Kenya Calls for Consolidation of UNEP Function

By Edward Irungu

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohamed has urged United Nations Member States to fully consolidate headquarters functions of UNEP in Nairobi.

“Kenya insists on the implementation of the decision by heads of state, now enshrined in the Rio Declaration, to consolidate headquarters functions of UNEP in Nairobi,” said Amb. Amina.

“This matter is of grave concern and continues not to receive the attention it deserves. The importance of having UNEP in Kenya, in the global south, cannot also be over-emphasized,” added the Cabinet Secretary.

At the same time, the Cabinet Secretary commended the UN for the measures that have been taken so far to strengthen and upgrade UNEP to enable it to respond to environmental challenges.

Said Amb. Amina Mohamed: “We welcome the move to universal membership and the efforts to enhance the financing and ability of UNEP to fulfil its unique coordination mandate within the UN system.”

The Cabinet Secretary was speaking in New York on September 22 2017, where she represented President Uhuru Kenyatta at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Delivering the country position address at the UN headquarters in New York during the UN general debate, Amb. Amina Mohamed said climate change is disrupting the livelihoods of millions of people and called for firm environmental conservation actions as outlined in the Paris climate agreement.

“Climate change costs Kenya’s economy approximately 3% of GDP annually,” said the CS.

Saying the capacity of the planet to sustain life was threatened, the CS urged developed countries to extend financial, technological and capacity building support to enable developing countries transition to low-carbon development.

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PS Juma Congratulates the Sudan on Lifting of Sanctions

By Kawira Githinji

Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb. Monica Juma has applauded the Government and the people of the Republic of Sudan following the lifting of international sanctions against their country by the United States of America.

PS Juma who is currently in the Sudan to attend the African Union Strategic Consultative Peace and Security meeting that started on October 8, 2017, attributed much of the peace and security challenges in Horn of Africa to state fragility.

“I urge for protection and deepening of democracy, enhanced state effectiveness and shared regional vision and prosperity in order to insulate from violent extremism as some of the imperatives to be considered to reverse state fragility in the region,” she said.

During a bilateral meeting with Sudan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour, she briefed the Minister of Kenya’s forthcoming elections and the challenges on the proposed amendments to the electoral law before the repeat polls.

The two officials agreed to enhance cooperation both at the political and economic levels. They also agreed to organise a meeting soon for political consultations and explore more ways of enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

Prof Ghandour congratulated Kenya and in particular President Uhuru Kenyatta for respecting the verdict of the Supreme Court saying these gesture had elevated Kenya’s democratic credentials.

The PS also paid a courtesy on her counterpart Amb. Abdul Khan Al Kareem, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan.

Call to Consolidate UNEP Function

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“We urge developed countries to meet their pledges to the Green Climate Fund, to help developing countries deal with adaptation issues,” said the Cabinet Secretary.

The Cabinet Secretary also called for strong partnerships toward the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) saying there is a lot of talk about partnership but not enough practical, on-the-ground support to make partnerships effective in practice.

“Governments and stakeholders should revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, particularly through development co-operation and development financing,” said the CS.

The Cabinet Secretary said Kenya was committed to achieving the SDGs citing the provision of free maternal health care services across the country as the first step.

The Cabinet Secretary further said Kenya, together with the United Nations, has established an SDG Partnership Platform that aims to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs in the country.

“The Platform brings together the government, development partners, private sector, civil society and the UN. This Platform has created diverse SDG accelerator windows of which Primary Healthcare has been the first.”

Amb. Amina Mohamed said Kenya targets to enhance health care services for women, children and adolescents across the country which will pave way for universal health coverage for all 46 million Kenyans by 2021.

The CS quoted President Uhuru Kenyatta saying: “I pledge to take the needed sustainable actions to end all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents within a generation and ensure their well-being; we hold ourselves accountable for our collective progress towards this goal.”

The Cabinet Secretary also called upon United Nations Members States to establish an Urban Assembly to replace the 58-member Governing Council at the UN-Habitat in order to better coordinate urban matters across the entire UN system.

“We welcome the confidence that the UN membership has expressed in our country by locating UN-Habitat in Nairobi,” said Amb. Amina Mohamed.

The Cabinet Secretary also addressed a wide range of other multilateral issues including the reform of the United Nations Security Council, global terrorism, peace and security, global counter trafficking in persons, prohibition of nuclear weapons and management of refugees and migrants.

The CS affirmed Kenya’s commitment to multilateralism saying Kenya was committed to working together with other members of the international community in tackling the challenges of the 21st Century.
Kenya is among countries in the Horn of Africa that will receive approximately 4.1 billion Euros from the European Union to fund commercial related programs that are linked to promoting peace, security and post-conflict reconstruction in the region.

The allocation that has already been approved by EU Parliament will be administered directly by the EU External Action Service, the equivalent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The announcement was made on September 29, 2017 in Brussels during an informal Ministerial meeting between Foreign Ministers of International Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) member states and Mrs. Federica Mogherini, the Vice President & High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Kenya’s Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohamed attended the meeting accompanied by Amb. Johnson Weru, Kenyan Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and European Union and Amb. Martin Kimani, Director National Counter Terrorism Centre in Nairobi.

This was an informal meeting between Mrs. Federica Mogherini and the foreign ministers for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda after a meeting held in March 2017 in the margins of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa.

The meeting focused on the multiple challenges affecting the security, stability and prosperity of the Horn of Africa ranging from protracted conflicts and transnational crime to irregular migration and poor economic development.

Mrs. Mogherini reiterated the EU’s continued engagement and support to the security and stability of the Horn, through close political ties and the EU’s substantial cooperation and security commitments, including through its EUCAP Somalia and ATALANTA missions. Both sides agreed to reinforce collaboration on transnational crime, maritime security and border management, in full respect of the rule of law and protection and of human rights.

They also exchanged views on concrete avenues for cooperation on cross border trade and investment through EU instruments and programmes, notably the new EU External Investment Plan.

The EU commended IGAD’s important initiatives to manage the reconciliation processes in Somalia and South Sudan and welcomed IGAD’s Summit decision to revitalise the peace process in South Sudan in June.

Both sides concurred on the crucial importance of Somalia’s security and state building progress for the stability of the region.

The EU reiterated its support for the African Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) while highlighting the need for fairer burden sharing of the international community and a gradual ownership by the region.

In dedicated discussions on the humanitarian situation in the Horn, Commissioner Stylianides welcomed the solidarity shown by several countries in the Horn hosting millions of refugees.

Amb. Amina Mohamed reiterated the need for burden sharing as a way of supporting each other in the repatriation process.

“The success of the Nairobi Action Plan is anchored on the willingness of all stakeholders to mobilize needed resources and to stick to the commitments undertaken during the Nairobi Summit” She said. The Nairobi summit was about domestication of New York Declaration for refugees and migrants.

Both sides reaffirmed their willingness to ensure a substantial outcome of the upcoming AU-EU summit to be held in Ivory Coast in November 2017. ◆
Kenya - Lithuania in Political Pact

By Edwin Limo

Kenya and the Republic of Lithuania have signed a bilateral agreement to establish a mechanism for political consultations to strengthen bilateral relations.

Foreign Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohamed and her Lithuanian counterpart Mr. Linus Linkevicius put paper to pen in a brief ceremony held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA on September 21, 2017.

“The parties will hold regular and active consultations, with the aim of exchanging views on all aspects of their bilateral relations, regional and international issues of mutual interest as well as developments taking place in regional and international fora,” the MoU states.

Lithuania is represented in East Africa through a consulate in Nairobi represented by Senior Counsel George Oraro, while Kenya administers Vilnius through its ambassador in Moscow, Russia.

The consultations within the framework of the MoU will be held between senior officials of the Foreign ministries of the two countries.

Areas for partnership between the two countries include manufacturing, agricultural equipment, technology in energy, life sciences, training in medical science, information technology, agribusiness, tourism, coffee and tea.

PS Juma Hails Kenya-Cuba Ties

By Kawira Githinji

Kenya, Cuba relations continue to deepen as the two countries cooperate in different areas following the inaugurate Kenya Mission in Havana by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Amb Monica Juma in 2016.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony of Foreign Service officers’ Spanish language course facilitated by Cuban Government through Cuban Embassy and Cuban Diplomatic Academy, Principal Secretary Monica Juma (4th Left), KSG Director General Dr. Ludeki Chweya (4th Right) with Cadets who went through a three-month course on Spanish Language at Kenya School of Government on September 13, 2017.

“I appreciate the Cuban Embassy for making the course a reality,” the PS said adding that she looks forward to working closely with all partners to achieve common goals.”

The three months course held at Kenya School of Government and conducted by Foreign Service Academy involved 24 participants, all staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The PS reiterated the Ministry’s focus on foreign language based on the appreciation of the need to embrace new strategies.

“I reaffirm our ties in the quest to develop necessary skills among our officers for calling to international engagement.”

The PS said the Ministry staff is exposed to different languages, cultures and traditions of people from all over the world. Training in languages greatly helps diplomats to elevate themselves as we live in a multilingual and multicultural world.

The Cuban Ambassador to Kenya, Amb. Ernesto Gómez Díaz applauded the relations between the two countries and reiterated his country’s interest for further cooperation.
Kenya Committed to Stabilisation of Somalia
says, CS Amina Mohamed

By Edward Irungu

Kenya is committed to the stabilisation of Somalia and calls upon development partners to support the country that has experienced more than two decades of instability, Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohamed has said.

Speaking during a high-level meeting on Somalia held on September 22, 2017 on the side-lines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Amb Mohamed said as a neighbour, long-term friend and partner, Kenya will do whatever it can to help Somalia to remain on this positive trajectory.

She thanked those in attending the High-Level Meeting including the United Kingdom, Ethiopia and Italy, and assured them of Kenya’s commitment to supporting the long search peace and stability in Somalia.

“In spite of the many challenges that Somalia still faces, remarkable positive developments have been witnessed in almost every sector, placing it on course towards socio-economic and political transformation, said CS Amina.

She said Mogadishu was now open for business and investors were moving beyond speculation to establish their presence there.

She said the successful conclusion of the 2016/2017 electoral process that led to the assumption to office by President Mohamed Abdullahi in a peaceful transition had set Somalia on a path towards improved governance and political stability, including the fight against corruption.

“Somalia today has in place, an elected and more broadly based government that has demonstrated commitment to: formulate a new constitution; create a viable federal system of government; and, rebuild state institutions,” said Ms Mohamed.

She said through a framework of a bilateral Joint Commission for Cooperation, Kenya had made commitments including the establishment of more border posts to ease the movement of people; resumption of direct air services between Mogadishu and Nairobi; and training on behalf of the Government of Somalia, an agreed number of teachers, nurses and administrators.

‘Kenya will do whatever it can to help Somalia.’

“We believe that these modest capacity building assistance programmes will facilitate the expansion and extension of critical public services by the Government to the population,” said Amina.

She said Kenya welcomes the international community and friends to partner with Somalia and Kenya by availing additional resources for more capacity building programmes for Somali officials which could be delivered in Kenya’s institutions.

Security remains the single most important factor in Somalia’s political and economic aspirations. The situation remains precarious as the Al Shabaab terror group appears to have invigorated their heinous acts of terror, threatening a rollback of the gains that have been made.

Kenya supports other regional and international initiatives on Somalia. One of these initiatives was the London Conference on Somalia whose third edition in May 2017 endorsed a New Partnership for Somalia.

CS Mohamed said Kenya shall remain a faithful partner to the People of Somalia and will continue to work closely with the Federal Government, the region and the international community in getting Somalia out of the shadows of conflict into a future that holds a bright promise for this and coming generations.
Kenya - UAE in Pact to Strengthen Relations

By Edwin Limo

Kenya and United Arab Emirates (UAE) today signed a bilateral agreement to establish a mechanism for political consultations aimed at strengthening existing bilateral relations and cooperation.

In a brief ceremony on the sidelines of the ongoing United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA, the two country’s Foreign Ministers, Amb. Amina Mohamed and His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan of UAE put paper to ink on what they reckoned was an affirmation of the importance of coordinating bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common interests.

The two countries will, going forward, hold consultations on bilateral issues of mutual interest in all fields and exchange views in a structured manner in consultations to be held in Abu Dhabi and Nairobi alternately and also on the margins of international conferences and meetings.

Kenya and the UAE enjoy warm and cordial relations. Kenya opened a diplomatic Mission in Abu Dhabi in 1982 and in April 2014, a passport issuance office was established at the Kenyan Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE opened its Embassy in Nairobi in 2012 while UAE set camp in Nairobi on November 17, 2014, by opening its Consular Section and Visa Issuance Centre in Nairobi.

The exchange of high-level and significant visits have further cemented relations between the two countries. Trade between the two countries deal mainly in Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates), and tea for Kenya’s exports and from UAE import crude, Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals.

There are approximately 20,000 Kenyans living and working in the UAE. A majority of this number, work in hospitality, aviation and security sectors. Other sectors include medical, construction, engineering and telecommunications.

Kenya - UAE in Pact to Strengthen Relations

By Edward Irungu

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohamed has urged the international community to join hands and strengthen cooperation in combating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking.

The Cabinet Secretary regretted that despite national and international commitments, forced labour, modern slavery & human trafficking have continued well into the 21st century.


“We are optimistic that the review will open a new chapter in the war on these barbaric practices that should have no place in the 21st Century,” the CS added.

Amb. Amina Mohamed was speaking on September 2017 during a “Call to Action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking,” hosted by UK Prime Minister Ms. Theresa May, on the side-lines of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Amina Mohamed said individual country efforts are not sufficient adding that ending forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking requires coordinated global cooperation.

“We need an integrated global platform to increase public awareness and share good practices on how to eliminate human trafficking and smuggling at the national, regional and global levels,” said the CS.

Amb. Amina Mohamed called for concerted efforts in addressing the socio-economic and political drivers of human trafficking as well as loop-holes that aid slavery and trafficking.

“We must work together to address loop-holes that aid slavery and trafficking including ensuring effective border management, relevant capacity building for immigration and other relevant officials and efficient monitoring of local and international employment agencies,” said the Cabinet Secretary.

The Cabinet Secretary further noted that Kenya was not exempt from the menace of human trafficking saying Kenya is a country of origin, transit and destination in human trafficking.

“Sadly, Kenyans are trafficked to various countries for the purposes of domestic labour and commercial sex exploitation,” said the CS.

To contain this challenge Amb. Amina Mohamed said Kenya enacted the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act in 2010.

“This Act domesticated the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, including its protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children,” said the Cabinet Secretary.

Despite these efforts, the CS said the war on trafficking is undermined by inadequate funding, lack of data on victims of trafficking, low awareness by the public on human trafficking, and family dynamics in aiding trafficking of persons.

“Working together to address these challenges will go a long way in mitigating and eventually eradicating this challenge,” said the CS.
Principal Secretary Amb. Monica Juma held talks with 46th Army High Command of India on September 26, 2017 at her Foreign Affairs office.

The Indian delegation led by Major General Mandip Sigh VSM are on a study tour to Kenya. They were accompanied by the India High Commissioner to Kenya Her Excellency Ms. Suchitra Durai.

Cabinet Secretary Amb. Amina Mohamed met with Omani’s Ambassador in Kenya Mr. Saleh Al Harthi, on October 2, 2017 at her office.

Mr. Harthi, delivered a message of upcoming visit of Mr. Mohamed Bin Hamad, Minister of Oil and Gas.

Political and Diplomatic Secretary Amb. Tom Amolo meets Israeli Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Noah Gendler, when he paid him a courtesy call at his office on October 10, 2017.

Team Kenya to All Africa Championship with Amb. Lucy Chelimo during flag raising ceremonial at Elephant Hills Golf Club, Victoria Falls, on October 10, 2017.
Vision
A peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Kenya

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

Core Values
- Customer Focus
- Patriotism
- Team Spirit
- Professionalism
- Ethics and Integrity
- Equity and fairness

PS Monica Juma held a bilateral meeting with Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan in Khartoum on October 9, 2017.

Kenya Team to WTO-Informal mini Ministerial Meeting at Palais de Congress in Marrakech.

Amb Nelson Ndirangu represented CS Amb. Amina Mohamed.

L-R Amb. Stephen Kamau, Ms. Njambi Kinyugu, Amb. Nelson Ndirangu and Mr. Robson Wanjala

PS Monica Juma met Irish Ambassador to Kenya Dr Vincent O’Neill at her office on October 5, 2017.

Dr. O’Neill informed of up coming visit of Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney.

CS Amb. Amina Mohamed met Ambassadors resident in Nairobi at her Foreign Affairs office on October 5, 2017.

They exchanged views on the current political situation in the Country.