

The

# Eastern Africa

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## GLOCEPS

### Weekly Insights

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

#### **Navigating Security, Governance, and Strategic Competition in Eastern Africa**

Eastern Africa confronts overlapping challenges in border protection, organised crime, strategic rivalry, infrastructure, and regional diplomacy. Strengthening child protection at border posts through cross-border coordination and UNSCR 1612 alignment can improve prevention and accountability. Rising organised crime underscores the need for governance reform, financial transparency, digital regulation, and youth inclusion. Space diplomacy rivalry poses dual-use risks but, with coordinated regional governance, can enhance sovereignty and civilian development. Fast-tracking LAPSSSET can integrate marginalised regions and deepen regional interdependence, while Eritrea's exit from IGAD highlights the urgent need to revitalise inclusive regional diplomacy to safeguard stability.

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## Strengthening Child Protection at Eastern Africa's One Stop Border Posts

The EAC's Sensitization Workshop for Transboundary Communities on Child Protection at One Stop Border Posts offers Eastern Africa a strategic opportunity to strengthen child safety across vulnerable border zones. These areas expose children to trafficking, recruitment, and exploitation, making targeted awareness essential. Bringing communities, border officials, and civil society together strengthens early detection of risks and supports unified protective action. By linking the initiative to UNSCR 1612, which established the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children, the EAC initiative

will strengthen regional accountability. This will further guide the region toward a more prevention-focused child protection framework.



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## Confronting Organised Crime, Building Regional Resilience in Eastern Africa

The 2025 Africa Organised Crime Index reveals a worrying surge in organised crime and diminishing resilience across the continent, with 92.5% of countries exhibiting low capacity to counter criminal networks. In Eastern Africa, cyber-crime, human trafficking, arms and wildlife smuggling, and illicit finance intersect with governance gaps and conflict dynamics. Yet the region's youthful population, expanding digital economies, and growing regional cooperation create opportunities to strengthen resilience. Aligning security reform with financial transparency, digital regulation, judicial independence, and youth engagement

can transform organised crime prevention into democratic renewal, economic confidence, and sustainable regional stability.

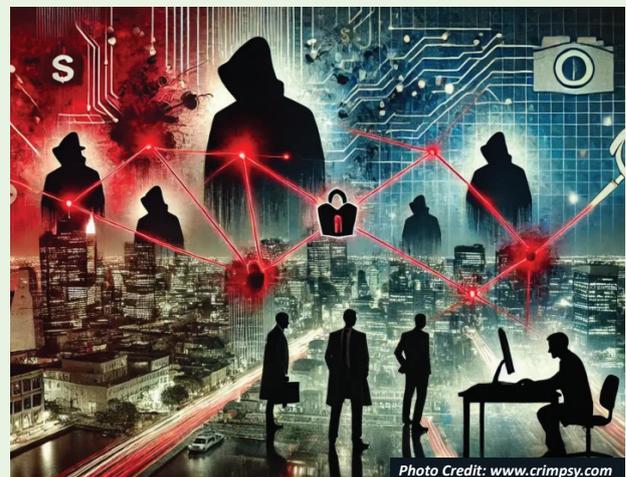


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Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Turning Space Diplomacy Rivalry into a Strategic Advantage for Eastern Africa

Eastern Africa is emerging as a contested arena for space diplomacy as powers including Turkey, the United States, China, and France expand satellite, surveillance, and launch infrastructure. Turkey's planned satellite and rocket launch site in Somalia highlights the dual-use risks linking civilian technology with military projection. Yet this intensifying competition also presents strategic opportunity. Through coordinated regional frameworks, diversified partnerships, and clear space governance, Eastern African states can enhance bargaining power, regulate dual-use tech-

nologies, and anticipate power shifts. Investing in space policy, cyber-security, and maritime monitoring can safeguard sovereignty while unlocking civilian and developmental dividends.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Infrastructure Statecraft: Unlocking Growth and Stability in Eastern Africa through LAPSSET

The renewed effort by Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan to accelerate the LAPSSET Corridor presents Eastern Africa with a rare opportunity to transform long-marginalized frontier regions into engines of growth and integration. Years of delays driven by insecurity and fiscal constraints have imposed high logistics costs, lost jobs and investment opportunities. Fast-tracking LAPSSET would ease congestion on existing routes, anchor industrial zones, and provide reliable access for landlocked economies. Aligned with AfCFTA ambitions, the corridor can strengthen regional value chains and intra-African trade.

Strategically, LAPSSET would deepen political interdependence, enhance regional resilience, and turn infrastructure into a stabilizing force.



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Eritrea's IGAD Exit and the Quest for Renewed Regional Diplomacy

Eritrea's formal withdrawal from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) marks a profound shift toward strategic isolation in Eastern Africa. Accusing the bloc of abandoning neutrality, Asmara's exit stems from escalating friction with Ethiopia over Red Sea access and perceived institutional bias. This move severely weakens regional collective security frameworks at a critical juncture of volatility. Implications include diminished multilateral mediation capacity and the potential for polarized alliances, particularly involving Egypt. For the region, this move signals a retreat from integration, requiring urgent

diplomatic efforts to prevent unilateral actions from destabilizing regional peace and encourage confidence-building regional dialogue mechanisms.



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Research | Knowledge | Influence  
Runda Drive 100, Nairobi, Kenya  
P. O. Box 27023 - 00100, Nairobi.  
Telephone: 0112401331  
Email: [info@gloceps.org](mailto:info@gloceps.org)  
Web: [www.gloceps.org](http://www.gloceps.org)