



BACKGROUND NOTE

2025 KENYA FOREIGN POLICY OUTLOOK WEBINAR

"Kenya's New Foreign Policy - Motivations, Priorities and Limitations"

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 2024

TIME: 1900 HRS – 2100 HRS

BACKGROUND

Under President William Ruto administration, Kenya has undertaken a review of its Foreign Policy, with the aim of ensuring its continued relevance, effectiveness, and inclusivity in advancing the country's national interests and values. This review comes amidst significant shifts in the global order, characterized by emerging alliances, new rivalries, and transformative global trends. These changes are reshaping how nations engage with one another, making it imperative for Kenya's Foreign Policy to address the dynamic geopolitical and economic landscape.

The updated policy seeks to identify gaps in the existing framework, redefine foreign policy priorities, and propose strategies for implementation. At its core, the review aims to safeguard Kenya's sovereignty, promote national values, and project Kenya as an influential global and regional actor. The revised policy emphasizes Kenya's leadership in Africa, its commitment to multilateralism, and its role in fostering sustainable development and peacebuilding globally.

It is within this context that the International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK) and The Kenyan Foreign Policy (KFP) have come together to organize the **2025 Kenya Foreign Policy Outlook Webinar**. The upcoming webinar marks the second in a series of focused discussions on Kenya's Foreign Policy, underscoring the shared commitment of these institutions to fostering informed dialogue and enhancing public understanding of Kenya's foreign policy direction.

INTRODUCTION

The **2025 Foreign Policy Outlook Webinar** serves as a platform to review and discuss Kenya's updated Foreign Policy. It will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to understand the motivations behind the review, analyze the key priorities outlined in the policy, and explore how it aligns with Kenya's vision for national and global engagement. The webinar will bring together experts, academics, and representatives from civil society and the media to facilitate an inclusive dialogue on this important subject matter.

By bringing together these key stakeholders, the event aims to create an inclusive dialogue on the priorities, opportunities and challenges the new policy seeks to address. Through interactive discussions, participants will gain insights into how the revised Foreign Policy positions Kenya to navigate global trends effectively, enhance its regional leadership, and project its values and interests on the global stage. By so doing, the webinar represents a vital step toward ensuring that the policy is well-understood, effectively implemented, and broadly supported.

OBJECTIVES

The webinar aims to:

1. Analyze the key elements of Kenya's revised Foreign Policy.
2. Discuss its alignment with current global trends and implications for Kenya's international relations.
3. Discuss its alignment with Kenyan's aspirations and desires and Kenya's national values.
4. Explore strategies for effective implementation and dissemination of the policy.
5. Collect stakeholder insights to inform future foreign policy initiatives.

SPEAKERS

The webinar will feature distinguished speakers, including:

- **Dr. Kizito Sabala** – Senior Lecturer, DDIS, University of Nairobi
- **Nanjira Sambuli** – Researcher and Analyst, Tech Policy and International Affairs
- **Dr. Owiso Owiso** – International Law Practitioner
- **Chepkorir Sambu** – Researcher, Conflicts and Peace
- **Eliud Kibii** – Writer and Analyst, International and Diplomatic Affairs
- **Mwangi Maina** – Founder, Kenyan Foreign Policy [Moderator]

ORGANIZERS

This webinar is jointly organized by:

International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK)

IRSK is the professional body for the international affairs and diplomacy fields in Kenya. The Society serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas, networking, and programmatic initiatives among those involved in the study, teaching, and practice of international relations and diplomacy. IRSK works to promote policy dialogues on international affairs and diplomacy between various parties, carry out pertinent and substantial research, and engage in conversation and collaboration with various actors at national, regional, and international levels.

Kenyan Foreign Policy (KFP)

Kenyan Foreign Policy is an independent, foreign affairs hub dedicated to providing unrivaled analysis and in-depth coverage of Kenya's global engagements. As Kenya's premier foreign policy platform, KFP goes beyond the headlines to decode the intricacies of diplomacy, strategy, and power—informing, educating, and engaging audiences across Africa and beyond. Foreign policy shapes a nation's identity, security, and influence on the global stage. At Kenyan Foreign Policy, we unravel the complexities of Kenya's diplomatic maneuvers, alliances, and strategic decisions, ensuring our readers understand the forces shaping the country's place in the world. With a keen eye on the key drivers, challenges, and opportunities behind Kenya's foreign policy, KFP offers a clear, incisive, and uncompromising take on the country's engagement with global powers.