



# **2025 NAIROBI GEOECONOMICS FORUM**

## **THEME:**

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

# **PROGRAM**

**Wednesday, 12th November 2025**

**HYATT REGENCY HOTEL**

**Nairobi, Kenya**

**8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

## SESSION ONE

| TIME          | ACTIVITY  |
|---------------|---|
| 08:00 - 08:30 | ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION  |
| 08:30 - 09:00 | OPENING CEREMONY  |
|               | <p><b>Master of Ceremony</b><br/><b>Ms. Thrity Engineer-Mbuthia</b> – Business and Leadership Expert</p> <p><b>Speakers</b><br/><b>Opening Remarks</b> – <b>Dr. Kizito Sabala</b>, Chairperson, International Relations Society of Kenya<br/><b>Opening Remarks</b> – <b>Mr. Victor Oteku</b>, Project Coordinator, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Kenya<br/><b>Welcoming Remarks</b> – <b>Mr. Alexander Fierley</b>, Deputy German Ambassador to Kenya<br/><b>Keynote Address</b> – <b>Mr. Mahesh Punia</b>, Head of Advisory, Andersen in Kenya<br/><b>Keynote Address</b> – <b>Dr. Boniface Makokha</b>, Principal Secretary, State Department for Economic Planning, Government of Kenya</p>   |
| 09:00 - 09:20 | RESEARCH PRESENTATION   |
|               | <p><b>Presenter</b><br/><b>Dr. Elijah Munyi</b> – Research Manager and Policy Writer, Trademark Africa</p>  |
| 09:20 - 10:50 | HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION   |
|               | <p><b>Theme: Safeguarding Kenya's Strategic Autonomy: The Role of Economic Security and Fiscal Sovereignty in a Shifting Global Order</b></p> <p>Kenya's strategic autonomy is increasingly influenced by global economic disruptions, shifting alliances, and fiscal pressures. As competition among major powers reshapes trade, investment, and financial systems, safeguarding economic security and fiscal sovereignty has become essential to national resilience. This session examines how Kenya can strengthen its strategic autonomy by managing debt prudently, optimizing public expenditure, and diversifying partnerships to protect its policy space and advance national interests in an increasingly fragmented and unpredictable global geoeconomic landscape.</p> <p><b>Moderator</b><br/><b>Mr. Robert Mwanyumba</b> – Senior Manager of Government Advisory, MicroSave Consulting Africa</p> <p><b>Panelists</b><br/><b>Mr. Mahesh Punia</b> – Head of Advisory, Andersen in Kenya<br/><b>Dr. Elijah Munyi</b> – Research Manager and Policy Writer, Trademark Africa<br/><b>Ms. Susan Maingi</b> – Chair, Industry and Trade Sector Board, Kenya Private Sector Alliance<br/><b>Mr. Amani Mhinda</b> – Executive Director, Ikaya Institute for Pan African Policy</p> |
| 10:50 - 11:00 | PHOTO SESSION   |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | COFFEE/HEALTH BREAK   |

## SESSION TWO

### PANEL DISCUSSION 2

11:30 – 13:00

**Theme: Navigating a Fractured Global Trading System: Fostering Kenya's Trade Competitiveness and Productive Resilience**

Kenya's trade competitiveness faces growing challenges amid a fractured global trading system marked by protectionism, supply chain disruptions, and shifting geopolitical alliances. As global trade norms evolve, sustaining export growth and industrial capacity requires adaptive strategies and productive resilience. This session explores how Kenya can enhance its competitiveness through diversification, regional integration, and value addition, while leveraging emerging trade frameworks and strategic partnerships to secure long-term economic stability and growth in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

**Moderator**

**Ms. Eva-Maria Okot** – Project Coordinator, Konrad Adenauer Foundation - Kenya

**Panelists**

**Dr. Caroline Saroni** – Executive Director, AfriTrade Consulting Group

**Dr. Winnie Rugutt** – Lecturer, University of Nairobi

**Ms. Joyce Bitutu** – Vice Chair, Organization of Women in Trade

**Ms. Rose Ronoh** – CEO, Tradesmart Consulting

### MENTIMETER POLL

13:00 – 14:00

### LUNCH BREAK

## SESSION THREE

14:00 – 15:30

### PANEL DISCUSSION 3

**Theme: Charting Kenya's Path to Economic Transformation and Global Competitiveness: The Intersection of Green Energy, Smart Infrastructure and Digital Industries**

Kenya stands at a defining moment in shaping its economic future. As global economies transition toward knowledge-based and green industries, the country must invest strategically in emerging sectors to sustain growth, generate quality jobs, and enhance resilience to external shocks. Overreliance on traditional sectors such as agriculture and basic manufacturing leaves Kenya vulnerable to climate change, market volatility, and technological disruption.

**Moderator**

**Ms. Nimo Jirdeh** – CEO, Acacia Dialogue Centre

**Panelists**

**Prof. Michael Chege** – Political Economist and Economic Development Expert

**Mr. Alfred Ongere** – CEO, AI Kenya

**Mr. Calebson Isoe** – Sustainable Financing Fellow, Nordic Corporation

**Ms. Natasha Karanja** – Research Fellow, IRSK Global Hub for Trade, Investment and Industry

15:30 – 16:00

### TEA BREAK

## SESSION FOUR

16:00 – 16:30

### CLOSING SESSION

**Master of Ceremony**

**Ms. Thrity Engineer-Mbuthia** – Business and Leadership Expert

**Speakers**

**Vote of Thanks** – **Ms. Roselyn Musera**, Vice Chair, International Relations Society of Kenya

**Closing Remarks** – **Mr. Mathias Kamp**, Country Director, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Kenya

16:30 Onwards

### END OF THE FORUM AND DEPARTURE