

4TH COMESA - IRSK ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

THEME

**Harnessing Africa's Continental and
Regional Institutions for Peace, Resilience
and Transformation amid a Fragmenting
Global Order**



**11th - 13th
NOVEMBER**



**NAIROBI
KENYA**



1. THE CONFERENCE

Introduction

The 2026 COMESA - IRSK Annual Conference is a 3-day event that is jointly organized by the International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK) in partnership with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Kenya Office. This fourth edition of the COMESA - IRSK Annual Conference is scheduled to take place from **11th to 13th of November 2026** in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference aims not only to enhance policy dialogue and scholarly discussions but also to promote cross-sector engagement while providing a platform for knowledge exchange. It will bring together a variety of state and non-state actors engaged in or interested in fostering the study and practice of international relations and diplomacy from the COMESA region and beyond. They include, among others, policymakers, diplomats, scholars, political leaders, development partners, media, business leaders, and students.

Theme

Harnessing Africa's Continental and Regional Institutions for Peace, Resilience and Transformation amid a Fragmenting Global Order.

Objectives

- Knowledge exchange and research dissemination
- Policy dialogue and intellectual discourse
- Practical policy incubation
- Professional development and skill enhancement
- Networking and collaborative engagement
- Promoting Inclusivity
- Mentorship

Key Conference Features

- Opening ceremony keynoted by the senior government officials.
- High-Level COMESA roundtable discussion
- Launch of COMESA Edited Book
- Panel sessions hosted by conference partners such as KAS, ACCORD, and AHC
- Roundtable policy discussions featuring IR and diplomacy thought leaders
- Diplomatic Awards event
- Series of networking lunches
- Cocktail event
- Close to 200 local and foreign participants
- Parallel presentations of close to 40 research papers
- Post-conference social event

Dates

From: **Wednesday 11-11-2026** to **Friday 13-11-2026**

2. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS & OUTCOMES

Expected Participants

The 2026 COMESA - IRSK Annual Conference will bring together close to 200 participants drawn from various state and non-state organizations in the COMESA region and beyond. In general, attendees will include:

- Senior government officials
- Prominent political leaders
- Seasoned diplomats
- Renowned scholars
- Experienced policymakers
- Thought leaders from leading think tanks
- Representatives of development partners
- Select members of the media
- Influential business leaders, and
- Students of international relations and diplomacy

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced professional networks and connections
- Innovative solutions to regional challenges
- Impactful research dissemination
- Expanded knowledge and insights in IR and diplomacy
- Experiential learning
- Informed policy formulation
- Deeper understanding of regional dynamics
- Research advancement

3. ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

2026 COMESA - IRSK ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE		
1.	November 11	Day 1 - Activities and Events
		• Opening Ceremony • COMESA High-Level Panel Discussion • Launch of COMESA Edited Book Series • Networking Lunch • Breakout/Research Presentations Sessions • Media Interviews
2.	November 12	Day 2 - Activities and Events
		• AHC Panel Session • KAS Panel Discussion • Networking Lunch • Break-out/Research Presentations Sessions • Media Interviews
3.	November 13	Day 3 - Activities and Events
		• Opening Panel • Roundtable/Panel Discussion • Networking Lunch • Diplomatic Awards Ceremony • Media Interviews • Cocktail Reception

4. SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The following sponsorship opportunities are available for organizations that wish to do so:

Official Partner - KShs. 1,500,000

- Official partner tag
- Membership in the 2026 Conference Organizing Committee
- Keynote speaking slot for CEO or equivalent at Opening/Or Closing Plenary Forum
- Host and moderate a high-profile panel session during the conference.
- Front-row reserved seating at all sessions
- Speaking opportunity during any of the plenary sessions
- Access to VIP room
- Prime location for exhibition space for one stand at the conference exhibition area
- Organization logo on all conference promotional/delegate material
- Logo on stage for the duration of the conference
- Two roll-up banners at the conference exhibition area or breakout rooms
- Fifteen tickets/invites for sponsor organization
- Complimentary access to post-conference material and recordings

Event Sponsor - KShs. 1000,000

- Event sponsor tag
- Membership in the 2026 Conference Organizing Committee
- Speaking opportunity slot for CEO or equivalent during the opening ceremony
- Host and moderate a high-profile panel session during the conference
- Front-row reserved seating at all sessions
- Access to VIP room
- Prime location for exhibition space for one 3mx2m stand at the conference
- Company profile in the conference reference materials
- Logo on all conference promotional/delegate mailings
- Logo on stage for the duration of the conference
- Two roll-up banners at the conference exhibition area or breakout rooms
- Ten tickets/invites for the sponsor organization
- Complimentary access to post-conference material and recordings

Activity Sponsor - KShs. 500,000

- Activity sponsor tag (Cocktail; Diplomatic Awards; Panel Session)
- Membership in the 2026 Conference Organizing Committee
- Host and moderate a high-profile panel session during the conference
- Access to VIP room throughout the conference
- Exhibition space at the conference in the refreshment area
- One roll-up banner at the conference in the exhibition area
- Logo on all conference promotional mailings
- Five tickets/invites for sponsor organization
- Complimentary access to post-conference material and recordings

5. The Venue

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Hyatt Regency Hotel in Nairobi, is a modern, 5-star urban oasis located in the vibrant Westlands district. The hotel features over 2,000 square meters of event space, including a 570-sqm pillarless ballroom and 10 versatile meeting rooms designed for corporate conferences and high-end events. Offering sleek, spacious rooms with panoramic city views, this hotel features premium dining, a relaxing indoor pool, a fully-equipped gym, and exceptional service near top city attractions that help to ensure a seamless experience for conference participants.



Contacts:

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Muthithi Road,
Westlands,
Nairobi, Kenya

6. The Organizers

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.

www.irskenya.or.ke

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

COMESA was established in 1994 to replace the former Preferential Trade Area (PTA). It is the largest Regional Economic Community with a total of 21 Member States. COMESA's main focus is to promote economic prosperity through regional integration. Its objective also includes the promotion of peace and security in the region as espoused in Article 3(d) of the COMESA Treaty. The program on peace and security specifically focuses on governance, conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction.

www.comesa.int

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

ACCORD is a civil society organisation working throughout Africa since 1992, to bring creative African solutions to the challenges posed by conflict on the continent. We impact political developments by bringing conflict resolution, dialogue, and development to the forefront as an alternative to protracted conflict. As part of its strategic objectives, ACCORD aims to generate, document, and share knowledge that positively impacts conflict prevention, management, resolution and transformation.

www.accord.org.za

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.

www.kas.de/en/web/kenia