



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND  
DIASPORA AFFAIRS

# Diplomacy

E-NEWSLETTER

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## Royal Engagement:

King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima's  
impactful visit to Kenya



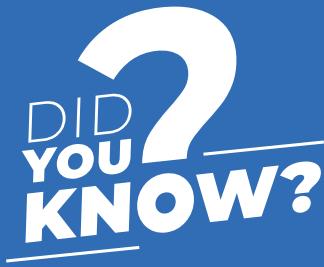


## Vision

A peaceful, prosperous, and globally competitive Kenya”.

## Mission

To pursue, project, promote, and protect Kenya's interests and image globally through innovative diplomacy, and contribute towards a just, peaceful and equitable world.



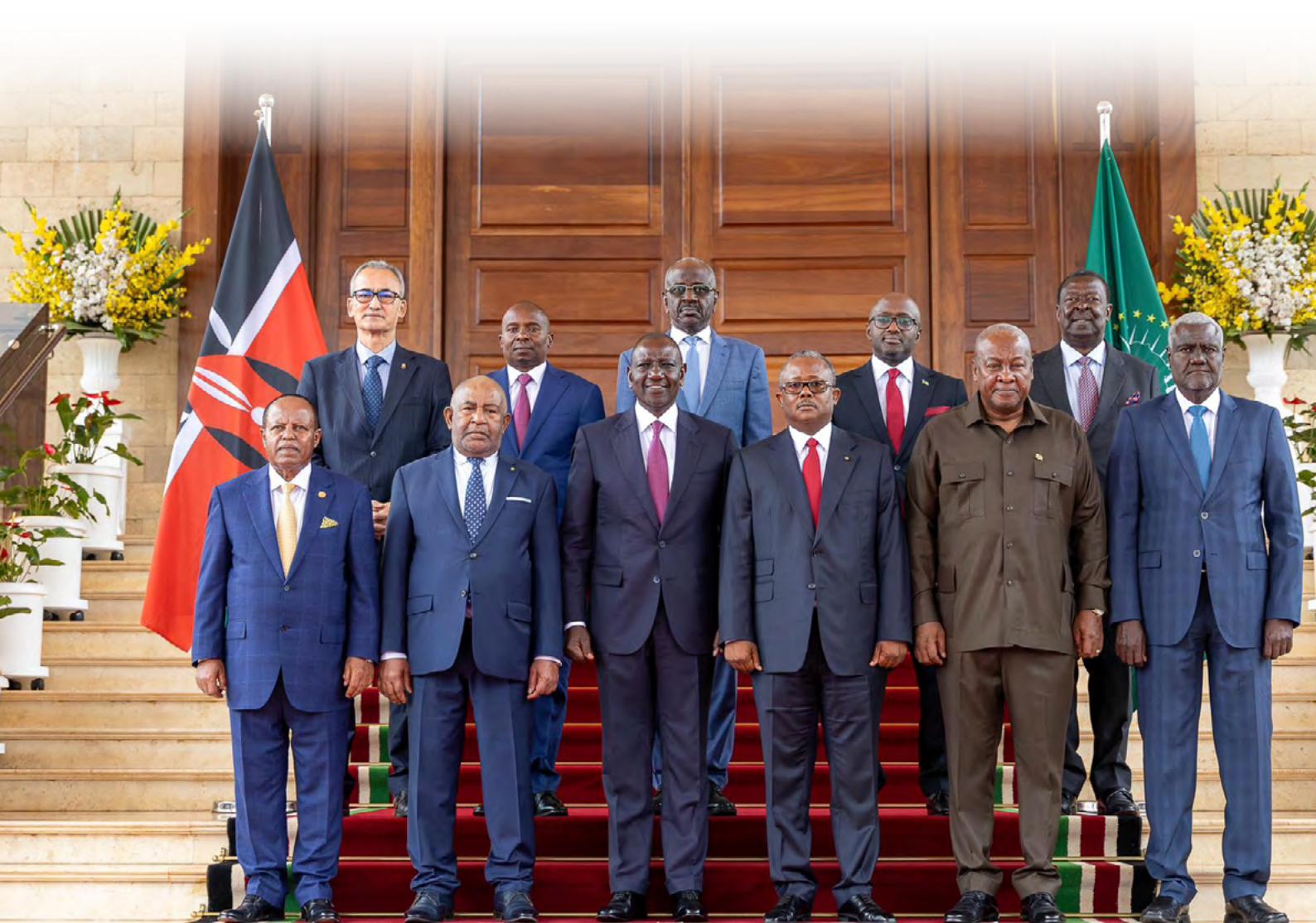
### PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Ministry oversees the management of 65 fully fledged Missions with multiple accreditations, 4 Consulates-General, 2 Missions in Nairobi, 1 Liaison office, and 31 Honorary Consuls spread across the globe.

The Ministry also serves ninety-three (93) resident Foreign Diplomatic Missions, and thirty-six (36) non-resident Diplomatic Missions; Forty-eight (48) UN Agencies and one hundred and thirteen (113) Inter-Governmental and International Organizations hosted in Kenya.

### Article 12 of 2021 (Cap 185 E) Laws of Kenya outline the Functions of the Foreign Service to include:

- Be responsible for the development and management of Kenya's foreign policy;
- Conduct and coordinate the international relations and cooperation of the Republic at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels;
- Enhance protection of Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- Enhance national, regional and international peace, security and stability;
- Protect, promote and project national interests globally;
- Establish and maintain good relations between the Republic and other countries, and international organizations;
- Manage the Republic's Missions;
- Serve and promote the legitimate interests of Kenyans living abroad;
- Administer diplomatic privileges and immunities;
- Administer all foreign representations in the Republic;
- Be the primary interface between the Republic and foreign states and international organizations or entities;
- Facilitate negotiation and conclusion of international treaties and agreements in consultation with relevant ministries;
- Maintain custody of ratified international treaties and agreements;
- Facilitate the integration of Kenya's foreign policy in national security;
- Coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the Republic's international obligations;
- Coordinate and provide protocol services to designated foreign and national dignitaries as prescribed;
- Provide consular services as prescribed;
- Coordinate relevant agencies in emergency evacuation of distressed Kenyans abroad; and
- Perform any other function as may be necessary for the discharge of its mandate as prescribed by any written law.



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# From the Desk of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs



It is my privilege to welcome you to this edition of the Diplomacy Newsletter. This publication serves as an essential medium for communicating our nation's foreign policy initiatives, diplomatic engagements, and international partnerships.

In today's rapidly changing global landscape, effective diplomacy and strategic international collaboration are vital. Through this newsletter, we aim to keep you informed on critical developments, highlight key diplomatic successes, and engage you in meaningful dialogue about the issues shaping our world as aligned to the Kenya Foreign Policy 2024.

Kenya continues to actively participate in global forums, advocate for peace, stability, and sustainable development, and build stronger ties with the international community and it therefore becomes necessary that the citizen remains apprised of these initiatives.

It is my sincere hope that we will continue to receive insights, opinions and analysis of all our engagements as part of the Ministry's efforts towards securing our national interests.

***Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EBS***

Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

## From the Desk of the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs



I am delighted to introduce this latest edition of Diplomacy Newsletter, a vital communication channel dedicated to delivering insightful perspectives and updates on our nation's engagement with the global community.

In an increasingly interconnected yet complex international environment, clear, timely, and strategic communication remains the anchor upon which Kenya's Foreign Policy 2024 will be disseminated. Through this quarterly publication, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs will strive to inform and engage you, on critical diplomatic initiatives, policy developments, and international collaborations that shape our country's role and influence abroad.

As the global environment continues to evolve with complexities and new opportunities, our commitment remains firm: to actively pursue diplomatic relations that serve our national interests, enhance regional cooperation, and contribute meaningfully to global peace and prosperity.

Through this quarterly newsletter, we aim to provide transparency, clarity, and continuous dialogue regarding our ongoing diplomatic activities, policy directions, and strategic partnerships. We believe informed citizen engagement as well as insights from the Diaspora remain critical to successful diplomacy as envisaged in the Foreign Policy 2024. This newsletter has sought to highlight critical global interactions that have taken place within the past three months. In this edition, we have incorporated various opinions and analysis of dynamic geopolitical trends, as well as insights and thoughtful reflections on matters significant to our national interest. This newsletter provides insights from our various missions abroad and shared experiences from different personalities.

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs equally encourages feedback, insights, and recommendations to enrich our collective understanding and advance our shared objectives of building strong international partnerships, advocating our national interests, and projecting a positive and influential presence on the global stage.

Together, let us remain engaged and informed as we advance our collective aspirations on the international stage.

Pleasant readings,

**Dr. A Korir Sing'Oei,**

Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs

## From the Desk of the Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this edition of Diplomacy Newsletter, a dedicated platform designed to engage, inform, and unite our vibrant diaspora community across the globe.

Our diaspora members remain vital ambassadors, playing a significant role in advancing our nation's interests globally, contributing to socio-economic growth, and enhancing cultural exchanges. Through this newsletter, we strive to keep you informed about critical developments at home and abroad, highlighting opportunities for active collaboration and meaningful engagement. This is also part of our aspirations as envisaged in the recently launched Diaspora Policy 2025 where we must as the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs strengthen communication, foster closer ties, and actively involve you in shaping our foreign engagement strategies.

In a dynamic international landscape characterized by rapidly evolving geopolitical dynamics, economic partnerships, and cultural exchanges, insights, experiences, and contributions remain invaluable. This newsletter is not only a bridge connecting you with key developments back home but also a dialogue platform where your voices can shape our collective narrative.

We are committed to ensuring that each edition brings relevant updates, impactful stories, and meaningful opportunities. Together, let us build upon our mutual aspirations and enhance our nation's standing globally.

**Roseline Kathure Njogu CBS**

Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs

# President Ruto meets the Diplomatic Corps based in Nairobi

In his first address of the year to the Diplomatic Corps on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, the President confirmed the institutionalization of the Diplomatic Brief as an annual event to reflect on past achievements, deepen collaboration with the diplomatic community and set future priorities. The President observed that regular engagement continued to enhance mutual understanding and strategic alignment while building bridges, fostering respect, and promoting shared purpose.

The President referred to the revised Kenya Foreign Policy 2024 launched in December as the anchor that would align Kenya's diplomatic strategy with evolving global dynamics. The Policy affirms Kenya's commitment to international partnerships, regional cooperation, sustainable development while positioning Kenya as a key player in global affairs.

Dr. Ruto acknowledged Africa's youths' potential noting that Kenya's growing youth remained a strength to be harnessed with government's focus on job creation, entrepreneurial support, and investments in technology and the creative economy. He affirmed his commitment to securing bilateral labour agreements to meet global employment opportunities.

On the successes of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, President confirmed significant progress had been made in agriculture, housing, healthcare, MSMEs, and digital innovation. He referenced the subsidised fertiliser programmes and expanded irrigation with the potential of enhancing food security, while affordable housing projects continued to create jobs and improve living standards. The Taifa Care was making healthcare more accessible, as the Hustler Fund provided over KSh60 billion in affordable credit to small businesses. In advancing the digital economy, Dr. Ruto confirmed that over 18,000km of fiber optic connectivity had been completed with increased investment in the creative industry. The President called upon the diplomatic community to explore opportunities for public-private partnerships, trade and investment so as to drive mutual prosperity.

On Bilateral partnerships, Dr. Ruto affirmed the need to deepen existing bilateral relations while expanding the country's global reach through mutually beneficial partnerships, including strengthening South-South cooperation. He confirmed that Kenya had secured critical support for transformative projects, attracted foreign investment, and strengthened collaboration in trade, health, education, security, and technology.

On regionalism, the President confirmed the country's dedication to advancing the EAC Community's objectives by building on past achievements while strengthening intra-regional trade remained a priority



President William Ruto addressing Heads of Missions and International Organisations at the State House, Nairobi on February 10, 2025

for economic growth and job creation. Kenya remains focused on enhancing regional infrastructure connectivity and addressing security challenges within East Africa. On the recently concluded EAC-SADC Joint Summit on the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), member states have called for cessation of hostilities, access to humanitarian aid and peaceful resolution of the conflict through the merged Nairobi and Luanda processes.

On reforms, President Ruto affirmed the need to establish a structured and predictable mechanism for funding peace initiatives. He called for support towards reforming the global financial architecture, ensuring fair debt restructuring, climate financing, and development support.

On environmental matters, the President observed the need for collective global response towards addressing climate threats. He confirmed that Kenya's electricity generation was largely from renewable sources such as geothermal,

wind and solar while the National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign had led to the planting and growing of 750 million trees out of a targeted 15 billion by the year 2032.

The President reassured on efforts to enhance Nairobi's position as a hub for multilateral diplomacy by expanding infrastructure, and bolstering security. Dr. Ruto finally commended the diplomatic community for its invaluable contributions in trade, investment, health, education, technology transfer, infrastructure development, capacity building, and security.

Since independence, Kenya has expanded its diplomatic footprints from six missions to 70 prioritising regional integration, intra-African ties, economic diplomacy, and global peace and security. In furtherance of the interests of Kenyans abroad, the government established the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in 2022 to protect, empower, and support Kenyan citizens abroad.

# Royal Engagements: King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima's Impactful Visit to Kenya



King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima, received by HE. President William Ruto and 1<sup>st</sup> lady Rachel Ruto at State House for their 3-day State visit.



King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, along with other officials, toured the Naivasha Inland Container Depot (ICD), a key facility for dry export products.



Kenya and the Netherlands signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and a Letter of Intent to bolster bilateral relations.

by W. Aluoch

In March 2025, Kenya played host to His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands during a state visit aimed at deepening the longstanding relations between the two countries. This marked the first official visit by the Dutch Royals to Kenya, reaffirming the strong ties that have existed for decades. From March 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, the royals engaged in a series of discussions and activities that reflected the broad scope of collaboration between the nations, spanning from economic partnerships to human rights concerns.

The visit was a reflection of the growing importance of Kenya on the global stage. As President William Ruto noted, the Netherlands and Kenya share a robust partnership rooted in mutual interests. This visit further underscored their shared goals, particularly in the areas of sustainable agriculture, water management, and climate change. Both nations, major economic hubs in their respective regions, have long worked together in various international platforms, including the United Nations, with a shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and peacekeeping.

The major highlights of the royal visit included the signing of three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investment, agriculture, and tourism, along with a Letter of Intent on water infrastructure development. The Netherlands, renowned for its expertise in agricultural innovation, is expected to collaborate with Kenya to improve sustainable farming practices and enhance food security. This is particularly crucial as both nations work to tackle climate change, which continues to threaten global food systems.

The state visit was not without its challenges. In the lead-up to the royal tour, there was significant public debate within Kenya regarding human rights concerns, particularly around the issue of abductions. Over 300 Kenyan citizens sent protest emails to the Dutch government, calling for the royal visit to be postponed. Many activists urged the Dutch Royals to press the Kenyan government on issues of human rights during their visit. In response, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima made it clear that human rights would be a key part of their discussions with President Ruto.

The Dutch Royals also visited various Kenyan institutions, including the Supreme Court, signalling their commitment to supporting the independence of the judiciary in Kenya. King Willem-Alexander's statements regarding the importance of upholding human rights, particularly in a country of Kenya's strategic significance, made it clear that the Dutch were not overlooking these concerns.

Beyond the formal agreements and discussions, the royal visit was also an opportunity to celebrate the cultural ties between the two nations. Queen Máxima, known for her elegant style, showcased her fashion sense throughout the visit while attending several public events, including musical performances and meetings with Kenyan youth. Her engagement with the cultural scene helped further strengthen the connection between the people of Kenya and the Netherlands.

The royals also visited Naivasha, where they took part in climate talks aimed at

finding local solutions to global climate issues. Their visit to the horticultural sector in Naivasha reinforced the importance of this collaboration, as the Netherlands is a leader in greenhouse farming technologies that could prove beneficial to Kenya's expanding agricultural sector.

Political consultations held between Foreign Affairs teams from the two nations gave a clear pathway for cooperation on regional peace and security, climate change, multilateral engagement and strategic development partnerships. The talks involved Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Musalia Mudavadi and Caspar Veldkamp,

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with Dr. Mudavadi reinforcing Kenya's dedication to democracy, good governance and the rule of law. Dr. Mudavadi observed that Kenya appreciates the Netherlands' support in advancing judicial reforms, improving access to justice and bolstering institutional capacity.

This royal visit was more than just a ceremonial occasion; it was a reaffirmation of the commitment to work together for a prosperous and sustainable future. Bilateral relations between Kenya and the Netherlands date back to the early 1900s when the first Dutch nationals arrived in the country, establishing roots

in Uasin Gishu County. However, the two countries formally established relations in the 1970s, which have blossomed over the years.

The Netherlands is Kenya's largest flower importer, with the country sending a billion stems of flowers every year for auction. The flowers, which land at the world's largest auction in the Dutch capital, The Hague, are re-exported to the global markets. Kenya also exports coffee, tea, fruits, vegetables, fish and tobacco to the Netherlands, while importing machinery, data processing equipment, chemicals and dairy products.

## Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024 launched

by V. Odhiambo



The Government of Kenya has officially launched the Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024, a landmark initiative aimed at strengthening ties with the Kenyan diaspora and integrating them into the national development agenda. The policy, unveiled on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in Nairobi by Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, represents a transformative step in recognizing and harnessing the potential of Kenyans abroad.

The Kenya Diaspora Policy 2024 serves as a strategic framework to engage, empower, and protect the diaspora while fostering their contributions to Kenya's socio-economic progress. The Policy

2024 has been recalibrated and improved to respond to globalization shifts, emerging opportunities and threats, and the establishment of a dedicated State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Mudavadi emphasized.

The policy outlines several core areas of focus including labor mobility, facilitating employment opportunities for Kenyans abroad: remittances and Investment, streamlining financial remittances and encouraging diaspora investments; technology transfer and skills development, leveraging diaspora expertise for national development; and rights protection, safeguarding the welfare of Kenyans abroad.

Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs,

Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening diaspora ties, empowering the diaspora through policies that protect, engage, empower, create prosperity for Kenyans abroad and integrate diaspora contribution into national progress while also laying out the government's intentions over the next two to three decades.

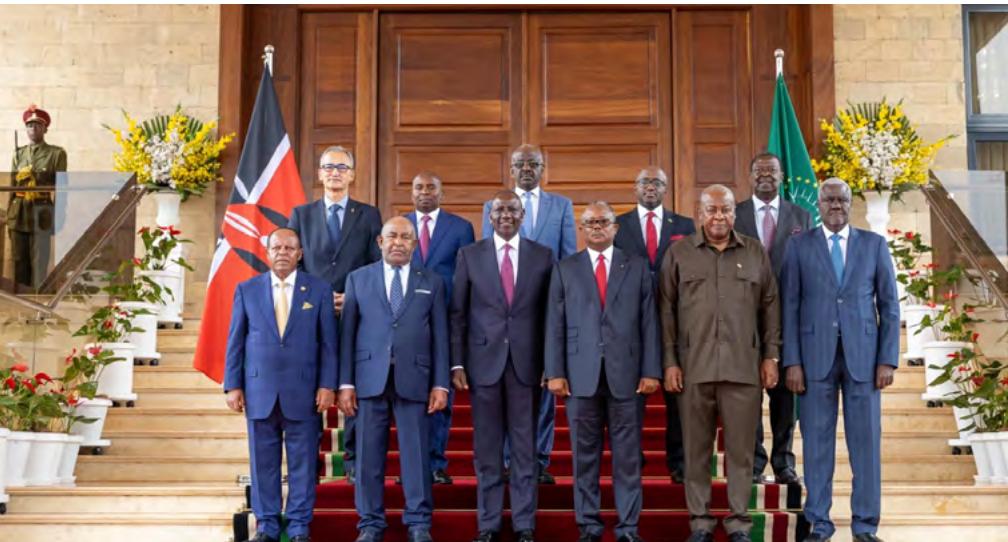
The policy introduces initiatives such as Mobile Consular Services (MCS) outreach programme, which has already reached over 14,744 Kenyans in more than 55 countries. It also emphasizes partnerships with international organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support its implementation. It is anticipated that a Diaspora Bill will be developed soon to formalize administrative processes and further institutionalize diaspora engagement. The Diaspora Policy 2024 is a testament to the government's dedication to fostering a mutually beneficial partnership with its diaspora community while addressing their needs and aspirations in an increasingly interconnected world.

However, despite progress achieved, the concerns of human trafficking under the guise of labor mobility, geopolitical unrest in key markets, and systemic barriers faced by Kenyans abroad abound. The government remains committed to tackling these issues through strategic policies, diplomatic efforts, and continuous engagement.

# International Meets, The African Union

## High-Level Retreat on African Union Institutional Reforms Held at State House, Nairobi

by Amb. K. Angore



On January 27, 2025, His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto convened a High-Level Retreat at State House, Nairobi, in his capacity as the Champion of African Union Institutional Reforms. The retreat aimed to provide an update on the progress of AU Institutional Reforms, assess challenges, and build consensus on the way forward. The discussions focused on restructuring AU organs, institutions, and offices, as well as clarifying the Division of Labour between the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Member States. President Ruto was expected to present a progress report on these reforms at the February 2025 AU Assembly.

In his opening remarks, President Ruto emphasized the urgent need to accelerate AU reforms to achieve the aspirations outlined in Agenda 2063, also known as 'The Africa We Want.' He underscored the importance of political commitment in transforming the AU into a stronger, more unified institution capable of driving Africa's progress and ensuring its global competitiveness. He stressed that Africa's prosperity depended on urgent, unified, and decisive action toward institutional reforms.

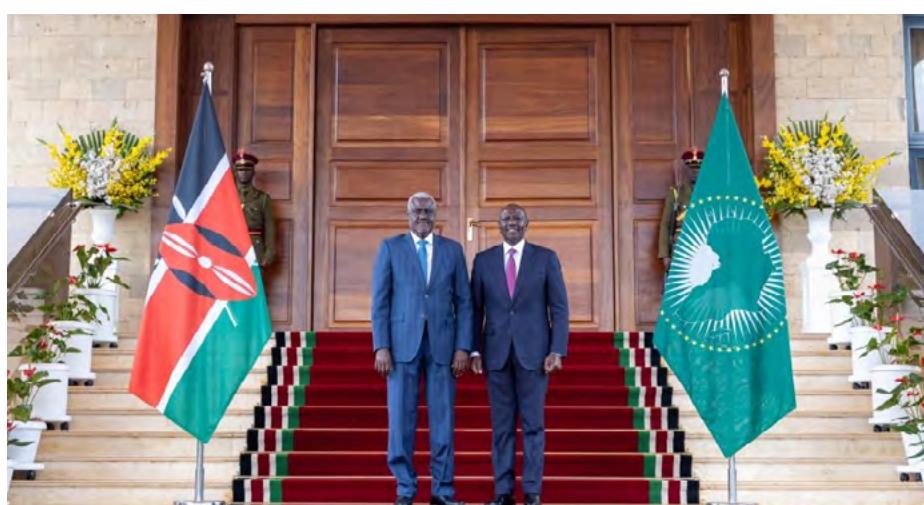
During the open session, the attending leaders expressed unanimous support for the reform agenda and reiterated their

commitment to finalizing key priorities. They emphasized the importance of galvanizing political will among AU Heads of State and Government to keep Africa's Vision 2063 on course. The discussions reaffirmed that AU Institutional Reforms were crucial for enhancing the Union's efficiency, effectiveness, and financial sustainability. The leaders also acknowledged the progress made since the inception of the reform agenda while recognizing the need to address outstanding priorities.

The retreat concluded with a renewed commitment from all participants to advance the reform process, strengthening AU institutions, mechanisms, and

programs to meet the continent's needs. With the collective resolve of African leaders, the AU is poised to become a more dynamic and responsive institution, better equipped to address the continent's challenges and realize the vision of a united, prosperous, and integrated Africa.

The retreat brought together several African leaders, including H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of the Union of Comoros; H.E. Umaro Sissoco Embalo, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; H.E. Amb. Taye Atske Selassie Made, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana; Hon. Kithure Kindiki, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya; and Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya. Other key figures in attendance included H.E. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Minister of Foreign Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad of Mauritania; Hon. Amb. Olivier J.P. Nduhungirehe, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Rwanda; H.E. Mohamed Ben Ayed, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia; H.E. Moussa Faki Mohamed, former Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC); and Prof. Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo, Head of the AU Institutional Reform Implementation Unit.



# Kenya Re-Affirms Afro-Centric Foreign Policy At The AU Assembly

by Amb. K. Angore



President William Ruto addresses fellow leaders at the AU Summit

His Excellency President William Ruto led the Kenyan delegation to the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This assembly was preceded by the 46<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025, led by Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. The 49<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee was held between 14<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 under the leadership of Amb. George Orina, Kenya's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union.

The summit, held under the theme **'Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations'**, addressed various key issues. These included the elections and appointment of the senior leadership of the African Union Commission, the peace and security agenda, institutional reforms of the African Union, regional integration, climate action, health financing, and global governance.

During the session, President William Samoei Ruto, who serves as the African Union Champion on Institutional Reforms, presented a progress report on the restructuring of AU organs and institutions. He also submitted proposals to accelerate the AU reform process,

which were adopted by the Assembly. Notably, these included the creation of a Heads of State and Government Oversight Committee for AU reforms, consisting of six members: the Champion of AU reforms and the five members of the Bureau of the Assembly. A special summit on AU reforms was also scheduled for July 2025, to be held back-to-back with the Executive Council meeting preceding the 7<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Malabo, Guinea-Bissau.

President Ruto was reappointed as the Coordinator for the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), further strengthening Africa's climate action

agenda. He reiterated Africa's unified position for COP29 in Azerbaijan, emphasizing the Nairobi Declaration and the Africa Green Industrialization Initiative. Investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, green transport, and nature-based solutions were highlighted as crucial for Africa's low-carbon development. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat's support for the Africa Green Industrialization Initiative was acknowledged as an important step toward industrial transformation.

As Co-champion of the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade, President Ruto, along with the Presidents of South Africa and Nigeria, was tasked with spearheading digital trade across the continent. The Assembly adopted eight annexes to the AfCFTA Protocol, including rules on digital identities, cross-border payments, and online safety, which State Parties are expected to ratify.

In alignment with the theme of the year, the Assembly endorsed a declaration proposed by Kenya, which expressed African Union solidarity with Haiti and supported the transition of the United Nations-mandated Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) into a UN peacekeeping operation.

Kenya also garnered support for its candidacies within the international



President Ruto addresses a high-level Presidential Breakfast Dialogue on the Establishment of the Africa Credit Rating Agency On the sidelines of the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

system. The country was endorsed for a position on the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council for the period 2026-2029, with elections to be held in Geneva in September 2025. Additionally, Kenya received support for its bid to join the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council "Category C" for the 2026-2027 term, with elections scheduled for November 2025 in London.

Justice Effie Owuor was re-elected to serve a final term as a member of the AU's Panel



Justice Effie Owuor

of the Wise, where she currently holds the position of Chairperson.

On the sidelines of the Assembly, President Ruto attended various high-level meetings, including discussions on the African Credit Rating Agency, a humanitarian conference for the people of Sudan, the 34<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Summit of the APRM Forum of Heads of State and Government, a session on domestic health financing, and a Peace and Security Council meeting addressing the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## African Union's Journey for Reforms Priorities

by I. Agum

The African Union (AU) is facing a watershed moment in its quest to achieve the transformative goals of Agenda 2063, the blueprint for Africa's sustainable development, unity, and worldwide significance. At the heart of this endeavour lies the critical need for institutional reforms to strengthen the Union's governance, financial sustainability, and operational efficiency.

In January 2017, the African Union's Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted Decision 635, which identified six core areas of reform. These include prioritizing continental issues with a focus on impact; realigning AU institutions to achieve greater efficiency; strengthening citizen engagement to connect the Union with the African populace; enhancing the Union's operational effectiveness and governance for sustainable financing mechanisms and finally implementing reforms to deliver measurable results. These reforms represent a critical pathway for achieving the Agenda 2063's vision of a prosperous and integrated Africa.

In July 2016, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, was tasked by the Assembly of Heads of State to commence the process towards reformation. During the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Heads of State and Government in February, 2024, the Assembly commended President Kagame for his commitment to and achievements in the implementation of the reform process and further took note of his request to assign another Head of State to continue to Champion the Reform Agenda.



President Paul Kagame

The 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly subsequently appointed Kenya's President Dr. William Samoei Ruto, as the new Champion of the AU Institutional Reforms and was tasked with finalizing the Union's remaining reform initiatives. During the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Assembly held in February 2025, Kenya reported there was concurrence that Africa needed to complete its reform process with urgency and decisiveness. This was the conclusion of the High-Level

Retreat held in Nairobi, and attended by the Presidents of Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, and Ghana, alongside the then AUC Chairperson and Foreign Ministers from Mauritania, Rwanda, and Tunisia.

The AU Institutional Reform process commenced in January, 2017 and sought to among others, restructure the AU organs, Institutions and Offices; revamp the Pan African Parliament and operationalize the Court of Justice of the African Union. Kenya as Champion of the AU Institutional Reforms reported that significant progress in the reform agenda had been made, among which, of the 57 AU entities earmarked for reform, 42 had already been assessed with the report under consideration by the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC).

Kenya submitted several proposals to fast-track the AU reform process among which included the formation of a five-member Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government to spearhead the reforms. An Extraordinary Summit is proposed for July 2025 where concrete proposals for the

final phase of reforms would be submitted; the African Court of Justice, a crucial pillar of AU's governance architecture, whose implementation stalled since 2009 due to discussions on merging it with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights be operationalised. Other proposals include the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) transit from a symbolic entity into a legislative force following the ratification of the Malabo Protocol by at least 28 member-states thereby granting the Parliament permanent membership and legislative authority (only 15 countries had ratified by March 2025). The strengthening of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) to make it responsive to emergent security threats, including terrorism, with a review of the AU's peace and security framework being undertaken within the next 4 months.

The clarion call is that in order to establish a fit-for-purpose institution capable of effectively championing the African agenda, all key stakeholders must work together, with urgency and decisiveness, to complete the reforms.

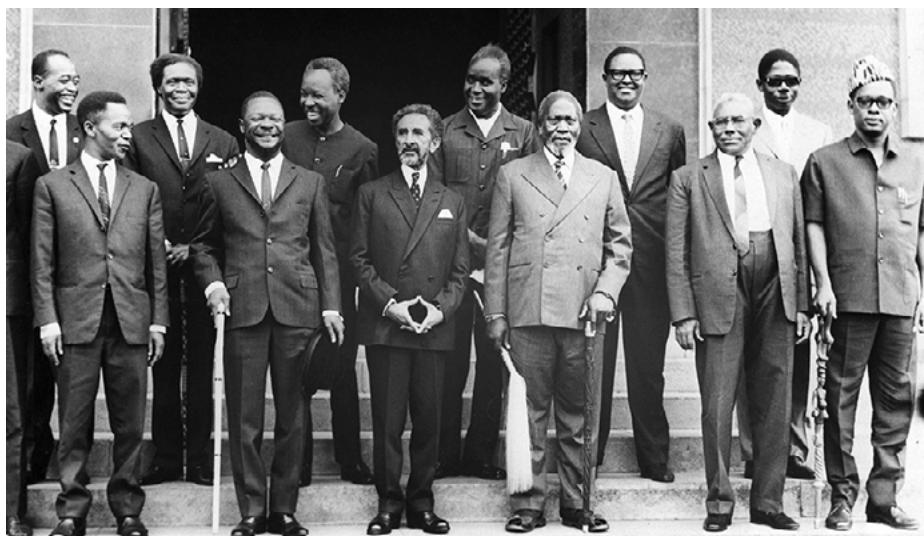
## Did you Know?

# 2025 Year of Reparations: Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations

by I. Agum



The 2025 theme of the African Union is “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.” The theme speaks to the continent’s growing emphasis on redressing historical injustices suffered during the colonial era and slavery. It also calls for the collective commitment to pursue equitable frameworks that secure payment for reparations to Africans and people of African Descent for the historical crimes committed during colonial period and slavery trade.



Founding Fathers of the Organisation of African Unity during a Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The reparations conversations are about addressing historical injustices while tackling contemporary issues like systemic racism, economic exclusion, and Africa’s marginalization in global decision-making. It also represents a call for unity among Africans and the African diaspora to advocate for justice, equity, and redress.

### Let us delve into the history of this theme.

One of the core mandates of the Organisation of the African Union (OAU) established in 1963 was to eradicate all forms of colonization from the Continent and promote unity and solidarity amongst African States. The OAU which later transitioned to the African Union (AU as we know it in 2002), amplified its voice for payment of reparations to Africans, restitution of cultural artifacts, relics and heritage pillaged from African Countries prior to the countries getting independence from the colonial masters.

The Continental and Global Pan-African Movements across the world intensified the call for reparatory justice. On 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1992, the OAU constituted a twelve-member Group of Eminent Persons (GEP) at a meeting in Abuja, Nigeria to among other things, develop the political agenda to address reparatory justice, appraise OAU Member States on issues pertaining to the reparations while taking into consideration the damage that had been done to Africa and its peoples during the barbaric and dehumanizing slave trade period that preceded Colonialism and the aftermath of neo-colonialism that the Africa Continent continues to experience.

The First Pan-African Conference on reparations coordinated by the Group of Eminent Persons and Commission for Reparations of the OAU was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> April, 1993. The Abuja Proclamation on Reparations solidified a common African position to revitalize reparation movements at both the Continental and Global level. It also called upon the International Community to recognize that there remained (and still does) a unique and unprecedented moral debt owed to the African peoples due to the damage suffered by people of Africans and people of African descent and further recommended for compensation to the Africans.



*Hundreds of thousands of historical artworks from Africa remain outside the continent, including (clockwise from top left): an Oduduwa helmet mask made of bronze from Benin City in Nigeria, housed at the British Museum in London; the "Royal Seat of the Kingdom of Dahomey" from Benin Republic, at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris; an ivory receptacle with figurative relief and stopper from the Loango coast, part of modern-day Republic of Congo, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; a Central African power figure from the coast of Congo and Angola, now at the Met; a Mbangu mask from southern Bandundu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, housed at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium; a head of a royal ancestor from the former Benin Kingdom, a part of modern-day Nigeria, displayed at the Quai Branly; and a carved ivory pendant mask of Queen Idia, inlaid with iron and bronze, from Benin Kingdom, now at the British Museum. © Trustees of the British Museum; Gerard Julien/AFP via Getty Images; Metropolitan Museum of Art; Royal Museum for Central Africa; Philippe Wojazer/Reuters; © Trustees of the British Museum*



*An engraving captioned "Slavers Revenging their Losses" and taken from Horace Waller's book about the journals of David Livingstone, it shows a coffle of men, women, and children. <https://thehistorypress.co.uk/article/slavery-in-history>.*

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted during the World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and other related intolerance organized by United Nation in Durban, South Africa from 31<sup>st</sup> August - 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 provided a comprehensive framework addressing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other related intolerance. The declaration acknowledged that slavery and slave trade including transatlantic slave trade remained among the major sources and manifestations of present-day racial discrimination against Africans and people of African descent at the global arena.

The Declaration categorized slavery and the slave trade crimes against humanity and emphasized the global commitment to help victims seek justice, protection, and reparation for human rights violations, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination.

The 2021 African Union theme of the year 'Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want' provided a synergy for African Countries to develop a common position for the restitution of cultural property and heritage illicitly trafficked from the Continent during colonial era. This was a clear demonstration that AU Member States had forged a clear roadmap for seeking reparation justice.

The historic Africa-Diaspora Summit (Accra Summit) on Reparations held on 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 under the theme 'Advancing Justice: Reparations and Racial Healing' adopted Accra Declaration which buttressed common continental approach towards seeking reparations and promoting racial healing for Africans and people of African descents who had long suffered due to slavery and especially the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Assembly of the African Union of February, 2023 through Decision 847 endorsed a proposal from the Republic of Ghana to co-organize an International Conference in November,



President Nana Akufo-Addo (Centre) is demanding a formal apology and an appropriate compensation from European nations involved in the transatlantic slave trade as well as the colonisation of the African continent. <https://ghanaintimes.com.gh/transatlantic-slave-trade-in-africa-president-demands-apology-compensation-from-european-nations/>



The Baron de Mackau of France presenting demands to Jean-Pierre Boyer, President of Haiti, in 1825. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Haitian-Revolution>; <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/10/05/1042518732/-the-greatest-heist-in-history-how-haiti-was-forced-to-pay-reparations-for-freed>.

2023 themed 'Building a United Front to Advance the cause of Justice and the payment of Reparations to Africans'. The conference was held with the understanding of resolving historical injustices against Africans and developing means for delivering long-term reparative justice for victims.

The Accra Proclamation on Reparations underscored the global call for justice and reparative actions and developed a joint framework for cooperation between Africa and Caribbean in advancing the Agenda on Reparations. It was during the 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly

of Heads of States and Government held in Addis Ababa in February, 2024, where the former Ghanaian President, H.E Nana Akufo Addo, was appointed as African Union leader on advancing the cause of justice and payment of reparations to Africans.

The Assembly also adopted the Commission's progressive report on implementation of Accra's Proclamation on Reparation where various mechanisms for reparation were proposed. The Committee of Experts on Reparations, was tasked to develop an African Common Position on Reparations,

and incorporate within it an African Reparatory Programme of Action. The Legal Experts were called upon to work jointly with the AUC's judicial and quasi-judicial organs to provide legal advice in support of the newly appointed AU Leader for Advancing the Cause of Reparations to Africans. The Assembly further proposed for the establishment of the Global Reparations Fund to be based in Africa to advance the campaign of the African Union on reparations; as well as the Transcontinental Partnership Framework incorporating all the African community diaspora in the world for the purposes of building a common cause in pursuing reparatory justice.

The year 2025 commemorates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Indemnity Treaty in 1825 between Haiti and France. Through this debt Agreement, Haitians compensated their oppressors and their descendants for the privilege of being free. The pivotal significance of this event to the African continent and global history makes Haiti the crown jewel of resistance against slavery and colonial oppression. Besides resonating with the struggles faced by many African nations during their own quests for independence, the Indemnity Treaty of 1825 remains a reference point on matters reparations, economic justice, reform of the international financial architecture and human rights.

Conversations on the independence of African countries indicate that the issue of justice and reparation is intrinsically linked to the legitimate and rightful desires of people of African descent to reconnect with their ancestral homeland.

# Kenya hosts Inaugural Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium

by F. Ngwena

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute (Africa Centre) and the University of Nairobi, successfully organised the first Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium in the Chandaria Auditorium at the University of Nairobi. The conference was an important step towards promoting Kenya's leadership in environmental diplomacy, underlining the country's commitment to global sustainability initiatives.

Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, while praising the conference as a game changer in forging global conversation on environmental sustainability, reaffirmed Nairobi's status as an environmental diplomacy hub. Dr. Mudavadi called for global action towards addressing pressing environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and plastic waste. The Cabinet Secretary emphasised the significance of bringing environmental conversations closer to the public, academics, researchers, and practitioners as aligned with the Foreign Policy Mashinani plan.

During the conference, the Nairobi Environment Dialogue Series (NEDS), was inaugurated to be held on a regular basis in collaboration with diplomatic missions to encourage sustained involvement in environmental diplomacy.

The climate change panel discussed climate funding, inclusive governance, and energy transition to stress global climate action. Some of the key lessons from the conference included need to have climate funding made accessible to all especially impoverished nations; need to address climate-related resource conflicts; appreciation of the role played by international organisations; promotion of climate diplomacy by strengthening political will, linking science and diplomacy, and fostering global collaboration.

The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) discussions on a global plastic pollution



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi address during the Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium at the Chandaria Auditorium, UON

treaty also focused on plastic pollution. The key findings alluded to the need for the development of a globally enforced convention that balances economic and environmental issues; recognition of Kenya's leadership in banning single-use plastics and implementing EPR initiatives for sustainable waste management; reduction of plastic pollution using alternative delivery and zero-waste solutions; recognition of civil society participation, capacity building, and financing in treaty implementation. Also recognized was the need for a just transition in food and medical supplies to ensure safety and reduce plastic dependency; appreciation for the role of multilateral cooperation in facilitating treaty implementation, protecting vulnerable nations, and advancing Kenya's Environmental Diplomacy Agenda.

The symposium discussed the deliberations from the Pact for the Future conference as aligned to the UN Oceans Conference (UNOC 3) scheduled for June 2025, and preparations for the forthcoming UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in Nairobi with Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stressing the significance of ongoing engagement in environmental negotiations.

During the symposium, the 60-year Environmental Diplomacy Legacy book was launched. Present at the symposium included Eng. Festus Ngeno, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Climate Change and Environment; Amb. Ali Mohamed, Special Envoy for Climate Change and Environment; Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of UNON; Amb. Beyene Russom, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps; and Mr. Oumar Sylla, Regional Representative for UN-HABITAT Africa.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and PS Korir Sing'Oei during the launch of a legacy publication documenting Kenya's 60 years of environmental diplomacy

## Opinion:

# Time to Settle the Debt: Why Western Nations Must Pay Reparations to Africa

by M. Aron

There's no way to correct a wrong, but if your conscience pricks you enough, you can do something about it. The colonization of Africa extracted immense wealth from the continent, human, cultural, and material, while leaving behind fractured societies, distorted economies, and political instability that reverberates to this day. The exploitation of resources and labor fueled the rise of Western industrial power, yet the reparative obligations of those nations remain largely unfulfilled. A fair settlement of Africa's debts, or even outright cancellation, would not be charity but a recognition of historical injustice and an opportunity to rebuild relationships on equitable grounds. Such an act would serve as an acknowledgment that Africa's underdevelopment was not an organic failure but the consequence of deliberate systems designed to siphon its potential for the benefit of others. Settling this debt would not just be a symbolic gesture but a pragmatic step toward correcting the systemic imbalances that continue to stifle Africa's progress.

From an economic standpoint, settling these debts would unlock the potential for African nations to reinvest in critical infrastructure, education, healthcare, and sustainable industries. Many of these debts themselves have colonial roots, accumulated through predatory lending practices or inherited from regimes propped up to serve foreign interests. Even today, the structure of global finance

disadvantages African nations, with exorbitant interest rates and conditional loans that keep countries in perpetual cycles of repayment. According to the African Development Bank, many nations spend more on servicing debt than on public health or education, perpetuating poverty and stalling progress. If Western nations committed to reparative debt relief, they would not only relieve immediate fiscal pressure but contribute to long-term economic stability, fostering self-determination and creating a more balanced global economy.

Moreover, clearing historical debts would pave the way for a new era of trade relations, where African countries could negotiate on equal footing. For too long, Africa has been treated as a supplier of raw materials, with little say in the global market's value chain. Reparative measures could include the establishment of fair trade agreements that prioritize local industry growth, value addition, and technology transfer. This shift would empower African nations to break free from extractive economic models and build diversified, resilient economies. In such a scenario, foreign aid, often used as a tool of influence rather than genuine support, would become obsolete. Africa would no longer need handouts if it had the financial freedom and equitable market access to determine its destiny. The end of aid dependency would signal a true transformation, where partnerships replace paternalism, and shared prosperity

becomes a reality.

Politically and morally, reparative debt settlement would symbolize a long-overdue reckoning with history. It would signal that former colonial powers are willing to engage in a sincere process of atonement, prioritizing justice over geopolitical convenience. Such a shift could strengthen international relations, fostering goodwill and dismantling the lingering power dynamics that continue to shape global policy. Western governments often call for good governance and accountability in Africa, but true leadership requires looking inward and addressing their historical responsibility. Reparations, in the form of debt cancellation and fair trade, would not only restore dignity but set a precedent for how nations can reconcile with their past to build a more just future.

While no financial figure can erase the scars of colonization, a meaningful, structured effort to lift Africa's debt burden would be a powerful first step toward restoring dignity, affirming shared humanity, and paving the way for a future where partnership replaces exploitation. The past cannot be undone, but the future can still be shaped, and it begins with the courage to settle what is owed. The question is not whether reparations are feasible, but whether the conscience of the global community is strong enough to demand them.

*Morris Aron is a business journalist in Kenya.*

# MFDA at a Glance:

## Summary of Key Achievements (2024/2025 Financial Year)

### Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

- Successfully launched Kenya Foreign Policy 2024, Diaspora Policy 2025 and Sessional Paper no 1 of the Republic of Kenya on Kenya's Foreign Policy
- Celebrated Kenya's 60<sup>th</sup> Diplomatic Anniversary, and
- Signed performance contracts for diplomatic directorates.

### Multilateral Engagements

- Active participation at the 79<sup>th</sup> UNGA,
- Co-hosting the World Chamber Federation's Africa Summit, and
- Strategic engagements on global health, nuclear cooperation (IAEA), refugee management (UNHCR), and peacebuilding (Berlin Ministerial Conference).
- Kenya secured leadership positions and memberships in international organizations like UNHRC, Codex Alimentarius, COMESA Court, and others.

### Bilateral Relations

- Enhanced cooperation with Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, and Somalia through signed bilateral agreements and MoUs.

### Peace and Security Initiatives

- Supported mediation efforts for South Sudan (Tumaini Initiative),
- Collaborated on peace processes in Sudan, Somalia, Sahel, Ukraine, Palestine, and Haiti.

### High-Level Visits and Conferences

- Hosted King Charles III,
- Facilitated presidential visits to the European Parliament, Italy-Africa Summit, Nordic-Africa Summit, and U.S. state visit

### Economic and Trade Agreements

- Concluded negotiations with the U.S. (STIP), UAE (CEPA), and actively engaged in EU Economic Partnership Agreement implementation;
- Facilitated key trade meetings and dialogues with Japan and Sweden.

### Infrastructure and Connectivity:

- Participation in Beijing FOCAC Summit,
- Secured AIIB membership, and
- Facilitated direct Nairobi-Kuala Lumpur flights, boosting regional trade.

### Protocol and Administration

- Coordinated multiple state visits,
- Managed diplomatic credentials ceremonies,
- Enhanced records management systems, and
- Upgraded ICT infrastructure.

### Public Communication and Engagement

- Published diplomatic Yearbook, e-newsletters and documentaries,
- Inaugurated Foreign Affairs Gallery, and
- Strengthened communication platforms.

### Asset Management

- Renovated key diplomatic properties abroad and
- Acquired a new Chancery in London and Ministry Headquarters in Nairobi.

### Human Resources and Welfare

- Improved payroll systems,
- Conducted staff welfare programs, health screenings, and
- Facilitated job promotions.

### International Conferences Hosted

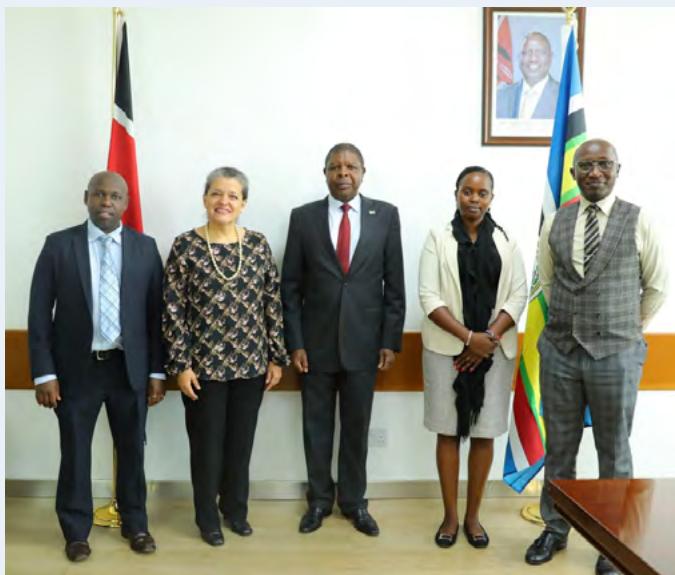
- Successfully organized high-profile conferences, including the Munich Security Conference, Africa Climate Summit, UNEA-6, and others, while
- Lobbying to host future international events.

# Pictorials

## Americas and the Caribbean Engagements

### Kenya and Venezuela

Bilateral relations between Kenya and the Americas and the Caribbean continue to flourish. Recent discussions between Kenya and Venezuela have focused on preparatory arrangements for commemorating 55 years of diplomatic relations. The two countries also seek to strengthen their existing ties while finalizing various legal instruments.



### Kenya-Brazilian

Kenya-Brazilian relations have been focused on the implementation of various bilateral cooperation instruments as well as organizing state visits and enhancing bilateral trade.



*Amb. Joseph K. Maikara EBS, with Brazilian Amb. H.E. Silvio Albuquerque and other officials from the two governments.*

### Kenya-Chile

Kenya-Chile relations recently culminated in the visit by Her Excellency Mrs. Claudia Sanhueza, Vice Minister of International Economic Relations of the Republic of Chile, as well as the first meeting of the Joint Committee of Trade and Investment between Kenya and Chile, that took place on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in Nairobi. Plans are also underway to receive His Excellency President Gabriel Boric who is expected in the country for an official visit later in the year.



*Amb. Josphat K. Maikara, EBS, Deputy Director General of the Americas & Caribbean Directorate at the State Department for Foreign Affairs, and H.E. Patricio Aguirre, Ambassador of the Republic of Chile, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.*

# Celebrating Ghana's 68<sup>th</sup> Independence anniversary

by J. Njeri

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 Nairobi participated in the celebrations marking the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Ghana at the High Commission of the Republic of Ghana in Nairobi.

In his speech, Amb. Eliphas Barine, Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs, congratulated the Government and People of the Republic of Ghana as they celebrated 68 years of independence, freedom and self-determination.

Amb. Eliphas Barine, Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs speaking on behalf of the Principal Secretary reiterated the significance of Ghana's independence in Africa's liberation movement; this inspired other African countries to fight for their own freedom. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's vision for a united and self-reliant Africa had a lasting impact on the continent's political, social dynamics and led to the establishment of Pan-Africanism.

Amb. Barine commended Ghana for being a significant trade partner to Kenya, through the opportunities afforded by the African Continental Free Trade Area. He further appreciated the role that Ghana continued to play in the fight against terrorism and mitigating the resurgence of the unconstitutional changes of Government in the Sahel and West Africa region.



H.E Mr. Damptey Bediako Asare, High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana to Kenya, at the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Ghana at the High Commission of the Republic of Ghana in Nairobi



Amb. Eliphas Barine, Director General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs, at the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Ghana at the High Commission of the Republic of Ghana in Nairobi

## Opinion:

# Parliamentary Diplomacy a tool for Global Engagement and driver to realizing Africa's competitiveness

by Amb. B. Ndembo and Ms. I Kiti

Parliamentary diplomacy has emerged as a pivotal tool in the realm of global engagement, transcending the traditional boundaries of executive-driven foreign policy. By leveraging the unique capabilities of national and regional parliaments, countries can foster deeper international collaboration, negotiate comprehensive policies, and create robust partnerships that enhance their global competitiveness. This evolving form of diplomacy not only strengthens democratic processes but also builds mutual trust and transparency among nations. Within this context, the recent initiatives by Kenya's Senate, under the leadership of Mr. Amason Kingi, exemplify how parliamentary diplomacy can drive meaningful connections and cooperation on the international stage.



Younous Omarjee, European Parliament Vice- President meets with Hon. Amason Kingi, Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Kenya

The Speaker's recent engagement with his counterparts at the European Union (EU) and the Government of Belgium highlighted Kenya's Anchor state initiative with Europe. Mr. Kingi's meetings with key EU figures, including Mr. Younous Omarjee, Vice President of the European Parliament, emphasized the significance of parliamentary diplomacy in deepening cooperation between nations and legislative bodies.

During the meeting with Mr. Omarjee, discussions focused on strengthening parliamentary ties between Kenya and the EU, with Mr. Kingi underscoring the importance of exchanging best practices between the two institutions. Emphasis was placed on the potential for greater collaboration in areas such as governance, legislation, and democratic processes, drawing on parallels between the East

African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the EU Parliament. This emphasis on structured parliamentary engagement reflects Kenya's growing role in fostering international dialogue through its Senate.

Diplomacy today is evolving beyond the confines of traditional, executive-driven channels. Parliamentary diplomacy, where national and regional parliaments engage in foreign relations, offers a robust platform for fostering international collaboration. It enables parliaments to engage in dialogue, negotiate policy, and create partnerships that deepen mutual understanding and enhance competitiveness on the global stage. Through parliamentary diplomacy, countries can foster transparency, mutual trust, and a more democratic approach to foreign policy.

The European Union (EU) stands

as a prominent example of how parliamentary diplomacy can sharpen global engagements. The African continent, while making strides, has the potential to tap into parliamentary diplomacy to bolster the African Union's (AU) competitiveness. Kenya has made substantial efforts to enhance parliamentary diplomacy, setting an example for inter-Africa cooperation. The EU, particularly through the European Parliament (EP), has been at the forefront of parliamentary diplomacy. By engaging with national and regional parliaments worldwide, the EP has cultivated stronger alliances, promoted democratic values, and advanced global economic and security interests. Inter-parliamentary platforms like the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly have played a critical role in deepening partnerships with African, Caribbean, and Pacific states.

The EU's parliamentary diplomacy enhances its influence in multilateral organizations, contributing to policy shaping on trade, security, and environmental matters. This influence continues to sharpen its global competitiveness, allowing it to lead on issues like climate change and human rights. Africa can learn from this model, using parliamentary diplomacy to address continental challenges and amplify its voice in global governance.

Africa has vast untapped potential in leveraging parliamentary diplomacy to bolster its position globally. Strengthening inter-Africa parliamentary diplomacy, particularly through the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), could enhance the AU's ability to navigate complex global politics. The PAP offers a forum where African legislators can collaborate, harmonize policies, and address key issues like



*Younous Omarjee, European Parliament Vice- President meets with Speaker Amason Kingi*

trade, peace, security, and sustainable development.

For Africa to enhance its global competitiveness, the AU must fully integrate parliamentary diplomacy into its strategy. Coordinated inter-parliamentary engagements would foster deeper economic integration, leading to stronger trade agreements and better collective responses to challenges like climate change. Furthermore, it would provide a unified platform to engage with external partners like the EU, China, and the United States.

Kenya's President Dr. William Ruto, in his capacity as Chair of AU reforms, has been a strong advocate for the establishment of a fully functional Pan-African Parliament. The President's reform agenda emphasizes the need for greater African unity in addressing global challenges. The Pan-African Parliament, if fully empowered, could act as a legislative body that represents Africa's collective interests, much like the European Parliament does for the EU.

In an increasingly multipolar world marked by geopolitical tensions, pandemics, and climate emergencies, a functional PAP is crucial. It would provide Africa with the institutional capacity to navigate these challenges effectively, while also promoting greater accountability and transparency within the AU. The actualisation of a stronger PAP is essential for elevating Africa's voice in international negotiations and ensuring that the continent's interests are well-represented.

Kenya is already taking steps to enhance its parliamentary diplomacy, as demonstrated by the recent bilateral meeting between the Speaker of the Kenyan Senate, Mr. Amason Kingi, and Mr. Younous Omarjee, Vice President of the European Parliament. Mr. Kingi's advocacy aligns with the broader African call for stronger inter-parliamentary engagement, where legislative bodies work together to enhance cooperation and policy alignment across borders. His efforts reflect the increasing role that Kenya is playing in shaping Africa's parliamentary diplomacy and positioning

itself as a leader within the AU reform agenda. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has matched these efforts in ensuring that parliamentary diplomacy is strongly anchored in Kenya's Foreign Policy as a key driver and implementor of Kenya's foreign discourses in the global and multilateral stage. The vigor deployed by the Ministry in supporting the President's efforts towards fully realization of Pan Africanism signals the importance of concerted efforts for achievement of national Foreign Policies.

To amplify the AU's global competitiveness, African countries must prioritize inter-Pan African parliamentary engagements. Regional parliaments like the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), which mirrors the EU Parliament, provides a foundation for such engagements. Expanding on this model across the continent would facilitate policy harmonization and economic cooperation, thus enhancing Africa's bargaining power on the international stage.

In conclusion, the role of parliamentary diplomacy in enhancing regional and global governance cannot be overstated. Kenya's proactive approach, under the leadership of President William Ruto and the active engagement of its Senate, exemplifies how parliamentary diplomacy can be leveraged to advance both national and continental objectives. By following the EU's model and empowering bodies like the Pan-African Parliament, Africa has the potential to significantly boost its influence on the global stage. The continued commitment to fostering inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation will be pivotal in addressing shared challenges and seizing opportunities for sustainable growth and development. With a unified and strategic approach, Africa can ensure its voice is heard and its interests are represented in the global arena.

# Developments in Nairobi

## Building Bridges for a Better Future: Kenya's Growing Influence in Global Diplomacy

by W. Aluoch

From February 18 to 22, 2025, Kenya welcomed His Excellency Ambassador Philemon Yang, President of the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), for a transformative five-day visit. The visit highlighted Kenya's rising influence in global diplomacy, economic development, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation. Ambassador Yang's engagements with Kenya's leadership, painted a clear picture of the country's growing prominence on the world stage.

During high-level discussions with President William Ruto and Prime Cabinet Secretary Dr. Musalia Mudavadi focused on Africa's representation in global governance, particularly at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) where Dr. Ruto reiterated Kenya's commitment to Africa's push for three non-permanent seats and two permanent seats with veto power, ensuring fair representation in global decision-making.



*H.E. Ambassador Philemon Yang, President of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), during his lecture at Strathmore University on February 18, 2025.*

President Yang praised Kenya's pivotal role in regional peace and security, especially in The Horn of Africa, commending the nation's efforts in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and humanitarian response. Ambassador Yang was further briefed on Kenya's strong support for UN agencies based in Nairobi. It was highlighted

that Kenya's status as a diplomatic hub was reinforced through discussions on initiatives such as the Diplomatic Service Center, which supports UN staff with work permits, visas, and official documentation, and the Diplomatic Police Unit (DPU), ensuring security for international personnel. These efforts,

along with infrastructure investments in roads, telecommunications, and internet services, solidify Nairobi's role as a global diplomatic center.

At a public lecture on 'Youth are the key to global peace', Ambassador Yang delivered a thought-provoking lecture at Strathmore University, where he called for



During a panel discussion Ms. Zainab Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), H.E. Ambassador Philémon Yang and Dr. Korir Sing'oei, Principal Secretary at Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

increased representation of the continent in international decision-making and emphasized the power of youth in shaping the future of diplomacy. Dr. Vincent Ongutu, Vice Chancellor of Strathmore University, echoed the message, highlighting the university's commitment to addressing climate change, poverty, and sustainable development.

Amb. Yang urged for an active role in shaping the future, "The world's challenges are global, and the solutions must be too. Achieving the United Nations' goals requires collective action across all sectors. The future depends on what we

do today."

The focus shifted to digital transformation and youth innovation during a visit to Equity Bank. At the bank's cutting-edge technology hub in Tatu City, Ambassador Yang engaged in discussions with Equity Group Chairman, Prof. Isaac Macharia, on the role of public-private partnerships in advancing technology and empowering youth with skills for the digital economy. It was observed that Kenya's leadership in digital innovation aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby positioning the country as a critical player in the global digital

economy.

During a tour of the Nairobi National Park, Amb. Yang witnessed Kenya's groundbreaking efforts in conservation and commended Kenya's leadership in wildlife protection, anti-poaching initiatives, and community-led conservation efforts and sustainable development. Kenya is presently home to over 200 conservancies that provide livelihoods while reducing human-wildlife conflict.

This visit was a powerful reminder that Kenya is not just participating in global governance but actively shaping its future.



# Malaysia local staff visit Kenya

by F. Kinoti

Locally recruited staff in all Kenyan diplomatic missions are integral to the success of our Missions' operations globally. Their institutional memory, local networks, and cultural understanding provide essential support to Kenyan diplomats serving abroad and should be encouraged and nurtured deliberately.

In recognition of this critical role, the Kenya High Commission in Malaysia, under the leadership of Amb. Ekitela Moru, organized a visit to Kenya for two long-serving local staff members, Ms. Rayvathi Allachan and Mr. Mohammad Rizal. The visit from 15<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 coincided with the inaugural AirAsiaX direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Nairobi on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024; the two travelled alongside Amb. Ekitela.



*Inaugural AirAsia receives the ceremonial water salute at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2024.*

Ms. Allachan and Mr. Rizal had a robust programme in Kenya which included tours of Nairobi, Nyeri, and Mombasa, thanks to the strong bonds of friendship they had established with Kenyan diplomats who previously served in Malaysia.

**The highlights of their visit included** an engagement with Ministry Leadership where they paid a courtesy call on the Principal Secretary, Dr. Korir Sing'Oei. Noting the historic nature of their visit, Dr. Sing'Oei acknowledged it was the first time local staff from any Kenyan mission abroad had visited the Ministry Headquarters. Dr. Sing'Oei also lauded the team for the exemplary effort that had resulted in milestone achievements such as the AirAsia direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Nairobi, which he observed was poised to be a game-changer in shoring up the tourist numbers from Asia



*Inaugural AirAsia direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Nairobi on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 received by Tourism Cabinet Secretary Ms. Rebecca Miano.*

as well as strengthening trade and investment between Kenya and Malaysia. Dr. Sing’Oei underscored the importance of leveraging local staff to pursue Kenya’s national interests in the host countries. The delegation also paid a courtesy call to Amb. Jane Makori, the Deputy Director General of the Asia and Pacific Directorate.

The duo had the opportunity to enjoy Kenyan cuisine through dinner and lunch hosted by colleagues who had served in the Mission. They also visited Kenya’s iconic tourist sites in Mombasa and Nyeri before touring the Nairobi National Park.

The visit highlighted the value of fostering deeper engagement between home-based staff in our diplomatic missions and the local staff. Such engagements exemplify best practices that can be emulated to build stronger ties and showcase the professionalism and collaborative spirit of Kenya’s diplomatic missions. The Ministry should consider encouraging all Kenyan missions abroad to adopt similar practices to promote mutual understanding, strengthen team cohesion, and enhance Kenya’s global representation.



PS Foreign Affairs Dr. A. Korir Sing’Oei with Amb. Ekitela Moru and Kenya High Commission, Kuala Lumpur Staff during a courtesy Call at MFDA Headquarters.



At the Fort Jesus in Mombasa.



Feeding Giraffes at the Giraffe Centre in Nairobi

# Kenya and Serbia Strengthen Bilateral Relations

by Amb. J. Yonga

Her Excellency Mrs. Danijela Cubrilo Martic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in Nairobi, recently paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Jackline Yonga, Deputy Director General of the Parliamentary and County Affairs Liaison Directorate, where discussions centred on fostering smooth interactions and engagement between Parliament and County Governments, especially with respect to visiting foreign officials and the Diplomatic Corps. Additionally, the meeting sought to elevate county trade and investment potentials.

The meeting underscored the warm and cordial relations between the two countries with the notable highlight of these relations being the high-level visit to Kenya by Her Excellency Mrs. Tamara Vučić, the First Lady of the Republic of Serbia, between 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025 meeting discussed the establishment of a Parliamentary Friendship Group between parliamentarians from the two countries, stemming from a previous engagement with the Kenya Young Parliamentary Association. The creation of such programs is seen as vital for enhancing policy formulation and capacity building for parliamentarians from both nations. Exchange programs would allow parliamentarians to share best practices, exchange knowledge, and collaborate on legislative initiatives to address challenges faced by both countries.



*Her Excellency Mrs. Danijela Cubrilo Martic, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in Nairobi, pose for a photo with Ambassador Jackline Yonga, Deputy Director General of the Parliamentary and County Affairs Liaison Directorate*

The meeting also noted potential for trade exchanges and partnerships between counties in Kenya and Serbian counterparts, particularly in the areas of product development and the organization of international trade and investment conferences within the various counties. The possibility of supporting counties in organizing these forums was explored with the participation of the Diplomatic

Corps called upon to facilitate business-to-business meetings, draft proposals for funding, and host some of the trade and investment forums on the sidelines of these investment conferences.

The meeting further proposed that counties ought to participate in various cultural events such as arts exhibitions, film festivals, book fairs, and literary festivals in both countries in order to promote creative and cultural entrepreneurship within the counties. The Belgrade Dance Festival in March 2025 was identified as a key event, with Narok and Siaya Counties proposed as potential pilot counties. An inaugural Kenya Arts Exhibition in Belgrade, co-hosted by Nairobi and Belgrade Cities, was proposed and is slated for November 2025. The exhibition seeks to strengthen cultural and historical bonds through cultural exchanges in the performing arts, visual arts, culinary arts, and creative industry markets between the counties of the two countries.

The possibility of holding trade missions for Kenyan counties to Serbia featured significantly; the goal being to secure markets for their products, arrange business-to-business meetings, and collaborate with potential development partners and donors to facilitate trade between Kenyan counties and Serbian counterparts. Kisumu County, with its ample arable land for agricultural development, was suggested as a potential area for such trade missions.

In the realm of sports diplomacy, the potential for partnership agreements on the development of tennis and basketball in Kenya by the Government of Serbia was explored. There are proposals to invite

Novak Djokovic, the world's best tennis player, to mentor young tennis players in the country thereby strengthening sports ties between the two countries.

On the issue of food security, the meeting called for developing links and joint programs between agricultural institutions in Serbia and Kenya, with Kenya's counties expected to glean from best agricultural practices in Serbia. The International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad slated for May 2025 was highlighted, with counties from Western, Nyanza, Central, and Rift Valley regions invited to participate in the fair.

Ambassador Yonga acknowledged and expressed gratitude for the invitation extended by the Government of Serbia to set up Kenya's pavilion and finance its participation in the Specialized Expo 2027. She also commended Serbia's generous gesture to increase the annual scholarships awarded to Kenya under the World in Serbia program.

It is anticipated that this engagement will lead to increased trade relations, mutual investments, and broader economic partnerships between Kenya and Serbia. The meeting is one of the ways in which the Directorate is directly engaging with diplomatic missions in Nairobi to promote trade and investment for counties and in support of devolution.

# Kenya Strengthens Ties with Japan at Emperor Naruhito's Birthday Celebration

by A. Kuria

During the occasion to commemorate Emperor Naruhito's birthday on February 27, 2025, Prime Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, expressed Kenya's commitment to Japan's collaboration with Africa through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Framework. Dr. Mudavadi expressed eagerness to participate at the TICAD 9 Summit in Yokohama to facilitate Public-Private Partnerships and create mutual benefits between Kenya and Japan. The Prime Cabinet Secretary further highlighted Kenya's readiness to showcase its tourism and cultural diversity to Japanese tourists, welcoming them to enjoy the rich flora and fauna of Kenya's heritage.



Dr. Musalia Mudavadi speaks during the occasion to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Japanese Emperor in Nairobi.



Guests at the occasion to commemorate the Emperor's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in Nairobi.

Kenya and Japan have long-standing warm relations dating back to 1963, with high-level exchanges and visits. Last year, President William Ruto signed a Memoranda of Understanding for cooperation in various sectors, including ICT, Industry and Manufacture, and Infrastructure. Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Kenya remains the largest in the region, covering virtually all major sectors of Kenya's economy.

Cooperation between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) remain success stories that continue to illustrate the growing health-research leadership in the region and the African continent. In 2024, President Ruto signed an MoU with Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to secure a Ksh 3 billion grant to support the construction of a high-level facility that will provide scientists with the necessary training in the research and development of biotechnology products.

The Kenya-Japan Business Forum and the inaugural Kenya-Japan Policy Dialogue were held in Kenya in January 2025. The primary objectives being to enhance economic collaboration and attract increased investment, technology transfer, and market access. While congratulating Japan on the impending World Expo 2025 in Osaka and reaffirming Kenya's strong relationship with Japan, Dr. Mudavadi also took the time to extend his best wishes to Emperor Naruhito for good health and a long life.

On his part, Japanese Ambassador to Kenya Amb. Matsuura Hiroshi praised the cordial relationship existing between the two countries and called for further strengthening the engagements.



H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs was Chief Guest at a reception hosted by Japan Amb to Kenya H.E Matsuura Hiroshi to celebrate the 65th birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito.



Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fujii Hisayuki with Kenya's Trade Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya, Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Dr. Korir SingOei and senior officials from Kenya and Japan at the 2025 Kenya Japan Policy Dialogue in January, 2025



Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fujii Hisayuki with Kenya's Trade Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya, Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Dr. Korir SingOei and senior officials from Kenya and Japan at a press briefing during the 2025 Kenya Japan Policy Dialogue in January, 2025

# Kenya hosts East Africa Region Global Health Security Summit (EARGHSS 2025)

by E. Oguta

The East Africa Region Global Health Security Summit (EARGHSS) took place from January 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Mombasa, focusing on strengthening regional collaboration on health security, preparedness, and innovation.

The summit, attended by leaders, health experts, and policymakers from 14 member states, emphasized the need for a unified approach to tackle health threats such as infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and climate change impacts.



Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta addresses participants during the meeting in Mombasa on January 29, 2025/OFPP



Retired President Uhuru Kenyatta with Health Cabinet Secretary Deborah Mulongo during the inaugural EARGHSS meeting in Mombasa on January 29, 2025/OFPP

Former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta emphasized the importance of robust collaboration among stakeholders to address health sector challenges and reduce dependency on foreign aid. Dr. Abdourahmane Diallo, World Health Organization Representative in Kenya, emphasized the importance of community-based surveillance systems, strategic partnerships, innovative approaches, and forward-looking policies for enhancing public health security in Africa.

The event also called for increased investment in research, local manufacturing of medical supplies, and leveraging technology and partnerships to bolster health security across the continent.

The Second Edition of EARGHSS 2026 is scheduled for the Republic of the Union of the Comoros.

# Strengthening Economic Ties Between Kenya and Saudi Arabia

by D. Makena



The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and the Federation of Saudi Chambers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Kenya-Saudi Business Council.

In a bid to bolster economic relations between Kenya and Saudi Arabia, officials from the Economic Affairs and Commercial Diplomacy recently met with a high-level delegation from the Saudi Ministry of Economic and Planning. The delegation, led by the Deputy Minister for International Economic Affairs, was in Kenya for a two-day visit aimed at exploring investment opportunities and forging stronger ties between the two nations.

The core of the discussions revolved around driving economic development through collaborative projects that align with both countries' interests. Among the primary areas of focus were Kenya's Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), and ongoing infrastructure projects such as the development of ports, roads, and energy resources. These sectors were highlighted as key avenues for foreign investment, with a specific emphasis on

the potential of Saudi Arabia's financial muscle in facilitating these large-scale initiatives.

Agribusiness and Halal food production also emerged as promising sectors for collaboration. Saudi Arabia is known for its strong demand for Halal-certified products and sees Kenya as an ideal partner to meet these needs while tapping into the growing global market for Halal food.

The involvement of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), one of the largest sovereign wealth funds globally, with estimated assets exceeding US\$930 billion remains significant. This vast financial resource offers Kenya a unique opportunity to tap into global funding for critical infrastructure and other development projects. Kenya, as one of the most developed financial services sectors in Africa, remains the continent's financial investment destination of choice.

With both countries committed to enhancing bilateral ties, the dialogue between Kenya and Saudi Arabia represents a new chapter in their economic relationship. By leveraging opportunities in infrastructure, agribusiness, tourism, and finance, both countries stand to benefit from a mutually beneficial partnership that promises to drive significant development in the coming years.

# Mhandisi Majuu Programme: Pioneering Kenyan Engineers Set Out for Global Opportunities

by V. Odhiambo and E. Boema

The Government has launched the Mhandisi Majuu Programme, an innovative initiative aimed at expanding international employment opportunities for Kenyan engineers. In its pilot phase, 16 young engineers have secured positions with various firms in Greece.

During a significant send-off ceremony held in Nairobi, Principal Secretary Ms. Roseline K. Njogu highlighted the importance of this initiative; a collaboration between the State Department for Diaspora and Kenya's Honorary Consulate in Greece.

"I extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency George Psiachas, Ambassador-Designate of the Hellenic Republic, and Ms. Vicky Pantazopoulou, Kenya's Honorary Consul in Greece, for their invaluable support in making this programme a success. I will also pursue additional labor placement contracts with Greece and other international partners," PS Njogu stated.

Present at the farewell ceremony included Ms. Esther Passaris, the Nairobi County Women Representative, who encouraged the engineers to work diligently, maintain discipline, and embody values of hard work and integrity while representing the country in



Greece.

The Mhandisi Majuu Programme offers a comprehensive support package for the engineers, including a monthly salary of Ksh 110,000, fully furnished accommodation, covered flight expenses, and a €250 allowance upon arrival. The engineers will also receive necessary working gear to ensure a smooth transition into their new roles.

As the Mhandisi Majuu Programme continues to develop, it is expected to create even more global opportunities for Kenyan professionals, broadening their career prospects and contributing to Kenya's growth through the skills and expertise they acquire.

## Foreign Service Academy trains Diplomats and Auditor General

by I. Kimeu

On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the Foreign Service Academy, conducted a five-day training program for thirty officers from the Office of the Auditor-General. The program aimed to enhance their skills in diplomatic protocol, official etiquette, and event management, focusing on fostering inter-agency relationships and refining the management of official events within public institutions. Director of the Academy, Ambassador Paul Ndungú emphasized the importance of these skills in promoting effective inter-agency collaboration and improving the administration of official events across public institutions.

The training program covered topics such as Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette, Ceremonial Protocol, event management, VIP handling, cross-cultural communication, and public communication skills. Mastery of these subjects is crucial for public servants to effectively engage in international cooperation and address the diverse demands of diplomatic interactions.

The Academy (FSA) recently conducted a comprehensive two-week diplomatic training program for newly appointed Ambassadors, Consul Generals, and senior government officials preparing for their roles at various Kenyan diplomatic missions abroad. The training, which ran from February 27 to March 7, 2025, aimed to equip the diplomats with essential skills and knowledge needed to represent Kenya effectively on the global stage.



The course was officially opened on February 27, 2025, by Ambassador Eliphas Barine, the Director General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs, who represented Principal Secretary Dr. Korir Sing'oei. Ambassador Barine highlighted the significance of the induction program, noting that it was designed to ensure that Kenya's diplomats are well-prepared to meet the evolving challenges of global diplomacy.



*Amb. Eliphas Barine MBS, Director-General Political and Diplomatic Affairs Directorate speaks during the opening session*

Participants were trained in a variety of critical areas, including diplomatic communication, protocol management, negotiation techniques, and finance management among others. The training also covered the important aspect of diplomatic protocol, equipping the diplomats with the knowledge on managing official events, ceremonies, and state visits in line with international standards. The diplomats also received instruction on managing the financial aspects of running a diplomatic mission including budgeting, allocation of resources, and maintaining fiscal responsibility in their postings abroad.

This particular training program outlined the interlinkages between the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and the other Ministries, and the manner in which they collaborate in order to realize the goals of the Medium-Term Plan IV (MTP IV) and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Director of the Foreign Service Academy, Ambassador Paul Ndung'u asked the new diplomats to use their positions in raising the profile of the country, attracting investors, and promoting global trade.

The closing ceremony for the Diplomats training was officiated by Mr. Joseph Boinnet, the Deputy National Security



*Foreign Service Academy trains officers heading for posting to various Kenya Missions abroad*



*Senior Diplomats at the Foreign Service Academy*

Advisor, who praised the Academy for its continued efforts in preparing Kenya's diplomats for their critical roles in fostering international relations.

The Foreign Service Academy's training initiatives align with the evolving requirements of the public service, where diplomatic insights are increasingly indispensable. Through these initiatives, the Foreign Service Academy continues to play a vital role in bolstering Kenya's diplomatic and public service capabilities, ensuring the nation remains competitive and effective on the global stage. It also ensures that Kenya's diplomats remain prepared to navigate the complexities of modern diplomacy and effectively contribute to the country's strategic foreign policy objectives.



*Mr. Joseph Boinnet, the Deputy National Security Advisor, Mr. Joseph Boinnet presents a certificate of training to Mr. Safari who proceeds to Port au Prince as Charge D'Affaires.*

# News From Around the World

## Presentation of Letters of Credence

### Amb. Lilian Tomitom



Hon. Lilian Tomitom, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Zambia presented her Letters of Credence to His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025 at State House, Lusaka.

*H.E. Hon. Lilian Tomitom presenting her Letters of Credence to H.E. Hakainde Hichilema at State House, Lusaka.*

### Amb. Fredrick Matwang'a



*Amb. Fredrick Matwang'a has had the honour of presenting Letters of Credence to Malta, Cyprus, Albania.*

**Malta:** Amb. Matwang'a presented Letters of Credence as Non-Resident High Commissioner of Kenya to Malta to His Excellency Dr. Spiteri Debono, President of Malta during a visit to Malta on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. During the ceremony, Dr. Debono noted with appreciation the longstanding friendly relations shared between the two countries and emphasized the need to continue working closely with the aim of enhancing political, economic and social cooperation. Dr. Debono noted that Kenya and Malta remained vibrant advocates for rules-based multilateralism and called for continued collaboration at the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Cyprus:** Amb. Matwang'a presented Letters of Credence to His Excellency Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus as Non-Resident High Commissioner of Kenya to Cyprus during a visit to Cyprus on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2024. In his remarks, President Christodoulides noted the excellent bonds of friendship between Kenya and Cyprus demonstrated by the mutual and beneficial cooperation both at Bilateral and Multilateral levels. The President underscored the important re-opening of Cyprus' High Commission in Nairobi, a sound testament on Cyprus commitment towards furthering and intensifying relations between the two countries.

While in Cyprus, Amb. Matwang'a had the



occasion of meeting Mr. Arben Gazoni, Political Director, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs where the issue

of regularizing labour migration took centre-stage. Kenya intends to further the conversations to engage Kenyan,

### Amb. Maurice Makoloo

On Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025, H.E. Ambassador Maurice Makoloo presented his letters of credence to Her Excellency Dr. Nataša Pirc Musar, President of the Republic of Slovenia, becoming the first Kenyan Ambassador to Slovenia resident in Vienna, Austria.

President Musar described the occasion as a historic achievement, adding fresh momentum to the 20-year diplomatic relationship between Kenya and Slovenia. She emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral ties, particularly in trade, technology, skills development, and people-to-people connections.

Kenya and Slovenia have collaborated

closely on various international platforms, including the United Nations Security Council, where both nations have served as non-permanent members. Slovenia, currently holding a seat on the Council under the campaign slogan "Building Trust. Securing Future," acknowledged Kenya's endorsement of this vision.

The two leaders also discussed Kenya's efforts in promoting sustainable regional and global peace and security, as well as its leadership in addressing climate change. Recognizing Kenya's role as host to one of the four United Nations offices, the leaders reaffirmed the need to strengthen multilateralism.

skilled and unskilled labour in Cyprus. He noted that the number of Kenyans working legally in Cyprus has continued to increase.

**Albania:** Amb. Matwang'a presented letters of credence on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 to H.E. Bajram Begaj, President of Albania, as non-resident Ambassador of Kenya to Albania. During the ceremony, President Begaj, noted with appreciation that Kenya and Albania enjoyed longstanding friendly relations. In turn, Amb. Matwang'a conveyed greetings from His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya to the President and the people of Albania. He expressed gratitude for the warm and longstanding friendship between Kenya and Albania. He further expressed gratitude to the President and Government of Albania for the decision to open an Embassy in Nairobi.

Following the credential presentation, Ambassador Makoloo, accompanied by a colleague diplomat Mr. Jimmy Titus Ng'ota, engaged in a series of high-level meetings with senior officials from Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Office of the Prime Minister. These discussions focused on expanding Kenya-Slovenia cooperation across various sectors, including investment and innovation.

The Kenya Embassy in Vienna remains committed to strengthening Kenya's presence in the region, serving Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, Hungary, and Ukraine.



Ambassador Maurice Makoloo and Slovenia President Dr.Nataša Pirc Musar



Ambassador Maurice Makoloo and Slovenia President Dr.Nataša Pirc Musar

## Amb. Peter Munyiri OGW

**Bangladesh:** On 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, Amb Peter Munyiri, presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Shahabuddin, the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Kenya relations with Bangladesh have been cordial with the Government of Kenya having formally communicated its intention to open a resident diplomatic mission in Dhaka on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 during the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bangladesh national day celebration in Nairobi. It presently has an honorary consul in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has a strong comparative advantage in apparel and textile manufacturing making it the second largest producer of apparel in the world after China. It also has a fast-growing pharmaceutical manufacturing sector that is set to rival India. It also has a budding ship building industry.

Kenya and Bangladesh established Diplomatic Relations in July 1978 when its high commission was established in Nairobi. On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Kenya hosted the 2nd Kenya- Bangladesh political consultation meeting in Nairobi during which agreed minutes were signed by the Principal Secretaries for Foreign Affairs. The two countries cooperate in the International Peacekeeping missions



*Amb Peter Munyiri presents his credential to His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Shahabuddin, the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.*

as major UN troop contributing states and they collaborate as members of India Ocean Rim Association IORA, Non-Aligned Movement NAM and the Commonwealth of Nations.

In 2023 total Kenya exports to Bangladesh amounted to US \$4.7 Million while imports from Bangladesh amounted to US\$21.6 Million thus trade deficit US\$ 16.9M which needs to be addressed through increased and diversification of Kenyan exports to Bangladesh. The

main imports from Bangladesh are pharmaceutical products, unprocessed tobacco, apparels and textile, slide fasteners, tableware and kitchenware and sacks and bags for packaging. Kenya exports to Bangladesh comprises mainly coffee, tea, spices, raw hides and skins, ceramic products, edible fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

New Delhi is accredited to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan.

## Amb. Betty Cherwon MBS

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, Ambassador Betty Cherwon had the privilege to present her letters of credence to the President of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, thereby accrediting her as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of

Kenya to Portugal.

Kenya and Portugal share a lot of common goals especially in areas of blue economy, culture, tourism, and environmental conservation that date back to the 1490s when Vasco da Gama docked in Mombasa

Ambassador Betty Cherwon with the President of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 after presenting her letters of Credence.



*Ambassador Betty Cherwon with the President of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 after presenting her letters of Credence.*



## Latest from Switzerland

**H**E. Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and Dr. A. Korir Sing’Oei, EBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs; attended the high-level segment of 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, and the High-level session of the 2025 Conference on Disarmament from 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in Geneva. On 24<sup>th</sup> February H.E. Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs met with Kenyan diaspora in Geneva at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. The event was attended by over 60 Kenyan professionals living in the diaspora. During the meeting, the Prime Cabinet Secretary provided updates on the government’s initiatives aimed at supporting and empowering Kenyans abroad, including opportunities for increased engagement in national

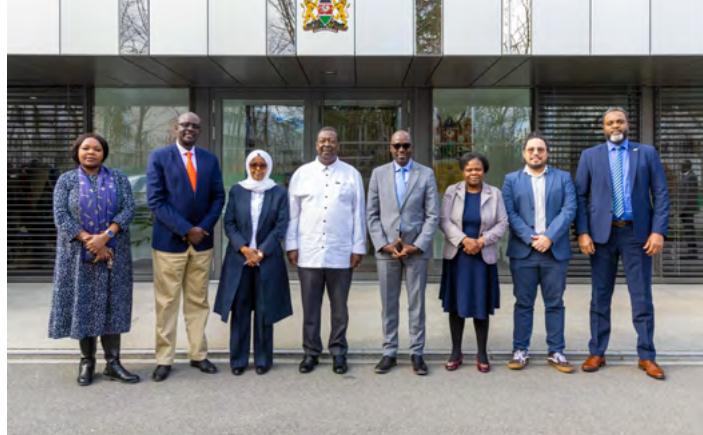
development. The session also provided a platform for open dialogue, where attendees shared their concerns, ideas, and suggestions on issues affecting the Kenyan diaspora. Key topics discussed included strengthening economic ties, promoting cultural exchange, and enhancing consular services for Kenyan nationals. The meeting further emphasized the importance of the diaspora’s contribution to Kenya’s growth and encouraged continued collaboration between the government and diaspora communities for mutual benefit.

Both the H.E. Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and Dr. A. Korir Sing’Oei, EBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs engaged in discussions with the Permanent Representative, the Ambassador and the Deputy Permanent Representative, addressing a range of topics, with a particular focus on areas of potential collaboration between the Permanent Mission and the Embassy,

especially in trade and cultural initiatives. Additionally, they held a meeting with the staff of the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Bern.

The State Department for Diaspora Affairs sent a team to Switzerland for the Mobile Consular Services (MCS) which was conducted from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to the Kenyan diaspora. The venues for the MCS were Bern (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025), Basel (6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025), Zurich (8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025) and Geneva (11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025).

The services offered during the MCS ranged from passports requests, requests for new national identity cards and requests for replacement of lost/duplicate identity cards, regaining and declaration of dual citizenship, requests for birth certificates for Kenyans born abroad, duplicate birth certificates, requests for police clearance certificates, attestation of documents and issuance of Emergency Travel Certificates. In total 285 people were served in all the Cantons.



*Dr. Mudavadi and team in Bern, Switzerland where he attended the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council*

### Bern

The MCS was conducted at the Chancery located at Eigerstrasse 2, 3007 Bern from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

A total of sixty-five (65) people were served with services rendered included 4 new passports requests, 8 passport renewal requests, 24 new national identity cards requests, 17 requests for duplicate identity cards requests, 6 applications for birth certificates for Kenyans born abroad and 5 requests for regaining of citizenship and 1 inquiry on consular issue.

### Basel

The MCS was conducted at the Swiss Post facilities located at Post Passage 11, 4002 accessed through Gartenstrasse 149 from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The Services rendered were 5 requests for new passports, 6 requests for passport renewal, 3 requests for new national identity cards, 4 requests for duplicate national identity cards, 3 requests for birth certificates for Kenyans born abroad and 7 inquiries on the consular services totaling to 28 people being served.

### Zurich

The MCS was conducted at the Central Plaza Hotel located at Central 1, 8001 from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

23 requests for new passports were submitted, 16 requests for renewal of passports, 39 requests for new national identity cards, 18 requests for duplicate national identity cards, 9 requests for birth certificates, 2 requests for regaining of citizenship, 1 request for declaration of dual nationality and 6 inquiries on other consular issues, totaling 114 people being served.

## Geneva

The MCS was conducted at the Chancery of the Kenya Permanent Mission to the United Nations and International Organizations located at Allee David-Morse 6, 1202, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

8 requests for new passports were submitted, 11 requests for renewal of passports, 17 requests for new national identity cards, 21 requests for duplicate national identity cards, 12 requests for birth certificates, 1 request for regaining of citizenship, 2 requests for attestation of documents, 1 request for police clearance certificate and 5 inquiries on general consular issues, totaling 78 people being served.



*Sixty-five (65) people were served with services rendered including 4 new passports requests, 8 passport renewal requests, 24 new national identity cards requests, 17 requests for duplicate identity cards requests, 6 applications for birth certificates for Kenyans born abroad and 5 requests for regaining of citizenship and 1 inquiry on consular issue.*



*The Services rendered were 5 requests for new passports, 6 requests for passport renewal, 3 requests for new national identity cards, 4 requests for duplicate national identity cards, 3 requests for birth certificates for Kenyans born abroad and 7 inquiries on the consular services totaling to 28 people being served.*



*23 requests for new passports were submitted, 16 requests for renewal of passports, 39 requests for new national identity cards, 18 requests for duplicate national identity cards, 9 requests for birth certificates, 2 requests for regaining of citizenship, 1 request for declaration of dual nationality and 6 inquiries on other consular issues, totaling 114 people being served.*



*8 requests for new passports were submitted, 11 requests for renewal of passports, 17 requests for new national identity cards, 21 requests for duplicate national identity cards, 12 requests for birth certificates, 1 request for regaining of citizenship, 2 requests for attestation of documents, 1 request for police clearance certificate and 5 inquiries on general consular issues, totaling 78 people being served.*

# Kenya and Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry sign agreement

by. D. Kotut

Kenya and Ghana have held a one-week B2B meeting in Accra, Ghana, to foster partnerships, enhance market access, and provide trade-related support to businesses. The meeting was organized under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Chambers, Association of Manufacturers, and investment authorities of the two countries, as well as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Treaty and its implementing Protocols. These anchoring MoUs were concluded during the state visit of President William Ruto to Ghana between 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The Ag. High Commissioner, Daniel Kottut, welcomed Kenyan traders to Ghana and assured them of the Mission's support to facilitate their efforts to make business contacts in Ghana. He also emphasized the importance of businesses

in actualizing the dream of free trade in Africa as provided for in the AfCFTA treaty. Other speakers who included Dr. George Kamau, Chairperson of KNCCI; Dr. Joseph Obeng, President of the Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA); and the Deputy Chairperson of GNCCI encouraged continued networking to increase knowledge of trade regulations, market trends, and consumer behavior in both countries in order to foster business success.

During the B2B meetings, two key partnership agreements were signed; the Coffee Trade Collaboration Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the importation and distribution of Kenyan coffee in the Ghanaian market between Ghanaian company CafeMagnifico and Sumseron Coffee and Tea, a pioneer company of Kenya based in Nairobi. This

MoU is expected to last for a term of two years with an option for renewal. The second MOU on cosmetics was signed between Michlois Investment Consult of Ghana and Alhabib Cosmetics of Kenya.

The delegation had an opportunity to visit several sites including key industrial and commercial hubs in Ghana to gain insights into local business practices and opportunities. This visit aligns with Kenya's broader objective of increasing its market share in Africa under the African Continental AfCFTA legal framework. Kenya's delegation comprised Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), potential buyers, distributors, and partners from various sectors in Kenya, including agriculture, pharmaceuticals, tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, technology, and services.



B 2 B network and deal breaking of Kenyan and Ghanaian traders.



*Signed ceremonies of two memoranda of understanding on Coffee Trade importation and distribution of Kenyan coffee in the Ghanaian market between the Ghanaian company CafeMagnifico, headquartered in Accra, and Sumseron Coffee and Tea, a pioneer company of Kenya based in Nairobi.*

# Opinion

## Kenya Foreign Policy and Tourism Diplomacy

by **S.K. Mwangi 'ndc' (K)**

The recent 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Kenya's diplomatic journey accorded the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs an opportunity that was excellently utilized to reflect and contextualize the past, present and future of Kenya's diplomatic affairs and international relations. Among the several documents launched as part of the celebrations was the reviewed Kenya Foreign Policy that identifies tourism diplomacy as one of the key areas of focus under economic and commercial diplomacy.

### Tourism Trends in Kenya and Africa

In Kenya, tourism is a strategic gemstone awaiting to be fully harnessed. In the year 2022, the Kenyan tourism sector earned the country Kshs. 252 billion with 1.4 million arrivals. The subsequent year 2023, the number of tourists rose to 1.98 million, with the earnings surging to Kshs. 352.5 billion, an increase of Kshs. 100 billion, which was more than coffee export earnings of Kshs. 35 billion in the same year. In 2024, the receipts from the tourism sector rose to Kshs. 452.2 billion with 2.4 million arrivals, a year when the tea exports earned the country Kshs. 215 billion, an increase from Kshs. 180 billion in 2023.

According to United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Africa received 74 million tourists in 2024, with Morocco leading at 17.4m followed by Egypt at 15.7m, Tunisia received 10.2m, South Africa 8.9m, Algeria 3.5m, Kenya 2.4m, while Tanzania registered 2.1m arrivals. The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) is working towards a target of 5 million tourists by the year 2027, with earnings expected to surpass one trillion Kenya shillings, which could significantly ease the economic strain the country has been experiencing for quite some time.

### Need to Realign the Efforts and Focus

Considering the vital space economic diplomacy occupies in Kenya's external relations, it's time to appropriately realign focus and expend requisite efforts commensurate to returns from various sectors. While the traditional focus has largely been on coffee, tea and horticulture products, it is time Kenya creatively and innovatively realign efforts informed by the sectoral/products prospects and returns. While all areas should be accorded adequate attention, it's not difficult to determine the efforts to commit to a product earning the country Kshs. 38 billion like coffee, in 2024 and another one earning Kshs. 452 billion like tourism, in the same year with the potential to double the proceeds within three years.

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, through its well-spread tapestry of diplomatic missions across the world holds a strategic position and is well placed to make a substantive contribution towards increasing the number of tourists visiting the country.

### Incredible Kenyan Tourism Heritage and Attractions

Kenya possesses spectacular, incredible, and attractive tourism products, which makes it exciting and enjoyable to market and promote the package. This heritage and attractions range from wildlife, cultural, historical, sports, sandy beaches, magnificent landscapes, agrotourism, cuisine, good weather not to mention the warmth and audacity of Kenyan people.

Kenyan diplomatic missions are best placed to make a significant contribution towards increasing the number of tourists visiting Kenya. The Missions must intensify efforts in a focused and targeted way as well as devise ways of analyzing the numbers to assess the success of various promotional initiatives and activities. These avenues include organizing exhibitions, road shows, cultural festivals, tourism stakeholder's meetings, online marketing, preparing targeted and attractive publicity materials, sharing Magical Kenya video clips, and utilizing opportunities to engage and market the country's premium tourism products. The initiative must start with officers in the ministry who should consider using business cards imprinted with attractive images of Kenya tourism products at the back of the card. The officers should subsequently make personal efforts to have the requisite information and knowledge to enable one to tell a compelling and interesting story about these products.

### Tourism Stakeholders Sensitization

Kenya Consulate Goma recently organized a one-day tourism stakeholders sensitization workshop, where participants including DRC-Based tour operators/ guides/ agents, social media influencers, representatives of media houses covering tourism, DRC tourism authorities, airline operators such Jambojet shared perspectives of increasing the number of tourists to Kenya while identifying the

existing challenges that need to be addressed. It was observed that there was urgent need to critically involve Mission officials and acquaint them with vital information on the various tourism products. The Kenya Tourism Board was challenged to regularly invite local agencies to sample the Kenyan products so that they are in a better position to market the country's tourism attractions.

Arguably, it is time to shift gears, and with concerted efforts, to considerably increase the number of tourists visiting Kenya, thereby tremendously boosting the country's economic fortunes and growth.



Participants of Tourism stakeholder's workshop at Goma Serena, DRC.



Maasai cultural dance

*The author is the Charge D' Affaires, Goma Consulate.*

## Kenya strengthens diplomatic ties during Ghana Presidential Inauguration visit

by J. Njeri and F. Ngwena



President Ruto with his host President Mahama at his inauguration in January 2025.

At the invitation of His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, President William Ruto attended his inauguration ceremony on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the Black Star Square in Accra. The visit solidified the strong bilateral relations between Kenya and Ghana, with the potential to enhance collaboration across various sectors.

President John Mahama secured victory

in the General Elections held on 7th December 2024. He took the oath of office alongside Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, the first female Vice President of Ghana.

On the sidelines of the inauguration, President Ruto engaged in a series of high-level bilateral meetings with leaders from across the continent and beyond, reinforcing Kenya's commitment to

regional and international cooperation.

During his meeting with His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Republic of Togo, discussions focused on strengthening Kenya-Togo relations, reforms within the African Union, and strategies to enhance continental integration. The leaders emphasized the role of the private sector in development under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

President Ruto also held talks with His Excellency Duma Gideon Boko, President of the Republic of Botswana where discussions focused on deepening Kenya-Botswana relations, particularly in trade and investment. The leaders expressed their shared vision for implementing the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), a major initiative uniting COMESA, EAC, and SADC, with the potential to create a market of 700 million people and drive Africa's economic growth. President Ruto's engagement with Mr. Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the AfCFTA sought to strengthen the importance of regional integration and the need to eliminate trade barriers to foster intra-African trade.

In a meeting with Mr. Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, Vice-President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, discussions centered on increasing investment in agriculture to enhance food security in line with the Malabo Declaration. The leaders agreed to explore further opportunities in tourism, trade, and investment to drive economic growth and sustainable development.

The visit to Ghana and these key diplomatic engagements reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to fostering strategic partnerships that drive economic development, regional stability, and continental integration.



President John Mahama alongside Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, the first female Vice President of Ghana during his inauguration in January 2025.



President Ruto with His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingb  , President of the Republic of Togo.

## Zambia: KSG signs MOU with African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC)



Labor and Skills Development PS Shadrack Mwadime shakes hands with Zambia's vice president, Mutale Namulongo- Photo Courtesy.

The Kenya School of Government (KSG) has signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC), an intergovernmental organization dedicated to strengthening Labour Administration systems in English-speaking African countries.

This partnership aims to strengthen collaboration towards joint training and capacity building, co-publication of research articles, study visits, and the development of joint programs. Emphasis was placed on the importance of sharing resources, skills, and best practices in professional capacity development towards bolstering relationships within the African Union, the New Partnership

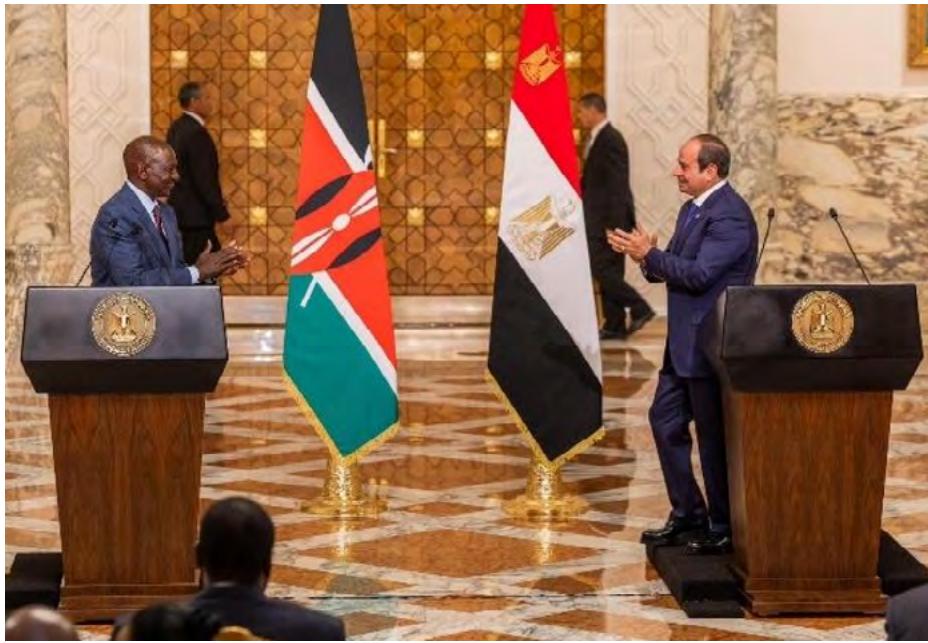
for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the African Management Development Institute Network (AMDIN).

The February signing of the MOU, during the ARLAC Governing Council meeting, was witnessed by Zambia's Vice President, Mrs. T.W. Mutale Nalumango, Principal Secretary for Labour and Skills Development, Mr. Shadrack Mwadime, Dr. Tom Wanyama, the Acting Senior Director of Finance and Administration at KSG, and ARLAC's Executive Director, Mr. Retselisipe Khetsi.

The African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC) is mandated to strengthen labour administration systems in African countries through training, research, consultancy, advisory services and publications. ARLAC is part of a network of three former ILO and UNDP regional projects on labour administration. The other two are: the Centre R  gional Africain d'Administration du Travail (CRADAT) for French speaking African countries and Le Centre Arabe pour l'Administration du Travail et l'Emploi (ACLAE) for Arabic speaking African countries. ARLAC is based in Harare, Zimbabwe, CRADAT is in Yaound  , Cameroon and ACLAE is in Tunis, Tunisia.

# Kenya and Egypt bolster Bilateral Ties

by G. Moturi



H.E. President William Samoei Ruto and H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Kenya and Egypt have deepened their bilateral relations, following the state visit by President William Ruto to Egypt in January, 2025 where he held high-level talks with his Egyptian counterpart, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The visit culminated in the signing of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership that was witnessed by the two respective heads of state. The SCP laid the foundation for long-term cooperation across multiple sectors reflecting a shared commitment to mutual growth and development thereby opening a new chapter of bilateral relations.



Kenya's and Egypt's delegation during the bilateral talks.

The two Heads of State witnessed the signing of twelve Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at strengthening cooperation across key sectors in the fields of: political consultations, diplomatic training, investment facilitation, port cooperation, youth, space exploration, communications and information technology, higher education, gender equality, women's

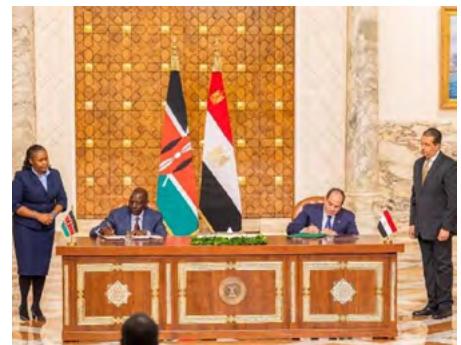
empowerment, housing and urban development.

The implementation of these agreements is expected to drive mutual prosperity and strengthen the bonds between the two countries with both nations standing to benefit from enhanced economic ties, technological advancements, and strengthened diplomatic relations, paving the way for a more integrated and

prosperous future for the two countries.

During the visit, President Ruto toured key Egyptian projects, including the Social Housing Project, Gypto Pharma, and the Arab Organization for Industrialization. The visits provided Kenya with invaluable insights into Egypt's successes into sectors that are key to the country's BETA economic and social transformation agenda such as affordable housing, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and industrial development. President Ruto emphasized the importance of learning from Egypt's experiences as Kenya advances its own housing and industrialization initiatives.

This significant milestone in the 60 years of Kenya-Egypt diplomatic relations not only reaffirmed their shared commitment to mutual prosperity and development but also chartered a new path for enhanced partnership, strengthening the ties between the two nations for years to come.



H.E. President William Samoei Ruto and H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt sign Kenya - Egypt joint declaration during his State Visit in Egypt from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2025



H.E. President William Samoei Ruto on a tour of New Capital Gardens City in Cairo

# Africa Heads of State Energy Summit, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

The Africa Heads of State Energy Summit was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 under the theme 'Powering Africa for Reliable, Affordable, Inclusive, Sustainable, and Clean Energy for all', primarily focused on the "Mission 300" initiative of connecting 300 million people in Africa to electricity by 2030 through collaborative efforts between African nations, development partners, and the private sector.

The Summit held at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and hosted by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the African Union, the African Development Bank Group, and the World Bank Group was attended by among others Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya as well as 24 other Heads of State and Government, Vice Presidents, Prime Ministers as well as Ministers responsible for Energy, Finance, Foreign Affairs from African countries.



President William Ruto with his host and President Samia Suluhu at the Africa Energy Summit 2025 in Tanzania.



Energy Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi takes a photo with other senior government officials from 13 African countries attending 17<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Council on Energy, Petroleum and Mining that took place in Arusha, Tanzania.

## Key highlights of the meeting

The over thirty African Heads of State and governments committed to concrete reforms and actions to expand access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity to power economic growth, improve quality of life, and drive job creation across the continent.

The Dar es Salaam Energy deliberations yielded the first set of National Energy Compacts, which will serve as blueprints with country-specific targets and timeliness for implementation of critical reforms. Twelve countries—Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zambia—presented detailed National Energy Compacts that set targets to scale up electricity access, increase the use of renewable energy and attract additional private capital. The National Compacts are fully led and developed by the governments. Countries are encouraged to hold public consultations with civil society and other relevant stakeholders to inform the development of the Compacts.

The National Energy Compacts set ambitious targets with timelines for implementation among others; expand

energy infrastructure at competitive costs; Leverage the benefits of regional power integration; embrace distributed renewable energy and clean cooking solutions as critical elements of the access agenda; foster greater private sector participation to unlock additional resources, and strengthen utilities.

The Dar es Salaam Energy meeting pledged more than \$50 billion in support of increasing energy access across Africa with commitments from World Bank Group (USD 22 billion); African Development Bank (USD 18.2 billion); Rockefeller Foundation (USD 20 million for Technical Assistance to develop country specific energy plans); Islamic Development Bank (USD 2.65 billion); Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (US\$ 1.5 billion); OPEC Fund (USD 1 billion); and UK Government (Sterling Pounds 8.5m).

Additionally, the 17<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Council on Energy, Petroleum, and Mining took place on 14th February 2025 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The main objective of the meeting was to review the progress of the energy sub-sectors in implementing previous Sectoral Council decisions,

receive updates from Partner States on activities in the energy, petroleum, and mining sub-sectors, and address matters of regional importance.

Among the key recommendations was for the Council to consider establishing the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) as an official institution of the East African Community. The full institutionalization of EACREEE it was recommended would drive renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency across the region, supporting both regional development and global sustainability goals.

On the power supply situation and the implementation of the East African Power System Master Plan (EAPMP), the Sectoral Council noted that connectivity and access to power, as well as consumption per capita, remain relatively low in the region. The Council urged Partner States to increase investments in generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure, and to implement demand stimulation strategies that encourage the productive use of electricity.

## DIGA Golf-sea and Safari tour (Italy)

In line with the Ministry's mandate to promote tourism diplomacy, the Kenya Mission in Rome continues to promote Kenya as a tourist destination in Italy and countries of accreditation. In March 2025, the Mission coordinated a group visit of members of the Diplomatic and International Golf Association (Diga), a group which comprises current and retired staff within the diplomatic and international community in Italy, for a visit to Kenya under the theme, Golf-sea and Safari. The Diga engages in business promotion activities and sports (mainly

social Golfing) and organises touristic visits to a number of countries, namely Turkiye, Oman, Vietnam, Morocco, Egypt, among others.

This year the Mission convinced Diga to include Kenya in the list of countries culminating in the inaugural visit to Kenya from 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Group comprising sixteen (16) persons flew directly to Mombasa and played golf at Diamond Leisure Golf club, Nyali Golf club and Rea Vipingo PGA Golf club. The team also visited the Tsavo East Game Park.

**Malta:** Kenya's ambassador to Malta, Amb. Frederick Matwang'a met with the Director of the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), Mr. Norman Martinez towards the end of last year. Deliberations focused on Kenya being a beneficiary of the institution training courses; presently four Kenyans are undertaking studies at the Institute. The High Commissioner proposed opening up opportunities of collaboration between the Institute and Kenya Maritime Authority through enhanced Kenya/Malta Bilateral relations.

## Kenya strengthens economic and diaspora ties in Austria



PS Roseline Njogu addressing the Kenyan diaspora in Austria

The Principal Secretary of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Roseline Njogu, recently participated as a guest speaker at Africa Day 2025, held from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at WKO (Wirtschaftskammer Österreich) in Vienna, Austria. The event provided a dynamic platform for dialogue, cultural exchange, and collaboration between Austria and the African continent.

Under the theme 'Business in Africa is a Marathon, Not a Sprint,' the Principal Secretary underscored the need to strengthen economic ties between Kenya and Austria, emphasizing long-term partnerships and sustainable business engagements.

### ROSELINNE K. NJOGU

Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Kenya

elevate Kenya's workforce and education standards while fostering mutual economic benefits. This engagement reinforced Kenya's commitment to strengthening its global networks and leveraging diaspora potential for national growth, further solidifying its diplomatic and economic ties with Austria.



PS Roseline Njogu with the Embassy staff during Africa Day 2025 in Austria



The Embassy staff during the Africa Day 2025 in Austria

# Kenya Assumes Chairmanship of the G77 and China Vienna Chapter

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Amb. Maurice Makoloo officially took over the chairmanship of the G77 and China Vienna Chapter from Amb. Laura Gil, Permanent Representative of Colombia. This follows his nomination by the Africa Group and the unanimous endorsement by the G77 and China Vienna Chapter as leader for the year 2025.

During his address, Amb. Makoloo who is Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, outlined his vision for the group, emphasizing the need to build bridges across regions, cultures, and ideologies while underscoring the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, deepening engagement with Vienna-based organizations, and fostering collaboration with the Global North. He described these efforts as critical to achieving the shared success of developing nations.



*Amb. Maurice Makoloo officially takes over the chairmanship of the G77 & China Vienna Chapter from H.E. Amb. Laura Gil, Permanent Representative of Colombia*



*Ambassador Maurice Makoloo, the new chair of the G77 and China Vienna Chapter*

Kenya's assumption of the Vienna Chapter's chairmanship marked a historic milestone, being the second time the country has held this esteemed position,

with the first occurring in Rome in 1979. As Chair, Amb. Makoloo is set to lead the group's engagement with Vienna-based UN organizations, advocating for equitable and sustainable development in space governance, industrial development, drug and crime control, and nuclear and scientific cooperation.

In a video message, the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to leading the G77 and China Vienna Chapter effectively highlighting the pressing global challenges that necessitate a strong, unified voice to push for equitable solutions and sustainable development.

Delegations present at the ceremony expressed confidence in Kenya's leadership, recognizing the country's ability to steer the group towards its mission of advancing development cooperation for the Global South. The G77 and China Vienna Chapter, a coalition of 134 developing nations, has played a crucial role in promoting collective economic interests

and enhancing the negotiating power of its members within the United Nations since its establishment in 1964.

The handover ceremony, held at the UN Headquarters in Vienna, brought together high-level dignitaries, including H.E. Ghada Fathi Waly, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and H.E. Gerd Müller, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Senior officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) were also in attendance, alongside delegations from UN member states, staff from the Kenya Permanent Mission, and Kenyans working at the UN.



*Amb. Maurice Makoloo during the handover ceremony, held at the UN Headquarters in Vienna*

## 8<sup>th</sup> Bengal Global Business Summit, New Dheli

by J. Kariuki

The 8<sup>th</sup> Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) took place on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Kolkata City. It was an ideal platform for the West Bengal Government to forge alliances, tie up partnerships and provide a clear vision of the opportunities that the state provides for expanding business, making new investments, setting up green field manufacturing projects and associated activities especially in the areas of Infrastructure, Agribusiness and Allied activities, Industries, Health and Education, Tourism, International trade, IT & ITeS, and Mining.

Kenya was among the 18 partner countries that exhibited at the 2-day Summit. The exhibition facilitated meetings with prospective investors, traders and tourism agents.

The Summit provided an ideal platform to partner with the West Bengal Government to promote and deepen trade, investment and tourism relations with India. During the inauguration of



Ambassador Munyiri with interested trade partners at the Kenya Stand during the 8<sup>th</sup> Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) that took place on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Kolkata City.

the Summit by Mrs. Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal State Chief Minister, Amb. Peter Munyiri, OGW, presented Kenya's investment opportunities, products and tourism offerings.

During meetings with Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee Kenya through Amb. Munyiri sought collaboration in leather and fisheries sectors while Bengal sought collaboration in the coffee sector. West Bengal is home to the largest leather park in India and is among the top producers in the fisheries sector.

## Kenya at 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council and 2025 Conference on Disarmament in Geneva,

by Amb. Fouzia Abass



PCS Musalia Mudavadi meets with Amb. Olof Skoog, Head of the EU Delegation, on the sidelines of the 58th UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on February 24, 2025/OPCS

Kenya participated at the high-level segment of 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, and the High-level session of the 2025 Conference on Disarmament that took place from 22nd-26th February 2025 in Geneva. Kenya was represented by Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and Dr. A. Korir Sing’Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

During the week-long meetings, Dr. Mudavadi took time to meet with the Kenyan diaspora in Geneva. The event attended by over 60 Kenyan professionals living in the diaspora provided an opportunity for the PCS to provide updates on the government's initiatives

aimed at supporting and empowering Kenyans abroad, including opportunities for increased engagement in national development. The session with the diaspora provided a platform for open dialogue, where attendees shared their concerns, ideas, and suggestions on issues affecting the Kenyan diaspora. Key topics discussed included strengthening economic ties, promoting cultural exchange, and enhancing consular services for Kenyan nationals. The meeting further emphasized the importance of the diaspora's contribution to Kenya's growth and encouraged continued collaboration between the government and diaspora communities for mutual benefit.

The Kenya delegation led by Dr. Mudavadi

engaged in discussions with the Permanent Representative, the Ambassador and the Deputy Permanent Representative, addressing various areas with a particular focus on potential collaboration between the Permanent Mission and the Embassy, especially in trade and cultural initiatives.

Meanwhile, during the month of February, 2025, the State Department for Diaspora Affairs provided Mobile Consular Services (MCS) to members of the Kenyan diaspora in Switzerland. These services were provided in Bern (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025), Basel (6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025), Zurich (8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025) and Geneva (11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025).

## Kenya Takes Center Stage at Fitur 2025

In late January 2025, the vibrant city of Madrid hosted FITUR 2025, an illustrious international tourism trade fair that serves as a pivotal platform for stakeholders across the global travel industry. Held from January 22 to January 26, this year's event aptly themed 'Proud. We Are Tourism' ("Orgullosos. Somos turismo"), highlighted the resilience and vitality of the tourism sector worldwide. Notably, Kenya marked its debut at this prestigious exhibition, signaling a new chapter in its promotional efforts.

The Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO) led this significant endeavor, showcasing the country's diverse tourism offerings through an impressive delegation of 12 co-exhibitors. Among these were prominent businesses such as Dallago Tours Kenya-Tanzania Ltd, which specializes in bespoke safari adventures; Neptune Hotels, known for exceptional hospitality; and Serena Hotels, renowned for its luxury accommodations nestled in East Africa's spectacular landscapes. This diverse representation underscored Kenya's multifaceted tourism appeal, ranging from adventurous safaris and eco-tourism to luxurious beach getaways.

The Kenyan stand captivated attendees, particularly during the first two days which were characterized by heightened activity and visitor engagement. Exhibitors had the opportunity to connect with international Destination Management Companies (DMCs), travel agencies, and potential clients keen to explore the wonders of



*The Ambassador of Kenya, H.E. Nairimas Ole Sein with Kenyan delegates from Kenya Associations of tour operators*

Kenya's safaris. The dynamic interactions facilitated valuable exchanges, leading to prospective business partnerships and new avenues for collaborative ventures in promoting Kenyan tourism.

The coordinated efforts between KATO and the Kenyan Embassy in Madrid were instrumental in ensuring a robust representation, enhancing both visibility and credibility at the event. The strategic networking enabled KATO to leverage its expertise in engaging with influential stakeholders. Promotional efforts by the Embassy over the years have played a crucial role in elevating Kenya's profile as a premier safari destination, significantly contributing to increased brand

awareness.

The Kenya Association of Tour Operators' debut at FITUR 2025 represents a significant milestone in the country's tourism promotion strategy. The event served as an invaluable platform for establishing connections, fostering partnerships, and capturing the interest of potential travelers from around the globe. With thoughtfully implemented enhancements for future participations, Kenya is poised to further solidify its status as a top-tier travel destination and maximize the impact of international tourism exhibitions in promoting its rich and diverse offering.

# Kenya Inches Closer to OECD Partnership, Eyes Economic Transformation

by A. Kuria

Kenya has taken a significant step toward deeper global economic integration, officially expressing its intent to establish a formal Country Programme with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The announcement by Kenya's Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs was made in March, 2025 during a crucial study visit to the OECD headquarters in Paris, France.

The Principal Secretary stressed Kenya's commitment to scaling up cooperation through an organized Country Programme, enabling the nation to leverage the OECD's expertise in critical areas such as trade and investment, policy formulation, fiscal policy, environment and climate change, agriculture and sustainable development, and education.

Dr. Sing'Oei highlighted the transformative potential of strengthening ties with the OECD, stating it would position Kenya as a leading force in Africa's economic transformation and enhance its global credibility.

Kenya's pursuit of a closer relationship with OECD is driven by a clear vision, to harness the OECD's resources and frameworks to accelerate its national development agenda; utilize OECD expertise to refine economic policies and enhance governance; foster enhanced trade partnerships while attracting vital foreign direct investment. Kenya also seeks to adopt OECD frameworks in areas such as taxation, anti-corruption, education, the digital economy, and environmental sustainability.

The proposed Kenya-OECD Country Programme is designed to facilitate valuable knowledge exchange, enabling Kenya to benefit from policy benchmarking and data-driven decision-making, crucial for building long-term economic resilience. Kenya's commitment to OECD principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusive growth is expected to be pivotal in ensuring sustainable and equitable development. This strategic move signifies a new chapter in Kenya's development journey,

characterized by ambition, collaboration, and adherence to global best practices.

The OECD, a globally recognized authority on economic policy and best practices, offers a prestigious platform for its 38 member countries. Its origins can be traced back to the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), established to administer Marshall Plan aid for post-World War II European reconstruction. The transition from OEEC to OECD, formalized in 1961, broadened its scope to global economic cooperation.

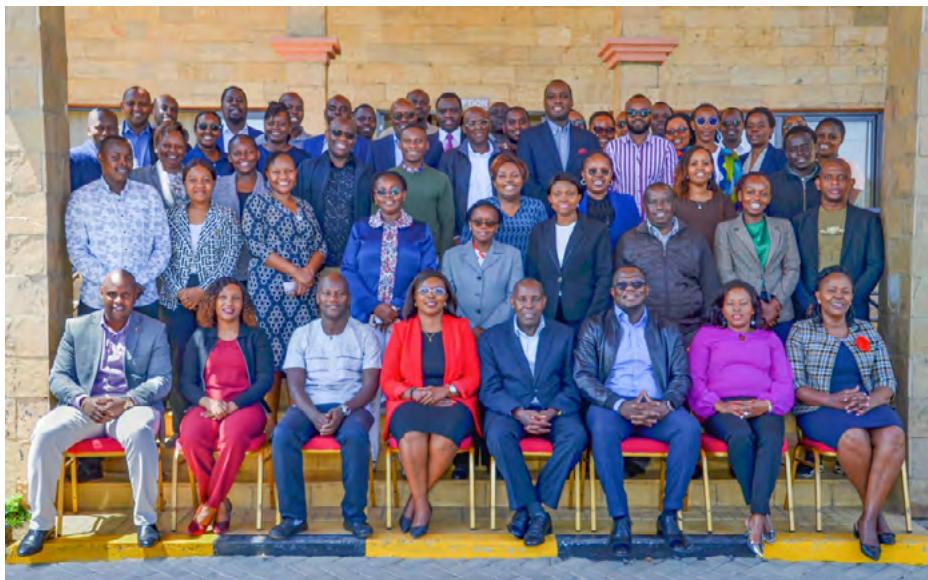
Since then, the OECD has focused on enhancing global well-being through policy advice that supports resilient, inclusive, and sustainable growth. Through evidence-based analysis, standards, and global networks, the OECD has played a crucial role in addressing global challenges, from environmental policy to education and tax transparency.



The Principal Secretary, Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, together with Kenya officials in a meeting with the Deputy Director for global relations and cooperation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Mr. Karim Dahou, at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

## Finalization of Missions' Strategic Plans

The State Department for Foreign Affairs recently finalized training of all Mission Performance Contract (PC) desk officers on the Performance Management System. The Officers from 34 Missions were also trained on the use of Performance Appraisal System (PAS) and on the commitments contained in the Service Delivery Charter. The Mission PC desk officers also concluded their respective Mission Strategic plans to ensure they were aligned to the 2024/25 Mission Performance Contract.



*Group two of the training retreat led by the Amb. Yabesh O. Monari, MBS - Secretary, Foreign Service Administration & Management (4<sup>th</sup> right) and Ms. Dorothy Mwera - Ag. Director, Central Project Planning and Monitoring Department (4<sup>th</sup> left)*

The retreat was held at the Lake Naivasha Burch Resort, from 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, in two groups each comprising the technical team, 34 Missions, as well as representatives from the State Departments for Economic Planning and Diaspora Affairs. The respective Missions were expected to have submitted their zero draft strategic plans prior to the training.

At the conclusion of the retreat, the Mission PC desk officers in collaboration with the technical and on-barded team, concluded all the Missions' strategic plans, and ensured that all Missions were up-to-date on the 2024/25 Mission Performance Contract on PMS. Subsequently the Mission officers are expected to train the rest of their Mission staff on the PAS and sensitize them on the SDFA Service Delivery Charter.

## Senate Standing Committees Visit Kenya Consulate in Arusha

Throughout January 2025, the Kenya Consulate General in Arusha hosted a series of high-level courtesy calls from key Senate Standing Committees amongst them, the Senate Standing Committee on Health, the Senate Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation, and Housing, the Senate Liaison Committee, and the Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare.

Consulate's establishment, mandate, and strategic importance taking into consideration that the Consulate's establishment was firstly anchored on Kenya's Chairmanship of the East African Community (EAC) from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021, which positioned the country to play a leading role in shaping regional policies. Furthermore, in April 2021, a Kenyan was appointed EAC Secretary General for

Kenya's influence within the Community. The economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had severely impacted EAC economies, necessitating stronger regional coordination and presence that was also necessary to mediate the persistent trade barriers with Tanzania and Uganda.

The establishment of the Consulate was thus driven by the following key strategic objectives: First, there was a need to bolster trade and investment by addressing cross-border trade challenges and deepening regional integration. Arusha, as the headquarters of the EAC, presented a vital opportunity for Kenya to play a more proactive role in advancing regional projects and programs. Second, the Consulate was established to serve the large Kenyan diaspora in Arusha and its environs, ensuring they had access to consular services and support. Third, Arusha's status as the economic hub of



*The Senate Liaison Committee pays a courtesy call on the Kenya Consulate Arusha on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

northern Tanzania made it a crucial gateway for Kenyan businesses seeking market entry into the region. Finally, the Consulate was also tasked with coordinating Kenya's national security interests, particularly in monitoring and countering transnational criminal activities that could pose security threats from within Tanzania.

The visiting Committees were also briefed on Kenya's regional integration agenda and its role within the EAC which is anchored on four key pillars: The Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, and Political Federation. Among the notable successes of regional integration, the Committees were updated on the

implementation of the Single Customs Territory, which has significantly eased the movement of goods, leading to a steady increase in Kenya's exports to the region from 2006 to 2024. Other milestones include the harmonization of standards for commonly traded goods, the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), the revision of commitments in seven service sectors, and the removal of visa requirements within the EAC.

Despite these achievements, the EAC continues to face several challenges; the proliferation of trade barriers, delays in decision-making, and sustainable financing remain major hurdles to deeper integration. The ratification

of protocols and legal instruments, conflicts between national laws and regional legal frameworks, and the multiple memberships of Partner States in other regional economic blocs further complicate the implementation of EAC initiatives.

During the briefings, the Committees were also informed that Kenya had assumed the Chairmanship of the EAC following the 24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State on 30th November 2024. This development positions Kenya at the forefront of shaping regional economic policies, trade facilitation, and security cooperation.



Photo/The Standing Committee on Health with the Consulate Staff on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025



Photo/The Consulate Staff with the Senate Liaison Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## EAC-SADC Joint Summit: Addressing Security in the DRC

On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held a joint summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to address the ongoing security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The summit was convened following an agreement between EAC Chairperson President William Ruto and SADC Chairman President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe.



Photo courtesy of EAC

The summit called for the cessation of hostilities and an immediate ceasefire, with a focus on the restoration of essential utilities and supply lines for food and other critical commodities to ensure humanitarian support. The leaders agreed to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict, merging the Luanda and Nairobi peace processes to streamline efforts for lasting peace.

A key outcome of the summit was the decision to enhance the two peace processes, with the co-chairs of EAC and SADC, in consultation with the African Union, tasked with considering the appointment of additional facilitators from other regions of the continent. The summit also directed the Ministers of Defence from both organizations to meet to discuss the ceasefire, establish a



Photo Courtesy of President William Samoei Ruto

technical coordination mechanism, and develop a comprehensive roadmap to overcome the challenges hindering peace in eastern DRC.

The Summit stressed the need to develop and implement modalities for the withdrawal of uninvited foreign armed forces from the DRC territory, further ensuring the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Summit lastly reaffirmed its solidarity and unwavering commitment to supporting the DRC in its efforts to safeguard its independence, sovereignty, and work towards sustainable peace, security, and development. This summit represents a critical step towards addressing the challenges facing the DRC and reaffirming regional cooperation in the pursuit of peace.

## Arusha Consulate Hosts Meet and Greet High Tea for Kenyan Diaspora in Arusha and Moshi

On March 14, 2025, the Consulate in Arusha hosted a special Meet and Greet High Tea for the Kenyan Diaspora in Arusha and Moshi, in honour of Mr. Felix Koskei, EGH, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service who was in Arusha to attend the inaugural East African Community (EAC) Heads of Public Service and Ministers Strategic Dialogue, organized by ESAMI in collaboration with the East Africa Community.

The meet and greet provided an invaluable platform for direct engagement between the Kenyan government and the Diaspora in Tanzania, reinforcing the government's commitment to strengthening ties and addressing key issues affecting Kenyans living in Tanzania. This engagement was part of the broader initiative to strengthen relations with the Kenyan Diaspora, supported by the establishment of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs in 2022. The department, created under the directive of H.E. President Dr. William Ruto, plays a vital role in advocating for the welfare of Kenyans abroad, facilitating engagement, promoting business and employment opportunities, and ensuring the integration of the Diaspora into Kenya's national development plans.

Key highlights of the session included a focus on initiatives that have been

successful in supporting the Diaspora in Tanzania, including the opening of the Kenya Consulate in Arusha, which addresses the needs of Kenyans in northern Tanzania. The session was also briefed on the operationalisation of the mobile consular services initiative, which had so far assisted over 9,000 Kenyans in 22 countries. Between March 26-27, 2024, Kenya Embassy in Dar es Salaam had provided consular services to over 70 Kenyans, with plans to extend these services to Arusha in the future.

The Meet and Greet session also highlighted the significant role the Diaspora plays in Kenya's economic and social development. Tanzania is home to many Kenyan citizens engaged in work, business, education, tourism, and other activities. In fact, Kenya has been a leading source of visitors with arrivals to Tanzania between January and September 2024, shoring 156,674 visitors, making it the largest contributor, followed by Burundi, the DRC, Zambia, and Rwanda. Furthermore, over 500 Kenyan companies have invested nearly USD 2 billion in Tanzania, generating employment for approximately 55,000 Tanzanians.

The importance of remittances was emphasized; recent data from the Central Bank indicate that Tanzania has surpassed

South Africa as the leading source of diaspora remittances in Africa. In 2023 and 2024, Tanzania contributed 26% and 20%, respectively, of total remittances from Africa, reflecting the growing financial ties between the two nations.

The Meet and Greet served as a reminder of the invaluable contributions of the Kenyan Diaspora in Tanzania and underscored the Consulate's commitment to continuing efforts to support and strengthen these vital connections for mutual growth and prosperity.

Accompanying the Head of Public for the Meet and Greet included Mr. Abdi Dubat, Principal Secretary of the State



Department for East African Community; Mr. Amos Gathecha, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service and Human Capital Development; Amb. Isaac Njenga, High Commissioner at the Kenya High Commission in Dar es Salaam; and Ms. Charity Githinji, Chairperson of the Kenya Diaspora in Tanzania, Arusha Chapter.

Approximately 100 members of the Kenyan Diaspora from diverse professional backgrounds attended the Meet and Greet gathering including students, teachers, missionaries, hoteliers, travel agents, diplomats from international and regional organizations based in Arusha, and businesspeople.

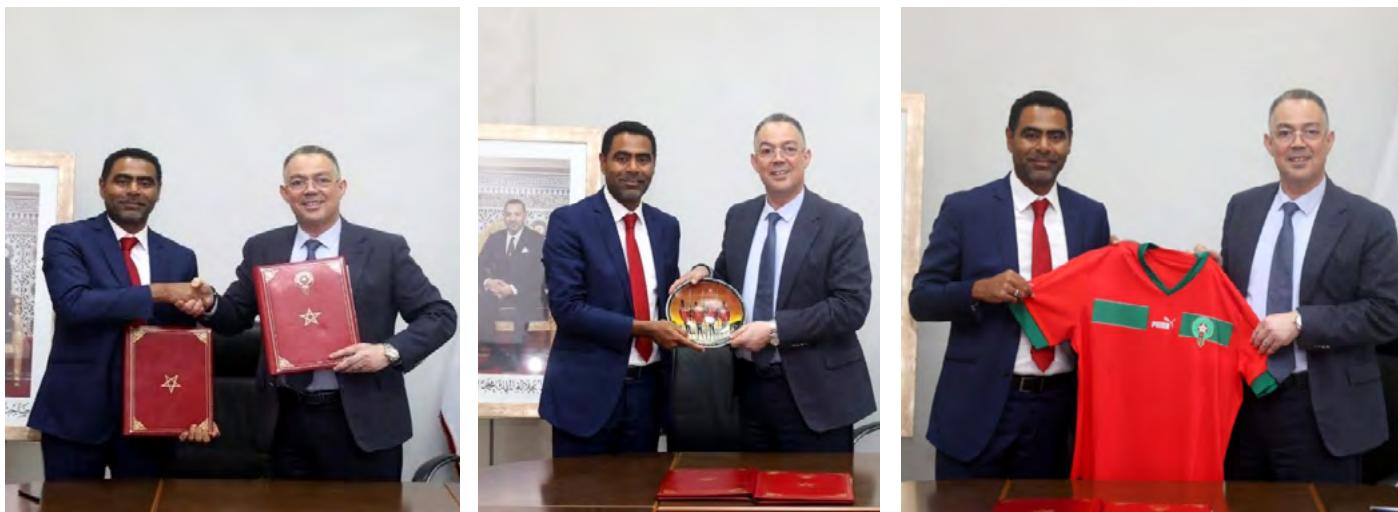


## Kenya Football Federation signs MOU with Royal Moroccan Football Federation

by Amb. Shakir Mohamed

On 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, Kenya's ambassador to Morocco on behalf of the Football Kenya Federation recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the President of Royal Moroccan Football Federation Mr. Fouzi Lekjaa. The bilateral agreement focuses primarily on capacity building initiatives and exchange programs between the two countries. During the discussions, the topic of infrastructure development of football facilities was deliberated.

"The offer of support from the Kingdom of Morocco to our Federation is a significant step in the realization of our aspirations in reclaiming our football glory days" noted Mohamed. The Ambassador congratulated the President of the Morocco Football Federation and his team for the exemplary performance in Qatar World Cup 2022 and the development of the world-class Mohamed V football academy in Rabat.



*Ambassador Mohamed exchanges MOU with Morocco football federation*

## Kenya's Accession to the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Kenya deposited instruments of accession to the Global Green Institute (GGGI) at the GGGI headquarters in Seoul. Kenya's delegation to GGGI was led by Prof. Emmy Kipsoi, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of Korea and Mr. Nicholas Mutuku, OGW, Registrar of Treaties. The delegation was received by GGGI Team Ms. Helena McLeod, the GGGI Deputy Director-General.

Following the submission of Instrument of Accession, Kenya will officially become the 50<sup>th</sup> Member State of the Global Green Growth Institute on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025 when its full membership will be confirmed. It will be the 10<sup>th</sup> African nation to join the organization, alongside Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.



Photo/The Consul Kenyan Ambassador to Korea, professor Emmy Jerono Kipsoi (fourth from right) presents instrument accession for Kenya's accession to the Global Green Growth Institute on Wednesday. (GGGI)late Staff with the Senate Liaison Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

GGGI is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization launched in 2012 at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development with the mandate to accelerate the global transition to green growth, an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive model of growth. Membership to GGGI is open to any Member state of the United Nations or regional integration organization that subscribes to the objectives of GGGI, in accordance with Article 5.1 of the Establishment Agreement.

Kenya's letter of intent to join GGGI was signed on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022. As part of the accession process, a Cabinet Memorandum for accession to GGGI was submitted for Cabinet approval in May 2023 in line with section 7 of the Treaty making and Ratification Act, Cap 4D. The Cabinet approved the accession during its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Kenya's accession to GGGI marks a historic milestone, allowing the country to fully participate in GGGI's programs and further its green development goals. GGGI presents an opportunity for Kenya to tap into the benefits of green financing, job creation, competitive manufacturing, environmental conservation and climate resilience.

## Burundi's President Hosts Diplomatic Missions to Discuss Eastern DRC Crisis

by M. M. Mwenda



His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye the President of the Republic of Burundi hosted representatives of diplomatic missions for high-level discussions on the security and humanitarian situation in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In February 2025, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye the President of the Republic of Burundi hosted representatives of diplomatic missions at the Presidential Palace in Gitega, Burundi for high-level discussions on the security and humanitarian situation in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

During the meeting, the President outlined his comprehensive peace plan, emphasizing the need for regional cooperation, diplomatic engagement, and sustainable conflict resolution mechanisms to address the ongoing instability in the region. The discussions

focused on strengthening multilateral efforts to foster peace, security, and economic development in the Great Lakes region.

Kenya was presented by Ambassador Daniel Wambura, who joined other Heads of Missions in engaging with the Burundian leadership on potential pathways for lasting peace in the DRC. The

meeting underscored the commitment of the diplomatic community to supporting regional initiatives aimed at stabilizing the region and addressing the humanitarian challenges faced by affected populations.

The President reaffirmed Burundi's dedication to working closely with regional and international partners to ensure that peace efforts yield tangible

results. The discussions concluded with a shared commitment to continued dialogue and collaboration in addressing the pressing issues in the eastern DRC.

This high-level engagement reflects the ongoing efforts by regional leaders and the international community to seek sustainable solutions to one of Africa's most persistent security challenges.

## Phase Four of the Mobile Consular Services (MCS) for Diaspora



The State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA) has successfully concluded Phase Four of the Mobile Consular Services (MCS) program, designed to bring essential government services closer to Kenyans living abroad.

This phase was conducted in Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, and Thailand, providing critical support to the diaspora community by simplifying access to vital documents and addressing service-related challenges. Key services offered included applications for birth certificates, new e-passports, national identification cards, and replacements for old-generation passports and damaged IDs. Additional services encompassed police clearance certificates, dual citizenship processing,





marriage certificates, and more. The initiative has significantly reduced the financial and logistical burdens previously associated with obtaining these documents.

Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms Roseline K. Njogu emphasized the government's commitment to serving Kenyans abroad, highlighting the program's role in fostering seamless engagement between the diaspora and

government services.

Over 1,400 Kenyans benefited from these services during the fourth phase while more than 100 individuals sought assistance on broader issues such as mental wellness, investment opportunities, taxation, education, and legal matters.

Beyond document processing, the MCS program fostered community engagement and strengthened national identity among Kenyans abroad. Interactive sessions provided a platform for addressing concerns and reconnecting with fellow countrymen.

Ms. Emma Gicheha, Director and Head of the Welfare and Rights Division, underscored the importance of these gatherings in reminding Kenyans abroad of their shared heritage and support network. The success of Phase Four reaffirms the Government's dedication to improving service delivery for Kenyans in the diaspora while enhancing their connection to their homeland.

## Commencement of the Judicial Year 2025 of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025, the Kenya Consulate General in Arusha participated at the Opening of the Judicial Year 2025, a significant event that marked the beginning of the judicial calendar. The ceremony was held under the theme 'Advancing Justice Through Reparations,' aligned with the African Union's (AU) Theme for 2025, 'Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations.'

'Advancing Justice Through Reparations' was adopted by the 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in February 2024 as part of the ongoing continental discourse on historical injustices and reparatory justice. His Excellency José Maria Pereira Neves, President of Cabo Verde, presided over the occasion as guest of honour.

The question of reparations for historical injustices; including slavery, genocide, colonialism, apartheid, racial discrimination, and cultural appropriation, remains a pressing issue in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The AU has increasingly advocated for justice for Africans and people of African descent affected by



these systemic injustices. The push for reparations has gained traction through key milestones, including the 1993 Abuja Proclamation on Reparations, initiated by the Organization of African Unity (OAU); the 2001 Durban Declaration,

which addressed racism and related intolerance; and the 2023 Accra International Conference on Reparations, which produced the Accra Proclamation on Reparations, emphasizing restitution, compensation, and reparatory justice.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights plays a crucial role in advancing this agenda. Its remedial jurisdiction, as outlined in Article 27(1) of its Protocol, empowers the Court to order reparations in cases of human rights violations. Over the years, the Court has developed a strong jurisprudence on reparatory justice, further reinforcing its position

in the broader conversation on justice and accountability. The AU Assembly recognized this role in Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.884(XXXVII) (February 2024), which formed the basis for the theme of the 2025 Judicial Year.

By adopting "Advancing Justice Through Reparations" as the theme for the

Judicial Year, the African Court reaffirms its commitment to ensuring justice, redress, and accountability for historical injustices. The Kenya Consulate remains engaged in regional developments and continues to support efforts that promote justice, human rights, and deeper regional integration.

*'The history on the theme on Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations' is discussed in another section of this publication.*

## Key Highlights from the Opening of the Judicial Year 2025

Dr. Joseph A. Whittal, Chairperson of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), began by highlighting how the legacies of colonialism, slavery, apartheid, and racial discrimination continued to shape African societies, necessitating reparations as a means of redress. He noted the importance of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, which continued to play a pivotal role in developing jurisprudence on reparations and providing remedies for victims. Several challenges were observed including the limited ratification of the Court's Protocol, restricted access for individuals and Civil Society Organisations, and resource constraints.

Dr. Whittal called for accelerated ratification of the Protocol and better access for individuals and CSOs, stressing that a fully operational framework was key to the Court's effectiveness. He emphasized National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) role in advocating for the ratification, raising awareness, and supporting the implementation of decisions at the national level. According to Dr. Whittal, justice remains a shared responsibility that involves governments, NHRIs, CSOs, and AU institutions, all working together towards reparations that offer equity, dignity, and a future of shared humanity.

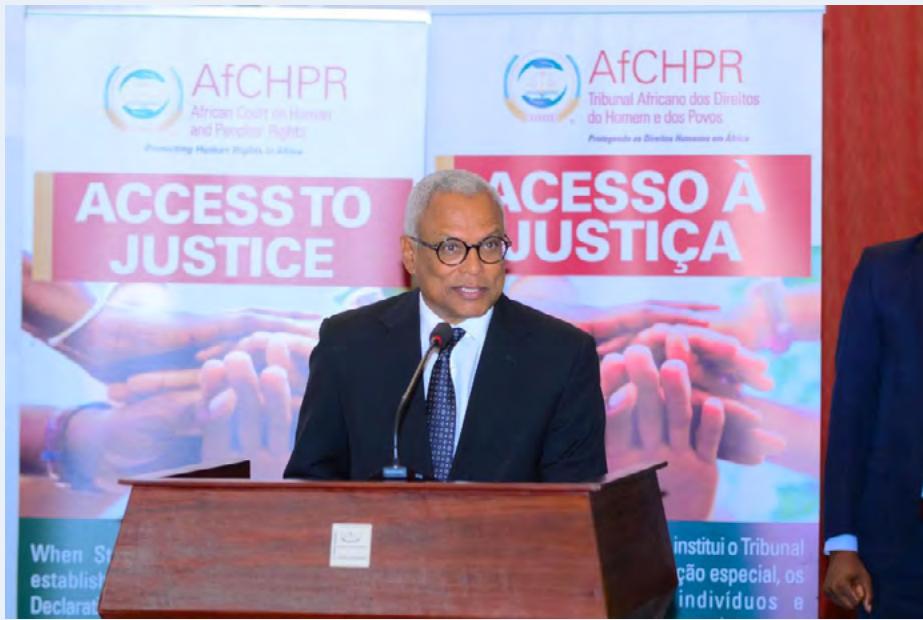
Justice Bheki M. C. Maphalala, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Eswatini, delivered a powerful message on the importance of reparations. He underscored that the demand for reparations was not a new one, tracing it back to the 1993 Abuja Proclamation, with renewed momentum seen in initiatives such as the 2001 Durban Declaration and the 2023 Accra Proclamation. Chief Justice Maphalala highlighted the role of judicial organs at the national, sub-regional, and continental levels in advancing reparatory justice.

Justice Maphalala cited important legal cases, such as the Ogiek case (Kenya, 2017) and the Batwa case (DRC, 2022), which set precedents for reparations for indigenous peoples. Maphalala stressed that reparations must strike a balance between individual and collective remedies, incorporating both monetary and non-monetary measures. He further pointed to challenges such as victim identification, legal constraints, and statutes of limitations but urged that a unified African approach to reparations would help resolve these issues. Justice Maphalala called for collective efforts from national judiciaries, international bodies, and other stakeholders towards ensuring justice and redressing historical wrongs.

Hon. Lady Justice Imani Daud Aboud, President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, echoed the importance of addressing historical injustices such as slavery, colonialism, and apartheid. She framed reparations not just as financial compensation but as an essential tool for restoring justice, healing, and dignity. Justice Aboud referenced landmark cases such as Zongo v. Burkina Faso and Kenya v. Ogiek Community,



which affirmed the right to reparations for both individual and collective violations. Lady Justice Aboud emphasized that reparations should be tailored to the specific needs and histories of African nations and communities, and that achieving reparatory justice required collective action from governments, civil society, and international organizations.



His Excellency José Maria Pereira Neves, President of Cabo Verde

In his keynote address, His Excellency José Maria Pereira Neves, President of Cabo Verde, reinforced the need for a holistic approach towards reparations that went beyond financial compensation to include areas such as health, education, culture, and justice reforms. Reflecting on Africa's painful history of conflicts, apartheid, and colonial exploitation,

President Neves stressed that reparations remained crucial to restoring dignity, healing intergenerational trauma, and investing in a sustainable future. President Neves called for education reforms to foster peace, tolerance, and unity, as well as efforts to preserve African cultural heritage and return stolen cultural property.

President Neves further called for justice systems that were accountable and impartial in addressing past wrongs. He reiterated the call for a 'second decolonization' of Africa, urging nations to reclaim their sovereignty and focus on self-sufficiency, justice, and reconciliation.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in the Judicial year 2025 reaffirms that reparations are essential for justice, reconciliation, and dignity for Africans and people of African descent. The discussions in the year will underscore the need for a collaborative approach involving governments, judicial bodies, civil society, and international organizations to address historical injustices.

Arguably, the importance of a unified African approach to reparations, ensuring that remedies are tailored to the specific needs of affected communities, and the need for continued political will, financial support, and collective action to ensure justice for victims of historical wrongs cannot be overstated. The call to action is therefore clear: all stakeholders must work together to advance the cause of reparatory justice, offering hope and healing to those who have long suffered from the legacies of colonialism, slavery, apartheid, and racial discrimination.



## Pictorials

### Annual Diplomatic Greeting

by Amb. L. Tomitom

President Hakainde Hichilema hosted the Annual Greeting of the Diplomatic Corps in Lusaka, where he outlined an ambitious roadmap for Zambia's growth and stability in 2025. His plan prioritized international cooperation, trade, and investment as key pillars for the nation's development.

During the event at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025, President Hichilema acknowledged Zambia's existing bilateral relations and highlighted key priorities aimed at transforming the economy, fostering unity, and strengthening governance.

The President emphasized Zambia's openness to partnerships that fostered mutually beneficial investments. He

reiterated the government's efforts to attract affordable capital, embrace technology, promote joint ventures, and focus on value addition to stimulate economic growth, generate employment, and support social welfare programs.

President Hichilema reaffirmed Zambia's commitment to upholding the rule of law, describing it as essential for maintaining stability. He also noted the government's resolve to intensify the fight against corruption while safeguarding people's fundamental rights.

The Head of State expressed gratitude to the international community for its support in helping Zambia address the 2024 drought crisis and successfully complete its debt restructuring processes.



H.E. Hon. Lilian Tomitom exchanging pleasantries with H.E. Hakainde Hichilema.

### Discussions with Cuba Government Officials

Kenya's ambassador to Cuba, Amb. Mwenda Karisa, paid a courtesy call on Amb. Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Rector of the Raul Roa García Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI). The two representatives discussed proposals for implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya's Foreign Service Academy and the Raul Roa García Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI) of Cuba. The Rector also extended an invitation to Kenya to participate at the International Seminar on Cultural Diplomacy organised by ISRI, 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025, in Havana, Cuba.

The 'Meet and Greet' forum and Dinner for the Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Cuba organized by His Excellency Mr. Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Republic of Cuba took place on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. The Head of State received the Diplomatic Corp accredited to the Republic of Cuba at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, Cuba.

Kenya is seeking support to host the Global Plastics Treaty Secretariat at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi. Kenya's ambassador to Cuba, Amb. Mwenda



H.E. Mwenda Karisa, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya with Amb. Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Rector, "Raul Roa García" Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI).

Karisa recently met Amb. Pedro Luis Pedroso, Deputy Director General, Multilateral Affairs and International

Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Cuba where Kenya sought Cuba's support.



His Excellency Mr. Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Republic of Cuba and Kenya's ambassador to Cuba, Amb. Mwenda Karisa.



H.E Mwenda Karisa this morning met Amb Pedro Luis Pedroso, Deputy Director General, Multilateral Affairs & International Law, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Cuba. The purpose of the call was to seek support for Kenya's bid to host the Global Plastics Treaty Secretariat at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi.

## Dr Raila Odinga during AUC Campaigns in African Countries in Algeria and Tunisia



H.E. Amb. Daniel Wambura with Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Kenya's candidate for the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), during a high-level meeting with H.E. the President of the Republic of Burundi on February 12, 2025.



Amb. Franc But, Special Envoy of Slovenia to Africa recently met Ms. Judy Njau, Ag. Deputy Director General for Europe and Commonwealth in preparation for State Visit to Kenya by the President of Slovenia, H.E. Nataša Pirc Musar scheduled to take place in May 2025. Present in the meeting were Amb. Edvin Skrt, Director-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ms. Katja Žvan-Elliott, and Amb. Maurice Makoloo, Kenya's Ambassador to Slovenia and Mr. Mwirigi Gatobu, from Europe and Commonwealth Directorate.



*The Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus, His Excellency Savvas Vladimirou meets Director of Europe and Commonwealth, Ms. Judy Njau to discuss bilateral issues between Kenya and Cyprus such as Education and Scholarships, multilateral engagement, high level visits from both countries and finalization of ratification of pending MOU's*



*Ambassador of Switzerland to Kenya, His Excellency Mirko Giulietti meets Acting Deputy Director General for Europe and the Commonwealth Directorate, Ms. Judy Njau, where discussions centered on both bilateral and multilateral areas of interest in climate action, trade and investment, transport, peace and security, among others.*



*Her Excellency Ambassador Philomena Rocha, the Portuguese Ambassador to Kenya Ms. Judy Njau, Ag Deputy Director General, Europe and Commonwealth Directorate. Their discussions centred on strengthening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation in sports, culture, trade, maritime affairs, the blue economy, and transportation. They also discussed finalizing pending legal instruments as they committed to mutually support one another within multilateral forums.*



*His Excellency Mr Mário de Azevedo Constantino, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola, meets with Amb. Dennis Mburu, Deputy Director General, Africa Affairs Directorate. Their meeting focussed on long standing relations between both countries. Since the establishment of a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) framework in 2014, the two countries have signed various agreements that enhance collaboration in political consultations, as well as economic, scientific, cultural, and technical cooperation.*



*Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, meets with the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, who paid him a courtesy call.*

## PS Labour pays a courtesy call on the High Commission of the Republic of Kenya Lusaka

In February 2025, Mr. Shadrack Mwadime, the Principal Secretary for Labour and Skills Development, paid a courtesy call on the High Commission. PS Mwadime led a delegation of senior officials from the Ministry of Labour, the Kenya School of Government, and the National Industrial Training Authority to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> ARLAC Governing Council meeting.

The PS emphasized the crucial role played by Kenya's Missions abroad in creating access opportunities for Kenyans in various international job markets. He highlighted the need for strategic partnerships and collaborations to enhance employment prospects for Kenyan professionals and skilled workers.



Amb. Philip Mundia Githiora, Kenya High Commission High Commissioner, Maputo receives Amb. Phaustine Kasike, High Commissioner of Tanzania.



20<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Amb. Philip Mundia Githiora meets with His Excellency Daniel Chapo and Her Excellency Gueta Selemane Chapo, President and First Lady of the Republic of Mozambique, at the Presidential Palace in Maputo during a luncheon for Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited in Mozambique.



22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 2025, the High Commissioner meets Ms. Linda Fernando, Head of the Corporate Sector Partnership, African Tourism Board and her team, who are organising the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Diplomatic Tourism and Investment Forum scheduled to take place in Maputo in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2025. The two highlighted the importance of a one Africa approach on among others, promotion of tourism, trade, and investment.



15 Jan, 2025, Prof. Kithure Kindiki Deputy President arrives in Maputo to represent Kenya at the Inauguration of H.E. President Daniel Francisco Chapo of the Republic of Mozambique.



6<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2025, the High Commissioner meets with Amb. José Maria Morais, Director for International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique. The two discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest including Africa's bid to host the Secretariat of the Plastic Treaty at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi.



6<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2025, the High Commissioner in a group photo with Heads of Mission of African and Middle East Missions and senior Ministry officials during the introductory meeting with the newly appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mozambique.

## Courtesy Call on The Honourable Speaker of Parliament of Ireland

by T. Krop

Ambassador Tabu Irina, recently visited the Parliament of Ireland where she paid a courtesy call on The Ceann Comhairle (The Honourable Speaker of Parliament of Ireland), Her Excellency Ms. Verona Murphy, TD. During their discussions, Ambassador Irina commended the ongoing consultations between Kenya and Ireland on the recruitment of Kenyan nurses and midwives to Ireland, an initiative that is expected to culminate in a formal Agreement on Labour Mobility. This agreement will open up new opportunities for Kenyan healthcare professionals and strengthen bilateral cooperation in the healthcare sector. Ms. Murphy and Ambassador Irina acknowledged the crucial role played by the Kenya-Ireland Parliamentary Friendship Group in enhancing relations between the two nations. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to strengthening their bilateral relationship and exploring new avenues of cooperation for the mutual benefit of Kenya and Ireland.



## Kenya-Singapore meet on Bilateral Agreement on Carbon Markets

Officials from the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the Government of the Republic of Singapore recently engaged in negotiations for a Bilateral Agreement on Carbon Markets pursuant to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The Bilateral Agreements would enable Kenya to achieve emissions targets set out in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) while promoting sustainable development and environmental integrity. The meeting in Singapore was led by Dr. Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Environment and Climate Change as Head of Delegation. Other agencies represented included, Environment, Foreign Affairs, the National Treasury and Attorney General's office.



## 61<sup>st</sup> Jamhuri Day Celebrations, the snapshots

**Zambia:** The Kenya High Commission in Lusaka successfully commemorated Kenya's 61<sup>st</sup> Jamhuri Day Anniversary and 60 years of Kenya's diplomatic practice. The event was hosted by Mr. Robert Kobia, 'ndc' (K), Chargé d'Affaires a.i., and was graced by Hon. Sheal Mulyata, Lusaka Province Minister, as the Chief Guest.

Other distinguished guests included Mr. Robert Kamalata, Lusaka Province Permanent Secretary; H.E. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, COMESA Secretary General; H.E. Dr. Walid Hassan, Ambassador of the State of Palestine and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps; H.E. Siyave Haindongo, Namibia High Commissioner and Dean of the Africa Group of Ambassadors and High Commissioners; Ms. Beatrice Mutali, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Zambia; as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives from the Lusaka Chamber of Commerce, and several Kenyan companies, including Davis and Shirliff Limited and the Kenyan Diaspora.



Mr. Robert Kobia is joined by the Guest of Honour and Members of the Diplomatic Corps to cut the ceremonial cake.

*H.E. Hon. Lilian Tomitom exchanging pleasantries with H.E. Hakainde Hichilema. H.E. Hon. Lilian Tomitom had the opportunity to take a commemorative photograph with H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, and Hon. Malumbo Haimbe, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Zambia*



**Cuba:** The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya hosted a ceremony at the African Heroes Park where Amb. Mwenda Karisa made a floral offering at the bust of Mzee Jomo Kenyatta to commemorate the 61<sup>st</sup> Jamhuri Day. The Ambassador was accompanied by H.E Mohamed Ousbo, Ambassador of Djibouti and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of staff of the Embassy and their families, Members

of the diplomatic corps in Cuba and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba. H.E Mwenda Karisa, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya and H.E Mohamed Ousbo, Ambassador of Djibouti and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Cuba.

Amb. Mwenda Karisa later hosted a reception to mark 61<sup>st</sup> Jamhuri Day & the

60 years of Kenya's Diplomatic Journey at Kenya House, Havana. The chief guest from the Government of the Republic of Cuba was H.E Marta Elena Feitó Cabrera, Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Cuba. Present also were Kenyans in Cuba, the diplomatic corps, Cuban government officials and other friends of Kenya.



H.E. Mwenda Karisa, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya and to her right H.E Marta



H.E. Mwenda Karisa, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya and to her right H.E Marta Elena Feitó Cabrera, Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Cuba.



Cake cutting during a reception to mark 61<sup>st</sup> Jamhuri Day & the 60 years of Kenya's Diplomatic Journey at Kenya House, Havana



H.E. Mwenda Karisa, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya with the HBO, to her right HOC, Patrick Nzunsi, FA, Joel Sego & AA, Bernadette Mumo.

**Saudi Arabia:** The Embassy hosted a diplomatic reception to mark the 61<sup>st</sup> Jamhuri Day on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at the Cultural Palace in the Diplomatic Quarters. The event was graced by His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Abdulaziz Bin Ayyaf, the Mayor of Riyadh Region, as the Guest of Honour as well as H.E. Abdulmajeed Al-Smari, Deputy Minister for Protocol Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Other Guests included the Diplomatic Corps (led by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and the Dean of the African Group of Ambassador in Riyadh), key businesspersons in Saudi Arabia, representatives from the Kenya diaspora community and Students on various programmes in the Kingdom.



His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Abdulaziz Bin Ayyaf, the Mayor of Riyadh Region, and Kenya's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Amb. Mohamed Ruwange



West Pokot County enriches Kenya's Jamhuri Day in New Delhi, India

## Greening Kenya: UNON's Greening Initiatives

Tree planting/growing has been hailed as one of the surest ways to reverse deforestation and restore our planet. In February this year, the Permanent Mission led by Amb. Gertrude Angote, the Permanent Representative, participated in a tree growing event at the Ematsuli Primary and Secondary Schools, and Ematsuli Church of God, North-East Bunyore, Vihiga County. The exercise was graced by Hon. Soipan Tuya, EBS, Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, the Governor of Vihiga County, and local residents with calls for increased community participation in environmental conservation.



Amb. Gertrude Angote, the Permanent Representative, Hon. Soipan Tuya, EBS, Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, the Governor of Vihiga County during the tree planting in Vihiga county.

## Kenya participates at the Los Angeles Marathon in March, 2025



Kenya's Athanas Kioko (right hand side) took second position, clocking 2:10:55, and Moses Kiptoo Kurgat (left hand side) took third position at 2:13:12 during the Los Angeles Marathon. The race was won by Matt Richtman (USA) (centre) who clocked 2:07:56, marking the first such win by an American.



Kenyan female athlete, Antonina Kwambai (right hand side) emerged second in the women's category clocking 2:30:19 in a race that was tightly contested with Tejinesh Gebisa Tulu (centre) of Ethiopia at 2:30:16. Savannah Berry of the USA (left hand side) took the third position.



The Consulate, in conjunction with the Mark Foundation of Los Angeles, organized a meet-and-greet opportunity for Kenya children to interact with the athletes on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

# The Kenya -UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Explained



## How big is Kenya-UAE Trade?

The United Arab Emirates is Kenya's 6<sup>th</sup> largest export destination and its second-largest source of imports, representing 16% of total Kenyan Imports. Total trade between Kenya and the UAE reached \$3.3 billion in 2023, more than double a decade before (\$1.4 billion in 2013).

Kenya's exports to the UAE are mainly tea, meat and meat products, vegetables, fruits, and flowers. UAE's exports mainly petroleum oil to Kenya. It also exports products derived from plastics and copper, iron and steel, machinery, chemicals and assorted household products.

## Why have Kenya and the UAE negotiated an agreement?

Kenya and UAE are major partners, with significant trade in goods. The two countries are major hubs-Kenya is the gateway to East and Southern Africa, while UAE is a major global hub and a gateway for the Middle East and Asia. Kenya and UAE are also rapidly diversifying their economies, placing increasing emphasis on trade in value-added products, growing trade in services, innovation in technology, e-commerce and digital trade, and leadership in sustainability

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Kenya and UAE is a key component of engagement between the two partners and advances their shared vision of a prosperous and livable world.

The CEPA is a long-term agreement to increase trade volumes, strengthen economic cooperation, and stimulate investment. It focuses on creating mutually beneficial rules and procedures to govern key aspects of trade and investment, establishes an oversight framework to monitor progress and resolve disputes, and details a framework for economic and development cooperation.

The Kenya-UAE CEPA is the first comprehensive economic partnership agreement for the UAE in mainland Africa.

## What will the agreement mean for trade in goods?

The main objective of the CEPA is to create a liberalised market for enhanced trade in goods through

- Eliminating unnecessary technical barriers to trade promoting efficient and transparent customs procedures that reduce costs and ensure predictability for importers and exporters.
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