



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND  
DIASPORA AFFAIRS

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# Diplomacy

*Journal*





## 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.



## Did You Know? (Public Information)

The Ministry oversees the management of 70 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.

**70**

Fully fledged Missions  
with Multiple  
Accreditations

**1**

Liaison Office

**36**

Non-resident Diplomatic  
Missions

**4**

Consulates-General

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Honorary Consuls

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UN Agencies

**2**

Missions in Nairobi

**93**

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Inter-Governmental  
and International  
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Kenya



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# From the Desk of H.E. (Dr.) Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H



In diplomacy, communication is not only a tool, it is the currency of influence, a vessel of national identity, and a record of a country's engagement with the world. For the past several years, the Diplomacy Newsletter has served as an effective platform for highlighting Kenya's foreign policy achievements, engagements, and partnerships. It has informed, connected, and inspired.

Yet, as the global landscape evolves, we are called upon to review our practice of strategic communication. I am pleased to see the transformation of the Diplomacy Newsletter into the Diplomacy Journal, a bold step towards articulating Kenya's public diplomacy and knowledge-sharing agenda. This is a landmark evolution in how the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs documents, analyses, and communicates Kenya's engagement with the world. This transition comes at a critical moment, when Kenya's voice on the international stage is gaining even greater resonance, and our foreign policy is being implemented with renewed energy under the Reviewed Foreign Policy 2024 and Sessional Paper No 1 of 2025 on Kenya's Foreign Policy.

This transition is informed by four fundamental considerations, the desire for depth over brevity demanding deeper analysis and reflective content on matters ranging from geopolitics to climate negotiations, digital diplomacy to diaspora policy. This journal will seek to provide space for depth essays, thematic reviews, interviews with foreign policy actors, and insights from missions abroad, moving beyond updates to thought leadership.

The Diplomacy Journal provides a platform for institutionalising the stories and discourses on Kenya's Foreign Policy. This Journal will serve as an intellectual repository that bridges practice and policy, and diplomacy and academia.

Thirdly, this journal seeks to raise the standards and professionalism in the articulation of Public Diplomacy. We seek to elevate the Ministry's visibility under the banner of Foreign Policy Mashinani and as guided by our renewed spirit of transparency and accountability on information dissemination pertaining to all our foreign engagements. Kenya must be a thought leader on African

and global diplomacy.

As the Ministry engages with all its various audiences, it behooves us encourage broader dialogue with think tanks, institutions of higher learning, foreign missions, diaspora communities, development partners, media and the citizens. This becomes one of the avenues for engagement and learning that will be beneficial to all of us.

This transition to the Diplomacy Journal will continue to highlight foreign policy achievements, engagements, and partnerships in the spirit to keep all informed, connected, and inspired. This is a strategic journey that not only provides timely coverage of foreign engagements but insights and perspectives anchored on principles of depth, diversity and data undertaken through articles, features, interviews, opinions, and policy reflections.

Let the Diplomacy Journal stand as both a mirror and a beacon, not only telling our story, what we do and why we do it but also documenting where we are and illuminating where we are headed.

**H.E. (Dr.) Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H.**

**Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs**  
**Republic of Kenya**



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

The transition from the Diplomacy Newsletter to the Diplomacy Journal marks a significant milestone in Kenya's evolving diplomatic narrative. When we celebrated Kenya's Diplomatic Journey over 60 years in December, 2024, we committed to continue to take bold decision through our strategic communication efforts to demystify diplomacy, tell Kenya's story with clarity and confidence while promoting the benefits of our international engagements to the Kenyan people. As we discharge our mandate to the people of Kenya, we must take charge in the preservation of our experiences, lessons, and intellectual contributions.

This publication succeeds the Diplomacy Newsletter, which has ably served as a platform for updates on diplomatic activities, foreign policy milestones, and multilateral engagements. The transformation into a full-fledged journal is both timely and strategic, reflecting our commitment to deeper reflection, broader inclusion, and a more deliberate conversation on the theory and practice of diplomacy.

The Ministry is enhancing our strategic communications to ensure the public

remains informed and engaged in our diplomatic mission. Through platforms such as this, we aim to close the gap between foreign policy decisions and public understanding. The Ministry is investing in among other things, digital diplomacy, storytelling, and public engagement tools to ensure that Kenyan citizen wherever they maybe across the globe become a stakeholder in shaping and defending our foreign policy.

This Journal seeks to provide a platform to chronicle the strategic intent behind Kenya's engagements, bilaterally, regionally, and multilaterally, while deepening the understanding of our foreign policy decisions among citizens, scholars, and international partners. This is in alignment with the Reviewed Foreign Policy 2024 and Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025 on Kenya's Foreign Policy where we continue to champion values-driven, citizen-centred, and development-oriented foreign policy.

Through this Journal, we aspire to Document Kenya's diplomatic trajectory capturing both high-level engagements and the nuanced processes that shape foreign policy; Foster a culture of reflection, learning and intellectual ex-

change within and beyond the foreign service; Provide a platform for diplomats, scholars, policymakers, diaspora voices and global partners to contribute to Kenya's foreign policy discourse; Preserve institutional memory and project Kenya's voice with clarity and confidence across regional and international arenas.

This inaugural issue sets the tone for what we envision to be a vibrant, dynamic, and impactful journal. In it, you will find curated thought pieces, mission reflections, policy briefs, and special features from across our diplomatic network. These are not just records—they are contributions to Kenya's global narrative. The Diplomacy Journal will serve as a critical space for reflection, debate, and innovation while inspiring a generation of thinkers and practitioners to contribute to Kenya's global voice with boldness and clarity.

I commend the Communications Division for this timely initiative and encourage Missions, Directorates, and scholars alike to actively shape its future editions.

**Dr. A. Korir Sing'oei, PhD**

**Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs**

**Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Republic of Kenya**

## Statement from the Principal Secretary, Diaspora Affairs



Kenya's diplomacy is not only defined by its presence at global summits or high-level negotiations; it is also enriched by the lived realities of its people across the globe.

As the inaugural Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs and now with an expanded mandate, I want to reaffirm our Ministry's unwavering commitment to strengthening our engagement with Kenyans living abroad. Kenya's global diaspora remains one of our most valuable diplomatic strengths.

We are dedicated to ensuring their voices are heard, their achievements recognized, and their well-being protected.

The Kenyan diaspora plays a vital role in our nation's progress, contributing over Kshs. 600 billion annually in remittances and investing significantly in

sectors such as real estate, education, healthcare, and technology.

To better serve our citizens overseas, we are enhancing consular services, expanding our diplomatic reach, and utilizing digital platforms to improve communication and connection.

The Diplomacy Journal offers a fresh and inclusive platform to reflect this broader tapestry, ensuring that our diaspora voices, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people connections are equally documented and elevated. It provides an excellent platform to highlight the positive impact of our diaspora diplomacy, share new opportunities, and update you on our ongoing reforms. It is also a platform to share the challenges, the innovations, the remittances, the advocacy, and the impact of

Kenyan communities abroad.

I encourage all members of our diaspora to remain actively engaged with our missions, explore investment opportunities, and continue serving as Kenya's ambassadors around the world.

Let this Journal be a bridge between foreign policy formulation and public understanding, bringing the diaspora closer to Kenya's global agenda and reinforcing the principle that diplomacy is ultimately about people.

Together, we must continue to build a Kenya we can all be proud of, both at home and abroad.

I look forward to reading and contributing to future editions that capture the diverse, dynamic, and global Kenyan identity.

### Ms. Roseline Kathure Njogu

Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs

Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs,  
Republic of Kenya



## Kenya, China Sign Landmark Deals as Relations Enter a Comprehensive Strategic Era

By W. Aluoch

Kenya and China have formally elevated their bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the New Era following President William Ruto's April 2025 State Visit to China at the invitation of President Xi Jinping.

The visit marked a pivotal moment with over 20 agreements signed across trade, digital innovation, health, education, agriculture, and infrastructure. China remains a vital partner for Kenya, as it seeks to diversify its international alliances after imposing a 10% U.S. tariff on key exports. The visit, characterized by strong diplomatic symbolism and strategic economic cooperation, is part of Kenya's broader foreign policy recalibration.

China has renewed support for major infrastructure projects in Kenya, including the extension of the Standard Gauge Railway and the development of the Nairobi-Nakuru-Mau Summit-Malaba Highway. The Memorandum of Understanding on Railway Cooperation will guide legal, technical, and operational reforms to ensure the

sustainability and expansion of Kenya's rail sector. In Nairobi, a new Intelligent Transport System aims to reduce traffic congestion and improve commuter experience. A \$50 million investment in Murang'a County will establish a plant for traffic lights and transport equipment.

Other agreements signed include a Memorandum of Understanding on Blue Economy, Fisheries, and Maritime Affairs Cooperation, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, and Jointly Promoting the Belt and Road Initiative. The protocol on Quarantine and Hygiene Requirements for Edible Aquatic Animals to be Exported from Kenya to China aims to establish effective food hygiene and safety management based on HACCP principles and traceability system. Kenya Broadcasting Cooperation and Xinhua News Agency of the People's Republic of China have agreed to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in news dissemination while the Kenya School of Government and National Administration Academy have agreed to strengthen exchanges in leadership training, staff/faculty ex-

change visits, scientific research, policy consultation, and dialogues.

The China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) will provide 670 training and seminar opportunities through multilateral and bilateral programs, leading to six bilateral training programs for diplomats, police officers, journalists, and others. The Memorandum of Understanding on Vocational Education Cooperation aims to enhance technical training and applied skills talent, develop vocational skills standards, conduct exchanges on teacher education and training, and advance cooperation in digital transformation and vocational fields.

Digital transformation was another key focus, with new agreements signed to enhance electronic commerce, cybersecurity cooperation, and support for Kenya's National Digital Superhighway Programme. Kenya and China will collaborate on policy coordination, capacity building, and joint research in the digital economy. A Framework Agreement on Economic Partnership for Shared Development has been signed to strengthen agricultural transformation and improve Kenya's competitiveness in global markets.

Several Chinese firms committed to make significant investments in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and textiles. Shandong Jailejia plans to establish a \$30 million egg production facility in Kajiado, while Zonken Group plans to invest \$400 million in an Aloe vera processing plant and vineyard. Wu Yi plans to

develop a Special Economic Zone in Kilifi, Rongtai Steel Company plans to expand steel production for the Affordable Housing Program, and Chongqing Shangcheng Apparel Group plans to invest \$20 million in a new factory.

Further, China pledged support for hospital infrastructure upgrades and investment in Kenya's pharmaceutical sector, focusing on Universal Health Coverage. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to support sustainable water use, flood management, and ecological restoration using advanced ICT tools. Hualian Hotel Group committed \$23 million to expand Kenya's hotel operations and promote the country to Chinese tourists. New agreements between Kenya Broadcasting Corporation and Xinhua News Agency and China Media Group aim to promote joint media productions, content sharing, and deeper understanding between the two countries.

During a keynote speech at Peking University, President Ruto called for global governance reforms within the international system; he further high-



lighted the importance of youth, innovation, and education in shaping Africa's future. Dr. Ruto also met with Chinese investors in Fujian Province, discussing opportunities in sectors like e-mobility and tea processing.

In a joint statement, both governments reaffirmed their commitment to shared prosperity, regional peace, green development, and the principles of multilateralism. China expressed support for Kenya's ongoing economic reforms and its peacekeeping efforts in the Horn of

Africa.

President Ruto's visit to China was more than a diplomatic engagement, it was a strategic reorientation. The broad scope of the agreements signed reflects a shared commitment to inclusive development, sustainable trade, and long-term cooperation. As Kenya deepens its South-South partnerships, this new phase of Kenya-China relations mark a defining moment in its foreign and economic policy trajectory.

## Finland's President Alexander Stubb in Kenya for Historic Visit

By P. Mwangi and A. Rugendo



President of Kenya William Ruto and President Alexander Stubb in Nairobi on 12 May 2025. Photo: Matti Porre/Office of the President of the Republic of Finland.

The State Visit to Kenya by His Excellency Alexander Stubb, President of the Republic of Finland, and First Lady Her Excellency Suzanne Innes-Stubb, from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 marked a historic milestone in the diplomatic relations between Kenya and Finland. Celebrating 60 years of bilateral ties, the visit underscored shared values in democracy, innovation, and sustainable development, while laying the foundation for deeper cooperation in regional and global affairs.

### Strengthening Bilateral Relations

President Stubb's visit reaffirmed Finland's commitment to advancing its strategic partnership with Kenya, particularly in areas of trade, education, innovation, environmental sustainability, and peace diplomacy. Discussions between President Stubb and President

William Ruto were anchored on mutual aspirations to enhance socio-economic development and foster regional stability in East Africa.

President Stubb and his host President Ruto witnessed the signing of several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) covering among others, political consultations, peace mediation and conflict resolution, education and innovation, tourism and the recruitment and employment of workers. These frameworks aim to deepen institutional cooperation, facilitate knowledge exchange, and promote sustainable economic ties.

While environmental sustainability featured prominently in the bilateral discussions, Finland pledged support for Kenya's efforts in climate resilience, renewable energy transition, and sustainable agriculture. These initiatives align with Kenya's green growth agenda and global climate obligations.

While at the University of Nairobi, President Stubb delivered a keynote address at the famous Taifa Hall titled 'Geopolitics and the Transformation of the Multilateral Order.' President Stubb described the present global context as a pivotal geopolitical moment akin to the post-war reordering witnessed in 1919, 1945, and 1989. He emphasized the erosion of the liberal world order and called for inclusive, reformed multilateral institutions that better represent voices from the Global South.

President Stubb stressed Africa's growing geopolitical importance, citing demographic projections that estimate one in four people globally will be African by 2030. Engaging with Africa, he asserted, remained essential to shaping a just and sustainable global future.

"President Stubb's visit signifies a deepening of Finland's engagement in Africa. The emphasis on education and innovation aligns with Kenya's Vision 2030," stated Dr. Amina Mohamed, Former Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister who was present during the lecture at Taifa Hall.

"Finland views Kenya as a strategic partner in East Africa. This visit strengthens our role in addressing regional challenges collaboratively," confirmed Professor Kari Möttölä, Finnish African Affairs Analyst who had accompanied the Finnish President.



*President Stubb (Second right) visits a rooftop telecommunications project at Kawangware supported by Finnfund and the European Union*

President Stubb's address reinforced Kenya's aspirations to be a prominent voice in reforming the global multilateral order. His reflections on inclusivity and Africa's central role offered validation for Kenya's advocacy on global governance reform.

After the well-attended address at the University of Nairobi, President Stubb and the First Lady rode a uniquely customized matatu, adorned with Finnish cultural elements and celebrating Finland's status as the happiest country in the world. This gesture aimed at experiencing Kenya's unique public transport culture underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening mutual understanding.

During his three-day State Visit, the Presidential couple toured a rooftop telecommunications project supported by Finnfund and the European Union. The initiative domiciled in Kawangware, Nairobi, aims to enhance digital connectivity and improve access to network infrastructure in underserved urban areas. Local residents and implementing partners showcased the project's tangible impact on education and economic opportunities.

President Stubb was later joined Kenyan running great Benjamin Limo and other athletes for a 10-kilometre race in Karura Forest in an engagement that demonstrated common wellness ideals as well as the possibility for bilateral collaboration in sports science, athlete



*President Stubb delivering a keynote lecture at the University of Nairobi*

development, and training approaches. President Alexander Stubb's State Visit to Kenya in May 2025 marked a new chapter in Finland-Kenya ties, demonstrating a vibrant, diversified, and forward-looking partnership. Through increased collaboration in peace diplomacy, digital innovation, education, and sustainability, both countries have created a solid basis for a relationship that not only benefits their populations but also contributes significantly to regional and global advancement. The State Visit to Kenya remains consistent with the country's global strategy of fostering alliances based on shared values and practical collaboration. Finland's development strategy, based on sustainability, equality, and technological innovation, equally aligns with Kenya's aspirations as it navigates the post-pandemic environment and rising geopolitical challenges.



*H.E. President William Ruto with H.E. Nataša Pirc Musar, President of the Republic of Slovenia at State House, Nairobi during the state visit*



*President Nataša Pirc Musar with President William Ruto at State House Nairobi*

## Advancing Kenya Slovenia Relations

Towards the end of May, 2025, Her Excellency Nataša Pirc Musar, the President of the Republic of Slovenia arrived in Kenya for a State Visit and was received at State House by her host President William Ruto.

At State House Nairobi, President Nataša Pirc Musar of Slovenia, who is on a first-ever State Visit to Kenya by a Slovenian head of State was accorded a twenty-one-gun salute before holding a bilateral meeting with President Ruto. The talks focused on deepening Kenya's strategic partnership with Slovenia by advancing shared interests in sustainable development, peace, and prosperity for the benefit of citizens of the two nations whose diplomatic relations were formalised in 2004, and the world.

During the bilateral engagement, the two Presidents witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia on Political Consultation whose objective is to establish a framework through which parties can cooperate and enhance the capacity of foreign service personnel, with a particular emphasis in the languages of Kiswahili and Slovene. This was signed by the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and His Excellency Frank Putt, Ambassador Special Envoy of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

During a joint press briefing at State House, President Ruto commended his guest, President Nataša Pirc Musar for the visit which symbolizes the renewed commitment and the strategic importance Kenya attaches to building stronger ties with Slovenia.

The two countries have identified trade and investment as core pillars of future cooperation with immense potential for spurring the economic transformation. It was noted that the two countries chambers of commerce needed to actively engage to grow business to business interactions and linkages that would foster business to business linkages and help unlock new trade and investment opportunities in pharmaceuticals, ICT, clean energy, and agro-processing.

Kenya welcomes Slovenian businesses to invest in Kenya where already a number of Slovenian companies such as CTC Group (housing construction), Geocodis (development of interactive portals), Roto Group (production of plastic water tanks), Tevel (industry), Waboost (water technology) are operating and thriving.

The two countries will further work together to maximize the benefits of the Kenya-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, which came into force in July 2024. Slovenia's global leadership in sustainable apiculture and digital governance will form the basis of collaboration in modernizing agriculture, especially, through smart farming technologies and value addition in apiculture. The two leaders agreed to build on the ongoing collaboration in Mandera County's beekeeping project and scale it up to other regions, to contribute to biodiversity conservation, job creation, and food security.



*Nataša Pirc Musar witness the signing of an MoU between Kenya and Slovenia at State House, Nairobi*



*H.E. President Nataša Pirc Musar of Slovenia lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a solemn visit to Uhuru Gardens National Monument and Museum in Nairobi*



*H.E. President William Ruto with H.E. Nataša Pirc Musar, President of the Republic of Slovenia during the Madaraka Day Celebrations in Homabay County*

On digital transformation, Kenya seeks to partner with Slovenia in Artificial Intelligence, digital identity systems, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies in order to strengthen its ambition to remain the digital innovation hub of Africa. Kenya will seek to learn from Slovenia's public health systems and digital health innovations while exploring partnerships in leadership training, digital inclusion, and women-centered entrepreneurship.

President Musar was later to proceed to the Uhuru Gardens National Monument and Museum in Lang'ata, Nairobi where she was received by senior military officials led by Army Commander Lieutenant General David K Tarus and Director of the Uhuru Gardens Brigadier O. Oduor Opiyo before laying a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She was accompanied by the Escort of Honour, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, and Amb. Maurice Makoloo, Kenya's Ambassador to Vienna, accredited to Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, Hungary, and Ukraine.



*President Nataša Pirc Musar, accompanied by her entourage, enjoys a game drive through Nairobi National Park*

While in Kenya, President Pirc Musar embarked on a game drive at Nairobi National Park, as part of social and cultural diplomacy efforts, promoting Kenya as a premier tourism and wildlife destination.

On Madaraka Day celebrated every 1<sup>st</sup> of June, President Pirc Musar was privileged to join President Ruto for Kenya's 62<sup>nd</sup> Madaraka Day celebrations in Homa Bay County, becoming the first Slovenian President to participate in this national event. In her address, she emphasized the shared values between the two nations; multilateralism, environmental protection, and sustainable development, and commended Kenya's focus on biodiversity, scientific innovation, and economic growth.



President Musar in Homa Bay with members of the Wire Forest Management Association (WIFOMA) CFA



While in Homa Bay, President Musar visited the Wire Forest Station, where she was received by Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Alex Lemarkoko and Governor Gladys Wanga. There, she interacted with members of the Wire Forest Management Association (WIFOMA), whose community beekeeping project produces over 18 metric tonnes of honey annually, contributing to climate-smart conservation and women's economic empowerment. She applauded the initiative and noted the strong parallels with Slovenia's own grassroots sustainability projects. She reaffirmed Slovenia's continued support, particularly in partnership with the World Food Programme.

President Musar visited the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), where she engaged with UN officials and Slovenians working within the UN system before planting a commemorative tree at the UN Complex, symbolizing the enduring partnership between Slovenia and global institutions hosted in Kenya.

While in Kenya, President Musar visited and took part in a high-level climate resilience forum at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). There, she launched a Climate Hub, featuring "The Conduit", a smart art installation and satellite data hub co-developed by JKUAT's JHUB Africa and Slovenia's Centre of Excellence for Space Sciences and Technologies (SPACE-SI). The hub represents a pioneering example of how science-based, community-led, and cross-sectoral col-



President Musar (third from right), Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa (right) and Amb. Maurice Makoloo, Kenya's Ambassador to Vienna views a polyethylene fishing boat at Kewat Industries. Photo/ Rugendo A.

laboration can bring about meaningful climate action. It also underscored the importance of youth and women's empowerment in the global climate agenda.

Among those present at the forum were EU Ambassador Henriette Geiger, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala (Principal Secretary for Higher Education), Dr. Deborah Mlongo Barasa, as well as leaders from government, academia, diplomatic missions, and civil society.

President Pirc Musar concluded her State Visit with a tour of Kewat Industries Ltd, a Nairobi-based manufacturing facility established through a partnership between Slovenian Roto Group, Kenyan investors, and European firm E-Wave GmbH. The company specializes in the production of polyethylene (PE) boats for the Lake Victoria fishing industry, with future plans to expand into wastewater treatment and water storage solutions.



*H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto and his Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates*

## Appreciating Kenya UAE Relations

*By I. Agum*

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025, His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto and His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presided over the signing of seven Memoranda of Understanding between the two countries. The signing at State House signified the shared commitment to deepening relations between the two countries. The meeting served as a precursor to the

anticipated visit to Kenya by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan scheduled to take place later in the year.

President William Ruto acknowledged the growth in bilateral cooperation and underscored the importance of enhanced Kenya – UAE collaboration to ensure the realization of the benefits highlighted in the MoUs.

The UAE is Kenya's top trading partner in the Gulf region with a bilateral trade volume worth USD 3.4 billion in 2023

and is Kenya's 3rd largest trading partner globally. The main UAE exports to Kenya include petroleum products, machinery, vehicles, and electronics while Kenya's key exports to the UAE include tea, coffee, cut flowers, fruits, and vegetables. To enhance trade between the two countries and facilitate better access to both markets, the Dubai Chamber of Commerce opened an international representational office in Nairobi in 2016.

Beyond trade, the UAE has become a strategic development partner within the Gulf country supporting Kenya on various developmental projects, as well as offering direct budgetary support to the Government of Kenya. In January



*Signing of MoUs between Kenya and UAE*



*Signing of MoUs between Kenya and UAE*

2025 Kenya and the UAE signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The agreement aims to remove various barriers that have impeded the economic transformation by eliminating tariffs on over 80% of traded goods; facilitating trade in services, especially in finance, tourism, logistics, and ICT; promoting Emirati investments in Kenyan sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and infrastructure. When the agreement is approved by parliament it is expected that Kenya will be an attractive investment destination for UAE based investors, currently UAE companies have invested in Kenya's energy, ports, logistics, and real estate sectors with the DP World a multinational logistics company operating logistics hubs and dry ports in Nairobi and Mombasa. This is owed to Kenya's strategic geographic location that positions it as a gateway into the EAC and COMESA regions.

The CEPA projects to increase Kenya's exports to the UAE by up to 40% within five years. In order to do this, Kenya must leverage CEPA to diversify its exports such as leather, textiles and processed food through the expansion of agro-processing ventures and halal-certified products for re-export via UAE; efforts are underway to attract more UAE-based logistics and fintech companies to set up regional hubs in Kenya while ensuring that Kenya remains a key gateway for Emirati investment into the EAC and COMESA regions. CEPA is a strategic partnership that presents untapped opportunities to enhance trade, investment, and economic cooperation between the two nations.

CEPA also allows for enhanced cooperation in having joint projects on clean energy and carbon markets through partnerships in the renewable energy field as seen with the UAE based firm Masdar engaging with Kenya Power and other agencies to develop this sector. Other benefits of the CEPA include expanding direct air connectivity and undertaking joint promotions; deepening collaboration between financial regulators and fintech ecosystems while also building capacity through technical training, skills exchange, and scholarship opportunities.

### Why is this important:

Kenya established diplomatic representation in the UAE at the level of Ambassador in June 1982, while the UAE opened its Embassy in Nairobi in 2012. Kenya has also established a Consulate in Dubai. Kenya and UAE enjoy warm, cordial and long-standing relations founded in history and deep cultural ties, dating back to the influence of the Arab conquest on the East African Coast and the Indian Ocean trade. Since then Kenya and UAE relations have continued to flourish as evidenced by the signing of a total of 21 Instruments of Cooperation that are at various stages of implementation.

In 2018 Kenya and the UAE signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Labour Matters and a Protocol on Domestic Workers to regulate and strengthen labour migration between the two countries. It is estimated that there are approximately 30,000 Kenyans living and working in the UAE in various sectors including hospitality, security transport; ICT; Aviation indus-

try and education as teacher assistants. There is a strong need to review the Labour Cooperation Agreement signed in 2018 as it will allow skilled Kenyan workers, especially in the Health Sector, including Doctors, Nurses and Lab Technicians, to access the UAE labour market, a key priority area for the Government of Kenya.

Recognising the great potential to leverage on the untapped skilled labour needs in the UAE, the 4th Kenya- UAE Session of the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) held between 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 highlighted the need to address the absence of mutual recognition of academic, technical and professional qualifications and certificates that has prevented skilled Kenyans accessing the job market in the UAE. The outcome was the commitment from both sides to undertake the necessary steps to engage UAE officials with Kenyan tertiary and institutions of higher learning to demonstrate the high standard of the existing infrastructure and richly diverse curricula in the education sector.

Kenya and the UAE have seen an expansion in direct air connectivity, facilitating ease of travel and exchange of goods between the two countries. In addition to the frequent passenger and cargo flights by Emirates Airlines, Etihad Airways, the second largest airline, resumed both passenger and non-passenger flights on the Nairobi- Abu Dhabi route last year after a three-year hiatus following the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. Signaling the importance of Kenya as an aviation hub for UAE based carriers. Furthermore, Flydubai Airlines, which has operated flights between the UAE and Mombasa since January 2024 has supported tourism, investment, and access to opportunities for our coastal communities.

### Further Cooperation

During the recent State House meeting some of the agreements signed included:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum of the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure of the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Cooperation in the Field of Energy seeking to establish

a framework for energy cooperation, promoting the sharing of technical knowledge, advice, skills, and expertise. This will increase access to clean energy and strengthen cooperation in renewable energy development and technology transfer. This was signed by the Principal Secretary for Energy and Petroleum.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Roads and Transport of the Republic of Kenya and the Ministry of Investment of the United Arab Emirates on Cooperation in the Transport Sector to promote economic cooperation in the transport sector, focusing on rail, aviation, and road transport projects, regulatory alignment, and infrastructure safety, reliability, and

innovation. This was signed by the Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport.

- Agreement between the Federal Customs Authority of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the Kenya Revenue Authority of the Republic of Kenya on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters seeking to prevent and investigate customs offenses, exchange information, and develop new procedures that will culminate in the reduction of illicit goods trafficking, improve cross-border trade, while protecting public and economic interests. This was signed by the Commissioner General of the Kenya Revenue Authority.

- Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Federation of UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry to establish a Kenya-UAE Joint Business Council for trade, investment, services, and industrial sectors. This was signed by the President of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya Railways Corporation and Etihad Rail Company to enhance knowledge exchange, conduct feasibility studies, and introduce innovative technologies for railway improvement. This was signed by the Managing Director, Kenya Railways Corporation.

Implementing these instruments will enhance Kenya's strategic objectives towards promoting national security, sustainable energy development, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, and strengthening institutional capacity.

President Ruto confirmed Kenya and UAE's commitment to multilateral collaboration for peace and security. The two states are working on promoting stability in Eastern and Horn of Africa regions. Kenya supports a Sudanese-led solution to Sudan's political dispute and advocates for peace processes through the African institutions and mechanisms established by member states including IGAD and the African Union and other regional institutions such as the East Africa Community (EAC).

## Presentation of Credentials to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community

By Kenya Embassy Havana

On 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, H.E Ambassador Mwenda Karisa presented Letters of Credence to H.E. Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), at a ceremony in Georgetown, Guyana. The Ambassador emphasized Kenya's commitment to strengthening bonds with the Caribbean region and deepening linkages among people of African descent. The Ambassador called for the implementation of the decisions of the First Africa/CARICOM Summit hosted virtually by Kenya on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, and the finalization of initiatives promoting collaboration between Afri-



H.E Ambassador Mwenda Karisa with H.E. Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) during the Presentation of Credentials

ca and the Caribbean.

The Secretary General expressed gratitude to the Kenyan Government for assuming leadership of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti and expressed condolences for the loss of two officers while on duty. Dr. Barnett noted that the CARICOM-Africa framework continues to

provide opportunities for mutual benefit and that Kenya is expected to remain a steadfast proponent of the CARICOM-AU partnership's expansion and promotion. Kenya has been at the forefront of promoting links between CARICOM and Kenya and Africa, aiming to develop a platform to address common challenges.



H.E Ambassador Mwenda Karisa presents Letters of Credence to H.E. Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)



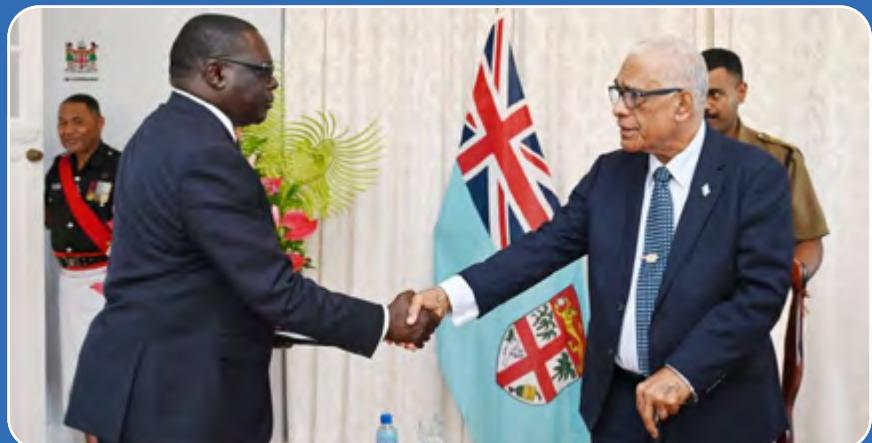
H.E Ambassador Mwenda Karisa with H.E. Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) during the Presentation of Credentials

## Presentation of Credentials in Suva, Fiji

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2025, Kenya's High Commissioner to Australia, H.E. Dr. Wilson Kogo, presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, President of the Republic of Fiji, at a ceremony held in Suva. The ceremony marked a renewed commitment to strengthen Kenya-Fiji relations in key areas of mutual interest.

Thereafter, Dr. Kogo held engagements with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Fiji, the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation (FCEF), and Members of the Kenyan Diaspora in Fiji, underlining a shared commitment to deepen collaboration both bilaterally and through multilateral forums. Key areas of cooperation discussed included climate change and the blue economy, agriculture and food security, labour mobility, trade and investment, and sports diplomacy. Both nations agreed on the urgency of coordinated action to address environmental challenges, address labor shortages, and leverage Kenya's strategic advantage as a gateway to East and Central Africa and Fiji as a Pacific launchpad.

The small but integrated Kenyan diaspora in Fiji, mostly engaged in academia and international organizations have expressed interest in contributing to national development and called for more structured support. In discussions with the Fiji Commerce and



H.E. Dr. Wilson Kogo, presenting his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, President of the Republic of Fiji

Employers Federation, FCEF expressed keen interest in collaborating with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) for knowledge-sharing, trade partnerships, and investment promotion.

This landmark visit by the High Com-

missioner to Fiji lays a strong foundation for a deeper, more strategic partnership between Kenya and Fiji, anchored in shared values, mutual benefit, and the promise of enhanced regional cooperation.

# Presentation of Credentials: Republic of Sierra Leone

Isaac K. Parashina presented his Letters of Credence to Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, accrediting him as High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Sierra Leone, with residence in Abuja, Nigeria, on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

During the colorful ceremony, President Maada Bio acknowledged Kenya's support to Sierra Leone during the 2021 Sierra Leone Census, and expressed his strong desire to strengthen Kenya-Sierra Leone bilateral relations, particularly in the area of tourism, blue economy and green energy. The High Commissioner on his part expressed his commitment to strengthening the friendship and cooperation between Kenya and Sierra Leone for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

While in Sierra Leone, the High Commissioner, accompanied by Mr. James Nyongesa, Minister Counsellor, and Mr. Patrick Kimata, Immigration Attaché held a meeting with Mr. Alan C.E. Logan, Director General, Ministry of Foreign and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone. The discussion centered on issues of mutual concern to the two countries including holding of the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC). The High Commissioner acknowledged Sierra Leone's role in the UN Security Council as well as the African Union Committee of the Ten Heads of State and Government on Reforms of the UN Security Council (C-10). Director General Logan hailed Kenya for easing immigration in the continent through removal of the eTA requirement for African visitors to Kenya, including citizens of Sierra Leone.

Further, the High Commissioner and his delegation joined the Kenyan Community in Sierra Leone to celebrate 62<sup>nd</sup> Madaraka Day Celebrations. The event provided an opportunity to reflect on Kenya's Journey since 1963 and reaffirm commitment to nationhood, resilience, and progress. In his remarks, the High Commissioner commended the diaspora for their patriotism and positive contribution to Kenya's image abroad, encouraging continued engagement with national priorities and



*Isaac K. Parashina presents his Letters of Credence to Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Photo Credits: Facebook: H.E Julius Maada Bio*

upholding the values of unity, integrity and service. The High Commissioner also acknowledged the contributions of

Kenyans abroad, which remains a vital part of Kenya's evolving development narrative.



*The Late Pope Francis 1*



*By. Amb. J. Yonga and the late Pope Francis 1 at the Vatican.*

## Celebrating Pope Francis 1

*By. Amb. J. Yonga,*

As a former Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Rome from 2019 to 2024, even though the Vatican was covered from Paris due to the proximity, our Rome embassy had to work closely with Paris embassy in engagements with the Vatican.

It is during my tenure in Rome that I had the distinct honour and privilege of engaging with His Holiness The late Pope Francis. These official diplomatic interactions—ranged from bilateral meetings to state visits—and offered a rare opportunity to witness firsthand the humility, wisdom, and global moral leadership of a man deeply committed to peace, human dignity, and social justice.

Throughout our engagements, Pope Francis consistently extended warmth and respect towards the Leadership and the people of Kenya. He would always

inquire how Kenya is doing at every available opportunity.

Whether in private meetings or during visits involving Kenyan dignitaries, he expressed a deep appreciation for Kenya's role in promoting interfaith dialogue, regional stability, and humanitarian outreach in Africa. His insights on climate action, ethical governance, and the plight of the vulnerable resonated strongly with our national values and aspirations.

These moments were more than ceremonial; they were a profound testament to the enduring relationship between Kenya and the Holy See, a relationship built on shared principles of compassion, solidarity, and hope.

Pope Francis legacy remains one of service to humanity and an inspiration to global diplomacy rooted in moral clarity and human compassion.

I celebrate Pope Francis.



Photo: AFP

## REFLECTIONS

# Path to Peace in Eastern DRC: Regional and International Mediation Efforts Gain Momentum

By Amb. H. M. Nduma, RCDS, Chargé D'affaires a.i.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains embroiled in a complex and protracted conflict, primarily in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri. These regions continue to experience armed violence, humanitarian suffering, and political instability largely driven by the M23 rebel insurgency and regional tensions, particularly with Rwanda. Despite numerous challenges, recent months have seen renewed international and regional efforts to find a sustainable resolution to the conflict.

## Escalating Crisis and Humanitarian Toll

With over five million internally displaced persons in eastern DRC and a worsening food security situation, the humanitarian crisis remains dire. Displacement continues to expose vulnerable populations to cycles of violence, disease, and poverty, severely undermining peace efforts. Despite the passage of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2773 in February 2025, which called for a cessation of M23 hostilities and withdrawal of Rwandan troops; fighting has persisted, reflecting the fragility of ceasefire agreements in the absence of strong enforcement and

political will.

## April 2025: A Month of Diplomatic Breakthroughs

In a notable diplomatic development, April 2025 marked the resurgence of momentum in the peace process. The M23 rebels' withdrawal from the strategic town of Walikale on 4<sup>th</sup> April signaled a key gesture of goodwill ahead of anticipated negotiations.

Qatar assumed a central role in mediation by hosting a trilateral summit on 18<sup>th</sup> April between Presidents of the DRC and Rwanda in Doha, which resulted in an immediate and unconditional ceasefire agreement. Subsequently, direct talks between the DRC government and M23 rebels on 23<sup>rd</sup> April culminated in a joint declaration committing to a cessation of hostilities.

A significant diplomatic milestone followed on 25<sup>th</sup> April in Washington, DC, where the DRC and Rwanda signed a 'Declaration of Principles' under the auspices of the United States. This landmark agreement committed both nations to respecting each other's sovereignty, promoting regional integration, addressing humanitarian needs,

and facilitating the return of displaced populations.

Multilateral engagement intensified with a high-level meeting in Doha on 30<sup>th</sup> April involving representatives from the US, Qatar, France, Togo, Rwanda, and the DRC. This gathering reinforced international support for the peace process and emphasized the need for immediate humanitarian interventions.

The African Union, in a strategic move to consolidate African-led solutions, appointed Togolese President Faure Gnassingbé as mediator of the merged Luanda-Nairobi peace process on 16<sup>th</sup> April, a step that expanded Africa's diplomatic footprint in the process.

## May 2025: Negotiating the Framework for Peace

In May, the peace initiative gained traction with resumed negotiations in Doha between the DRC and M23. A first draft of the DRC-Rwanda peace agreement was submitted to the United States on 5<sup>th</sup> May, focusing on mutual sovereignty, cessation of support to armed groups, and creation of a joint security mechanism.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, the US Africa Advisor en-



Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi (right) and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame (left) in a meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (centre) in Doha, Qatar, on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Photo: Reuters



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio (centre) signs a Declaration of Principles with Congolese Foreign Minister Therese Kayikwamba Wagner (left) and Rwandan Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhungirehe (Right), in Washington, April 25, 2025.

Photo Credits: Sipa photo by Graeme Sloan via AP

gaged both nations' leaders to refine the draft, working closely with Qatar and the African Union to address lingering disagreements. From 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May, the AU mediator convened a meeting of the expanded panel of five facilitators, former presidents from Kenya, Nigeria, Botswana, Ethiopia, and the Central African Republic in Togo. The meeting aimed to harmonize Africa's mediation efforts with the ongoing international initiatives.

## June 2025: Pushing for a Final Agreement

In June, Qatar presented a comprehensive draft peace proposal to both

the DRC government and M23 rebels. However, both parties expressed reservations, citing divergence from their respective expectations, a reflection of the underlying complexities.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June, the US intensified pressure on Rwanda to withdraw its troops and military assets from eastern Congo as a condition for signing the peace agreement. Rwanda, however, raised concerns about the threat posed by Congo-based armed groups, particularly the FDLR, which Kigali views as an existential threat.

Despite setbacks, the US has remained firm in pushing for accelerated peace

talks, calling for a signed agreement by the end of June or early July. Preparatory consultations have continued in Washington and Doha, with technical teams working to resolve key issues such as the status of M23 fighters and troop withdrawals.

The envisioned signing of the final agreement in July is expected to draw participation from key regional and continental stakeholders including the AU, East African Community (EAC), and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

## Observations: A Shift in the Peace Paradigm

The transition from fragmented regional mediation efforts to a consolidated, multi-track peace process marks a pivotal shift in conflict resolution strategy for eastern DRC. The combination of African leadership, through the AU, EAC, and SADC, with US and Qatari facilitation has produced a more structured and internationally supported platform to resolve the crisis. The merger of the Luanda and Nairobi tracks, appointment of an AU mediator, and commitment to a unified diplomatic approach signal a strong intent to forge lasting peace.

## Conclusion: Kenya's Role and the Power of Humanitarian Diplomacy

Kenya has long been an active player in regional stabilization efforts, particularly in the eastern DRC. Moving forward, the country has a unique opportunity to reassert its leadership through the strategic application of humanitarian diplomacy. By championing human welfare in the conflict, Kenya can influence the peace process from a moral and principled standpoint, while restoring its regional diplomatic clout.

Leveraging humanitarian diplomacy not only reflects Kenya's commitment to pan-African solidarity, but also positions the country as a credible and proactive actor in conflict resolution across East and Central Africa. As the international community edges closer to a final peace agreement, Kenya's role, both as a mediator and a humanitarian advocate, will remain crucial to ensuring a sustainable and inclusive peace in the DRC.

# Representing Kenya at MTCP Diplomatic Training Programme, 2025

By M. M. Yislam



*Maryam Yislam, a Second Secretary Officer, receiving a certificate of completion at the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) Diplomatic Training Course, hosted in Kuala Lumpur.*

From May 24 to June 4, 2025, I had the distinct honour of representing Kenya at the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) Diplomatic Training Course, hosted in Kuala Lumpur by the Government of Malaysia through the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR).

The MTCP is a flagship initiative of Malaysia's South-South cooperation agenda, designed to enhance technical competencies and promote mutual understanding among developing nations. This year's edition brought together young diplomats from 13 countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cuba, Egypt, India, Kenya, Laos, Morocco, Nepal, Senegal, Tajikistan, and Timor-Leste.

The two-week programme offered a rich blend of theoretical insights and practical learning, delivered in the vibrant setting of Kuala Lumpur's Swiss Garden Hotel. The training curriculum was both comprehensive and forward-looking. Sessions spanned a

range of core topics in diplomacy and international relations, including but not limited to:

- Malaysia's approach to economic diplomacy and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Strategic leadership and quality management practices for government officers;
- An overview of Malaysia's Foreign Policy and regional engagement strategies;
- Sustainability in the palm oil sector, a cornerstone of Malaysia's economic diplomacy;
- Protocol, diplomatic etiquette, and the art of international negotiations;
- Media communication training, encompassing both traditional and digital platforms.

Cultural immersion played a pivotal role in the programme. Participants

attended a cultural performance at the Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTIC), explored the historic city of Melaka, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and engaged in culinary diplomacy through exposure to Malaysia's diverse food heritage. Visits to Putrajaya, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, and the Craft Complex provided a window into Malaysia's nation-building narrative and administrative excellence.

## Lessons Learned:

The MTCP experience was a profound journey into Malaysia's diplomatic ethos, marked by pragmatism, strategic foresight, and a deep-rooted belief in multilateral cooperation. Through lectures, site visits, and peer engagement, I gained practical knowledge in navigating the evolving dynamics of global diplomacy. Particularly valuable was the training on international negotiations and media communication, which I plan to integrate into Kenya's diplomatic training and regional cooperation efforts.

Kenya remains committed to enhancing South-South dialogue and leveraging shared experiences to drive continental and global development. The MTCP Diplomatic Training Programme is a testament of Malaysia's leadership in fostering global solidarity through knowledge exchange and institutional collaboration. The lessons drawn from Malaysia's diplomacy, sustainability initiatives, and public sector innovation will inform my contributions to Kenya's foreign policy goals.

I, on behalf of my country extend my heartfelt appreciation to Malaysia for this opportunity to deepen bilateral ties and build capacity through meaningful diplomatic exchange. I extend my sincere thanks to the IDFR team, facilitators, and fellow participants for an enriching experience.

As we look to deepen cooperation across the Global South, Kenya stands ready to build on the partnerships cultivated through this programme.

## Books donation at KMTC Eldoret

The State Department for Diaspora Affairs, in partnership with Books for Africa and the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, delivered an additional 20,000 books to the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) Eldoret Campus in May 2025.

The donation supports the Health Pillar of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), aiming to improve healthcare access and enhance health worker training. The State Department is expanding similar initiatives across other training institutions to empower Kenyan youth through education, skills development, and employment opportunities.

The initiative encourages more diaspora organizations and individuals to invest in skills development initiatives for sustainable growth and national development.



## Roll-Out of Biometric Passport Processing in Bern

The Embassy in Bern has begun the process of processing biometric passports for Kenyans in Switzerland. This service will also be available to individuals from the surrounding regions of neighboring countries, including Austria, Italy, Germany, Liechtenstein, and France. Additionally, the Mission will shortly commence the processing of national identity certificates, which will complement the existing consular services. The processing of passports and national identity cards will significantly improve the delivery of services to the Kenyan diaspora in Switzerland.



Embassy staff processing passport biometrics

# Celebrating Zimbabwe's 45<sup>th</sup> Independence Day



Source: *The Herald*

Zimbabwe's Ambassador to Kenya, Uganda and Somalia, Winipeg Moyo cuts the cake in celebration of Zimbabwe's 45<sup>th</sup> independence day in Nairobi

# Celebrating South Africa's 31<sup>st</sup> National Day

By S. Omari

The South African High Commission in Kenya held a dual celebration marking the Country's 31<sup>st</sup> National Day and to bid farewell to the outgoing High Commissioner. The event, attended by South African nationals, Kenyan dignitaries, diplomatic corps, and friends, honoured South Africa's journey since apartheid and highlighted its achievements, democratic values, and strong ties with Kenya. The emotional farewell to the High Commissioner was accompanied by entertainment, food, and traditional South African performances.



Amb. Lucy N. Kiruthu, MBS Deputy Director General/ Head Policy, Research and Strategic Analysis and the outgoing Amb. Mniwa Johannes Mahlangu, of South Africa High Commission in Kenya

# Open Government Partnership's (OGP) Independent Reporting Mechanism Lauds Kenya's Actions on Transparency and Accountability for Public Service Delivery

By Dr. K. Sing'Oei and Amb. P. Thigo

The recent Independent Reporting Mechanism (IM) assessment of Kenya's Open Government Partnership (OGP) journey highlighted over a decade of sustained reform efforts with a clear upward trajectory catalyzed by high-level political leadership and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Since joining OGP in 2011, Kenya has delivered 40 national commitments across five action plans, embedding open government principles across the executive, judiciary, and parliament. Devolved units have also pioneered local innovations, demonstrating how transparency and accountability can directly benefit citizens at the grassroots level.

While Kenya's open government momentum predates President William Ruto's administration, his tenure has seen strategic alignment of open government priorities with broader governance reforms. High-level coordination through the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary (OPCS) continues to provide visibility and convening power to OGP processes. Although there has been no specific "Cabinet retreat" focused exclusively on open government, the OPCS plays a central role in overseeing OGP implementation and ensuring inter-ministerial coordination.

Presently, key transparency mechanisms have been strengthened, including enhanced public reporting frameworks and institutionalization of open data practices. These developments reflect an evolving commitment to citizen engagement and accountability, even amidst shifting political dynamics and resource constraints.

Kenya's Constitution enshrines the public's right to access information (ATI), but translating this into practice requires sustained advocacy and collaboration. The Access to Information Act was passed under Kenya's second OGP Action Plan (2016–2017), with implementing regulations finalized under the fourth plan (2019–2021). A National Access to Information Policy is currently being developed under the fifth action plan (2023–2027), with support from the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) and civil society organizations such as Article 19.

To ensure long-term impact, the Kenya School of Government continues to integrate ATI training into its curriculum, equipping civil servants with knowledge of their obligations and citizens' rights. CAJ-led sensitization campaigns have reached over 30,000 public officers nationwide, contributing to in-

creased awareness and compliance with ATI requests.

Public procurement transparency remains a consistent focus of Kenya's OGP commitments. In 2018, the Public Procurement Information Portal (PPIP) was launched, providing public access to tender notices and contract data. Several counties, including Makueni (2019) and Nandi (2023), have since established open contracting portals aligned with the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS). These platforms have improved procurement efficiency and accountability. Makueni County alone reported savings of over KES 30 million (USD 264,000) in its Roads Department due to increased competition and transparency.

Despite these gains, full implementation of beneficial ownership disclosure remains pending. While Kenya enacted legal frameworks requiring companies to disclose ultimate beneficial owners, the register remains accessible only to law enforcement agencies. Civil society continues to advocate for full public access to enhance anti-corruption efforts.

Rebuilding trust in Parliament remains a collaborative effort between reform-minded legislators, civil society,



and international partners. In 2022, the Parliamentary OGP Desk was established to coordinate open government initiatives within the National Assembly and the Senate. This was followed by the formation of the Open Government Parliamentary Caucus in 2023, which continues to champion legislative openness and supported the passage of the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act in 2024.

This act simplifies NGO registration and operations, aiming to create an enabling environment for civic engagement. However, concerns remain about the PBO Authority's actions to deregister some civil society organizations, underscoring ongoing tensions around civic space.

Efforts to improve parliamentary transparency include live-streaming of sessions, expanded use of social media, and the development of tools like Mzalendo Trust's legislative tracker. The Dokeza platform enables public input on draft legislation, although more work is needed to ensure meaningful uptake of citizen feedback.

- County governments have emerged as powerful drivers of open government reforms, often surpassing national-level progress;
- Nandi County's Open Contracting Portal (2023): Real-time publication of tenders and awards has increased oversight and responsiveness to irregularities;
- Community-Driven Budgeting: Nandi's 2023 town hall series integrated civil society feedback into budget drafts, a model now being piloted in other counties;
- Public Participation Laws: Six Kenyan OGP Local members, including Elgeyo Marakwet, Makueni, Nandi, Nairobi, Machakos, and Kakamega have enacted robust public participation laws, transforming community engagement in decision-making processes;
- Elgeyo Marakwet County, in particular, has demonstrated how OGP participation can shift institutional culture, increasing both citizens' confidence in requesting information and officials' responsiveness to such demands.

A major milestone in Kenya's open gov-

ernment journey is the planned establishment of the National Council on Open Government, announced in the 2023–2027 action plan. This body will provide institutional oversight for open government programming, harmonize policies across national and county levels, and produce a State of Openness Report, setting a global benchmark for measuring progress in transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.

Kenya's open government journey continues to navigate political transitions, limited resources, and shrinking civic space. Yet each IRM assessment reveals steady progress in areas such as access to information, open contracting, legislative openness, and beneficial ownership transparency.

As the country moves forward, it must deepen implementation, strengthen institutional capacity, and broaden the coalition of reformers, from the presidency to grassroots organizations. With continued political will, cross-sector collaboration, and institutional backing, Kenya's achievements in open government can not only endure but serve as a model for democracies worldwide.

The Independent IRM Report can be found here: <https://www.opengov-partnership.org/kenyas-open-government-journey/>

### **About the Authors:**

Dr. Korir Singoei is the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and co-convenor of the Open Government Partnership in Kenya.

Amb. Philip Thigo is the Special Envoy on Technology for Kenya and technical lead for the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

### **About the Open Government Partnership (OGP):**



The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a global initiative that brings together governments and civil society organizations to promote transparent, participatory, inclusive, and accountable governance. Founded in 2011, OGP currently includes 75 countries and 150 local governments, representing over two billion people. Member governments commit to developing and implementing national and local action plans that include concrete reforms, known as commitments aimed at improving public access to information, enhancing civic participation, and fostering greater governmental accountability. These action plans are co-created with civil society to ensure they reflect citizens' needs and priorities while aligning with international open government standards.

### **About the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM):**



The Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) serves as OGP's accountability arm, providing independent, evidence-based assessments of member countries' progress in implementing their open government commitments. Since OGP's inception in 2011, the IRM has produced detailed reports and actionable recommendations for each country's action plan cycle. These evaluations help track the effectiveness of reforms, highlight areas for improvement, and support learning across the global open government community. The IRM plays a critical role in ensuring transparency and credibility within the OGP process by offering objective insights into how well governments are delivering on their open government promises.



## Africa Day 2025 in pictures

*Amb. Kispoi at the Africa Day Celebrations together with Africa Group of Ambassadors in Seoul and Korea Government Officials*

**Italy:** On Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, H.E. Fessahazion Pietros Mengistu, Ambassador of Eritrea hosted the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Africa Day as Dean of the African Group of Ambassadors in Italy.

The highlight of the event was the address through a video message by H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lorenc, President of the Republic of Angola and President of the African Union.

**Korea:** The Africa Group of Ambassadors in Seoul hosted the 2025 Africa Day celebrations on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and used the forum to discuss Korea-Africa cooperation and celebrate cultural exchange. The African Group of Ambassadors (AGA) represents 19 African countries with resident Embassies in Seoul

A key highlight of this year's celebration was the Korea-Africa Business Forum, aimed at exploring new avenues for partnership between the African continent and Korea following the success of the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit held in Seoul on 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

Ambassador Kipsoi encouraged Korean companies to view Africa as a complementary partner rather than a competitor, and stressed the need to strengthen both government and B2B networking. She also noted that successful Korean companies in Africa, such as Samsung, continued to serve as valuable models for startups and SMEs seeking entry into the African market.



*Embassy staff and Kenyan diaspora at the event*



*Amb. Kispoi representing Kenya at the Fashion show together with CEO of the Herald Business Group representing Korea*

**Cuba:** The Embassy of Kenya in Cuba joined other African Embassies in Havana to celebrate Africa Day organised by the African Diplomatic Corps in Havana. The guest of honour was H.E. Salvador Valdes Mesa, Vice President of the Republic of Cuba. During the dinner, African Embassies showcased their cuisine and culture. Kenya's Githeri, samosas and ukwaju juice were sought after delicacies by the guests.

Other events organised by the African diplomatic corps in collaboration with the government of Cuba included: a cultural presentation held at the Revolution Palace, a gala night organised by the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) and a football match between the African group and CARICOM countries held at the La Polar Stadium on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.



*Guest of honour, H.E. Salvador Valdes Mesa, Vice President of the Republic of Cuba visits Kenya's stand during at the Africa Day gala dinner*

## Bern



*Ambassador Fouzia Abass during the 2025 African Day celebrations*



*Embassy staff at the Africa Day gala dinner organised by the African Diplomatic Corps in Havana*



**Doha:** On May 25, 2025, the African Diplomatic Group in Doha, under the leadership of the Dean, H.E. Amb. Valerie Lusamba Kabeya, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo, commemorated Africa Day at the Diplomatic Club.

Kenya's participation was marked by

the presentation of its traditional dishes, including nyama choma (grilled meat), sukuma (collard greens), and chapati, offering attendees a taste of Kenyan hospitality and culinary traditions. The Embassy also showcased Kenyan art and crafts, reflecting the nation's rich artistic heritage.



*Centre: Amb. Mohammed Nur Adan, the Ambassador of Kenya to Qatar, at the African Day Celebrations held in Doha*



# Perspectives: Accelerating Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy

By: S. K. Mwangi, 'ndc' (K)

**"When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills".**

Ancient Chinese proverb.

Kenya's Foreign Policy recognizes the pivotal role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) diplomacy in the national development agenda. The policy has articulated well the intent and focus of STI diplomacy that seeks to make Kenya a key player in global technological discourse, solidify the country's position as a technology hub, enhance its global competitiveness and promote economic, social and cultural progress.

The Constitution of Kenya acknowledges Science and Technology in article 11(2) while the Government manifesto has Digital SuperHighway as one of its six pillars, intended to employ technology and innovation to unlock opportunities through digital transformation and creative economy. To further reinforce the focus on this rapidly emerging area, the Government through the recent Executive Order No. 1 of 2025, has established a State Department for Science, Research and Innovation in the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

In the twenty-first century, technology

and innovation have become fundamental and critical drivers of economic growth and development. It's for this reason that many countries are harnessing all possible avenues including diplomatic practice, as well as aligning the policies, strategies and production systems to boost their capacity in technology and innovation so as to unlock the economic, social and cultural potentialities.

Diplomats and Foreign Service Officers have consequently become catalysts of innovation and technology transfer, and they are strategic players in shaping global technology and innovation terrain. This entails recognizing and facilitating the harnessing of emerging technologies and innovation, developments, trends, and opportunities, as well as forging cooperation agreements and partnerships.

## Emerging Technologies

By 2030, the World Bank projects that one of the emerging technologies, namely Artificial Intelligence (AI) will boost the global GDP by an estimated \$15 - \$20 trillion USD, which will push it to \$123 trillion USD from the current \$108 trillion USD. Artificial Intelligence is one field of technology that involves creating and using machines to perform and undertake tasks that normally require human intelligence, for instance, problem solving, language

processing, learning, decision making among others.

**Strategic positioning and building the necessary capacity to utilize and benefit from this unfolding global windfall is a matter of national interest, and it's worth noting that the Government of Kenya recently launched the "Kenya Artificial Intelligence Strategy, 2025-2030" to guide effective harnessing and deployment of AI technology for national development.**

Other important technologies that Diplomats and Foreign Service Officers may need to have requisite awareness include, space technology, manufacturing, health, agricultural, cloud computing, assistive technology, virtual reality, biotechnology, robotics, energy, information technology, cybersecurity, and the Internet of Things, among others.

## Harnessing and Mainstreaming STI Diplomacy

To effectively harness and reap the benefits of the exponential growth of technology and innovations, it's imperative to deliberately accelerate efforts to mainstream and implement STI diplomacy. The following are suggestions that could be considered to pursue this pressing endeavor. Identifying suitable areas and opportunities for mainstreaming STI diplomacy, enhancing

awareness and building requisite capacity, enhancing integration of STI in the PC, improving the innovation ecosystem in the Ministry and participating in STI forums and conferences.

Other measures could be, **determining the directorate or division to domicile and coordinate STI activities, observing occasions like World Innovation Day, having a section in the Diplomacy Newsletter for Science, Technology and Innovation diplomacy issues and developments, awards for the most innovative Directorate/Division/Mission or Unit in the ministry, and nurturing a culture of creativity and innovation among other considerations.**

### Creativity and Innovation

While creativity involves generation of novel, useful ideas and insights, innovation entails implementation of these ideas into new services, processes and products. It could be exciting and refreshing generating novel ideas on mediation and negotiation processes,

protocol services, cultural diplomacy, financial services, engagement strategies, environmental diplomacy practices among other areas. The government may also consider increasing allocation to Research and Development from the current 0.8 % of the budget to close to 2% as this significantly contributes to increased innovation and accelerated growth.

On capacity building and awareness enhancement, the revamped Foreign Service Academy will play a pivotal role having developed a comprehensive curriculum targeting officers and staff at various levels, right from the foundation stage to advanced level. **The Academy could consider designing a short course for officers across the board as a quick intervention aimed at enhancing requisite awareness.**

The short course, may be a one-day training, could focus on fundamental areas like, **understanding STI diplomacy, what is technology, types of technologies, technology transfer**

**process, challenges and solutions to successful technology transfer.** What is innovation, types and the process of innovation, innovation diplomacy, innovation ecosystem, barriers and solutions to innovation process, as well as the role of diplomats in STI diplomacy. The understanding of these fundamental blocks of STI would lay an important foundation that can be used to effectively promote STI diplomacy.

Diplomats and Foreign Service Officers play a critical role in global science, technology, and innovation discourse, in forging STI partnerships and facilitating the transfer of technology and innovations. **Enhancing their awareness and capacity together with deliberately exploring suitable ways of mainstreaming science, technology and innovation diplomacy will enable Kenya to enjoy the full dividends of science, technology and innovation and accelerate the realization of national development goals.**

## Diamond League 2025

The Golden Gala Pietro Mennea was held in Rome on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 at the Stadio Olimpico.

This year spectators witnessed three seasonal world best performances and two meeting records. Kenyan athlete Beatrice Chebet was among the champions having emerged winner of the

5000 meters with the second-best performance ever (14:03.69) and the best time ever run at the Golden Gala.

Italy on the other hand, was catapulted to success by Nadia Battocletti who emerged third hitting another Italian record with the second European performance ever at 14:23.15, taking

more than eight seconds off the record achieved in Paris 2024.

The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya and Kenyans in the diaspora attended the event where they cheered on their compatriots and shared in their success.



Kenyans cheering on athlete Ferdinand Omanyala

# Strategic Design in Kenya's Foreign Policy; Analysis Against Lykke's Strategic Model

By T. Kinyua MPPA,

The phrase ends, Ways and Means is deeply embedded in the mind of any strategic analyst or thinker of both Defense and Foreign policy, worth his/her salt. This notion is attributable to Col. (Rtd) Arthur F. Lykke, of the US Army War College, who is responsible for the crystalline depiction of the role of strategic design in the pursuit of National Security by coupling defense and foreign policy.

In the Kenyan context, the Lykke model is of vital importance to our foreign policy primarily because of its utility in the evaluation of strategic decisions undertaken in the context of Foreign Affairs management. To ensure alignment of Kenya's foreign policy as articulated in its sessional paper No. 1 of 2025 to Lykke's model, the following 3 criteria can be utilized as a standard metric:

Firstly, the criterion that strategic analysis and projections remains grounded by constraints in the real world; this ensures that the proposed objectives (ends) remain realistic and achievable by displaying an acute awareness of the constraints in the international system. The sessional paper, that has now been made public, made a decent effort at analyzing and summarizing the situation of Kenya's foreign policy environment by highlighting the dynamism characterizing the international environment with shifting polarity indexes between the West and East, challenge of the multilateral order as espoused by the traditional United Nations and the rise of anti-imperialism campaigns

in Africa. The constraints highlighted therein entail; geo-political dynamics, economic interdependence and prosperity, social-cultural issues, technological development, peace and security, and global governance aspirations. This suffices as a candid approach that is guided by pragmatic optimism in line with Lykke's model.

Secondly, guaranteeing coherence and sustainability of national strategies in a constantly dynamic global environment. This criterion is a representation of the (ways) in which Foreign Policy of the republic is executed. The Sessional paper recognizes that the leadership of the Republic in every regime varies in the way it executes and conducts Foreign Policy. Kenya has built its credibility through historical consistency in its positions over various issues in the international community especially in multilateral fora. The sessional paper does not explicitly outline the priorities and objectives of Kenya's Foreign policy making it vulnerable to inconsistencies. This factor, which can be rationalized to be making room for flexibility and adaptability in a dynamic international system, can pose the risk of incoherence and unsustainability due to shifting priorities with every new political manifesto after a constitutional election.

Thirdly, alignment of capabilities and methods to avoid overreach and incoherence in foreign policy articulation. This criterion replicates the (means) as per Lykke's model. In the Sessional Paper, that is meant to replicate a strategic

plan in all intent and purpose, made a remarkable job at taking a deep dive into the historical evolution of Kenya's Foreign Policy. The analysis of the internal environment of the Ministry of foreign and Diaspora affairs as an institution, its opportunities and challenges, are however appended to the sessional paper in an underwhelming nature. The inclusion of actionable recommendations after some sub-sections provides some reprieve. According to Lykke, the outline of the focus areas of Kenya's foreign policy should be juxtaposed against the reality of the internal environment to ensure that it is fit for purpose. This has been highlighted in terms of the deficiency of the legislative framework that may/ ought to guide on staffing, training, career progression and sensitive aspects such as striking the balance between career and political staff appointees.

Conclusively, embracing innovation is a key recommendation for the realization of the aspirations spelt out under each focus area of Kenya's new Foreign Policy. This has to be propped by increased budgetary allocation from the exchequer and robust innovations in resource mobilization blending both public and private sources while retaining sovereign autonomy in decision making. Lastly, entrenching transparent internal policies, structures and guidelines to manage Foreign Service is critical in this endeavor which ought to be coupled with stringent internal monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

# News Highlights from the Capital

## Senior Management Staff set priorities for 2025/26

By: G. Moturi and F. Ngwena

The State Department for Foreign Affairs in June, 2025 held a three-day high-level Strategic Reflective Retreat that brought together senior leadership under the stewardship of Principal Secretary Dr. Korir SingOei.

The three-day engagement held in Kajiado County provided a vital platform to assess the Department's performance for the 2024/25 Financial Year and set clear, forward-looking priorities for 2025/26 that are aligned with Kenya's evolving foreign policy objectives and national development goals.

The Principal Secretary underscored the significance of the retreat as a forum for candid reflection, progress evaluation, and institutional realignment. He emphasized the importance of aligning departmental priorities with the Kenya Foreign Policy, the Ministry's Strategic Plan (2023–2027), presidential directives, Cabinet decisions, and the broader national development agenda. The retreat also built on insights from the 2024/25 performance evaluation and internal departmental reviews.

While reflecting on the 2024/25 performance reports, the State Department outlined flagship programmes for 2025/26, and proposed deliverables aligned to the Fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP IV) and BETA priorities to inform the performance contracts of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and the Principal Secretary.



Group photo of PS Dr. Korir SingOei and Heads of Departments during a Strategic Reflective Retreat in Kajiado



PS Dr. Korir SingOei addressing during the Strategic Reflective Retreat in Kajiado



PS Dr. Korir SingOei and some senior staff during the Strategic Reflective Retreat in Kajiado

# President Ruto commends Kazi Majuu Programme

President William Ruto has lauded the Kazi Majuu programme, noting that it continued to positively impact thousands of young Kenyans since its inception.

During a working tour to Nkuene, South Imenti, where he commissioned the Nkuene Primary Power Station, the President emphasized that the initiative would continue to receive robust support as part of broader national efforts to address unemployment.

Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, who had

accompanied the President, highlighted the programme's benefits for youth in TVETs and other higher learning institutions. PS Njogu underscored the government's three-pronged approach to tackling unemployment through the Kazi Kwa Ground, Kazi Mtandaoni, and Kazi Majuu initiatives. She also commended the government's efforts in enhancing the last-mile connectivity of electricity to households, observing that this would greatly facilitate access to digital jobs.

In Meru County, the President laid the

foundation stone for the Maua Market and announced reforms in the agricultural sector, a major employer in the region. He also toured Tigania West, where he launched the construction of a Huduma Centre in Maua, a centre that would streamline the application process for vital documents needed for the Kazi Majuu programme and other citizen-centric initiatives. The President was joined by H.E Deputy President, Prof. Kithure Kindiki and other senior government officials during his tour of development projects in Meru County.

## Parliament Passes Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025

By I. Kimeu



Dr Musalia Mudavadi appearing at the Committee on Foreign Relations for the presentation of the Foreign Policy Sessional Paper No.1 of 2025

The Kenyan Parliament has adopted and passed Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, marking a significant shift in the country's foreign policy approach. In April, 2025, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, highlighted the importance of this policy shift, stating that it emphasized accountability and a clear response to the evolving needs of citizens and the

international community.

Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025 expands upon the 2014 Kenya Foreign Policy, which was centered around five key pillars: peace diplomacy, economic diplomacy, environmental diplomacy, diaspora diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy, by introducing additional domains such as health and technology diplomacy. This comprehensive

approach aims to modernize Kenya's diplomatic agenda, ensuring it is responsive to emerging global challenges and opportunities.

A central tenet of the policy is the enhancement of diaspora and economic diplomacy, emphasizing the need for legislative support that protects the rights of Kenyan workers overseas. The sessional paper advocates for the integration of the Foreign Affairs docket into the National Security Council to strengthen Kenya's international standing and streamline strategic coordination. The Prime Cabinet Secretary also proposed a 70:30 ratio for ambassadorial appointments, designating 70% for career foreign service officers and 30% for experienced professionals from outside the service.

Members of the Senate Standing Committee expressed strong support for the policy's vision and pledged to facilitate necessary legislative efforts for its successful implementation. Following Parliamentary approval, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs is poised to embark on the immediate implementation phase post-gazettement, which will include structured engagements with stakeholders, capacity building initiatives, and a public communication campaign to enlighten citizens and partners on the policy's objectives.

# Consultative meeting on strategies to combat human trafficking

Ms. Crystolyte Sanamanda, Executive Director and Founder of the Red Rope Movement, visited Amb. Ann Wanjohi at the State Department for Diaspora Affairs to discuss the organization's efforts in supporting Kenyan women trafficked to India.

The meeting emphasized the need to tackle the root causes and consequences of human trafficking. Wanjohi reaffirmed the State Department's commitment to collaborating with the Red Rope Movement to combat human trafficking and Kenya's commitment to protecting its citizens abroad. The visit follows a November 2024 meeting in India where Principal Secretary for Diaspora Affairs Ms. Roseline K. Njogu toured the Red Rope offices and observed the organization's work firsthand.



Ms. Crystolyte Sanamanda, Executive Director and Founder of the Red Rope Movement during the courtesy visit to Amb. Ann Wanjohi, who was representing PS Roseline K. Njogu.

Present during the courtesy call meeting included Mr. Eric Kavuma, Ms. Emma Gicheha, Mr. Edwin Limo, Mr. Ahmed

Ketsane, Ms. Anne Kimani, Mr. Edwin Okoro and Ms. Ann Njue.

## Enhancing Records Management: A Successful Collaboration Between Foreign Affairs and the National Youth Service

By F. Kajuju

In a significant step towards improving transparency, accountability, and service delivery, the State Department for Foreign Affairs recently concluded a comprehensive records management project within the Head Quarters. The initiative focused on classifying, organizing, and streamlining financial records to ensure easy access and prompt retrieval, ultimately enhancing operational efficiency.

Recognizing the scale and importance of the project, the Ministry partnered with the National Youth Service (NYS) to support the records reorganization efforts across the entire State Department. NYS officers worked hand-in-hand with the Department's records management staff, methodically sorting and organizing documents. This strategic collaboration not only improved the accuracy and efficiency of records handling but also offered valuable hands-on experience for the par-



Principal Secretary Dr. Korir SingOei with the Records Management staff and the NYS team at the HQ after reviewing the progress of the exercise.

ticipating personnel.

This initiative is aligned with the government's broader agenda of modernizing public service operations and adopting best practices in information and records management. Once documents were sorted and categorized,

plans were set in motion to contact relevant authorities for the disposal of records no longer deemed to have administrative, legal, or historical value. This allowed the Department to free up critical storage space and refocus on managing active, high-priority records more effectively.



*Amb. Lucy Kiruthu, Acting Director General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs, representing the Principal Secretary, addressing the Records Management staff and NYS team at the Luncheon*



*MFA and NYS team during the Luncheon*

To celebrate the successful completion of the project, the State Department hosted a special appreciation luncheon on June 13, 2025 to honour the outstanding efforts of both the state Department's records management team and the NYS officers. Gracing the occasion were Amb. Lucy Kiruthu, Acting Director General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs, who represented the Principal Secretary, and Mr. James Omosa, Director /Kenya Missions and Global Assets Management.

In her remarks, Amb. Kiruthu praised the dedication, teamwork, and professionalism shown throughout the project and conveyed the Ministry's gratitude to the NYS Commandant General for the invaluable support of the NYS team.

A key highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of certificates of appreciation to all team members. The collective efforts of staff and NYS officers have not only set a new standard in records management but have also laid the groundwork for a more transparent, responsive, and organized institution, one better equipped to serve both government and public needs.

## Director General WIPO pays courtesy call

*By D. Osiya*



*PS Dr. Korir Singoei during a courtesy call with Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO at the Ministry's Headquarters.*

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Director General Daren Tang visited Kenya from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025, cementing the organisation's 54-year partnership with Kenya.

WIPO has provided significant resources, training, and capacity building to Kenya's Intellectual Property development.

The Digital Superhighway and the Cre-

ative Economy are crucial for Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and intellectual property plays a significant role in these processes.

Tang engaged with Kenya's President, senior government officials, and IP agency heads to discuss Kenya's leadership in the IP ecosystem, address challenges in IP development, and explore opportunities to leverage and commercialize IP for economic and social transformation. He also had firsthand experience with academia, innovators, and creators who use IP to create unique products, solutions, and services. The visit also aimed to explore new collaborations for IP development in Kenya.



## Muuguzi Majuu-Kenya, Minnesota sturdy partnership to boost Global Nurse Mobility

Ms. Irene Karari, Director and Head of the Skills and Expertise Division at the State Department of Diaspora Affairs recently met with Ms. Zahnia Harut, CEO of AffinityCare in Minnesota, to explore new opportunities for healthcare labor mobility through the Muuguzi Majuu initiative.

The discussions focused on Kenya's comprehensive job creation strategy, which is anchored on three pillars: Kazi Majuu (overseas employment), Kazi kwa Ground (jobs in Kenya), and Kazi Mtandaoni (digital and remote work). The Kazi Majuu program has already enabled Kenyan professionals to secure positions across various global sectors. This healthcare partnership builds on

the recent launch of Kenya's Pearson VUE NCLEX-RN Test Centre in Nairobi, the second of its kind in Africa. This facility allows Kenyan nurses to obtain certification locally, eliminating the need to travel to India or South Africa, and is attracting candidates from North, West, and Central Africa.

The conversation also delved into remote work possibilities, leveraging Kenya's robust "Silicon Savannah" tech ecosystem, favorable time zone alignment with the US, and cost-effective service delivery.

Ms. Karari invited AffinityCare representatives to visit Kenyan BPO operations in Special Economic Zones, with the aim of exploring hybrid models that

Ms. Irene Karari (right) during the meeting with Ms. Zahnia Harut (left) CEO of AffinityCare in Minnesota

combine Minnesota job placements with ongoing remote work partnerships.

This approach acknowledges the preference of many Kenyan professionals to deliver high-quality international services while remaining in their home country.

Structured labor mobility programs represent a strategic win-win, helping address Minnesota's healthcare staffing needs while supporting Kenya's economic growth through skills transfer, technology collaboration, and expanded trade ties beyond healthcare placements. Present in the meeting was Ms. Mai Neng Moua, Attorney at Mai N Moua Law Office.

## Africa Public Service Day 2025: Kenya Champions Resilient, Inclusive, and Impact-Driven Governance

By F. Ngwena, P. Mwangi, A. Rugendo and Y. Chelagat

The State Department for Foreign Affairs (SDFA) participated in the Africa Public Service Day (APSD) 2025 celebrations, held from June 10 to 12 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC). The event brought together ministries, government agencies, and members of the public in a vibrant exhibition of innovation, service excellence, and inclusive governance. It

concluded with a clear message: public service must prioritize impact, equity, and long-term transformation for enhanced service delivery.

Held under the banner "Enhancing the Agility and Resilience of Public Institutions to Achieve Equitable Governance and Rapidly Address Historical Gaps," the occasion underscored Kenya's

commitment to cultivating a dynamic, transparent, and people-centred public sector. The focus for this year's celebrations was on addressing long-standing disparities in service access while equipping institutions to respond effectively to emerging demands.

During the opening ceremony, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Hon. Geoffrey Ruku Kiringa, described Kenya's public service as a model of resilience and ingenuity. He urged civil servants to deliver value through timely, open, and efficient service and to embrace digital tools and innovations, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), to enhance operations. He also announced the forthcoming Public Service Delivery Innovation Policy, designed to institutionalize continuous improvement and



Members of the public at the State Department for Foreign Affairs Exhibition booth during the Africa Public Service Day Celebrations at KICC



Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Hon. Geoffrey Ruku Kiringa and Principal Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development, Dr. Jane Imbunya, during the opening ceremony of Africa Public Service Day Celebrations at KICC.



Amb. Michael Kiboino, Secretary for Foreign Service Administration, at the State Department for Foreign Affairs Exhibition booth during the Africa Public Service Day Celebrations at KICC with staff of the State Department for Foreign Affairs

adaptive leadership.

Principal Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development, Dr. Jane Kere Imbunya, praised public servants as “unsung heroes” and emphasized that meaningful innovation begins with individual initiative. She lauded the exhibitions and discussions for fostering critical conversations on transparency, digitization, and legal reform.

Through the Sessional Paper No 1 of 2025 on Kenya’s Foreign Policy, Foreign Policy (Revised, 2024) and Strategic Plan (2023–2027), the State Department demonstrated the potential of diplomacy to contribute meaningfully to national development. At its booth, the Department provided key services, including the authentication of official documents for international use, while also sharing insights into Kenya’s bilateral and multilateral engagements.

Ambassador Michael Kiboino, Secretary for Foreign Service Administration and Management while visiting the stand highlighted ongoing modernization efforts including amongst others, the digitization of document authentication and the rollout of an online platform for managing diplomatic privileges, part of a broader initiative to align the foreign service with global standards. Amb. Kiboino welcomed public input as vital to improving services and affirmed the Department’s commitment to transparency and citizen engagement.

Head of Public Service, Felix Koskei, represented by the Deputy Chief of Staff Eliud Owalo underscored the need for people-centred reform and called for the adoption of technology, cross-sector collaboration, and institutional flexibility to support the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and enhance public sector responsiveness.

APSD 2025 served as a powerful reminder that the continent’s progress relies on institutions that are agile, resilient, and dedicated to serving the public good. The State Department for Foreign Affairs remains committed to advancing service excellence on the global stage while fostering diplomatic partnerships that promote innovation, inclusion, and a citizen-first approach to governance.

# Kenya calls for Social Benefits Portability Framework for African Diaspora

Kenya is advocating for the development of a framework that enables the portability of social benefits, including health and social security entitlements, for people of African descent living in the diaspora.

Speaking at the fourth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD), Ambassador Hellen Gichuhi, Secretary for Diaspora Welfare and Partnerships highlighted concerns among diaspora members who wished to return to their countries of origin but remained hesitant due to the potential loss of social benefits.

“The Durban Declaration is a pivotal milestone in human rights. This Forum is tasked with addressing barriers that hinder the full realization and enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms. It is a fundamental right for people of African descent to return home without losing their social benefits,” said Ambassador Gichuhi.

The forum, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, brought together member states worldwide under the banner: Africa and People of African Descent: United for Reparatory Justice in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, with the sub-theme focusing on Policy Making and Systemic Racism: A Human Rights-Based Approach.

Representing Kenya, Amb. Gichuhi also called for greater attention to mental health and psychosocial wellness, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts to address intergenerational trauma among the African diaspora. She urged the forum to establish mechanisms to provide free and accessible mental health and psychosocial services as a fundamental human rights.

Prior to the session, Amb. Gichuhi, accompanied by Ms. Anne Kimani, met with Ambassador Martin Kimani, the newly-appointed Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD), who succeeded H.E



Ambassador Hellen Gichuhi, at the fourth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD) held in New York

Dr. June Soomer. Amb. Gichuhi also engaged with Ms. Angela Naa Afoley Odai, Head of the Diaspora Division at the African Union’s Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (CIDO).

## Mama Kitchen Garden Initiative Boosts Sustainable Urbanization at the Sidelines of UNHA 2.2

By F. Ngwena and D. Osiya

The UN-Habitat Assembly resumed its Second Session in Nairobi from 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May 2025, focusing on the adoption of the strategic plan for 2026-2029, which highlights among other things adequate housing, land and basic services for all and the transformation of informal settlements and slums.

Kenya hosted a high-level dialogue on “Adequate Housing for All” and a side event hosted by the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya on the Mama Kitchen Garden Initiative. The side event was hosted at the Farasi Lane Comprehensive School, Lower Kabete, Nairobi.

The Mama Kitchen Garden Initiative is part of the Feed One, End Hunger campaign, whose focus is improving the production of nutritious food in urban and rural settings.



The First Lady, Mrs. Rachel Ruto, CGH, planting with pupils at Farasi Lane Comprehensive School, spotlighting the Mama Kitchen Garden Initiative.

The event highlighted the importance of food security, education, and sustainable communities with the culmi-

nation of the First Lady planting fruit trees and establishing a traditional vegetable vertical kitchen garden.

# CPPMD conducts Consultative Roundtable Engagements

The Central Planning and Project Monitoring Department (CPPMD) held consultative roundtable meetings in March and April 2025 to improve strategic delivery and accountability within the State Department for Foreign Affairs. The meetings aimed to reinforce results-based management, assess progress on key performance targets, and identify opportunities for improved coordination and reporting.

The engagements were designed to support the implementation of Performance Contracts at the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary, and individual departments. Discussions focused on outstanding performance targets, compliance with the Performance Management System, and the status of key deliverables.

Departments reviewed progress, shared challenges, and developed joint solutions to strengthen institutional performance and planning.

Key outcomes of the round table meet-

ings:

- Improved inter-departmental coordination through real-time evidence reporting, PMS training, and SOPs.
- Targeted focus on underperforming areas, especially low PMS evidence uploads.
- Support for economic diplomacy, including enhanced market intelligence, strategic staff deployment, and consistent trade reports.
- Advancement in digital transformation, including upgrading PMS platform and redefining performance targets.
- Institutional strengthening needs, including improved succession planning, enhanced ICT infrastructure, expanded wellness spaces, and strengthened treaty and MoU coordination.

The CPPMD reiterated the importance of peer learning, accountability,

and continuous improvement within the State Department while ensuring alignment of indicators with national and foreign policy priorities and adoption of modern monitoring tools. The roundtables emphasized the need for collaboration and results-oriented approaches.

Further, CPPMD conducted an induction training for interns and attachés within the State Department for Foreign Affairs to improve performance management. The training covered results-based management, strategic planning processes, and the PMS. The trainees gained practical knowledge on target setting, evidence documentation, and performance reporting. Officers were guided through detailed procedures to develop action plans, align departmental priorities with national development goals, and report performance outcomes accurately and efficiently.

# MFA champions Wellness for Stronger Diplomacy

By I. Kimeu

The State Department recently hosted the annual Staff Wellness Day to highlight the connection between personal well-being and professional excellence. The event, under the leadership of Amb. Lucy Kiruthu, brought together officers from all directorates in a spirit of fostering unity and shared purpose.

This year's Wellness Day held at the Ulinzi Sports Grounds was centered around the theme 'Healthy Workforce, Stronger Diplomacy,' reflecting the Ministry's commitment to nurturing a resilient, productive, and mentally balanced diplomatic workforce.

Staff enjoyed a yoga session, keynote addresses from mental health experts, and discussions on physical and mental health, stress management, and emotional resilience. Amb. Kiruthu em-



Staff during the Staff Wellness Day held at the Ulinzi Sports Ground, Langata.

phasized the importance of investing in employee well-being as a strategic approach to enhancing the Ministry's overall performance while Amb. Josphat Maikara Ag. Director-General, Political and Diplomatic Affairs, spoke

on stress management in diplomatic environments.

The wellness day held on June 20, 2025, aimed to strengthen relationships among staff, promote constructive stress management, and cultivate

a culture of compassion, teamwork, and shared responsibility. The Ministry is also working on a comprehensive Wellness Policy to integrate mental and physical well-being into its operational culture.

On his part, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, highlighted the government's commitment to nurturing a high-performing foreign service. Later in the day, Dr. Mudavadi presented awards to retired officers and top-performing directorates in recognition of their outstanding performances.

The Staff Wellness and Welfare Division, under the stewardship of Ms. Justina Miriti consistently champions staff health as a cornerstone of effective diplomacy.



*Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs issues certificate of appreciation to retired staff*

## Foreign Service Academy Equips Public Servants for Global Engagement

*By R. Ashitiva and I. Kimeu*

The Foreign Service Academy (FSA) continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening Kenya's presence on the international stage by equipping public servants and diplomats with vital skills in diplomacy, international relations, and protocol.

In May 2025, the Academy conducted significant training programmes targeting officers from the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) and newly appointed Ambassadors, Consuls General, and senior government officials, demonstrating its expanding mandate in building capacity across the public service.

Thirty-three officers from the OAG participated in a five-day training course that focused on diplomatic protocol and official etiquette. The programme, now in its second cohort, was tailored to enhance participants' competence in managing official engagements, representing their institution in high-level forums, and upholding Kenya's image internationally. The course included practical modules on Kenya's Foreign Policy 2024, protocol procedures in public service, effective communication, and personal grooming for formal representation.

Addressing the participants, Amb. Patrick S. Wamoto, Ag. Director General of the Foreign Service Academy commended the participants for their commitment. He further emphasized that diplomacy and protocol were no longer the preserve of career diplomats, but remained essential skills for all public officers engaging on international platforms.

**"All public officers engaging internationally must be equipped to uphold Kenya's professionalism," he stated.**

Running concurrently, the Academy hosted a two-week induction training for Kenya's newly appointed envoys, including Ambassadors and Consuls General. Structured around the pillars of Kenya's Foreign Policy 2024, the training aimed to prepare envoys for their diplomatic assignments by enhancing their understanding of key areas such as peace, economic, diaspora, environmental, and cultural diplomacy. The participants were taken through the structure and mandate of the Ministry, global geopolitics, the evolving multilateral system, mission management, international negotiation, and the role of technology and new media in diplomacy.

Finland's Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Pirkka Tapiola, delivered a keynote address during the opening session, where he underscored the dynamic nature of diplomacy in the 21st century and the need for innovation and adaptability. The course further encouraged envoys to promote Nairobi as a multilateral hub, given its status as host to major institutions such as UNON, UNEP, and UN-Habitat.

Amb. Wamoto reaffirmed the Academy's vision, stressing the need to invest in a diplomatic corps that was professional, adaptable, and globally competitive.

**"As Kenya advances its foreign policy objectives, we must invest in a diplomatic corps that represents the country with distinction," he said.**

In other news, Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, has described foreign service cadets as an essential part of Kenya's diplomatic future observing that the successful implementation and stewardship of Kenya's foreign policy remains dependent on the energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives of young diplomats.

Speaking at the opening session of the induction program for Foreign Service Cadets deployed to the State Depart-



*Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu poses for a photo with the foreign service cadets during the opening session of the induction program for Foreign Service Cadets*

ment for Diaspora Affairs, PS Njogu pointed out Diaspora Diplomacy was a key pillar of Kenya's foreign policy noting that the interests of Kenyan citizens abroad remained central to the country's diplomatic agenda; an understanding that led to the establishment of the State Department for Diaspora Affairs.

PS Njogu outlined the Government's expectations for the cadets' training, expressing her desire to see sharp, knowledgeable, and innovative officers who are ready to develop solutions that advance Kenya's diplomatic interests. The PS encouraged the cadets to adopt

proactive and creative approaches, harnessing technology, including artificial intelligence, to remain relevant in modern diplomacy and to adapt global solutions for local application.

The PS further urged the cadets to familiarize themselves with the pillars and strategies of the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) so they can effectively address both current and emerging challenges and better serve the public.

Ambassador Patrick Wamoto, Ag. Director-General of the Academy, highlighted the importance of the training

program, noting that it provides an opportunity for cadets to be retooled, reskilled, and repurposed to add value to Kenya's Foreign Service.

These training initiatives reflect the Foreign Service Academy's commitment to positioning itself as a regional centre of excellence in diplomatic and international affairs training. As government institutions increasingly engage with global partners, the Academy remains a key partner in nurturing a capable, patriotic, and globally aware public service prepared to champion Kenya's strategic interests abroad.

## Staff undertake Virtual Training Course in Modern Diplomatic Practice.

*By Foreign Service Academy*

The Foreign Service Academy has partnered with Diplomats Without Borders to offer an online training course on modern diplomatic practice. The course, titled 'Modern Diplomatic Practice: Tools for Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities presented by Modern International Relations,' aimed to equip Foreign Service Officers with the necessary skills to navigate the complexities of the contemporary in-

ternational relations environment.

The course, which included over 200 senior diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, was delivered by expert speakers from the Foreign Service Academy Council, Diplomats Without Borders, and the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology.

Key topics covered included the evolv-

ing nature of Diplomatic Practice, Artificial Intelligence in Diplomacy, Public Diplomacy and Nation Branding, Cultural Intelligence and Emotional Intelligence in Modern Diplomacy, and Crisis Diplomacy.

# 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of the State of Eritrea

On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Eritrea's independence celebrations took place in Nairobi. The event, attended by dignitaries and Kenyans, celebrated the country's National Day under the theme 'Our Cohesion: Our Armour'.

Amb. Dennis Mburu, Deputy Director General of the Africa Affairs Directorate, represented the Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the potential for increased trade under regional co-operation frameworks like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement and urged high-level diplomatic engagements to enhance bilateral ties.



Members of the Diplomatic Corps at the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Eritrea's independence on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2025



Eritreans in Kenya celebrate their country's 34<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

## National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Nigeria visits Kenya



The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, through the Africa Affairs Directorate, in May 2025, coordinated and participated in the hosting of a high-level delegation from the Na-

tional Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Nigeria. The delegation comprising seventeen (17) senior officials participated in the Institute's flagship Senior Executive Course

47, 2025, under the stewardship of Brigadier General L.A. Jimoh.

The central focus of the study tour was 'Blue Economy and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities.' The delegation sought to gain insights into Kenya's advancements in the blue economy sector, with the aim of contextualizing and adapting relevant best practices to Nigeria.

The delegation was warmly received by Amb. Patrick Wamoto, Acting Director General of the Academy, Amb. Dennis Mburu, Deputy Director General, Africa Affairs and other senior officials from Multilateral and Economic Affairs Directorates.

The delegation proceeded with fruitful consultations at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) and at the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) where the team was

briefed on regulatory frameworks and ongoing efforts to strengthen maritime safety and development.

At the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), conversations were had on key areas such as ecosystem restoration, fisheries management, and the integration of science in policy through initiatives like carbon trading.

At the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), the delegation was apprised of strategic projects including cruise tourism, the Shimoni Fish Port development, and infrastructural upgrades around the Lake Victoria basin. Brigadier General Jimoh commended Kenya's initiatives,



noting their relevance to Nigeria's own ambitions in unlocking the potential of its blue economy.

The visit underscored the value of South-South cooperation and mutual

learning in advancing sustainable development goals. It further reaffirmed the shared commitment of Kenya and Nigeria to deepen diplomatic ties and fostering regional collaboration in sectors of emerging strategic interest.

## 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda

Rwanda commemorated the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi at the UN Office in Nairobi. The event involved participation from the Diplomatic Corps, the Rwandan community in Kenya, and friends of Rwanda in Kenya.

A 'Walk to Remember' was held from the UN Office to the Rwanda High Commission in Nairobi to pay tribute to the victims. Amb. Dennis Mburu, Deputy Director General of Africa Affairs Directorate, represented Kenya's Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs as the Chief Guest. He expressed Kenya's solidarity with Rwandans and urged the international community to remain vigilant in preventing genocide and mass atrocities worldwide.



*Lighting the memorial candles for Rwanda at the UN Offices in Nairobi.*



*A 'Walk to Remember' to remember the victims of the Rwanda genocide.*



## 3rd Session of The Kenya- Burundi JPCC

The Third Session of the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) between the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Burundi took place in April, 2025 in Nairobi. This JPCC session had been pending since 2013.

The Ministerial segment was co-chaired by Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya and Amb. Albert Shingiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi. The two delegations hailed the strong and long-standing bond of friendship between the two countries that is characterized by high-level visits and reciprocal support in regional and international fora.

The JPCC Session served as an opportunity for both countries to appreciate gains earned from previous high-level engagements and signed bilateral Agreements such as the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Kenya and Burundi in Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. The MoU has recorded an impressive implementation status since its signature in 2021.

The JPCC Session also served as an opportune moment for Kenya to reinvigorate its bilateral relations with the brotherly nation of Burundi and forge stronger ties going forward for the mutual benefit of both countries and its People.

To this end, the JPCC Session wit-

*Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and his counterpart Amb. Albert Shingiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi at the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Session of the Kenya-Burundi Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) in Nairobi.*



*Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and his counterpart Amb. Albert Shingiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi*

nessed the signing of the following seven (7) strategic instruments of bilateral cooperation

- MoU on Cooperation in Mining which seeks to strengthen cooperation in the mining sector through general exchange of scientific information and services relating to geosciences, mining and metallurgy; exchange of visits, capacity building etc.;
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Correctional Services which seeks to enhance cooperation in the field of Correctional Services through facilitating the exchange of prisoners of either nationalities, capacity building of correctional/probation officers of either countries, consultation in implementation of International Standard Minimum Rules, Norms, Declarations and Principles relevant to correctional services, sharing experiences and informa-
- tion on the promotion of human rights of prisoners etc.;
- MoU on Cooperation on Immigration Matters which seeks to strengthen cooperation in Immigration Matters through information exchange, harmonization of border control management practices, exchange programmes, combating of terrorism, human and drug trafficking etc.;
- MoU on Cooperation in Gender and Women Empowerment whose main objectives include developing and strengthening support for bilateral interactions related to gender equality and women empowerment as well as the efficient use of the scientific potential, experience and innovations of each country to promote gender equality and women empowerment;
- MoU between Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) and the

Burundi Development Agency (ADB) which aims to establish closer co-operation for mutual benefit in all areas of promotion and facilitation of investments in both countries;

- MoU between the State Academy of Administration (ENA) and the Kenya School of Government

It is worth noting that H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi is the current Chairperson of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Authority, while H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Bureau of the Twenty-Third Summit of the Authority during the 23<sup>rd</sup> COMESA Heads of State and Government held in Bujumbura, Burundi on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2024. Burundi is preparing to handover the Chairmanship of COMESA to Kenya later in September this year.

(KSG) which seeks to promote collaboration through joint research and consultancy project activities, exchange of expertise and experience in training through study visits and co-creation and delivery of programmes, joint publication of research articles and other research works through the KSG Press and

ENA press etc.; and

- MoU between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi (CFCIB) which seeks to enhance collaboration between the two chambers of commerce.

## United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launches International Support Office in Nairobi.

By N. Nekesa

Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) recently visited Nairobi for the launch of the UNFPA International Support Office at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON); the Women X Collective Nairobi Hub the second of its kind globally, following its 2024 debut in Berlin; and the first-ever African edition of the State of World Population Report.

President William Ruto met with Dr. Kanem on June 10th, 2025, to discuss the country's commitment to advancing reproductive health, rights, and gender equality in partnership with the UNFPA. Dr. Ruto praised UNFPA's expanding role in the region, including the launch of the UNFPA International Support Office at UNON. He further reiterated Kenya's commitment to achieving universal healthcare coverage by 2030 and reaffirmed its enduring commitment to the goals of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

UNFPA support has enabled Kenya domesticate all five policy papers and is actively monitoring and reporting on its ICPD25 commitments.

The establishment of the Women X Collective Nairobi solidifies Nairobi's standing as a pivotal center for global population and development efforts and reflects the UNFPA's confidence in Kenya's leadership and infrastructure.



President William Ruto and Dr. Natalia Kanem at State House, Nairobi on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

The WomenX hub aims to mobilize \$100 million in catalytic investments by 2030, transforming access to economic and reproductive health opportunities for women and girls across the Global South. The Nairobi Hub will serve as an innovation and empowerment space, amplifying African leadership in gender equality

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has committed to deliver \$35.6 million investment for Kenya's population agenda. The funds are being directed toward critical areas such as family planning, maternal health, youth engagement, gender-based violence prevention, and population data

systems.

The cash includes \$12.8 million from UNFPA's regular resources and an additional \$22.8 million through co-financing modalities and partnerships. The funding is part of UNFPA's ongoing support for Kenya under the 10th Country Programme.

Present during the State House meeting included, Dr. Mohamed Sheikh, Director-General National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), Amb. Njambi Kinyungu, Deputy Director General, Multilateral Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.



*Bilateral meeting between Kenyan delegation led by Amb. Eliphas Barine, Director General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs (Kenya), and Estonia led by Ms. Kristi Karelsohn, Director General for Asia, Pacific, Middle East, and Africa (Estonia).*

## Estonia Political Consultations

*By Europe and Commonwealth Directorate*

Building on a growing partnership, Kenya and Estonia convened in Nairobi in April 2025, for the second round of political consultations, following the inaugural meeting in Tallinn in 2023. The talks aimed to deepen bilateral ties and accelerate cooperation across priority sectors.

The delegations, led by Amb. Eliphas Barine, Director General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs (Kenya), and Ms. Kristi Karelsohn, Director General for Asia, Pacific, Middle East, and Africa (Estonia), focused on advancing economic partnerships, digital transformation and renewable energy and green tech.

Both nations looked into collaborative potential in ICT and the digital economy as their worlds became more digitally advanced. Kenya, positioning itself as a regional tech powerhouse, has prioritised efforts to provide digital possibilities for its young, computer-savvy populace. They also made reference to the 16 Kenyan students in various Estonian institutions.

On the subject of regional and global peace and security, the two nations exchanged views touching on multilateral cooperation, conflict resolution, and cyber security. They reaffirmed



*A group photo of both Kenyan and Estonian Delegation at Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs headquarters in Nairobi.*

their shared commitment to the United Nations reforms, which are centred on the prioritisation of data and digital capacity, the decentralisation of decision-making, the enhancement of transparency, and the simplification of procedures in order to make the UN more efficient and cost-effective. These reforms are also intended to promote environmental protection and climate action.

Delegations from Kenya and Estonia discussed environmental sustainability, forest conservation, health, and education. They discussed leveraging technology to support Kenya's 15 billion tree planting target by 2030. They reviewed existing Memoranda of Understanding and legal instruments and agreed to establish a joint team to track implementation and conclude pending instruments.



A group photo of both Kenyan and Azerbaijani Delegation at the Inaugural Kenya- Azerbaijan Political Consultations.

## Kenya and Azerbaijan deepen bilateral ties in Nairobi

By P. Mwangi and F. Ngwena

Kenya and Azerbaijan have significantly deepened their bilateral relations through a series of high-level diplomatic engagements held in Nairobi in May and June 2025. These developments mark a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries, whose diplomatic ties date back to 2004, and signal a shared commitment to broadening cooperation across a range of strategic sectors.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025, the two countries held the inaugural Political Consultations in Nairobi, co-chaired by Dr. A. Korir Sing’Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya, and Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. The consultations were a milestone in bilateral diplomacy, during which both sides reaffirmed their desire to establish a long-term partnership anchored in mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and shared strategic interests.

Commitment to improve trade and investment relations was noted as critical taking into consideration that while trade volumes remained modest, both nations expressed their intention to promote business-to-business connec-



Kenyan Delegation led by Dr. A. Korir Sing’Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs

tions by establishing a Kenya–Azerbaijan Business Forum. Kenya welcomed Azerbaijani investment in key sectors including manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, healthcare, and construction.

Kenya expressed keen interest in Azerbaijan’s ASAN Service model, a globally recognized initiative for citizen-centered digital service delivery, as a means of advancing its own digital governance agenda. In the education sector, Azerbaijan highlighted the scholarships it continued to offer to Kenyan students under the Heydar Aliyev Programme, and both sides proposed developing frameworks for advanced academic exchange and collaborative research.

The consultations also addressed five pending bilateral agreements in the following sectors: petroleum, agriculture, criminal justice, environmental protection, and visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports. Kenya reassured its Azerbaijani counterparts that it would expedite the internal processes required for their completion.

Both nations committed to the promotion of peaceful conflict resolution and the preservation of international law in

the context of multilateral engagement. Additionally, they deliberated on the terms of reciprocal assistance for candidates seeking positions in the United Nations system and other international platforms.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2025, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs hosted H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov, Azerbaijan’s Foreign Minister, for talks solidifying the momentum from the Political Consultations held the previous month of May 2025.

The meeting reviewed progress on the outcomes of the May consultations and reaffirmed the two nations’ commitment to enhanced cooperation in areas including trade, energy, education, ICT, and defence.

Kenya used the opportunity to congratulate Azerbaijan on two significant milestones, the opening of its embassy in Nairobi and its hosting of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Kenya also appealed for Azerbaijan’s support for Africa’s bid to host the Global Plastics



*Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH. and H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan.*



*Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov during the official inauguration of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Nairobi.*

Treaty Secretariat, signaling Nairobi's continued commitment to global environmental governance.

The two nations also agreed to explore collaboration in green development and the energy sector, with Azerbaijan inviting Kenya to participate in the 2026 World Urban Forum. Azerbaijan also underlined its desire to increase scholarships for Kenyan students and work on digital transformation initiatives, notably in the delivery of efficient government services.

The bilateral meetings in Nairobi demonstrated the mutual intention to establish regular diplomatic interactions. The second round of political consultations is set to take place in Baku in 2026.

Bilateral meeting between H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH., PCS & CS MFDA and H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan during his official visit to Kenya on 3rd June 2025.

These high-level meetings reflect Kenya and Azerbaijan's intentional and strategic decision to form a multifaceted cooperation that promotes national interests while contributing to regional and global security. They also demonstrate Kenya's active foreign policy strategy and Azerbaijan's expanding position on the African continent. Through cooperation in education, energy, digital governance, and international diplomacy, the two nations continue to



*Dr. Mudavadi is shown historical photographs at the newly launched Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Nairobi by the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov.*

create a solid basis for a future-focused and mutually beneficial relationship.

After the bilateral talks, H.E. Bayramov was received by H.E. President Dr. William Ruto at State House, Nairobi. During their engagement, the Azerbaijan Foreign Minister extended a formal invitation to President Ruto for a State Visit to Baku, signaling a new chapter in high-level diplomatic exchanges between the two nations.

H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov later officially inaugurated the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Nairobi, an important milestone in bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 2004. Amb. Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Jonah M. Mwangi is the Ambassador-designate

of Kenya's Mission in Tehran, which is accredited to Azerbaijan while, H.E. Sultan Aghami Oglu Hajiyev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, serves as the chief of the Azerbaijan Embassy in Nairobi, which has been operational since June 7, 2023. The Mission is also accredited to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This visit and the inauguration of the Embassy reflect both countries' commitment to deepening cooperation across key sectors and enhancing diplomatic engagement, further reinforcing Kenya's role as a regional hub for international diplomacy and multilateral cooperation.

# Kenya Hosts UNFSS +4 Summit to discuss future of food systems in Africa

By L. Kulei and Y. Daud

Nairobi reaffirmed its unrivalled position as Africa's leading diplomatic destination between May 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 when it hosted the 4th United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS+4) preparatory meeting at United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) headquarters in Gigiri.

The event that brought together more than 500 experts around the Continent and abroad sought to review milestones covered towards transforming food systems on the continent.

The main objective of the meeting was to see member states seek a common position ahead of the UNSFSS +4 Summit, set for July 2025 in Addis Ababa. The Nairobi Conference reiterated on reviewing food systems pathways, sharing progress, addressing persistent bottlenecks and unifying Africa's position ahead of the Addis meeting.

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development co-hosted the three-day event in partnership with the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), African Union, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), as well as the UN entity.

While officially opening the Summit, Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Hon. Mutahi Kagwe affirmed the great strides Kenya had made towards transforming its food systems by embracing a multi-sectoral and multilateralism approach.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, delivers opening re-



Chief guest, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, delegates from across Africa and partner organizations gather for a group photo during the Africa Region UN Food Systems Summit +4 (UNFSS+4) Preparatory Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya.

marks at the Africa Region UNFSS+4 Preparatory Meeting, emphasizing the importance of resilient and inclusive food systems for sustainable development.

The Cabinet Secretary further called on the African nations to recommit to transforming their food systems saying it remained an urgent task that requires a collective approach.

"The choice we make today will determine if Africa rises as a bread basket or remains trapped in cycles of dependency or scarcity. This is not only a moral issue, it is dignity, it is health and the foundation of every thriving society," CS Kagwe stated.

CS Kagwe further asked African countries to take advantage of their growing youth populations, arable land estimated to be at least 60 percent of its entire land mass and rich biodiversity.

FAO Kenya Representative, Ms. Nyabenyi Tipo, applauded the Kenyan government for hosting the event noting that Kenya continued to demonstrate the possibility to transform food systems to meet the nutritional needs of everyone.

"The Kenya Integrated Agriculture Management Information System (KI-AMIS); the Digital Land Governance Programme are some examples exhibiting Kenya's resolve to put in place technological interventions that work to improve food production." She added.

Participants engage in a plenary session during the Africa Region UNFSS+4

Preparatory Meeting at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), focused on accelerating progress towards sustainable food systems in Africa.

The UNFSS Hub's Dr. Khaled Eltaweel Senior Programme Coordinator observed that the workshop took place at a time when the world and Africa continued to face climate extremes.

**"States should use the summit to deliberate, share lessons learnt, challenges, mobilize investments, foster cross-border multi-stakeholder collaborations while adopting a common position for the UNFSS +4."**

*Dr. Khaled Eltaweel, Senior Programme Coordinator, UNFSS*

The Kenya Information Agriculture Management Information System (KI-AMIS), the Conference heard was an innovative product from FAO's collaboration that had enabled the Kenyan government to register its farmers and use it as an extension platform; an illustration of the application of technology in transformation of food systems. The participants also noted that despite various reforms, food security continued to deteriorate in many parts of the continent; as one in five people in Africa is hungry. Globally, it was agreed that the situation was wanting as current food systems continued to impact on climate change with greenhouse gases remaining a culprit and threat of food systems.



## High-Level Consultative Meeting on the Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative (AGII)

*By: Africa Union, Regional and Continental Organizations Directorate*

President William Samoei Ruto in his capacity as the African Union Chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) recently hosted Africa's leading financial institutions to design a financing framework for priority green industrial clusters and to operationalise a Pan-African implementation Secretariat with the support of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at State House, Nairobi.

The meeting held at State House, Nairobi on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 recounted a brief overview of the Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative (AGII). It was recalled that on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration Africa Heads of State and Governments committed to "Advance green industrialization across the continent by prioritizing energy-intense industries to trigger a virtuous cycle of renewable energy deployment and economic activity, with a special emphasis on adding value to Africa's natural endowments. Subsequently, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 AGII was officially launched at the

COP28 in the United Arab Emirates, marking a significant milestone in Africa's green transformation.

The AGII is an ambitious multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to advance green industrialization and investments across the continent by 'prioritising energy-intensive industries to trigger a virtuous cycle of renewable energy deployment and economic activity, with a special emphasis on adding value to Africa's natural resource endowments', as stated in the Nairobi Declaration. AGII presents a timely opportunity to leverage untapped potential of the continent to drive sustainable development.

The Meeting underscored that AGII aims to identify and support African green industrialisation opportunities, drive continent-wide economic transformation. This Initiative is pan-African and Africa-centric and operates strategically at a pan-African level, with operations in individual countries that demonstrate a range of specific pathways to industrialisation. The Initiative focuses on sectors and industries where Africa has the potential to have finan-

cially viable 'climate competitiveness'. The sectors covered include renewable energy power generation (transforming Africa's energy landscape with renewable sources), value addition to minerals and metals (transforming raw minerals into prosperity through responsible value addition), green hydrogen production (pioneering green hydrogen for a sustainable future), Sustainable synthetic fuels (sustainable synthetic fuels for a decarbonized shipping and aviation industry), and cement production and building materials (innovative and bio-based materials for greener construction).

It was further observed that Africa's resources themselves are of a far higher quality and concentration than can be found anywhere else in the world in terms of minerals grades and power. Also, the geopolitical focus on creating supply chain diversification and independence was considered as critical to drive established industrial actors to consider a range of partners, thereby creating opportunities for Africa.

It was emphasised that the international community is increasingly acknowledging the climate leadership of African leaders and the global South in general, as evidenced by their membership in the AU G20 and their convening of COP30 in Brazil.

It was recognised that African countries required each other in regional and continental collaboration to leverage their respective inherent competi-

tive advantages. The components of numerous value chains are dispersed across multiple countries, with mineral deposits in one country and transport and trade connections in another. Africa is home to 40% of the world's renewable energy potential, 40% of the world's critical minerals, and (by 2030) 40% of the world's youthful population. This is essential for the successful implementation of the global energy transition. In order to acquire the necessary resources and capacity, substantial investment and development are necessary.

It was further observed that each African country had unique climate competitive advantages, positioned to attract capital and deliver on capital projects in new industries. Africa's natural resources, ecology, and biodiversity continue to provide essential adaptation management services to the world,

often at no cost.

In preparation of the AGII, some sectors were identified as likely to be the focus for the first clusters. These are:

- Renewable energy power generation, transmission, balancing and storage
- Value addition to minerals and metals, building on responsible mining
- Green hydrogen production and its downstream products, including green ammonia for fertiliser
- Sustainable synthetic fuels, including for shipping and aviation
- Cement production and other building materials (including bio-based materials)

The meeting unanimously agreed that all financial institutions are already involved in certain sectors, such as project

preparations, industrialization infrastructure, and resource mobilization. It was emphasized that commercial banks should increase their participation in AGII to further support these sectors.

Further, it was acknowledged that in the face of economic nationalism, Africa should work for itself by among other means, leveraging its assets and providing resources through recycling of such assets. An Energy Fund, it was noted should be considered to fund the Green Initiative.

Africa's financial architecture should support industrialization through a collective approach, green credit lines, de-carbonization for SMEs, Green Bonds, and a Green Investment Programme, with the AfDB recognized as already having a Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) in place.

## Kenya Reaffirms Commitment to Sustainable Ocean Governance at the 24<sup>th</sup> IORA Council of Ministers Meeting

By S. Dahir and J. Muli

Kenya attended the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Committee of Senior Officials and 24<sup>th</sup> IORA Council of Ministers, held virtually from May 19-21, 2025 under the banner 'Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations.'

The conference, attended by Foreign Ministers and officials from 23 Member States and 9 Dialogue Partners, aimed to promote dialogue and action on critical issues affecting the Indian Ocean region, including regional economic cooperation, sustainable ocean governance, shared security, and prosperity. It further sought to promote sustainable growth, reduce barriers to trade and investment, and strengthen collective responses to environmental threats and economic disparities.

Kenya reaffirmed strong commitment to regional collaboration and sustainable development, emphasizing the strategic and economic significance of the Indian Ocean to the country and the wider region.

"The Indian Ocean is not only a natural asset; it is a geopolitical lifeline. From supporting livelihoods through fisheries to facilitating global trade and offering solutions to climate change, it is imperative that we collectively invest in its sustainable use," Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs stated.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary highlighted Kenya's leadership in the Blue Economy, referencing the 2018 Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (SBEC) hosted in Nairobi and Kenya's role as co-host of the Second United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-2) in 2020. He called on IORA Member States to enhance cooperation in areas such as marine security, biodiversity conservation, and renewable ocean energy development.

Dr. Mudavadi underscored that Kenya views the Indian Ocean as a key enabler of food security, economic growth, and climate resilience, pointing to the strategic ports of Mombasa and Lamu as critical gateways to East and Cen-

tral Africa. He urged IORA partners to scale up technical assistance, knowledge exchange, and investment partnerships that can help countries unlock the full potential of the Indian Ocean.

As a founding member of IORA, Kenya continues to play an active role in shaping the Association's agenda. The Prime Cabinet Secretary emphasized the importance of leveraging IORA to access Blue Economy financing, attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and foster bilateral and multilateral cooperation on shared challenges.

Kenya also reaffirmed its support for the current IORA Chair, Sri Lanka (2023-2025), and welcomed the upcoming chairmanship of India (2025-2027), while calling for continuity in advancing regional priorities. The 2025 IORA COM Meeting concluded with a renewed collective commitment to a sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous Indian Ocean region, as Member States prepared to implement actionable recommendations made by the CSO.



*Dr. Mudavadi with various global leaders during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium, held on May 23, 2025, at the United States International University–Africa.*

## Kenya Rallies Global Action at 2<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium 2025

By G. Moturi and F. Ngwena

Kenya reaffirmed its leadership in global environmental governance during the 2nd Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium, held on May 23, 2025, at the United States International University–Africa. The high-level event, presided over by Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, brought together diplomats, scientists, policymakers, development partners, students, and civil society representatives as they deliberated on key topics such as global environmental governance, plastic pollution and ocean conservation.

The forum served as a strategic platform to align key messaging ahead of two major global summits: the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), taking place in June in Nice, France, and the third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) on a Global Plastics Treaty, scheduled for August in Geneva, Switzerland.

In his keynote address, Dr. Mudavadi reaffirmed Kenya's call for bold, coordinated global action to safeguard the ocean and reform international environmental governance. He underscored the urgency of safeguarding the world's oceans, highlighting the escalating threats posed by illegal fishing, marine pollution, plastic waste, and

unregulated deep-sea mining.

Dr. Mudavadi outlined three key priorities for the upcoming UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3): the establishment of a global Ocean Science-Policy Panel to provide peer-reviewed guidance for decision-makers; the advancement of sustainable ocean governance through the ratification of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement and the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement; and the creation of a UN Ocean Finance Facility to support marine restoration and improve the resilience of coastal communities and livelihoods.

The Cabinet Secretary called for the adoption of a legally binding global treaty to end plastic pollution across its entire life cycle, emphasizing the need for robust financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building mechanisms to support this transition. Stressing the urgency of a global phase-out of single-use plastics, Dr. Mudavadi advocated for a shift toward circular, biodegradable alternatives that support a just and inclusive green development agenda.

The symposium also placed significant emphasis on the global plastic pollution crisis. Delegates acknowledged the increasing environmental and health impacts of plastics and called for a legally binding treaty that addresses the



*Dr. Musalia Mudavadi speaking during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium.*

entire life cycle of plastics from production and use to disposal and recycling. Participants stressed that success would depend on political will, global awareness, and ambitious actions by both governments and industry. There were strong calls to phase out single-use plastics, scale up sustainable alternatives, and invest in circular economy models. The need for financing, innovation, and technology transfer was also highlighted, particularly to support low-income and vulnerable communities.

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to SDG 14 (Life Below Water), the Nice Ocean Action Plan, and greater representation from the Global South in environmental negotiations. She emphasized that environmental diplomacy must go beyond rhetoric to deliver tangible, equitable outcomes.

"We must ensure that the Global South, including coastal nations and Small Island Developing States, has a seat at the table. This is not just about environmental protection; it's about justice,



Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa speaking during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium.

livelihoods, and our shared future," Dr. Barasa said.

Participants emphasized that financing, technology transfer, and public-private partnerships will be critical to achieving these goals, particularly for vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by plastic waste and pollution.

On ocean diplomacy, the symposium underscored the oceans' essential role in supporting biodiversity and regulating the global climate. Participants advocated for the establishment of a global ocean science-policy panel and a dedicated UN Ocean Finance Facility to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and mobilize resources for sustainable ocean governance.

The need to restore marine ecosystems,



A panel sharing insights during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nairobi Environmental Diplomacy Symposium at USIU, fostering dialogue on sustainable solutions for global environmental challenges.

support coastal communities, and ensure inclusive access to finance and marine science emerged as core priorities, with a strong push for capacity building, data sharing, and academic collaboration to drive informed action.

Other key speakers included Principal Secretary Dr. Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno, USIU-A Vice Chancellor Prof. Mwendwa Ntarangwi, and Mr. Ibukun Adewumi, Head of UNESCO-IOC Africa. The panel emphasized the importance of collaboration across sectors, enhanced capacity building, and data-driven marine science to inform future environmental action.

The event concluded with a call to carry forward Nairobi's unified position into upcoming global negotiations. Delegates pledged to amplify the outcomes of the symposium and continue building political momentum for ocean and

plastics diplomacy.

As the world moves closer to defining new environmental agreements, Kenya's leadership in convening such platforms is cementing its role as a central hub for global environmental dialogue, offering a bold and inclusive roadmap for international cooperation and sustainable development.

The symposium was organized by the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya, the Embassy of the French Republic, the Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica, and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Nairobi, with the support of, the Kenya Foreign Service Academy, Strathmore University and the Stockholm Environment Institute (Africa Centre).

## Parliamentary and Grassroots Diplomacy in Action

By Amb. J. Yonga and C. Kinyua

In a world increasingly shaped by multilevel diplomacy, the convergence of parliamentary and grassroots engagement is redefining Kenya's foreign policy practice. As the State Department of Foreign Affairs advances its strategic goals, the Directorate for Parliamentary and County Affairs Liaison (PCAL) has become instrumental in linking national and subnational actors to global platforms, partnerships, and opportunities. The first quarter of 2025 marked a period of meaningful milestones for the Directorate, reaffirming its role as a critical enabler of diplomacy in the House and the heart of the counties.

### Legislatures as Instruments of Foreign Policy

The year began with Kenya's robust participation in the 150<sup>th</sup> Inter-Par-

liamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Facilitated by the Directorate, this global parliamentary forum brought together legislators from over 180 countries to deliberate on sustainable development, social

justice, and peace. Kenya's parliamentary delegation, led by the Speakers of Parliament, used the platform to articulate the country's priorities and build consensus with global counterparts on issues central to both national

and international governance.

Back home, PCAL supported Parliament's engagement in reviewing Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025 on the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kenya. This process was not merely technical; it symbolized democratic participation in foreign policy-making. Led by Amb. Jackline Yonga, the Deputy Director General of the Parliamentary and County Affairs Liaison Directorate, legislators worked alongside officers in the State Department, policy experts, and civil society to ensure that Kenya's foreign policy reflected the shifting geopolitical landscape while anchoring its values in constitutionalism and public accountability.

The Directorate also coordinated a landmark visit by the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) to the Kenyan Parliament. The visit signaled Kenya's readiness to participate more actively in global legislative networks, with discussions focusing on sustainable development, peace-building, and democratic resilience. Kenya's potential IPC membership marks another important step toward strengthening its multilateral legislative voice.

## Bilateral Legislative Bridges

Parliamentary diplomacy also took on a bilateral dimension with the formalization of inter-parliamentary relations between the Kenyan Parliament and the Seimas of Lithuania. Facilitated by the Ministry, the initiative aims to promote cooperation in trade, academic exchange and governance. This complements a series of courtesy meetings facilitated between the Parliament and foreign envoys, including Germany, Austria, France, Azerbaijan, and Sweden. The subjects ranged from the Finance Bill 2025 to climate-smart agriculture, technology exchange, and public health collaborations, reinforcing Parliament's role in bilateral bridge-building.

Most notably, PCAL provided crucial support in negotiating and signing

two key labor mobility and migration agreements with Germany and Austria. These agreements, developed through joint diplomatic and parliamentary coordination, facilitate structured labor migration, skills transfer, and diaspora engagement. Parliament's engagement ensured that the agreements were responsive to national needs while opening transformative pathways for Kenyan professionals abroad.

## Taking Diplomacy to the Counties

Complementing its parliamentary mandate, the Directorate has made major strides in advancing grassroots diplomacy through county-level engagement. The PCAL facilitated diplomatic participation in multiple County Investment Conferences, including Nyanza, Kilifi, Trans Nzoia, and Taita Taveta, positioning the counties as direct players in international trade and cooperation. These forums offered a platform for county leaders to showcase their unique investment profiles to foreign missions, development partners, and private investors, expanding Kenya's economic diplomacy from Nairobi to the grassroots.

The Ministry also played a key role in enabling the participation of Mandera and Busia counties in a UK Government-funded Digital Access Program workshop aimed at expanding ICT inclusion in remote regions and for people with disabilities. Parliamentary engagement in this space is vital, given its oversight role in digital policy and equitable development of the digital economy.

In a further boost to sub-national diplomacy, the Directorate supported the formation of Sister City Relationships, notably between Nakuru City and Zhuhai City in China. These people-to-people and government-to-government linkages are paving the way for technological exchange, tourism growth, and economic collaboration at the county level.

Other notable county-level engage-

ments included the facilitation of:

- A high-level visit by the French business delegation (MEDEF), linked to Kenya's upcoming participation in the Africa-France Forum;
- Linking Sergek Group (Kazakhstan) with Kiambu County, exploring smart infrastructure and digital technology solutions; and
- The closure of the Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP), a trilateral effort involving the Ministry, British High Commission, and six counties (Kisumu, Siaya, Busia, Kajiado, Kirinyaga, and Uasin Gishu), which strengthened governance and development capacity at the devolved level.

## Our Diplomatic Philosophy: From Parliament to People

Taken together, these engagements illustrate the expansion of Kenya's diplomatic field. Parliamentarians are increasingly shaping Kenya's external engagements, not only by attending summits and debating treaties, but also by overseeing implementation, mobilizing support, and representing the country abroad. Simultaneously, county governments are also asserting their role as active diplomatic actors by hosting and initiating partnerships that contribute directly to national development goals.

As Kenya expands its footprint abroad, the Parliamentary and County Affairs Liaison Directorate remains committed to championing integrated diplomacy, where Parliament, counties, and citizens work together to secure Kenya's interests in an interconnected world. In the next quarter, the Directorate will continue to support the institutionalization of parliamentary friendship groups, regional assemblies' engagement, and the alignment of devolved governance structures with the Ministry's foreign policy strategy.

**"Diplomacy today must be owned by the people, through their elected representatives and through their communities. From Parliament to the grassroots, our Directorate is proud to drive a diplomacy that is democratic, inclusive, and transformative."**

*Amb. Jackline Yonga,  
Deputy Director General, Parliamentary and County Affairs Liaison Directorate (PCAL)*



## Foreign Affairs staff undertake Tree Growing in Tharaka Nithi County

By. P. Kitili, L. Famba and C. Wachu

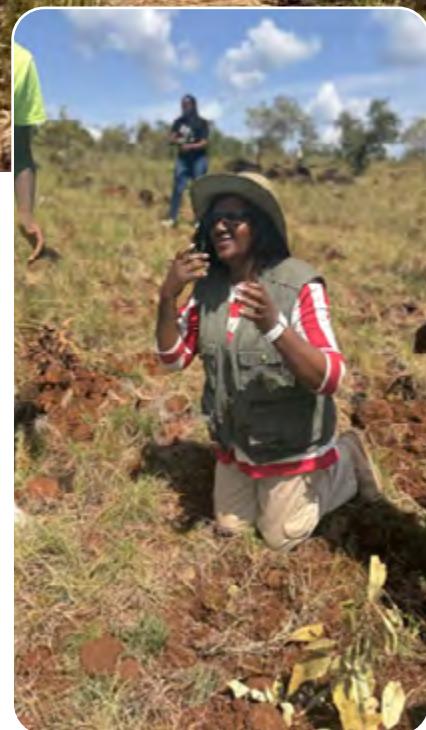
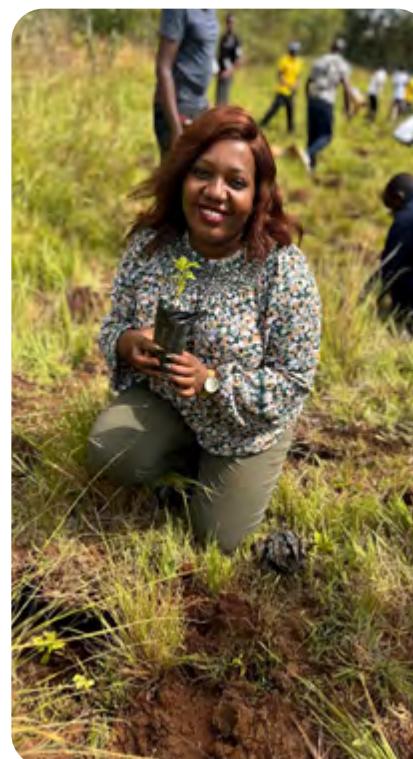
In June, 2025, staff at the Ministry participated in a two-day tree growing exercise in Tharaka Nithi County. The team divided in various group planted trees in various sites including Ibithe, Mbaraga, Ntendera, Karwiyo, Kithangani, Makawani, Marembo, and Ndangatani Primary Schools as well as Weru Vocational College where a total of 26,000 seedlings were successfully planted. The various indigenous and exotic species planted included, Macadamia, Moringa, Lutea, Leucaena, Cypress, Grevillea, Thika Palm while fruit bearing plants included Avocado, Mango, Loquat, Lemon, Guava.

During the second- day tree growing focus shifted to larger ecological restoration zones, including Gataugwa Wetlands, Kairini Forest, and Chuka Technical Teachers College (Kithangani). This phase was conducted under the Tree Planting Acceleration Program (TPAP). The various tree species planted included, Macadamia, Moringa, Lutea, Leucaena, Cypress, Grevillea, Thika Palm and fruit bearing trees of Avocado, Mango, Loquat, Lemon, and Guava.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, was represented by the Director of Administration, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. Key stakeholders participating included the State Department for Foreign Affairs, Chuka

University, Chuka Technical Training College, NGAO, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), NEMA and all the area Chiefs and Community Members.

The Chiefs and teachers were tasked with forming environmental monitoring committees to protect and nurture the seedlings with the Sub-County Forester taking charge of supervision to ensure continuous oversight to ensure high survival rates.



# Diplomatic Dispatches

By: J. Kariuki, India

## Over 70 Kenyans in jails in India for Trafficking of Narcotics Drugs offences.

This might sound stranger than fiction but it is the reality in which Simon Karanja finds himself in.

Simon Karanja's plight began in a church compound, where he had stood up when the presiding pastor asked those with prayer requests to come forward to be prayed for over different needs. Confidently he stood up with a need for employment. What he did not know is the presence of a narcotic trafficker among the congregation. He was approached and offered a job outside the country, which he obliged as a prayer item answered.

The contact person promised to process for him all the necessary travel documents for work for a short period in India. In less than a month, his travel documents, passport and visa, were ready. The contact asked him not to reveal to anyone until he had settled in his new job. He did not even inform his immediate relatives of his travel. He would do this immediately when he settled down in his new work station, so he thought. Armed with a contact person, he set off for greener pastures.

The red flag started to show on arrival in Addis Ababa, where he was picked at the airport and taken to a hotel for the night before his flight the next day to Cochin airport in India. He says his ordeal began in the night. The contact person in Addis Ababa came to his room and directed him to swallow some substances in the form of capsules. He was confined and he had no option but to comply. He narrated how he was forced to swallow the drugs and guided on how to offload them on arrival in India.

Phillip Njoroge, an IT graduate, confessed on how he was recruited by a friend. His mission was to transport a

consignment to a contact in Cochin-Kerala in India. His only directive was to remain calm and collected and not to raise any suspicion throughout his journey. Njoroge says his consignment was well concealed in his bag and was promised Kshs 100,000, if smuggled successfully to the right contact in India. But this was not to be as he was arrested by customs officials on suspicion of drug trafficking.

Both Philip and Simon were arrested at Cochin International airport. They were both on a first-time assignment.

The two are a statistic to explore the global drug network that has led to the arrest and confinement of sometimes very innocent young Kenyans. The Kenya High Commission visited a number of jails in India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal to ascertain the numbers of their citizens in the jails.

There are about 70 Kenyans in various jails in India in connection to drug trafficking, with new cases reported every month. The stories on how they were recruited read the same across the jails. The ages vary from early 20s to 60 years. The recruitment agents and their recruitment is done in Kenya; the consignment is picked mainly in Addis Ababa on transit to and through India as a strategic location to the Asian region.

What they are never told by the recruitment agent or are ignorant of, are the punitive laws imposed by the government of India. A Superintendent of Prison and Correctional Services in one of the jails told us that they are holding narcotics suspects mainly from Africa, Europe and Asia. He said upon conviction, the jail terms are between 10 and 20 years.

"Even if it is for money, is it worth the trouble? Why would anyone take such a high risk to their life?" He posed.

"You may escape the dragnet one time

but you will not do it two or three times, I can assure you. And once arrested, then you spend all the years of your energy in jail," he said, telling us to inform our citizens of the dangers of trafficking narcotics as the punishment is severe.

The jail process and terms in India are very punitive. The process in remand can take many years subject to court processes and availability of criminal lawyers. In the case of the Kenyans, they are yet to be convicted and have been in prison remand for more than a year and still waiting to be processed. A number of them were arrested this year. Found guilty to the offences, the sentence is not less than 20 years in prison with hefty penalties. Notably, Kenya and India do not have any agreement on exchange of prisoners.

The Narcotics Control Bureau under the Ministry of Home Affairs in India has placed strategic signage at places often visited by tourists and revellers warning consumers and traffickers of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances. It is prohibited in law and heavily punishable with rigorous imprisonment and fine.

Kenya High Commissioner Amb Peter Munyiri, while commissioning a team to visit the jails, noted that a collaborative approach from all the stakeholders would help address the vice. But in the meanwhile, as a mission, our role is to visit the victims as a duty to all Kenyans within our jurisdiction, give them moral support and encourage them. He also noted that it will be important to visit more jails to ascertain the number of Kenyans arrested not only in relation to drugs but other incidents as we seek to secure their release where possible.

The victims occasionally write to the mission seeking support, legal representation and interventions where cases are taking too long.

# OUR OCEAN, OUR ACTION



*Amb. Kipsoi, Kenya Ambassador to South Korea with officials from the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs led by Hon. Hassan Ali Joho, during the official handover of the baton to host 11<sup>th</sup> Our Ocean Conference.*

## Kenya Set to Host 11<sup>th</sup> Our Ocean Conference (OOC) in 2026

Kenya officially took over the baton to host the 11<sup>th</sup> Our Ocean Conference in 2026 at the closing ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Our Ocean Conference held on 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in Busan, South Korea under the theme “Our Ocean, Our Action.”

The baton was presented to Hassan Ali Joho, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs by Mr. Kang do Hyung, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and the host of the 10<sup>th</sup> Our Ocean Conference.

With the Cabinet Secretary's acceptance of the baton, a historic milestone was achieved: the global conference will be held on African soil for the first time. In his acceptance speech, the Cabinet Secretary underscored Kenya's dedication to spearheading ocean conservation initiatives, emphasising the significance of food security, economic prosperity, and cultural identity, as well as the vast marine ecosystems of Africa.



*Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs, Hassan Ali Joho receiving the baton to host 11<sup>th</sup> Our Ocean Conference from Mr. Kang do Hyung, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea.*

As the host of the first Our Ocean Conference to be held in Africa, Kenya will have the opportunity to draw global attention to the region's priorities, opportunities and challenges ranging from ocean-climate resilience and sustainable fishing to maritime security, marine conservation, pollution and the sustainable ocean economy.

Our Ocean Conference was launched in 2014 by the U.S. Department of State and former Secretary of State John Kerry. It is a major international platform that unites governments, businesses, NGOs, and academic institutions to drive ocean-related action and ambi-

tion. The conference focuses on six critical areas: marine protected areas, sustainable blue economy, climate change, maritime security, sustainable fisheries, and marine pollution. The conference has been held annually since its inception, serving as a crucial forum for mobilizing finance and catalyzing vital ocean action.

Kenya remains an active member of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, the host of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and a leader in ambitious policies to address plastic pollution and foster a sustainable ocean economy.

# Kenya Secures Landmark Aviation Automation Deal

By Kenya Embassy Doha

The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) and global aviation technology company Seabury Solutions have signed a breakthrough deal, marking a major diplomatic and technical milestone for the Republic of Kenya. The agreement, reached at the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Facilitation Conference (FALC 2025) in Doha, was a significant step towards modernising Kenya's aviation oversight by fully automating Aviation Safety and Security Regulation (ASSR) tasks.

Mr. Emile N. Arao, KCAA Director General, signed the agreement, which was attested by Mr. Mohamed Daghar, Principal Secretary, State Department for Transport, and Ambassador Mohammad Nur Adan, Kenya's Ambassador to Qatar. The Director General said that the agreement was not only a strategic move, but also a significant signal of Kenya's expanding worldwide prominence in civil aviation diplomacy.

At the heart of the partnership is the deployment of Seabury Solutions' "eAuthority" platform, an internationally recognised technology that is set to transform how KCAA manages licensing, airworthiness, flight operations, and aviation security. This is the first time KCAA will completely digitize its safety and supervision processes. This revolution is projected to significantly improve openness, operational efficiency, and data-driven decision-making.

The platform is already being used by civil aviation authorities in Germany, Argentina, and Oman, and Kenya has joined a growing number of nations at the forefront of smart aviation regulation. This automation agreement will further position Kenya as a regional leader in aviation regulation. In an increasingly interconnected world where efficiency, compliance, and security are critical, KCAA's digital transformation ensures Kenya's competitiveness, resilience, and compliance with changing ICAO requirements.

The agreement also highlights Kenya's



DG Emile N. Arao (R) and Mr. Bijoy Mechery, President and CEO Seabury Solution(L) signing the agreement. behind PS Mohamed Degar, Head of Delegation and Amb. Mohammed Nur Aden, Kenyan Ambassador to Qatar, witnessing the signing of the Agreement.

desire to become more closely aligned with the ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" policy by employing technology to overcome oversight gaps, promote aviation development, and assure global interoperability.

Kenya's delegation to the conference was headed by Mr. Mohamed Daghar, CBS, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Transport, who held strategic bilateral conversations with Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohammed Al Meer to explore future collaboration opportunities. These engagements reflect Kenya's larger desire to develop bilateral relations with Qatar, not just in aviation, but also in investment, commerce, and infrastructure.

Kenya's declaration comes at a critical juncture in international aviation. During the same event, the Doha Declaration on Aviation Facilitation (2025) was adopted, outlining a forward-look-

ing perspective for the industry. The statement emphasizes digital identification, biometrics, e-passports, and paperless travel as key components of a safe and efficient aviation environment.

Kenya's digital leap is therefore entirely in line with the spirit of the proclamation and demonstrates the country's preparedness to embrace the future of smart aviation facilitation. This alignment not only improves the passenger experience and national security, but it also boosts Kenya's position as a reliable transit and trading centre in Africa and beyond.

Kenya's participation in FALC 2025 and the subsequent signature of the automation accord are examples of a nation that is actively shaping its future. This is a tangible measure that fortifies Kenya's aviation diplomacy, advances its digital agenda, and connects it with the global agenda to create smarter, safer, skies.

# Kenya Recognized for Outstanding Flower Quality at the 2025 Goyang International Flower Expo

By Kenya Embassy Soeul

Held at Ilsan Lake Park in Goyang, South Korea, from April 25th to May 11th, 2025, the Goyang International floral Expo honoured Kenya for its exceptional floral quality. Over 30 nations showcased their best flower designs and ideas at this international festival.

At their lively exhibit, two representatives from Kenya's Horticultural Crops Directorate showcased the variety and excellence of seven of the country's most prominent flower exporters. They also engaged in meaningful meetings with Korean buyers and flower enthusiasts, laying the groundwork for future business cooperation.

At the closing ceremony, Amb. Emmy Kipsoi received an award on behalf of Kenya in recognition of the booth's outstanding flower quality, a tribute to



Amb. Jacqueline Kenani, The Deputy Head of Mission (middle) with two Officers from the Horticultural Crops Directorate.

Kenya's world-class exporters including Molo Greens, Penta Flowers, Redlands Roses, Flawless Flowers, Flora Delight, Karen Roses, and Kiki Flowers whose flowers were displayed at the

booth. Kenya's participation not only spotlighted its flourishing floriculture industry but also strengthened its commitment to international collaboration and excellence in horticulture.

## International Tea Day 2025

By Kenya Embassy Rome

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) celebrated the International Tea Day 2025 on Wednesday, 21st May 2025 at the FAO headquarters, with a joint observance of World Bee Day, which is officially celebrated on Tuesday, 20 May, 2025.

The event was inaugurated by the FAO Director-General, Mr. QU Dongyu, and highlighted tea's significant contribution to livelihoods, sustainability, and well-being. The inauguration will be followed by an exclusive tea tasting experience, as well as a special edition of Markets and Trade Talks where participants shared insights about their tea heritage, culture and tradition.

The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya participated in the International Tea Day showcasing Kenya's finest 'chai' at the International Tea Day 2025 event



Members of staff at the International Tea Day

at FAO. The Mission took the opportunity to highlight that Kenya is the single largest exporter of black tea and accounts for nearly 20% of tea in the European Union. Further emphasizing that tea remains a major source of income and employment in Kenya's economy.

Mr. Anthony Muriithi, Agriculture

Attaché represented H.E. the Ambassador at the Market and Trade Talks, where he responded to questions regarding the history, traditions, cultivation and preparation of Kenyan tea. The Kenya Embassy stand was indeed a crowd-puller during the International Tea Day.

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Partnering for Green Growth Summit (P4G), Hanoi, Vietnam

By M. Adan

The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Partnering for Green Growth Summit (P4G) was held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Summit was presided over by His Excellency Pham Minh Chính, Prime Minister of Viet Nam and attended by Prime Ministers of Ethiopia, Lao PDR, and Cambodia alongside some 1,000 participants from 14 governments, policymakers, international organizations, and private sector. The Kenya delegation was led by



Hon. Soipan Tuya, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Defence alongside other world leaders in the opening ceremony for Partnership for Green Growth & Global Goals 2030 (P4G) initiative.

the Ms. Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Defence.

The Summit adopted the Hanoi Declaration on People Centred Green Growth; and the P4G Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation and Co-ordination with International Organizations and Mechanisms on Green Growth.

Critical highlights of the Declarations

include among other things, mobilizing financing for green transformation; promoting green technology and innovation ecosystems; transforming the Agricultural and Food Systems; developing a High-Quality Workforce; supporting Sustainable Energy Transition and building robust energy infrastructure to support long-term sustainability and energy security.

## Kenya - Switzerland Political Consultations

By Kenya Embassy Bern

The second round of the Kenya-Switzerland Political Consultations were held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Bern where the Kenyan delegation led by Dr. A. Korir Sing’Oei, EBS, the Principal Secretary, State Department for Foreign Affairs while the Swiss Confederation delegation was led by Ambassador Philipp Stalder, the Head of Africa and Francophonie Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The Principal Secretary was accompanied by among others, Amb. Fouzia Abass, the Kenyan Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation and Ms. Judy Njau, the Acting Deputy Director General for Europe and Commonwealth Directorate.

The objective of the political consultations was to establish a framework that would enable the two nations deliberate on the improvement of cordial relations and reconcile their respective stances on regional and international issues of mutual interest. One of the few countries with which Switzerland has signed an agreement to conduct regular politi-



Dr. Korir Sing’Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Philipp Stalder, the Head of Africa and Francophonie Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs together with the Kenyan and Swiss Confederation delegations.

cal consultations is Kenya.

Among the issues discussed were the visit by the Swiss Parliamentarians to Kenya, the signing of Memoranda of Understandings on Research and Innovation and on Climate Cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Climate Agreement on offsetting carbon emis-

sions. Other issues discussed were trade and investment, peace and security, cultural cooperation and multilateral cooperation.

On the margins of the Kenya-Switzerland Political Consultations Dr. A. Korir Sing’Oei, met with Hon. Thomas Aeschi, Member of the National Coun-



*Kenyan and Swiss Delegations*

cil and President of the Swiss Delegation to EFTA and EU, along with members of the Delegation for discussions centred on trade and economic matters, multilateral cooperation and other current global issues. The Swiss Delegation to EFTA and EU had in January 2025 travelled to Kenya for an official visit to Kenya where they engaged with several Government officials to strengthen bilateral ties.

### **Principal Secretary Meets Embassy Staff**

Dr. A. Korir Sing'Oei, meets Embassy staff during the Kenya-Switzerland Political Consultations. He praised the efforts of Kenya Missions in promoting Kenya's image abroad and emphasized the importance of officers being well-versed in Kenya's Foreign Policy for informed decision-making.



*Dr. A. Korir Sing'Oei exchanges gifts with Hon. Thomas Aeschi, Member of the National Council and President of the Swiss Delegation to EFTA and EU.*



*Dr. A. Korir Sing'Oei together with the Embassy staff*

# Kenya's accession to the Bamako Convention

By A. Njuguna



Amb. Stella Munyi, Deputy Director General and Registrar of Treaties, and Prof. Hajar Gueldich, Legal Counsel of the African Union, along with their respective delegations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, Kenya deposited Instruments of Accession of the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the import into Africa and the Control of the Trans-Boundary Movement and Management of hazardous wastes within Africa with the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Kenya's delegation to the African Union was led by Amb Stella Munyi, Deputy Director General, Registrar of Treaties, Naomi

Korir, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Kenya, Addis Ababa and Anne Njuguna, Second Secretary, Registry of Treaties. Kenya's delegation was received by Prof. Hajar Gueldich, Legal Counsel of the African Union.

Following the submission of Instruments of Accession, Kenya will officially become the 36<sup>th</sup> Member State to accede to the Bamako Convention on

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025. The Convention seeks to prohibit import into Africa of any hazardous waste and to specifically ban transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.

As part of the accession process, a Cabinet Memorandum was prepared and submitted for approval. The Cabinet approved accession to the Convention during its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in accordance with section 7 of the Treaty making and Ratification Act, Cap 4D. Further, the National Assembly on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, approved the accession of the Convention without reservation.

Kenya's accession to the Bamako Convention reflects Kenya's continued commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable development and resilience against pollution which are key aspects of the Environment and Climate Change pillar. Further, this marks a significant milestone in its environmental and waste management efforts. It demonstrates the country's commitment to upholding regional and international standards for the regulation and disposal of hazardous waste. This step underscores Kenya's dedication to environmental conservation and public health.

## Maendeleo Ya Kiswahili Duniani

Na Balozi ya Kenya Tokyo

### Utangulizi

Kwa miaka mingi sasa lugha ya Kiswahili imeendelea kupata umarufu mkubwa zaidi duniani. Sasa hivi, inakisiwa kwamba zaidi ya watu miliioni mia nne hamsini (450M) wanazungumza Kiswahili kwa njia moja au nyingine. Kiswahili ni lugha ya taifa katika nchi za Kenya na Tanzania. Pia zipo nchi kadhaa katika Afrika ya mashariki zilizo na watu wengi wanazungumza Kiswahili. Hizi ni Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Jamhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Kongo (DRC) na nyinginezo. Vilevile

zipo nchi katika bara la Afrika ambazo sasa hivi zinafundisha Kiswahili katika shule zao. Baadhi yazo ni Afrika ya Kusini, Botswana na Ghana.

### Kiswahili Nje Ya Afrika

Mataifa mengi nje ya bara la Afrika ya metia bidii katika kukiendeleza Kiswahili. Mionganini mwayo ni Uingereza, Marekani, Ujerumani, Ufaransa, Uchina na hata Japani. Haya yote yana idhaa ama za radio au za runinga/televisioni ambazo zinatumia lugha ya Kiswahili katika kupeperusha matangazo yao. Vilevile Umoja wa Mataifa kule New York unakitumia Kiswahili kwenye matangazo yake redioni na kupitia runinga. Kubwa mno ni kwamba mnamo tarehe 2 Julai mwaka wa 2021, Umoja wa Mataifa ulitangaza tarehe 7 Julai kuwa Siku ya Kiswahili duniani.

### Jitihada Za Kukiendeleza

### Kiswahili Japani

Kutokana na ibara yetu ya Diplomasia ya Utamaduni, Ubalozi umekuwa na harakati za kukiendeleza Kiswahili hapa Japani. Kwanza kwenye tovuti yetu tunao mtandao wa youtube ambaao tunautumia kuendeleza Kiswahili. Huwa tunarusha video kadhaa za kuwafundisha watu Kiswahili kwa kugusia vitu mbalimbali muhimu. Pia tuna ushirikiano na vyuo vikuu viwili (Soka na Sophia) hapa Japani ambapo huwa vinatupa mialiko kuwafundisha wanafunzi wao Kiswahili. Aidha ndani ya mwezi wa Novemba Chuo Kikuu cha Soka huandaa shindano la Kiswahili kwa wanafunzi tofauti. Sisi hualikwa kuwa hakimu/jaji katika shindano hilo.

Katika siku za usoni, tuna mipango ya kuanzisha chama cha Kiswahili kitakacholenga kukipanua Kiswahili hapa kwa mapana na marefu.

# Report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial (UNPKM)

By H. Wafula

The United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial (UNPKM) Conference was held on 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Berlin, Germany. The event served as a high-level political forum to chart the future of UN peacekeeping. Germany, as host, co-chaired the event with the UN Secretariat. The forum focused on launching new pledges in capability, training, technology and human rights safeguards for peacekeeping operations.

Kenya's delegation was led by Defence Cabinet Secretary, Soipan Tuya, alongside Ambassador Stella Orina, Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) Chief of Operations Brig. Edward Rugendo. The

Ministerial brought together over 1,000 participants from more than 130 Member States, including approximately 60 Foreign and Defense Ministers.

Kenya has gained recognition as a regional leader and reliable troop contributor in complex theatres like Somalia, CAR, South Sudan, and Haiti, and is positioning itself as a driver of innovation and inclusion in UN Peace Operations, aligning with global efforts to make peacekeeping more responsive and effective.

Kenya's Strategic Actions for Peacekeeping Reforms at the Ministerial Conference include:

- Operationalize new pledges with robust implementation plans
- Integrate human rights in training and deployments.
- Scale up training and logistics support via regional centers of excellence
- Lead African-centered push for peacekeeping reform
- Enhance multilateral coordination and advocacy on peacekeeping norms and
- Leverage funding opportunities by engaging with member states committed to PKO financing.

## Kenya attends FOCAC Ministerial Summit in China

By I. Agum and OPCS



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi and Chinese Foreign Minister H.E. Wang Yi.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, recently attended the Ministerial Meeting of Coordinators on the Implementation of Follow-Up Actions of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

(FOCAC) held in Changsha, China.

The high-level engagement convened to evaluate the progress achieved since the 2024 FOCAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Beijing, and to define priority areas ahead of the

next summit. The meeting was attended by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and representatives from all 54 African member states of FOCAC.

On the sidelines of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Ministerial Summit held in Changsha, China, Dr. Mudavadi met with H.E. Wang Yi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, where the two leaders reaffirmed the strong and evolving relationship between the two countries. Kenya highlighted the significance of the upgraded bilateral ties as a reflection of both countries' enduring commitment to mutual respect, cooperation and, shared prosperity.

Kenya expressed sincere appreciation for China's continued support, particularly in the areas of financial assistance and trade cooperation reiterating the country's steadfast support for the One-China Policy.

While in China, the Kenyan delegation held strategic discussions with executives from SANY Silicon Energy, a global leader in the manufacture of solar panels and renewable energy technologies. The talks focused on exploring investment opportunities in Kenya, positioning the country as a gateway into the broader Eastern and Central African region.

Central to the discussions was the pros-

pects of establishing a solar manufacturing facility in Kenya with Kenya reiterating its commitment to sustainable development, highlighting the role of strategic partnerships in expanding access to affordable, clean energy. Kenya affirmed that SANY's advanced green technologies had the potential to offer a timely solution to Africa's energy challenges while accelerating the continent's transition to renewable energy.

The Kenyan delegation was privileged to visit the Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center at the Hunan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (HUNAAS) in Mapoling, Changsha where they witnessed advancements in rice production through innovative research and technology. The hybrid varieties developed at HUNAAS yield over 18 tonnes per hectare, marking a transformational leap in food production.

The visit presented an opportunity for Kenya to explore enhanced collaboration in agricultural innovation, aimed at strengthening national food security and sustainable agricultural development.

The Kenyan delegation also toured the Malanshan Video Cultural and Creative Industrial Park, a thriving hub of creative innovation where over 60,000 young talents are engaged in transforming cultural ideas into commercially viable digital content. The park showcases how China is revolutionizing its film and content production industry through the seamless integration of culture and technology.

During the visit, the CS noted that Kenya, blessed with a dynamic and creative youth population, possessed similar potential, calling for fostering innovation and investing in the creative economy to generate employment and build sustainable livelihoods, particularly for the country's young digital creators, artists, and storytellers.

H.E. Mudavadi's engagements reflect Kenya's commitment to strengthening strategic cooperation with China in priority areas such as agriculture, innovation, trade, and creative industries.

While in China, the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Mudavadi held bilateral talks with Mr. Abdisalam Abdi Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia where the two leaders committed to expediting the convening



of Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meetings with the aim of finalizing key Memoranda of Understanding to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Minister Ali conveyed Somalia's appreciation for Kenya's long-standing support in advancing peace and stability in the region, particularly through the deployment of Kenyan forces under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia over the past 25 years. Dr. Mudavadi reaffirmed Kenya's dedication to regional solidarity and good neighborliness, emphasizing that strong dip-

lomatic and security partnerships are essential to shared progress and development.

Present during the bilateral meetings included Kenya's Ambassador to China, Amb. Willy Bett; Somalia's Ambassador to China, Amb. Hodan Osman Abdi; Director of Asian Affairs at Kenya's Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Amb. Jane Makori, and Mr. Said Jama Mire, Director-General for Asian Affairs at Somalia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

# Kenya signs MoU with UK-Based HOPS Labour solutions to expand student employment in agriculture

By. R. Ashitiva

In a major step toward increasing global opportunities for Kenyan youth, the Government of Kenya, through the State Department for Diaspora Affairs (SDDA), has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HOPS Labour Solutions Limited, a UK-based labor recruitment agency.

This strategic partnership will enable Kenyan students and recent graduates in agriculture and horticulture sectors to access short-term employment opportunities under the United Kingdom's Seasonal Workers Scheme (SWS).

The initiative aims to enhance practical skills, improve career prospects, and provide international exposure to Kenyan youth, while simultaneously addressing labor shortages in the UK's agricultural sector.

During the signing ceremony in London, Diaspora Affairs Principal Secretary Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, described the agreement as a 'historic milestone'

and a 'timely intervention' to create meaningful and ethical employment opportunities for Kenyan youth.

"This MoU reaffirms our commitment to equipping young Kenyans with the skills and experience needed to compete in the global market. It also strengthens our agricultural sector by enabling students to return with valuable international expertise," PS Njogu stated.

The agreement guarantees that Kenyan participants will not incur recruitment or placement fees, protecting them from exploitation and reinforcing the government's zero-tolerance stance on unethical labor practices. It also highlights a broader commitment towards ethical recruitment and protection of the welfare of all participants.

PS Njogu praised HOPS Labour Solutions, licensed by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), as a trusted and ethical partner in this venture.

"We are confident in HOPS' ability to

maintain high ethical standards and comply with both UK and Kenyan labor laws," she added.

Beyond employment, the collaboration is expected to foster cultural and professional exchange, broadening participants' perspectives and building networks between Kenya and the UK.

"This partnership lays the foundation for expanded labor mobility and future cooperation across other sectors, marking the start of a long-term, mutually beneficial relationship," the PS concluded.

Officials from both Kenya and the UK expressed optimism about the MoU's potential to empower youth, advance agricultural development, and strengthen bilateral relations.

This marks the second significant MoU in recent days aimed at securing valuable job opportunities and international experience for Kenyan youth in the global labor market.

## Prioritizing UNSC Reforms at the C-10 Ministerial Meeting in Zambia

By. Amb. G. Orina

We must prioritize United Nations Security Council reforms in all our foreign engagements and speak with one united voice was the resounding message at the Lusaka, C-10 Ministerial Meeting.

The prioritisation of UNSC reforms calls for the acceleration of Africa's united pursuit for a more inclusive,

representative, transparent, effective, and democratic Security Council as enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. The Ezulwini Consensus calls for Africa to hold at least two permanent seats on the UNSC, with all the privileges of permanent membership, including the right of veto and five non-permanent seats instead of the existing three.

Kenya continued to advance the urgency for Africa to consolidate and harmonize its internal frameworks in line with the Common African Position on UNSC reforms to reflect the aspirations of a truly equitable international order. Equally important is that Kenya strongly supports the C-10 leadership's unanimous decision to present the African Union's model for a reformed Security Council to the President of the 79<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly thereby marking a pivotal step in advancing Africa's right-

ful place on the world stage.

Cognisant that the African continent is confronted by multifaceted security challenges, including the urgent need to redress historical injustices and Africa's exclusion in the global peace security architecture; the C-10 Ministerial Meeting also called for the acknowledgement and subsequent addressing of these challenges within the context of today's evolving global realities.

During the C-10 Ministerial Meeting that took place in May, 2025, the C-10 Committee was called upon to intensify high-level engagements at every available opportunity, particularly with the Permanent Members of the Security Council, regional groups, interest groups and key stakeholders to advance Africa's legitimate demands as part of the UNSC reform agenda. Other regional bodies that are aligned to the



Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi far-right at the C-10 Ministerial Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia in May, 2025.

UNSC Reforms include the Caribbean Community under the umbrella of CARICOM which recently presented its model for equitable representation and reform of the United Nations Security Council during the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) meeting in New York.

Kenya engages on issues of the UN Security Council reforms through the African Group where as a member of the Committee of 10 (C-10) African Union African Heads of State and Government on the Reforms of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), aligns itself with the African Union's Common African Position (CAP) position as enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and espoused in the Sirte Declaration. The C-10 Committee is composed of Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Libya, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia.

Formal discussion on the UNSC reform

commenced when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) began the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the reforms of the UN Security Council during the Sixty- Third (UNGA63) Session of the UN General Assembly in 2009. According to UN General Assembly decision 62/557, the focus on the reforms was on the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters." The IGN process continues to enjoy broad support as the most acceptable forum for UN Member States to engage on the reform of the UN Security Council. It has assisted Member States to have better insights into the various positions in terms of identifying areas of convergence and divergence.

There are six groupings within the IGN process that champion the UNSC reforms; these include, The African group which calls for 2 permanent seats and 2 additional non-permanent seats to

make a total of 5 non-permanent seats, and a total of 7 seats for Africa. The G4 of Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan are seeking permanent membership on the Security Council supporting the Common African Position. The Uniting for Consensus Group (UfC) which counters the bids for permanent seats proposed by G4 nations and includes Pakistan, Turkey, Canada, Spain, Italy and Mexico. They oppose the expansion of permanent membership and veto power but support the expansion of non-permanent seats. The group does not support the Common African Position. The L.69 is a group of developing countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and supports the Common African Position. The Arab Group of the League of Arab States calls for a minimum of two non-permanent seats for Arab states, as well as the inclusion of a permanent Arab seat in the expansion of the Security Council permanent membership. They too support the Common African Position. The CARICOM Proposal advances comprehensive reforms of the UNCS to ensure equitable and inclusive representation. It supports expanding both permanent and non-permanent membership, with particular emphasis on including underrepresented regions such as Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. CARICOM also proposes a rotating non-permanent seat for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address their unique vulnerabilities.

The UNSC Reforms constitute part of the myriad reforms that the UN envisages as it marks 80 years since its inception.

## MACFRUT 42<sup>nd</sup> International Exhibition, Italy

By. Kenya Embassy, Rome

The 42<sup>nd</sup> International Exhibition of MACFRUT 2025 was organized in collaboration with the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 in Rimini, Italy. The exhibition is considered one of the World's top international events for fresh horticulture produce and provides an opportunity for business engagements and networking between fruits buyers from all over the

world. This year Kenya seized the opportunity to position itself strategically in order to increase export volumes specifically for fresh and puree avocado products which have gained prominence in the European Union (EU) market.

The Kenyan delegation to the MACFRUT was led by Hon. Cornelius Ser-

em-AFA Chairman while HCD team was led by Ms. Christine Chesaro-Director. In attendance were also technical officers from HCD Mr. Paul Okewa and Ms. Florence Wambua. The Kenya Embassy in Rome-Italy was represented by H.E Fredrick Matwang'a, Kenya's Ambassador/ Permanent Representative and Dr. Beatrice Tuei, Agriculture Attaché.

Several Kenyan companies participated including Afrisun Orchards Ltd, Como Fresh produce, Fawakih Ltd, Mofrut Farm

Limited, Sakifarm Limited, Bralison EPZ Ltd who took the opportunity to co-exhibit. Five additional export companies participated through backpacking at the Kenyan Pavilion namely, Spisa, Jiwa Farm, Avolution Premier, Rwathia Agrofarm, Virginia and Sons and I-GROW HUB Limited. These companies participated through sponsorship of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA). In total, twelve (12) export companies were present in the Kenyan Pavilion.



*H.E. Fredrick Matwang'a at the Macfrut 2025 Exhibition (6-9 May) in Rimini, Italy with Hon. Francesco Lollobrigida, Minister for Agriculture.*



*H.E. the Ambassador of Kenya to Italy with Kenyan exporters participating in the Macfrut 2025 exhibition*

## Kenya Presides Over the African Union's Budgetary Processes

By K. Thuo



On Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Head of Mission, Amb. George M. Orina, MBS, who is also the Chair of the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination of Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters (GSCBFAM) of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) of the AU, presided over the Joint Sitting of the GSCBFAM, the PRC's Sub-Committee on Programmes and Conferences,

as well as the Committee of Experts of the Fifteen Ministers of Finance (F15) for the consideration of the AU's 2026 Budget. The significance of this Joint Sitting, which ran continuously from May 19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, was the formulation of the draft AU's Budget.

The draft AU Budget is then submitted for the PRC's consideration and eventual recommendation to the Executive

Council, for approval. The Executive Council of the AU usually composed of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, coordinates and takes decisions on policies in areas of common interest to Member States, including approving the budget of the Union.

Amb. George M. Orina, MBS, Kenya's Head of Mission and Chair of the PRC Sub-Committee on General Supervi-



Members of the PRC Sub-Committees and F15 Experts, gathered for a group photo during their joint deliberations on the AU's 2026 Draft Budget, led by Amb. George M. Orina, at the AU Commission, Addis Ababa.

sion and Coordination of Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters (GSCBFAM), presides over the Joint Session of the GSCBFAM, Sub-Committee on Programmes and Conferences, and F15 Experts to deliberate on the African Union's Draft Budget for 2026 at the AU Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

During the Joint Sitting, Amb. Orina applauded the Member States' keen interest in the consideration of the financial health and standing of the African Union, which was central to the attainment of the object and purpose of the Union. Furthermore, he observed, the financing obstacles that the Union was encountering in light of the ongoing

global financial instabilities and fiscal uncertainties, were exacerbated by the domestic realities of the respective countries.

Amb. Orina, invited Member States to a sturdy, clear and businesslike approach to deliberations of the AU Budgetary Processes, pointing out that this was the right approach in seeking for sustainable ways of funding the ongoing implementation of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063, the fast-tracking of the Union's Institutional Reforms, the Accelerated Implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Investments in Africa's Youth Capabilities and Competencies, as well as in facilitating the continent to keep pace and scale emerging Digital Frontiers such as Artificial Intelligence.

Furthermore, Amb. Orina emphasized the need to remain attentive to the evolving needs of Africa and to ensure that AU's budgetary allocations were aligned with strategic priorities and aspirations of the African Citizenry, the people in whose name the Union was formed.

## Kenya Deepens Diplomatic Ties with France Through Strategic Visit to Mayotte

By: P. Mwangi



Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs accompanied by Mr. Thani Mohamed Solihi, Minister Delegate for Francophonie and International Cooperation interact with citizens of Mayotte.

Kenya took a significant step toward strengthening its diplomatic and economic relations with France through a high-level visit to the island of Mayotte by Dr. Korir Sing'Oei, Principal Secretary Foreign Affairs and a delegation of Kenyan companies in agriculture, logistics, transport and construction.

Mayotte is a French-administered overseas territory located in the northern Mozambique Channel of the Indian Ocean. It lies between the eastern coast of Africa (Mozambique and Madagascar), and the Comoros archipelago. It consists of two islands, Grande-Terre (the main island) and Petite-Terre along with several smaller islets.

At the core of the partnership between Kenya and Mayotte lies the strategic alignment of two key maritime regions.



*The Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr. Korir Sing'Oei and Mr. Thani Mohamed Solihi, Minister Delegate for Francophonie and International Cooperation during a tour to the Ekwali Group in Mayotte.*

al gateways: Kenya's Port of Mombasa and Mayotte's Port of Longoni. The collaboration aims to leverage Mombasa's extensive global reach and Longoni's growing infrastructure to enhance regional trade by enabling faster transit, reducing shipping costs, and expanding market access.

Upon arrival, Dr. Sing'Oei, accompanied by Mr. Thani Mohamed Solihi, Minister Delegate for Francophonie and International Cooperation, undertook an aerial tour of Mayotte to assess the devastation caused by the 2024 cyclone. He expressed Kenya's solidarity with the people of Mayotte and reaffirmed the country's readiness to support recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Kenyan delegation visited Ekwali Group, an agri-food enterprise that



produces and distributes animal feed for poultry and egg farming. The company plans to expand production capacity and relocate operations to Longoni Port.

Kenyan delegation visited ITH SAS, the first Tier III Data Center in the Indian Ocean region, to discuss digital cooperation opportunities. The delegation visited Kaweni University Campus, where Dr. Sing'Oei inspected state-funded construction projects and discussed joint ventures in education and construction. The institution expressed interest in collaborating with Kenya through exchange programs for young technology-related students. The PS and the Mayotte Departmental Council, chaired by President Ben Issa Ousseini, finalized an agreement to abolish trade barriers, enabling Kenyan invest-

To successfully operationalize the agreement, the parties agreed on the establishment of a focal point within each organization, in addition to exchanges with Kenyan and French state bodies involved in the process of obtaining vital certifications and licenses. Constant communication between companies from the two entities was recommended to ensure proper understanding of the applicable rules.

The visit rekindled collaboration between Kenya and Mayotte, two nations connected by the Indian Ocean, shared culture, language, and unity in sustainable development and regional integration. The cultural similarities between Kenya's coastal communities and Mayotte's Kimaore people highlighted potential Swahili language programs.

tors to enter the Mayotte market.

A major highlight of the visit was the signing of three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Kenyan and Mayotte and among the business delegations. PS Sing'Oei and President Ousseini signed a new arrêté préfectoral (prefectorial directive) concerning the importation of food products from Kenya. The new directive is designed to enhance trade while ensuring the food safety of consumers in the region.

Kenya and Mayotte have committed to expedite the MoU between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Agency for Development and Innovation of Mayotte. The multi-year partnership aims to promote trade, business-to-business matchmaking, and leverage Kenya's ICT and agro-processing strengths for mutual growth. The MOU also includes a collaboration between Kenya Airways and ADIM.

**“Kenya Airways’ decision to launch a dedicated weekly cargo flight to Mayotte will boost our exports. The deepening ties between the Ports of Mombasa and Longoni create new avenues in trade, technology, education, and tourism,” said Dr. Sing’Oei.**

The other MoU was between ADIM and Business France aiming to facilitate reciprocal access for Kenyan and Mahoran companies to agricultural markets. The parties committed to collaborate on the mutual support in understanding phytosanitary and export standards, preparation of practical guides for companies, joint organization of awareness sessions and training for economic operators and support in structuring certification processes adapted to local requirements.



*Amb. Kipsoi receiving an award on behalf of Kenya during the opening ceremony*

## Nyeri's Mungaria Coffee Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> Best at Seoul Coffee Festival

*By Kenya Embassy Seoul*

The Kenya Embassy in Seoul participated in the annual coffee festival organized by the Nowon District Office to promote coffee in Korea. The Embassy had two booths at the festival with one featuring different brands of Kenya coffee and the second being an experiential booth.

At the coffee tasting booth, the Mission in collaboration with ChangHyon in-

ternational, a specialty coffee importer, served Kenya AA coffee from Othaya and Mungaria. Coffee from Mungaria in Nyeri, was awarded second place in the washed category in the 2025 K-Coffee Awards. Previously coffee from Othaya had been awarded first place in the washed category in the 2024 World Coffee Competition.

Long lines at the tasting booth were a



*Amb. Kipsoi with CEO of Changhyon International Kenya at the Kenya booth*

strong indication of the popularity and recognition of Kenyan coffee among the Korean public. Many festival attendees expressed appreciation of the Kenya coffee for its full-bodied taste and distinguished flavor profile. This enthusiastic response demonstrated the public's ability to appreciate the subtle notes in various coffee types and their openness to exploring a diverse range of Kenyan coffee offerings.

The experiential booth featured arts and crafts activities, such as soap making and coloring using the Kenyan flag colors. These activities provided a creative and engaging experience for children, while their parents enjoyed the coffee. This initiative was a fantastic way to spark curiosity and promote cultural awareness about Kenya among the younger audience.



*Koreans tasting Kenya Coffee at the Kenya Booth*

# Kenya Jersey firm sign agreement to promote ethical labour migration

By R. Ashitiva



Diaspora Affairs PS, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu (centre) during the delegation meeting with the Executive Committee of the Jersey Chamber of Commerce

Diaspora Affairs PS, Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, recently led a high-level delegation in a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Jersey Chamber of Commerce to explore and strengthen employment and trade relations between Kenya and Jersey.

The discussions centered on critical issues affecting Kenyan migrant workers and professionals, including the mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications as well as addressing cultural differences through comprehensive pre-departure orientation programs among others.

Both parties recognized the significance of structured labour mobility and considered expanding opportunities beyond the construction sector to include healthcare, information technology, seafaring, and other industries.

PS Njogu underscored Kenya's ded-

ication to equipping skilled workers for the global market and welcomed collaborations that promote ethical recruitment and safeguard the welfare of Kenyan workers abroad.

The Jersey Chamber of Commerce expressed keen interest in leveraging Kenya's dynamic and youthful workforce and commended the valuable contributions of Kenyan workers currently on the island. They also emphasized the importance of ongoing dialogue to align skills training with Jersey's labour market needs.

While in Jersey, the Government of Kenya entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GR8 Employment Solutions and Training Limited, a leading Jersey-based recruitment and human resource consultancy in what is a landmark initiative to promote ethical labour migration and broaden overseas employment pros-

pects for Kenyans,

PS Njogu, hailed the new partnership as a "bridge of opportunity" poised to positively impact the lives of Kenyan workers while deepening ties between Kenya and Jersey Island.

"This Memorandum of Understanding marks a significant milestone in our continued efforts to create meaningful employment opportunities for Kenyan workers abroad," PS Njogu remarked at the signing ceremony, which was attended by among others representatives from the Kenya High Commission in London, and Members of the National Assembly, led by Hon. Lydia Haika Munene, Chair of the Diaspora and Migrant Workers Committee, and Hon. Bashir Sheikh Abdullaiah, Member of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations.

The agreement is built on a foundation of ethical recruitment practices, fair wages, and robust protection of workers' rights. It also underscores the importance of cultural integration, comprehensive pre-departure training, and ongoing support for Kenyan workers relocating to Jersey and Guernsey.

GR8 Employment Solutions and Training Limited will be instrumental in managing placements, delivering training, and supporting the professional integration of Kenyan workers, ensuring they are well-equipped for success in their international roles.

PS Njogu highlighted that the collaboration aligns with Kenya's Global Labour Market Strategy (2023–2027), which seeks to reinforce international employment frameworks, enhance global mobility, and support the welfare of the Kenyan diaspora.

"This collaboration is not just about jobs, it's about dignity, empowerment, and development. By facilitating structured employment opportunities, we not only empower our people but also harness the immense potential of our diaspora for national development," PS Njogu affirmed.

The signing of the MoU is expected to pave the way for new opportunities for both skilled and semi-skilled Kenyan workers in the Channel Islands and beyond, further expanding Kenya's presence in the global labour market.

# KPA Captain pays courtesy visit to Kenya Embassy, Ireland

By: Kenya Embassy Dublin

On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 the Managing Director of the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) Captain William Ruto and five members of delegation from KPA paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Tabu Irina at the Chancery. The delegation was in Ireland to attend the Port Management Programme organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The discussions centred on KPA's efforts toward modernization and sustainability in addition to capacity enhancement and operational efficiency. KPA

expressed strong interest in collaborating with Irish institutions, particularly in areas such as green port automation and adoption of Ireland's landlord port model which promotes efficient land use and private sector partnerships in port operations.

The delegation indicated plans to submit a proposal to Ireland in order to commence discussions with the aim of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The Ambassador reaffirmed the Mission's support for KPA's initiatives.

Kenya and Ireland have encountered both opportunities and challenges in port management, presenting significant potential for Kenya to leverage on Ireland's advancements in this area to establish cooperation and partnerships. With the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Political Consultations between Kenya and Ireland in place, this collaboration can further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.



*The Managing Director of the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Captain William Ruto, signs the visitors' book at the Kenya Embassy in Ireland, alongside Ambassador Tabu Irina.*

## Kenya Showcases Strategic Partnership Potential at the 2025 Qatar Economic Forum

Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to global economic collaboration and strategic partnerships through active participation at the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) 2025, held from 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2025 in Doha. Representing the Head of State, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Doha Amb. Mohammed Adan Nur led the Kenyan delegation, accompanied by Mr. Pius Rotich, the General Manager of Investments Promotions at the Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest).

Held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and powered by Bloomberg, this year's forum convened over 3,000 global leaders, including Heads of State, government officials, CEOs, investors, and thought leaders under the theme: "The Road to 2030: Transforming the Global Economy."

During the opening session, His Highness the Amir, emphasized that 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Qatar Economic Forum

had evolved into a prominent global platform and a vital gathering place for experts, thought leaders and decision makers. The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani noted the ongoing efforts to actualize the vision of making Qatar a beacon of technological advancement and a global hub for business and investment.

Kenya's presence at the Qatar Economic Forum 2025 came at a time when the global economy is undergoing rapid transformation, particularly in sectors such as technology, logistics, renewable energy, and investment diversification—areas that align closely with Kenya's development priorities. The forum presented a unique opportunity for Kenya to engage directly with top-tier investors and policy influencers, spotlighting its potential as a gateway to East and Central Africa.

As the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) highlighted its increasing invest-

ments in emerging markets including Africa, Kenya's participation underscored the nation's readiness to position itself as a strategic partner. Discussions during the forum were clear that Qatar is keen on expanding its economic footprint through long-term global partnerships, especially in non-oil sectors that saw 3.4% growth in Qatar in 2024.

The Qatar Economic Forum 2025 reaffirmed Kenya's role as a proactive player in global economic conversations. As Qatar strengthens its investment strategies and diversifies its economic model, Kenya stands as a valuable partner offering access to fast-growing African markets, a youthful workforce, and a robust innovation ecosystem.

The Embassy of Kenya in Doha continues to support initiatives that enhance bilateral ties and ensure Kenya remains visible, competitive, and investment-ready on the global stage.

# Kenya-Switzerland Climate Cooperation Agreement

By Kenya Embassy Bern

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025, Kenya and Switzerland signed an Implementing Agreement under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in Bern. The Kenyan delegation was led by Dr. Deborah Barasa, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry who signed the agreement with Dr. Albert Rösti, the Federal Councillor for the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC). The Cabinet Secretary was in Switzerland for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions on Pollution (COP) meetings in Geneva.

The purpose of the Agreement was to operationalize Article 6 of the Paris Agreement by facilitating carbon market cooperation, enhance private sector



*Kenyan delegation led by Dr. Deborah Barasa, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry and Swiss delegation led by Dr. Albert Rösti, the Federal Councillor for the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC)*

participation in high-integrity climate mitigation projects, and enable access to climate finance. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement facilitates international cooperation on climate action, allowing countries to collaborate on achieving their climate targets through market-based and non-market approaches.

Amb. Fouzia Abass, the Head of Mission accompanied the Cabinet Secretary to the signing ceremony and later welcomed Dr. Mulongo and the visiting delegation to the Chancery for a brief tour and meeting with the staff.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Antalya Diplomacy Forum

By Kenya Embassy Ankara

The 4<sup>th</sup> Antalya Diplomacy Forum, themed “Reclaiming Diplomacy in a Fragmented World”, was held in the city of Antalya, Türkiye from 11-13 April 2025. The forum sought to deliberate on a range of issues including but not limited to intensifying geopolitical competition to the existential threat posed by pandemics and climate change, and think through strategies that would position diplomacy as the anchor for peace and cooperation in the increasingly uncertain world.

The forum brought together 21 heads of state/government, over 50 ministers of foreign affairs, representatives

of international organizations, diplomats, scholars, security experts, media practitioners, entrepreneurs, and think tanks.

Kenya was represented by Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs who took part in a panel discussion entitled ‘Horn of Africa: Risks and Opportunities’, where he underscored Kenya’s role in regional peace and security.

On the sidelines of the 4th Antalya Diplomatic Conference Dr. Mudavadi held bilateral meetings with various leaders including Ms. Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, President of the Republic of Kosovo,

Mr. Gordan Grlić Radman, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda, Dr. Shaya Zindani Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Republic of Yemen, Mr. Mehmet Demiroğlu, President and CEO of Turkish Aerospace, Mr. Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the World Food Programme (WFP), and Serkan Kayalar, President of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). The discussions focused on issues of mutual interest and enhancing cooperation with Kenya.

# Diaspora engagement in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar

By R. Ashitiva

Diaspora Affairs' Principal Secretary, Ms. Roseline Kathure Njogu, has lauded the Kenyan community in the United Arab Emirates for their exceptional contribution to the country and for being a source of national pride.

Speaking to the Kenyans living and working in Dubai during a diaspora engagement, the PS acknowledged the entrepreneurial and professional accomplishments of Kenyans in sectors such as hospitality, ICT, aviation, retail, and security.

The PS reaffirmed the Government's commitment to placing the diaspora at the heart of Kenya's development strategy, noting that their talents, investments, and global networks remained integral to the nation's growth.

The PS gave an overview of the department's achievements over the past two and a half years, highlighting expanded digital access to over 22,000 government services through the E-Citizen platform, the delivery of Mobile Consular Services to 121 cities in 55 countries, and the successful implementation of the Global Labour Market Strategy that has resulted in the creation of thousands of jobs both at home and abroad.

The PS also illustrated how diaspora communities around the world have significantly contributed to their home countries' economies, citing India's health sector transformation and others that have leveraged their diasporas to drive innovation, investment, and development. PS Njogu further highlighted the significant impact of the diaspora in championing Kenya's interests internationally, urging attendees to actively mention Kenya when discussing investment opportunities, tourism, ICT, skilled workforce, and other key topics in influential spaces and decision-making forums.

The PS challenged Kenyans abroad to tap into similar opportunities through platforms such as the Central Bank's DhowCSD, which enables seamless investment in Government securities, and through affordable housing pro-

grams under the Boma Yangu initiative.

Amb. Kenneth Nganga, Kenya Ambassador to the UAE and David Iboko Lokemer, Kenya Consul General, Dubai were present at the event.

At another engagement, PS Njogu met with members of the Kenyan diaspora at the Kenya Embassy Chancery in Abu Dhabi where she acknowledged the diaspora's significant contributions to national development through remittances, investments, cultural promotion, and skills transfer. PS Njogu also stressed the importance of knowledge and skills transfer from the diaspora to drive Kenya's socio-economic progress stating there was need to leverage international expertise acquired abroad for advancing national development.

During the dialogue, the diaspora in Abu Dhabi raised pertinent concerns affecting Kenyans living and working in the UAE with the major issue highlighted being the ongoing exploitation of Kenyan migrant workers by unscrupulous recruitment agencies. This is was noted continued to result in human trafficking, contract breaches, and poor working conditions for Kenyans.

The forum also heard of the dire need for mutual recognition and standardization of academic, technical, and professional qualifications to enable Kenyans to access job opportunities that match their credentials. Mental health challenges, it was reported remained prevalent among domestic workers, who had limited access to legal remedies, as a result of the absence of a standardized minimum wage for Kenyan workers in the UAE.

PS Njogu reaffirmed the government's commitment to collaborating with the Kenya Embassy, Consulate, and UAE authorities to combat exploitation, advocate for fair labor standards, enhance psychosocial support, and pursue bilateral agreements that uphold dignity, protection, and career advancement for Kenyans in the Gulf region.

At the same forum, Hon. Zamzam Mohamed and Hon. Abdiqadir Hussein Mohamed outlined the mandates of

the National Assembly's Diaspora and Migrant Workers Committee and the Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee, respectively. They encouraged the diaspora to maintain close engagement with the Embassy and Consulate, emphasizing that continuous dialogue remained crucial for effective service delivery and resolving challenges.

While in Qatar, PS Njogu witnessed the official launch of the Kenyan Community in Qatar (KeCOQ), an association which will serve as an umbrella body for the over 70,000 Kenyans residing in Qatar. During the function, the PS emphasized the importance of safeguarding the welfare and rights of Kenyans living in Qatar, confirming that the Government had finalized a pre-departure information booklet to assist Kenyans seeking employment in the country.

Amb. Mohamed Nur Adan, Kenya's Ambassador to Qatar lauded the harmony of Kenyans in the country adding that the Embassy will continue to support initiatives that enhance the unity of purpose. Present during the launch included Hon. Elijah Memusi Kanchory (Kajiado Central) and Hon. Rashid Juma Bedzimba (Kisauni), who serve on the National Assembly's Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committee, and Diaspora Affairs and Migrant Workers Committee respectively. Both legislators pledged to support initiatives that benefit Kenyans abroad.

Hon. Kanchory appreciated the Kenyan human capital calling for the leveraging of skills and knowledge to support Kenya's growth and development while Hon. Bedzimba stressed on Kenyans unity as a key aspect in building both self and country.

PS Njogu commended those who worked to establish the association, recognizing its role in advancing the interests of the Kenyan diaspora in the region on especially welfare, wellness and opportunities for empowerment.

# Kenya Attends Inaugural ASETT Forum

By Kenya Embassy Madrid



Kenya reinforced its leadership in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) during the inaugural Arizmendietta Social Economy Think Tank (ASSETT) Forum, held from May 28-30, 2025, in San Sebastián, Spain. The high-level event, organized by ASSETT, brought together representatives from 30 countries and major international bodies, including the United Nations and NGOs.

Mr. Patrick Kilemi, Principal Secretary of Kenya's State Department for Cooperatives, delivered a keynote during the Ministerial Dialogue at the invitation of Spain's Second Vice-President and Minister for Labour and the Social Economy, Her Excellency Yolanda Díaz. The Principal Secretary emphasized Kenya's deep-rooted cooperative movement, contributing about 30% to the national GDP and playing a central role in the

Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda. Kenya's prominence in the sector was underlined by the fact that seven of Africa's top ten cooperatives are Kenyan, and the country hosts the continent's only Cooperative University, Cooperative Bank, and Cooperative Insurance Company.

At the sidelines of the bilateral meetings with Ms. Amparo Segovia, Spain's Secretary of State for the Social Economy, discussions centered on opportunities for collaboration between the Ministry for Cooperatives and MSMEs of Kenya and the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy of Spain in the presentation of the social and solidary economy sector.

The Principal Secretary also met Leire Mugerza, President of the Mondragon Congress, where they discussed cooperation through the sharing of experiences and technical support between Mondragon Cooperation and Cooperatives in Kenya.

## Kenyan Spirit Shines at the Vienna City Marathon 2025

By Kenya Embassy Vienna



Amb. Valerie Rugene with the Kenyan Embassy team and members of the Kenyan community in Austria at the Vienna City Marathon

Ambassador Valerie Rugene represented Kenya at the Vienna City Marathon on April 6, 2025, alongside

the Kenyan Embassy team and members of the Kenyan community in Austria. The event was not just a com-

petition but also a celebration of unity, resilience, and the unbreakable spirit of sportsmanship.

Kenyan athletes delivered remarkable performances, leaving a lasting impression on the podiums. The Kenyan flag flew high as both men and women dominated the podiums, showcasing the country's world-renowned talent in distance running.

Mica Cheserek won second place in the men's race with a time of 2:10:23, while Betty Chepkemboi won the women's race with a time of 2:24:14. Ambassador Rugene congratulated all Kenyan athletes who participated, praising their dedication and the pride they brought to the nation. The event not only highlighted Kenya's continued excellence in athletics but also strengthened the bonds within the Kenyan diaspora in Austria.



## Kenya at AUSSOM Extraordinary Summit

By Kenya High Commission Kampala

H.E Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Deputy President of Kenya, H.E Hassan Sheik Mohamoud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Mahmoud Ali Youssouf AU Chairperson and other dignitaries in a group photo During AUSSOM Summit in Kampala

In April 2025, Professor Kithure Kindiki, Deputy President, participated in the Extra-Ordinary Summit of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) for the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) at State House in Entebbe. The Summit convened to discuss the worsening security situation in Somalia and to map out a way forward for the Mission. The Deputy President was accompanied by Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Defence, and Lt. Gen. John Mugaravai Omenda, Vice Chief of Defence Forces.

Present during the Summit included the host, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda; Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia; Mr. Abdulkadir Kamil Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Republic of Djibouti; Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of the Republic of Egypt; Eng. Aisha Muhammed Musa, Minister of Defence of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; and Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC).

The Summit expressed concern over the precarious security situation in the Federal Republic of Somalia. It instructed the Chiefs of Defence Forces of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to enhance the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in the AUSSOM sectors and to develop a comprehensive plan aimed

at deterring, degrading, and eliminating Al-Shabaab. Additionally, the Federal Republic of Somalia was urged to strengthen its relationships with Federal Member States and recommended the use of traditional leaders to counter extremist narratives and Al-Shabaab propaganda.

The Summit also agreed on the need for rapid force generation to address capability gaps and established mechanisms to tackle the ongoing funding shortfall that continued to undermine the effectiveness of the AUSSOM Mission. Leaders acknowledged the significant challenge of financing AUSSOM, particularly in light of the outstanding debt left from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), which amounted to USD 92 million, along with an additional USD 93.9 million owed to TCCs as reimbursement. While expressing gratitude to development partners for their ongoing support, the Summit pointed out that direct donor contributions had been insufficient. At the time, only USD 16.7 million had been available, which included contributions from the People's Republic of China (USD 1 million), Japan (USD 3 million), the Republic of Korea (USD 1.6 million), and the AU Peace Fund's Crisis Reserve Facility (USD 10 million). With no viable solution in sight, the Summit called for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution

2719 to ensure adequate, sustainable, and predictable funding, as well as an increase in personnel to address the existing manpower gap.

The meeting agreed to submit the recommendations from the Extra-Ordinary Summit of the Troop Contributing Countries to the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia and the Federal Government of Somalia for approval by the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC). The PSC will then forward these recommendations to the United Nations Security Council as a working document.

The effectiveness of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) depends on the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) committing their resources to the Mission, as there is currently no established funding mechanism. This commitment is regarded as crucial until a comprehensive solution is achieved.

Also present at the Summit were Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary; Amb. James Swan, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Transition Mission in Somalia; and Ms. Aisa Kacyira Kirabo, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Office for Somalia.

# Kenya Receives 2025 Smart Green Award for Environmental Excellence

By Kenya Embassy Madrid

In April 2025, Kenya received the 2025 Smart Green Award, an international sustainability accolade presented by LG Spain. The award ceremony took place at LG Spain's headquarters, where Amb. Nairimas Ole Sein accepted the award on behalf of the Government of Kenya. To commemorate the occasion, a symbolic tree planting was carried out by the ambassador in the newly established "Ambassadors' Forest" located within the Smart Green Forest, a dedicated reforestation area created by LG as part of its environmental initiative.

The Smart Green Award, created by LG Spain, honors governments, organizations, and projects making exceptional contributions to environmental sustainability and green innovation. In 2025, Kenya, Austria, and Serbia were selected as awardees based on their leadership in climate action and sustainable practices.



The plaque presented to Kenya reads: 'The Smart Green Movement thanks Kenya for its commitment to the environment, sustainability, and technological innovation.' The award was personally presented by Mr. Jaime de Jaraiz, President and CEO of LG Spain.

Kenya's recognition was significantly influenced by the Seedball Project, an innovative and cost-effective reforestation initiative based on dispersing seed-balls into degraded land via aerial and ground methods.

The Smart Green Project is LG Spain's flagship sustainability initiative, launched in 2017 to plant 47 million trees across Spain by 2030, one tree for every citizen. In partnership with environmental startup CO2 Revolution, LG utilizes advanced technologies like drones, Artificial Intelligence, and geospatial data to reforest burned

and degraded areas efficiently. Notable highlights of the project include the reforestation of Alto Tajo Natural Park with 2 million seeds planted after wildfires, the use of "smart seeds" which are biodegradable, nutrient-rich capsules designed for optimal germination, and expansion into multiple regions like Aragon, with partnerships involving regional governments and private sector stakeholders.

The presentation of the Smart Green Award to Kenya is a significant international acknowledgment of the country's leadership in sustainable development, technological innovation, and environmental conservation. This recognition enhances Kenya's global reputation as a nation committed to green growth and aligns with Vision 2030 and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

## 2025 World Environment Day Commemoration Ceremony

By Kenya Embassy Seoul

The Kenya Embassy in Seoul participated in the 2025 World Environment Day Commemoration Ceremony jointly hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Republic of Korea on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Jeju Island, South Korea. The event brought together over 2,500 participants composed of global leaders, environmental experts, and civil society to discuss urgent actions needed to combat plastic pollution and promote sustainability under the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution.'

The Commemorative Ceremony fea-

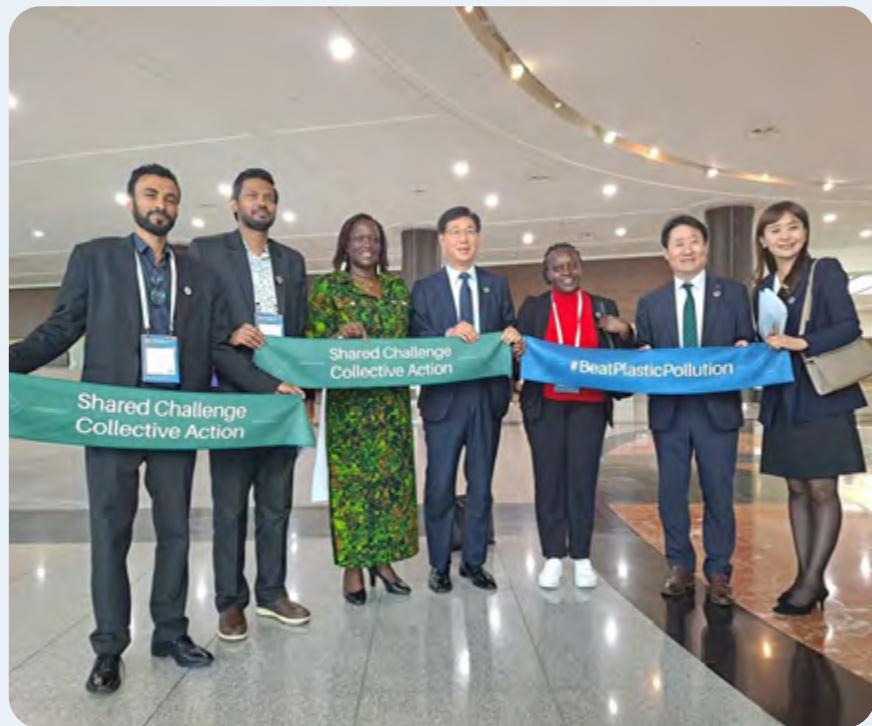


Ms. Mercy Kenduiywa's presentation at the 13<sup>th</sup> World Local Governments Forum on the Margins of the World Environment Day Celebrations

tured speeches from key figures, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen, Korea's Vice Minister of Environment Lee Byoung-hwa, and Azerbaijan's Vice Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Umayra Taghiyeva. The speeches underscored the critical need to eradicate plastic pollution worldwide. This initiative is critical to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals for climate action, sustainable production and consumption, ocean conservation, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity preservation.

Prof. Emmy Jerono Kipsoi, Kenya's Ambassador, presented the opening congratulatory address at the 13th World Local Governments Forum, held on the sidelines of the World Environment Day Commemoration Ceremony where she highlighted Kenya's substantial progress in combating plastic pollution, including the enactment of a single-use plastic ban in 2017.

Ms. Mercy Kenduiywa, a Senior Environmental Officer from the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and a student at the University of Seoul, International School of Urban Sciences, made a presentation



*Amb. Kipsoi and Ms. Mercy Kenduiywa with other delegates at the World Local Governments Forum on the sidelines of world environment day celebrations*

on policies and best practices adopted by Kenya to address plastic pollution. She emphasized on the need for localized solutions that aligned with global sustainability goals and highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing environmental challenges.

World Environment Day is the largest international day dedicated to the environment. It has been organized annually on 5<sup>th</sup> June by the UNEP since 1973 and serves as a significant global platform for environmental outreach, engaging millions of people worldwide.

## Strengthening Ties Through Parliamentary Diplomacy

*By: C. Kinyua*

Parliamentarians play a critical role, and are uniquely positioned, to support diplomacy through advocacy for the promotion of shared values and interests. This role is further strengthened by country or region-specific Friendship groups in most parliaments.

In the French National Assembly there exists the Kenya-France Friendship group which serves as a bridge of goodwill between Kenya and the National Assembly and, by extension, the European Parliament and French government. Like all other Friendship groups, it helps foster dialogue, promote cultural understanding, and sustain long-term partnerships by complimenting

traditional diplomacy.

Given the importance of sustained engagement, the group recently hosted Amb. Betty Cherwon for a luncheon at the National Assembly. Led by their chair, Hon. Louise Morel, the event provided an opportunity for a warm and productive exchange of views on mutual interests. The luncheon was reciprocal to a visit last year to the Embassy by the Friendship group.

Building on this engagement, the Embassy was honoured to facilitate a courtesy meeting between the visiting Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Senator Mutahi Kagwe,

and members of the group on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025. This meeting provided a valuable platform to deepen understanding of Kenya's agriculture and livestock sector whose products face huge bottlenecks in accessing the European market. It further gave the parliamentarians an opportunity to understand the efforts being made to address any concerns and conformity to standards.

The continued engagement underscores the vital role that parliamentarians play in nurturing and sustaining diplomatic relationships beyond traditional government-to-government interactions.

# Kenya Participates at the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

By Kenya Embassy Bern

Prime Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, led Kenya's delegation to the High-level Segment in Geneva, Switzerland, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The session brought together global leaders, civil society organizations, UN agencies, and other stakeholders to advance the promotion and protection of human rights globally.

Dr. Mudavadi delivered the country statement addressing pressing concerns such as ongoing conflicts, rising



Dr. Musalia Mudavadi meets Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala Director-General, World Trade Organization.

inequalities, threats to democracy, climate change, and emerging technologies.

During the visit, Mudavadi held bilat-

eral meetings with the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Director General of the WTO Director General.

## Kenya at 3<sup>rd</sup> United Nations Ocean Conference

By M. Adan



Hassan Ali Joho, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs at the Third United Nations Ocean Conference 2025 in Nice, France.

The Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) was convened by the Governments of France and Costa Rica from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 in Nice, France under the banner 'accelerating action and mobilizing all

actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean.'

The Conference sought for immediate action to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for

sustainable development and identify ways and means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.

Hassan Ali Joho, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs led Kenya's delegation and participated in various plenary sessions, the 10 Ocean Action Panels and hosted a Side Event on 'Scaling up Finance and Investments for Harnessing Blue Economy Resources.' CS Joho chaired the African Maritime Session at UNOC 3 and the 6th Plenary Meeting General Debate.

The key Deliverables at UNOC-3 included; Kenya's election as Vice President of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC 3); Kenya ratified the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) and UNOC-3 adopted The Nice Commitments for the Ocean, which constitute, in their entirety, an ambitious roadmap for all States and stakeholders in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 14, the cornerstone of the protection of the Ocean by 2030.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Agriculture, Agricultural Mechanization and Field Technologies Fair, Türkiye

By Kenya Embassy Ankara

The 21<sup>st</sup> Agriculture, Agricultural Mechanization and Field Technologies Fair took place in Konya, Turkey, from 7-9 April 2025. The event is Turkey's largest and leading agricultural event, showcasing innovation and advancements in agricultural machinery

and field technologies.

Kenya was represented by Cabinet Secretary, Water Sanitation and Irrigation Eric M. Mugaa and Ambassador Leonard N. Boiyo. The fair provided an opportunity for Kenyan officials to learn about the latest agricultural

technologies and explore potential collaborations to enhance the country's agricultural sector. Mugaa visited the Research Institute for Soil, Water and Combating Desertification and Torku Holding, the largest sugar production company in Türkiye. He invited Torku to invest in Kenya through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) to create jobs and share new technologies. He also held discussions with President Mustafa Büyükeğen at the Konya Chamber of Industry, who expressed eagerness to work with the KNCCI to enhance commercial relations and investments between the two countries.

## Inauguration of Kenya Embassy Rabat 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025

By Kenya Embassy Rabat



Dr. Musalia Mudavadi and His Excellency Nasser Bourita, Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates during the inauguration of the Kenya Embassy in Morocco in May 2025.



Kenya's diplomatic footprint expanded on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, after the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, and Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, His Excellency Nasser Bourita, officially inaugurated the Kenyan Embassy in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Kenyan Embassy in Rabat is symbolic of the diplomatic ties between the two countries that date back to 1965 and signifies a renewed chapter anchored in shared aspirations and deepened by the bonds of history, cooperation, and mutual respect.

The Embassy is expected to be a one-stop hub for strengthening bilateral relations and advancing Kenya's strategic interests in North Africa. The Embassy will not only serve as a symbol of friendship, but also as a vital instrument for advancing our shared goals, deepening people-to-people engagement, fostering economic opportunity while unlocking opportunities for trade and investment, and promoting regional peace and prosperity.

At a meeting with Kenyan diaspora in Morocco, Dr. Mudavadi confirmed that efforts were in place to improve consular responsiveness, regularize communication with diaspora communities, and facilitate access to national documentation and services. The Diaspora sought information on acquisition of residence permits, as well as modalities towards educational transitions, or student welfare.



*Amb. George M. Orina in a meeting with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali YOUSSEOUF*

## Kenya continues prosecuting its Foreign Policy objectives within the African Union (AU)

*Amb. G. M. Orina, MBS*

As part of the ongoing pursuit of the country's strategic interests within the African Union (AU), on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, I held a meeting with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali YOUSSEOUF at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

It was my first official meeting with the Chairperson of the AUC since his successful election to the post at the 38th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The meeting aimed to establish contact and discuss Kenya's concerns regarding the new AU's leadership.

It was also during this meeting that I conveyed the Government's best wishes to the Chairperson and pledged Kenya's constructive engagement and support for the attainment of the object and purpose of the AU. These assurances were consistent with a similar pledge made by His Excellency the President to the Chairperson upon the election of the new Chairperson of the AU Commission.

The meeting was equally significant in seeking to understand and appreciate the methods of work of the new Leadership team at the AU, especially in the framework of His Excellency the President's role as the AU Institutional Reform Champion, as well as the being the Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), in addition to His Excellency the President being a member of the African Union Development Agency, New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC).

In this respect, I pointed out that His Excellency the President was keen on the review and revitalization of the core elements that underpinned the structures of the Union in order to make it nimble and more responsive to the needs of the African peoples.

On his part, the AUC Chairperson welcomed the cordial regards and pledges of support from the Kenyan Government, pointing out the importance

of strategic support from significant Member States of the Union. Similarly, the Chairperson expressed a strong desire of working closely with Kenya, given His Excellency the President's roles as the AU Institutional Reform Champion and Coordinator of CAHOSCC, as well as His Excellency the President's membership of AUDA-NEPAD's Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee.

**Indeed, the Mission's engagements within the AU continue to be guided by His Excellency the President's consequential roles within the AU Programme of Work, which are also central in reinforcing Kenya's reform and environmental credentials.**

# Kenya and Hungary Deepen Ties in Budapest

By Kenya Embassy Vienna

In early April this year, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, undertook an official visit to the Republic of Hungary at the invitation of H.E. Péter Szijjártó, Hungary's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. The visit served as a reciprocal engagement following Minister Szijjártó's official visit to Kenya in early 2024, and was aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Dr. Mudavadi began his visit with an engagement with the Kenyan diaspora community in Hungary, where he met representatives comprising students and professionals. He commended them for serving as true ambassadors of Kenya and encouraged them to continue embodying the values of hard work, unity, and hospitality that define the Kenyan spirit.

The two leaders engaged in extensive discussions focused on consolidating the long-standing relationship between Kenya and Hungary, which dates back to Kenya's independence in 1963. They emphasized the need to enhance trade

and investment by fostering stronger linkages between private sector players and business communities in both countries. To this end, they agreed to convene the next session of the Joint Trade and Economic Committee (JTEC) before the end of the year.

During the meeting, Kenya and Hungary signed two key Memoranda of Understanding, one in the field of education and the other in agriculture. These agreements are expected to deepen cooperation in both sectors and open up new avenues for collaboration, given the significant potential for growth and mutual benefit. Dr. Mudavadi expressed appreciation to the Hungarian government for offering 200 annual scholarships to Kenyan students through the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme, noting that the initiative continued to help build sustainable people-to-people ties.

In agriculture, the two countries committed to exchanging expertise and best practices to enhance productivity and innovation. Dr. Mudavadi acknowledged Hungary's early support for Kenya's independence, particularly through the establishment of one of the first embassies in Nairobi, and reiterated Kenya's intention to open a resident diplomatic mission in Budapest to further bolster diplomatic engagement.

On multilateral cooperation, they expressed their commitment to work together within the framework of the United Nations to promote inclusive

global financing and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Mudavadi called for Hungary's support in advocating for a fair and just multilateral system that includes a more equitable global financing architecture. On matters of peace and security, both sides agreed on the importance of diplomacy and dialogue in resolving conflicts and pledged to collaborate through international organizations to secure sustainable peace.

While in Hungary, Dr. Mudavadi paid a courtesy call on Dr. Tamás Sulyok, President of Hungary where the two leaders underscored the importance of deepening the historic ties between their nations. President Sulyok expressed keen interest in making a state visit to Kenya later in the year, affirming Kenya's strategic significance as a key ally of Hungary.

At the Hungarian Diplomatic Academy, the Prime Cabinet Secretary delivered a keynote address where he emphasized Kenya's readiness for international trade and investment and reaffirmed the country's leadership in promoting regional peace and stability. Dr. Mudavadi concluded his visit to Hungary by touring the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Godollo Campus, where 58 Kenyan students are enrolled. He held discussions with the university's Rector, Dr. Csaba Gyuricza, exploring ways to strengthen scholarship programs, including those in sports, and deepen cooperation in agricultural education and research.

# Kenya Participates in APRM-AU Peace and Security Council Joint Retreat

By Kenya High Commission, Pretoria

The Kenya High Commission, Pretoria, participated in the Fourth Joint Retreat of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC), held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Held under the banner 'Enhancing the Role of the APRM in Early Warning and in Contributing towards Conflict Prevention and the Strengthening of Good Governance', the retreat provided a strategic platform to reinforce good

governance as a pillar of peace, security, and sustainable development across the continent.

Key discussions during the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 meeting focused on aligning APRM governance assessments with the AU's peace and security frameworks, notably the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA). Delegates explored ways to integrate APRM findings into the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)

in order to improve real-time data sharing and joint engagement amongst member states.

A major highlight was the presentation of a synthesis report drawn from APRM Country Review Reports and Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessments. The report offered data-driven insights into governance trends and early warning indicators, further demonstrating the APRM's growing role in conflict prevention and the AU's pursuit of democratic stability across Africa.

# Kenya Participates in the C-10 Ministerial Meeting

*Amb. G. M. Orina, MBS*

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs took part in the 13th African Union Committee of Ten (C-10) Ministerial Meeting that convened in Lusaka, Zambia on June 4, 2025.

The C-10 is responsible for canvassing, promoting and advancing the Common African Position (CAP) on the reforms of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This is part of Africa's effort for UN reforms and the establishment of a permanent African voice on the UN Security Council.

In his remarks to the C-10 Ministerial gathering, the PCS noted the positive momentum that had been generated in seeking to redress the historical injus-



*Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, representing the Republic of Kenya at Ten (C-10) Ministerial Meeting in Lusaka.*

tice to Africa accruing from an exclusive UN Security Council. This was also consistent with the aspirations of World Leaders who had pronounced themselves through the Pact of the Future, by calling for a more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic, and accountable United Nations Security Council.

To this end, the PCS called for an expedited consolidation of the various processes that informed the Common African Position on the reforms of the UN

Security Council and for their timely submission to the Co-Facilitators of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN)

In addition, the PCS lauded C-10 Ministers' unanimous decision to submit the African Union Model for the Reformed Security Council to the President of the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, noting that this was a momentous step in the advancement of the Common African Position and in keeping with the object and purpose of Action 39 of the Pact of the Future.

## Middle East Food Fair, Türkiye

*By Kenya Embassy Ankara*

Ambassador Leonard Boiyo attended the Middle East Food Fair in Gaziantep, Turkey, where over 29 countries participated and discussed sectoral developments, innovations in agriculture, and other critical subjects. Gaziantep is internationally renowned for its unique cuisine and is part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. It is the leading producer of pistachios, pasta, wheat, barley, and red peppers, and a strategic hub for agricultural commodities. The city ranks sixth in terms of exports from the country, valued at approximately USD 10.5 billion, and exports to 184 countries.

Boiyo discussed potential cooperation with Kenyan companies, chambers of commerce, and opportunities for labor mobility. He also advised Kenyan students pursuing courses at Gaziantep



*Ambassador Leonard Boiyo (centre) during the Middle East Food Fair*

University to ensure their residence permits are up-to-date, respect the host country's laws, culture, and customs, build meaningful connections with the

host community, actively seek academic, social, and professional opportunities, and maintain an open attitude towards their experiences abroad.

# Strengthening Diplomatic Collaboration, Mozambique

By Kenya High Commission  
Maputo

Between May and June 2025, the High Commission of the Republic of Kenya in Maputo actively engaged in a series of diplomatic, cultural, and economic events that underscored Kenya's deepening ties with Mozambique and its broader commitment to multilateral and regional cooperation. The engagements ranged from bilateral consultations and high-level meetings to participation in cultural festivals and strategic business missions, reflecting the mission's multidimensional diplomatic approach.

## Promoting Cultural and Educational Ties

Hon. Osvaldo Faquir, Councillor for Education, Culture, and Sports of the Maputo Municipality, was hosted by the High Commissioner on May 12, 2025. The discussions centred on the promotion of cultural exchanges between Kenya and Mozambique. Both parties acknowledged the significance of cultural diplomacy in the development of mutual comprehension, the promotion of interpersonal relationships, and the establishment of favourable conditions for economic cooperation.

On June 13, 2025, the High Commissioner conferred with Mr. Dércio Marime and Mr. Augusto Zimba, Directors of Sports Events at Eduardo Mondlane University, to further strengthen these cultural connections. The conversations focused on the potential for sports diplomacy, such as the organisation of collaborative sports activities and talent exchanges between Kenyan and Mozambican youth.

## Deepening Bilateral Engagements

Kenya's High Commissioner held key bilateral meetings with ambassadors and high commissioners accredited to Mozambique.

- On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the High Commissioner met with H.E. Ferhat Alkan, Ambassador of Turkey, to strengthen bilateral relations;
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, H.E. Gabriele Phil-



Ambassador Philip Mundia Githiora (right) during the meeting with Hon. Osvaldo Faquir (left), Councillor for Education, Culture and Sports of the Maputo Municipality.

ip Annis, Ambassador of Italy, discussed mutual interests in trade, development cooperation, and peacebuilding;

- On 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Amb. Malek Djaoud, the newly appointed Ambassador of Algeria, was welcomed to foster friendly ties;
- On 11<sup>th</sup> June, H.E. CP Hamad Khamis Hamad, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania, reaffirmed enduring bonds and committed to mutual prosperity;
- On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Amb. Luis Miguel Lopes de Sousa of East Timor was received, focusing on enhancing cooperation through sports diplomacy.

## Fostering Economic Diplomacy

In May, a Kenya Pipeline Company Ltd delegation visited Mozambique, where they discussed bilateral opportunities in energy and transport sectors. The High Commissioner facilitated meetings with Mozambique's State Secretary of Transport and Logistics, Chinguane Sébastião Marcos Mabote, to explore joint ventures that could stimulate economic growth and strengthen regional

integration along the shared Swahili coast.

## Commitment to Multilateralism and Regional Governance

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025, a delegation from the African School of Governance, led by Professor Kingsley Moghalu, highlighted the significance of strong public sector institutions and governance systems in Africa's transformation.

On 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Kenya's High Commissioner met with Dr. Catherine Sozi, the UN Resident Coordinator in Mozambique, to emphasize Kenya's commitment to multilateralism and collaborative efforts on regional development and humanitarian issues.

## Celebrating Diplomatic Milestones

The High Commissioner participated in significant diplomatic events, including bidding farewell to H.E. Jose Manuel, the outgoing Ambassador of Angola, on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025, a significant event that fosters camaraderie among diplomats and ensures continuity in Africa's diplomatic relations.

# Islamabad Hosts Inaugural Kenyan Diaspora session

By K. Soita. MC

The Kenya High Commission in Islamabad held an interactive inaugural session with the Kenyan community residing in Pakistan.

The High Commissioner, Amb. Lt. Gen (Rtd.) Peter M. Njiru, delivered an in-depth briefing on the Kenyan Diaspora Policy 2024, which addresses the impacts of globalization and the opportunities and challenges it presents. Key discussion points included strategies for safeguarding the rights and enhancing the welfare of Kenyans in Pakistan, maintaining ongoing communication with the Kenyan community, and promoting employment opportunities and enterprise development.

The session also touched upon the integration of the Kenyan Diaspora into the national development framework and issues concerning the registration and recognition of their welfare associations.

The High Commissioner emphasized



High Commissioner with members of the Kenyan diaspora in Pakistan

the importance of the Kenyan diaspora as essential partners and key drivers of Kenya's economic development. He encouraged the Kenyan diaspora to seek opportunities for investment, transfer valuable skills, and facilitate remittances that can benefit families and com-

munities back home. The High Commissioner emphasized the importance of registering with the Kenya High Commission to offer timely assistance and support during emergencies.

## Kenya Deepens Ties with MONDRAGON

By Kenya Embassy Spain

In May, 2025, Ambassador Nairimas Ole-Sein concluded a strategic visit to the Basque Country, holding key meetings with cooperative powerhouses MONDRAGON Corporation, Mondragón University, and Eroski Group. The mission aimed to strengthen Kenya's cooperative diplomacy and expand market access in Europe.

Ambassador Ole-Sein was welcomed by MONDRAGON President Leire Mugerza, where discussions centered on employment opportunities for skilled Kenyans in the Basque Country, boosting Kenyan product access to EU markets, and leveraging the ASETT Forum for strategic engagement. MONDRAGON affirmed its readiness to share cooperative expertise and sup-



port Kenya's youth employment goals under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

At Mondragón University, the Ambassador met Vice Chancellor Jon Altuna. Both parties committed to revisiting a 2012 MoU with the Cooperative University College of Kenya. Collaboration avenues discussed included faculty and student exchanges, joint research, language instruction, and participation in

European initiatives like EU4Dual and Global Gateway.

The visit also included talks with Eroski Group, the leading supermarket chain in the region. Ambassador Ole-Sein promoted Kenya's coffee, tea, and horticultural products. Eroski expressed interest in sourcing Kenyan goods through local Spanish importers and invited detailed product information from the Kenyan side.

# Sahiwal Cattle: Best Practices in Pakistan and Lessons for Kenya

By B. N. Njuguna

The Sahiwal is a breed of zebu cattle named after the Sahiwal District in the Punjab province of present-day Pakistan. It is primarily distributed in that province due to the introduction of irrigation systems to the region, where small-scale farmers began to keep the animals and use them as draught-resistant sources for beef and dairy.

Today, the Sahiwal is regarded as one of the best dairy breeds in India and Pakistan. Pakistan had over 50 million cattle as of 2022, comprising about 15 breeds, of which Sahiwal, Red Sindhi, and Cholistani are the majority. Due to their heat tolerance and high milk production, they have been exported to other Asian countries, as well as Africa and the Caribbean.

## Sahiwal

The current Sahiwal cattle in Kenya are descendants of approximately 60 bulls and 12 cows imported between 1939 and 1963. The National Sahiwal Studies (NSS) was established in 1963 to develop the breed for dual-purpose use (beef and milk) suitable for the semi-arid environments of Kenya, as well as to create appropriate management systems for the breed. The breeding stock, primarily bulls, was imported, maintained, and utilized for upgrading zebu cattle at thirteen livestock improvement centers, specifically in Ngong, Kabianga, Baraton, Maseno, Sang'alo, Chebororwa, Machakos, Ndomba, Chemeron, Katumanzi, Mariakani, Naivasha, and Marimba. The most recent importation in 1991 consisted of 1,000 doses of semen from six proven Sahiwal bulls imported from Pakistan.

The high-grade Sahiwal is owned by the National Sahiwal Stud at Naivasha, which is under the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), whereas private commercial breeders own other Sahiwal and Sahiwal crossbred cattle. As of 2023, there



were about 23 million cattle in Kenya, with the Sahiwal pure breed totaling about 7,000 representing 0.0003%. Over the years, Sahiwal has emerged as one of the best beef and dairy breeds. Cows average 2,270 kg of milk during lactation, and much higher yields up to 35 litres per day have been recorded. Its bull weighs about 600kg, twice the average weight of local breeds. It is tick-resistant, heat-tolerant, and also has a high resistance to parasites, both internal and external.

## Sahiwal cattle in Kenya

Despite the importance of Sahiwal cattle, their production in Kenya is currently affected by several challenges, including an acute shortage of breeding stock and inbreeding, which leads to a loss of genetic diversity and low productivity. Livestock farmers, particularly Maasai pastoralists who heavily rely on Sahiwal genetic resources for their livelihoods, face difficulties accessing suitable heifers and bulls at affordable prices. Growing concerns that the country is on the verge of losing this superior breed have prompted the government to purpose to reintroduce and increase the population of Sahiwal. Through a community-based genetic improvement and multiplication programme financed by the National Research Fund (NRF), KALRO has been collaborating with Maasai pastoralists in Transmara South, Narok County, to restock their Sahiwal herds.

In line with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformational Agenda (BETA) on food security, livestock remains a key element in the value chain be-

cause over 80% of Kenya's land mass is arid and semi-arid, and livestock is the main source of livelihood in these areas. In the non-ASAL areas, the livestock sub-sector constitutes an important source of family income and food security. In addition, livestock directly contributes to foreign exchange earnings for Kenya through the export of livestock products, live animals, and germplasm. Livestock products, including beef, dairy, hides, and skins, play an integral part in enabling other key agendas, including the development of medium and small-scale sectors, manufacturing, among others.

Technical Assistance in Sahiwal Breed Improvement and Lessons for Kenya from the Pakistan Livestock Sector

The Kenya High Commission has been actively engaging the public and private sectors in Pakistan regarding the improvement of the Sahiwal breed in Kenya through assistance in germplasm and the possibility of introducing sustainable breeds of cattle, goats, and sheep in Kenya from Pakistan.

The High Commissioner, Lt. Gen. (Rtd). Peter M. Njiru, accompanied by the commercial attaché, recently visited the Sahiwal region to meet stakeholders in the public and private sectors involved in the breeding, research, keeping, and selling of indigenous and exotic breeds in Pakistan, including the Sahiwal, Cholistani, Brahman, and Red Sindhi.

The institutions visited were the Semen Production Unit, Qadirabad, Sahiwal; the Livestock Production Research Institute, Bahadur Nagar, Okara; and



*The High Commissioner pose for a photo with other dignitaries at the semen production unit*



*The High Commissioner, meeting the Deputy Director of the Semen production unit.*

#### Al-Haiwan group

The Semen Production Unit, established in 1972 in Qadirabad, Pakistan, is responsible for producing, storing, and distributing quality semen from native Nili-Ravi buffalo, Sahiwal, Cholistani, and Dhani cattle breeds, as well as exotic breeds.

The delegation had a guided tour of

the farm where they were shown the various processes of semen collection, processing, labeling, storage, and distribution, for the various breeds.

The Government of Punjab has subsidized semen, which targets small-scale farmers with less than 10 heads of cattle. There is a great effort that has gone into developing a sustainable method of traceability where dates, time, type

of animal, breed, and so on are easily traceable to the semen donor. This helps in the control of the breed quality.

The authorities are open to working with Kenya through KARLO in the improvement of the Sahiwal breed; they are also open to selling semen to private breeders in Kenya.

#### Livestock Production Research Institute, Bahadur Nagar, Okara

The High Commissioner also visited LPRI in Okara, Sahiwal District which specializes in the conservation of indigenous livestock breeds (Buffalo, Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Equines, etc.); undertaking research on all aspects of performance traits and selecting a genetically superior breeding male for genetic improvement. The institution also specializing in developing feeding standards for various breeds and classes of livestock for their productivity enhancement while also devising disease diagnostic and preventive measures.

The key takeaway was an appreciation of the expansive ecosystem, which includes research, production, storage, and handling of different types of feed, ensuring sustainable livestock farming. The institute is open to working with Kenya to improve their Sahiwal breed and introduce exotic goat and sheep breeds; the institute will also provide technical support and cooperation in animal feed growing and production.

The High Commissioner visited Al-Haiwan Sires, a company under the Al-Haiwan Group, which focuses on livestock breeding services and semen production in Pakistan. The company aims to eliminate poverty by making poor dairy farmers self-sufficient. Al-Haiwan Sires is the largest producer/exporter of semen in Pakistan, with over 150 indigenous breeding bulls and 42 distribution centers across the country.

The visit highlighted the strong collaboration between the government and private sector in Pakistan's livestock sector, focusing on sustainable solutions for breeders. The Pakistani companies have expressed willingness to work collaboratively with Kenyan counterparts to develop and improve superior animal breeds and livestock practices.



## Elections

# Kenya Elected as Vice-President of the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

By Amb. E. Lokaale, New York

Kenya was recently elected as one of the twenty-one Vice-Presidents of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), marking a significant milestone in the country's sustained commitment to multilateralism and global leadership. The elections were held during the 72<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting at UN Headquarters in New York on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.

In this capacity, Kenya will serve on the General Committee of the General Assembly; a committee whose responsibility is the overall planning, coordination, and smooth functioning of the Assembly's work. The General Committee comprises the President of



Amb. Ekitela Lokaale

the General Assembly, Vice-Presidents, and Chairs of the six Main Committees.

As a Vice-President, Kenya's responsibilities will include presiding over plenary meetings in the absence of the President, serving as Acting President when the President is away from Headquarters, participating in agenda-setting and coordination, and supporting implementation of procedural decisions.

Kenya's election reflects the trust and confidence that Member States place in its principled diplomacy, leadership, and longstanding contributions to global peace, development, and dialogue. It

comes at a pivotal moment, as the United Nations marks its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and mobilizes international support for the implementation of the Pact for the Future, a comprehensive international agreement adopted by world leaders at the United Nations Summit of the Future in September 2024.

**“Kenya’s election is not only a vote of confidence in our diplomacy but also a strategic opportunity to contribute to shaping a more effective, inclusive, and people-centred United Nations. We look forward to working closely with Member States to advance shared priorities, especially on peace, climate justice, gender equality, and sustainable development.”**

Ambassador Ekitela Lokaale, Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nations stated immediately after the elections.

# Kenyan Elected Chair of UNESCO-IOC Sub-Commission for Africa

By J. Nyakiamo



*The High Commissioner pose for a photo with other dignitaries at the semen production unit*

Amb. Hellen Gichuhi elected as Chair of the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States.

Ambassador Hellen A. Gichuhi has been elected Chair of the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States.

Her election marks a moment of pride for Kenya, as the country assumes leadership of a vital body dedicated to advancing ocean science, sustainable marine resource use, and strengthening Africa's voice in global ocean policy frameworks.

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa, a subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, plays a critical role in promoting regional and international collaboration, and capacity development. The Commission ensures that the specific interests and priorities of African Member States are reflected in global oceanographic initiatives.

Ambassador Hellen Gichuhi is a career diplomat and Secretary of Diaspora Welfare and Partnerships at the State Department for Diaspora Affairs. She has held various diplomatic positions, including Charge d'Affaires a.i at the Kenyan Embassy in France, Ambassador/Deputy at the Permanent Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO, and Deputy Head of Mission at the Kenya High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa.

## Kenya Elected to UN Tourism Executive Council for 2025-2029 Term

By E. Muganda

Kenya has been elected to the United Nations Tourism Executive Council for the 2025-2029 term. The elections took place during the 68<sup>th</sup> UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa in Abuja, Nigeria.

The council is responsible for endorsing global policies in the travel and tourism sector. Kenya's presence on the Council will help advance sustainable tourism strategies, digital transformation, and regional integration. Kenya's participation in UN Tourism committees has been instrumental in championing innovation, heritage conservation, and



*Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Mrs. Rebecca Miano and Amb. Isaac Parashina, Kenyan Ambassador to Nigeria at the 68<sup>th</sup> UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa, Abuja, Nigeria, June 11, 2025*

community-based tourism. Kenya's model of balancing tourism growth with environmental stewardship and

cultural preservation is gaining international recognition.

# Kenya elected to the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive

Kenya was elected to the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board for the 2025–2027 term, affirming its commitment to global food security and humanitarian cooperation. The WFP Executive Board, comprising 36 member states, provides intergovernmental support, policy direction, and supervision of WFP's activities.

Kenya's election to the WFP Executive Board underscores its active role in shaping international food security policies and its dedication to addressing hunger and malnutrition challenges.

The WFP's engagement in Kenya is significant, as the country has been a valued

partner since 1980, collaborating on various initiatives to combat food insecurity and enhance agricultural resilience. Kenya's participation in the Executive Board further strengthens this partnership, allowing for greater alignment of WFP's programs with Kenya's national development goals and priorities.

# Kenya's elected to the United Nations AIDS Programme Coordinating Board

By J. Muli

Kenya's election to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) for the 2025-2027 term on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, signifies its leadership in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Kenya will play a crucial role in shaping UNAIDS' policies, strategies, and priorities, contributing to the collective goal of ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. This position enhances Kenya's influence in international health governance and reinforces its

commitment to addressing HIV/AIDS challenges both domestically and globally.

Kenya aims to advocate for effective interventions to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, equitable access to treatment, mobilize resources for sustainable HIV/AIDS programs and the integration of HIV/AIDS responses into broader health and development agendas.

Kenya's involvement in the UNAIDS

PCB reflects its dedication to collaborative efforts with other nations and stakeholders to combat the epidemic, share best practices, and mobilize resources for sustainable HIV/AIDS programs. Further, Kenya's election to the UNAIDS Board strengthens its role in guiding global HIV/AIDS policies, boosting its influence in international health efforts to end the epidemic and promote equitable access to treatment.

# Dr. Allan Azegele Elected Chair of Codex Alimentarius Commission

By J. Muli

Dr. Allan Azegele, a Kenyan veterinary public health expert and current Director of Veterinary Services at Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, has been elected Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Commission, an affiliate of the Food and Agriculture Organization



Dr. Allan Azegele

(FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) was established in 1963; it develops international food standards to protect consumer health and promote fair trade. The Commission,

comprises of 188 member countries, the European Union, and 240 observer organizations representing governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental stakeholders.

# Amb. Martin Kimani Appointed Chair of UN Permanent Forum for People of African Descent

By J. Nyakiamo

Ambassador Martin Kimani was in April 2025 appointed Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum for People of African Descent, a key platform for promoting justice, equality, and the recognition of people of African descent globally. The appointment was made at the UN Headquarters in New York. Amb. Kimani also serves as the President and CEO of The Africa

Center in New York, United States.

The United Nations Permanent Forum for People of African Descent plays a central role in monitoring the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and advocates against systemic racism, racial discrimination, and historical injustices.



## Justice Aggrey Muchelule Elected Principal Judge of COMESA Court of Justice

By J. Muli

Hon. Mr. Justice Aggrey Otsyula Muchelule has been elected as Principal Judge of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Court of Justice for the term 2024-2029. The COMESA Court of Justice, established under the COMESA Treaty, is responsible for in-

terpreting the treaty and adjudicating disputes between member states, institutions, and private parties. It plays a crucial role in maintaining the rule of law, fostering regional integration, and legal cooperation within the COMESA region.



## Kenya Morocco Relations

The first-ever session of the Kenya-Morocco Diplomatic Political Consultations was in May 2025 when the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, and his host, His Excellency Nasser Bourita, Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates met in Rabat, Morocco.

The meeting also saw the signing of five landmark Memoranda of Understanding between the two countries in the areas of Housing and Development, Trade, Youth Affairs, Foreign Service training, and institutional collaboration between the Kenya School of Government and Morocco's National Higher School of Administration. The Cabinet

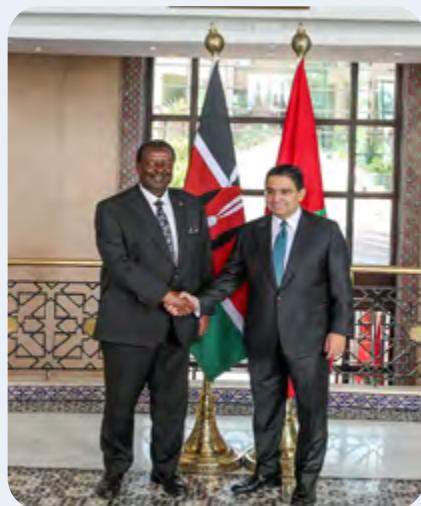
Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to advancing these agreements into tangible outcomes that would drive mutual growth and regional cooperation.

During the discussions, Dr. Mudavadi championed increased Moroccan imports of Kenyan tea, coffee, and fresh produce to address the trade imbalance. The Prime Cabinet Secretary also advocated for the expansion of scholarships for Kenyan students studying in Morocco, currently limited to 20, and proposed the recruitment of Kenyan teachers to meet the growing demand for English language instruction in the Kingdom.

Also discussed during the talks was the need to convene the Joint Permanent

Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) as a pivotal and strategic initiative to broaden the spectrum of bilateral engagements while deepening collaborative efforts across various domains including but not limited to Transport, Housing, Defence, Education, Capacity Building, Trade, Investment, Agriculture, Tourism, and Energy.

The two countries committed to strengthen economic cooperation through sharing of trade-related information, the promotion of private sector collaboration and the facilitation of business exchanges and joint marketing initiatives. Kenya commended Morocco for ratifying the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Treaty whose operationalization heralds a



*Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, shakes hands with his Moroccan counterpart, H.E. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, in Rabat, Morocco.*

transformative era of preferential trade and expands market access for the two countries. The two countries going forward, consented to modalities for establishing robust Legal Framework for Investment Promotion and Protection; organizing a Kenya–Morocco Business Forum to enhance Trade and Enterprise; and improving Air and Maritime connectivity.

Morocco presents as Africa's fifth largest economy by GDP with diverse portfolios in manufacturing, mining, renewable energy, and logistics, underpinned by its strategic geographic location and strong ties with the EU, its largest trading partner. It is also the world's third-largest producer of phosphates.

Kenya's principal exports to Morocco include tea, coffee, edible fruits, and vegetables, while Morocco exports fertilizers and aircraft parts to Kenya. In 2024, Kenyan exports were valued at Kshs. 630 million with imports, largely consisting of fertilizers, valued at Kshs. 8 billion.

While in Rabat, Dr. Mudavadi engaged in high-level discussions with Moroccan leaders, including Hon. Ryad Mezouar, Minister of Industry and Trade, and other key stakeholders.

"This visit is about more than just diplomacy—it's about building a future of shared prosperity for our nations," Dr. Mudavadi affirmed, outlining Kenya's vision for a strategic partnership that unlocks opportunities in trade, invest-

ment, and cultural exchange.

Trade talks took center stage, as Dr. Mudavadi sought to rebalance the scales between the two nations. Kenya currently imports over KSh 12 billion worth of fertilizers and commodities from Morocco, while exports, mainly tea and coffee, lag at KSh 500 million. Both sides agreed to practical strategies for increasing Kenya's exports, including the anticipated resumption of direct flights between Nairobi, Rabat, and Casablanca—a move set to supercharge trade and tourism.

Kenya's engagement also opens doors for cooperation in infrastructure development, inspired by Morocco's world-class ports and high-speed rail systems. Discussions are underway on joint projects in port and rail modernization, promising a ripple effect on regional connectivity and commerce.

Kenya's delegation visits the Tangiers Port located at the Strait of Gibraltar. The port is Africa's largest and most connected maritime hub, linking more than 180 ports worldwide. It is designed as a fully integrated port-industrial-logistics platform, making it a key transshipment and export gateway. Its strategic location allows for, short sea shipping to Europe, access to West Africa and far East Asia and integration with global maritime networks.

The Tangiers Port is managed by the Tanger Med Port Authority (TMPA). It is structured into three functional units: Port Infrastructure and Services

comprising container terminals, RoRo, hydrocarbons, and general cargo; Industrial Parks hosting 1,100+ companies across automotive, textiles, and electronics; Logistics and Free Zones where efficient movement and storage of goods with duty free privileges is undertaken.

The Kenya–Morocco port collaboration aims to enhance operational efficiency, facilitate intra-African trade, and reduce non-tariff barriers by linking Atlantic and Indian Ocean maritime corridors. It also promotes PPP-based investments in ports, SEZs, and logistics corridors, supports innovation, digitization, and capacity building in port and maritime trade, enhances climate resilience and environmental sustainability, and fosters institutional partnerships and knowledge exchange.

Kenya's agricultural ambitions also received a boost as Dr. Mudavadi explored a partnership with Morocco's Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP) to establish a fertilizer blending plant in Kenya. This initiative is set to lower input costs, boost yields, and support Kenya's food security agenda.

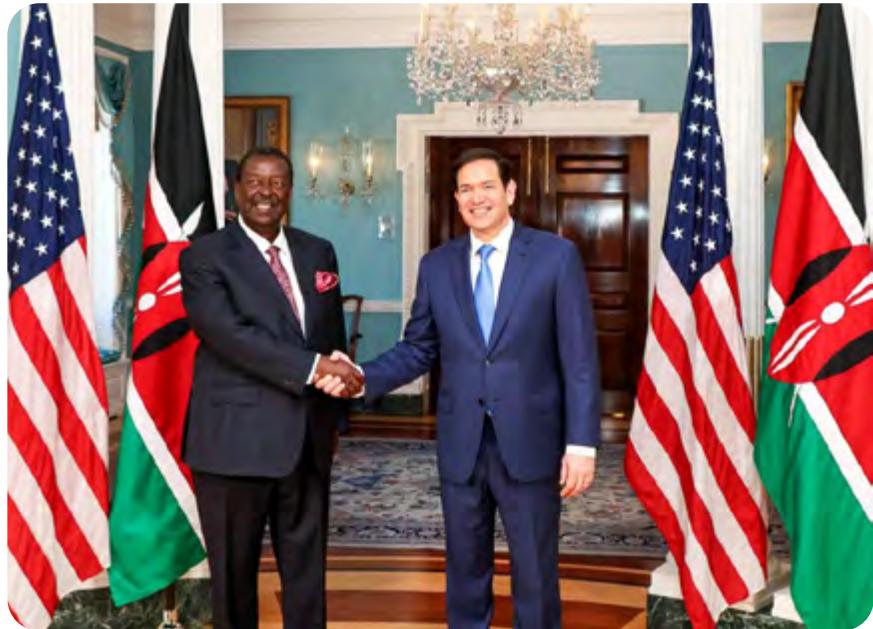
Dr. Mudavadi's successful mission set the stage for a new era of Kenya–Morocco collaboration. With plans for Moroccan Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch to visit Kenya, the partnership promises to deliver mutual benefits in trade, education, technology, and more.

# Kenya USA Relations

By Kenya Embassy Washington

Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Foreign and Diaspora Affairs undertook an official visit to Washington D.C from 6th to 9th May, 2025. During the visit, he held a high-level meeting with The Honourable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State of the United States of America. The discussions focused on key areas of mutual interest, including regional peace and security, advancement of the Kenya-USA Trade Agreement and deepening of diplomatic engagement between the two countries.

The two leaders reaffirmed that Kenya and the United States of America Relations is anchored on the 2018 Strategic Partnership framework. The framework facilitates the Bilateral Strategic



*The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs with the U.S. Secretary of State, Senator Marco Rubio during the high-level meeting.*

Dialogue which seeks to enhance Co-operation across five pillars: Economic Prosperity, Trade and Investment; Defence Cooperation; Democracy, Gov-

ernance, and Civilian Security; Multi-lateral and Regional Issues and Health Cooperation.

## Investment and Sustainable development financing

During the official visit, the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Foreign and Diaspora Affairs held a meeting with Mr. Hiroshi Matano, Executive Vice President of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) to explore viable pathways for mobilizing Diaspora resources as part of Kenya's broader strategy to diversify sources of development. During the discussions, the Prime Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to leveraging innovative financing solutions, underscoring the Diaspora Bond as a key instrument to harness the potential of the Kenyan Diaspora in national development. The Executive Vice President expressed good will to provide technical assistance and explore guarantee options that could strengthen the structure and market confidence



*Dr. Musalia Mudavadi and Mr. Hiroshi Matano (two in the middle) pose for a group photo*

in the proposed Kenya Diaspora Bond.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary, Foreign and Diaspora Affairs also held a meeting with Dev Jagadesan, Ag. CEO, International Development Finance Corporation (DFC). During the discussions, the Prime Cabinet Secretary reiterated Kenya's vast investment opportunities highlighting key sectors such as ICT and AI, mining, renewable energy,

transport and infrastructure. The PCS underscored Kenya's strategic positioning and enabling environment, which continued to offer opportunities for joint flagship projects between Kenya and the USA. The Ag. CEO, DFC, reaffirmed DFC's ongoing commitment to ensuring the completion of ASALs projects and expressed a strong interest to explore further investment opportunities for collaboration.



## Kenya in South America

Kenya, led by H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, holds a bilateral meeting with its Dominican counterpart, led by H.E. Mr. Roberto Álvarez, Minister for Foreign Affairs during the official visit to the Dominican Republic in May 2025

Kenya and the Dominican Republic held their inaugural political consultations in the month of May, 2025 when Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs undertook an Official Visit to the Dominican Republic at the invitation of his counterpart Mr. Roberto Álvarez, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic.

The consultations covered areas of mutual interest, including trade and investments, tourism, security, cultural exchange, and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) in Haiti. Kenya is leading the MSSM, which was established by the United Nations Security Council through Resolution 2699 of 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2023 and the two countries have agreed to continue collaborating in the MSSM to secure peace and stability in Haiti.

In terms of trade and investments, Kenya agreed to exchange best practices towards improvement of value chains, and promotion of strategic partnerships between private sector operators. Kenya further expressed interest in learning from the Dominican Republic's tourism model, which receives a record eleven million tourists annually.

The consultations resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Medical Evacuation, Repatriation of Wounded Persons and Bodies,

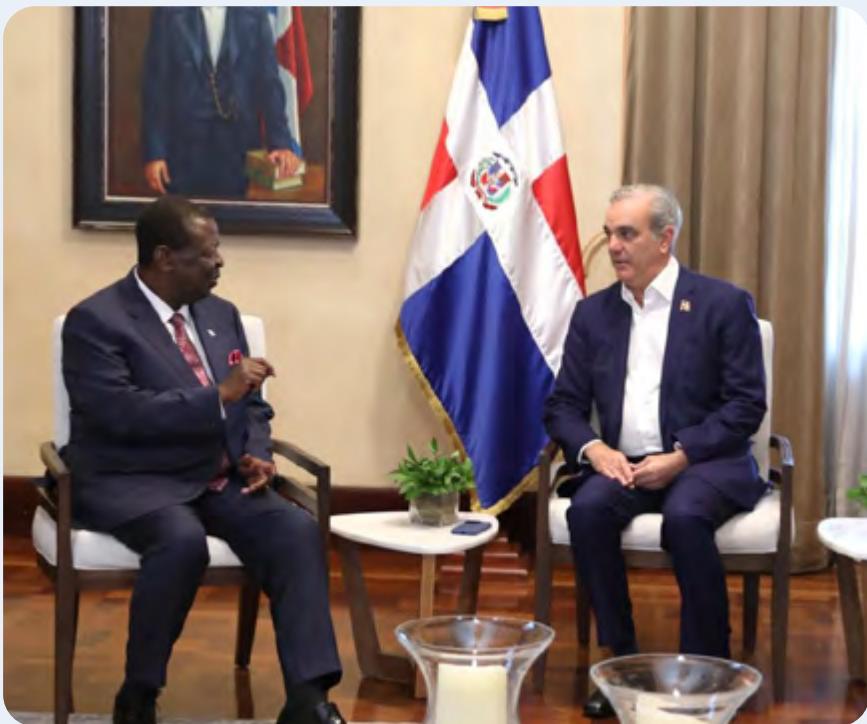


Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Dominican Foreign Minister Roberto Alvarez pose for a photo after signing a bilateral agreement in support of Kenyan police officers deployed in the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

and Logistical Access to the Dominican Territory of Kenya by Members of the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti. Additionally, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Diplomatic Training for cooperation and exchange between the Institute of Higher Education in Diplomatic and Consular Training of the Dominican Republic and the Foreign Service Academy.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs paid a courtesy call on H.E. Luis Abinader, President of the Dominican Republic at the Palacio Nacional in Santo Domingo where they exchanged views on regional peace and security and bilateral cooperation.

Dr. Mudavadi conveyed H.E. President William Ruto's gratitude for the Caribbean nation's strong support to the



Dr. Musalia Mudavadi (left) in conversation with H.E. Luis Abinader, President of the Dominican Republic (right) at Palacio Nacional in Santo Domingo.



Africa Diplomatic corp in Brazil



Kenya diaspora in Brazil

Kenya-led Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) in Haiti. The two leaders exchanged views on a multiplicity of issues including global and regional peace and security as well as the outcomes of the MSSM donor round-table held recently in Santo Domingo.

The PCS/CS later chaired a roundtable discussion with MSSM donor countries, diplomatic corps, and UNSC P5 representatives in the Dominican Republic to discuss Haiti and the future of the MSSM. The roundtable was addressed by Roberto Alvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic. Representatives of MSSM donor countries committed to continuing supporting the Mission.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary also met the Dominican Senate President Ricardo De Los Santos marking the official launch of the Dominican Republic-Kenya Friendship Group, an initiative championed by Senator Veronica Maina and Senator Gustavo Salazar. The deliberations explored key pillars of collaboration, including the exchange of best practices on gender equity and the vital role of Parliaments in advancing national priorities through legislative and budgetary support.

Dr. Mudavadi had the chance to meet and address African Heads of Mission in Brasilia on the urgent need to progress African Union institutional changes, as well as advocate for a global financial system overhaul to better serve all countries. Dr. Mudavadi, who was accompanied by Kenya's Ambassador to Brazil, Dr. Andrew Karanja, pushed for a fair and inclusive international order that was consistent with Africa's Agenda 2063.

Speaking in Brasilia, where he met a vibrant Kenyan diaspora who shared valuable insights on living, studying, and working in the world's fifth-largest country, Dr. Mudavadi reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to creating a conducive environment for diaspora-driven investment, including opportunities through the proposed Diaspora Infrastructure Bond.

The Cabinet Secretary assured Kenyans in the Diaspora of the country's stability, grounded in strong institutions and good governance.



## Kenya attends 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-AU Ministerial Meeting in Brussels

By. I.Agum

Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) recently concluded their 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting paving way for the 7<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Heads of State and Government Summit scheduled to take place in Africa later in the year. The planned summit will bring together 55 African Union member states and 27 European Union heads of state and their delegations to discuss a renewed and deepened AU-EU partnership for the future.

The AU-EU partnership while grounded in Africa's Agenda 2063 sought to among others review a sustainable agenda for Africa and Europe; renew and enhance cooperation on peace, security and governance; enhance reciprocal partnership for Migration and mobility and commit to stronger Multilateralism. Kenya was represented at the Ministerial meeting by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Dr. Korir SingOei who, on the sidelines, met

counterparts from various countries in efforts to strengthen bilateral relations.

The EU- AU 3rd Ministerial meeting was co-chaired by Ms Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, and Mr Téte António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the African Union Executive Council. The European Union and the African Union represent and carry the voices, hopes and dreams of more than 1.9 billion people.

The Ministers affirmed that the EU-AU Partnership continued to overcome past and current geopolitical challenges through shared commitment towards 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, demonstrating the need for close cooperation for the mutual benefit of the people of Africa and Europe. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the part-

*Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-AU Ministerial Meeting in Brussels*

nership, citing shared values, mutual respect, and interests. They emphasized the importance of the partnership amidst global dynamics, geopolitical tensions, geo-economic competition, instability, inequality, demography, migration, and the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

The Ministers underscored their strong belief in effective multilateral cooperation and in the need to reform international institutions to collectively address shared global challenges. While reaffirming their collective commitment to address the root causes of conflict, they called for lasting peace in Ukraine, the occupied Palestinian Territories, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Sahel and Syria. They also pledged to address cases of human rights violations, climate change and environmental degradation, combat terrorism and reject foreign interference.

On a prosperous and sustainable agenda for Africa and Europe, the Ministers welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package in 11 areas of mutual interest that closely aligns with priorities of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063. These include investment in infrastructure in climate and energy; economic integration, private sector investment, sustainable agriculture, transport and corridors, critical raw materials, secure connectivity and digital transformation, health security and universal health coverage, value addition, job creation and skills development, education, sustainable financing, innovation and youth empowerment. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the transformative impact of these investments through mobilising public finance and private capital and expertise. They also pledged to scale up cooperation on the blue economy for food security and the sustainable development of both continents.

Several of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Packages for Kenya and the Horn of Africa Region include but are not limited to: Construction of digital infrastructure for last mile connectivity of underserved areas, with a particular emphasis on sustainable, resilient and affordable school connectivity and on-site connectivity of TVET centres; EU-Africa-India Digital Corridor linking Djibouti; Ethiopia; Somalia; Tanzania; Kenya; and India; Mwache Water Project for Climate and Energy projects; Uganda - South Sudan Power Interconnection Project; Tanzanian sustainable urban food investment project (TASUFIP); Sustainable Coffee: Strengthening Value Chain and Climate Resilience in Africa covering Ethiopia; Uganda; Kenya; Tanzania; Malawi; and Côte d'Ivoire; Private Mobilisation Fund for Climate Resilience Investments in Land-Use and Water for developing countries; Infrastructure project in the Port of Pointe-Noire, DR Congo; amongst others.

The Ministers welcomed progress in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) underscoring the establishment of a continental free trade area, for strengthening of economic integration and sustainable development of regional value chains and fostering trade

in higher value-added goods and services, are key for the prosperity of both continents. The AfCFTA, when fully operational, will support job creation, particularly for women and young people, improve the business environment and investment climate and strengthen inclusive growth and sustainable development to ensure long-term stability and shared benefits. The AfCFTA represents an important opportunity to increase and diversify trade and investment across the African continent, particularly in strategic sectors.

On renewed and enhanced cooperation on peace, security and governance, the Ministers expressed their concern about the current threats to peace, security and governance. They expressed deep concerns over the growing humanitarian challenges, especially for the most vulnerable groups, including children, elderly people, people with disabilities and displaced people. They pledged support to strengthening the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA), to effectively address the complex and multi-dimensional drivers of crises including climate change impact, environmental degradation, and water related conflicts, while promoting International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law, ensuring Humanitarian access, coordinating humanitarian assistance to reach people in need and fostering long-term resilience strategies through enhancing the Humanitarian-Development Nexus.

Cognisant of the various Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) engagements in place, the ministers called for closer peace and security cooperation that would address challenges such as political instability and armed conflicts, terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, transnational organised crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, irregular migration, disinformation, piracy, maritime insecurity, cybersecurity and hybrid threats, and climate change and its security implications. The Ministers observed that cooperation in peacebuilding efforts and in peace operations at the level of the United Nations, the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities was critical in strengthening African peace and security architecture.

Ministers welcomed ongoing coopera-

tion between the two continents on enhancing maritime security in the Ocean and sea bordering Africa and Europe. Ministers renewed their commitment to maintaining a rules-based maritime order in accordance with the principles of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and called for greater exchange of information, improvement of operational coordination and provision of enforcement capacity to protect sea lanes and combat transnational crimes including drug trafficking and piracy. Ministers committed to work together to end Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, take action to conserve and sustainably use the Ocean and sea as well as promote science-based management of marine resources.

On peace building in Somalia, the Ministers have reaffirmed their commitment to peace building, acknowledging EU support for AU missions. They support the hybrid implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2719, recognizing the need for sustainable international support for AUSSOM. Concerning Sudan, the Ministers underlined that there was no feasible and lasting military solution to the situation, and that only true, inclusive discussion could resolve the present problem. They demanded an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in order to resume negotiations, halt the Sudanese people's suffering, and provide unrestricted humanitarian access across Sudan. The Ministers also committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sudan, and pledged to support an inclusive Sudanese-owned and led political process, to be held preferably, under the AU/IGAD framework.

On the Congo, the ministers expressed their grave concerns about the worsening conflict and insecurity in the Eastern DRC, exacerbated by the humanitarian situation resulting from violence and human rights violations. They reiterated their support for the AU led mediation by the President of the Council of the Republic of Togo, H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, South African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC) initiatives as well as other complementary peace initiatives conducted under the auspices of Qatar and USA, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity

of the DRC.

The ministers remain perturbed by increased foreign information manipulation and interference and called for the development of human-centric Artificial Intelligence (AI) that respected human rights. The Ministers agreed to work together to support a single market for data in Africa as part of the AfCFTA and underlined the importance of secure connectivity in and between Africa and the EU. They urged for the development of regional innovation ecosystems that were safe, secure and trustworthy.

On enhanced and reciprocal partnership for migration and mobility, it was observed that, if well managed and in line with national needs and competences, migration remained an untapped opportunity, and catalyst for economic, social and human development. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting resolved to uphold the dignity, safety, and human rights of all migrants in line with obligations under international law and human rights frameworks. The Ministers reiterated the importance of investing in the youth through capacity building, mentorship, education, vocational training, employment and socio-economic development initiatives to empower young people.

The Ministers further agreed to strengthen migration governance and management while committing to foster cooperation on effective, safe, timely, and dignified return, readmission, and sustainable reintegration including promoting voluntary return, in full respect of international obligations as well as bilateral agreements. The Ministers have also committed to combatting migrant smuggling and human trafficking, with a strong focus on prevention. They called for capacity building in border management, fight against traffickers and reception of migrants and refugees.

On the issue of brain-drain, it was agreed would be addressed through mutually beneficial solutions, notably circular migration. In this regard, the Ministers urged for further engagement on education and mobility pro-

grammes to promote inclusive talent partnerships and mutual recognition of qualifications, to further expand access to student and academic exchanges, mutual skills recognition and digital education platforms that support youth and early-career professionals in building competencies across Africa and Europe.

Concerning refugees, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial meeting reaffirmed commitment to resettlement of refugees. The Ministers recognised the significant role of the diaspora, its positive contribution to the sustainable development of the two continents and undertook to work together to address effectively relevant legal obstacles that affect its role in Africa's development.

The Ministers commended and acknowledged the positive contribution of migration dialogues between the two continents and promoted their synergy, notably the Joint Valletta Action Plan, the Rabat Process, the Khartoum Process, the Continent-to-Continent Migration and Mobility Dialogue, as well as the Rome Process, the AU Horn of Africa Initiative, and the joint AU-EU-UN Tripartite Task Force.

On strengthening multilateralism, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promoting inclusive and effective multilateralism and a rules-based international order emphasizing the importance of dialogue and cooperation in multilateral fora on mutual interest issues. The Pact for the Future was recognised as a crucial step towards revitalizing the UN and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The ministers underscored the need for reforming global governance mechanisms, including the UN Security Council, to make it more representative, inclusive, and accountable. The EU was apprised of the activities of the AU's Committee of Ten (C-10) Heads of State and Government in pushing and mobilising support for the Common African Position on UN reform. The Ministers agreed to work together on the UN80 initiative towards UN reforms for improved efficiency, cost-effectiveness and financial sustainability.

At the World Trade Organisation, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial meeting called for a rules-based multilateral trading system that was responsive to the structural challenges and development needs of developing and least-developed countries. It is anticipated that during the 14th Ministerial Conference in Cameroon in 2026 the EU and the AU will seek common ground in negotiations to encourage sustainable investments in Africa.

Ministers reiterated their commitment to combat illicit financial flows in line with International Financial Action Task Force standards and committed to collaborate on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT). They deliberated on the challenges of the credit rating faced by African countries in accessing low-cost capital where the ministers underlined the importance of the involvement of private business and finance. The ministers also called for increased domestic resource mobilisation to address the financing shortfalls and committed to contribute to reforms on the international tax architecture.

While reaffirming their strong commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the ministers have called for scaling up climate finance flows to support adaptation, resilience, mitigation, and loss and damage, especially for vulnerable communities. They also acknowledged the importance of supporting mitigation, disaster risk management, and early warning in Africa. The ministers also pledged to work together to address the impact of climate change on countries, bridge their climate financing gap, and address water scarcity, desertification, deforestation, forest degradation, and support afforestation and agroforestry.

Ministers welcomed the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Climate Summit in September 2025 in Addis Ababa, to be hosted jointly by Ethiopia and the AU Commission as well as the convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Biodiversity Summit to be hosted by the Republic of Botswana in October 2025.

The 4<sup>th</sup> EU-AU Ministerial Meeting will be held in 2027 in Africa.



*Celebrating*

## Amb. Boaz Kidiga Mbaya, CBS, MBS

March 14 1951 - June 22 2025

*By D. Maloba and A. Rugendo*

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has mourned the passing of Ambassador Boaz Kidiga Mbaya, who was laid to rest in his hometown of Gaigedi Village.

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing’Oei, paid tribute to Mbaya in a speech by Ambassador Patrick Wamato, MBS – Ag. Director General of the Foreign Service Academy.

Dr. Sing’Oei praised Mbaya as a significant figure in Kenya’s diplomatic history, whose contributions have significantly shaped the country’s foreign policy and regional stature. He emphasized Mbaya’s legacy, which remains woven into Kenya’s diplomacy and emphasized his role in establishing the Foreign Service Academy, which continues to train and mentor the next generation of diplomats.

Ambassador Patrick Wamato, MBS – Ag. Director General of the Foreign Service Academy reads a tribute on behalf of Dr. Korir Sing’Oei, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Foreign Affairs during Ambassador Boaz Kidiga Mbaya, CBS, MBS funeral at Vihiga

He also paid respect to the late am-



Vihiga County Governor Dr. Wilber Ottichilo addresses mourners during Amb. Mbaya’s funeral

bassador’s work in promoting peace on the African continent, elaborating on how the ambassador’s steady leadership helped stabilise areas prone to violence and increased Kenya’s visibility as a mediator in the region. The PS urged the next generation of diplomats to emulate Amb. Mbaya’s selflessness, diligence, and patriotism.

Local political figures, amongst them, Vihiga County Governor Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, and a large delegation of current and past ambassadors were among those present at his internment.

### Amb. Mbaya Early Life and Background

Born on March 14, 1951, Ambassador Mbaya’s life was defined by dedication to public service, diplomacy, and the

advancement of Kenya’s global footprint. A proud son of the Vagisembia Clan, he was raised with strong values of humility, service, and education that would later shape his exceptional contributions to the country and beyond.

Ambassador Mbaya began his professional journey in public administration before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1980. Over the next three decades, he rose through the ranks with distinction, culminating in his appointment as Permanent Secretary (2005–2006), where he led key reforms, including the modernization of the Foreign Service and the development of Kenya’s first foreign policy framework.

Throughout his career, Ambassador Mbaya represented Kenya with honour in several key postings. He served as

Ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal, the Holy See, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Serbia and Montenegro, and as High Commissioner to Tanzania. He also held the roles of Permanent Representative to the African Union, UNESCO, and the East African Community.

His diplomatic finesse and steady leadership played a pivotal role in advancing regional peace processes in Sudan, Somalia, Mozambique, and the Great Lakes Region. He was widely respected as a calm mediator and an astute negotiator who helped shape Kenya's legacy in regional stability and peacebuilding.

Mourners follow the proceedings with solemn expressions during the funeral service of Ambassador Boaz Mbaya in Vihiga County.

After retiring from government, Ambassador Mbaya remained active in policy and governance. He founded the Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA), a think tank that offered critical insights into national and foreign policy matters. He also chaired the Former and Retired Ambassadors Association of Kenya (FRAA), providing a platform for continued diplomatic engagement and mentorship.

In 2019, he authored Kenya's Foreign Policy and Diplomacy: Evolution, Challenges and Opportunities, a seminal publication that chronicles six decades of the country's diplomatic evolution from independence to modern times. At the time of his passing, he had completed another manuscript on Maragoli culture, an endeavour close to his heart.

Ambassador Mbaya was instrumental in supporting Kenya's continental ambitions and played a strategic role in the campaign team for the African Union Commission Chairmanship bid in 2024. His contribution brought depth and credibility to Kenya's positioning within the AU.

A recipient of the Moran and Commander of the Order of the Burning Spear, Ambassador Mbaya was not only recognized for his professional achievements but also for his commitment to mentorship, community sports, and education. He founded diplomatic golf tournaments as platforms for leadership development and social transfor-



mation.

Mourners follow the proceedings with solemn expressions during the funeral service of Ambassador Boaz Mbaya in Vihiga County

Ambassador Mbaya passed away peacefully on the morning of June 22, 2025, at the age of 74.

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs extends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the broader diplomatic fraternity. Kenya has lost a statesman, a visionary, and a patriot whose legacy will continue to inspire generations of public servants and diplomats.



# Diplomacy

*Journal*

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