



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

# FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA



*ABRIDGED VERSION*





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## FOREWORD

Kenya's foreign policy and diplomatic engagements must be a catalyst for improving the livelihoods and welfare of every Kenyan and driving our nation's progress and prosperity on the global stage. This Foreign Policy, 2024 as outlined herein presents a comprehensive guiding framework for conducting our nation's foreign relations and diplomatic engagements. Borne of deep reflection on the evolution of Kenya's bilateral and multilateral relations, this policy document charts Kenya's strategic pursuit of our national interests in the context of the ever-evolving geopolitical and geo-economic landscape.

The outcome is a revised Foreign Policy that, while remaining grounded upon our steadfast commitment to project, promote, and protect the nation's interests and image globally, gains valuable impetus from my Government's deliberate intent to elevate Kenya's standing among the community of nations, through a futuristic and innovative approach to diplomacy.

This Foreign Policy document underscores Kenya's steadfast trajectory towards prioritising regional integration, deepening of intra-African ties and elevating new Pan-Africanism, even as we continue to strengthen and expand our country's global footprints.

The carefully selected Foreign Policy objectives are inspired by our shared aspiration for a peaceful, unified, and prosperous nation, as embodied in the Constitution of Kenya; the National Anthem, and Kenya's long-term policy blueprints. The specific focus areas to be pursued by my government under this policy certainly reflects our determination to creatively respond to new and emerging global dynamics hence the focus on the new areas that are outside of the traditional purview of diplomacy including digital and technology, climate, health and Global Governance Reform, while also re-orientating foreign policy responses to new threats to peace and security.

The successful implementation of this Foreign Policy requires a comprehensive and well-coordinated approach that involves all sectors; from government through a 'Whole of Government Approach,' to Private Sector, and Non-State Actors. It is my expectation that all government ministries, departments, agencies and relevant entities will work closely with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in executing the vision of this Foreign Policy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'William Ruto', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

**H.E. HON. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PhD., C.G.H.**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYAS**





## PREFACE

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs is mandated to manage Kenya's Foreign Policy with the overarching objective of protecting, promoting and projecting the nation's interests. Kenya first published its consolidated Foreign Policy document in 2014. Since then, we have witnessed momentous changes in the global environment. Kenya's national interests have considerably expanded and evolved as our country seeks to play a distinct role in international affairs and position Kenya as an international hub. In responding to these developments, the Ministry has undergone considerable restructuring, with the overall objective of enhancing professionalism in the diplomatic cadre and enabling our foreign missions to play a more prominent role in progressing our foreign policy and national development. The expansion of Kenya's diplomatic footprints and the recognition of the role of women and youth in diplomacy, continues to strengthen our Foreign Policy. The review of our foreign policy reflects current domestic and international realities and ensures that it remains relevant and forward looking, fit-for-purpose and advances Kenya's national interests.

Kenya's diplomatic history affirms our proactive and constructive role as a member of the international community. We have diligently built and maintained cordial and robust relations with neighbouring countries in Africa, and the world at large. The national values, foreign policy principles and overarching national interests underpin our foreign policy formulation and implementation. Additionally, they guide our value-system which upholds human rights, a corruption-free policy and good governance.

At the heart of this foreign policy are key interlinked focus areas on Peace and Security Diplomacy; Economic and Commercial Diplomacy; Oceans and Blue Diplomacy; Global Governance and Multilateral Diplomacy; Environment and Climate Diplomacy; Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy; Diaspora Diplomacy; and, Socio-Cultural Diplomacy.

The review of the Foreign Policy was conducted through a wide, consultative, and participatory approach in line with constitutional requirements. The Foreign Policy will be subjected to continuous review to ensure it remains relevant, effective and responsive in promoting our nation's interests and values. We appreciate the collective effort and insights of all contributors, whose invaluable inputs have shaped a foreign policy

vision that embodies Kenya's aspirations and positions the country to seize emerging opportunities for sustainable growth and prosperity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Musalia Mudavadi', with a horizontal line underneath.

**HON. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, E.G.H**  
**PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR**  
**FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the last year, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in collaboration with other Government departments and stakeholders conducted a comprehensive review of Kenya's Foreign Policy. The review was intended to ensure that the policy is more proactive in dealing with the twin obligations of safeguarding our overall national interests and development priorities, while maintaining Kenya's stature as a responsible member of the international community.

During the review process, we reflected on our past achievements, critically assessed our current approaches, and envisioned a future where Kenya continues to thrive and lead on the global stage. In the discussions held with various stakeholders, in line with the constitutional requirements for public participation and stakeholder engagement, we explored factors that impact the pursuit of our national interests. These were determined to include; geopolitical dynamics, economic dependencies, socio-cultural issues, technological progress, peace and security concerns, as well as, the aspirations for global governance, all of which shape our engagements in contemporary global events.

The effective implementation of this Foreign Policy will require a comprehensive, coordinated approach involving all sectors - government, private sector, and non-state actors. In this regard, all government ministries, departments, agencies, and entities with foreign relations responsibilities are mandated to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs.

The Foreign policy document would not have seen the light of day without the commitment and hard work of many individuals and various stakeholder institutions. On behalf of the State Department for Foreign Affairs, I first extend our profound gratitude to the leadership of His Excellency the President and the Hon. Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, in guiding the review process.

Secondly, I express my sincere appreciation to all stakeholders from various entities, including the Executive arm of Government, Council of Governors, the Senate, National Assembly, the Judiciary and Independent Constitutional Offices, serving and former Ambassadors and High Commissioners, private sector, academia, civil society, youths and the general public for their invaluable insights. Their contributions and ideas

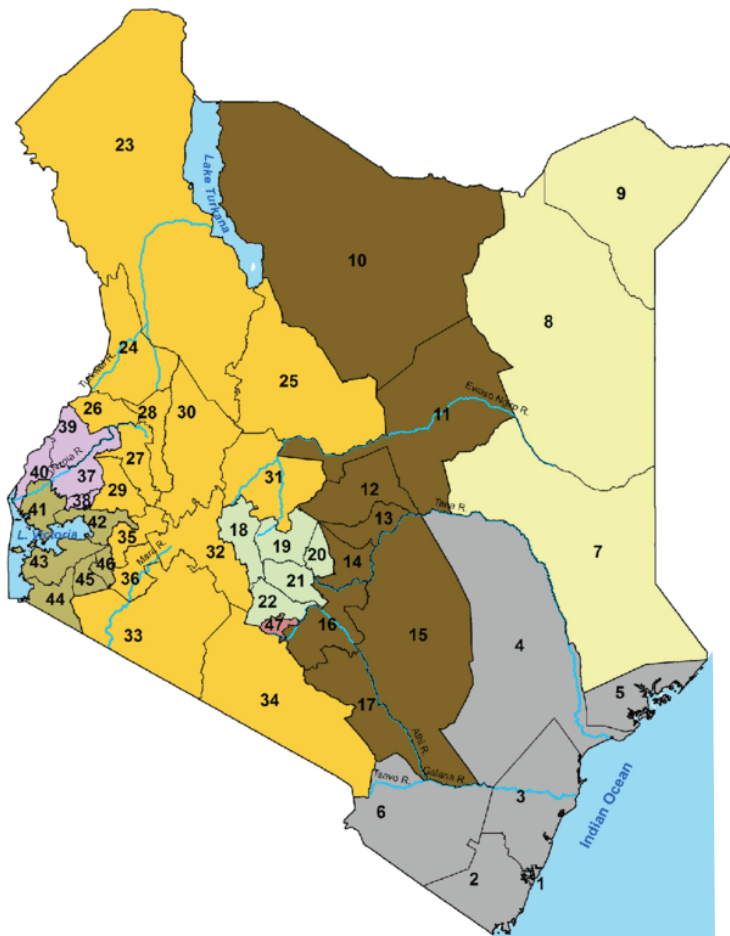
illuminated new pathways for collaboration and action, spawned a renewed spirit of cooperation and enriched our understanding of the matters at hand.

Our gratitude is similarly due to the Review Committee led by Ambassador Lucy Kiruthu, for their tireless efforts that ensured the successful preparation of this Foreign Policy document. The input from staff at the Ministry's Headquarters and Missions has been invaluable in the enrichment of the document. Finally, I wish to thank our partners who supported the review exercise in one way or another.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'A' and 'K' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

**DR. A. KORIR SINGOEI**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, STATE DEPARTMENT FOR FOREIGN**  
**AFFAIRS**

# KENYA COUNTIES MAP



001	Mombasa	13	Tharaka-Nithi	25	Samburu	37	Kakamega
002	Kwale	14	Embu	26	Trans-Nzoia	38	Vihiga
003	Kilifi	15	Kitui	27	Uasin Gishu	39	Bungoma
004	Tana River	16	Machakos	28	Elgeyo-Marakwet	40	Busia
005	Lamu	17	Makueni	29	Nandii	41	Siaya
006	Taita-Taveta	18	Nyandarua	30	Baringo	42	Kisumu
007	Garissa	19	Nyeri	31	Laikipia	43	Homa Bay
008	Wajir	20	Kirinyaga	32	Nakuru	44	Migori
009	Mandera	21	Murang'a	33	Narok	45	Kisi
10	Marsabit	22	Kiambu	34	Kajiado	46	Nyamira
11	Isiolo	23	Turkana	35	Kenicho	47	Nairobi
12	Meru	24	West Pokot	36	Bomet		



## ACRONYMS

ACDC	Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AGII	African Green Industrialization Initiative
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
AUFI	African Union Financial Institutions
ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
BETA	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CS	Cabinet Secretary
C4IR	Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
CAHOSCC	Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change
CGH	Chief of the Order of the Golden Heart
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
EGH	Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food Agricultural Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
H.E	His Excellency
ICC	International Criminal Court

ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IOFMC	Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime
IOR-ARC	Indian Ocean Rim- Association for Regional Cooperation
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRP	UNEP - International Resource Panel
ISPC	Independent Science and Partnership Council
KAPEA	Kenya Association of Private Employment Agencies
MDBs	Multilateral Development Banks
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, & Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCS	Mobile Consular Services
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MICE	Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions/Events
MNCs	Multinational Corporations
MTP IV	Medium Term Plan IV
MONUSCO	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Congo
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSSM	Multinational Security Support Mission
NAM	Non- Aligned Movement
NGCS	National Government Coordination Secretariat
NIFC	Nairobi International Financial Centre
NIMES	National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
NTBs	Non-Tariff Barriers
OAU	Organization of African Union
OACPS	Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SACCOs	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SALWs	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGR	Standard Gauge Railway
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SHIRIKA	Socio-Economic Hubs for Integrated Refugee Inclusion in Kenya
SLOACs	Sea Lanes of Communication
ST&I	Science Technology and Innovation
STIP	Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
TCC	Troop Contributing Country
TCH	Tourism and Cultural Heritage
TOC	Transnational Organized Crime
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNAMID	United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur
UNO	United Nations Organization

UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
WIO	Western Indian Ocean
WOGA	Whole of Government Approach

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Foreign Policy document represents the output from the revision of the 2014 Foreign Policy of the Government of Kenya. The revision has captured comments and inputs from an extended process of national consultation undertaken with key stakeholders, in line with the constitutional imperative on public participation.

The Policy is presented in six chapters. Chapter 1 sets the stage by providing the context and framing of Kenya's foreign policy. The chapter primarily focuses on Kenya's national interests, the basis upon which any foreign Policy is anchored, and also outlines the evolution of Kenya's foreign policies from the colonial times through to independence and up to the present era of significant economic transformation.

Chapter two presents the operating environment, in particular both the emerging domestic and external factors that determine Kenya's foreign policy. A fundamental inclusion in this chapter are the key actors in foreign policy appreciating the rapidly changing local and global circumstances. These actors include, Citizenry, Parliament, Judiciary, CSOs, Media, Private Sector, Faith Based institutions, among others.

In Chapter three, a review is undertaken of Kenya's bilateral and multilateral engagements, foregrounding Kenya's diplomatic footprints. Kenya's diplomatic neighbourhood is defined by highlighting the immediate 'diplomatic neighbourhood' that, not only references the EAC, but extends to other geographical regions, including the IGAD region. This chapter also presents Kenya's bilateral ties with the rest of Africa and the World. The chapter underlines Kenya's credentials in multilateral diplomacy including the country's foreign policy towards plurilateral groupings.

Chapter four is devoted to eight Focus Areas of Kenya's foreign policy including, Peace and Security diplomacy; Economic and Commercial diplomacy; Oceans and Blue diplomacy; Global Governance and Multilateral diplomacy, and Environment and Climate diplomacy. The others are: Science Technology and Innovation diplomacy; Diaspora diplomacy; and, lastly, Socio-cultural diplomacy. The chapter highlights the objectives to be pursued under these mutually-interlinked diplomatic focus areas, and underscores their choice as priority areas of Kenya's foreign policy.

Finally, the document presents in chapter five, the proposed implementation arrangements, primarily, the 'Whole of Government and Society Approach.' The last chapter, presents the monitoring and evaluation framework.



## Factors impacting the pursuit of Kenya's national interests include:

Geopolitical dynamics

Economic interdependencies & prosperity

Socio-cultural issues

Technological progress

Peace and security concerns

Aspirations for global governance



# Chapter 1:

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND FRAMING

### 1.1 Policy Context and Rationale

Foreign policy is a critical framework that spells out how Kenya orchestrates instruments of national power in pursuit of national interests and global good. Kenya's long-term development blueprint, the Kenya Vision 2030; *The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda* (BETA); and the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) 2023-2027, frame Foreign Policy as an instrument of national development.

The increasing role of technology has made diplomacy become more and more of a public engagement, resulting in increased participation of non-state actors, including, among others, the private sector, civil society organisations, media and judiciary. The upsurge in public engagement is in line with the requirements of the Constitution of Kenya which provides for the imperative of public participation in policy formulation and implementation.

### 1.2 Foreign Policy and National Interests

Article 238 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya, defines national security and outlines the key elements of the country's national interests. The promotion and safeguarding of these National Interests are at the core of Kenya's Foreign Policy. In Articles 10 (1) and (2), Kenya's national values and principles of governance which are important in promoting national unity, virtues of citizenship, patriotism, national pride and nationhood are articulated.

#### 1.2.1 Prioritised National Interests

Kenya's national interests have been prioritized according to their significance and impact on the well-being of the people. They are also considered to be vital to the country's survival. The projection, promotion and protection of these interests and image globally is a key focus of Kenya's foreign policy.

In line with this, the prioritized national interests are the following:

- (a) Territorial Integrity, Sovereignty and Security of Citizenry;
- (b) Economic Prosperity;
- (c) Socio-Political Stability;
- (d) National Values and Governance;
- (e) Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law;

- (f) Sustainable Development;
- (g) Global Influence and Competitiveness.

### **1.2.2 Core Principles**

The execution of Kenya's foreign policy and the conduct of international relations are guided by the following principles:

- (i) Nationalism;
- (ii) Good neighbourliness and non-interference;
- (iii) Regionalism;
- (iv) Pan-Africanism;
- (v) Humanitarianism;
- (vi) Reciprocity;
- (vii) Non-alignment;
- (viii) Engagement with like-minded and emerging plurilateral arrangements.

### **1.2.3 National Values**

This Foreign Policy is inspired by the following national values and principles of governance as stipulated in the Constitution of Kenya, Article 10 (2):

- (i) Patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of the people;
- (ii) Human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized;
- (iii) Good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability; and,
- (iv) Sustainable Development.

## **1.3 Foreign Policy Objectives**

Kenya's foreign policy aims to enhance the country's standing as a regional leader and an effective advocate for Africa's interests on the global stage. To fulfil this aim, this Foreign Policy will pursue the following objectives:

- (i) Protect Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- (ii) Promote regional and global peace and security;
- (iii) Advance the country's development agenda and economic prosperity;
- (iv) Position Kenya as a leader in environmental and climate action;
- (v) Project, promote and protect the country's image and prestige globally;
- (vi) Promote sub-regional and regional integration and cooperation;

- (vii) Promote international cooperation, multilateralism and active participation in global governance; and,
- (viii) Enhance the voice of Kenyans in diaspora and promote, protect their interests and welfare abroad.

## 1.4 The National Transformation Agenda, From 2022 and Beyond

Guided by the vision of His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto, Kenya's foreign policy has continued to focus on economic diplomacy, peaceful co-existence, regional integration and international solidarity as critical guarantors of the country's anchor role in the region. The administration's manifesto, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), has necessitated a significant transformation in Kenya's economic and foreign policy strategy. By focusing on the empowerment of the grassroots and leveraging regional and international partnerships, BETA has delineated a philosophy of inclusion, equity and sustainable development that now shapes Kenya's external relations and role as a leader in regional and global economic affairs



*H.E. President William Samoei Ruto, Ph.D addressing the UN General Assembly.*



## Chapter 2:

# THE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

### 2.1 Domestic and External Environments

The formulation and execution of Kenya's Foreign Policy is impacted by domestic and external environments, national development priorities as well as state and non-state actors. All these collectively, influence the strategic direction and diplomatic initiatives that are pursued by the country. Domestic factors collectively shape and propel Kenya's foreign policy, aligning it with both national priorities and global aspirations. Subsequently, Kenya's domestic environment necessitates international engagements through its strategic emphasis on political stability, economic development, social progress, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation.

### 2.2 Actors in Kenya's Foreign Policy Landscape

The actors in Kenya's Foreign Policy include State and Non-State actors as well as other non-traditional entities. This stems from constitutional provisions and legal instruments that emphasise inclusiveness, open government and the upholding of democratic principles. Thus, the following state and non-state actors shall be part of the execution of this foreign policy:

- a) Citizenry
- b) President
- c) Cabinet
- d) National Security Council and National Security Council Committee
- e) Parliament
- f) Judiciary
- g) County Governments
- h) Foreign Service Academy
- i) Kenya Diaspora
- j) Academia
- k) Private Sector
- l) Civil Society Organisations
- m) Media
- n) Faith Based Institutions
- o) Women
- p) Youth

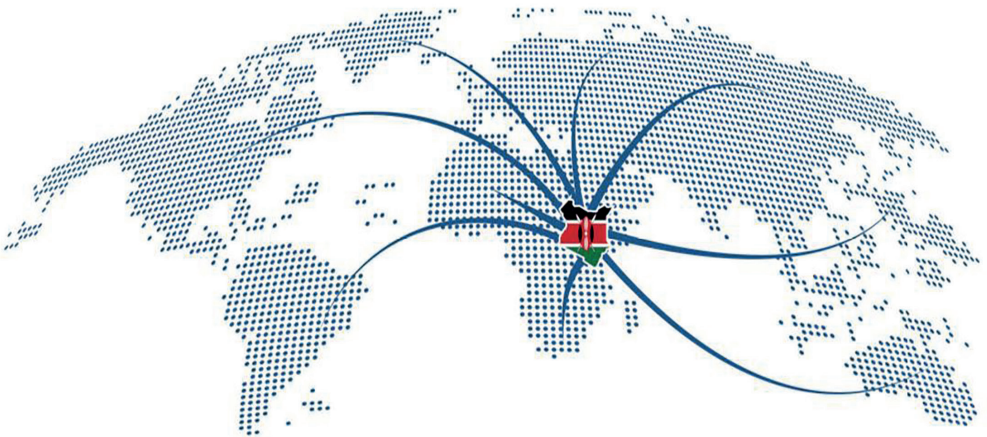


- q) Persons with Disabilities
- r) Labour Organisations

## 2.3 Use of Public Diplomacy

Kenya will enhance the use of public diplomacy as a tool for engaging local and foreign audiences to strengthen ties, build trust, and promote cooperation, ultimately creating a more secure global environment. Public diplomacy is deliberately incorporated in bilateral and multilateral engagements to support the long-term goals of Kenya's foreign policy and to promote Kenya's global interests.

Strategic communication will be undertaken in the course of implementing this foreign policy so as to promote public trust; gain visibility, relevance, credibility and create clarity. The implementation will be conducted timeously and on a need basis through an integrated and comprehensive communication strategy that shall include radio and television talk shows, print media, opinion, editorials(op-eds), briefing notes, scheduled diplomatic briefings, among others.



*Projecting Kenya to the world*

## Chapter 3:

# BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

### 3.1 Defining Kenya's Diplomatic Neighbourhood

Kenya has consistently pursued the principle of good neighbourliness and considers that it is joined at the hip with its neighbours. This means that the country is part of a regional web of relations and interdependence. The people-to-people relations with other states begins with its neighbours and hence, the primacy of promoting regional integration and solidarity for mutual benefit. The EAC and IGAD are the anchors of the region's collective prosperity, peace and security. The historically conjoined sister country of Uganda remains Kenya's leading trading partner.

The neighbours are important partners for stability, development, peace and security in the region. Each country in the region is endowed with natural resources and geo-strategic advantages that are useful in transforming the economies of each member state and collectively, making the Eastern Africa region a global trade hub. Moreover, Kenya and her neighbours adjoin crucial waterways running from the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. Kenya advocates for a regional maritime strategy to secure the strategic maritime interest of the region in terms of geo-economics, security and geo-politics. Additionally, Kenya champions enhanced infrastructural connectivity in the region, hinged on each neighbour's comparative advantage.

### 3.2 Bilateral Ties with African States

Kenya considers the African continent as the core of the country's internationalism. The African identity is at the heart of Kenya's global image. Thus, Kenya prioritizes its bilateral ties with states in Africa and remains committed to the Pan-African ideal with the commitment to continue being at the forefront of championing African affairs in the global arena. Kenya has established vibrant diplomatic missions in all the five regions of the continent. Kenya considers all these regions as presenting unique opportunities for the country's foreign policy objectives.

Kenya has also actualized the AU's borderless and visa-free objectives by removing visa requirements for all African states. The country is at the forefront of promoting African unity by opening its borders to other

Africans through a policy that introduces visa-free travel for all citizens of the African continent and beyond.

Kenya adheres to the collective position of the AU on regional and global matters relating to the geopolitical position of the continent and the AU's role in global multilateralism, peace and security. The country continues to champion continental unity in development, the climate change agenda, as well as, peace and security. It promotes intra-Africa trade and continues to support and promote the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for the mutual benefit of member states. The country seeks a stronger and effective African Union capable of advancing and defending the collective interests of the continent vis-a-vis other regions.

### **3.3 Bilateral Ties with the Rest of the World**

Kenya's bilateral ties with the rest of the world covers countries in Asia and the Pacific, Europe, America and the Caribbean, the Middle-East and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

### **3.4 Multilateral Diplomacy**

Kenya has established its credentials as a champion for multilateral solutions to global challenges and shall do more to contribute to a fair and equitable multilateral order. The successful engagement with international organizations at multilateral fora has been a key aspect of Kenya's foreign policy. Kenya's active participation in regional and international organizations such as the East African Community (EAC), IGAD, COMESA, African Union (AU), OACPS and the United Nations (UN) allows it to exert significant influence on regional stability and global governance structures. Kenya will continue to champion the AU's institutional reforms to ensure a well-financed, assertive African Union capable of addressing the continent's challenges and advancing its strategic interests. Kenya is also an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This active involvement not only enhances Kenya's diplomatic stature but also aligns with its national priorities and development goals.

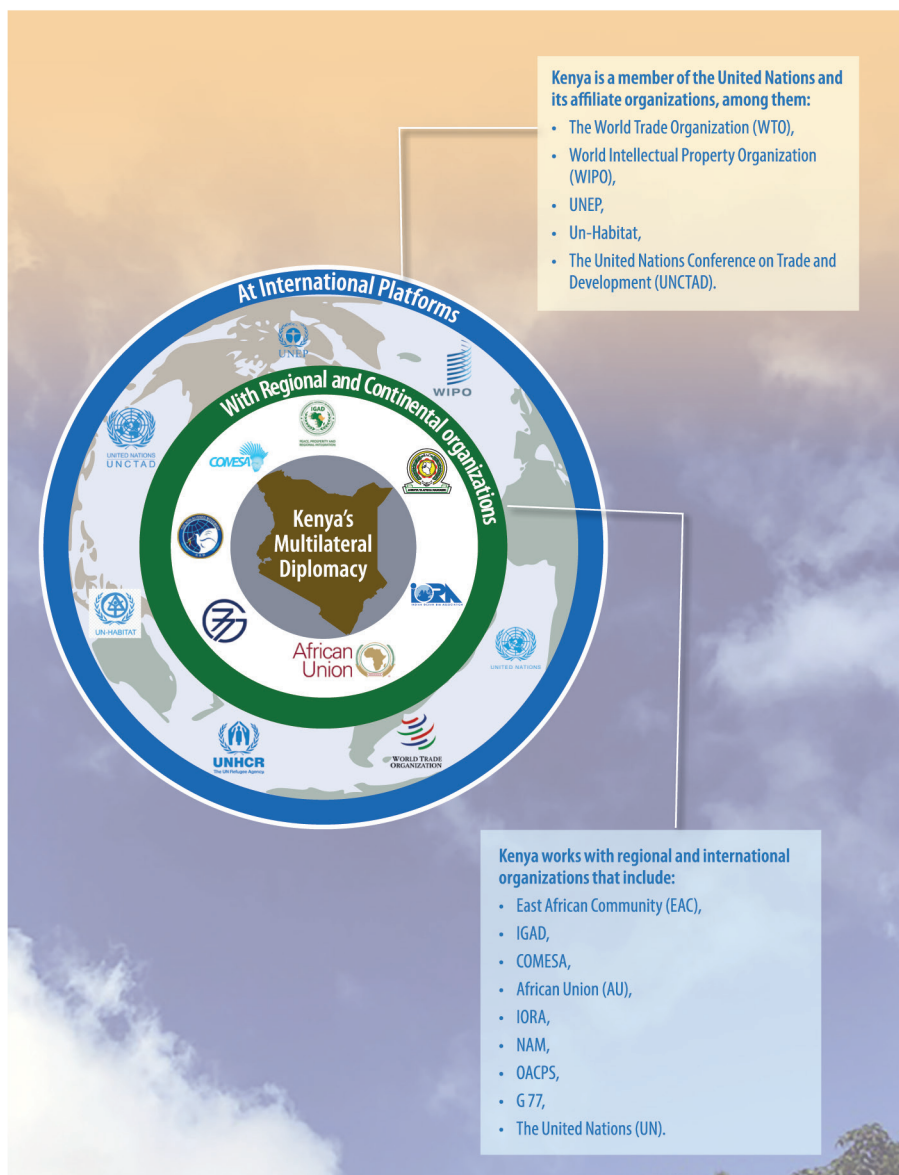


Figure 1: Kenya's multilateral diplomacy



*Some of the Founding Fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)*

### **3.5 Kenya's Foreign Policy Towards Plurilateral/Minilateral Groupings**

Kenya has been a member of established Plurilaterals such as the Commonwealth, NAM, G77 and China, and IORA, among others. Kenya has been able to use these arrangements to drive our agenda, consolidating positions on issues like oceans governance, trade negotiations and economy.

This policy recognises that it is in Kenya's interest to monitor, analyse and engage minilaterals or such groupings worldwide as a response to changing demographics and the growing youth population that will require employment opportunities, capacity development services, better living standards, and trade and investment opportunities.

### **3.6 Transformation of Nairobi as a Multilateral and Financial Hub**

Nairobi has emerged as a key financial and multilateral hub in Africa owing to the strategic location, backed by a strong banking sector, vibrant stock exchange, well-established infrastructure, diverse economy and well educated and skilled human resource. Nairobi is home to many international organizations and United Nations, its funds, programmes and agencies, hosts headquarters to UNEP & HABITAT, global humanitarian logistics hub making it an ideal hub for global cooperation. The United Nations Office at Nairobi is the third largest UN Secretariat duty station and serves as the only Headquarters in Africa and the Global South. As a leading financial centre in the region, it hosts the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank and the largest World Bank station outside Washington. This policy focus, therefore, aims to enhance Nairobi as a leading multilateral and financial hub.

## Chapter 4:

# KENYA'S FOREIGN POLICY: THE FOCUS AREAS

### 4.1 Eight Focus Areas

Following extensive consultations and engagement with various stakeholders, the following eight focus areas have been considered and agreed upon to be the cornerstones of Kenya's Foreign Policy:

- i. Peace and Security diplomacy;
- ii. Economic and Commercial diplomacy;
- iii. Oceans and Blue diplomacy;
- iv. Global Governance and Multilateral diplomacy;
- v. Environmental and Climate Change diplomacy;
- vi. Science, Technology and Innovation diplomacy;
- vii. Diaspora diplomacy; and,
- viii. Socio-Cultural diplomacy.

*Figure 2: Foreign Policy Architecture*



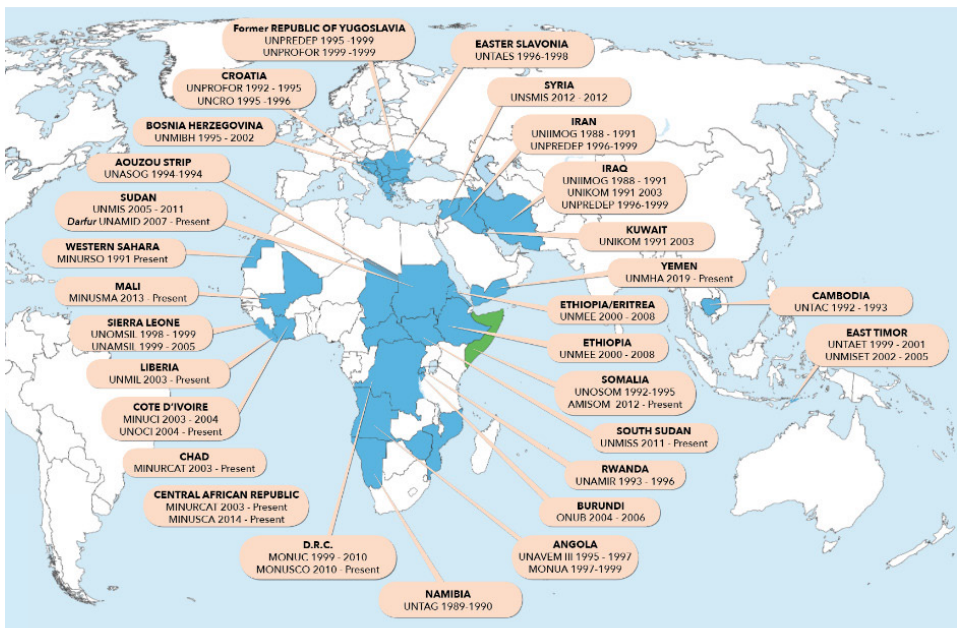
Source: SDFA



## 4.2 Peace and Security Diplomacy

The ultimate goal of Kenya's peace and security diplomacy is to safeguard Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity, preserve democracy and fundamental human rights, and ensure the prosperity and well-being of the people of Kenya. This focus area derives, primarily, from the principle of maintenance of international peace and security as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and is further reiterated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union; the Treaty Establishing the East African Community and other international treaties, conventions and agreements on peace and security.

*Figure 3: Kenya's Peace Keeping Missions*



Source: Kenya's Ministry of Defence

### 4.3 Economic and Commercial Diplomacy

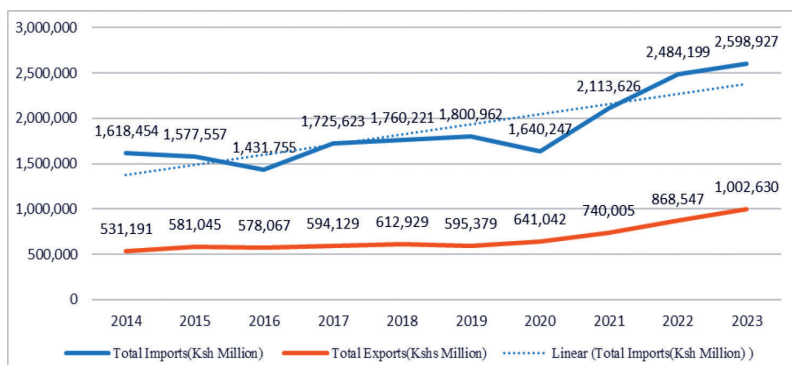
Economic and Commercial Diplomacy is a crucial component of Kenya's Foreign Policy. Diplomatic efforts will therefore continue to be deployed to promote economic growth and development through beneficial engagements. These engagements shall target both state and non-state actors at the bilateral

and multilateral levels. Central to Kenya's economic and commercial diplomacy, is the promotion of economic empowerment of women, the youth, differently-abled people and minority groups. Special efforts will be made to support and facilitate their access to domestic, regional and international markets and development finance. Under this focus area priority will be accorded to trade and investment; technology; the creative economy; tourism; blue economy; development finance; development cooperation and conferencing.

*Figure 4: Various Global Rankings of Kenya*



*Figure 5: Kenya's Volume and Balance of Trade, 2013 - 2022 (KSh '000)*



Source of Data: Central Bank of Kenya, 2024

## 4.4 Oceans and Blue Diplomacy

Oceans cover over 70% of the earth's surface and play a crucial role in global affairs. They are a source of food, energy, and transportation, with over 90% of global trade being carried by sea. On the other hand, Kenya possesses a



vast blue economy and robust maritime sector, which holds great potential for contributing to economic growth, job creation, food security, maritime transport and environmental sustainability.

The development of the sector aims to explore and develop ocean and inland water bodies resources, protect marine domain and boundaries, combat maritime threats, enhance cooperation, utilize ocean and coastal space, protect the ocean environment and provide goods and services to support ocean and maritime activities. It also aims to contribute to equitable sharing of ocean and marine resources and benefits. Kenya will strengthen her position as a regional and global leader in ocean and blue economy development and contribute meaningfully to global efforts in ocean governance.

#### **4.5 Global Governance and Multilateral Diplomacy**

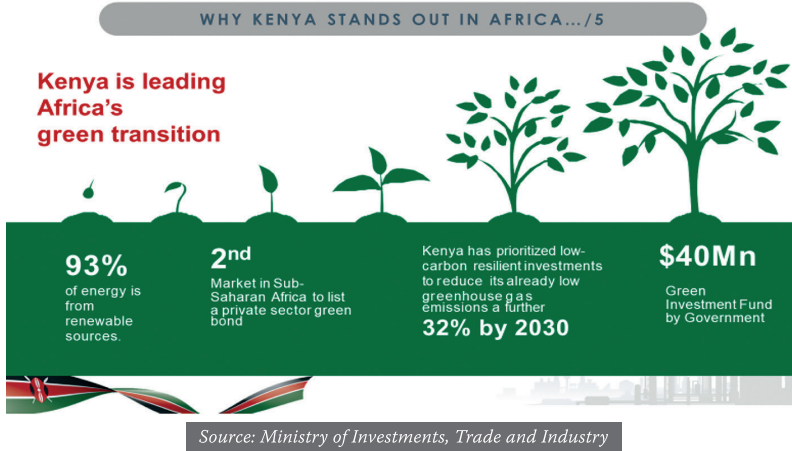
Kenya's Foreign Policy is premised on the reality of an ever-evolving, increasingly integrated and inter-dependent world. With these changes also come a number of opportunities, challenges, threats, and risks in an almost equal measure. The situation is shaped further by various factors such as geo-political shifts, great power competition and the incessant rise in nationalism. Other factors derive from energy uncertainty and competition over its sources; disparities in economic development; the multiplicity of actors in the global stage; the complexity and range of issues to be addressed in one country; technological advancements and innovations along with their trade-offs as well as negative consequences. Added to this list are the other transboundary and crosscutting issues such as climate change; public health challenges; violent extremism; economic instability, human rights challenges; the refugee problem, the search for social justice, education, labour standards, and the totality of sustainable development. As the current leader of AU institutional reforms, we are committed to establishing a well-financed, assertive African Union capable of addressing the continent's challenges and advancing its strategic interests. Accordingly, embracing global governance and multilateralism becomes critical in the quest for an effective international order given that no single state can survive or even resolve these issues on their own.

#### **4.6 Environment and Climate Diplomacy**

Kenya is endowed with rich and diverse flora and fauna and other natural resources that support millions of livelihoods, economy and sustainable development. Kenya is the headquarter of the United Nations Environmental Programme and United Nations Human Settlements Programme. It also

hosts the United Nations Office in Nairobi-the only UN headquarters in the global south. Kenya will continue to support, guarantee smooth operations and promote the enhancement of the status and strengthening of these UN agencies in Nairobi.

*Figure 6: Why Kenya Stands out in Africa*



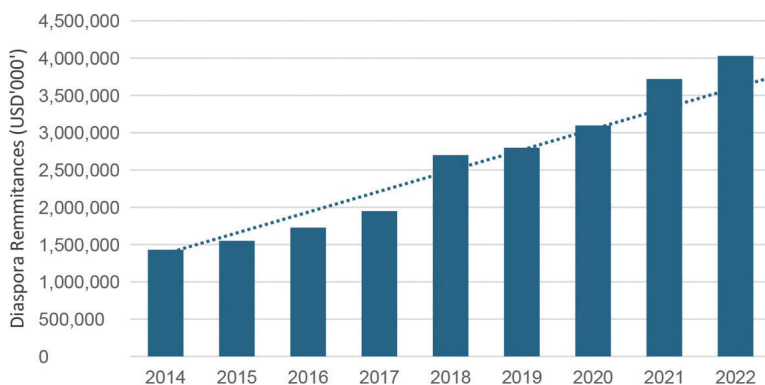
## 4.7 Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy

Kenya recognizes the pivotal role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in its national development agenda. In this regard, Kenya integrates various forms of STI with a view to building a robust ecosystem that will enable it to achieve its national interests and position the country as a key player in the global technological discourse. The focus on STI reflects Kenya's commitment to international collaborations and partnerships aimed at attracting critical investments and fostering the exchange of knowledge for addressing global challenges. Kenya's STI diplomacy is a vital foreign policy tool, utilizing digital platforms and advanced technologies to strengthen its international relations and global presence. In this respect, Kenya's strategic integration of emerging and cutting edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation, augmented reality, big data, social media, the Internet of Things (IOT), digital technology, Virtual Reality (VR), cyber security, crypto currency, outer space technology, blockchain technology, and global financial technology platforms (FinTechs) will strengthen the country's international standing; attract vital investments, and; will solidify the country's standing as a technological hub.

## 4.8 Diaspora Diplomacy

Kenya's Diaspora Diplomacy is hinged on a conceptual framework that protects, engages and empowers the Kenyan diaspora community to enhance their prosperity and that of the nation. The focus is on protecting, engaging and empowering the Diaspora. The Kenyan Diaspora is currently estimated at four million. This number is expected to rise as more Kenyans travel abroad in search of education, training, employment and investment opportunities - among other reasons. This Policy will augment programs and incentives to encourage diaspora investments and establish a scheme to recognize excellence among the Diaspora. The policy will also facilitate the registration of diaspora associations and ensure open and transparent communication.

*Figure 7: Diaspora Remittances*



Source: CBK.

## 4.9 Socio-Cultural Diplomacy

Socio-cultural diplomacy entails the use of a country's culture, social practices, and values as tools to build relationships, foster understanding, and influence other nations. It entails people-to-people connections, which serve as means for soft power by creating a favourable global environment for engagements. The key aspects of Kenya's socio-cultural diplomacy include the use of culture and heritage; sports; education; and health. Kenya will continue to harness these socio-cultural opportunities to enhance her national standing in the international arena, specifically through the promotion of social values, cultural heritage and other national endowments.

# CHAPTER 5:

## INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

### 5.1 Role of National Government Secretariat and Other Stakeholders

The National Government Coordination Secretariat (NGCS), the principal technical coordination organ will play a central role in coordination and oversight during the implementation of this Policy. Overall, there are a number of offices, public institutions and stakeholders who are instrumental in the implementation of the policy as outlined in the tabular representation here below:

*Table 1: Summary of the Roles of Various Institutions and Actors in Implementing Kenya's Foreign Policy*

No.	Institution	Role
1	<b>Citizenry</b>	The citizenry is the primary client of the foreign policy. They influence the formulation, execution and also provide feedback in shaping Kenya's foreign policy discourse.
2	<b>President</b>	The President is the chief diplomat and champions the implementation of this policy. The President carries out this role as contained in the Constitution, Article 132 (2e), 4(b) and 5.
3	<b>Cabinet</b>	The Cabinet approves and coordinates the Whole of Government and Whole of Society Approach in the implementation of the policy.
4	<b>National Security Council and National Security Council Committee</b>	The Council and the Committee will continue to shepherd Kenya's foreign policy.
5	<b>Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs</b>	The Ministry is responsible for the Management of Kenya's Foreign Policy as per its mandate in both the Constitution and Executive Order No. 2/2023. The Ministry is also responsible for the Projection, Promotion and Protection of Kenya's interest and image globally. The Ministry will disseminate and sensitize the contents and the vision of this Foreign Policy to the public.

No.	Institution	Role
6	<b>Ministries, Departments and Agencies</b>	MDAs will be engaged in the implementation of the policy, including in ensuring the incorporation of the focus areas into their policies, plans and programmes.
7	<b>Foreign Service Academy</b>	The Academy will strengthen the human resource development and capabilities of the foreign service and of other stakeholders for the successful implementation of the policy.
8	<b>County Governments</b>	County governments will work closely with the MFDA to promote trade and investments, culture, tourism, sister city partnerships and in the resolution of cross border issues.
9	<b>Parliament</b>	Parliament will legislate to give effect to this policy, enact laws that impact foreign policy, ratify international treaties and conventions. They will provide oversight, including vetting of Ambassadors and High Commissioners. The relevant Parliamentary Committees shall be the nexus between MFDA and the Parliament.
10	<b>Judiciary</b>	The Judiciary will play an important role in policy implementation including in the areas covering international jurisdiction and will position the Kenya Judicial Academy as Africa's hub for judicial dialogues
11	<b>Academia</b>	The Academia will provide research-driven insights, facilitate informed dialogues, and contribute to the development of evidence-based strategies.
12	<b>Private Sector</b>	As key players in trade, investment, and innovation, the sector, the Private Sector promotes Kenya's economic interests abroad through partnerships, market expansion, and showcasing of Kenya's products and services.

No.	Institution	Role
13	<b>Civil Society Organisations</b>	Civil Society Organisations raise awareness and mobilise public opinion on foreign policy objectives. They align themselves with a common country position in foreign engagements within the framework of “whole of society approach”
14	<b>Faith Based Institutions</b>	Faith based institutions play an important role in policy implementation through inter-faith dialogues and in supporting government initiatives.
15	<b>Diaspora Community</b>	Diaspora will leverage their networks in host countries to contribute towards national development.
16	<b>The Media</b>	The Media are the organ through which citizens are informed about global events which impact Kenya’s Foreign policy.
17	<b>Development Partners/ Regional/ International Organisations</b>	Kenya’s bilateral and multilateral partners will provide necessary support in the implementation of the policy.
18	<b>Women</b>	Women will be involved in the promotion of equality and gender inclusion in international relations and diplomacy. They will participate in the implementation of the Women in Diplomacy Program which aims to mentor young female students for diplomatic careers and facilitating women to occupy high positions in Kenya’s diplomatic missions and International organizations.
19	<b>Youth</b>	The youth will be actively involved in the implementation of this policy by facilitating their representation in international engagements and through continuous dialogue on topical issues.
20	<b>Persons with Disability</b>	Persons with Disability will be actively involved in the implementation of this policy by facilitating their representation in international engagements and through continuous dialogue on topical issues.
21	<b>Labour Organisations</b>	Labour movements will work closely with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to promote and protect workers’ rights within the frameworks provided under ILO and international labour engagements.

## Chapter 6:

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### 6.1 The Importance of Measuring Diplomatic Outcomes

This policy recognises the importance of measuring diplomatic outcomes and their impact. The Ministry will partner with academic institutions and think tanks to develop impact measurement tools to assess the outcomes of this Policy. Both midterm and end term reviews will be undertaken to assess progress in implementation and the realization of intended objectives.

A Results Framework will be developed to define specific indicators to measure progress of outcomes and targeted initiatives. The framework will provide an assessment of whether initiatives being undertaken are yielding the desired results. This will facilitate evidence-based decision making and promote learning and continuous improvement during implementation, thus enabling timely adjustments of strategies based on emerging challenges and opportunities. This progressive approach will ensure that the policy adapts to changing global dynamics while maintaining its central alignment with national priorities.

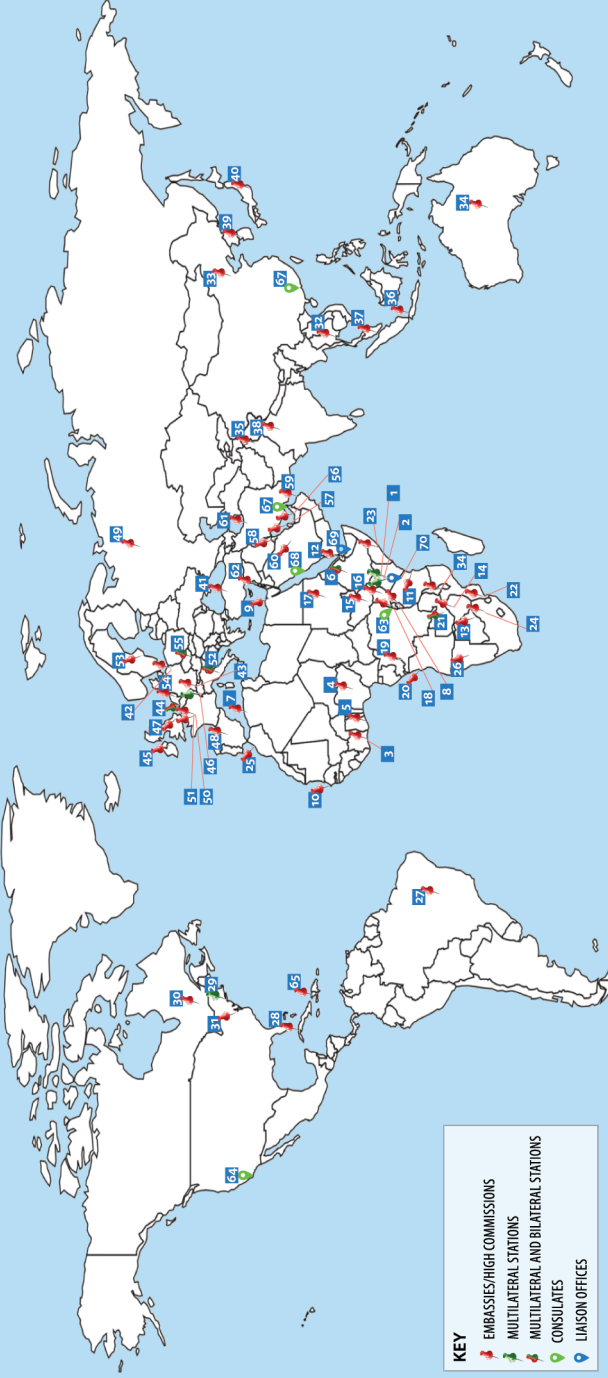
#### 6.1.1 The National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Monitoring and Evaluation of this Policy will be guided by the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that is anchored on the National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (NIMES). The Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs will coordinate the monitoring and evaluation to ensure the attainment of the objectives of this policy. The Government will also use existing tools, including the MDAs the Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Contracts, Annual Work Plans, Annual President's Report to track the implementation and reporting of this policy. The same will be aligned to the Medium-Term Plan Framework. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs will prepare Annual Foreign Policy Outlook papers to set the agenda and priorities for implementation at the beginning of each year. Besides, the implementation will be monitored, evaluated, and reported periodically to assess the achievement of the objectives, determine the gaps and challenges facing its implementation, and the corrective actions needed to ensure delivery of the intended results.

Overall, the Monitoring and Evaluation will require the commitment of all the implementing institutions as provided for in the institutional framework. Moreover, the Policy will be reviewed as the need arises in order to incorporate emerging issues in both domestic and external operating environments.



# KENYA'S DIPLOMATIC FOOTPRINT



KEY	
	EMBASSIES/HIGH COMMISSIONS
	MULTILATERAL STATIONS
	MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL STATIONS
	CONSULATES
	LIASON OFFICES

## DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

KENYA	
1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	5. Accra
2. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	6. Addis Ababa
	7. Algiers
	8. Bujumbura
	9. Cairo
	10. Dakar
	11. Dar-Es-Salaam
	12. Djibouti
	13. Gaborone
AFRICA	
3. Abidjan	14. Harare
4. Abuja	15. Juba

## AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

16. Kampala	37. Kuala Lumpur
17. Khartoum	38. New Delhi
18. Kigali	39. Seoul
19. Kinshasa	40. Tokyo
20. Luanda	
21. Lusaka	
22. Maputo	
23. Mogadishu	
24. Pretoria	
25. Rabat	
26. Windhoek	

## ASIA & PACIFIC

27. Brasilia	41. Ankara
28. Havana	42. Berlin
29. New York	43. Bern
30. Ottawa	44. Brussels
31. Washington D.C	45. Dublin
	46. Geneva
	47. London
	48. Madrid
	49. Moscow
	50. Paris
	51. The Hague
	52. Rome
	53. Stockholm
	54. Vienna
	55. Vienna

## EUROPE

56. Abu Dhabi	64. Los Angeles
57. Doha	65. Port-au-Prince
58. Kuwait	
59. Muscat	
60. Riyadh	
61. Tehran	
62. Tel Aviv	

## MIDDLE EAST

66. Guangzhou	68. Jeddah
67. Dubai	

## MIDDLE EAST

69. Anusha	70. Hargeisa
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**Note:** Kenya will continuously enhance its diplomatic footprint by progressively establishing new missions to strengthen its global presence and promote foreign policy objectives.



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## Portraits and names of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

25. Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary For Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (October 2023 to present)

24. Dr. Alfred Mutua, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs (October 2022 - October 2023)

23. Amb. Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs (2020- 2022)

22. Amb. Dr Monica Juma, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs (2018-2020)

21. Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade (2013-2018)

20. Amb. (Prof) Samson Kegengo Ongeru, EGH, Minister of Foreign Affairs (2013-2013)

19. H.E. Hon. (Prof.) George Musengi Saitoti, E.G.H., Ag Minister of Foreign Affairs (2010-2011)

18. Hon. Moses Masika Wetangula, Minister of Foreign Affairs (2008-2012)

17. Hon. Raphael Tuju, Minister of Foreign Affairs (2005-2007)

16. Hon. Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Minister of Foreign Affairs (2004-2005)

15. Hon. Marsden Madoka, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1998-2001)

14. Hon. Christopher Mogere Obure, Minister of Foreign Affairs (2001)

13. Hon. Dr. Bonaya Adhi Godana, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1998-2001)

12. H.E. Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, EGH, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1993-1998)and (2003-2004)

11. Hon. Wilson Ndolo Ayah, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1990-1993)

10. Hon. Dr Zachary Onyonga, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1987-1988)

9. Hon. Elijah Wasike Mwangale, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1983-1987)

8. Dr. Robert Ouko, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1979-1983) and (1988-1990)

7. Hon. Munyua Waiyaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1974-1979)

6. Hon. Magana Njoroge Mungai, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1969-1974)

5. Hon. Peter Mbiyu Koinange, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1969)

4. Hon. Argwings Kodhek, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1968-1969)

3. Hon. James Nyamweya, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1967-1968)

2. Hon. Joseph Murumbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1964-1966)

1. The Right Hon. Jomo Kenyatta, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1963-1964)



1









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