



**THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY**  
**Research . Influence . Knowledge**

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**CLOSING SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY, BRIG (RTD) CHARLES M. KANG'ETHE, EBS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXPERTS' WORKSHOP ON GLOBAL HYDRO GOVERNANCE AND BLUE POTENTIAL, NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> 2020, SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI, AT 4:00 PM**

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**Distinguished Guests**

**Board Members**

**Associate Director**

**Resident Research Fellows**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Evening,**

It gives me great pleasure to be with you here once again to close this workshop. The Centre organized this Experts Workshop with the expectations of finding resolutions to the Maritime dispute and analyzing current national and global policies that jeopardize Kenya's interests. I am delighted that our efforts to bring to you various experts in maritime issues have enabled you to collect valuable data that will greatly inform your research projects.

The Kenya and Somalia Maritime Dispute is an ongoing regional issue and it's critical that all its dimensions are emphasized and well-crafted solutions are implemented. The past five days of the Experts Workshop have brought many underlying issues to our attention and I wish to congratulate the discussants and participants on ensuring a high-level interactive session.

The Blue Economy is among the top priorities of the Government of Kenya (GoK) and is a profitable sector both locally and internationally. The Maritime trade in Africa through Seaborne trade contributes 7% to 5% of maritime exports and imports respectively. Kenya is located strategically although has not harnessed its potential fully in the ocean, lakes, seas, and rivers to sustain livelihood. Therefore, there is a need to leverage best practices, modern technology, and scientific research in order to conserve our waters for future generations and economic prosperity.

I would like to urge you to take time and critically sieve your data using the critical thinking analytic techniques you have been exposed to. Our role as a Centre is to provide influential policy briefs to decision-makers in order to impact their policy agenda. Therefore, the role of quality products cannot be overstated.

As a former soldier, reflecting on the Kenya- Somalia Maritime dispute reminds me of a declaration made by the 1st President of the Republic of Kenya Mzee Jomo Kenyatta at an OAU meeting in 1964. He said as follows **“We will Covet no inch of our neighbor’s territory. We will yield no inch of ours. We stand loyal to the decision that all African states shall adhere to the boundaries inherited at independence”**. This declaration provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our national pride and the drastic strategies that Kenya must utilize to bring regional peace.

I wish to thank you and all the distinguished speakers and participants from the various fields for having honoured our invitation to the Experts Workshop. With these remarks, I hereby declare this Expert Workshop for the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy officially closed.

**BRIG (RTD) CHARLES KANG’ETHE, EBS**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**