



2025 IRSK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**ENHANCING COMESA'S STRATEGIC POSITIONING
AND RESILIENCE IN THE EVOLVING GLOBAL ORDER**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**BEST WESTERN PREMIER HOTEL
Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya**

 **1st - 3rd
OCTOBER**

 **NAIROBI
KENYA**





2025 IRSK

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PARTNERING ORGANISATIONS



Australian Government

DAY 1
WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION ONE

TIME	ACTIVITY
08:00 - 08:45	<p>ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION IRSK Conference Registration Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Esther Nambuye, <i>Conference Registration</i> <p>IRSK Protocol Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Eunice Wawuda, <i>Conference Protocol</i>
08:45 - 09:00	<p>OPENING CEREMONY Playing of Anthems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kenya• EAC• COMESA <p>CONFERENCE OVERVIEW Master of Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Kemsah Rehan Ali, <i>Media Personality</i>
09:00 - 10:00	<p>OPENING PLENARY SESSION</p> <p>The opening plenary session of the 2025 IRSK Annual Conference will feature distinguished diplomats, leaders, policymakers, scholars and experts, and will set the stage for critical discussions on enhancing COMESA's strategic positioning and resilience in the evolving global order. These esteemed experts will share insights on advancing diplomacy and international relations to address pressing global and regional challenges with far-reaching impacts on regional stability, peace, and sustainable development through collective action and shared goals.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Kemsah Rehan Ali, <i>Media Personality</i> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Leonard Wanyama, <i>CEO, IRSK</i>• Mr. Mathias Kamp, <i>Director, KAS Kenya Office</i>• H.E. Mr. Christopher Ellinger, <i>Chargé d'Affaires, Australian High Commission to Kenya</i> <p>Welcoming Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Kizito Sabala, <i>Chairman, IRSK Annual Conference</i> <p>Featured Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Vasu Gounden, <i>Executive Director, ACCORD</i>• H.E. Amb. Erastus Mwencha, <i>Chairman, ACBF</i> <p>Keynote Speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Anouar Ben Youssef, <i>Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Kenya</i>• H.E. Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadhah, <i>Assistant Secretary General, COMESA</i>• Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam, <i>Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade, Kenya</i>

DAY 1
WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION TWO

TIME	ACTIVITY
10:00 - 11:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION – HIGH-LEVEL OPENING PANEL COMESA at 30: Reflecting on Achievements, Confronting Challenges, and Shaping the Future of Regional Integration</p> <p>This milestone session brings together distinguished leaders, diplomats, policymakers, and experts to reflect on three decades of COMESA’s journey as Africa’s largest regional economic community. The panel will celebrate major achievements, critically examine persistent challenges such as non-tariff barriers and institutional constraints, and explore emerging opportunities in the AfCFTA era, digital transformation, and climate-resilient growth. It will also generate forward-looking ideas on how COMESA can foster a more dynamic, inclusive, and transformative future for its 21 member states and 600 million citizens.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Winnie Rugutt, Lecturer, DDIS, University of Nairobi, Kenya <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadah, Assistant Secretary General, COMESA, Zambia• H.E. Amb. Erastus Mwencha, Chairman, Africa Capacity Building Foundation, Kenya• H.E. Mr. Anouar Ben Youssef, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Kenya• Ms. Regina Akoth Ombam, Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade, Kenya
11:00 – 11:30	HEALTH BREAK

DAY 1
WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION THREE

TIME	ACTIVITY
11:30 -13:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION – COMESA PANEL</p> <p>Regional Economic Communities as Peace Builders: COMESA, CEN-SAD and EAC in Focus</p> <p>This high-level session brings together leading policymakers, scholars, and practitioners to examine the evolving role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in advancing peace and security across Africa. Focusing on COMESA, CEN-SAD, and the EAC, the discussion will highlight institutional achievements, assess ongoing challenges such as conflicts, fragility, and overlapping mandates, and explore how RECs can strengthen preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution, and resilience. The panel will provide critical insights on how these regional blocs can shape Africa’s collective security architecture for the future.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Andrea Prah, Senior Researcher, ACCORD, South Africa <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Oita Etyang, Head of Governance, Peace and Security, COMESA, Zambia• Dr. Souley Hassane, Director of Peace and Security Department, CEN-SAD, Chad• Prof. Kasaija Phillip Apuuli, Professor, Makerere University, Uganda• Dr. Kizito Sabala, Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi, Kenya
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK

DAY 1
WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION FOUR

TIME	PARALLEL SESSIONS	
14:00 – 15:30	<p>ROOM 1 – YOUTH AGENCY PANEL</p> <p>Mainstreaming Youth in Diplomacy: Creating Pathways for a Sustainable Talent Pipeline of Future Global Leaders</p> <p>By mainstreaming youth, diplomacy can become more representative, forward-looking, and solution-oriented, thereby anchoring the next generation as credible and capable global leaders. Accordingly, this panel session will convene a diverse group of youthful experts to explore practical strategies for mainstreaming youths in diplomacy, including mentorship programs, institutional reforms, youth quotas delegations, and the creation of multistakeholder platforms where young diplomats, civil society leaders, and entrepreneurs can meaningfully engage. It will also consider how digital tools and new forms of public diplomacy can amplify youth participation globally.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Eunice Wawuda, Member, IRSK Youth Advisory Board, Kenya <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jacob Eyeru, Vice Chairperson, COMESA Youth Advisory Panel, Uganda • Ms. Judy Mbugua, Media and Communications Executive, IRSK, Kenya • Ms. Wambui Gacih, Intern, KAS Kenya Office • Mr. Jeremy Oronje, Research Assistant, HORN Institute for Strategic Studies, Kenya • Mr. Emolot Allan David, Team Leader, Youth Diplomacy Academy of Africa, Uganda 	<p>ROOM 2 - PEACE AND SECURITY PANEL</p> <p>Navigating New Frontiers of Peace and Security in Africa: Food Insecurity, Election Crises, and Digital Diplomacy</p> <p>This session explores the evolving dynamics shaping peace and security across Africa. From the weaponization of food supplies in the Russia–Ukraine war to the securitization of electoral processes in Zimbabwe, and the growing role of digital tools in mediating conflict in Sudan, the panel highlights how diverse pressures intersect to challenge stability. By unpacking these themes, the discussion offers policymakers, practitioners, and scholars fresh insights into innovative approaches for building resilience and advancing peace in the COMESA region.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Moronge Obonyo, Council Member, IRSK <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fatuma Sarah, Adjunct Lecturer, Riara University, Kenya • Ms. Tatenda Mazarura, Regional Program Coordinator, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, South Africa • Dr. Lweendo Kambela, University of Tasmania, Australia • Dr. Oita Etyang, Head, Governance, Peace and Security, COMESA, Zambia • Mr. Cheembe Bonface, Executive Director, SACCORD, Zambia • Ms. Berita Mutinda, Doctoral Fellow, Strathmore University, Kenya <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Gilbert Khadiagala, Emeritus Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

DAY 1
WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION FIVE

TIME	ACTIVITY
16:00 - 17:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION - ACACIA DIALOGUE CENTER PANEL Navigating New Frontiers: East Africa's Economic Diplomacy with the Middle East - Benefits, Challenges and Long-Term Implications</p> <p>This session will convene leading experts to examine the fast-evolving economic ties between East Africa and the Middle East, driven by trade, investment, and shared strategic interests. While offering opportunities in energy, food security, and regional connectivity, these partnerships also pose risks of asymmetry, short-termism and vulnerability. With East Africa offering a young population, vast resources, and strategic location, and the Middle East bringing capital, infrastructure expertise, and diversification agendas, these evolving partnerships carry immense potential. The discussion will explore how both regions can build balanced, sustainable, and transformative relationships that strengthen sovereignty, resilience, and long-term growth for both regions in an increasingly competitive global landscape.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Johan Svensson, <i>Strategic Advisor, Acacia Dialogue Center, Kenya</i> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Nimo Jirdeh, <i>Co-Founder and CEO, Acacia Dialogue Center, Kenya</i> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Nimo Jirdeh, <i>Co-Founder and CEO, Acacia Dialogue Center, Kenya</i>• Ms. Aparupa Chakravarti, <i>Global Partnerships and Ecosystem Development Expert, Kenya</i>• Dr. Nicodemus Minde, <i>Researcher, ISS, East Africa</i>• Dr. Abdullah Baabood, <i>Omani Scholar, Professor at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan</i>
17:30 Onwards	END OF DAY 1

DAY 2
THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION SIX

TIME	ACTIVITY
08:00 - 08:45	<p>ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION IRSK Conference Registration Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Esther Nambuye, <i>Conference Registration</i> <p>IRSK Protocol Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Eunice Wawuda, <i>Conference Protocol</i>
08:45 - 09:00	<p>OVERVIEW OF DAY 1</p> <p>Master of Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Kensa Rehan Ali, <i>Media Personality</i>
09:00 - 11:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION - ACCORD, COMESA & IRSK PANEL Getting Your Research Published: From Writing to Dissemination</p> <p>This workshop brings together leading editors and publishers to demystify the process publishing in a peer-reviewed journal and share insider strategies for success. From preparing a strong manuscript and selecting the right journal to navigating peer review, using digital tools, and promoting your work effectively, participants will gain practical skills to boost their publishing journey. Tailored for early and mid-career researchers, this session will equip participants with the confidence and knowledge to publish widely and amplify their impact on academia, policy, and beyond.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Paidamwoyo Mudzimuirema, <i>Media and Communication Officer, ACCORD, South Africa</i> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Andrea Prah, <i>Managing Editor, African Journal of Conflict Resolution (ACCORD), South Africa</i>• Dr. Kizito Sabala, <i>Chief Editor, African Regional Integration Series, Kenya</i>• Dr. Oita Etyang, <i>Chief Editor, African Regional Integration Series, Kenya</i>• Ms. R. Mumbi Gichuhi, <i>Managing Editor, Epsilon Publishers, Kenya</i>• Mr. Schalk Mouton, <i>Senior Communications Officer, Wits University South Africa</i>
11:00 - 11:30	HEALTH BREAK

DAY 2
THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION SEVEN

TIME	ACTIVITY
11:30 – 13:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION - KAS KENYA OFFICE & KEPSA PANEL The Role of the Private Sector in Driving Regional Integration within the COMESA and the EAC Regions</p> <p>This session convenes government leaders, private sector champions, and regional institutions to examine how businesses can drive meaningful regional integration in COMESA and the EAC. As the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) approaches expiration, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) gathers momentum, the discussion will explore both risks and opportunities. Panelists will spotlight innovative strategies to dismantle trade barriers, enhance competitiveness, expand regional value chains, and foster resilience, positioning the private sector as a key architect of Africa’s sustainable growth and global competitiveness.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Levi Injendi, <i>SME Trade and Investment Officer, KEPSA</i> <p>Keynote Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Abel Kamau, <i>Consultant, KAM</i> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Mukulu Musyoka, <i>Assistant Director for Regional Economic Integration, MEAC</i>• Ms. Susan Maingi, <i>Chairperson, KEPSA Trade, Industry and Investments Sector Board</i>• Ms. Vicky Karuga, <i>Chairperson, COMESA Federation of Women in Business – Kenya Chapter</i>• Ms. Bernice Fernandez, <i>CEO, Accelerate Women in Business, Tanzania</i>• Mr. Robert Mwanyumba, <i>Senior Manager, MicroSave Consulting Africa Kenya</i>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK

DAY 2
THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION EIGHT

TIME	PARALLEL SESSIONS		
14:00 – 15:30	ROOM 1 - PEACE AND SECURITY PANEL	ROOM 2 – GEO-POLITICS PANEL	ROOM 3 – TRADE POLICY PANEL
	<p style="color: #008000;">Early Warning Approaches and Regional Resilience in the COMESA Block</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lweendo Kambela, Doctorial Candidate, University of Tasmania, Australia <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Oita Etyang, Head, Governance, Peace and Security, COMESA, Zambia • Ms. Claudia Masah, Junior Expert, Governance, Peace and Security, COMESA, Zambia • Ms. Nouran Nureldin, Junior Expert, Governance, Peace and Security, COMESA, Zambia • Dr. Singo Mwachofi, Lecturer, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Mr. Barrack Ogada, Policy Officer, Africa Center for Security, Governance and Research, Kenya <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Kasaija Apuuli, Professor, Makerere University, Uganda 	<p style="color: #008000;">African Agency and the New Global Order: Managing Regionalism, Resource Diplomacy, and Great Power Competition</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Woodrow Rading, Legal Practitioner and Advocate of the High Court of Kenya <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Winnie Rugutt, Lecturer, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Ms. Noela Kiprotich, Graduate Student, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Mr. Anwar Abdifatah Bashir, PhD Candidate, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Dr. Edson Ziso, Lecturer, The University of Adelaide, Australia <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Souley Hassane, Director of Peace and Security Department, CEN-SAD, Chad 	<p style="color: #008000;">Fostering Sustainable Trade and Investments in Africa: A Multifaceted Exploration of Policies, Strategies, and Regulations</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Leonard Wanyama, Coordinator, East Africa Tax and Governance Network, Kenya <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Edwine Otieno Ayoma, PhD Candidate, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Mr. Edgar Odari, Executive Director, Econews Africa, Kenya <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Elijah Munyi Nyaga, Research Manager, Trademark Africa, Kenya
15:30 – 16:00	TRANSITION TO NEW PANELS		

DAY 2
THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION NINE

TIME	PARALLEL SESSIONS		
16:00 – 17:30	ROOM 1 - PEACE AND SECURITY PANEL	ROOM 2 – REGIONAL INTEGRATION PANEL	ROOM 3 - AUSTRALIA - AFRICA RELATIONS PANEL
Horn	<p>Advancing Peace, Security, in the COMESA Region: Challenges, Opportunities, and Collaborative Solutions</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. George Ngoha, Governance, Peace & Resilience Specialist, Kenya <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kizito Sabala, Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Ms. Fridah Njoki, Doctoral Candidate, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Mr. Jeremy Oronje, Research Assistant, International Institute for Strategic Studies, Kenya • Mr. Shem Siteki, PhD Candidate, USIU, Kenya • Ms. Berita Mutinda, Doctoral Fellow, Strathmore University, Kenya • Ms. Maragaret Kariuki, Doctoral Fellow, Strathmore University, Kenya <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kemoli Sagala, Independent Security Expert, Kenya 	<p>Navigating the Path to Deeper Regional Integration within COMESA: Harnessing Diplomacy, Competition, and Identity</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Edward Kakumu, Program Coordinator, Mzalendo Trust, Kenya <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Peter Mwencha, Faculty Member, Aga Khan University, Kenya • Dr. Reason Masengu, Senior Lecturer, Middle East College, Oman • Ms. Lillian Jepchumba Chebore, Lecturer, Riara University, Kenya • Mr. Beru Lilako, Trade, Investment and Industry Hub, Kenya <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Gilbert Khadiagala, Emeritus Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa 	<p>Advancing Diplomacy, Trade, and Sustainable Development through Strategic Cooperation</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amani Mhinda, Strategic Advisor and Senior Program Leader, Tanzania <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Patrick Maluki, Professor, University of Nairobi, Kenya • Prof. David Mickler, Associate Professor Curtin University, Australia • Mr. Lweendo Kambela, Doctoral Candidate University of Tasmania, Australia • Dr. Edson Ziso, Lecturer, The University of Adelaide, Australia <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Janet Muthoni Kiguru, Political and Economic Affairs Manager, Australian High Commission to Kenya
15:30 ONWARDS	END OF DAY TWO		

DAY 3
FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION TEN

TIME	ACTIVITY
08:00 - 08:45	<p>ARRIVAL OF GUESTS AND REGISTRATION IRSK Conference Registration Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Esther Nambuye, Conference Registration <p>IRSK Protocol Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Eunice Wawuda, Conference Protocol
08:45 - 09:00	<p>OVERVIEW OF DAY 2</p> <p>Master of Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Kemsah Rehan Ali, Media Personality
09:00 - 11:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION - ISS PANEL ONE Advancing Regional Peace and Security through Early Warning Systems: The Role of Kenya</p> <p>Kenya's unique position at the crossroads of the Horn, East Africa, and the Great Lakes makes it a pivotal actor in regional peace and security. This panel explores Kenya's dual role as mediator and strategic bridge across multiple regional early warning systems, including IGAD's CEWARN, EACWARN, COMWARN, and ICGLR's CEWRS. By examining coordination, information-sharing, and Kenya's potential to harmonize fragmented mechanisms, the session will highlight how early warning can translate into timely action, advancing peace, stability, and resilience across the region.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Nicodemus Minde, Researcher, ISS East Africa <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Oita Etyang, Head, Governance, Peace and Security, COMESA, Zambia• Dr. Kizito Sabala, Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi, Kenya• Prof. Gilbert Khadiagala, Emeritus Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa• Prof. Kasaija Apuli, Professor, Makerere University, Uganda
11:00 - 11:30	<p>HEALTH BREAK</p>

DAY 3
FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION ELEVEN

TIME	ACTIVITY
11:30 – 13:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION - ISS PANEL TWO Climate, Peace and Security Nexus: The Role of African Regional Economic Communities</p> <p>Climate change is reshaping Africa’s security landscape, intensifying droughts, floods, food insecurity, and resource-based conflicts. As a critical risk multiplier, it threatens fragile regions and fuels displacement, instability, and violence. This panel will bring together leading voices from policy, research, and practice to explore how Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are tackling climate-security challenges. Discussions will highlight innovative early warning systems, cross-border cooperation, and resilience strategies, while showcasing opportunities for stronger partnerships and collective action to safeguard peace and stability across the continent.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Moses Okello, Senior Researcher, ISS Horn of Africa, Ethiopia <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadah, Assistant Secretary General, COMESA, Zambia <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadah, Assistant Secretary General, COMESA, Zambia• Mr. Andrew Malinga, IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre, Ethiopia• Ms. Kgaugelo Mkumbeni, Research Officer, ISS, South Africa• Mr. Abdikarim Mohamed Dahiye, Coordinator, IGAD Climate Security Mechanism, Ethiopia
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK

DAY 3
FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION TWELVE

TIME	ACTIVITY
14:00 – 15:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION – AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PANEL AWIDIA Launch - Inspiring the Future Generation of African Women in Diplomacy</p> <p>This special session will convene a distinguished group of accomplished women to officially launch the African Women in Diplomacy and International Affairs (AWIDIA) initiative. AWIDIA is a dynamic platform designed to empower women leaders, strengthen mentorship networks, and amplify African voices within global policy and diplomacy. The initiative represents a bold and timely step toward advancing gender equality, expanding opportunities for women in international affairs, and ensuring that Africa’s women are positioned at the forefront of shaping the continent’s global engagement.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Winnie Rugutt, Lecturer, DDIS, University of Nairobi, Kenya <p>Introductory Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Heidi Knellwolf, Defence Attache, Australian High Commission to Kenya <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Roseline K. Njogu, Principal Secretary, State Department for Diaspora Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Kenya• Dr. Sally Kosgei, First Woman Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya• Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Director-General of the United Nations Office• Lady Justice (Rtd) Effie Owuor, Chairperson, AU Panel of the Wise
15:30 – 16:00	HEALTH BREAK

DAY 3
FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER, 2025

SESSION THIRTEEN

TIME	ACTIVITY
16:00 - 17:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION - CLOSING CEREMONY Closing Session of the 2025 IRSK Annual Conference</p> <p>The Closing Session will reflect on the key insights, debates, and outcomes of the conference, drawing together the diverse perspectives shared across panels and plenaries. It will provide an opportunity to distill lessons, highlight emerging themes, and chart practical pathways for action. Participants will hear closing reflections from key institutional partners and thought leaders, who will situate the discussions within broader regional and global contexts. The session will also acknowledge the contributions of speakers, organizers, and participants, while outlining next steps for sustaining dialogue and collaboration beyond the conference. More than a conclusion, this session is a springboard for continued engagement, ensuring that the ideas and connections forged here translate into impact.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Leonard Wanyama, CEO, IRSK, Kenya <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Victor Oteku, Project Coordinator, KAS, Kenya• Dr. Andrea Prah, Senior Researcher, ACCORD, South Africa• Dr. Oita Etyang, Head, GPS, COMESA, Zambia• Dr. Kizito Sabala, Chairman, 2024 IRSK Annual Conference, Kenya <p>Vote of Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Roselyn Musera, Vice-Chair and Council Member, IRSK, Kenya
17:30 - 18:00	PHOTO SESSION
18:00 - 21:00	KAS NETWORKING COCKTAIL



2025 IRSK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

