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# President Kenyatta presides over high level event dubbed 'On The Road to Lisbon'



On the sidelines of the Stockholm+50 international meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden, H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta presided over a High Level Side Event dubbed - '**On The Road to Lisbon**' on June 3, 2022.

The event themed, '**Scaling Up Oceans Solutions towards Sustainable Development for People, Planet and Population**' was moderated by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb. Macharia Kamau who said the event provided a platform to raise awareness and acted as a buildup engagement towards the 2nd United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) scheduled to be held in Lisbon Portugal from June 27 to July 1, 2022.

Speaking at the event, President Kenyatta noted that oceans are a very critical part of the livelihoods of millions of people across the globe and underscored the need for urgent measures to protect and manage oceans in a sustainable way for present and future generations.

He emphasized that the conservation of oceans, seas and marine resources can no longer be left out of the broader environment and climate change agenda.

"Kenya is keen to take the lead and join the global action on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans," President Kenyatta stated and encouraged delegates at Stockholm+50 meeting to partner with Kenya and Portugal as they co-host the oceans conference.

Amb. Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary General Special Envoy for the Ocean, Dr. Ruth Kagia, Deputy Chief of Staff (Policy and Strategy) in the Executive Office of the President and Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Program were panelists at the event that sought to build momentum towards the UN Ocean's Conference.

In attendance was the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Inger Andersen, who said the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss has plunged oceans into deep trouble that requires humanity to urgently address.

The event was an opportunity to highlight the importance of the ocean climate nexus; showcasing key challenges towards the implementation of SDG14 in addressing the triple planetary crisis.

Financing was highlighted as a major hindrance towards full realization of a sustainable ocean economy and implementation of SDG 14. The financing component calls for voluntary commitment by member states.

The high level event feeds into the outcome of UNEA5.2 adopted resolution on plastic pollution, nature based solutions and the resolution on post Covid-19 green recovery.



# CS Omamo delivers message of goodwill to Hellenic Republic President



*Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Raychelle Omamo delivered a Message of Goodwill from His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya to Her Excellency Katerina Sakellaropoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic on May 8, 2022 in Athens, Greece.*

The Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Raychelle Omamo delivered a Message of Goodwill from His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya to Her Excellency Katerina Sakellaropoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic on May 8, 2022 in Athens, Greece.

In his message, President Kenyatta acknowledged and recognized the warm and cordial bilateral relations between Kenya and Greece that is anchored on the foundations of mutual respect and benefit. Kenya and the Hellenic Republic enjoy excellent longstanding cooperation that has continued to thrive over the years.

During the meeting held at the Presidential Palace in Athens, the Cabinet Secretary appreciated President Katerina Sakellaropoulou for welcoming and hosting the Kenyan delegation to Greece.

CS Omamo congratulated the people of the Hellenic Republic for electing the First Female President saying, "It is admirable to see a woman as a leader and a decision-maker at the highest office, which is critical in advancing gender justice and equity," the CS stated.

The Cabinet Secretary expressed appreciation on behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Kenya for the support the Hellenic Republic extended towards the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic which included a donation of 180,000 AstraZeneca Vaccines and an additional 376,000 Vaccines donated through COVAX.



*The CS was accompanied by Amb. Jackline Yonga, Kenya's Ambassador to Italy and Greece and Amb. Angeline Musili Director Europe Directorate.*

"This donation played a key role in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic in Kenya," CS Omamo stated, adding that while the novel virus has revealed the vulnerabilities and inequalities in health systems, it has also brought out the need for innovation, resilience and better international cooperation.

Despite the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges faced, Kenya has opened up for tourism and travels as the countrywide vaccination campaign continues to gain traction," she highlighted.

The Cabinet Secretary recognized that the courtesy call took place on Europe Day and affirmed the continued cooperation under the Kenya - European Union Strategic Dialogue, with three main pillars namely; Peace and Security, Trade and Investment and Sustainable Development.

The CS reiterated Kenya's commitment to continue collaborating with the Hellenic Republic to promote matters of mutual interest within the European Union, on multilateral issues and at the global arena.

# Kenya, Greece sign Agreement to bolster relations



*CS, Amb. Raychelle Omamo and the Greek Foreign Minister H.E. Nikos Dendias signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Diplomatic Training on May 9, 2022.*

The Republic of Kenya and the Hellenic Republic signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Diplomatic Training on May 9, 2022.

The signing of the Agreement took place in Athens, Greece after diplomatic consultations between Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Raychelle Omamo and the Greek Foreign Minister H.E. Nikos Dendias.

The framework developed through the signed MOU signifies the commitment by both countries, to cooperate in training of diplomatic personnel through exchange programs of diplomatic experts, researchers and specialists in the areas of mutual interest and exchange of information and publications.

During the diplomatic consultations, H.E. Nikos Dendias welcomed the Cabinet Secretary to Greece noting that her visit was highly significant and symbolic of the longstanding relations between Kenya and Greece.

The two Ministers agreed to invigorate the flourishing relations between the two countries by exploring new areas of cooperation in the Blue Economy, maritime, energy, agriculture, green transition, tourism, culture, ICT, health, peace and security and research and development.

They also agreed to fast-track the conclusion of pending agreements and host a Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC). They reaffirmed the continued cooperation under the Kenya – European Union Strategic Dialogue with three main pillars: Peace and Security, Trade and Investment and Sustainable Development.



*The framework developed through the signed MOU signifies the commitment by both countries to cooperate in training of diplomatic personnel and exchange of information and publications*

She appreciated Greece for support in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, cooperation in multilateral issues and reaffirmed commitment to further deepen and strengthen the cordial relations between the Republic of Kenya and the Hellenic Republic.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Amb. Jackline Yonga, Kenya's Ambassador to Italy and Greece and Amb. Angeline Musili, Director of Europe and Commonwealth Directorate.



# President Kenyatta attends WHO Health Assembly



*President Uhuru Kenyatta arrives at the World Health Complex in Geneva, Switzerland for the seventy-fifth World Health Assembly on May 22, 2022*

The first in-person WHO Health Assembly since the start of the Covid-pandemic took place in Geneva on May 22, 2022 under the theme: "Health for peace, peace for health"

His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta attended the seventy-fifth World Health Assembly to represent Kenya, a member of the Executive Board made of 34 countries.

Speaking at the Assembly President Kenyatta stressed that the pandemic had exposed the overdependence of developing countries to external markets.

He therefore urged purchasing organizations such as the Global Fund to prioritize procurement of locally manufactured health products from the countries they serve.

"No country is immune to the impact of the virus and no nation however well resourced, can do this alone," President Kenyatta stated.

The President praised World Health Organization Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus for his leadership during one of the WHO's most challenging periods amid the coronavirus pandemic.

He challenged WHO member states to forge a united front in combating pandemics to ensure a healthy world.

He also outlined the policies and administrative reforms his administration has put in place to achieve the Universal Health Care (UHC) under the Big 4 Agenda.

## PS Kamau meets Jamaican Foreign Minister

On May 10, 2022, Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary, Amb. Macharia Kamau held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Honorable Kamina Johnson Smith, who was on a tour to Africa.

The discussions centered on the candidature of Jamaica for the post of Secretary General of Commonwealth and bilateral relations between Kenya and Jamaica.

The Principal Secretary welcomed the Minister to Kenya and congratulated her on her nomination by the Prime Minister for the position of Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

He noted with appreciation the warm and cordial relations existing between the two countries that are founded on mutual respect and common historical ties particularly on shared values of African Heritage and common membership to the Commonwealth.

The Minister informed that she is seeking Kenya's support in her bid for the seat of Commonwealth Secretary General. She presented her vision to uplift the Commonwealth and pledged to lead the Commonwealth Secretariat in refreshing and re-energizing the delivery of meaningful support to all commonwealth Member States particularly the developing world.



*PS Amb Macharia Kamau with Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica on May 10, 2022.*

# Ministry celebrates staff wellness day



*PS Amb. Macharia Kamau led Ministry Staff during the staff wellness day on May 6, 2022*



*The Wellness/ACU Unit launched a book titled Staff Wellness Policy: A healthier Foreign Service for better diplomatic representation*



*Ministry staff participate in various games during the Staff Wellness day on May 6, 2022*

On Friday May 6, 2022, the Ministry celebrated the Staff Wellness Day under the theme ***“A Healthier Foreign Service for better diplomatic representation”***

Speaking at the event, Principal Secretary Amb. Macharia Kamau underlined the importance of a healthy staff in ensuring the productive delivery of services at both the national and global levels.

The Principal Secretary advised the Staff to dedicate at least five minutes of daily calisthenics exercises to improve one's physical health, building on resilience and optimizing one's mental health, saying he believed that mental health was tied to happiness.

The Kenyatta National Hospital team echoed the importance of health through healthy lifestyle talks. They created awareness amongst the staff on the importance of wellness programs through lifestyle intervention measures for a sustained good health and social well-being.

The wellness day was packed with fun activities for the Ministry's staff including team building activities such as football, athletics and yoga that promoted their well-being with a focus on ensuring that they are healthy and always capable of delivering better results.

There was also a health screening and medical check-up during the day long events to identify various health issues among the staff that would enable them take necessary medical intervention.

The Wellness/ACU Unit launched a book titled Staff Wellness Policy: A healthier Foreign Service for better diplomatic representation. The book addresses the health challenges that affect staff health as well as remaining cognizant of its connection to the performance of the Ministry's employees.

It further highlighted how the Unit will develop strategies, programmes and guidelines for the holistic wellness within the workplace.





*CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo participated at the Ministerial Meeting on Global Food Security Call to Action at United Nations Security Council convened by USA on May 19, 2022*

## CS Omamo speaks at the UNSC Debate on Conflict and Food Security

On May 19, 2022, Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo represented Kenya at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) ministerial-level open debate on conflict and food security under the agenda “*Maintenance of international peace and security*”

The meeting, chaired by the US Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken was briefed by Secretary-General António Guterres, World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Director-General Qu Dongyu, and Sara Menker, founder and CEO of Gro Intelligence.

During the ministerial-level open debate, the Cabinet Secretary noted with concern that drought within the Horn of Africa could cause up to 20 million people to go hungry this year further complicating efforts aimed at sustainable peace.

CS Omamo noted and cited links between food shortages, soaring food prices and social unrest. In this context, she applauded the formation of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance stating that bold solutions were needed to tackle the food crisis.

The Cabinet Secretary called for a shift in Africa’s place within the trading system from a source of raw materials to a source of modern agricultural systems with increased investments.

She further urged the Security Council to take into account debt restructuring and building bridges among humanitarian assistance, development and peace-building.

The Cabinet Secretary appealed to the global community to stand together pointing out that food security is a transnational matter.



# Kenya and Norway agree to boost relations



*Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo with H.E. Ms. Anne Beathe Tsvinnereim, Minister of International Development for the Kingdom of Norway on May 19, 2022.*

Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Ms. Anne Beathe Tsvinnereim, Minister of International Development for the Kingdom of Norway on May 19, 2022.

The two ministers met on the sidelines of the UN Security Council Ministerial-Level open debate on conflict and food security under the agenda "Maintenance of International Peace and Security" in New York.

They lauded the close collaborations between Kenya and the Kingdom of Norway during both their tenures at the Security Council and exchanged views on issues that touched on international peace and security.

The Cabinet Secretary and her counterpart accentuated on the need to integrate new ideas in building resilience towards the ongoing drought crisis especially in the Horn of Africa, including Kenya.

H.E. Tsvinnereim affirmed Norway's continued support with those in the crisis-affected population through development of new initiatives that boost food security.



*CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo with H.E. Ms. Anne Beathe Tsvinnereim, Minister for International Development for Norway on in New York on May 19, 2022*

# President Kenyatta Commissions a New Chancery in Bern



*His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta commissioned Kenya's new chancery in the Swiss capital of Bern during his official visit on May 20, 2022*

His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta commissioned Kenya's new chancery in the Swiss capital of Bern during his official visit, on May 20, 2022.

The Embassy will enhance cooperation between the two countries especially in the areas of research, education, training, defense and hospitality. This will also enhance trade ties between Kenya and Switzerland.

Speaking at the start of His visit in Bern, Switzerland, President Uhuru Kenyatta said the visit demonstrated Kenya's desire to reinvigorate the long standing trade, economic and investment ties between the two countries.

This was a reciprocal visit extended to him by Ignazio Cassis, President of the Swiss Confederation. The official visit was as a result of former Swiss President Allain Berset's official visit to Kenya in 2018.

President Kenyatta was invited by Swiss President, Ignazio Cassis, to a working dinner at the Lohn Manor in Kehrsatz, Bern. During the dinner, a Memorandum of Understanding and a Letter of Intent were signed. A Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya and Switzerland on bilateral political consultations was also signed.

At a meeting with his counterpart President Kenyatta reiterated that Kenya remains the investment destination of choice in the East and Central African region. He also underscored the role played by Kenya's Permanent Mission in Geneva, in promoting the country's interests on the global arena.



At the multilateral level, President Kenyatta welcomed the partnership between the two countries in the advancement of international peace and security.

Switzerland highlighted that they will join the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for the period 2023/2024 in June 2022 and pledged to support Kenya's agenda

The Head of State added that he has always endeavored to entrench Kenya's position as a preferred destination for high level multilateral engagements, a move that has worked to boost the country's visibility on a broad range of regional and international issues.

President Uhuru Kenyatta pointed out Kenya's strong presence in Geneva since 1995 that has enabled the country to remain strategically engaged in multilateralism besides making significant contributions towards a better world.



# Global Food Security Call to Action Ministerial Meeting



*CS Amb. Raychelle Omamo participated in a Ministerial meeting at the UN on Food Security in Africa chaired by the United States of America Secretary of State, H.E. Antony Blinken.*

Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo participated in the Global Food Security Call to Action Ministerial Meeting convened by the United States and chaired by Secretary of State, Antony Blinken in New York, USA on May 19, 2022.

The meeting was attended by approximately 30 regionally diverse countries to review the urgent humanitarian and development needs and identify steps to address global food security, nutrition, and resilience.

The United Nations Secretary-General and other senior UN officials were also invited to update ministers on increased food insecurity, the resulting global impact, and the steps the UN is taking in response.

The meeting was convened under the auspices of a global food crisis that has already been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change and is being driven to famine levels by the war in Ukraine and the resulting lack of grain exports.

The lack of fertilizer and record-low inventories in cooking oils and grains were reported to have unraveled decades of global economic progress thereby worsening global food situation.



*CS Amb Raychelle Omamo held bilateral consultations with the Foreign Minister of Turkey H.E. Mevlut Cavusoglu on the sidelines of the Ministerial meeting on Global Food Security Call to Action at UN on May 19, 2022*

CS Omamo spoke on sessions that focused on humanitarian needs and long-term development efforts required to save lives and build resilience for the future. She emphasized the need to build resilience of African governments to address root causes of food insecurity in Africa.

On the margins, the CS held bilateral consultations with the Foreign Minister of Turkey H.E. Mavlut Cavusoglu. They reaffirmed the strong bilateral relations between Kenya and Turkey and invited the Minister to visit Kenya.

The CS also met with the Deputy Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda.

She appreciated Antigua and Barbuda's leadership as the chair of the alliance of small island states and reiterated the pivotal role played by small island States in ensuring global food security.

# Kenya hosts the 9th Africities Summit with a record 11,000 delegates

The 9th Africities Summit took place in Kisumu City from May 17 to 21, 2022 under the theme '***The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the Implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063***'

The Summit officially opened by His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya brought together Prime Ministers, former African Heads of State, Mayors, Leaders and elected officials of local and regional governments among other delegates. This was the first Africities Summit to be held in an intermediary city.

Speaking when he officially opened the 9th Edition of the Africities Summit, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta highlighted the need for concrete and sustainable frameworks as a measure in tackling challenges in Africa's urban areas.

Noting the contribution of the intermediary cities in African urbanization and development, President Kenyatta said, "These intermediary cities are home to approximately 174 million people; representing about 36 percent of the continent's total urban population and contributing about 40 percent of the continent's GDP."

He noted the efforts made by the Kenyan government in achieving affordable housing in his big four agenda through countrywide slum upgrading programmes in the capital Nairobi and in intermediary cities of Mombasa, Nakuru and Kisumu.

"These concerted actions have been taken through the Kenya Devolution Support Programme, the Urban Support Programme, the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme and the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Programme," the President said.

Among those who attended the Summit were H.E. Rose Christine Raponda, Prime Minister of Gabon, H.E. Joaquim Chissano, Former President of Mozambique and H.E. Danny Foure, Former President of Seychelles who later participated in the former Heads of States dialogue among other dignitaries.

Dignitaries who spoke at the opening ceremony included United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) President Christine Mba Ndutume, UCLGA Secretary-General Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat. U.S Special Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry and UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed delivered their speeches virtually.

The opening ceremony was also addressed by Defence Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa, who is also the acting CS for Devolution, Kisumu Governor Prof. Anyang Nyong'o and his Kisii Counterpart James Ongwae who is also the deputy chairman of the Council of Governors and Rt. Hon Raila Odinga who is the African Union (AU) High Representative for Infrastructure Development.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' delegation to the summit was led by Principal Secretary, Amb. Macharia Kamau, CBS. The Ministry's delegation included Director – General Amb. Isaiya Kabira MBS (DICE), Amb. Fredrick Matwang'a (Economic Affairs & Commercial Diplomacy), Amb. George Orina (Africa & AU Directorate), Amb. George Kwanya (Protocol), Amb. Jean Kimani (Kenya P.R to UN-Habitat) and Amb. Peris Kariuki (Diplomatic Privileges & Host Country Liaison) among other officers.

The aim of the Africities Summit is to strengthen the role of local and regional governments in the development of the continent and to help bring the integration and unity of Africa from its territories. Hosting of the summit rotates between the five African regional blocks, and is held every two years.

The opening day of the summit was dedicated to Diaspora, with a call for strengthening relations between the motherland and its diaspora population, whose contribution to economic development of the continent was lauded.

The five day summit gave an opportunity for African Ministers and Local Government Leaders to share strategies on improving the living conditions of their constituents as well as incorporate peace as a tenet of achieving a unified continent.

This year's 9th Africities Summit recorded a registration of 11,000 delegates from 100 countries including 53 African countries. This brought long term economic and infrastructural benefits to the lakeside city of Kisumu. Kisumu County set up a Business Bazaar at the Oginga Odinga Sports Grounds which gave an opportunity for more than 100 exhibitors to showcase their products to the visiting delegates. The County Government also took the opportunity to highlight popular tourist destinations within the city to the delegates.

Egypt won the bid to host the 10th Africities Summit which will be held in 2024.



## In Brief - Africities Summit



PS Amb Macharia Kamau arrived in Kisumu in readiness for the 9th Africities Summit on May 16, 2022. He was received by Amb. Isaiya Kabira at the Kisumu International Airport and held talks with Kisumu Governor Anyang Nyong'o. He was with ICT Principal Secretary Mr. Jerome Ochieng.

H.E. Rose Christine Raponda, Prime Minister of Gabon arrived in Kisumu for the 9th Africities Summit on May 20, 2022

She was received by Amb. Isaiya Kabira Director General, DICE and Dr Ochieng' Owili, Kisumu Deputy Governor.



Former Mozambique President H.E. Joaquim Chissano arrived at Kisumu International Airport to attend the 9th Africities Summit in Kisumu on May 19, 2022

He was received at the airport by Amb. George Orina, Director Africa and AU and Kisumu County Deputy Governor.

## In Brief - Africities Summit



Speaking in Kisumu when he officially opened the 9th Edition of Africities Summit, President Kenyatta noted that the summit provides an effective forum for the continent to take stock, reflect and plan on the best ways of addressing the challenges of urbanization.

H.E Danny Faure, Former President of the Republic of Seychelles arriving at Kisumu International Airport to attend 9th Africities summit.

He was received by HE Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o Governor of Kisumu county and Amb Fredrick Matwang'a, Director Economic diplomacy



DICE Director General Amb. Isaiya Kabira keenly following the proceedings of the 9th Africities Summit held for the first time in an intermediary City, Kisumu, since its commissioning.



# Stockholm +50: Time for world to start turning words into actions

By Amb. Macharia Kamau, CBS

**\*\*This article was published prior to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting**



As the world prepares for Stockholm, Sweden from June 2-3 2022 to participate in the Stockholm +50 meeting that will be co-hosted by Kenya and Sweden; Kenya is particularly enthusiastic to witness the environmental trajectory evolving this year.

The meeting is monumental for Kenya as it provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the journey undertaken by our founding Father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta in his pursuit for a healthy environment that led to Kenya becoming the global multilateral environmental hub hosting UNEP.

The objective of Stockholm+50 is to commemorate 50 years since the United Nations Conference on the human environment [UNEP] held in 1972 which led to the creation of the United Nations Environmental forum.

The meeting will accord us with time to contemplate on what has been done so far to address the key issues that were of environmental concern at that time and take stock of the progress made, successes and challenges currently in our midst in order to forge a realistic and strategic pathway for a sustainable environment.

The action undertaken in 1972 has led many countries in realizing the opportunities being provided by their green and blue economies. Thus in the same breath, by recognizing the importance of multilateralism in tackling the earth triple planetary crisis –climate, nature and pollution the event will act as a springboard to accelerate the implementation of the UN decade of action to deliver the sustainable development goals.



The meeting will therefore offer Kenya an opportunity to explore areas in support of a healthy planet for example making universal, the recently organized human right to a clean, health and sustainable environment.

Stockholm +50 also opens the way for accelerating actions to achieve the 2030 agenda and beyond a 50 year time- frame . It will complement the important spaces that have been created for discussing and resolving the climate, nature and pollution challenges posed to development and health . Explore untapped dimensions that could unlock green job opportunities.

As countries strive to recover and rest from the pandemic the global lockdown, Stockholm +50 provides a fourfold opportunity to rebuild relationships of trust for strengthened cooperation and multilateralism, accelerate system – wide actions needed to recover and build forward from the pandemic, including through innovative finance for an equitable recovery.

Connecting the dots of the previously held and forthcoming conferences is critical in monitoring the progress being made and Kenya aims to accelerate further actions from the outcome of Stockholm +50 during the second United Nations Ocean Conference set to be hosted by Kenya and Portugal in Lisbon, Portugal, from June 27 to July 1 in which the oceans opportunities will be explored to ensure sustainable blue economy becomes a reality in order to deliver on the SDG14.

# Stockholm+50 concludes with an urgent call to address global environmental concerns

His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya with his host Her Excellency Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister of Sweden, co-chaired the two-day international environment meeting dubbed Stockholm+50 held in Sweden from 2 and 3 June 2022.

The meeting co-hosted by Kenya and Sweden concluded on 3 June 2022 with a call for firm commitment to urgently address global environmental concerns and for a just transition to sustainable economies that work for all people.

Speaking at the opening of the international environment meeting on 2 June 2022, President Uhuru Kenyatta urged the international community to accelerate actions to avert the environmental threats facing the world.

The President noted that less progress has been made in designing and implementing bold actions to address the environmental threats in the last 50 years. He tasked all participants to seize the opportunity presented by the Stockholm+50 meeting to hasten the pace and quality of the environmental action whose agenda is currently at the center of global discussions.

"This meeting seeks to, therefore, accelerate action to avert the environmental crisis and define a pathway towards an environmentally sustainable future," the President said.

"By the time we head to COP27, we should aim to have developed a comprehensive, holistic and transformative package of environmental actions. One that pulls together the outcomes of COP26, UNEA5.2, Stockholm+50 – where we are today, and the upcoming UN Ocean Conference, in Lisbon," President Kenyatta stated.



At the same time, President Kenyatta called on development partners to honour their commitments of doubling global climate financing, especially for adaptation, to enable developing countries to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure and systems.

He said the heightened ambition in financing and implementation should be at the core of the environmental commitments and actions.

President Kenyatta said his administration has continued to give high priority to environmental issues. This includes the ban on single-use plastics in 2017 and the acceleration of the generation of renewable energy, which now accounts for approximately 80 percent of Kenya's energy.

He noted that UNEA-5.2 held in Nairobi early this year underscored the urgency for collective action to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, the President appealed to all UNEP member states to develop and implement a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

Recognizing the critical role of UNEP as the premier institution on environmental matters, the President informed the meeting that the Kenya Government has continued to provide strong financial and logistical support to the UNEP global office in Nairobi.

His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid, also addressed the opening session of the two-day Stockholm+50 meeting convened by the United Nations and was attended by over 3000 participants from around the world.

Other speakers included Presidents Mokgweetsi Masisi (Botswana), Azali Assoumani (Comoros), Mohamed al-Menfi (Libya) and Collen Kelapile (UN Economic and Social Council) as well as UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen who also acted as Secretary-General for the Stockholm+50 meeting.

On the sidelines of the international meeting, President Kenyatta held bilateral talks with Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi and the President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid.

The President also presided over the high-level side event dubbed "on the Road to Lisbon" moderated by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb. Macharia Kamau and acts as a build-up engagement to mobilize participation and enhance awareness of the 2nd UN Oceans Conference that Kenya and Portugal will co-host in Lisbon from 27 June – 1 July 2022.



# Kenya Fostering Peace to the World



*Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo joining the visiting Sierra Leone President H.E Julius Maada Bio and Kenya Defence Forces for the International Day of UN Peacekeepers celebrations themed "People, Peace, Progress: The Power of Partnerships" held at The Peace Support Training Centre Embakasi on May 29m 2022.*

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers celebrated on May 29, 2022 offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organisation and to honour nearly 4,200 peacekeepers that lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 135 last year.

To mark this day, Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Raychelle Omamo joined the visiting Sierra Leone President H.E Julius Maada Bio and Kenya Defence Forces for the International day of UN Peacekeepers celebrations held at The Peace Support Training Centre Embakasi.

The theme for this year's Day was "People, Peace, Progress; The Power of Partnerships."

In her speech, C.S. Omamo affirmed the great partnership between Kenya and Sierra Leone and termed it as a shining example of how African countries can build each other during times of turmoil,

"In line with today's theme, I want to remind us that when people come together in search for peace, there can be success," said CS Omamo.

Kenya contributed troops to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) from 1995 to 2005 whereby UNAMSIL's mission

helped stabilize Sierra Leone and implement the Lome Peace Agreement. In January 2015, Kenya also sent 170 health workers to Sierra Leone to assist the Ebola stricken countrymen.

Sierra Leone President thanked Kenya Defence Forces for helping end the conflict between the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels and government forces.

"I am here on a mission to express our sincere gratitude to the KDF. I say thank you to the commanders, officers, men and women of Kenyan contingent that were deployed to Sierra Leone," said President Bio.

President Bio also paid tribute to four Kenya soldiers who died during the UNAMSIL mission.

"As the government of Sierra Leone, we eulogize the four with deep sorrow and great appreciation and thank their families and the nation of Kenya for offering the lives of the officers for the sake of peace in the country. Their sacrifices contributed immensely to efforts to restore peace in Sierra Leone," he added.

The four – Corporal Evanson Muthee, Corporal Jeremiah Obuya, Private Robert Wanyama and Private Khamis Yunis Shurie – died in the line of duty while fighting the rebels.

Chief of Defence Forces General Robert Kibochi, who also served in Sierra Leone as a peacekeeper, appreciated the great comradeship that Kenya and Sierra Leone have shared over the years

noting that both countries have been united in their commitment towards global peace and security.

He also noted that in 1979, Kenya made its maiden contribution towards peace keeping by sending six military observers to Zimbabwe. "Since then Kenya has contributed over 60,000 men and women to peace support operations all over the world. Over the years, we have remained unwavering in helping restore peace and stability in the region and across the globe. We currently have over 5,000 troops in Somalia and have been working there for over 10 years," said General Kibochi.

Kenya is also the 43rd largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peace operations. It currently deploys 339 military and police personnel to the UN peacekeeping or special political missions in Abyei, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Mali, Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and the Western Sahara.

Kenya continues to foster peace across the world as epitomized in one of the key pillars of the Kenya Foreign Policy under Peace Diplomacy.



# UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

LISBON  
27 JUNE  
1 JULY  
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## 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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