

Diplomacy

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KENYA HOSTS AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT

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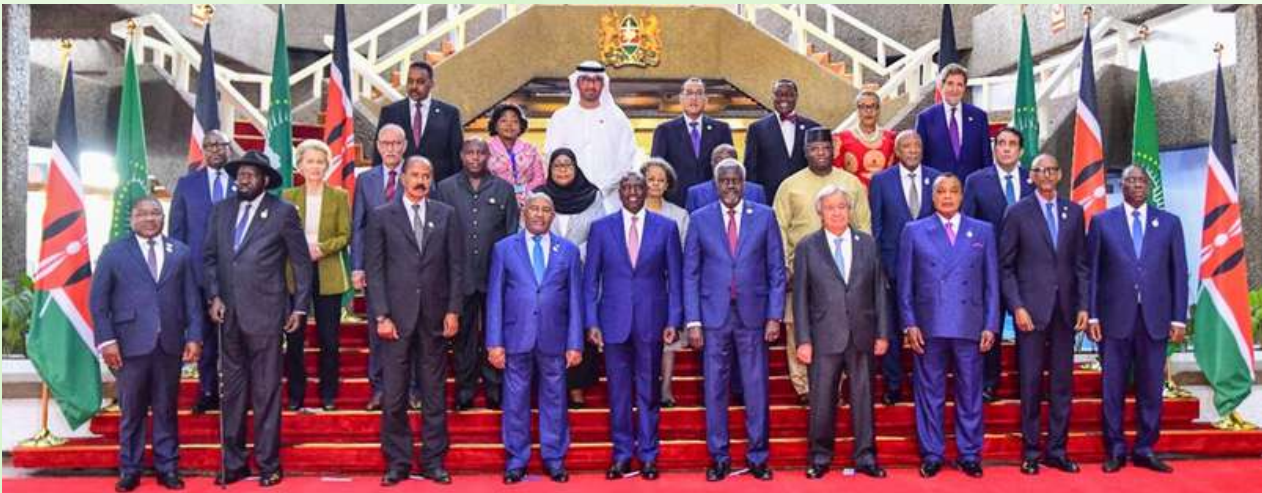
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Heads of State and Government and dignitaries at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, during the Africa Climate Summit - held in Nairobi, 4 - 6 September 2023

Kenya Hosts First African Climate Summit



H.E. President William Ruto delivers key note speech during the inaugural African Climate Summit in Nairobi,

By Evance Oguta

On September 4-6, 2023, the Government of Kenya and the African Union Commission (AUC) convened the inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS) held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi. This followed the Decision of the 36th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government which took place in February 2023. The Assembly mandated the AUC to convene a Summit on Climate Change and simultaneously endorsed the offer by the Government of Kenya to host it.

The inaugural ACS was championed by H.E. President William Ruto and it addressed the increasing exposure to climate change and its associated costs globally and particularly in Africa. With the expectation of escalating climate crises in terms of frequency and intensity, urgent action was required to mitigate these challenges. Thus, the Summit served as a platform to showcase progress, exchange perspectives, and begin to converge on common priorities for global discussions. The conference also called upon African leaders to make ambitious pledges and commitments, towards the adoption of a “Pledging and Commitment Framework.”

The ACS 2023 was attended by African Heads of State and Government, global leaders, development partners, civil society organizations, researchers, academia and relevant stakeholders, among others. It was held alongside the Africa Youth Climate Assembly and Africa Climate Week which took place from 4-8 September, 2023.

In a call to action, African leaders stressed the importance of decarbonizing the global economy for equality and shared prosperity. They also called for investment to promote the sustainable use of Africa’s natural assets for the continent’s transition to low carbon development and contribution to global decarbonization.

Leaders expressed concern that many African countries face disproportionate burdens and risks from climate change-related, unpredictable weather events and patterns. The impacts have included prolonged droughts, devastating floods, wild and forest fires, which cause massive humanitarian crisis with detrimental impacts on economies, health, education, peace and security, among other risks. Leaders acknowledged that climate change is the single greatest challenge facing humanity and the single biggest threat to all life on earth.

Continued on page 4

Kenya Hosts First African Climate Summit



Hon. Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry address delegates during the Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi from September 4-6, 2023

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The Summit proposed a new financing architecture responsive to Africa's needs including debt restructuring, relief and the development of a new Global Climate Finance Charter through the United Nations General Assembly and the COP processes by 2025.

"We call for collective global action to mobilize the necessary capital for both development and climate action, echoing the statement of the Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact that no country should ever have to choose between development aspirations and climate action." read the communique.

They emphasized the need for concrete action and speed on proposals to reform the multilateral financial system currently under discussion specifically to build resilience to climate shocks and better deployment of the Special Drawing Rights liquidity mechanism.

The Nairobi Declaration was adopted to be the basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process to COP 28 and beyond. It was also noted that the ACS should be established as a biennial event convened by African Union and hosted by AU Member States, "to set the continent's new vision taking into consideration emerging global climate and development issues."

Inclusively, the Summit listened to and received declarations from the African Youth Climate Assembly which included an ambitious call for African and international decision-makers to "commit to meaningful, inclusive, and systematic embedding of youth engagement in African climate change frameworks.

On the other hand, the indigenous people of Africa requested for the effective and meaningful participation including the creation of an AU focal point at the AU headquarters that will be handling their matters. Children, business community and African Parliamentarians also presented their declarations.

The inaugural ACS presented a bold and ambitious new African vision for a Green Growth agenda that optimized the continent's abundant human and natural resources, and integrated enhanced climate positive growth.

It was an opportunity to promote effective climate action that enhanced livelihoods, accelerated growth and helped Africa avoid being locked out of international markets and locked in emission intensive development.





ACS 2023 Presidential Arrivals



H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye President of the Republic of Burundi
September 3, 2023



H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of Comoros and Chairperson
of the African Union - September 3, 2023



H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo President of the Republic of Ghana -
September 3, 2023



H.E. Brahim Ghali, President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic
Republic - September 3, 2023



H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- September 3, 2023



H.E. Isaias Afwerki, President of Eritrea - September 3, 2023



ACS 2023 Presidential Arrivals



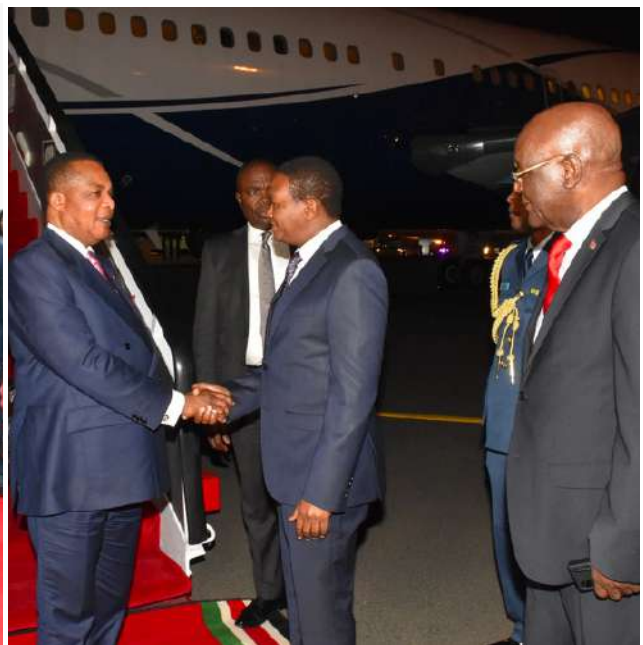
H.E. António Guterres Secretary-General of the United Nations - September 3, 2023



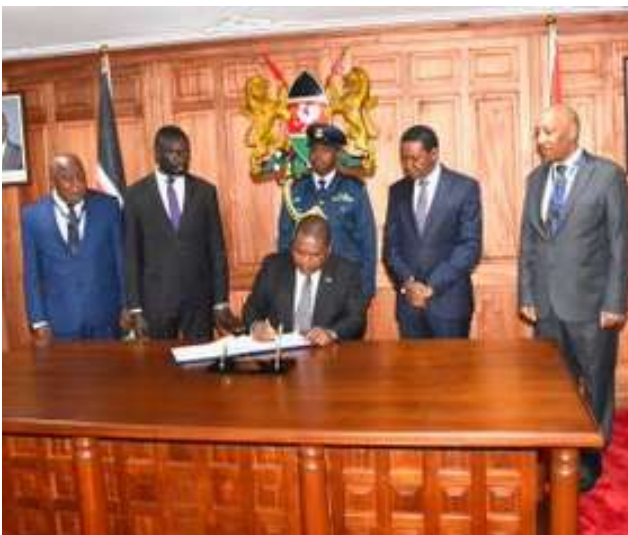
H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia - September 3, 2023



H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit President of South Sudan- September 4, 2023



H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso President of the Republic of the Congo September 4, 2023



H.E. Filipe Nyusi President of Mozambique - September 5, 2023



H.E. Paul Kagame_ President of Rwanda - September 5, 2023



Kenya Successfully Concludes the High-Level Week of UNGA

By Dr. Alfred Mutua

Kenya has successfully concluded her participation – at the Highest Level – of the High-level Week of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA78) in New York. Apart from the General Assembly debate, the High-Level Week was marked by landmark events including: The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development dubbed the SDG Summit2023; the Secretary General's Climate Ambition Summit; the High-Level Dialogue for financing for development; the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic, Prevention, Preparedness and Response; and, the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage.

The highlight of what proved to be a historic and consequential week for the country's foreign policy and diplomacy was His Excellency the President's address to the General Assembly. In His Excellency's address to the gathered world leaders, the President used the occasion to challenge the existing norms and standards in the current global geopolitical configurations, remarking that they were inconsistent with the founding principles and purpose of the United Nations. In particular, the President noted the dysfunctional nature of the United Nations Security Council occasioned by ideological and political differences amongst the major powers, and which had resulted in a Council that was incapable of delivering meaningful progress to global security challenges.

The President also used the occasion to brief on the regional peace and security architecture, particularly Kenya's efforts at Silencing the Guns in Africa. Noting that there could never be meaningful regional and continental integration without peace, the President informed that

Kenya was keen to use her position as an anchor State and a guarantor of regional peace and security, to leverage peaceful coexistence as an essential component for accelerating Africa's economic growth and development.

On international peace and security, the President appealed to the UN General Assembly on the need for concerted global efforts to aid Haiti, a country that had suffered immensely from the bitter legacy of slavery, colonialism, sabotage and neglect. In appealing for positive and meaningful contribution in its recovery, the President observed that Haiti would be the ultimate test of international solidarity and collective action. He underscored Kenya's readiness to play its part in full, and jointly with a coalition of other nations of good will, as a great friend and true sibling of Haiti.

Indeed, issues of peace and security were highly pursued by Kenya's delegation to 78th Session of the UN General Assembly. In his participation at the 13th Ministerial Meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, GCTF, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua apprised on peace and security in the region and drew the attention of the global community to the threats of terrorism and violent extremism in the region. The Cabinet Secretary observed that spikes in acts of terror was due to unattended simmering conflicts and proffered that addressing impending conflicts was, therefore, vital in advancing peace and security objectives in the region.

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Kenya Successfully Concludes the High-Level Week of UNGA



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua participated at the 13th Ministerial Meeting of Global Counterterrorism Forum convened on the margins of the UNGA 78 on September 21, 2023

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Addressing the opening session of the Climate Ambition Summit, President Ruto underscored the urgency for global collective action to transform the institutional architecture of international financial systems and mobilize the necessary capital that will forge the golden key of investment for Africa, in line with the Nairobi Declaration of the African Climate Summit.

The President also chaired a High-Level Meeting of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) on the margins of UNGA78. The purpose of this meeting was to sustain the momentum generated by the African Climate Summit (ACS) – held in Nairobi – as well as by the Africa Food Systems Forum Summit that was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in September of 2023. In hosting this meeting, the President not only allowed for reflections on the Nairobi Declaration, and the UN Secretary General's Climate Ambition Summit, but was also central in reinforcing Kenya's Climate credentials.

The Kenyan delegation to the High-level Week of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly further used the occasion to advance the country's economic, political and commercial interests, consistent with Kenya's Economic Diplomacy ethos. For instance, His Excellency the President witnessed the establishment of a Framework Agreement for Cooperation with the Dominican Republic and Communiqué Establishing Diplomatic Relations with Grenada and Haiti. The expansion of the country's Diplomatic Footprint in the Caribbean allows Kenya to build on the bonds of ancestry and friendship between Africa and CARICOM and to also lay foundations for lasting, robust socio-economic and political engagements.

Similarly, His Excellency the President used the occasion to meet with significant and influential captains of industry, key among them being Mr. Lawrence FINK, the Chairman & CEO Blackrock, Mr. Bill GATES of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr. Ajay BANGA, World Bank President, as well senior executives from the National Basket Association (NBA).

A key outcome of these High-Level Business meetings was the signing of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), which is essential in provision of time-limited grants to Kenya, thus promoting economic growth, reducing poverty, and strengthening of the country's institutions. Likewise, these High-Level Business meetings were crucial in reassuring the various investors of the viability, diverseness and the resilience of the Kenyan economy.

Indeed, Kenya's participation at the High-level Week of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA78) in New York has provided the country with an essential platform for the advancement of the country's foreign policy and economic objectives and also in contributing to a safer, secure and prosperous Africa.



In the presence of President Dr. William Ruto and Dominican Republic President H.E. Luis Abinader CS Dr. Alfred Mutua, together with his Counterpart from The Dominican Republic, Hon. Roberto Alvarez, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations and a Framework Cooperation Agreement on the side-lines of UNGA78 on September 20, 2023



Kenya Looks Forward to a Unified Approach Towards Finding a Solution to the Haiti Crisis



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua addressed a high level gathering that had been convened by U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken to discuss the urgent Security situation in Haiti, on September 23, 2023

His Excellency President William Ruto has once again re-affirmed Kenya's leadership on the issue of global peace and security at the just concluded 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78). The issue of Peace and Security – in the context of stabilization of Haiti featured heavily in most official deliberations with Kenya getting a mention at every stage as one of the Nations being looked upon to provide leadership.

In his address to the General Assembly, President William Ruto made it clear that Kenya will play its part fully in the search for solutions to the Haiti crisis. "Kenya stands in solidarity with all humanity, without regard to region or border or hemisphere. This is why, and how we see the people of the Republic of Haiti, who are suffering immensely from the bitter legacy of slavery, colonialism, sabotage and neglect", said President Ruto.

"As a nation which was forced to wage a painful struggle for our independence and sovereignty, Kenya empathises very deeply with the humiliation of a proud people, and the price they have had to pay for their hunger for liberty, and the sorrow they have endured for their thirst for freedom", added President Ruto.

Kenya believes Haiti is the ultimate test of international solidarity and collective action. President Ruto said the international community has failed this test so far, arguing that Haiti deserves better from the world. "The cry of our brothers and sisters, who were the first people to win their struggle for freedom from colonial tyranny, has reached our ears and touched our hearts" the president told the General Assembly.

Kenya's engagement with the Haiti situation took a significant step forward when a high powered fact-finding mission was dispatched to the Caribbean Nation. The decision to send a mission to Haiti, followed His Excellency the President's pronouncement on Kenya's willingness to assist in the stabilisation of Haiti. The mission, which has since returned to the country, composed of diplomats, humanitarian experts, and security personnel and its main aim was to assess the situation on the ground and gather crucial information to inform Kenya's approach at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Kenya's commitment to international peace and security is exemplified by its engagement in Haiti. Haiti, recovering from political instability, a devastating earthquake, and on-going humanitarian challenges, requires concerted international efforts to address its myriad issues.

The humanitarian crisis in Haiti is laid out bare for all to see. The mission witnessed a dire humanitarian situation, characterised by widespread poverty, food insecurity, inadequate healthcare and limited access to education. The earthquake further exacerbated these challenges, displacing thousands and causing substantial infrastructural damage.

The mission identified security concerns, including gang violence and lawlessness, as major obstacles to stability and recovery. These issues have hindered the delivery of aid and reconstruction efforts. The mission highlighted the limited access of the Haitian population to basic services, including clean water, sanitation and electricity.

Kenya is advocating for increased international humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian population. Kenya is also proposing a greater role for UN peacekeeping missions in Haiti to address security challenges. Kenya with its experience in peace and reconciliation efforts, calls for enhanced political dialogue and mediation between Haiti's government and opposition groups to promote stability.

"Kenya believes that doing nothing in the face of the historic isolation, neglect and betrayal of the people of Haiti, is out of the question." Inaction is no longer an option. As we mobilise to show up for Ukraine, and countries that have experienced the devastating impact of climate shocks including Libya, Morocco and Hawaii, we must not leave Haiti behind, said President Ruto

President Ruto called on the global community to show up in the spirit of solidarity to support the people of Haiti regain their political and socioeconomic footing, by reinforcing the underlying enabler: security. "Kenya is ready to play its part in full, and jointly with a coalition of other nations of goodwill, as a great friend and true sibling of Haiti", he told the general assembly.

Kenya is urging the United Nations to urgently deliver an appropriate framework to facilitate the deployment of Multinational Security Support as part of a holistic response to Haiti's challenges. The United States is expected to table a UN Security Council Resolution that is intended to authorize the deployment of the Police Team from Kenya.

The US delegation is also expected to table a Resolution that will give mandate and oversight the deployment to Haiti. President Joe Biden of the United States praised Kenya's leadership on this issue and singled out President William Ruto as one of the leaders whose commitment to finding a solution to the Haiti crisis had been demonstrated in word and deed.

During the general assembly, Kenya's delegation led by Foreign and Diaspora affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr Alfred Mutua held talks with US secretary of state Anthony Blinken on the Haiti issue. Kenya and Haiti also signed agreements paving way for the exchange of ambassadors.

Kenya is calling on the Security Council to contribute positively by approving a resolution under Chapter Seven that tailors the security support mission to the specific needs of Haiti and its people. This should be part of a comprehensive strategy that includes delivering humanitarian aid, supporting livelihoods, instituting reforms, and fostering a political process guided and owned by Haitians, all with the aim of enabling free and fair elections within a reasonable timeframe.

Many countries have already stepped forward to take part in this solidarity but Kenya believes that successful intervention in Haiti will be pegged on adequate financing and availability of equipment.



CS Mutua Encourages Colombian Business Community to Invest in Kenya



H.E. the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and his host H.E. the Vice President of Colombia witnessed the signing of the Agreed Minutes of the inaugural Session of the Joint Cooperation Committee by Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua and Colombia's Vice Minister for External Relations, Francisco Coy after the successful inaugural JCC meeting, in Bogota Colombia on September 13, 2023

By Kawira Githinji

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua has urged the Colombian business community and companies to invest in Kenya citing Kenya's unrivaled geostrategic position, which make it the most advantageous place to do business.

"We are the gateway to the East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region and Africa as a whole. We therefore welcome Colombian investors to consider bringing their investments to Kenya," CS Mutua emphasized.

He said this when he paid a courtesy visit to Colombia's Vice Minister for External Relations, Francisco Coy, in Bogota. The two held discussions that focused on areas of mutual interest between Kenya and Colombia and explored ideas about scaling collaboration and seize emerging opportunities for the prosperity of the two nations.

Dr. Mutua praised the strong, cordial, and friendly bilateral ties between the two nations, demonstrated by the High-Level visits and engagements that have led to enhanced cooperation within the South-South Cooperation framework.

In regards to trade and investment, the CS emphasized the need to enhance the balance of trade between the two nations, saying that Kenya has put forward ambitious plans within this portfolio. The CS also solicited suggestions on how to expand collaboration and take advantage of new opportunities.

Dr. Mutua was part of the Kenyan delegation accompanying H.E. the Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua who was on a 4-day Official Visit to the Republic of Colombia, on invitation by his Colombian counterpart, H.E. Francia Elena Marquez Mina.

During the Visit, Kenya and Colombia bilateral relations received a major boost with the signing of the Agreed Minutes of the inaugural session of the Joint Cooperation Committee on Economic, Technical, Scientific, Educational and Cultural Cooperation in Bogota.

H.E. Rigathi Gachagua and his host Vice President Francia Elena Marquez Mina witnessed the signing of the Agreed Minutes by Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua and Colombia's Vice Minister for External Relations, Francisco Coy after the successful inaugural JCC meeting. This bilateral consultation was held within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding for establishment of the JCC signed between the two nations on May 15, 2023.

CS Mutua, accompanied the Deputy President to the High-Level Opening of the Kenya Colombia Business Forum at the Bogota Chamber of Commerce, where he and his host committed to deepen Trade and Economic ties in sectors of trade, health, tourism, education, sustainable agriculture (coffee, horticulture and sustainable use of bamboo).

CS Mutua also accompanied the Deputy President as he engaged Colombian Coffee Farmers at the National Coffee Federation in Chinchina County, Caldas State, where they were taken through the coffee value-chain. The Deputy President emphasized that Kenyan and Colombian Coffee had a special place globally owing to its quality. Colombia's coffee is doing better on the global market compared to Kenya's and the Deputy president admitted Kenya has a lot to learn from Colombia. He sought collaboration in areas of training for farmers through exchange programs, access to world markets and research to help Kenya improve its coffee production with the aim of enhancing farmers' earnings.

Kenya is mulling the possibility of establishing a consulate in Bogota to facilitate increased trade, tourism and strengthen relations between Kenya and Colombia.



Estonia Hands Over OGP Chair role to Kenya

By Irene Kimeu

On September 8, 2023, in Tallinn- Estonia, Principal Secretary Dr. Abraham Korir Singoei represented H.E. President Dr. William Ruto at the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit, where PS Singoei and Blair Glencorse, Co-CEO of Accountability Lab, were chosen to co-chair the OGP Steering Committee for a year beginning on October 1, 2023.

The 8th Open Government Partnership (OGP) Summit, which was officially opened by Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas focused on how cutting-edge digital governance, combined with the open government values of transparency, accountability, and participation, can renew democracy and fight back against autocratic threats.

"OGP we believe as Kenya, is the catalyst for culture change within the public sector. It is an anchor for forging governance reforms with potential for innovative service delivery to citizens. Consequently, though believe, that the value proposition for open governance namely the effective tool for building trust and revitalizing democracies flooding fortunes is not to be taken for granted" said Dr. Korir.

Dr. Korir acknowledged the increase of authoritarianism on the African continent, notably with regard to military coups, which were formerly unheard of but are now becoming more common, threats of free expressionism and weaponization of protests and demonstrations in equal measure.

While embarking the role of leadership in the OGP, Dr. Korir stated that he shall deepen democracy in Africa's region citing that the OGP global gathering should be recognised locally and regionally thus adding that Kenya will be hosting OGP regional meeting and ministerial retreats at the same time 2024.

"My vision for OGP as a co-chair is a vision that elevates OGP. We want to see a more visible Open Government partnership. We believe very much that that visibility encompasses greater ownership of the E-thoughts and principles and the values of OGP at the sub-national level. As Kenya's leadership we would really like to ensure there's greater ownership of OGP within Africa" said Dr. Korir.

PS Singoei thanked the summit for entrusting Kenya with the leadership of the OGP saying that Kenya shall lead from the front. The 8th Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit brought together over 2000 people from around 130 countries, including Heads of State and Government, Civil Society Organizations, and Policy-Makers.

On the sidelines of the OGP 2023 Summit, Dr Korir met and exchanged views with his counterpart, H.E. Jonatan Vseviov - Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia. They both expressed their excitement for political consultations between the two countries later in the year that will fine-tune their framework for collaboration.

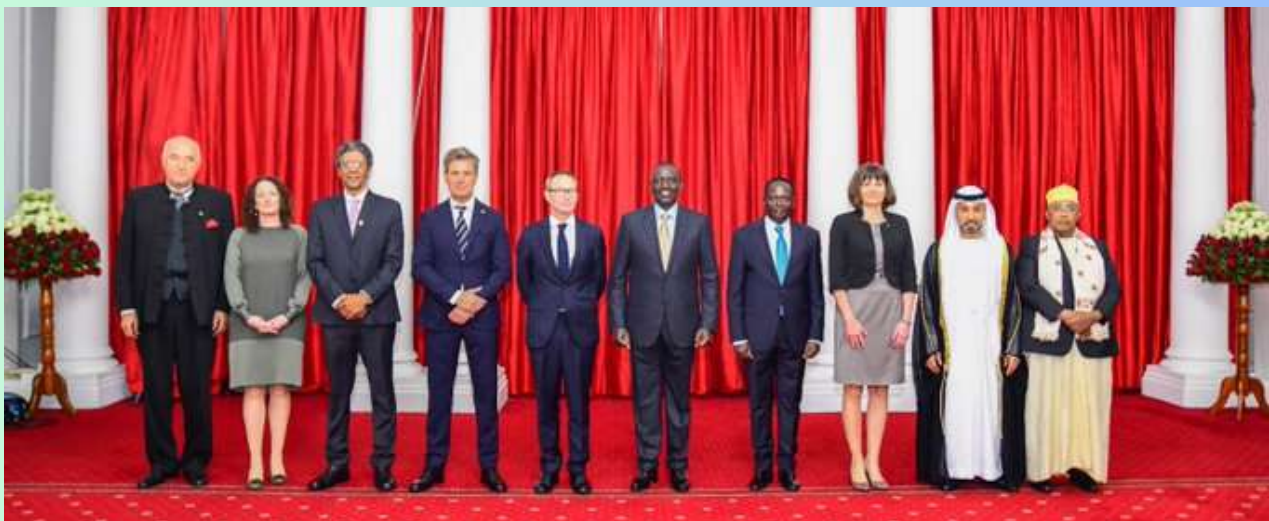


Presentation of Credentials at State House

Kenya values its friendships and partnerships with nations across the world. These partnerships are avenues for social, cultural and economic diplomacy that adds shared value to the people of Kenya and the citizens of our partner nations.



H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto received credentials from High Commissioners Neil Wigan (UK) and Martin Ngoga (Rwanda) and Ambassadors Nicol Adamcova (Czech), Stephen Schonemann (Denmark) and Salim Ibrahim Al Naqbi (United Arab Emirates), Pedro Leon Cortes Ruiz (Colombia) and Cairtriona Ingoldsby (Ireland).



Others were Non-Resident Ambassadors Ahmada El Badaoui Mohamed Fakh (Comoros) and Ante Cicvaric (Croatia).



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua represented H.E President Dr. William Ruto during the BRICS Summit 2023 in Johannesburg - August 25, 2023

CS Mutua Attends BRICS Summit 2023

By Kuria Muigai

Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua, represented H.E. the President at the BRICS Summit in South Africa on August 23, 2023. While addressing the Heads of State and Government, Dr. Mutua asked the globe to embrace a more fair, predictable, and logical way of conducting business. He also advocated for renegotiation and the suspension of loan payments for a maximum of 20 years.

CS Mutua said that re-examining the repayment strategy will free up the bulk of the nation's currently paying off their debt to concentrate on their own growth. After the postponed payment period, countries' economy will have advanced to the point where repaying loans will be considerably simpler.

"Truth be told, many African nations are suffocating in debt that is becoming more difficult to repay. This modern-day slavery of our livelihoods cannot be solved with nice words but concrete implementation of ideas," said Dr. Mutua.

The G20 Common Framework's case-by-case debt default exercises are not the best option, according to the Cabinet Secretary, who urged a systemic fix for the debt burden of emerging nations. This debt burden poses a severe danger to emerging countries' ability to finance progress.

"All of our resources are connected to paying off debt, therefore we do not want to keep borrowing. We must break the cycle," CS Mutua stressed, and urged reconsideration of the current global development order, which is defined by an unfair international financial system for developing nations.

Dr. Mutua emphasized that no one's exclusion, including the Presidents of Eritrea, Lesotho, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, and Senegal, is a more striking illustration of injustice and prejudice in the global system saying that this has to come to an end.

According to CS Mutua, it is critically required to expand the voice and participation of developing countries in decision-making and global economic governance. Instead of being participants developing countries should be stockholders.

"Kenya has become a major player in the international stage due to our Pan African spirit, democracy and push for a fair international financial system that supports development of people and frees nations from the yoke of debt-driven bondage" - CS Mutua





PS Njogu Participates at the Mashav Training Program’s Commissioning



PS Diaspora Affairs Roseline Njogu joined First Lady H.E. Rachel Ruto at State House for the commissioning of a cohort of 210 Kenyan trainees for the 2023 Mashav Agricultural Training Program at the Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT) in Israel - August 15, 2023

By Phillip Opwora

Principal Secretary Ms. Roseline K. Njogu joined First Lady Rachel Ruto and other top government representatives at State House in Nairobi to commission Kenyan trainees to Israel through the Mashav Agricultural Training Program.

PS Njogu said the government is committed to using opportunities and networks abroad to not only address evolving issues but also pursue business, employment, educational, training, and capacity-building exchanges. She emphasised that the strategy is targeted towards fostering the diaspora community as well as positively influencing the socioeconomic development of the entire nation.

The 11-month practical training at the Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT) in Israel would increase skills and competitiveness through the transfer of information and technology, according to First Lady Rachel Ruto. She said the Training Programme which would upskill 210 Kenyans, is a result of the two countries' close diplomatic ties.

PS Njogu emphasised the mutually beneficial partnership between Kenya and Israel, echoing the First Lady's views. She thanked the First Lady for organising the programme that will help the nation in various areas along the agriculture value chain.

Israel and Kenya have a solid bilateral relationship that benefits both nations. This productive collaboration is what has led to the interchange of Kenyan trainees in other important industries like security and medicine.

CS Mutua Deposits Instruments of Kenya’s Accession to the Kigali Amendment on the Montreal Protocol

By Kevin Thuo

On the margins of the UNGA 78 in New York, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua deposited the Instruments of Kenya’s accession to the Kigali Amendment on the Montreal Protocol on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as well as the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The depositing of these Instruments of Accession is not only vital in reinforcing Kenya’s Climate Credentials, but is also critical in Kenya’s advocacy for rules-based ethos in the management of international affairs.

The Kigali Agreement is an amendment to the Montreal Protocol, an environmental treaty signed by nations to gradually phase out ozone depleting substances (ODSs) from the earth’s atmosphere.



The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an international agreement aimed at preventing human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.



Kenya Commemorates the Second Anniversary of the Africa CARICOM

By Kawira Githinji

This year, Kenya joined African and CARICOM Member States in commemorating the Second Anniversary of the Africa CARICOM day held annually on September 7.

The first-ever African-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Summit, themed: "Unity Across Continents and Oceans: Opportunities for Deepening Integration," was virtually held in Kenya on September 7, 2021. The goal of the summit was to encourage better cooperation between Africa Diaspora, People of African descent and the Caribbean and Pacific region and its institutions.

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

The Summit was convened in response to the outcomes of the African Union's 33rd Session (2020), which reaffirmed the close cultural and historical ties that all people of African origin share with the people of Africa and the African Diaspora.

A proclamation on fostering deeper cooperation between People of African Descent in the Caribbean and Pacific Regions was adopted at the conference.

The increased interaction between its Member States and African Countries was also acknowledged at the 2020 CARICOM Summit of Heads of State and Government.

Important outcomes of the Africa-CARICOM Summit included, among other things, a more integrated commitment to increased economic trade and investment between Africa and the Caribbean; solidarity actions to address global challenges like the COVID 19 pandemic and climate change; and a call for institutionalizing cooperation between the CARICOM.

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

The Organization of African Unity (OAU), Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) were founded in 1963, fifty-eight years, fifty-three years, and forty-eight years, respectively, before the summit.

Kenya is dedicated to supporting Pan-Africanism and find African answers to world issues, notably those relating to Climate Change, Peace, and Security, among others. The institutionalization of cooperation between the African Union Commission and the CARICOM secretariat is urgently needed.

Kenya and Norway Pledge to Improve Relations

By Kevin Thuo

CS Dr. Alfred Mutua met with Anne Beathe, the Norwegian Minister for International Development and Minister of Nordic Cooperation, on the sidelines of the 2023 African Climate Summit.

CS Mutua appreciated Norway's attendance at the Summit during discussions, adding that this was important for amplifying influential voices in the climate change discussions and boosting African Union leadership in global climate action.

The Cabinet Secretary appreciated Norway's leadership in the Blue Economy and welcomed the chance to work more closely and meaningfully with the Nordic country on these issues to improve trade and food security.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua held a bilateral meeting with Norway's Minister for International Development and Minister of Nordic Cooperation, Anne Beathe on the side-lines of the Africa Climate Summit - September 5, 2023

Dr. Mutua urged Norway to work closely with Kenya in areas of commerce, investments, peace and security.



Closing the Gap: Accelerating Climate Action in Fragile and Vulnerable Contexts



PS Dr. Abraham Korir Singoei addressed a high-level panel on Climate-Security Nexus on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 22, 2023.

By Irene Kimeu

Principal Secretary State Department for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abraham Korir Singoei addressed a high-level panel on Climate-Security Nexus on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 22, 2023.

In his speech, Dr. Korir emphasised the extreme weather-related catastrophes that have affected the whole of the African region, including extended drought, destructive floods, and storms that have increased the hazards to communities and even entire states.

As a result of the aforementioned climate shocks, Dr. Singoei stated that Heads of State of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) have approved the decision to create a regional climate and security coordination mechanism in partnership with the United Nations office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General to the Horn of Africa.

"It is the first regional climate security mechanism in the world aimed at accessing climate related risks to peace and security, coordinating solutions to manage them and channelling finance to most fragile and climate vulnerable parts of the region," said Dr. Korir, adding that, the establishment of the first regional United Nations Climate Peace and Security hub in Nairobi to facilitate the operationalization of the IGAD regional mechanism has been warmly received by Kenya.

According to the Principal Secretary, the regional hub will be the first implementation of the UN Security Council recommendations in the new agenda for peace to establish new joint regional hubs on climate peace and security to connect national and regional experiences, provide technical advice to member states and help accelerate progress on this agenda.

Dr. Korir said IGAD Member states ambition on addressing climate peace and security ought to be matched with finance and investment.

He lauded the March 2023 Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Round table saying that "the more fragile a country is, the less climate financing it has historically received, including adaptation and resilience and according to the statistics presented at the round table, the average amount per person available for adaptation financing in severely fragile nations is barely \$2, compared to \$162 in non-fragile states.

Using the recently concluded African Climate Summit in Nairobi as an example, the Principal Secretary said Kenya, led by President William Ruto, has fought for the African continent in matters of climate change. He also emphasised the President's efforts to address the difficulties of providing climate finance for peace to fragile and conflict-ridden states.

President Ruto, the PS said, has called for urgent changes to the global financial system, particularly the multilateral development banks, in order to make it more effective for the campaign on climate funding.

He added that, fragile states should be helped to successfully implement domestic policies that foster climate resilience, including stepping up investment on climate resilience system and climate positive growth.

Dr. Korir asked the panellists to convey the message to Cop 28 and beyond in order to unlock climate funding and solve the fragility conflict, food security adaptation, and climate-related concerns.

The high-level event reviewed and assessed an initial "package of solutions" to close this gap that will be announced at COP28 later this year. It builds on successful examples of climate action in highly vulnerable, fragile, and conflict-affected settings that can be scaled up by 2030 as part of the response to the Global Stocktake, both the first assessment of Paris Agreement implementation and a forward-looking corresponding course correction, which forms the centrepiece of COP28.



MFDA Signs Performance Contracts



“ 1st, August, 2023

President H.E Dr. William Ruto’s objective is to achieve the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services. This will only be achieved through accountable, responsible and transparent use of public resources.

Foreign & Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred N. Mutua after signing of the 2023/2024 Ministerial Performance Contracts at State House, Nairobi.

CS Dr. Alfred Mutua signed Performance Contracts for Financial Year 2023/24 with Principal Secretaries for Foreign Affairs Dr. Korir Singoei and Diaspora Affairs Roseline Njogu.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua urged both State Departments to work towards achieving set goals to ensure service delivery to Kenyans. He stressed that the Kenyan people had high expectations of the Ministry to open up new opportunities regionally and globally emphasizing the critical role of Kenyans in Diaspora.





Signing of Performance Contracts



On August 16, 2023, PS Dr. Korir Singoei signed FY 2023/24 Performance Contracts with Heads of Department in the State Department for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry Headquarters.





Kenya - Mozambique Sign Eight Instruments of Cooperation

By Evance Oguta

Dr. Alfred Mutua, Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary attended the Ministerial Segment of the Second Kenya-Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) on August 9, 2023 in Maputo. The meeting was in preparation of H.E. President William Ruto's State Visit to the country.

The CS and his counterpart, H.E. Veronica Macamo, signed eight instruments of cooperation in various sectors during the meeting. They also urged the relevant ministries to cooperate to ensure that the agreed-upon areas are implemented as soon as possible.

Dr. Mutua urged the respective Ministries to cooperate and work harder to hasten the action and implementation of the agreed-upon areas of cooperation by putting strong follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms in place to monitor the development of the agreed-upon deliverables.

On August 10, 2023, His Excellency, President William Ruto traveled to Mozambique for a two-day state visit at the invitation of H.E. President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi in order to strengthen bilateral relations.

The visit gave the two nations momentum to explore their shared economic opportunities and establish the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) between Kenya and Mozambique. They held bilateral discussions in Maputo, which resulted in the signing of eight significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).



H.E. President William Ruto held bilateral talks with H.E. President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi in Maputo, Mozambique on August 10, 2023

Eight Memorandums of Understanding that will deepen ties between the two countries were signed in front of the two Heads of State. Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, Defense Cooperation, Public Service Training, Economic Cooperation in Agriculture and Livestock, Energy Cooperation, Cooperation in the Field of Blue Economy and Fisheries Sector, as well as Mutual Recognition and Exchange of Driving Licenses were among the cooperation agreements that were signed.

"I am of the opinion that it is essential for us to capitalize on the momentum generated in these engagements and quickly carry out all the bilateral instruments that have been signed," the CS said.

He also called for the opening of African borders to enhance trade, saying both Kenya and Mozambique will utilize the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA) framework to spur economic growth. The President said that the MoUs signed encompassed a wide spectrum of collaborative endeavours based on the commitment of both countries to enhance mutual development and progress.

"Kenya and Mozambique relations stand on a strong pedestal of trade and investment. We celebrate the longstanding warm and cordial relations between the two countries and undertake to strengthen our ties, to enhance trade volumes that remain relatively low." President Ruto said.

President Nyusi echoed Ruto's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the two countries in achieving sustainable development goals. He noted that through joint effort, Kenya and Mozambique can leverage strengths and resources to drive positive change.

Importantly, President Ruto also met with the Kenyan diaspora in Mozambique, where he urged them to stay united and invest back home, including through the housing project and Government securities. He pledged Government's commitment to address the issues raised some of which had been discussed during the bilateral meeting with the host nation.



PS Singoei Presides Over the Inaugural FSA Public Talk



PS Dr. Korir Singoei



Prof. Phoebe Okowa

By Kawira Githinji

On August 17, 2023, Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Singoei moderated the inaugural FSA Public Talk themed: *"The work of the International Law Commission and Relevance to Kenya and Africa"*

The Public Talk was delivered by Prof. Phoebe Okowa, a Professor of Public International Law and Director of Graduate Studies at Queen Mary's School of Law, UK. Prof. Okowa, an alumna of both the University of Nairobi and Oxford, is the first African woman to occupy a seat at the International Law Commission (ILC), where she is currently serving a term of 4 years.

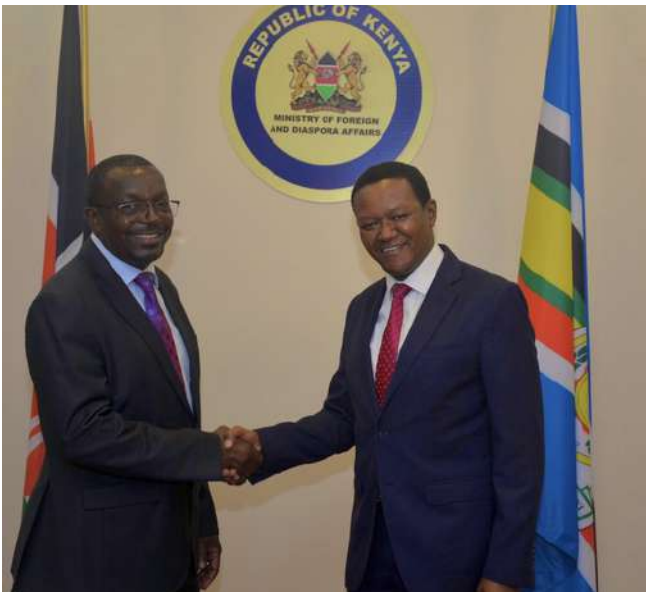
The PS noted that the talk was significant as Prof. Okowa, among the many Kenyans whom the Government had campaigned for to get such seats, was one of the few who had come back to share her expertise.

Significant issues discussed were the importance of the ILC to Kenya and her strategic national interests. Prof. Okowa advocated for better representation of Kenyans in international organisations, especially with a focus on deepened contribution of development of Public International Law.

She called for an increase of members of the African group in the Commission to ensure there was proper balance in representation among UN member states.

The event which was beamed to all Kenyan missions globally, commenced a series of Public Talks and engagements organised by the Foreign Service Academy, aimed at deepening the understanding of foreign service officers of significant issues that affect the implementation of Kenya's Foreign Policy and the advancement of her strategic national interests.

Emmanuel Juma to Head Ministry's Communications



Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua, welcomed Mr. Emmanuel Juma, a well-known journalist and editor/producer, as the new Head of Communications for the Ministry.

According to the Cabinet Secretary, "Mr. Juma brings a wealth of experience in all Media areas and has the personality, creativity, and drive to enable the Ministry to communicate its Foreign and Diaspora positions more effectively."

The CS emphasized that, starting in September, the Ministry will regularly convene Press Conferences to update the Nation on Foreign and Diaspora matters.

"The media sessions, to be named *"The Foreign Brief"* will be presided over by the Cabinet Secretary or the Ministry's two Principal Secretaries Dr. Korir Sing'oei or Roseline Njogu.



PS Njogu Hosts US Students under the Kenya Cultural Diplomacy Initiative



PS Roseline Njogu hosted a delegation of students from the U.S on a Kenya Cultural Diplomacy Initiative on August 3, 2023

By Phillip Opwora

Principal Secretary State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, on August 3, 2023 hosted a delegation of American college students. The delegation's visit is a component of the Global Connections Kenya (GCK)-facilitated Kenya Cultural Diplomacy Initiative (KCDI).

The programme, which is run by its founder and CEO, David Angwenyi, strives to foster cross-cultural understanding and advance educational diplomacy by offering US students the chance to engage in cultural interaction, travel, and learning.

The event reinforced Kenya's commitment to fortifying its ties with the world's expatriate community by highlighting the complex interplay between culture, diplomacy, and cross-border partnerships.

The visiting students, on their part, expressed sincere thanks for the opportunity to learn about Kenya's rich cultural traditions through cuisine, language, dress, and literature, which helped them gain a fresh perspective on other lifestyles. The immersion experience promoted appreciation and understanding of cultural differences.

PS Njogu emphasised the potential contribution of the diaspora to national development through the transmission of knowledge and technology while outlining the State Department's mission. On his part, David Angwenyi said reciprocal exchange programmes that will see Kenyan students visit other countries will be rolled out soon.

The meeting stands as a testament to Kenya's commitment to advancing cultural diplomacy as a strategic tool for diplomacy and international relations under the leadership of H.E President William Ruto (Ph.D).



PS Roseline Njogu with David Angweni, Founder and CEO of Global Connections Kenya when she hosted a delegation of students from the US on a Kenya Cultural Diplomacy Initiative (KCDI) - August 3, 2023



Kenya and Australia Sign MOU on Bilateral Cooperation



Foreign Affairs Director General, Bilateral and Political Affairs, Amb. George M. Orina and Australian H.E. Ridwaan Jadwat, Head of the Middle East and Africa Division of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

By Shyat Lemoshira

On August 8, 2023, the Government of Kenya and the Commonwealth of Australia held bilateral cooperation discussions that resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation with the goal of strengthening ties between the two countries.

The Inaugural Senior Officials Talks took place in Nairobi between Kenya's Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs led by Director General, Bilateral and Political Affairs, Ambassador George M. Orina and their Australian counterparts led by H.E. Ridwaan Jadwat, Head of the Middle East and Africa Division of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australia's High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Luke Williams.

The MOU commits to further develop friendship and cooperation between the two countries and widen the cooperation and mutual contacts between the two Governments, a desire to encourage and improve the economic and social development of the two countries, and an acknowledgment of the reciprocal advantages resulting from cooperation in fields of common interest.

The established bilateral cooperation will provide a structured and focused framework of collaborations in terms of scope and process of engagements. Areas of cooperation include trade and investment; health, education and science; regional security, defence cooperation, counter-terrorism; food security, humanitarian assistance; environment and climate change; multilateral affairs; sports and tourism.

Speaking during the meeting Director General Amb. George Orina said, "We welcome today's agreement with the Australian Government and we look forward to continuing our work together, especially now more than ever as the world arena faces challenges like climate change, food insecurity and conflict.

He highlighted that, the MoU presented the two nations with new opportunities in trade and investment, health, education and science, and will connect the two nations further around the two greatest exports – sport and tourism."

Australia High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Luke Williams stated that, "Australia's partnership with Kenya dates back nearly sixty years, and the inaugural Senior Officials Talks demonstrates the importance Australia places on deepening its engagement with the Kenyan government and people."

"The signing of the MOU marks a significant milestone in the growth of our bilateral relations with Kenya," the High Commissioner said.

The recent visit to Australia by the Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua and the official reciprocal visit to Kenya by Hon. Tim Watts, Australia's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, in February 2023 added valuable impetus in discussions related to establishment of a formal bilateral cooperation framework.





CS Mutua Bids Farewell to Denmark Ambassador

By David Gatobu

On August 7, 2023, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Alfred Mutua, bade farewell to H.E. Ole Thonke, Ambassador of Denmark to Kenya, during a farewell call at his office.

The CS thanked the Ambassador for his commendable track record in the promotion of relations between Kenya and Denmark.

Before his ambassadorial appointment, Ambassador Ole Thonke served as the Deputy Head of Mission at the Danish Embassy in Kenya and as a First Secretary at the Embassy in Benin.

During his tenure as Ambassador, he advocated for common interests of Denmark and Kenya in areas such as climate change, human rights, health, resilience and conflict prevention.



CS Dr. Alfred Mutua bids farewell to H.E. Ole Thonke, Ambassador of Denmark to Kenya on August 7, 2023

In the deliberations between the CS and Amb. Ole Thonke, they affirmed their commitment to enhance the existing relations to a higher level of strategic engagement.

On his part, the Ambassador noted the good exchange on the rich history and cooperation between the two countries and the agreement to grow the relations even further.

Kenya Healthcare Professionals Hired to Work in the UK

By Phillip Opwora

On August 22, 2023, Ms. Roseline Njogu, Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs, participated in the ceremonial flag-raising of Kenyan healthcare professionals recruited to work in the United Kingdom under the Bilateral Labour Agreement (BLA), Kenya and the UK.

Despite the fact that the arrangement is set to expire in two months, the PS emphasized that it has not been utilized to its utmost potential since fewer than 600 people have applied. She added that, there is a significant discrepancy between the actual number of placements and the target of 15,000 placements.

There is to re-evaluate the entire process, identify the bottlenecks, highlight the challenges, and devise solutions to improve the recruitment of medical personnel and the PS suggested that all relevant parties

meet to discuss and find solutions to the problem. PS Njogu and Public Health PS Mary Muthoni met formally before the event to explore how their respective State Departments could cooperate. Their discussions were based on the "delivering as one" philosophy, which is a fundamental principle of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which guides the implementation of policies.

PS Njogu took advantage of the opportunity to extend a traditional African welcome to the new Diaspora brotherhood members and show her joy at greeting the new diaspora client. PS Njogu emphasized the value of maintaining ongoing communication with relevant organizations, such as the Diaspora Affairs Department and the Kenyan Mission in the UK.

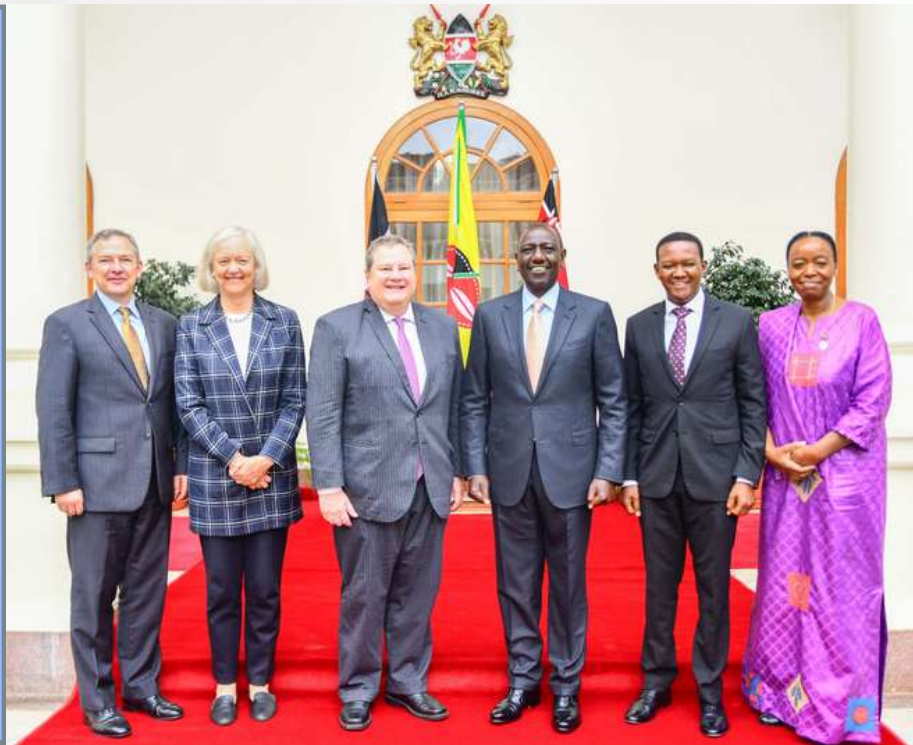




IN BRIEF

CS Dr. Alfred Mutua accompanied H.E. President William Ruto when he met with the U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Mike Hammer at State House on September 1, 2023.

Kenya will continue to work closely with the United States of America, the African Union and other organizations to eliminate insecurity and conflicts in the Horn of Africa.



On August 4, 2023, CS Dr. Alfred Mutua met H.E Hon. Ahmed Bin Abdulaziz Kattan - Saudi Royal Court Adviser.

Saudi Arabia remains one of Kenya's friend, development and strategic partner. It was great exchanging ideas of mutual interest.

CS Dr. Alfred Mutua met with CS Tourism Hon. Peninah Malonza when she paid him a courtesy visit on August 15, 2023

They discussed the plans for the African Climate Summit as well as Tourism and Hospitality training opportunities for several African nations.





IN BRIEF



PS Dr. Korir Singoei with the United Nations Secretary General Special Advisor on Climate Selwin Hart and UN Resident Rep, Kenya, Stephen Jackson during the final day of African Climate Summit 2023 - September 7, 2023

PS Dr. Korir Singoei participated on a talk show on Spice FM to discuss Kenya's Foreign Policy priorities withing the highly dynamic geopolitical context on August 2, 2023.



PS Dr. Korir Singoei accompanied Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi to the Kampala Coffee Summit in Uganda on August 8, 2023.

To strengthen Africa's voice in coffee negotiations, the meeting urged the African Union to designate coffee a strategic commodity under Agenda 2063 and transform the Inter African Coffee Organization into a specialized agency of the Union.



PS Dr. Korir Singoei met staff of Kenya High Commission in the Republic of Uganda led by Amb. (Rtd Major General) George Owino on August 9, 2023.

The PS emphasized the central role played by missions abroad in advancing Kenya's Foreign Policy priorities.





IN BRIEF



On September 12, 2023, Kenya's High Commissioner to Maputo, Amb. Paul Ndungu paid a courtesy call on Diaspora Affairs Roseline Njogu where they recapped on the issues raised at the diaspora engagement that took place in August 2023; during the State Visit to Mozambique by H.E President William Ruto.

On September 22, 2023 Diaspora Affairs PS Roseline Njogu and her Labour counterpart Geoffrey Kaituko held a meeting with a delegation from Germany led by Dr. Joachim Stamp, the German Government's Special Representative for Migration Agreements.



On September 19, 2023 Diaspora Affairs PS Roseline Njogu met a delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia(KSA) to receive a brief on the ongoing recruitment exercise of the first cohort of Kenyan nurses set to work in the Kingdom

On September 7, 2023 Diaspora Affairs PS Roseline Njogu held a courtesy meeting with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kenya, H.E. Khalid bin Abdullah Al-Salman.





IN BRIEF



On August 11, 2023, Amb. Lucy Kiruthu attended a farewell reception-cum-award-ceremony for 48 local students, beneficiaries of the Chinese Government Scholarships 2023.

The reception was hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Kenya.

High Commissioner of Kenya to the United Kingdom, Amb. Manoah Esipisu, catching up over Kenyan tea at Kenya Kitchen in North London with Anthony Irari, Chief Editor at Opera News East Africa who was attending summer school 2023 cohort in Comparative Media Law and Policy at University of Oxford. - August 13, 2023



On September 24, 2023, Kenya Embassy Berlin, Ambassador Tom Amollo was among Kenyans who cheered Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge to yet another victory in the Berlin Marathon.

Balozi Amolo congratulated Kipchoge for his gallant efforts that continue to lift Kenya's international standing.



Africa Climate Burden

**The cradle of mankind
alarmingly trembles and wobbles
as the burden of climate crisis
weighs down the continent**

**Vicious droughts and conflicts
raging floods and wildfires
poverty and diseases
ravage with savage fury**

**Agonizing debt burdens
uneven trading practices
global carbon emissions
strangle the motherland's breath**

**Reckless human activities
escalate the climate burdens
exposing the populace
to dangerous insecurities**

**The bell tolls loudly
seeking accelerated resourcing
bold innovative solutions
for sustainable green growth.**

**Kimani Mwangi,
Cultural Diplomacy Unit**

Berlin Marathon

2023



Congratulations
Eliud Kipchoge for winning the
2023 Berlin Marathon!

Kenya, the home of champions.



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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