



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

# KENYA

## FOREIGN POLICY

NOVEMBER, 2014



# Kenya Foreign Policy

November, 2014



## FOREWORD



The finalization of the Kenya Foreign Policy marks a milestone achievement for our nation. It is the first time since our independence that Kenya has a written foreign policy. The policy provides a broad framework on Kenya's foreign relations and diplomatic engagements within a contemporary globalized environment. The policy further outlines the evolution of our foreign relations and engagements with our partners over the last five decades and its future strategic direction to ensure the achievement of the collective aspirations of Kenyans, bearing in mind the critical role of foreign policy in meeting national priorities. Its publication is a culmination of a highly participatory and consultative process and it is benchmarked on international best practices in foreign policy.

The Vision driving Kenya's Foreign Policy agenda is the pursuit of 'A peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Kenya' while the Mission is "To project, promote and protect Kenya's interests and image globally through innovative diplomacy, and contribute towards a just, peaceful and equitable world".

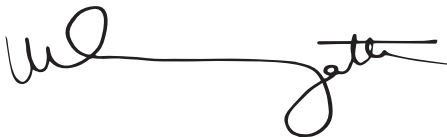
The foreign policy objectives are informed by our common desire for a peaceful, united and prosperous country as embodied in Kenya's National Anthem, the Constitution and Kenya Vision 2030. Through the foreign policy objectives, Kenya seeks to promote and safeguard national, regional and international peace and security and protect our sovereignty and territorial integrity. As a country, we will continue to support the work of regional, international and multilateral organizations in finding lasting solutions to conflict and terrorism activities for a free and secure world.

In pursuing the country's socio-economic and political interests, Kenya will seek to promote sub-regional and regional integration and cooperation emphasizing intra-African trade as the cornerstone for Africa's socio-economic and political unity. Through economic diplomacy, Kenya will continue to strengthen and consolidate its trade and investment links with traditional partners while exploring new trade

and investment partners in order to expand access of Kenyan products to foreign markets, while at the same time increasing investments for our country. Through this policy, we seek to deepen our engagement and partnerships with the Kenyan Diaspora in order to leverage and harness their skills and expertise for national development. As a country, we will also continue to contribute to sustainable management of the environment by confronting the impact of contemporary environmental challenges such as global climate change, ozone layer depletion, ocean and air pollution, and resource degradation. Our rich and diverse culture will be used to promote friendship and mutual understanding at the national, regional and international level to promote positive and sustainable economic activities and trade relations especially through mutually beneficial cultural exchanges. The outlined objectives will continue to shape Kenya's interaction and engagement with the outside world in order to maximize the benefits from its diplomatic engagement at all levels.

The successful actualization of the policy calls for a coherent and cross-sectoral approach and a coordinated response across all levels of government, private sector and other non-state actors. Towards this end, all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and organs whose functions and responsibilities in one way or another impact on Kenya's foreign relations are expected to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade together to make this policy a reality.

Finally, in publishing this policy the Government reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promote an open and pro-citizens policy formulation process. The policy also ensures that necessary measures are put in place to effectively promote the interests of Kenya and her nationals in its foreign relations and diplomatic engagements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Uhuru Kenyatta', with a long horizontal line extending from the middle of the signature.

**UHURU KENYATTA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is mandated to pursue Kenya's foreign policy and international trade affairs in accordance to the Constitution of Kenya, with the overarching objective of protecting, promoting and projecting the nation's interests abroad.

In pursuing of this objective, my Ministry has developed this Foreign Policy to guide Kenya's foreign relations and diplomatic engagements with our partners. The Policy is inclined towards upholding the country's sovereignty, promoting universal peace and fostering better relations with our neighbors, the rest of the African continent and the world at large. In this regard, Kenya will continue to consolidate and strengthen its foreign relations and diplomatic engagements with other countries as well as international and multilateral organizations at the regional, continental and international level.

This Policy is anchored on five interlinked pillars of diplomacy namely: Economic; Peace; Environmental; Cultural and Diaspora. Economic diplomacy aims to realize a robust and sustained economic transformation so as to secure Kenya's social economic development and prosperity in line with the goals and aspirations of the Kenya Vision 2030. Peace Diplomacy seeks to consolidate Kenya's legacy in promoting peace and stability as necessary conditions for development and prosperity in countries within the region. Environmental Diplomacy recognizes Kenya's enormous stake in the sustainable management of its own natural resources, both regionally and globally. Cultural Diplomacy aims to use culture as a vital tool in international relations especially through the use of cultural heritage and endowments as the pedestals of our foreign engagement. Lastly, Diaspora Diplomacy recognizes the importance of harnessing the diverse skills, expertise and potential of Kenyans living abroad, and facilitating their integration into the national development agenda. These pillars inform the core priorities and strategies for our bilateral and multilateral engagement so as to strengthen relationships, enhance social cultural cooperation and promote our national interests.

In line with our objectives of promoting and protecting Kenya's interest abroad, the Government of Kenya has established a total of 54 diplomatic missions in 49 countries and appointed 25 Honorary Consuls who provide support and assistance in promoting Kenya's interest abroad. In order to sustain this momentum and to engage effectively with the rest of the world, we will continue to expand our diplomatic presence and strengthen our representation abroad in strategic locations.

In order to integrate foreign policy in the national development agenda as envisaged in the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Medium Term Plans, five-year strategic plans will be developed to ensure realization of the set priorities through effective implementation of the specific strategies. The policy will be subjected to regular reviews to ensure it remains relevant to the rapidly changing global environment.

This Policy was developed in a consultative and participatory manner in line with the constitutional requirements of public and stakeholder participation and engagement. I would like to thank all those who contributed to its development and subsequent finalization in one way or the other. I would like to sincerely commend the Ministry staff both at the Ministry headquarters and in our missions abroad, who under the leadership of the Principal Secretary dedicated their time towards finalization of the Policy. I further acknowledge the input of the National Assembly, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, professionals, other stakeholders and the general public for their invaluable input towards its finalization. Your contribution helped in shaping Kenya's foreign relations and engagements. Thank you very much.



**AMB. (DR.) AMINA C. MOHAMMED, CBS, CAV  
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## ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
AUPSC	African Union Peace and Security Council
ACP/EU	Africa Caribbean Pacific Countries/European Union
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CITES	Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species
EAC	East African Community
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreements
ERS	Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation
EU	European Union
G77	Group of 77 developing countries and China
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IOR-ARC	Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MTP	First Medium Term Plan (2008 – 2012) of Vision 2030
NDP	National Development Plan
OAU	Organization of the African Unity
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNON	United Nations Office in Nairobi
WTO	World Trade Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document outlines Kenya's Foreign Policy as it has evolved since independence in 1963. It underscores the underlying philosophy and values, main sources and influences, guiding principles, objectives and core priorities, strategies and the implementation framework.

The decision to publish a reference document on Kenya's foreign policy is informed by the need to promote public awareness of the country's foreign policy predisposition to ensure consistency and effectiveness in pursuit of our national interests against the background of new opportunities and emerging threats in the modern world. The policy identifies objectives and priorities of Kenya's foreign policy as well as strategies for promoting Kenya's interests in an increasingly complex and competitive global environment.

Kenya's long struggle for national liberation laid strong foundations for the country's foreign policy orientation which establishes an inextricable link between national independence and humanity's larger freedom, equity and a shared heritage. Kenya's recognition of its obligations as the cradle of mankind, custodian of a common heritage and protector of rare species (both flora and fauna) necessitates a pragmatic approach in the management of foreign relations. The foreign policy approach further establishes the strong belief that Kenya's future is inextricably linked to the stability and security of the immediate sub-region which is the mainstay of its nationhood, prosperity and livelihoods of its citizens.

This pragmatic approach adheres to several principles which shaped decision making in building sustainable foreign relations since independence. Over the last five decades, Kenya's foreign policy has undergone transition in response to the emerging trends in international affairs such as globalization, regional integration and security threats to new and non-conventional global peace and stability.

Kenya's Foreign Policy is driven by a Vision of 'A peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Kenya' while the Mission is "To project, promote and protect Kenya's interests and image globally through innovative diplomacy, and contribute towards a just, peaceful and equitable world." The policy is driven by national values and aspirations of the Kenyan people as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya. Other sources informing

Kenya's Foreign Policy include the Kenya Vision 2030 and its Medium Term Plans, Sessional Papers, Manifestos of the ruling political parties; Executive pronouncements and Circulars, among others.

Kenya's Foreign Policy aims to achieve several national objectives, inter alia to: Protect Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity; Promote integration; Enhance regional peace and security; Advance the economic prosperity of Kenya and her people; Project Kenya's image and prestige; Promote multilateralism; Promote the interests of Kenyan Diaspora and partnership with the Kenyans abroad.

Kenya's foreign policy is anchored on five interlinked pillars that characterize her bilateral and multilateral engagement. These pillars are Peace, Economic, Diaspora, Environmental and Cultural.

The Peace pillar seeks to consolidate Kenya's legacy in cultivating peace and stability as necessary conditions for development and prosperity. The Economic pillar aims to achieve robust economic engagement in order to secure Kenya's socio-economic development and prosperity that will ensure our nation becomes a middle income and industrialized economy by the year 2030. The Diaspora pillar aims to harness the diverse skills, expertise and potential of Kenyans living abroad, and facilitating their integration into the national development agenda.

The Environmental pillar underscores Kenya's commitment to sustainable management of the environment and shared natural resources while the Cultural pillar seeks to use culture as a vital tool to promote a favourable image and prestige for the country globally.

The core priorities of Kenya's Foreign Policy which are anchored on the above five pillars are: to enhance global peace and security; to promote economic development and prosperity; to take a leadership role in addressing global environmental issues; to expound Kenya's rich culture as an avenue to promoting understanding and better relations; and to enhance Kenya's stature in the international affairs. Kenya shall seek to strengthen bilateral relations, foster regional integration and support strategic partnerships at the continental and multilateral levels.

# CHAPTER ONE

## KENYA FOREIGN POLICY FRAMEWORK



# KENYA FOREIGN POLICY FRAMEWORK

## Preamble

Since the end of the Cold War, the world has witnessed drastic changes in international politics and rules of diplomatic engagement. Fundamental shifts have occurred in the configuration and realignment of global power relations with the emergence of a multi-polar world order and the increasing influence of emerging economies in global affairs.

Similarly, the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union has created new opportunities for Africa. The emerging governance, peace and security architecture has provided a framework that ensures a stable continent and creates an enabling environment for sustainable development. To maximize on the ensuing socio-economic development and avoid marginalization, Africa is strengthening regional integration as a tool for leveraging on continental cooperation and stability. Kenya recognizes that she is an integral part of the African Continent and acknowledges that her national interest is intrinsically linked to Africa's stability, unity and prosperity.

In the modern globalized world, our common humanity has become a constant element. Kenya therefore places great emphasis on cooperation, collaboration and building partnerships. Deriving from this, Kenya's Foreign Policy orientation is geared towards improving and enhancing mutually beneficial bilateral networks and multilateral relations with other regions of the world. The relationships will ensure Kenya's national interests are guaranteed in order to secure Kenya's socio-economic priorities.

## Policy Context

Kenya's long struggle for national liberation from colonialism set a strong foundation for its foreign policy orientation. The architects of our Republic underscored the inextricable link between national independence and humanity's larger freedom, equity and the inalienable right to a shared heritage.

Kenya assumed its place as a sovereign state and actor in international relations upon independence in December 1963. Since then, Kenya's

foreign policy has been guided by a strong belief that our own future is inseparable from the stability and security of our environment as the basic source of national survival and prosperity.

The benchmarks guiding the country's relations with the world were set by the imperative to re-align its goals at the international level to the turbulent and shifting dynamics of a divided world during the Cold War era (1945-1989). Even though Kenya's liberation struggle enhanced the country's international image and stature, paradoxically, this heroic history also risked playing into the East-West ideological divide.

In order to strategically place the country in the international arena, the architects of Kenya's foreign policy charted a pragmatic approach, informed by several principles, which have stood the test of time. This approach has ensured that Kenya successfully forges mutually beneficial alliances with the West while constructively engaging the East through its policy of positive economic and political non-alignment.



The phenomenon of globalization also led to emergence of an international network of social and economic systems has had both positive and negative effects in the foreign policy. The need to effectively respond to globalization necessitated changes in Kenya's foreign policy orientation. While offering new economic opportunities especially in the fields of science, technology and communication, globalization has led to competition for capital flows, shrinking market access and economic marginalization of developing economies.

As the world has globalized, so have new global security threats far removed from the classical notion of inter-state conflict. Kenya has experienced the direct impact of these threats which include transnational organized crime, terrorism, piracy, drug and human trafficking, proliferation of small arms and weapons, and money laundering amongst others. This has therefore compelled Kenya to find new anchors for the conduct of its foreign relations. With international terrorism now elevated into a foremost threat to global security, combating this scourge has become a crucial agenda of Kenya's external relations and a subject of its strategic partnerships.

Kenya also recognizes the effect of environmental problems such as global climate change, the buildup of greenhouse gases, toxic chemicals, and pesticides; species extinction; deforestation; and marine degradation and poaching which continue to pose a threat to the prosperity, health, and security of global citizens. Kenya has in response elevated its environmental agenda into one of its foreign policy pillars.

Kenya's current world view is also informed by a number of critical political developments and particularly protracted conflicts and the disintegration of African states which had hitherto been held together by cold war politics. These conflicts define perhaps the most critical foreign policy transition with the emergence of peace diplomacy as a major strategic response to widespread civil wars, the implosion of the state, radicalism and other forms of extremism threatening national and regional peace, security, stability and prosperity.

The other causal factor for a major foreign policy transition has been the expansion of the space for regional and continental diplomacy. The rebirth of the African Union in 2002 and the creation of its new structures such as



the AU Peace and Security presented opportunities for collective action to resolve regional conflicts and stabilize the continent as a pre-condition for shared socio-economic regeneration. Kenya seeks a lead role in the renewed African Renaissance which underlies the current quest for a stronger Africa able to address the challenges and ensure sustainable development. This has been made more pronounced by the refocusing of the African Union from supporting liberation to spearheading Africa's development and integration.

A final transition in Kenya's Foreign Policy revolves around the increasingly important role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as critical tools for regional integration. Kenya continues to play a lead role in fast tracking regional and continental integration so as to boost intra-African trade as part of the efforts to reduce economic marginalization of Africa in the global economy. The overarching objective is the improvement of Kenya's competitiveness for foreign direct investments and that of its export products, increase of market access and developing its



attractiveness as a leading tourist destination. At the international level, Kenya seeks to diversify its economic relationships and partnerships with increased focus on the emerging economies and economic zones. These efforts collectively have sown the seeds of Kenya's new era of economic diplomacy which seeks to promote a pragmatic approach that best illustrates commitment to strengthen relations with all countries and regions based on shared mutual interests.



In pursuing its national interests in the international arena, Kenya continues to enjoy a favorable international profile arising from its strategic location, sustained stability, strong political institutions, sound economic policies, dynamic environmental strategies and highly educated and skilled human resources. Other positive attributes are outstanding performance by Kenya's sports persons and the increasing involvement of Kenyans abroad in national development.

## **Policy Objectives**

Kenya's foreign policy seeks to pursue the following national objectives:

- a) Protect Kenya's sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- b) Promote sub-regional and regional integration and co-operation;
- c) Enhance regional and global peace and security;
- d) Advance the economic prosperity of Kenya and her people;
- e) Project Kenya's image and prestige;
- f) Promote international cooperation and multilateralism;
- g) Promote and protect the interests of Kenyans abroad; and
- h) Enhance partnership with the Kenya Diaspora and descendants.

These objectives will be pursued through five key inter-linked pillars of Kenya's Foreign Policy.

## **Guiding Principles**

The execution of Kenya's Foreign Policy and the conduct of her international relations are guided by the following principles:

- a) Sanctity of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Kenya;
- b) Peaceful co-existence with neighbours and other nations;
- c) Resolution of conflicts by peaceful means;
- d) Promotion of regional integration;
- e) Respect for the equality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states; and
- f) Respect for international norms, customs and laws.

## Philosophy and Values

Kenya's Foreign Policy is guided and driven by a Vision of *"A peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive Kenya"* while the Mission is *"To project, promote and protect Kenya's interests and image globally through innovative diplomacy, and contribute towards a just, peaceful and equitable world"*.

The policy is inspired and guided by the following national values and aspirations of the Kenyan people as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya:

- a) Unity in Diversity;
- b) Honour and Patriotism;
- c) Peace and Liberty;
- d) Justice and Equity;
- e) Quest for Prosperity; and
- f) Harambee Spirit (pulling together).

## Sources informing the Kenya Foreign Policy

Though Kenya has in the past not had a written single foreign policy framework document, the conduct of Kenya's foreign relations has been informed by various official documents, and executive pronouncements and circulars, including the following:

- a) The Constitution of Kenya;
- b) The Sessional Paper No. 10/1965 on African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya;
- c) The Sessional Paper No. 1/1986 on Economic Management for Renewed Growth;
- d) Manifestos of the ruling political parties;
- e) National Development Plans;
- f) Kenya Environmental Policy, 2013
- g) Kenya Vision 2030 and its Medium Term Plans; and
- h) International Treaties, Conventions, Agreements and Charters

# CHAPTER TWO

## PILLARS OF KENYA'S FOREIGN POLICY



## PILLARS OF KENYA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Kenya's Foreign Policy rests on five interlinked pillars: Peace diplomacy pillar; Economic diplomacy pillar; Diaspora diplomacy pillar, Environment diplomacy pillar and Cultural diplomacy pillar.

### Peace Diplomacy Pillar

Underlying Kenya's peace and security diplomacy is the recognition of peace and stability as necessary pre-conditions for development and prosperity. Linked to this, is Kenya's conviction that its own stability and economic wellbeing are dependent on the stability of the sub-region, Africa and the rest of the world.



The objectives of this pillar are to:

- 1) Promote the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means;
- 2) Collaborate with other African countries to strengthen the conflict prevention, management and resolution capacity of regional institutions, including the East African Community (EAC), Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Union (AU with the aim of promoting sustainable peace and development;
- 3) Support peace efforts by the African Union and the United Nations through contributing troops and providing leadership in peacekeeping missions within the continent and globally; and
- 4) Create conflict analysis and prevention capacity nationally and in the region through the Foreign Service Academy.

In pursuing these objectives, Kenya's foreign peace diplomacy continues to draw on Kenya's experiences in mediation, conflict resolution and peacekeeping. Further, Kenya will continue to support institutions that are involved in peace keeping in the Continent which include International Peace Support Training Centre and East African Standby Force Command among others.

## **Economic Diplomacy Pillar**

Kenya's quest for a peaceful and stable environment is linked to its socio-economic development and prosperity, and that of the region. A robust economic engagement is necessary to secure Kenya's regional and overall economic objectives in line with the Kenya Vision 2030.

The objectives of this pillar are to:

1. Increase capital flows to Kenya and the East African region;
2. Support export promotion and investment by Kenyan enterprises within the region and beyond;
3. Promote the country as a favourite destination for foreign direct investment, tourism, and conferencing;
4. Expand access to traditional markets and explore new destinations for Kenya's exports;
5. Enhance technological advancement by exploring new sources of affordable and appropriate technology;
6. Support the exploration of alternative sources of traditional and renewable energy;

7. Strengthen regional economic communities and organizations to serve as competitive spring boards to emerging and global markets; and
8. Promote fair trade and equitable bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements.







## Diaspora Diplomacy Pillar

The Government of Kenya recognizes the huge and untapped potential of Kenyans Abroad which can contribute to the country's national development agenda. The Diaspora pillar aims to harness the diverse skills, knowledge, expertise and resources of Kenyans living abroad, and facilitating their integration into the national development agenda. This informs the Diaspora Pillar which seeks to harness the contribution of Kenyans living abroad through the implementation of the National Diaspora policy.

The objectives of this pillar are to:

1. Provide effective and responsive consular services;
2. Facilitate Kenyans Abroad to participate in national development;
3. Promote the access by Kenyans to the international labour market;
4. Utilize outstanding Kenyans, and
5. Tap into the skills and resources of the Kenyans Abroad for national development.

## Environmental Diplomacy Pillar

The Kenya Environmental Policy, 2013 underscores that environment and natural resources are valuable national assets upon which the country's sustainable development is anchored . Kenya recognizes its enormous stake in the sustainable management of its own natural resources,



those of the region and the world. The strong orientation towards environmental issues is therefore a distinct feature of Kenya's Foreign Policy. Among key issues underlined by the environment pillar is the effective implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).

As the cradle of mankind and custodian of unique flora and fauna, Kenya takes seriously its obligation to transmit humanity's inheritance to posterity. Underlying this commitment is the urgency to confront the impact of contemporary environmental problems such as global climate change, ozone depletion, ocean and air pollution, and resource degradation compounded by the increasing world population. The objectives of this pillar are to:

1. Champion the strengthening of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Nairobi (UN HABITAT) in prioritizing the global sustainable development agenda;
2. Promote compliance with the relevant national, regional and international environmental legislation, regulations, standards, and other appropriate operational procedures and guidelines;
3. Promote the integration of environmental management into national and regional economic activities, including agriculture and tourism to minimize negative impact on the environment;
4. Promote research as a mechanism to encourage innovation and reduce adverse environmental impacts; and
5. Encourage public dialogue, awareness and knowledge creation on

environmental matters through national, regional and international forums.

### **Cultural Diplomacy Pillar**

The potential of Kenya's cultural heritage is enormous and there is need for its exploitation for the development of the country. Over the years Kenya has continuously placed emphasis on cultural recognition and understanding as the basis for dialogue. It is through cultural activities that a nation's idea of itself is best represented. Kenya's cultural diplomacy aims to increase awareness of her cultural richness and to generate interests in the country's cultural heritage.

The objectives of this pillar are to:

1. Respect and recognize cultural diversity and heritage;
2. Promote cultural exchanges and partnerships;
3. Promote global intercultural dialogue;
4. Promote sports and art diplomacy by recognizing the role of Kenyan artist, athletes and other sportsmen and women; and
5. Promote the recognition of Kiswahili as a continental and global language;

The implementation of these pillars will provide a guiding framework for diplomatic engagements. This will further guide the country as it pursues its vision of becoming peaceful, prosperous and globally competitive while promoting sustainable development.



# CHAPTER THREE

## INSTITUTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK



## **INSTITUTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

### **Implementation strategies**

In the modern globalized world, interconnectedness and interdependency are a reality. Kenya therefore recognizes the importance of strengthened bilateral relations, regional cooperation and enhanced multilateral engagement as fundamental components of its foreign policy and entry points for achieving its national interests.

### **Bilateral Relations**

Kenya continues to embrace bilateralism in pursuing its foreign policy objectives through bilateral trade, political, environmental and cultural agreements with other countries. Among priority countries are East Africa Community member states which are Kenya's strategic trading partners. These countries host a significant number of Kenyans expatriates and remain the focus of the Kenyan business community. Kenya will also seek to enter into bilateral partnership with countries in other African sub-regions within the context of its afro-centric foreign policy.

The implementation of bilateral arrangements with foreign countries beyond Africa forms a critical component of Kenya's Foreign Policy agenda which lays emphasis on emerging economies and economic zones. Kenya will further strengthen its bilateral diplomacy through establishment of diplomatic missions in countries of strategic importance and exchange of high level visits. Further the promotion and protection of the interests of the large number of Kenyans abroad will continue to inform the strengthening of bilateral relations with other countries.

### **Regional Integration**

Regional integration has a key of advantages to Kenya which includes regional stability and increase in trade among others. Therefore regional integration will continue to be one of the cornerstones of Kenya's Foreign Policy. The East African Community (EAC), Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Union (AU) are Kenya's principal avenues for pursuing its foreign policy goals.

- 1. The East African Community (EAC).** The EAC is Kenya's most important foreign policy vehicle and her major trading and investment bloc. Guided by the vision of shared prosperity with its neighbours, Kenya will continue to strengthen ties with the EAC countries. Kenya will therefore continue to play its rightful role in fast tracking the EAC integration through the full implementation of the provisions of all common instruments.
- 2. The Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD):** As a founder member of IGAD, Kenya will continue to provide leadership and support to IGAD as an effective regional tool for confronting challenges to sustainable development in the region. Strategic interventions include mobilization of international support to enable IGAD to consolidate regional peace and stability, and strengthen its capacity to effectively address regional environmental issues.
- 3. The Great Lakes Region:** Kenya is an active member of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and a signatory to the Peace and Security Pact which seeks to achieve sustainable peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region. Sustainable peace in this region is critical to the development of the region. Kenya recognizes that sustainable peace and security is critical to the development of the Eastern and Central African countries and will therefore seek to promote its regional peace agenda.
- 4. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA):** Kenya has been an active member of COMESA since its inception in December 1994. As the largest African regional economic bloc, COMESA is of strategic importance to Kenya's economic diplomacy. It provides an extensive market for Kenyan exports and is a major source of investment opportunities for Kenyan investors. The regional bloc is also a key player in Africa's integration agenda through tripartite negotiations with EAC and SADC to establish the grand Free Trade Area. Kenya will therefore, continue to support the strengthening of COMESA as a leader in continental integration.
- 5. The African Union (AU):** Kenya will uphold the provisions of the AU Constitutive Act and the realization of its strategic objectives. As a foreign policy priority, Kenya will continue to play its role in strengthening of the AU and its institutions in accordance with the

AU Vision 2063. As a member of EAC, IGAD and COMESA, Kenya particularly supports the AU agenda which seeks to boost intra-African trade and realization of Africa's potential as a pole for global economic growth. Kenya will also continue to support Africa's strategic partnerships with other regions aimed at promoting global peace and security and achieving the sustainable development agenda in the Post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) period.

## **Multilateralism**

Kenya will continue to promote the principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter and play its rightful role in supporting the work of the United Nations system in the promotion of international peace and security, trade, human rights and democracy, refugees, sustainable development and the reform of the UN system. In this regard, Kenya will forge greater collaboration with the United Nations system and other international institutions and bodies. Kenya's foreign policy also identifies the reform of the United Nations system to make the world body more responsive to all countries and regions of the world with equal representation in its organs and institutions as a top priority.

Kenya will also continue to effectively engage with the Commonwealth, South-South Cooperation, Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and other multilateral organizations to promote international cooperation and collaboration in finding lasting solutions to global challenges and in helping transformation of the multilateral system to reflect the diversity of our nations, and to ensure its centrality in global governance. In addition, Kenya will continue to defend and advance her overall international policy goals through robust engagement at the World Trade Organization to create a predictable, transparent and enabling environment for fair multilateral trading system.

## **Public Diplomacy**

In a competitive and complex world, public diplomacy is essential to actively promote Kenya's image, values and culture abroad. The Kenya foreign policy approach therefore embraces use of available technologies and platforms, especially social media networks to communicate with stakeholders on the country's Foreign Policy.

Kenya will also continue to provide institutional support and capacity building in the region through regional technical cooperation programme under the Kenya Regional Technical Cooperation Fund.

### **Institutional Framework**

To achieve Kenya's Foreign Policy objectives and priorities, the following institutions are fundamental:

- a) The Executive comprising of:
  - (i) The Presidency.
  - (ii) The Cabinet.
  - (iii) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.
  - (iv) Relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies.
- b) Parliament, County Governments, Offices of Retired Heads of State/Government and other Statesmen; and
- c) Any other relevant institutions, offices and instruments.



# CHAPTER FOUR

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION



## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation shall be an integral part of the Kenya Foreign Policy. Monitoring and evaluation of the Kenya Foreign Policy will establish whether its intended purpose is being achieved, challenges facing its implementation, what corrective actions may be needed to ensure delivery of results and whether its making any positive contribution to the sustainable development of the country. The Ministry will develop strategies for the implementation of the objectives of the Kenya Foreign Policy which will be the basis of monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure continued pursuit of Kenya's national interests.

The Ministry shall establish mechanisms for tracking the implementation and progress towards attainment of the objectives of this policy, providing feedback that will enable updating and reviewing the policy as need arises.





REPUBLIC OF KENYA

# KENYA FOREIGN POLICY

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