



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS

**PRESS STATEMENT
FOR USE BY**

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PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR
FOREIGN & DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

**DURING A JOINT PRESS BRIEFING ON
THE VISIT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF FRANCE TO KENYA**

SATURDAY, 6th APRIL 2024 AT 10.30 AM

Distinguished Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

1. I am honored today to receive and welcome Mr. Stéphane Séjourné, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic to Kenya.
2. Indeed, this visit is symbolic as it marks Mr. Séjourné's first visit to Africa in his capacity as the Foreign Minister of France. I thank H.E. Stéphane Séjourné for his political goodwill in cementing Kenya-France relations as demonstrated by his visit today.
3. Kenya and France share a strong bond of friendship evidenced by the exchange of several high-level visits between our two countries. The High-level outbound and inbound visits and the successful conclusion of bilateral frameworks for cooperation form part of a link of Kenya-France engagements aimed at fortifying bilateral ties between our two countries.
4. We have just concluded a very successful engagement in which we exchanged views on the current state of our relationship and explored how we can deepen and consolidate these ties between our two countries.

5. We further deliberated on the key sectors of our relations including Transport and Sports Infrastructure, Climate Change, Green Energy transition, Water and Sanitation as well as regional and multilateral cooperation, among others.
6. On matters of Infrastructure and Transport, the French Government has made a significant mark in the development of Kenya's roads and railway systems. I am pleased to inform that Kenya and France have finalized the agreement to facilitate the funding of upgrading the Nairobi Commuter railway. This project aligns with Kenya's sustainable urban development initiatives, aiming to enhance transport services and mobility in the Nairobi metropolitan area.
7. The two countries have also agreed to expedite the implementation of a key project to create 8 socio-sports and cultural complexes throughout the country which will be co-financed by the two countries to the tune of Ksh 10 billion. The construction which will leverage the Agora model, will facilitate access to sports and culture by creating tailored local infrastructures in our communities across the country.
8. France is also a strategic and valuable partner in the Peace and Security sector. The Government of France in cooperation with Kenya, has played a vital role in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism on the bilateral and multilateral fronts.
9. I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Government of France for convening, together with Germany and the European Union (EU), the upcoming International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and its neighbors later in April. I am positive that the outcomes of the Conference will positively contribute to the efforts to find a solution to end the conflict and alleviate the suffering of the people of Sudan.
10. On environment and climate action, we have expressed our concerns about the existential threat of climate change and underscored the need for a concerted effort to address climate-related challenges.

11. We have agreed to strengthen the bilateral cooperation between our two countries on climate action and step up our efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity by prioritizing green growth.
12. We have also agreed to work collectively to advocate for a more reformed and inclusive global climate financing framework. We underlined the necessity to urgently scale up global climate finance and noted the need for an increased level of climate finance, including contributions from the private sector, and other innovative sources.
13. We emphasized the urgency to implement the UAE Consensus, including on the just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.
14. Kenya and France recognize the need for global solidarity in addressing climate challenges. We therefore invite all countries to join the task force on international taxation launched by France, Kenya, and Barbados to scale up development and climate action, as well as the Expert Review on Debt, Nature, and Climate led by Colombia, France, Germany, and Kenya.
15. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to H.E. Minister Stéphane Séjourné for our successful engagement and recognition of the prospects for mutual benefit in our bilateral relations.
16. I reiterate Kenya's commitment to deepening and broadening our bilateral relations with France, and I look forward to many more such encounters.

I thank you!

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NAIROBI
6th April 2024**