States; such as high level engagements on bilateral trade and cooperation matters, strengthen political, trade and cultural ties.

Kenya and South Sudan waived the visa requirements for both their citizens from July 26, 2021. In line with Article 10 of the EAC Common Market Protocol, the two Partner States committed to allow workers from each of their countries to accept employment within each other's territory. South Sudan and Uganda also waived visa requirements for their nationals.

Warming of relations between Partner States that further deepened free movement of people, goods and services across EAC borders.

EAC – AfCFTA progress

In February 2022, the EAC submitted a Tariff Offer for Category A products consisting of 90.1% of tariff lines to be liberalized over a period of 10 years. This allows the start of trading on a provisional basis under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

To prepare the region for the rollout of the AfCFTA, the Secretariat has so far created awareness for over 1,700 stakeholders across the Partner States on matters relating to AfCFTA Rules of Origin, AfCFTA Agreements and other potential business opportunities for East Africans.

The EAC Secretariat hosted the 2nd Coordination Meeting of the Heads of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the implementation of the AfCFTA agreement in pursuit of the cooperation between the AfCFTA Secretariat and the RECs in the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

EAC Common External Tariff (CET) Historically, the EAC-CET comprised of a triple band structure for raw materials and capital goods (0%), intermediate goods (10%) and final goods (25%). However, on 5th May 2022, the EAC adopted a four-band structure for the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) of 0%, 10%, 25% and 35%. This move is set to spur intra-regional trade by encouraging local manufacturing, value addition and industrialization.

Common Market Protocol Retreat

A Common Market Protocol Retreat will be held on 21st July 2022. This Retreat will provide an opportunity to take stock of the progress, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol and provide strategic direction and impetus to accelerate its implementation as an important preparatory stage for the smooth implementation of the AfCFTA Protocol.

OSBPs

The EAC has fast-tracked the Operationalization of 13 One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) which have reduced the time it takes to cross a border post by 84%.

Customs

Efficiency in customs service has significantly improved and has largely contributed to the reduction in time and cost of doing business. The transit time has reduced from 21 days to 5 days along the Northern corridor from Mombasa to Kigali via Uganda. Similarly, on the Central corridor the transit time has reduced from 22 days to 4 days from Dar es Salaam to Kigali. Along the two corridors, costs have reduced by an average of 30%.

DRC joins EAC

The Community has expanded from six Partner States to seven with the admission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We look forward to a fast-tracked process to bring DRC fully on board as we seek to expand and entrench our common market.

Upon accession to the EAC - the Nairobi Process of the Inter-Congolese dialogue embarked with Kenya hosting three (3) Heads of State and Government Conclaves (8, 21 April and 20 June 2002) and the Nairobi - I dialogue (21-28 April ,2022) between the Government of DRC and representatives of local armed groups operating in Eastern DRC. A field Mission to Eastern DRC with the participation of the UN was also conducted in May 2022 The Nairobi -II Session of the Inter-Congolese dialogue is slated for end of July /early August 2022.

Regional COVID-19 Response Plan

The EAC adopted a comprehensive Regional COVID-19 Response Plan, to re-enforce measures to prevent further spread of the virus. Among the key initiative is the development of the EAC Pass, a web-based application, set to strengthen verification of test results and digital vaccination certificates.

Regional infrastructure development

Furthermore, the EAC has prioritised infrastructure development, championed at the highest political level by the EAC Heads of State. Several priority infrastructure projects identified include rail, roads, ports, energy, inland waterways, civil aviation, air transport, and ICT critical to facilitating the free movement of goods, services, and persons.

Example; Ongoing construction of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) for North Corridor (Mombasa to Kigali and beyond through Kampala) and the Central Corridor (Dar es Salaam to Bujumbura and Kigali and beyond).



CS Omamo bids farewell to outgoing Turkiye Ambassador

By Andrew Kuria

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo, bid farewell to H.E. Ahmet Cemil Miroglu, the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Kenya on July 25, 2022.

CS Omamo lauded the enhanced cooperation between Kenya and Turkiye both at bilateral and multi-lateral levels, especially in counter-terrorism, agriculture, health and trade.

She commended him for his exceptionally active tour of duty that promoted the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

The Cabinet Secretary appreciated the work of the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) as well as the important programmes and interventions by Turkish NGOs in Kenya.

CS Omamo reiterated that Kenya looks forward to continue working closely with Turkiye to address the common challenges and contribute to a better, peaceful and prosperous world.



CS Amb Raychelle Omamo and H.E. Ahmet Cemil Miroglu, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Kenya, on July 22, 2022.

Kenya Opens a Consulate in Arusha



CS, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, inaugurated the Kenya Consulate in Arusha on July 22, 2022.

Andrew Kuria

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Raychelle Omamo, inaugurated the Kenya Consulate in Arusha on July 22, 2022.

In her remarks Amb. Omamo said the Consulate will help deepen the excellent relations that exists between Kenya and Tanzania and also solidify relations between the East Africa Community as Arusha is the Headquarters of the EAC and the hub of activities of the Community.

"The opening of the Kenya consulate in Arusha will help strengthen and dynamize the excellent relations and cooperation between the two Governments and also EAC " the CS said.

She added that the opening of the Consulate is in line with Kenya's vision of expanding its diplomatic global foot-print in order to advance national interests at both regional and international levels in the context of the current changing global dynamics.

Present were the Consulate General Mr. Dennis Mburu and Director General, Bilateral and Political Affairs, Amb. Galma Boru.





PS Amb. Macharia Kamau attended and participated in the high-level talks, which were held in Maputo from July 18-20, 2022.

Second Kenya-Mozambique UNSC Joint Consultations

By Kevin Thuio

As part of the ongoing joint consultations between the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) delegations of Kenya and Mozambique, the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Amb. Macharia Kamau attended and participated in the high-level talks, which were held in Maputo from July 18-20, 2022.

These consultations follow previous such talks that were held in Nairobi from April 11 -14, 2022, at the request of the Government of Mozambique for Kenya to share her experiences as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Mozambique will be joining the Council on January 1, 2023 as an elected member for a 2-year term.

Kenya's delegation that was led by Amb. Michael Oyugi, the Director-General for Foreign Service Academy (FSA), consisted of officials from the Ministry Headquarters and those from Kenya's delegation to the UNSC in New York. Ambassador António Macheve, Director of Africa and Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique led the Mozambican delegation that consisted of officials from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Government of Mozambique.

Amb. Macharia Kamau expressed his gratitude to his counterpart, Permanent Secretary H.E. Mr. Francisco Neto Novela, for the warm hospitality extended to Kenya's delegation. In addition, Amb. Kamau reiterated the importance of continuous and deliberate sharing of views and experiences by African countries in the Council, noting that integrating of African efforts was crucial in creating synergies vital for the non-permanent members.

Likewise, the Principal Secretary commended the Mozambican government's initiative and determination to adequately prepare her UN Security Council Global teams before the country's deserved installation in January of 2023. He further reiterated the importance of proper coordination and communication between various government stakeholders for an effective whole-of-government approach to Council affairs.

On his part, Permanent Secretary Novela thanked his counterpart, Amb. Kamau, and the delegation of Kenya for the continued and active willingness to share experiences and lessons learnt at the Council, which were crucial in easing Mozambique's entry processes to the Council. Permanent Secretary Novela further pointed out that his government remained committed to continual Council collaborations with Kenya, pointing out that this was the right way to ensure a strong African voice at the Council.

A key outcome of the Kenya and Mozambique UNSC consultations was the concurrence of continued future and close working cooperation between the two countries, noting that the articulation of Africa's peace and security agenda at the Council could only be effective through such close collaborations.

Significantly, the Kenya-Mozambique joint UNSC consultations in Maputo coincided with the presentations of credentials by Amb. Paul Ndung'u to His Excellency President Filipe Nyusi. The accreditation of Amb. Paul Ndungu as Kenya's High Commissioner to Mozambique would further strengthen the bonds of friendship, diplomacy and commerce between the two countries.



Kenya, Bangladesh commit to strengthen bonds of friendship

By Kawira Githinji

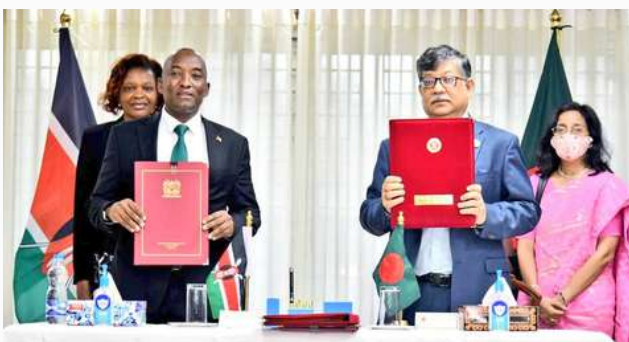
Kenya and Bangladesh signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on Political Consultations and between the Foreign Service Academies of the two countries on July 24, 2022.

The MOUs were signed in Dhaka, Bangladesh by Amb. Moi Lemoshira, Director General, Bilateral and Political Affairs for the Republic of Kenya and Amb. Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The MOUs seek to cement the bonds of friendship that exist between the two countries.

The Political Affairs agreement will establish a framework for regular and active diplomatic consultations between the two countries through reviewing progress in bilateral cooperation and identifying new areas of mutual benefit. The MOU on consultations will particularly allow for frequent exchange of views on bilateral matters as well as regional and international issues. The Foreign Service Academy agreement is aimed at sharing expertise; exchange of teaching modalities; encouragement of study and research; exchange of experts and faculty members; arrangement of programmes and exploring newer prospects.

Earlier in the day, Kenya and Bangladesh held the inaugural Foreign Office Consultations at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka. The outcome of this historical bilateral meeting forms the basis for renewed bilateral relations and structured engagement between Nairobi and Dhaka.

The highly successful meeting agreed to prioritize trade and investment cooperation and in this regard undertook to negotiate and conclude a revised Joint Commission for Cooperation arrangement, Bilateral Agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation, among other business-friendly measures. The two delegations also reaffirmed mutual commitment to closer partnership in climate change, blue economy, renewable energy, tourism and agriculture.



Kenya and Bangladesh signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on Political Consultations and between the Foreign Service Academies of the two countries on July 24, 2022.



Amb. Moi Lemoshira Director General, Bilateral and Political Affairs Kenya and Amb. Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary, MFA Bangladesh sign MOU's on July 24, 2022

The countries agreed to immediate exchange of visits by technical teams and business representatives to formalize and fast track action to promote common interests.

Speaking to the Bangladesh Press after the meeting, Amb. Lemoshira stated that the inaugural session presents an opportunity to discuss in-depth issues of mutual benefits and identify new areas of future cooperation especially in the areas of double taxation, ICT and Agriculture.

Kenya and Bangladesh have maintained warm and cordial longstanding diplomatic relations since the independence of Bangladesh in 1975. Bangladesh established its resident diplomatic representation in Nairobi since 1978 while Kenya's High Commission New Delhi is accredited to Dhaka. Kenya has appointed a Honorary Consul based in Dhaka Mr. Shafiullah Rana, a leading entrepreneur with business interests in various sectors.

Amb. Lemoshira was accompanied by Amb. Irene Oloo, Deputy High Commissioner of Kenya to New Delhi, Amb. Stella Orina, Ag. Director General, Foreign Service Academy, Ms. Winnie Mwanjala, Director, Asia, Australasia and Pacific Island Directorate, among other officials.

The Kenyan team also engaged the Bangladesh business organizations including the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) where they presented the case for trade and investment.

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Kenya, Bangladesh commit to strengthen their strong bonds of friendship



Amb. Moi Lemoshira Director General, Political and Bilateral Affairs led the Kenyan Delegation in the Consultations with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Dhaka on July 24, 2022. The Bangladesh team was led by Ms. Mashfee Binte Shams, Secretary (East).

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On July 25, 2022, Director General Amb. Moi Lemoshira, held a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Dhaka Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka, Bangladesh today.

Discussions focused on ways of enhancing trade and investments between the two countries especially in the areas of food security, agriculture, textile, air connectivity, pharmaceuticals, ICT, Tourism, trade and investments. Amb. Lemoshira highlighted the need for both countries to align future cooperation to national development priorities through private sector lead partnership. He called for cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry to promote mutual benefits of the two countries.

On July 26, 2022, Amb. Moi Lemoshira led the Kenyan Delegation to a meeting with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Discussions focused on potential areas of investment to expand trade and investments between the two countries. In his remarks during the bilateral talks, Mr. Mostofa Azad Chowdhury Babu, Senior Vice President of FBCCI expressed appreciation for the meeting which he said was the first such level engagement with Kenya government officials.

They agreed to support measures to formalize ties between FBCCI and business organizations in Kenya. FBCCI undertook to present a draft MOU on cooperation with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and welcomed the proposal to undertake a visit to Kenya. Amb. Lemoshira encouraged the Bangladesh investors to invest in Kenya by aligning with Kenya's Big Four Agenda.

"To invest in Kenya is to invest in Africa," - Amb Lemoshira stated. He informed that Kenya is a gateway to Africa's hinterland.

On July 27, 2022 the Kenya delegation to Bangladesh for the inaugural Bilateral Consultations also visited the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) in the outskirts of the capital city of Dhaka. During the meeting with BEPZA team led by Mr. Ali Reza Mazid, Secretary of the agency, Amb. Moi Lemoshira, Director General, Bilateral and Political Affairs called for strong partnership between the BEPZA and the Kenya Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA).

Amb. Lemoshira presented Kenya's readiness to jointly hold trade and investment conferencing with Bangladesh as part of exposing its business community to take advantage of huge markets in regional bodies like EAC, COMESA and the new AfCFTA. Later the delegation toured CKDL one of the world's largest garment company owned by BEPZA group.



The Kenya delegation to Bangladesh for the inaugural Bilateral Consultations visited the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) in the outskirts of the capital city of Dhaka. on July 27, 2022.



CS Omamo bids farewell to outgoing India's High Commissioner



CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo bid farewell to outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Kenya His Excellency Dr. Virander Paul on July 16, 2022.

By Esther Matheri

Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo bid farewell to outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Kenya His Excellency Dr. Virander Paul on July 16, 2022.

The Cabinet Secretary commended the outgoing High Commissioner for his immense contribution to deepening Kenya-India relations during his tenure.

"The long-standing friendly ties between Kenya and India have enabled excellent cooperation in the areas of agriculture, education, transport, and health, particularly Covid 19 - all geared towards enhancing and accelerating the relations and building partnerships," the CS said.

During the meeting, the CS thanked Dr. Paul for his outstanding work in Kenya during his tenure and encouraged continuous bilateral and multilateral partnerships between India and Kenya.

The Cabinet Secretary wished the High Commissioner success in his next duty.

Before taking up his present assignment as High Commissioner of India to Kenya, Dr. Paul was Additional Secretary (BIMSTEC, SAARC & Nalanda) in the Ministry of External Affairs, dealing with multilateral engagement in India's neighborhood.

Kenya hosts IGAD 39th Extraordinary Assembly

By Fridah Wambugu

Kenya hosted the 39th Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) summit in Nairobi on July 5, 2022.

This summit was an unmistakable sign of solidarity in the region, where the Heads of State met to discuss matters of maintaining peace, prosperity and regional integration.

The Assembly was chaired by H.E. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan who is the chair of Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of Sudan.

In attendance were Heads of State and Government from the 8 member states including; - H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta (Kenya), H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh (Djibouti), H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed (Ethiopia), H.E. Dr. James Wani Igga (South Sudan), H.E. Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid (Somalia) and H.E. Vincent Bamulakangi Ssempiija (Uganda). IGAD Foreign Ministers, Partners and Ambassadors also participated.

Discussions focused on Peace and Security, and Drought and Natural disasters situations in the region. During the summit, it was noted that terrorism, violent extremism, proliferation of illegal arms, illegal immigration, human trafficking and conflicts are among the main drivers of instability.

Members lauded the establishment of the Trilateral AU-IGAD-UN Mechanism which has greatly facilitated lasting solution to the political situation in Sudan. Members agreed to collaboratively and diplomatically address national and political issues of great impact to the region.

There was alarm over the humanitarian and health situation in the region which has continued to deteriorate due to prolonged drought as a result of Covid-19, Russia-Ukraine war, among other issues. Member states were urged to work with permanent solutions to chronic drought and food insecurity plaguing the region.

International Humanitarian partners, Governments and other stakeholders were called upon to focus all their efforts and commitments towards preventing further worsening of the situation and to scale up livelihood programmes to protect affected livelihoods.

IGAD reiterated on its commitment to support and create enabling conditions for durable solutions by addressing protection, humanitarian development and peace related needs.



PS Kamau meets U.S Assistant Secretary of State in Washington DC



PS Amb. Macharia Kamau (2nd Left) and the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Mary Catherine Phee (3rd Left) in Washington DC on July 8, 2022

By Rose Kithae

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb. Macharia Kamau, held bilateral talks with Hon. Mary Catherine Phee, the U.S Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in Washington DC, on July 8, 2022.

The PS and the US Assistant Secretary of State discussed issues of bilateral, regional and global importance between the two countries and regional peace and security situation.

Amb. Kamau appreciated the strong partnership existing between Kenya and the US in diverse areas of cooperation. In addition, he stated that Kenya is ready to hold free, fair and peaceful elections scheduled for August 9, 2022. He further requested the United States and the International community to support Kenya during the transition period without interfering with its internal process.

Hon. Phee thanked Kenya for enhancing its democratic credentials in the region. On the upcoming elections, she informed that the U.S expected that Kenyan will demonstrate its growing democracy and use the election to showcase its leadership and credibility in the region and the globe.

Regarding the prevailing global food insecurity, Hon. Phee said that the U.S would support the regional disaster response systems and that Kenya was one of the beneficiaries of the US \$20 million support to tackle food shortage.

On the issue of peace and security in the region, PS Kamau informed that Kenya as the current chair of the East African Community (EAC) has initiated several regional efforts to bring peace and stability including dialogue and other peaceful mechanism.

Bangladesh National Defence College conducts study tour in Kenya

By Evance Ogutu

A delegation from the Bangladesh National Defence College led by the Air Vice- Marshal Muhammad Shafqat visited Kenya on a study tour on July 17 - 21, 2022.

The delegation that consisted of 35 faculty members and students were on a learning mission to Kenya's institutions; - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Museums of Kenya, National Assembly, National Police Service Headquarters, Kenya Meat Commission, Isuzu East Africa as well as Nairobi National Park.

The purpose of the visit was to deepen the understanding of political, socio-economic, industrial, security and defence aspects of Kenya.

The officers had a productive engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegation led by Amb. Moi Lemoshira, Director General, Bilateral and Political affairs, who gave a talk on Kenya's Foreign Policy Framework, its principles and key determinants.



Group Photo : Amb. Stella Orina, Ag. Director General of Foreign Service Academy with the Bangladesh Head of National Defence College, Air Vice-Marshal Muhammad Shafqat Ali, Amb. Moi Lemoshira and the Bangladesh NDC delegation in Nairobi

In addition, the status of bilateral relations between the two countries was also shared as evident in the 25 years of engagements especially on textile, pharmaceutical products and fresh produce.

With regards to sighted similarities on climate change challenges, Kenya assured the guests about its commitment to bring down emissions under the auspices of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other global partnerships.



Kenya joins the World in mourning PM Shinzo Abe



PS Amb. Macharia Kamau signs the condolence book at Japan Embassy in Nairobi following the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

By David Gatobu

On July 8, 2022, Kenya and the World were thrown into a state of shock and grief following the cruel and sudden demise of former Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe following his assassination at a political campaign meeting.

President Uhuru Kenyatta joined world leaders in mourning Abe and expressed shock at the former Japanese leader's sudden demise and termed him as a dear friend and development ally of the Kenyan nation.

"It is utterly shocking and somewhat unbelievable to learn of the death of my friend, and one of Kenya's foremost development allies, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in a savage shooting incident," President Uhuru said.

Abe visited Nairobi in his capacity as Prime Minister in August 2016 when the Governments of Kenya and Japan co-hosted the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 6) Conference, during which he held bilateral talks with President Kenyatta at State House, Nairobi.

On July 13, 2022, Principal Secretary Amb. Macharia Kamau visited the Japanese Embassy in Nairobi and offered the Government of Japan sincere condolences over the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The PS eulogised him as a humble and committed man to Japan and the World, particularly the developing world.

"As the Prime Minister he visited Kenya during TICAD conference held in 2016. He was a champion of the partnerships between our nations and the friendship between our people," PS Kamau said.

"Kenya stands with Japan in this moment of grief. This tragic event has denied us his support, commitment and continued leadership for the issues that are important to our world," Abe will be remembered as one of, if not, the longest serving Japanese Prime Minister in modern history having served four consecutive terms from 2006 up to his retirement in 2020.

In his passing he is being remembered by many world leaders and scholars as the most consequential Japanese leader, the preeminent statesman of the Indo-Pacific, whose realist approach helped build a cooperative security network in East Asia, as an effective diplomat and champion of the current "Global Economic Order," PS Kamau said.

He was 67 at the time of his passing with many domestic and international awards and honours conferred to him during his tenure as Prime Minister.

"As the Prime Minister he visited Kenya during TICAD conference held in 2016. He was a champion of the partnerships between our nations and the friendship between our people"
Amb. Macharia Kamau



PS Macharia Kamau participates at the Sustainable Development Forum in New York



PS Amb. Macharia Kamau participating as a speaker at the HLPF on Sustainable Development in New York on July 7, 2022

By Kawira Githinji

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb. Macharia Kamau participated at the High-Level Political Forum of Sustainable Development held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on July 7, 2022.

The Forum themed, “working towards the 2023 SDG Summit” focused on identifying the key challenges and best ways for the 2030 SDG Summit to add value to the outcomes.

Speaking at the Forum that was chaired by ECOSOC, PS Kamau highlighted the health challenges caused by Covid-19 saying it has had serious social, economic and even political ramification which has clearly unearthed the structural and systematic fault line at national and global discourse.

The PS underscored the urgent need to find ways and means of reducing the Covid- 19 negative impacts on the implementation and realization of SDGs. He stressed that the 2023 SDG Summit should therefore focus on the implementation gaps surrounding the actualization of the SDGs.

To best prepare for the 2023 Summit, Amb. Macharia called for a national, regional and global level engagement of all stakeholders, from the grassroots level.

“Intergenerational equity is paramount and the need for inclusion of women, youth, children, indigenous people, civil society organizations and private sector business community must be key focus as they will remain the implementers of the SDGs, PS Kamau stated.

The Principal Secretary added that a lot can be achieved through enhanced multilateralism and support from development partners. He noted that if technology capacity is equitably shared by the global north to the global south, acceleration action can be realized through various sectors such as agriculture, marine shipping and technology advancement.

Amb. Macharia Kamau stated that Kenya has been steady in showcasing leadership role on advocacy for the global issues linked to SDGs by taking initiative such as hosting the recent global conferences such as UNEA 5.2 which lead to the landmark adopted resolution on ending plastic pollution, the Stockholm+50 cohosted with Sweden and the recent Ocean Conference cohosted with Portugal in Lisbon.

Kenya believes there is need for new policies and initiatives to not only support the implementation of the SDGs but to also ensure the progress made throughout the 2030 Agenda continues on an upward scale.

“We believe that we can only achieve this if we ensure we have well equipped institutions and well established specialized agencies that are not polarized or politicized but support the work of member states including through their voluntary commitments,” the PS said.

He stressed on the representation from the private sector business community, NGOs and CSOs saying they must be involved in the preparatory process of the summit. He noted that the private sector plays a key role in accelerating action and in providing alternative financing towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

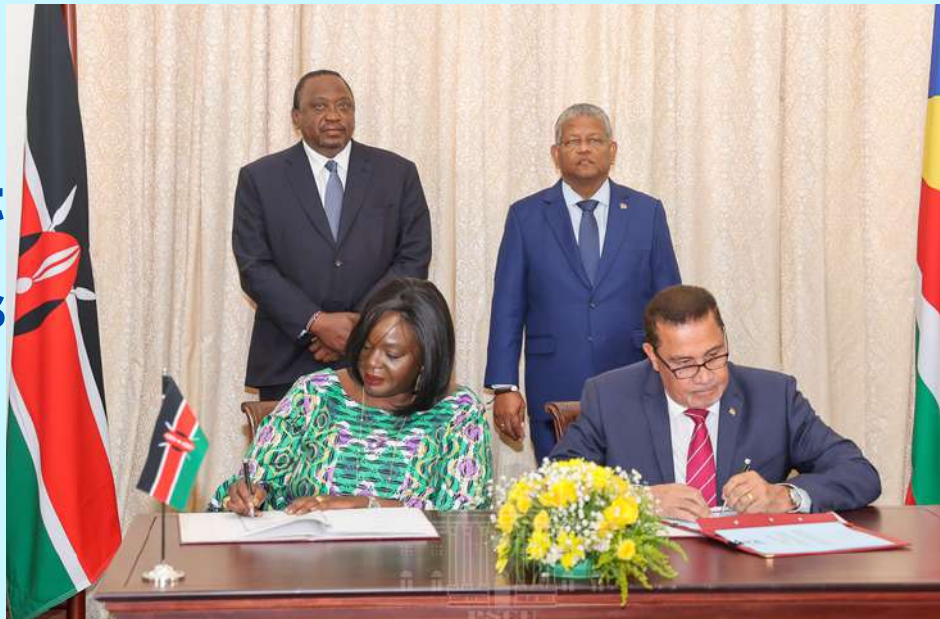
To make the Summit unique, PS Macharia suggested that interactive dialogues with multistakeholder approach should be prioritized to amplify the voices of women and other vulnerable groups.



President Kenyatta conducts State Visit to Seychelles

Kenya and Seychelles signed a record 10 agreements to cement the historical cordial diplomatic relations on July 18, 2022

By Sophia Wamuti



On invitation of his Seychelles counterpart, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta conducted an official three days State Visit to the Republic of Seychelles from July 17, 2022.

During the visit, 10 legal frameworks were signed following a session of bilateral consultations in the Salle Maritime that saw key Kenyan delegates present, namely the Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo, Amb. George Orina, Director-General for Multilateral, International Affairs and UNON; and Amb. Frederick Matwang'a, Director for Economic Affairs and Commercial Diplomacy.

After deliberations, the Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) were signed on behalf of Kenya by the Cabinet Secretary Amb. Omamo and the Seychellois Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, H.E. Minister Sylvestre Radegonde.

Other MOUs signed were in the areas of Peace, Security and Law Enforcement at Sea, Defense Cooperation Agreement, Tourism Development, Maritime Affairs, field of Sports, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, and the Blue Economy sector.

Moreover, bilateral cooperation in the promotion of partnership on Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment, cooperation in the field of Security and Crime Combatting between the Seychellois Police Force and the Kenya National Police Service and lastly, in the area of Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperative sectors.

During a Press Conference held after the historical signing, both Presidents addressed the guests at State House that included both the Kenyan delegation and Seychellois Ministers. President Ramkalawan expressed his appreciation towards President Kenyatta and the entire Kenyan delegation, recognizing with satisfaction that the State Visit was a testimony to the importance of their long-standing friendship and a chance for new impetus.

They both reiterated the establishment of their diplomatic relations was tied all the way back to January 1990, notwithstanding both African States held strong people-to-people ties based on history and the multi-faceted partnerships.

The President of Seychelles expressed tremendous gratitude with the assistance that Kenya provided by sending over 100 Kenyan workers in the field land management and education to Seychelles especially during the Covid-19 pandemic where Kenya assisted the Seychellois people with health workers.

President Ramkalawan noted there were approximately 847 Kenyans in Seychelles and invited Kenya to establish an Honorary Consulate to assist the many Kenyans working and living in the country.

Jointly, they underscored the fruitful bilateral discussions and declared to solidify their cooperation especially in areas of trade, investment, and the fight against trafficking and maritime security.

Kenya and Seychelles were not only affirming their existing substantial bilateral cooperation in various areas of cooperation such as education, agriculture, civil aviation but also re-affirming and strengthening in more areas of cooperation.

President Kenyatta visited the Seychelles National Assembly during an Extraordinary session where he addressed the Ministers. He urged them to uphold legal frameworks that ensured fundamental rights and freedom of people, ensuring equity and justice for the people and the promotion of the rule of law. President Kenyatta added that as parliamentarians they should ensure the country's resources were effectively distributed and utilized.

President Kenyatta was engaged in various other activities during his State Visit, chief among them was hosting the President of Seychelles to a luncheon onboard the Kenya Navy battleship JASIRI, planting of the coco de mer (double coconut) seed in the Botanical Garden as a symbolic gesture of his visit to Seychelles, visiting the tortoise park where he fed the Aldabra giant tortoises, and lastly a day-long guided tour of the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve on Praslin Island.

H.E. President Kenyatta departed on Tuesday after having witnessed the strengthening of existing solid diplomatic ties with Seychelles as the signing of the 10 MOUs was a moment to explore new grounds in which both States could reaffirm their partnership in shared interests of development and prosperity for both Kenya and Seychelles.



Official visit by the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia



H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Federal Republic of Somalia counterpart Hassan Sheikh Mohamud at State House, Nairobi on July 15, 2022

By Evance Ogutu

His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta invited his Somali Counterpart President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, for bilateral talks at State House Nairobi on July 15, 2022. He congratulated him on his election as President of the Federal Republic of Somalia and lauded the people of Somalia for a peaceful election and transition.

The two Heads of State led their delegations in high-level bilateral talks which reviewed a wide range of bilateral, regional and multilateral issues, with emphasis on strengthening the existing bilateral ties between the two countries defined by a common desire for peace, stability, prosperity and respect for the sovereign and territorial integrity of both Kenya and Somalia.

They reaffirmed the shared commitment of the two countries to work together on areas of mutual interest and to deepen bilateral relations. They also recommitted to the fight against terrorism by directing the security agencies of the two countries to coordinate their efforts in this fight to ensure the safety and protection of the citizens of both countries.

Kenya and Somalia agreed to collaborate with other regional and international actors to provide the much-needed humanitarian assistance to mitigate the effects of the current drought in the Horn of Africa region. Further they agreed that the Kenya Airways (KQ) scheduled flights to Mogadishu to resume immediately based on the existing Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA).

The two countries agreed to facilitate, diversify and promote trade and economic cooperation between them. It was directed that the immediate market access of fish and fish products from Somalia to Kenya and vice versa, as well as the resumption of trade in Khat (miraa) from Kenya to Somalia to resume with immediate effect.

H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta and H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud agreed on ways to securing the movement of people and enhance trade in goods and services.

They directed that the Joint Commission for Co-operation (JCC) between Kenya and Somalia be convened in Mogadishu in August 2022 to discuss and agree on matters of mutual interest such as joint security activities, defense, agriculture, trade, intelligence exchange, health, education, training in various fields, and continuous review of the visa regime.

CS Omamo bids farewell to UNICEF Representative

By Andrew Kuria

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo, bid farewell to Ms. Maniza Zaman, the outgoing United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Resident Representative on July 29, 2022.

Ms. Zaman paid a farewell call on the Cabinet Secretary at the end of her three-year tour of duty as Resident Representative of UNICEF.

CS Omamo congratulated her on the successful completion of her tour of duty and appreciated her achievements during her tenure particularly with Ministry of Health and line Ministries in vaccination of preventable diseases, combatting malnutrition and also in addressing Covid 19, response to drought, and protecting rights of children.



The Cabinet Secretary also lauded UNICEF for its collaboration with Government of Kenya on reform, development and piloting of new curriculum. She affirmed Kenya's commitment towards ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; enhancing social protection systems and universal health coverage.

Ms Zaman commended Kenya leadership in education especially on development of CBC and digital learning, environment and also dealing with Covid 19.



Kenya and Guinea-Bissau Strengthen Bilateral Relations



Kenya and Guinea-Bissau signed three agreements to deepen economic and social ties between the two countries on July 15, 2022.

By Sophia Wamuti and Bayaan Mohamed

On July 14, 2022, His Excellency President Umaro Sissoco Embaló of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau arrived in Kenya for a three-day State Visit and was received by the Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Raychelle Omamo. The President jetted into the country for bilateral talks and the signing of legal agreements with the Republic of Kenya that would strengthen the long-standing mutually beneficial ties the two nations enjoyed.

During the State Visit, H.E. President Sissoco Embaló held bilateral talks with H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta. The bilateral talks aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations between Kenya and Guinea-Bissau.

Furthermore, the State Visit offered an opportunity for the two countries to seek deeper collaboration in various fields that include trade and investment, education, health, agriculture, security, transport, maritime & the Blue Economy, innovations & capacity building for mutual benefit of both states.

During the bilateral talks held in State House, three agreements were signed to deepen diplomatic relations between Kenya and Guinea-Bissau.

These included agreements to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) which aimed at establishing a framework for bilateral consultations and cooperation between the two African states in various fields of economics, commercial, scientific education, cultural and technical matters.

Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on the establishment of Political and Diplomatic Consultations between the two states and another MOU between the Foreign Service Academy of Kenya and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.



Expanding ties with Cuba, Kenyan Ambassador's ambition



Amb. Gathoga W. Chege, Kenya's envoy to Cuba presented his Letters of Credence to H.E Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the Republic of Cuba at the Palace of the Revolution on July 7, 2022

By Cuba Embassy

Expanding and diversifying ties with Cuba in a collaboration that is fruitful for both countries is the top priority of Kenya's new ambassador to the island, Amb. Gathoga W. Chege.

"We have very good agreements in the improvement of health in my country where today a hundred doctors are working in various communities; we must take this assistance to other areas of this important sector," Amb. Chege told Prensa Latina, who presented Letter of Credence to President Miguel Diaz-Canel on Thursday.

The Ambassador pointed out that 50 Kenyan doctors travelled to Cuba to specialize in primary health care as family doctors, "and another 45 will come, while young people are undergraduate medical sciences students here".

Kenya is very grateful to the Cuban government, "for the great help they gave us when the Covid-19 pandemic hit us hard. Doctors from the Henry Reeve Brigade spared no effort and risk to cure and save lives in my country," stressed the head of mission, who described this gesture of solidarity as unforgettable.

We also collaborated in the fight to eradicate malaria, particularly in the Lake Victoria region, where the disease is endemic," he added.

But we must go further, he stressed. "We must invigorate and diversify cooperation into the fields of biotechnology, vaccine development, trade, agriculture, sports and culture," Chege said.

The Ambassador said that in co-production partnership with Cuban companies, Kenya can become a bridge for the distribution and marketing of vaccines and other biopharmaceuticals in East African countries. "That negotiation is on the agenda," he said.

He also hopes to expand collaboration in sport. "Kenya is very good at long-distance running, we can provide assistance in these specialties and receive help in boxing, high jump and baseball in which Cuba excels," he suggested.

Amb. Chege assured that Kenya will continue to collaborate in multilateral fora on issues of mutual interest and support for candidacies, "and will continue to demand an end to the unjust US economic and commercial blockade" against the island.

Amb. Gathoga W. Chege is Kenya's second head of mission to the island since Nairobi opened its embassy in 2016, the African country's first in the Caribbean and Central America.

From Havana, Amb. Chege will be concurrent Ambassador to all Caribbean Community member countries, as well as Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Dominican Republic and Venezuela where he plans to present credentials in the coming weeks.

"The Kenyan government is very keen to solidify relations with these countries," said the diplomat, who said that in its current foreign policy Nairobi sees the peoples of the Caribbean as the African diaspora with which it wishes to increasingly strengthen ties.

Amb. Gathoga W. Chege is Kenya's second head of mission to the island since Nairobi opened its embassy in 2016, the African country's first in the Caribbean and Central America.



The 9th Session of the General Assembly of the State Parties at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

By Phillip Opwora

The 9th Session of the General Assembly of the State Parties to the convention for the Safe Guarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage took place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris from July 5 - 7 2022.

Over the three days, 180 state parties gathered to discuss issues that are important for safe guarding of living heritage around the world and the future of the convention. These include; the global reflection of the listing mechanisms of the Convention, the plan for the use of the resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and the Accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

Kenya attended and participated at the meeting. The Kenyan delegation was led by Amb. Hellen Gichuhi, Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Kenya to UNESCO.

The key highlights from the Convention include Election of the Bureau, Resolution of the General Assembly and the Kiswahili Day.

The General Assembly took note of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on living heritage and commended the Secretariat for the adjustments made to its statutory and operational activities in response to the Pandemic.

The Assembly further appreciated the progress made in thematic activities such as intangible cultural heritage and climate change, commercialization, education and urban contexts. The importance of ensuring synergies with UNESCO's cultural conventions and other relevant programs were encouraged.

The General Assembly accredited thirty-three (33) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee.

The NGOs from under-represented Electoral Groups that meet the criteria for accreditation were encouraged to submit their requests for accreditation in order to improve the geographical distribution of the accredited NGOs.



Amb. Hellen Gichuhi, Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO moderating a roundtable discussion on the cultural, historical and pedagogical aspects of Kiswahili

On the status and trends of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund, the Assembly appreciated its donors and contributors that supported the Convention and its Secretariat.

The Assembly welcomed the initiative to celebrate the twentieth anniversary as well as the main themes proposed for the campaign.

The State Parties and other stakeholders of the Convention were invited to provide financial support for the anniversary celebrations with the modality of their choice. They were also encouraged to join the celebration by organizing national events and activities to promote objectives of the Convention, take stock of past achievements and explore further development.

On 7th July 2022, the Kiswahili Day was celebrated at the Convention led by Swahili speaking African Countries.

The Permanent Delegation of Tanzania to UNESCO spearheaded the Commemoration of the World Kiswahili Language Day at the UNESCO Headquarters, in partnership with the Permanent Delegations of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda to UNESCO, with technical support from UNESCO's Sector for Priority Africa and External Relations (PAX).

The ceremony commenced with a video message by Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, followed by a statement by H.E. Ernest Niyokindi, Permanent delegate of Burundi to UNESCO, a video messages by H.E. Amb. Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage of Kenya, H.E. Amb Minata Samaté Cessouma, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union Commission. Honorable Tabia Maulid Mwita, Tanzania's Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports was also in attendance to deliver a keynote speech during the inaugural ceremony.

Amb. Hellen Gichuhi, Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO moderated a roundtable discussion, which reviewed the cultural, historical and pedagogical aspects of Kiswahili, as well as the youth-led solutions and ideas for the promotion of Kiswahili in the technology and art domains.

Cultural performances and a cocktail followed, with the participation of renowned Tanzanian poet, Mr Mrisho Mpoto, who recited Shabaan Robert's poem: "Titi la Mama". The cocktail included different cuisines from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The formal commemoration concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Firmin E. Matoko, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations and H.E. Samwel W. Shelukindo, Permanent Delegate of the United Republic of Tanzania to UNESCO.



Kenya and Sweden sign MoU on Bilateral Trade and Commercial Relations



CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo, and Hon. Anna Halberg, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden signed the MoU on Bilateral Trade and Commercial Relations on July 14, 2022.

By Daniel Mokaya

On July 14, 2022, Kenya and Sweden signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on strengthening bilateral trade and commercial relations.

The MOU was signed virtually by Amb. Raychelle Omamo, the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, and Hon. Anna Halberg, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden.

The signing of the MOU is a culmination of efforts by both Kenya and Sweden to deepen their bilateral relations in various fields, especially on trade, commercial and other economic sectors.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, CS Omamo said that Kenya and Sweden enjoy deep relations and cooperation in other areas such as gender equality, human rights, environmental protection among others.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that the MOU is the first trade and investment agreement to be signed between Kenya and Sweden. She noted that Kenya offers an ideal opportunity for Sweden's strategic economic interests not only in the country, but also in the wider East African region.

She pointed out that due to the strategic importance of Kenya in the African continent, Kenya is the gateway to the East African Community market, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The Cabinet Secretary was optimistic that with the signing of the MOU, Kenya will narrow the imbalance of trade against Sweden by increasing its exports to the Nordic country.



Hon. Halberg hailed the long and close relationship between Sweden and Kenya. She said that Sweden was committed to strengthening the relationship by enhancing trade and investment with Kenya.

Amb. Johnson Weru, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Trade, Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, H.E Diana Kiambuthi, Kenya's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Amb. Angeline Musili, the Director for Europe and Commonwealth, and Amb. Frederick Matwang'a, Director for Economic Affairs and Commercial Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Officers from Kenya Embassy in Stockholm attended the meeting.

From the Swedish side, Hon. Halberg was accompanied by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Kenya, H.E Caroline Vicini who witnessed the signing from Nairobi. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden were also present.

POEM

Environment of Peace

I yearn to live in a place full of peace
Where everybody can stay with ease.
Such a place would I dream of staying
Where children can stay all day playing,
For nothing is juicy and sweet than peace.

I dream of staying where there is tranquility
For peace will bear forth unbreakable unity.
Where we wouldn't need the riot police
For always there will be nothing amiss.
Surely nothing is juicy and sweet than peace.

To live in a place as serene as a stream
Is always my prayer, my hope, and my dream.
Where corruption, poverty, hunger are history,
And we will live to tell a sweet story,
For nothing is juicy and sweet than peace.

Therefore I kneel and beseech thee, countrymen,
That you may all agree to sign this agreement,
Then will we cure all bruises and diseases,
For without peace you will be left in pieces.
Oh, yes! Nothing is juicy and sweet than peace.

By
Julius Kiptoo Bargorett



IN BRIEF



His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta arrives at a Nairobi hotel for the 39th Extraordinary Assembly of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Heads of State and Government Summit on July 5, 2022

He was received by Foreign Affairs PS Amb. Macharia Kamau.

CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo met with International Observers accredited to monitor the 2022 Kenyan Elections on August 2, 2022.

Together with ICT CS Joe Mucheru and IG of Police Hillary Mutyambai assured of Government commitment in ensuring the holding of free and fair elections.

77 groups have been accredited as election observers. CS Mucheru assured that 96% of the country is covered through the 49 network.



PS Amb. Macharia Kamau received Mr. Anthony Ngorano, UNDP Resident Representative who paid a courtesy call after presentation of credentials on July 11, 2022.

They discussed multilateral cooperation in Climate Change Diplomacy among other areas.



IN BRIEF

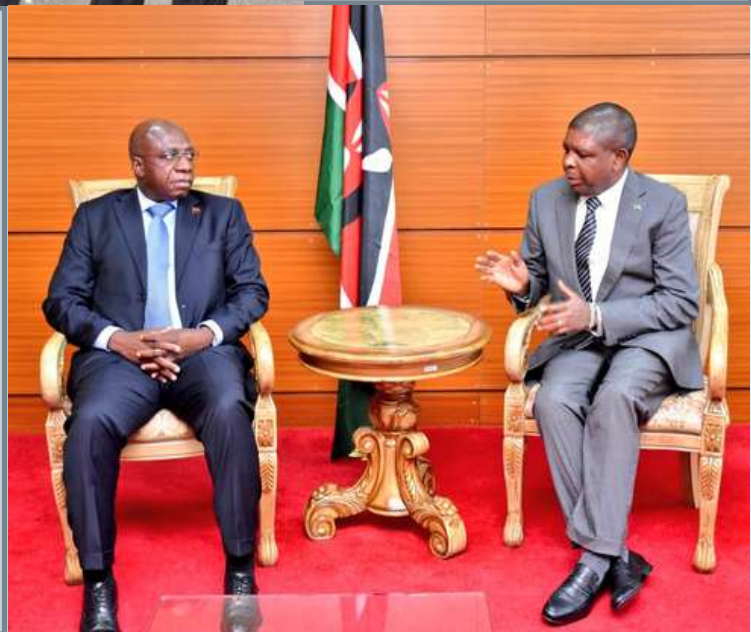


The President of Somalia H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamud arrived in Nairobi for an official visit on July 15, 2022.

He was received at JKIA by Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Hon. Peter Munya and MFA Director General Amb. Isaiya Kabira.

Angolan Foreign Minister Tete António arrived in the country on July 29, 2022, he was received at JKIA by Secretary Foreign Service Administration Amb. Maikara.

The Foreign Minister was in the country to deliver a special message to President Uhuru Kenyatta from Angolan President João Gonçalves Lourenço.



Amb. Stella Orina, Ag. Director General of Foreign Service Academy with the Bangladesh Head of National Defence College, Air Vice- Marshall Muhammad Shafqat Ali, who paid a courtesy call on Foreign Service Academy in Nairobi on July 19, 2022.

Mr. Ali was leading a delegation of officers from the Bangladesh National Defence College, who were on a study tour aimed at deepening their understanding of political, socio-economic, industrial, security and defence aspects of Kenya.



IN BRIEF



Amb. Gathoga W. Chege, Kenya's envoy to Cuba on July 7, 2022 presented his Letters of Credence to H.E. Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the Republic of Cuba at the Palace of the Revolution.

Present were Amb. Yabesh Monari, Head of Chancery and acting Foreign Minister

High Commissioner Paul Ndungu, Kenya's High Commissioner to Maputo presented Letters of Credence to H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique on July 21, 2022.

HC Ndung'u is the first resident High Commissioner following the establishment of Kenya High Commission Maputo in October 2021.



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo Mr. Christophe Lutundula received Kenya's Consul General to Goma, Brig (Rtd) JL Mrashui EBS when he presented his Letter of Commission on July 27, 2022.

He was accompanied by the Ambassador of Kenya to DRC, Dr. George Masafu.



IN BRIEF



Foreign Affairs first Director General Amb. Galma Boru officially handed over office to the incoming Director General Amb. Moi Lemoshira.

PS Amb. Macharia Kamau commended the outgoing DG for enhanced performance. He urged the incoming DG to further enhance the Ministry's mandate for the service of Kenyans. Amb Galma is the Ambassador - designate to Indonesia.

"I have handed over leadership of Europe and Commonwealth Directorate to the new Director, Amb. Lucy Kiruthu, following the recent reshuffle in which I was deployed as Director, Americas and the Caribbean Directorate. I take this opportunity to thank CS, PS, DG Galma and all colleagues for the support and cooperation during my tenure in the Directorate. Kindly accord the same to my sister, Balozi Lucy." - **Amb. Angeline Musili**



"On Primeiro de Augusto, I formally handed over the reins at FSA to Amb. Stella Orina. I appreciated Balozi for her enormous support and new ideas in the running of the Academy and wished all the success in her new seat. May all colleagues accord her their full support. With the FS Act, the Academy is at a turning point. As the primary capacity- building agency of MFA, all of us on the platform have a contribution to make to give further traction to FSA. I'm indebted to the CS, PS, DG B&Pol plus other colleagues for their perennial support. Mucha gracias y adios todos." - **Amb. Michael Oyugi**

" I have formally handed over the portfolio of the Director General Multilateral and International Affairs to Amb. George Orina. Please extend him the usual cooperation." - **Amb. Salim Salim**





IN BRIEF



"This is to inform that I have relinquished position as Acting Secretary Foreign Service Administration and formally handed-over to Amb. Josphat Maikara. Pending any formal notification from the new SFSA, please join me to welcome him back to the Headquarters and to wish him the very best in his new assignment. I look forward to continue working closely with each and everyone and certainly to give Amb. Maikira every support possible. Thank you for all your cooperation during my short tenure as Ag. SFSA and many blessings! - **Amb. Moi Lemoshira**

"I have handed over the affairs of EAC and Great Lakes Region Directorate to Amb. Catherine Mogaka.

Wishing her all the best as she serves our Country in the Directorate," - **Amb. Nyambura Kamau**



"I have formally handed over Africa and AU Directorate to the incoming Director, Amb. Yabesh Oreni Monari. I informed him of the centrality of Africa in the implementation of our Foreign Policy. I wished Amb. Monari the very best in his new assignment," - **Amb. George Orina**



Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo hands over a souvenir coffee table book to H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta. The book features key highlights of 10 years of Diplomatic Excellence under President Kenyatta .

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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