



THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY
(GLOCEPS)

THE GRAND STRATEGY FELLOWSHIP FORUM

**THEME: Nurturing Impactful Geopolitical Footprints
for Peace and Prosperity in Africa**

29th October, 2026

2:30 PM – 8:00 PM

SERENA HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA

CONCEPT NOTE

Call to Action

It is time for Africa to recreate the global order in its own image and likeness. But the future of the continent's global influence will not be shaped by yesterday's diplomats and professionals alone. It will be molded by the generation now entering government, diplomacy, business, academia, international organizations, and public service. The GSF Forum invites applications from diplomats, government officials, policy professionals, students, researchers, strategic thinkers, scholars, entrepreneurs, corporate professionals who are committed to understanding and advancing Kenya's role in Africa and the world. The objective is to learn from those who have shaped Kenya's strategic journey, interrogate the decisions behind its successes and setbacks, and to build relationships with influential practitioners and peers. The outcomes include developing the strategic judgement required to operate in an increasingly contested global environment. We are inviting individuals who do not simply want to understand geopolitics and geo-economics, but eager to shape it, to register under the following fellowship tracks: Global Security & Foreign Policy Leadership; Business & Geo-Economics Leadership; Global Funding & International Careers; Policy Research & Innovation; Digital Diplomacy & Strategic Communication use this link.

Join the Grand Strategy Fellowship. Learn statecraft. Build the networks of influence. Turn knowledge into strategic advantage. Shape Kenya's and Africa's strategic future.



a) About The GSF Forum

The **Grand Strategy Fellowship (GSF)** is a high-level platform for examining how Kenya has built, exercised, and sustained strategic influence in Africa and what the milestones offer to the next generation of diplomats, policymakers, government officials, business leaders, scholars, and strategic professionals. At the apex of GSF is the exploration of the relationship between statecraft, national interests, economic power, security, diplomacy, and soft power. The fellowship will examine how Kenya's robust approach to foreign policy, its fiscal networks, security partnerships, diplomatic engagement, and cultural influence have enabled the country to protect its interests beyond its borders and shape global, regional and continental affairs. The GSF is anchored on a modest premise: *It is time for Africa to recreate the global order in its own image and likeness*. It underscores that strategic influence is not just a product of geographical size or economic power; it is the product of deliberate choices, strong institutions, trustworthy collaborations, and the skillful persistent translation of national assets into geopolitical dividends. Kenya's mileposts deliver an outstanding case study because its regional influence has evolved through periods of opportunity, competition, adversity, and strategic fine-tuning.

b) Fellowship Tracks

Track 1: Global Security & Foreign Policy Leadership (GSFPL)

The GSFPL Track examines how Kenya's strategic statecraft has shaped its regional and global influence, while drawing practical lessons for the next generation of foreign-policy and security leaders.

Kenya provides a compelling case study of how diplomacy, economic power, security partnerships, multilateral engagement, and strategic relationships can be converted into national influence. From peacebuilding and mediation in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region to its engagement with the African Union, East African Community and United Nations, Nairobi's experience demonstrates the opportunities and limitations of strategic leadership in an evolving international system. The Track goes beyond historical narratives to critically examine successes, strategic missteps, missed opportunities, and emerging challenges. Participants explore how geopolitical competition, terrorism, cyber threats, technological disruption, climate insecurity, economic competition, and shifting global alliances are redefining foreign policy and national security. Through practitioner-led discussions, case studies, fellowship, and high-level networking, the Track connects diplomats, policymakers, security professionals, corporate executives, scholars, students, and emerging leaders. Its central objective is to develop leaders who can anticipate geopolitical change, build strategic partnerships, manage complex security environments, protect national interests, and translate foreign policy into effective statecraft. The Track is ultimately about moving from understanding international affairs to shaping them.



Track 2: Business & Geo-Economics Leadership (BGE)

The Track offers an interactive platform on business, trade, investment and economic power while exploring how commerce, investment, innovation, finance, and economic diplomacy can strengthen national and regional influence in a rapidly changing global economy. It focuses on how business and government can work together to transform economic capability into strategic national and regional power. Kenya's experience demonstrates how private enterprise, fintech, telecommunications, trade, logistics, agriculture, digital services, and entrepreneurship can extend economic influence beyond national borders. Kenyan businesses and innovations have increasingly connected East Africa to wider global markets, creating new opportunities for investment, partnerships, and economic integration.

The Track brings together global business leaders, economic diplomats, investors, policy-makers, entrepreneurs, and fintech experts to exchange practical perspectives on navigating global markets and advancing economic interests. It will examine how businesses can expand internationally, how governments can attract and retain investment, and how economic diplomacy can open markets and strengthen competitiveness. The Track will focus on global trade, investment flows, geopolitical risk, digital finance, emerging technologies, supply chains, market access, regional integration, and Africa's expanding economic opportunities. Through interactive dialogue, practical case studies, and high-level networking, participants will gain insights and connections to grow businesses, expand trade, attract investment, drive innovation, and build Africa's economic influence in global markets.

Track 3: Global Funding & International Careers (GFIC)

The Global Funding & International Careers is an interactive track designed to help emerging professionals understand, access, and compete for opportunities in the global arena. It connects participants with experienced practitioners who understand how international organizations, diplomatic missions, development institutions, global networks, fellowships, grants, scholarships, professional exchanges, and international careers identify talent and create pathways for influence. The GSF draws lessons from Kenya's own international experience, including the role of sports, athletics, diplomacy, education, technology, entrepreneurship, and professional networks in creating global visibility and opportunity. Kenya's sporting success, particularly its international athletics reputation, demonstrates how individual excellence can evolve into national soft power, global recognition, international relationships, sponsorship opportunities, professional mobility, and platforms for wider engagement. Sports diplomacy illustrates how talent and national identity can open doors that extend beyond traditional diplomatic and institutional channels.

The Track moves beyond conventional career advice to examine how global opportunities are created, identified, pursued, and secured. Participants will engage with diplomats, international development professionals, funders, researchers, corporate leaders, athletes, sports administrators, and professionals who have successfully navigated international career pathways. Discussions will explore international recruitment, funding and grant opportunities, fellowships, scholarships, research funding, personal branding, strategic positioning, networking, professional mobility, and career transitions across borders.

Through fellowship, case studies, interactive conversations, and high-level networking, participants will gain the confidence and connections required to move from local talent and professional potential to global opportunity and influence.

The GSF's ambition is to develop a generation of African professionals who can access global platforms, mobilize international resources, build influential networks, leverage talent and soft power, and translate global exposure into professional, national, and continental impact.

Track 4: Policy Research & Innovation (PRI) Track

The Policy Research & Innovation Track (PRI) is an interactive platform exploring how research, evidence, innovation, and strategic analysis can shape policy, strengthen institutions, and influence national and regional decision-making. The Track brings together leading researchers, think-tank experts, policymakers, government officials, innovators, development practitioners, scholars, and emerging professionals to examine the critical link between knowledge and power. It moves beyond academic theory to explore how research is translated into policy choices, institutional action, innovation, and measurable impact, a core objective of the Grand Strategy Fellowship.

Participants will engage with real-world policy challenges and examine why decisions are made, what evidence influences them, how competing interests are managed, what alternatives exist, and how research can be converted into actionable policy recommendations. Case studies will provide opportunities to test assumptions, interrogate outcomes, and learn from both successful interventions and missed opportunities. The GSF will develop practical capabilities in problem definition, research design, evidence analysis, policy writing, strategic communication, innovation, stakeholder engagement, and translating knowledge into influence.

Through practitioner-led conversations, fellowship, collaborative problem-solving, and strategic networking, participants will connect researchers with decision-makers and innovators with policy challenges. The ambition is to develop professionals who do not merely produce knowledge, but use knowledge to shape decisions, influence policy, solve complex problems, and drive innovation for national and continental impact.

Track 5: The Digital Diplomacy & Strategic Communication (DDSC)

The DDSC Track examines how Kenya's experience with digital communication, technology, media, and public engagement is reshaping the practice of diplomacy and expanding the country's influence in Africa and beyond. Kenya's strong technology ecosystem, rapidly expanding digital platforms, mobile connectivity, vibrant media environment, and globally recognized innovation culture have created new avenues for public diplomacy, strategic communication, international engagement, and national reputation-building. The experience provides an important case study of how digital tools can complement traditional diplomacy and enable governments, institutions, businesses, and leaders to communicate directly with global audiences. The Track will examine how Kenya has used digital platforms and strategic communication to project its image, engage citizens and international audiences, respond to crises, promote national interests, and participate in regional and global conversations. It will also consider the opportunities and challenges created by Kenya's increasingly digital public sphere, including misinformation, disinformation, online polarization, reputational risks, and the speed at which narratives can influence public perception and policy environments.

The GSF brings together digital diplomacy practitioners, diplomats, strategic communicators, media professionals, technology experts, policymakers, researchers, and emerging leaders to interrogate what has worked, what has not, and what Kenya can learn from its digital



communication experience.

Through real-world case studies, interactive discussions, fellowship, and practical exercises, participants will explore digital storytelling, strategic messaging, crisis communication, audience engagement, reputation management, narrative building, and information integrity. Particular attention will be given to artificial intelligence and emerging technologies and their implications for Kenya's diplomatic communication, national reputation, and strategic influence.

The Track ultimately seeks to develop professionals capable of turning Kenya's digital capabilities into strategic communication power-shaping narratives, building trust, managing information risks, advancing diplomatic objectives, and strengthening Kenya's voice in Africa and the world.

Why You Should Attend

1. Diplomatic Missions

For foreign embassies, high commissions, and international diplomatic missions, the GSF provides an informed platform for understanding Kenya's strategic priorities, regional outlook, policy thinking, and evolving geopolitical interests.

Diplomatic missions will have opportunities to:

- Engage directly with Kenyan policymakers, diplomats, scholars, and business leaders.
- Gain deeper insights into Kenya's foreign-policy priorities and regional positioning.
- Build relationships with emerging Kenyan and African strategic professionals.
- Identify opportunities for bilateral cooperation, trade, investment, research, security partnerships, and cultural diplomacy.
- Participate in informed conversations on regional and global geopolitical developments.

The GSF therefore provides diplomatic missions with both strategic insight and a platform for diplomatic engagement.

2. Corporate Executives and the Private Sector

For corporate executives, investors, entrepreneurs, and private-sector leaders, geopolitics is increasingly inseparable from business strategy. Political instability, regional integration, regulation, trade agreements, technology, security, climate change, and shifting global alliances directly affect investment and commercial decisions.

The GSF will help business leaders understand:

- How geopolitical developments affect markets and investment.
- Kenya's strategic position within East Africa and the wider African market.
- The intersection between foreign policy, trade, investment, infrastructure, technology, and economic diplomacy.

- 
- Emerging opportunities arising from regional integration and Africa's changing global economic relationships.
 - How companies can contribute to and benefit from Kenya's economic diplomacy and international partnerships.

The GSF will also create a high-level networking environment linking the private sector with policymakers, diplomatic missions, scholars, investors, and emerging talent.

3. Students and Emerging Professionals

For university students, young professionals, graduate students, and aspiring diplomats, the Fellowship offers access to practitioners and strategic conversations rarely available in conventional academic settings.

Participants will gain:

- Exposure to the real-world practice of diplomacy and statecraft.
- Fellowship from experienced diplomats, policymakers, corporate executives, and scholars.
- Practical understanding of geopolitical analysis and strategic decision-making.
- Opportunities to build professional networks.
- Exposure to international fellowships, internships, scholarships, funding opportunities, research networks, and career pathways.
- A deeper understanding of how careers in diplomacy, government, international organizations, business, research, and policy are built.

The GSF will therefore serve as a bridge between academic preparation and professional practice.

4. Scholars, Researchers and Think Tanks

For academics, researchers, think tanks, and policy institutions, the GSF provides a platform for connecting research with the practitioners who make and implement policy.

It will facilitate:

- Access to experienced policymakers and diplomats.
- Exchange of research, ideas, and strategic perspectives.
- Development of collaborative research networks.
- Identification of emerging research priorities.
- Opportunities to translate evidence and scholarship into policy.
- Documentation of Kenya's strategic and diplomatic experience for future generations.

The GSF will strengthen the relationship between knowledge production and strategic decision-making.

5. Government Officials and Bureaucrats

For serving and emerging government officials and public servants, the GSF provides practical exposure to the realities of statecraft beyond formal policy documents.

Participants will examine how officials:

- Assess geopolitical risks and opportunities.
- Negotiate competing national interests.
- Build international coalitions and partnerships.
- Translate policy into diplomatic action.
- Coordinate across government institutions.
- Use strategic communication to advance national interests.
- Connect domestic priorities with regional and global opportunities.

The goal is to develop strategically minded public servants capable of turning knowledge into influence.

Objectives

The GSF will:

- a) Examine how Kenya's strategic influence and statecraft have shaped its regional and continental standing.
- b) Extract practical lessons from Kenya's diplomatic and strategic experience, including successes, setbacks, choices, trade-offs, and missed opportunities.
- c) Facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer among diplomats, government officials, business leaders, scholars, and emerging professionals.
- d) Strengthen strategic capabilities in diplomacy, negotiation, geopolitical analysis, policy development, strategic communication, and international engagement.
- e) Connect government, diplomacy, business, academia, and civil society around shared strategic interests.
- f) Create professional networks and institutional memory for future generations.
- g) Expose emerging professionals to global opportunities, including international institutions, fellowships, funding, research networks, and career pathways.

Expected Outcomes

The GSF will contribute to:

- a) A deeper understanding of Kenyan statecraft and strategic influence.
- b) A stronger generation of foreign policy professionals and government bureaucrats.
- c) Stronger government–business–diplomatic–academic networks.
- d) Enhanced institutional memory of Kenya's strategic experience.

- e) Improved strategic capacity within government and the private sector.
- f) Greater opportunities for research, investment, diplomacy, fellowship, and international collaboration.
- g) A stronger pipeline of African strategic leaders capable of translating diplomacy, economic power, innovation, security cooperation, and soft power into sustained influence.

About us

The Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS) is a think-tank based in Nairobi, Kenya. Its a leading centre of excellence in policy influence and strategy formulation, advancing global peace, security and development. The Centre provides strategic linkage between experience and research by bringing together outstanding professionals, thought leaders, and academia to advance key issues on peace and security. GLOCEPS work cuts across five research foci, namely, security and defence; foreign policy; transnational organized crimes; governance and ethics; and development.

Mission

To contribute to global peace and prosperity through research in security, diplomacy, and development.

Vision

To be the epitome of excellence in research, strategy formulation and policy influence.

Goals

- a) To provide a platform for continuous exchange of knowledge in security, diplomacy, and development at national, regional, and global levels.
- b) To generate policy advisories to improve governance and strategic leadership in both public and private sectors.
- c) To facilitate skills and knowledge transfer between experienced practitioners and emerging professionals.
- d) To cultivate professional linkages through continuous collaboration and networking to support research in security, diplomacy, and development.
- e) To continuously set the research agenda for state and non-state policy environment and to influence evidence-based strategic decision-making processes.



**THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY
(GLOCEPS)**

Research | Knowledge | Influence

Runda Drive 100, Nairobi, Kenya

P. O. Box 27023 - 00100, Nairobi.

Telephone: 0112401331

Email: info@gloceps.org