



# **KENYA FOREIGN POLICY RESEARCH AND DIALOGUE INITIATIVE**

## **2025 NAIROBI GEOECONOMICS FORUM**

### **Rethinking Kenya's Economic Security in the Face of Geostrategic Competition and a Fractured Global Trading System**

**Date:** Wednesday, 12th November 2025    **Venue:** Hyatt Regency Hotel, Nairobi

#### **Background**

The **Kenya Foreign Policy Research and Dialogue Initiative** is a strategic endeavor designed to facilitate informed discussions and evidence-based research on Kenya's foreign policy priorities. This year-long initiative focuses on three thematic areas: Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, and Geosecurity, featuring quarterly events that delve into each theme, culminating in a flagship Annual Foreign Policy Convening in the final quarter that brings together key stakeholders. By conducting rigorous research and facilitating stakeholder dialogues, this initiative will engage policymakers and experts to address pressing issues such as international security, economic diplomacy, and bilateral relations amongst others. Key activities will include workshops, roundtable discussions, and the publication of research findings. The Initiative is organized by the International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK) in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Kenya Office.

#### **Introduction**

The **2025 Nairobi Geoeconomics Forum** is the third thematic convening of the Kenya Foreign Policy Research and Dialogue Initiative. This one-day workshop, which is scheduled for **Wednesday, 12th November 2025**, aims to facilitate informed discussions on the evolving geoeconomics landscape and its implications for Kenya's foreign policy. The forum will explore critical issues such as shifting economic power dynamics, trade disruptions, and regional economic challenges amid an increasingly volatile global environment and unprecedented technological transformations. Participants, who include policymakers, diplomats, scholars, think tanks, and media representatives, will examine how Kenya can navigate this uncertainty while safeguarding its economic security, maintaining access to key markets and enhancing national development.

## Objectives

This workshop aims to lay a foundation for ongoing dialogue and research in the field of geoeconomics as it relates to Kenya's foreign policy. The specific objectives include:

- Understand how geoeconomics is reshaping global power dynamics, trade frameworks, and international economic cooperation relevant to Kenya's strategic interests.
- Identify key geoeconomic challenges and opportunities affecting Kenya's national and regional economic environment, including shifts in investment flows, market access, and resource competition.
- Generate actionable policy recommendations to bolster Kenya's economic resilience, safeguard critical sectors, and enhance competitiveness in the global economy.
- Foster partnerships and collaborative networks among policymakers, researchers, business leaders, and diplomatic actors for sustained engagement on economic security issues.

## Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the 2025 Nairobi Geoeconomics Forum include:

- Enhanced policy awareness and understanding of geoeconomic trends and their implications for Kenya's economic security.
- A set of actionable recommendations for Kenyan policymakers and stakeholders.
- Strengthened networks and coalitions capable of advancing Kenya's economic diplomacy and security agenda in both regional and global forums.
- A policy brief incorporating key insights and recommendations from the discussions.

## Target Participants

Participation will be limited to around 40 high-level stakeholders to ensure rich, focused dialogue. Invitees will include:

- Senior policymakers from relevant ministries and agencies.
- Economic and trade experts from academia, private sector, and international institutions.
- Diplomats and representatives of bilateral and multilateral organizations.
- Scholars and analysts specializing in geoeconomics, trade policy, and strategic studies.
- Leaders of think tanks and policy research organizations.
- Members of the media with an interest in economic and foreign policy issues.

## Venue

The 2025 Nairobi Geoeconomics Forum will take place at the **Hyatt Regency Hotel in Nairobi.**

## Time

The 2025 Nairobi Geoeconomics Forum will run from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

## Tentative Program

TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:00 – 8:30	Arrival, Registration and Breakfast
8:30 – 9:00	Opening Session
9:00 – 9:15	Research Presentation
9:15 – 10:45	<b>High-Level Panel Discussion</b>  Theme: Safeguarding Kenya's Strategic Autonomy: The Role of Economic Security and Fiscal Sovereignty in a Shifting Global Order
10:45 – 11:00	Photo Session
11:00 – 11:30	Health Break
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Panel Discussion 2</b>  Theme: Navigating a Fractured Global Trading System: Fostering Kenya's Trade Competitiveness and Productive Resilience
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Panel Discussion 3</b>  Theme: Charting Kenya's Path to Economic Transformation and Global Competitiveness: The Intersection of Green Energy, Smart Infrastructure and Digital Industries
15:30 – 16:00	Health Break
16:00 – 16:30	Closing Session
16:30 Onwards	Departure

## **Contact Persons**

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## **Organizing Partners**

### **International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK)**

IRSK is the premier professional body for the international affairs and diplomacy fields in Kenya. The Society serves as a policy-neutral forum for thought leadership, networking, and collaboration among those involved in the study, teaching, and practice of international relations and diplomacy in the country. Through policy research, dialogue, and advocacy, IRSK works to raise awareness, promote informed decision-making and catalyze action on pressing international and diplomatic issues at national, regional, and global levels.

### **The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)**

KAS is a German political foundation, present in over 100 countries around the globe, and has been active in Kenya since 1973. The KAS cooperates with governmental institutions, political parties, civil society organizations, and academia, building strong partnerships along the way. The Foundation seeks to intensify political cooperation at the national and international levels through the promotion of productive diplomatic engagements and shared democratic values.