

**Republic of Kenya**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**KENYA SCORES BIG IN STRATEGIC BILATERAL DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES**

After weeks of friendly negotiations as partners, I co-chaired the Kenya - United States Strategic Bilateral Dialogue with Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in Washington DC. I was accompanied by my brother CS Moses Kuria and sharp and able senior government officials.

During a bilateral session, and in five intense Pillar sessions we discussed and agreed on our partnership in the areas of Trade and Investments for job creation and Visas for youth empowerment, Health, Food Security, Climate Change, Regional Peace and Security.

**JOBS and VISAS**

The United States is setting up a framework so that Kenyans can apply for jobs in the United States and speedily get visas to work in the United States. I encourage Kenyans to apply for jobs in the United States. *Mbele iko Sawa.*

The United States is also working on modalities to speed up visa processing at the Nairobi embassy to reduce the long waiting times.

**HEALTH AND JOBS**

The United States committed to support Kenya's universal healthcare program with a focus on epidemic control and manufacturing of vaccine and pharmaceutical production, which will also create jobs for Kenyans and transfer technology. We agreed on continuation of the support for HIV/AIDS medication as we build capacity to produce our own within 5 years.

We also hailed the deal with Moderna which will set a vaccine production factory in Kenya from this year.

**FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

The United States committed to facilitating Kenya on sustainable food production instead of food aid through water harvesting programmes (Dams), value addition technology, and agribusiness technology to encourage our youth to embrace farming.

**REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

The United States is one of the valued partners on Kenya's efforts to stabilize the region for peace and security. We discussed many security and defence partnerships.

**UPGRADING OF UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN NAIROBI**

Kenya is the only country hosting a United Nations Office in the global south - others being in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. This has led to economic prosperity for Kenya. The UN Office in Nairobi was established several decades ago and thus requires upgrading to the international standards. The United States committed to support the project.

**YOUTH and SME’s**

The Bottom Up “hustler” economic model was acknowledged as a fantastic and viable model. We discussed partnerships in supporting youth programs, empowering our SME’s and growing wealth.

**INVESTMENTS**

Kenya is open for business; is the message I gave to the American government. We held deliberations with the US Commerce department on how to entice American investors to Kenya. We were updated on US programs that can support American businesses to come to Kenya.

I expounded know the fact that with the Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement, Kenya can be used as the hub for reaching the 1.3 plus billion African market.

We explained the various Kenyan incentives that are second to none. We should expect an inflow of American firms opening up businesses in Kenya.

This is just a summary of over 50 specific issues we discussed and agreed on. Kenya is the only African country with this Strategic Bilateral Dialogue with the United States and we view the US as a great friend and partner.

I thank Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Molly Phee, US Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman and their teams for the warm welcome.

**Dr. Alfred N. Mutua, EGH**

**CABINET SECRETARY FOR FOREIN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

***Washington DC***

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