



THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY
(GLOCEPS)
Research | Knowledge | Influence

GRAND STRATEGY FELLOWSHIP FORUM 2026

Theme

Nurturing Impactful Geopolitical Footprints for Peace
and Prosperity in Africa



TRACK 1
GLOBAL SECURITY
AND FOREIGN
POLICY
LEADERSHIP
(GSPPL)



TRACK 2
BUSINESS AND
GEO-ECONOMICS
LEADERSHIP



TRACK 3
GLOBAL FUNDING
& INTERNATIONAL
CAREERS



TRACK 4
POLICY RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION



TRACK 5
DIGITAL DIPLOMACY
AND STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION



Serena Hotel
Nairobi, Kenya



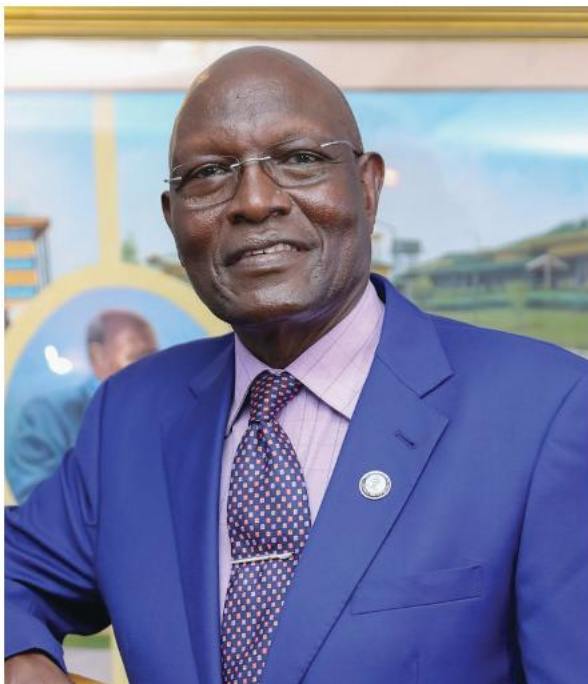
29TH October
2026

CHIEF GUEST



H.E. PROF. PETER ANYANG' NYONG'O, EGH, GOVERNOR OF KISUMU COUNTY

Governor Professor Peter Anyang' Nyong'o is the current governor for Kisumu County after the 2017 general election. He is the former Senator for Kisumu County and the Secretary General of the Orange Democratic Movement. He is an academician as his title, 'Professor', says and was the first Kenyan to receive a First Class Honors Degree at the Faculty of Social Science, Department of Political Science at East Africa's oldest institution of higher learning. His record at the Ministry of Planning and National Development is exemplary. All his successors have really struggled to beat this record. As the Minister, he developed and played a key role in the implementation of the PRSP, Poverty Reduction Strategy for wealth and employment creation which NARC government used as a development blueprint. This paper is the ideas behind Economic Stimulus Programs we see in every corner of Kenya. Vision 2030 was also his brainchild, a brilliant blueprint that will move Kenya to a middle-income economy by the year 2030. Prof Nyong'o performed exceptionally above expectations when he was appointed the minister for medical services in 2008. He reformed KEMSA from being an agency to Authority independent from political interference and getting funding directly from the treasury. He also transformed NHIF from a Hospital Fund into National Health Insurance Fund to provide universal healthcare to Kenyans. Together with Charity Ngilu in 2004, they initiated a process to provide Kenyans with universal health coverage. His reign as a Member of Parliament for Kisumu Rural saw several schools constructed and a lot more expanded and upgraded. Through his connections in the academia, he awarded many scholarships to needy students to study at various universities locally and abroad. Kisumu has the potential to compete with modern cities around the globe under the leadership of Kisumu Governor, Prof Peter Anyang Nyong'o.



Brig. (Rtd) Wilson Boinett, MGH, CBS

Chairperson, GLOCEPS Council of
Advisors

Brig (Rtd) Wilson Boinett is a distinguished military and intelligence professional credited with transforming Kenya's intelligence services during his decade-long tenure as the inaugural Director-General of the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS), now the National Intelligence Service (NIS).

He also served in the Kenya Army for 24 years, including in peacekeeping missions in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia, Mozambique, and Chad. Boinett also served as the Chief of Military Intelligence and as an aide-de-camp to President Moi.

He is a graduate of the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. Following his retirement in 2006, he became a board member of Veracity Worldwide PLC, Guardian Bank, and a trustee of the National Intelligence and Research University College (NIRUC), Kenya. Known for his visionary leadership, Boinett remains a respected figure in Kenya's security and governance sectors.

Council of Advisors



Prof. Mohamud Jama
(GLOCEPS Council Member)



Amb. (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim OGW, CBS
(GLOCEPS Council Member)



Dr. Caroline Sambai Sultan, PhD
(GLOCEPS Council Member)



**Director General (Rtd) Alexander M. Imbenzi
Ndc (k), CBS, OGW**
(GLOCEPS Council Member)



Dr. K O Asembo, PhD, HSC, OGW
Executive Director

Dr K O Asembo has spent nearly three decades working across education, security, diplomacy, policy research, strategic studies, institutional transformation and community development. He believes Africa's peace and development challenges require more than policies on paper: they demand strategic thinking, strong institutions, and homegrown solutions grounded in African realities. As Executive Director of the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS), he leads policy research, regional analysis, and institutional development, translating evidence into insights that strengthen state resilience and advance sustainable peace. His interests include strategic studies, national interests, grand strategy, geopolitical competition, conflict prevention, counter-violent extremism, regional stability and institutional capacity building. In May 2026, he hosted Japan's Foreign Minister H.E. Hon. Motegi Toshimitsu in Nairobi as he delivered his address on Japan's Foreign Policy in Africa. As Chief Editor of The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy, he promotes African-centred scholarship and dialogue among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. His experience includes assignments with Kenya's law enforcement sector, the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, the African Union, the Eastern African Standby Force, UNDP, and UNODC. He has contributed to training curricula, standard operating procedures, and capacity-building fr

ameworks. He represented Kenya during United Nations Arms Trade Treaty negotiations in New York and led law enforcement curriculum review delegations across Africa, Asia and Europe. As an Adjunct Lecturer at the United States International University-Africa and Visiting Fellow at the University of Rwanda, he helps develop African strategic thinkers. He holds a PhD from the University of South Africa, a Master's from Kenyatta University, and a Bachelor's from Egerton University. He received the Order of the Grand Warrior of Kenya (OGW, 2017) and Head of State Commendation (HSC, 2010), and he is a Fellow of the International Law Enforcement Academy in NM, USA. Dr. Asembo believes that Africa must define its strategic interests, anticipate threats, build resilient institutions, and shape regional and global systems influencing its future. His mission in GLOCEPS is to bridge knowledge and action through African-centred strategic studies, institutional capacity building, and practical peace and security solutions. He is open to research partnerships in strategic foresight and institutional reform across Africa to strengthen African strategic thinking and shape the continent's future.



H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika

High Commissioner of India to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN Habitat

Dr. Adarsh Swaika joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2002. He holds a Ph.D Degree in Chemistry from Delhi University. Dr. Adarsh Swaika joined as High Commissioner of India to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP & UN Habitat on 2 October 2025. He was Ambassador of India to State of Kuwait from December 2022 till September 2025.

He was Deputy High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh from 2015 to 2019. His other overseas postings include assignments in Moscow (2004-2006), Sofia (2006-2009) and Beijing (2009-2012).

During his stint in New Delhi (2013-2015) as Director/Deputy Secretary in the United Nations Economic & Social Division (UNES), he represented India in various UN/multilateral Conferences/ negotiations and was part of the Indian negotiating team for Post 2015 Development Agenda/ SDGs and the Paris Climate Change agreement.

During his next stint in New Delhi from 2019-2022, he served as Director/Acting Head of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Division from March 2019 to September 2019, as Joint Secretary (CPV) from October 2019 to August 2020 and as Joint Secretary (Eurasia) from August 2020 to November 2022. He also served as Joint Secretary (CNV&I) from February 2020 to November 2022. Dr. Swaika is fluent in English and Hindi and can also speak Russian. Dr. Swaika is married to Mrs. Vandana Swaika and has one son and one daughter.

TIME	ACTIVITY
2:00pm- 2:30pm	Arrival and Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLOCEPS
2:30pm - 2:40 pm	Welcome Remarks by GLOCEPS Executive Director, Dr. K.O. Asembo, PhD., OGW, HSC Opening Remarks by Chair, GLOCEPS Council of Advisors – Brig. (Rtd) W.A.C. Boinett, MGH, CBS
2:40pm - 2:45 pm	Transition to Breakout Sessions - GLOCEPS & MC
2:45pm - 4:35 pm	Breakout Sessions Track 1: Global Security & Foreign Policy Leadership (GSFPL) - Allamanda Meeting Room Track 2: Business & Geo-Economics Leadership (BGE) -Frangipani Meeting Room Track 3: Global Funding & International Careers (GFIC) - Dahlia Meeting Room Track 4: Policy Research & Innovation (PRI) -Jasmine Meeting Room Track 5: Digital Diplomacy & Strategic Communication (DDSC) - Amani Meeting Room
4:35pm-4:45 pm	Health Break & Reconvening to Main Conference Room
4:45pm-4:50 pm	Introduction of Distinguished Guests by MC
4:50pm-4:55 pm	Briefing of the Chief Guest by ED GLOCEPS
4:55 pm- 5:25 pm	Summary of Track Deliberations by Moderators
5:25 pm- 5:35 pm	Photo Session

5:35 pm- 6:00 pm	Round Table Discussion Five panelists (Representing each track)
6:00 pm- 6:30 pm	Main Plenary Session and Key Remarks
6:30 pm- 7:00 pm	Distinguished Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students Representative • Dr. Vimal Shah, PhD, CBS, Chancellor & Chairman, BIDCO Africa • H.E Dr. Adarsh Swaika, High Commissioner of India to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP & UN-Habitat
7:00 pm - 7:05 pm	Chair GLOCEPS invites Chief Guest
7:05 pm- 7:35 pm	Keynote Address by the Chief Guest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, PhD, EGH
7:35 pm- 7:45 pm	Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks ~ Amb. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, PhD.
7:40 pm onwards	Dinner and Networking

Master of Ceremonies ~ Dr. Julian Rowa, PhD

Event Coordinators ~ Steve Nduvi, Judy Peter & Janet Sankale

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A SPECIAL WELCOME

The Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS) warmly welcomes our distinguished moderators, speakers, policy veterans, practitioners and emerging professionals to the **Grand Strategy Fellowship Forum (GSF) 2026**, scheduled for 29 October 2026 at Serena Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

This landmark gathering comes at a time of growing geopolitical tensions, intensifying competition for global influence and a shifting international order in which national interests increasingly shape diplomacy, trade, technology, security, investment and international cooperation. Your involvement places you at the heart of an important national and continental conversation on Kenya's strategic positioning, Africa's place in the emerging global order and the leadership choices needed to safeguard national interests, strengthen regional influence and advance long-term peace and prosperity.

As a moderator, speaker or participant, you are not simply attending a forum. You are contributing to a strategic dialogue intended to bridge generations, preserve institutional knowledge, challenge conventional thinking and generate practical insights to inform Kenya's future policy choices and Africa's wider geopolitical aspirations.

Why the Grand Strategy Fellowship (GSF) Forum?

Africa is navigating an increasingly competitive geopolitical environment in which countries are prioritising domestic industries, securing critical resources, strengthening technological capabilities and pursuing policies designed to protect their strategic interests. As protectionism, economic nationalism and geopolitical rivalry reshape international relations, Kenya must continually assess its strategic priorities and determine how best to protect and advance its national interests while maintaining productive regional and global partnerships.

The GSF Forum responds to this challenge by bringing together a multidisciplinary community of diplomats and international relations practitioners; government policymakers and senior public officials; security leaders; regional organization representatives; scholars, researchers, policy analysts and think tanks; journalists, media practitioners and strategic communication professionals; AI and cybersecurity specialists, technology entrepreneurs and fintech innovators; investors, business leaders and development professionals; conflict-resolution, mediation and peacebuilding experts; and emerging leaders and young professionals.

This diverse participation will foster cross-sectoral collaboration, intergenerational knowledge exchange and practical dialogue on Kenya's geopolitical achievements and shortcomings, generating strategic insights to strengthen national interests, advance Africa's influence and promote sustainable peace and prosperity. Its value lies in creating space for knowledge to be shared, assumptions to be tested and practical solutions to emerge from the interaction of different generations and professional perspectives.

The Forum seeks to connect the experiences of those who have shaped Kenya's domestic and foreign policies with the ideas, ambitions and capabilities of the next generation of leaders. Through five thematic tracks, the engagement will examine the decisions that have shaped Kenya's position, the opportunities and limitations of its current strategic environment, and the policy choices required to strengthen its influence in Eastern Africa, across the continent and globally.

At its heart, the Fellowship is an intergenerational knowledge exchange platform. It recognises that effective grand strategy requires both the institutional memory of experienced practitioners and the fresh perspectives, technical capabilities and innovative thinking of emerging professionals.

A Grand Opportunity for Strategic Intergenerational Dialogue

The Grand Strategy Fellowship Forum (GSF Forum) provides a platform for meaningful engagement between experienced policy veterans and emerging professionals, grounded in the conviction that Kenya's strategic journey offers practical lessons for Africa to project its voice, advance its priorities and protect its interests in global affairs. Kenya's experiences in diplomacy, regional integration, peace and security, economic transformation, multilateral engagement and technological innovation offer valuable insights into how African countries can translate national priorities into regional influence and global impact.

For experienced practitioners, the Forum provides an opportunity to share institutional knowledge, reflect on the evolution of Kenya's strategic priorities, and transmit lessons from achievements, setbacks and changing geopolitical realities. For emerging professionals, it offers direct engagement with individuals who have shaped policy, diplomacy, security and economic development. It creates space to ask difficult questions, challenge established perspectives constructively and explore how Kenya's experiences can inform Africa's strategic choices.

The Forum seeks to move beyond conversation towards practical action. Participants will examine Kenya's strategic journey, its current position and future ambitions while identifying lessons that other African countries can adapt to their circumstances. Discussions will explore the leadership, institutions, policies, partnerships and capabilities required for African states to anticipate global shifts, build effective coalitions, negotiate strategically and safeguard their sovereignty and national interests.

Ultimately, the Forum aims to transform Kenya's experience into a resource for continental learning. By strengthening intergenerational dialogue and sharing practical knowledge, participants can contribute to an Africa that confidently shapes international agendas, pursues shared development priorities and protects its interests in an increasingly competitive global environment. The relationships and insights generated should strengthen leadership, enrich policy practice and advance Africa's strategic influence.

FELLOWSHIP TRACKS, SCENARIOS, AND DISCUSSION POINTS

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

Coordinators:

Brig (Rtd) Foustine O Sirera 'ndc '(IND)'psc'(K) Col (Rtd) Godfrey Gitonga, GLOCEPS Non Resident Research Fellows

Rapporteur:

Denis Muniu, (GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Mwanaiddi Shafi, (GLOCEPS Research Assistant)

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. Participants will explore how geopolitical competition, terrorism, cyber threats, technological disruption, climate insecurity, economic competition, and shifting global alliances are redefining foreign policy and national security.

Moderator/ Facilitator:

Dr. James Olela, PhD, DVC Teaching and Learning NIRU

Key Issue I: Grand Vision- Crafting National Interests in a Changing Geopolitical Order, 2026

Agenda Setting:

Dr. Kizito Sabala, PhD, (Chairperson International Relations Society of Kenya, Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi, IDIS)

Kenya and other African countries are navigating an increasingly complex geopolitical environment shaped by competition among major powers, shifting alliances, technological disruption, economic uncertainty and evolving security threats. As Kenya champions the principle of "African solutions to African problems" and advances continental ambitions under the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Kenya's long-term Vision 2063, the challenge is to translate these aspirations into coherent national interests, effective foreign policies, and strategic influence in global affairs. Achieving this requires foreign policy professionals who can anticipate geopolitical shifts, balance competing international partnerships, protect national sovereignty and align Kenya's interests with broader African priorities. It also demands a shift from reactive diplomacy towards strategic foresight, coordinated statecraft, and a clearer understanding of how economic, technological, security, and diplomatic instruments can advance long-term national and continental objectives.

The GSF Track 1 participants are invited to examine the capabilities required to shape the changing global order. Participants are challenged to identify the practical skills needed in geopolitical analysis, negotiation, economic diplomacy, technological governance, strategic communication and crisis management. The discussion also explores how professionals can reconcile national interests with collective African priorities, strengthen regional institutions, and translate continental aspirations into measurable outcomes.

Core Question

Discussant:

- Amb. (Eng) Mahboub M. Maalim, CBS, OGW, C Eng, FIEK** (*GLOCEPS Council, Former Executive Secretary of IGAD, Chairperson, National Equalization Fund Advisory Board*)

With Kenya championing "African solutions to African problems" under the AU's Agenda 2063 and its Vision 2060, what specific skills should emerging foreign policy professionals develop to help Kenya and Africa realise this grand vision and become more effective shapers of the emerging global order?

Key Issue II: Diplomatic Negotiation, Coalition-Building, and Managing Competing Interests

Agenda Setting:

Amb. Josphat Maikara, EBS, (*Director General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs*)

Kenya's position as host of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), the global headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat, alongside the planned relocation of additional UN functions to Nairobi, provides an important platform for strengthening its diplomatic influence and Africa's visibility in global governance. Combined with Kenya's experience serving on the UN Security Council in 2021–2022, this institutional presence offers lessons in coalition-building, multilateral negotiation, agenda-setting and consensus diplomacy. However, translating this advantage into support for Africa's quest for permanent representation on a reformed Security Council requires sustained engagement with African states, the wider Global South and influential international partners, while navigating differences over the form of reform, representation and the distribution of power within the Council.

The GSF Track 1 participants are invited to examine how Kenya can turn its multilateral presence into greater influence over global governance reform. Participants are challenged to identify lessons from Kenya's Security Council tenure, explore how Nairobi's role as a UN hub can strengthen diplomatic convening power, and develop strategies for building broad-based coalitions in support of African representation. The discussion also considers how Kenya can coordinate with the African Union and other regional and international partners to advance a common African position, maintain diplomatic momentum and translate institutional visibility into concrete negotiating outcomes.

Core Question

Discussant:

- Amb. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, PhD,** (*GLOCEPS Associate, Former Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations, and Former Ambassador of Kenya to the United Nations, New York*)

Given Kenya's hosting of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), the global headquarters of UNEP and UN-Habitat, the planned relocation of UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA functions to Nairobi, and Kenya's experience while serving on the UN Security Council (2021–2022), what strategic lessons can Kenya draw from its institutional presence and diplomatic engagement to build international coalitions and advance Africa's quest for permanent representation on a reformed UN Security Council?

Key Issue III: Securing Eastern Africa for Peace and Prosperity

Agenda Setting:

Dr. Silas Oloo Mc Ópiyo, PhD, EBS, OGW, MKIM (*Rtd S/AIG National Police Service, Former Deputy CEO National Police Service Commission*)

Kenya's extensive engagement in peace and security initiatives across Africa and beyond including Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as its involvement in Haiti offers valuable lessons for understanding the opportunities and limitations of international peace support operations. These experiences, alongside the continuing conflict in Sudan and Kenya's participation in regional initiatives such as the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF), highlight the complex relationship between military and police deployments, political mediation, regional cooperation and sustainable peacebuilding. Kenya must consider how operational experience, diplomatic influence and security partnerships can be translated into more effective interventions that address the root causes of conflict, strengthen regional coordination, and protect national and continental interests amid evolving geopolitical competition.

The GSF Track 1 participants are invited to assess the successes and shortcomings of Kenya's past and present engagements. Participants are challenged to identify practical lessons on mandate design, political legitimacy, intelligence-sharing, logistics, inter-agency coordination, civilian protection, local ownership and exit strategies. The discussion also explores how Kenya can strengthen cooperation with the AU, EAC, IGAD and other partners to improve early warning, conflict prevention and collective responses to emerging threats across Eastern Africa. The central question is how Kenya can convert its peace support experience into a coherent regional security strategy that improves future operations, strengthens African-led responses to conflict and advances sustainable peace, regional stability and shared prosperity.

Core Question

Discussants:

1. Gen (Rtd) Dr. Robert Kibochi, PhD, EGH, CBS, (*Former Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces*)

2. Prof. Noah Midamba, PhD, (*GLOCEPS Senior Associate, Chair, Moi University Council*)

Drawing on Kenya's experiences in peace and security engagements in Haiti, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Liberia, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as the challenges in Sudan and Kenya's participation in regional initiatives such as the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF), what strategic lessons can Kenya draw from the successes and shortcomings of these engagements to strengthen future peace support operations, improve regional security coordination, and safeguard Africa's continental interests while advancing collective security and stability in Eastern Africa?

Final Roundtable Discussion Points

Core Issues: Strategic Statecraft, Diplomatic Coalitions and Regional Peace and Security.

- How can Kenya leverage its diplomatic influence, multilateral engagements and regional peace and security experience to advance its national interests?
- What lessons does this offer in strengthening Africa's collective bargaining power in the changing geopolitical order?

- What options exist in building more effective partnerships for sustainable peace and stability in Eastern Africa?

TRACK 2: BUSINESS & GEO-ECONOMICS LEADERSHIP (BGE)

Coordinator:

Amb. Solomon K. Maina, MBS (*GLOCEPS Non-Resident Research Coordinator*)

Rapporteur:

Fidel Apollo (*GLOCEPS Research Associate*)

Levin Sagero (*GLOCEPS Research Assistant*)

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. Kenya's experience demonstrates how private enterprise, fintech, telecommunications, trade, logistics, agriculture, digital services, and entrepreneurship can extend economic influence beyond national borders. Participants will examine how businesses can expand internationally, how governments can attract and retain investment, and how economic diplomacy can open markets and strengthen competitiveness.

Moderator/ Facilitator:

Prof. XN Iraki, PhD (*Professor of Economics, University of Nairobi*)

Key Issue I: Building Global Businesses and Strategic Partnerships

Agenda Setting:

Prof. XN Iraki, PhD, (*Professor of Economics, University of Nairobi*)

Kenya is strengthening its position as a regional investment hub, supported by its return as East Africa's largest economy after five years, overtaking Ethiopia. According to the International Monetary Fund's October 2026 World Economic Outlook, Kenya's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reached approximately US\$151.15 billion (KSh19.6 trillion) in October 2026, compared with Ethiopia's US\$127.15 billion (KSh16.5 trillion), placing Kenya among Africa's seven largest economies.

This economic standing reinforces Kenya's potential to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), expand access to international markets and mobilise capital and technology through international investment summits and business forums, including the Kenya International Investment Conference (KIICO), the COMESA Investment Forum, the Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative Forum, the Kenya Mining Investment Conference and Expo (MICE), and the EU-Kenya Business Forum. These platforms create opportunities to develop partnerships across manufacturing, mining, energy, infrastructure and green industrialisation.

However, economic size and investment attraction alone do not guarantee sustainable transformation. Kenya and other African countries must ensure that investment agreements generate local employment, technology transfer, skills development, domestic enterprise growth and value addition, while protecting strategic assets and avoiding excessive economic dependence.

Emerging professionals therefore need to understand how to evaluate investment proposals, negotiate mutually beneficial agreements and align international partnerships with national and continental development priorities.

The GSF Track 2 participants are invited to examine how Kenya can translate its economic standing and international investment engagement into lasting economic gains. Drawing lessons from investment forums and major cross-border projects, including proposals for large-scale energy and industrial investments, participants are challenged to identify the conditions for successful partnerships, negotiate favourable investment terms and strengthen domestic productive capacity and regional value chains. The discussion also explores investment risk assessment, commercial diplomacy, regulatory certainty, public-private partnerships and the strategic use of regional markets under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Ultimately, the dialogue considers how Kenya can leverage its position as East Africa's largest economy to attract quality investment, strengthen regional economic integration and advance Africa's broader industrialisation agenda.

Core Question:

Discussant:

1. Mr. Erastus Kwaka Omolo, FCPA, (KE), CPA, (RW), *(Managing Partner at Crowe Erastus & Co. Certified Public Accountants)*

- What strategic lessons can emerging professionals draw from Kenya's investment summits and business forums in attracting quality foreign direct investment (FDI)?
- How can Kenya negotiate mutually beneficial investment partnerships that promote technology transfer, local employment, and industrial development?
- How can Kenya leverage major investments and regional economic initiatives to strengthen its position as an investment hub and advance Africa's long-term economic interests?

Key Issue II: Trade, Investment, and Economic Diplomacy as Instruments of National Power

Agenda Setting:

Amb. Zachary Muburi Muita, *(Former Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union; Former Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nations)*

Africa continues to push for reforms to the international financial architecture to secure greater representation in global financial institutions, strengthen its collective bargaining power and access affordable financing for infrastructure, industrialisation and sustainable development. Kenya's experience as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from 2013 to 2021 provides an opportunity to reflect on how African representation in influential international institutions can advance the continent's economic priorities.

The challenge is to translate diplomatic influence into practical outcomes, including mobilising investment, strengthening productive capacity, expanding intra-African trade and accelerating implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). These ambitions also depend on the ability of African businesses to expand manufacturing, add value to local resources, create employment and develop competitive products for regional and global markets. BIDCO Africa's growth as an African manufacturing enterprise offers insights into the opportunities and challenges of building local industries and expanding across regional markets.

GSF Track 2 participants are invited to examine how Africa can combine economic diplomacy, strategic partnerships and private-sector innovation to advance industrialisation and regional integration. Participants are challenged to consider how African countries can mobilise development capital, improve the business environment and strengthen infrastructure to support competitive industries. The discussion also explores how businesses can leverage the AfCFTA to overcome cross-border trade barriers, deepen regional value chains and build African brands that compete in global markets. Drawing on Kenya's experience in multilateral leadership and BIDCO Africa's contribution to manufacturing, the central question is how governments and businesses can translate international engagement and regional cooperation into sustainable investment, stronger productive capacity and tangible economic gains that advance Africa's long-term interests in the global economy.

Core Question:

Discussant:

1. **Amb. Dennis Awori**, (Kenya's Former Amb to Japan; Chancellor, USIU- Africa; Chairman, CFAO Kenya & CFAO- Mobility, Founding Chair, KEPSA)

As Africa pushes for reform of the international financial architecture to secure greater representation in global financial institutions, strengthen its bargaining power and access affordable development finance, what strategic lessons can African countries draw from Kenya's tenure as UNCTAD Secretary-General (2013–2021) to mobilise financing for regional infrastructure and industrialization and accelerate implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)?

2. **Dr. Vimal Shah, PhD, CBS**, (Kenyan Businessman and Industrialist, Chairman, BIDCO Africa)

Given the growing emphasis on industrialisation, value addition and intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), how can African businesses draw lessons from Bidco Africa's experience to strengthen local manufacturing, overcome barriers to cross-border trade, and build competitive African brands in regional and global markets?

Key Issue III: Leveraging Technology, Capital, and Innovation for Africa's Global Economic Influence

Agenda setting:

- Dr. David Ndii, PhD**, (Chairperson, President's Council of Economic Advisers)

Kenya has established itself as an important reference point for fintech and digital financial innovation, supported by widespread digital financial services, a growing technology ecosystem and youth-led startups developing solutions for African and global markets. As competition intensifies for venture capital, advanced technologies and skilled talent, Kenya has an opportunity to use its diplomatic influence, international partnerships and position as a regional innovation hub to attract investment, expand market access and strengthen local entrepreneurial capabilities. However, attracting capital alone is insufficient to build a globally competitive technology sector. Kenya must also strengthen research and development, access to patient capital, digital infrastructure, intellectual property protection, technology transfer and pathways for start-ups to scale across African and international markets. The wider challenge for Africa is to move beyond consuming imported technologies towards developing, owning and exporting innovations that generate local value, create employment and strengthen the continent's economic influence.

GSF Track 2 participants are invited to examine how Kenya can convert its fintech experience into a broader innovation and investment advantage. Participants are challenged to identify how diplomatic missions can connect local startups with global investors, facilitate technology partnerships, promote Kenyan innovations internationally and open new markets for African enterprises. The discussion also explores how governments can strengthen youth innovation capabilities through entrepreneurship training, research collaboration, regulatory frameworks and access to finance, while ensuring that foreign investment contributes to local skills, intellectual property and productive capacity.

Core Question

Discussant:

1. **Amb. Prof. Bitange Ndemo, PhD**, *(Former Permanent Secretary Ministry of ICT; Kenya's former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union)*
2. **Dr. Masoud Mwinyi, PhD, MBS, OGW**, *(Office of the Inspector General, NPS)*

Kenya has emerged as a global reference point for fintech and digital financial innovation, driven by growing digital consumption and youth-led startups. How can Kenya leverage its diplomatic influence to attract global venture capital, strengthen youth innovation capabilities, and scale local start-ups? What lessons can other African countries draw from Kenya's experience to build globally competitive technology and innovation ecosystems?

Final Roundtable Discussion Points

Core issues: Economic diplomacy, investment, trade, innovation and industrial transformation.

- How can Kenya and other African countries strategically leverage international partnerships, foreign direct investment, economic diplomacy and home-grown innovation to accelerate growth of enterprises, expand regional value chains and create quality employment?
- What lessons does Kenya's journey to 7th largest economy in Africa offer in safeguarding economic sovereignty and long-term development interests?

TRACK 3: GLOBAL FUNDING & INTERNATIONAL CAREERS (GFIC)

Coordinator:

Mr. Samuel Otieno, CBS, MBS, *GLOCEPS Non -Resident Research Fellow*

Rapporteurs:

Gilbert Odhiambo, *(GLOCEPS Associate)*

Ken Ngatia, *(GLOCEPS Research Fellow)*

The GFIC is an interactive track that equips emerging professionals to identify, access, and compete for global opportunities. Drawing lessons from Kenya's experience in sports, diplomacy, education, technology, and entrepreneurship, it explores international recruitment, fellowships, scholarships, grants, research funding, professional exchanges, and international careers. Participants will examine personal branding, strategic positioning, networking, professional

mobility, and career transitions while learning how to leverage global networks for professional growth and international influence.

Facilitator/ Moderator:

Dr. Janet Kiguru, PhD, *Regional Political & Economic Manager at the Australian High Commission*

Key Issue I: Building a Career in Multilateral Institutions

Agenda Setting:

Mr. Zephania Aura, *(Governance Team Lead, UN Women in Nigeria and ECOWAS)*

Kenyan nationals have attained prominent leadership positions across the United Nations system, the African Union, regional organisations and international judicial institutions. These include Amb. Dr. Monica Juma at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the UN Office at Vienna; Ambassador Martin Kimani as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa; Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi as former Secretary-General of UNCTAD; Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed in senior UN and UNEP leadership; Amb. Erastus Mwencha as former Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Secretary-General of COMESA; Amb. (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim as former Executive Secretary of IGAD; and Professor Phoebe Nyawade Okowa as a Judge of the International Court of Justice. Their career trajectories offer an opportunity to examine the professional expertise, diplomatic experience, institutional leadership, credibility and international networks required to attain senior multilateral positions. They also raise questions about how Kenya develops talent, identifies strategic opportunities and mobilises diplomatic support to secure influential roles for its nationals, while ensuring that such representation advances both professional excellence and broader African interests.

The GSF Track 3 participants are welcome to examine lessons from these leadership trajectories. Participants are challenged to identify the skills and experiences needed to compete for international positions, including negotiation, policy analysis, intercultural communication, institutional management, specialised technical expertise and coalition-building. The discussion also explores how Kenya can strengthen talent identification, mentorship, succession planning, strategic networking and coordinated diplomatic campaigns, while building alliances with African states and other international partners. The central question is how emerging professionals can prepare themselves for leadership in multilateral institutions and how Kenya can develop a sustained, merit-based strategy for securing future appointments that strengthens its international influence and advances shared African priorities

Core Question

Discussants:

- 1. Amb. Erastus Mwencha**, *(Former Secretary General General of COMESA; Former Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission)*

Kenyan nationals have attained prominent leadership positions in multilateral institutions, including Amb. Dr. Monica Juma as Executive Director of UNODC and Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna, Ambassador Martin Kimani as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi as former Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed as former Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Amb. Erastus Mwencha as former Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Secretary-General of COMESA, Amb.

(Eng.) Mahboub Maalim as former Executive Secretary of IGAD, and Professor Phoebe Nyawade Okowa as a Judge of the International Court of Justice.

- What professional skills, experiences, and qualities can emerging professionals learn from their career trajectories?
- What diplomatic strategies have contributed to Kenya's success in securing these positions,
- What lessons can the country draw from these experiences to strengthen future campaigns for leadership roles in multilateral institutions?

Key Issue II: Global Funding: From Ideas to Competitive Proposals

Agenda Setting:

Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi, PhD, *(Vice Chancellor, USIU- Africa; Former CEO-Commission for University Education)*

Kenya and other African countries face an increasingly constrained development financing environment as donor countries reassess their spending priorities and traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA) comes under pressure. Organisations and institutions that have historically depended on international grants must rethink their fundraising and resource mobilisation strategies, strengthen domestic financing mechanisms and diversify their sources of support. Opportunities exist through local philanthropy, corporate social investment, public-private partnerships, diaspora contributions, impact investment, blended finance and development finance institutions. However, attracting sustainable funding requires more than identifying available resources; it demands credible institutions, strong financial governance, evidence-based project design and bankable proposals that demonstrate clear development outcomes, financial viability and long-term sustainability. The challenge is to translate Africa's development priorities into investable programmes while reducing excessive dependence on external grants.

GSF Track 3 participants are expected to examine practical responses to the changing funding landscape. Participants are challenged to identify viable domestic fundraising mechanisms, explore innovative financing instruments, build strategic partnerships and understand what funders require when assessing proposals, including institutional capacity, evidence of need, realistic budgets, measurable impact and sustainability. The discussion also examines how African organisations can combine public resources, private capital and international financing to support projects in infrastructure, education, healthcare, technology and economic development.

Core Question

Discussants:

- 1. Dr. Rose Ngugi, PhD,** *(Senior Economist, Former Executive Director, KIPPRA, Chair – Southern Voice; Research Fellow, AERC; Former Advisor to IMF)*
- 2. Prof. Violet Naanyu** *(Fellow, African Academy of Sciences, Member WHO Technical Advisory Board)*

As donor countries increasingly prioritise domestic economic and political needs, traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA) is facing growing pressure. What practical lessons can Kenya and other African countries draw from this shifting funding landscape to strengthen sustainable domestic fundraising and resource mobilisation, diversify funding sources, and develop bankable proposals that attract long-term financing for their projects and programmes?

Key Issue III: Sports Diplomacy

Agenda Setting:

Dr. Janet Kiguru, PhD, *Regional Political & Economic Manager at the Australian High Commission*

Kenya's international reputation as an athletics powerhouse has been built on the achievements of exceptional athletes, sustained investment in talent and the work of sports institutions and administrators. The journey of Ferdinand Omanyala, MBS, OGW, illustrates the opportunities and challenges involved in competing at the highest level, while Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Jackson Tuwei's leadership in Athletics Kenya and World Athletics provides insights into international sports governance and Kenya's successful bid to host the 2029 World Athletics Championships.

As Kenya prepares to host this major event, the country has an opportunity to translate sporting excellence and international networks into sustainable talent development, professional careers, job creation and economic empowerment. However, achieving these ambitions requires stronger county-level sports structures, reliable financing, effective mentorship and investment in local sports industries, including opportunities to attract global sportswear manufacturers such as Nike, Puma and Adidas.

The GSF Track 3 participants are invited to explore how Kenya can convert its athletics success into lasting national and continental benefits. Participants are challenged to examine the personal strategies required to succeed in international athletics, identify ways to strengthen grassroots talent identification and county sports programmes, and explore how current and retiring athletes can support mentorship, entrepreneurship, investment, and sports diplomacy. The discussion will also examine the governance and institutional challenges affecting Kenya's sports bodies, including how these constraints undermine grassroots talent development and what reforms the government can pursue to strengthen sports administration. The discussion also considers how Kenya can attract sportswear manufacturing, develop local supply chains, create employment and use the 2029 championships to showcase its capabilities to global investors and sporting institutions.

Core Questions

Discussant:

1. Ferdinand Omanyala, MBS, OGW, (*Africa's Fastest Man; 10th Fastest Man of all Times*)

- Being a global athletics icon, could you describe your journey, the opportunities and challenges you have encountered, and the strategies you have employed to rise to where you are today? What is your grand strategy for conquering the world of athletics?
- How can Kenya leverage the global influence of current and retiring athletes to promote economic empowerment, mentorship, sports investment and soft-power diplomacy?
- How can county governments mobilise sustainable resources and build effective sports departments to identify and nurture young talent?

Discussant:

2. Lt. Gen (Rtd) Jackson Tuwei, (*President, Athletics, Kenya; Vice-President of World Athletics*)

- As World Athletics Vice President, Athletics Kenya President, and a key figure in securing

Kenya's bid to host the 2029 World Athletics Championships, how can Kenya leverage your achievements and international networks to nurture young talent and create impactful international careers in sports?

- Drawing on your experience in sports administration, what are the main governance, institutional, and resource-related challenges affecting Kenya's sports bodies, and how do these challenges undermine talent identification, development and the preparation of future athletes and what role should the government play in addressing these challenges?
- How can Kenya attract major sportswear manufacturers such as Nike, Puma and Adidas to establish manufacturing facilities in the country, create jobs, and strengthen local sports industries?

Final Roundtable Discussion points

Core issues: International leadership opportunities, sustainable resource mobilisation and sports diplomacy.

- As traditional development assistance evolves, how can Kenya and other African countries diversify development financing, prepare emerging professionals for international leadership and decision-making roles?
- What lessons does Kenya's leadership of global institutions offer in leveraging global networks and sports diplomacy to mobilise resources, develop talent and advance national and continental priorities?

TRACK 4: POLICY RESEARCH & INNOVATION (PRI) TRACK

Coordinator:

Col (Rtd) Julius, M. Minyori, MBS, 'ndc'(K)'psc'(K), 'acsc' (USA), GLOCEPS Non Resident Research Fellow

Rapporteur:

Steven Nduvi, (GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Joyce Defence, Research Associate at GLOCEPS

The PRI is an interactive track exploring how research, evidence, and innovation shape policy, strengthen institutions, and influence decision-making. Participants will examine real-world policy challenges, assess competing interests and alternatives, and learn how evidence informs decisions.

The track develops practical skills in problem definition, research design, evidence analysis, policy writing, strategic communication, stakeholder engagement, and translating research into actionable recommendations that generate institutional change and measurable policy impact.

Facilitator/Moderator:

Zainab Ismail, Journalist & Strategic Communications Specialist

Key Issue I: From Problems to Policy-Relevant Research

Agenda Setting:

Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, PhD, *Research Director, Development Studies at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi*

The changing geopolitical order, marked by conflicts in the Middle East, Europe and the Horn of Africa, growing pressure on multilateral institutions and disruptions to global supply chains, presents African policymakers with increasingly complex strategic challenges.

These developments create demand for timely, evidence-based research that informs decisions on national security, economic resilience, trade, technology, regional integration and foreign policy. Emerging scholars and practitioners must therefore identify policymakers' priorities and align their research with practical policy needs without compromising academic independence or analytical rigour.

At the same time, African research institutions face pressure to diversify their funding sources, develop sustainable financing models and establish strategic partnerships that preserve their independence and strengthen their influence.

Kenya's experience with M-PESA also demonstrates the potential of home-grown innovation to transform financial services, offering lessons for African innovators seeking to develop scalable, inclusive and globally competitive digital solutions. Kenya's growing digital technology uptake presents further opportunities to strengthen research, data analysis and innovation across multiple sectors.

The GSF Track 4 participants are welcome to examine how Africa can turn emerging challenges into opportunities for policy influence and technological advancement. Participants are challenged to identify research priorities arising from geopolitical and economic developments, develop stronger researcher-policy maker relationships, and explore sustainable funding models that enable research institutions to remain independent and relevant.

The discussion also examines lessons from M-PESA on customer-centered innovation, inclusive technology, strategic partnerships and scaling digital solutions, alongside ways Kenya can harness digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, big data and emerging technologies to strengthen research and innovation.

Core Questions

Discussant:

1. Prof. Patrick Maluki, PhD, *(Chair, Department of Diplomacy and International Studies- UoN, Chair Foreign Service Academy Council)*

- Amid a changing geopolitical order marked by conflicts in the Middle East, Europe and the Horn of Africa, declining multilateralism and supply chain disruptions, what policy-relevant research priorities should emerging scholars and practitioners pursue? How can researchers identify policymakers' needs and ensure their work responds to policy demand rather than being driven solely by academic interests?
- How can African research institutions develop sustainable funding models, diversify their revenue streams, and build strategic partnerships to maintain their independence and policy influence?

- What lessons does the success of M-PESA offer African innovators and emerging fintech companies seeking to develop scalable, inclusive, and globally competitive digital financial solutions?
- How can Kenya leverage its digital technology uptake to power its research and innovation?

Key Issue II: From Evidence to Continental Decision-Making

Agenda Setting:

DG (Rtd) Alexander M. Imbenzi, ndc(k), CBS, OGW, *(GLOCEPS Council Member, Former Director General, Department of Immigration; Author, Managing Ethnicity in a Democracy)*

Kenya's research institutions, universities and think tanks have an opportunity to shape policy debates and strengthen the country's influence across Africa and internationally. However, translating research into policy outcomes requires more than producing credible studies; it demands a clear understanding of policymakers' priorities, sustained engagement with government institutions and the ability to communicate evidence in ways that inform practical decisions.

As the African Union, regional economic communities and other continental institutions address challenges relating to peace and security, economic integration, climate change, technological transformation and governance, Kenyan researchers must identify opportunities to contribute evidence that responds to these priorities. At the same time, stronger partnerships with research institutions across Africa can support collaborative studies, knowledge exchange and the development of African-led solutions to shared challenges.

The GSF Track 4 participants are expected to examine how Kenya can turn its research capabilities into greater continental influence. Participants are challenged to identify practical approaches for aligning research with policymaking priorities, building sustained relationships with decision-makers, establishing cross-border research partnerships and ensuring that findings reach regional and global policy institutions. The discussion also explores how Kenyan research institutions can contribute to agenda-setting, provide technical expertise for continental negotiations and develop evidence-based solutions that shape Africa's development and security priorities.

Core Questions

Discussant:

1. Amb. Nancy Karigithu, CBS, SC, *(Former PS, Maritime Affairs; Kenya's Special Envoy on Maritime and Blue Economy)*

- How can emerging researchers in Kenya identify the research priorities of African policymakers, and what strategies can strengthen researcher-policymaker relationships to ensure research informs policy decisions?
- What strategies exist to ensure that Kenyan researchers and research institutions build sustained partnerships with other research institutions across Africa and ensure their findings inform decision-making in regional and global institutions?
- What strategic opportunities exist for Kenya to leverage its research institutions to strengthen its continental influence?

Key Issue III: Converting Policy Decisions to Influence and Impact

Agenda Setting:

Prof. Mohamud Jama, PhD, ((GLOCEPS Council Member)

Kenya's engagement in global climate diplomacy, including its role in advancing the Africa Climate Summit agenda in 2023 and subsequent climate diplomacy, participation in United Nations climate conferences (COPs), and investment in renewable energy, offers an opportunity to examine how national policies can translate into continental influence and economic benefits. As African countries seek greater access to climate finance, clean-energy technologies and sustainable industrial investment, Kenya's experience raises important questions about how diplomatic leadership can be converted into practical outcomes. These include strengthening Africa's voice in global climate negotiations, mobilizing investment for green industrialization and exploiting regional opportunities in electric vehicle manufacturing, battery value chains and clean-energy technologies. The central challenge is to ensure that international commitments and policy declarations lead to measurable gains in financing, technology transfer, employment and sustainable economic transformation.

The GSF Track 4 participants are invited to examine how Kenya can convert policy leadership into influence and impact. Participants are challenged to identify strategic lessons from Kenya's climate diplomacy, explore how research institutions can provide credible evidence to support national negotiating positions, and develop approaches for promoting the adoption of Kenyan policy proposals within the African Union, regional economic communities and international forums. The discussion also considers how stronger collaboration between researchers, government and the private sector can identify investment opportunities, inform climate policy and support regional green value chains, including electric vehicle manufacturing.

Core Questions

Discussants:

1. Prof. Fred Jonyo, PhD, (Lecturer, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Nairobi)

2. Dr. Sam Oando, PhD, (Program Manager, Research and Policy – Partnership for African Social and Governance Research- PASGR)

- What lessons does Kenya's climate diplomacy offer on translating research into national negotiating positions and a coherent African stance?
- How can African research institutions generate credible, locally grounded evidence to strengthen negotiations on climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, and the energy transition?
- How can research inform regional value chains in electric vehicles and battery manufacturing, translating climate commitments into investment, jobs, and technology transfer?

Final Roundtable Discussion points

Core issues: Policy-relevant research, evidence-informed decision-making and innovation.

- How can African research institutions, policymakers and innovators strengthen collaboration to translate credible, locally generated evidence into national and continental decisions?

- What lessons can Africa learn from Kenya in relation to mobilising sustainable support for research?
- What experiences does Kenya offer in scaling home-grown innovations into practical solutions that advance Africa's security, economic transformation and sustainable development priorities?

TRACK 5: THE DIGITAL DIPLOMACY & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION (DDSC)

Coordinator:

Mr. Stephen Kiema, *GLOCEPS Non-Resident Fellow*

Rapporteur:

Teddy Odira, *(GLOCEPS Research Associate)*

Gillian Sheila, *(GLOCEPS ICT Assistant)*

The DDSC Track explores how digital communication, artificial intelligence, media, and technology are transforming diplomacy and expanding Kenya's global influence. Drawing on Kenya's digital ecosystem and innovation culture, participants will examine how governments, institutions, and leaders use digital platforms for public diplomacy, strategic communication, crisis response, and national reputation-building. The Track will also address misinformation, disinformation, online polarization, reputational risks, and the growing influence of digital narratives on international relations and policy decisions.

Moderator/ Facilitator:

Dr. Julian Rowa, PhD, *(AI & Blockchain Assessor)*

Key Issue I: Using Digital Platforms to Advance National Interests

Agenda Setting:

Dr. Julian Rowa, PhD, *(AI & Blockchain Assessor)*

Digital platforms have become important instruments of public diplomacy, strategic communication and international influence, shaping how countries present their identities, communicate policy positions and engage global audiences. In Kenya, social media platforms increasingly influence public discourse on governance, economic development, security, regional affairs and international relations. This creates opportunities for the government and diplomatic missions to communicate national priorities, promote investment and tourism, engage diaspora communities, counter misinformation and strengthen Kenya's international reputation. However, the same platforms can amplify disinformation, intensify diplomatic tensions and expose countries to reputational risks. African governments therefore face the challenge of using digital diplomacy strategically, credibly and responsibly to protect national interests while building trust and meaningful engagement with international audiences.

GSF Track 5 participants are expected to discuss how digital platforms can strengthen national influence. Participants are challenged to identify practical lessons from Kenya's experience in online engagement, develop strategies for communicating foreign policy priorities, and explore how diplomatic missions can use digital platforms to build partnerships, attract investment,

engage citizens abroad and respond effectively to misinformation. The discussion also considers the importance of audience analysis, strategic storytelling, digital analytics, crisis communication and responsible engagement in contested information environments.

Core Question

Discussant:

Amb. Philip Thigo, MBS, (Kenya's Special Envoy on Technology)

As Kenya's use of social media platforms increasingly shape public discourse and influence how countries and global issues are perceived, what lessons can Kenya's experience offer African governments and diplomatic missions in using these platforms to advance national interests and build international influence?

Key Issue II: Shaping Narratives, Managing Reputation, and Communicating in Crisis

Agenda Setting:

Dr. Caroline Sambai, PhD, (GLOCEPS Council Member; Language and Communications Expert, Moi University, Dept of Languages and Linguistics)

In an increasingly interconnected information environment, global perceptions of countries are shaped by competing media narratives about their politics, security, economies and societies. Kenya's experience in engaging international media, communicating its foreign policy positions and responding to emerging crises offers an opportunity to examine how African countries can exercise greater control over their national narratives.

While digital platforms and international media provide opportunities to showcase Kenya's achievements, attract investment and tourism, and explain its regional and global engagements, they also create challenges when misinformation, incomplete reporting or competing interpretations influence international perceptions.

For Kenya and other African countries, the strategic challenge is to communicate credible, evidence-based narratives that reflect their priorities and experiences while maintaining transparency, public trust and accountability, particularly during periods of political tension, security incidents or diplomatic crises.

GSF Track 5 participants are invited to assess how Kenya's experience can inform continental approaches to narrative-building and reputation management. Participants are challenged to identify effective strategies for communicating national interests, responding to misinformation, managing crises and engaging international audiences without compromising credibility or press freedom.

The discussion also explores how African governments and institutions can coordinate communication, strengthen their media and research capabilities, amplify African expertise and ensure that the continent's perspectives are represented in global debates on security, governance, development and international relations.

The central question is how Kenya and other African countries can develop the strategic communication skills, institutional credibility and international partnerships needed to shape informed global perceptions, protect their reputations during crises and strengthen Africa's voice and influence in the international information environment.

Core Question

Discussant:

1. **Dr. Robi M. Kinga, PhD**, (CEO & Executive Director, Anti Counterfeit Authority; Former Member Media Council of Kenya & Public Relations Society of Kenya)

Countries are often subject to competing media narratives about their politics, security, economies and societies. What lessons can be drawn from Kenya's experience in its capacity to shape its own narratives to strengthen the capacity of African governments and institutions to shape their own narratives and ensure that Africa's perspectives are effectively represented in global debates?

Key Issue III: AI, Disinformation, and the Future of Strategic Communication

Agenda Setting:

- Dr. Julian Rowa, PhD, (AI & Blockchain Assessor)

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming global communication, information security and international diplomacy. AI-generated content, deep fakes, automated influence operations and synthetic media are making it increasingly difficult to distinguish authentic information from manipulated narratives, creating new risks for public trust, national reputation and diplomatic relations.

Kenya's engagement in discussions on AI governance within the United Nations and the African Union presents an opportunity to help shape emerging international rules and norms while advancing African priorities, including equitable access to AI technologies, data sovereignty, responsible innovation and the protection of vulnerable information environments. However, influencing global AI governance requires more than diplomatic participation; Kenya and other African countries must develop coordinated negotiating positions, strengthen technical expertise and ensure that international frameworks reflect African development priorities, security concerns and institutional capacities.

GSF Track 5 participants are invited to examine how Kenya and Africa can respond to these emerging challenges. Participants are challenged to identify practical ways to influence global AI governance, build capabilities for detecting deep fakes and coordinated manipulation, verify digital content and respond rapidly to information crises.

The discussion also explores how governments, diplomatic missions and media organisations can use AI responsibly to improve public communication, protect institutional credibility and communicate African perspectives to global audiences without undermining transparency or freedom of expression. The central question is how Kenya and other African countries can combine diplomatic influence, technological expertise, strategic foresight and credible communication to shape global AI rules, protect their information environments and strengthen Africa's voice and influence in an increasingly contested digital world.

Core Questions

Discussants:

1. **Ms. Rachael Shitanda**, (Vice Chair- Africa ICT Alliance (AfCFTA))
2. **Dr. Lawrence Nderu, PhD**, (Founder J-HUB & Chair Computer Science Department- JKUAT)

3. Prof. Elisha Opiyo, PhD, *(Professor of Computing and Informatics, Open University of Kenya)*

- Kenya has increasingly positioned itself as an active voice in global discussions on Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance within the United Nations and African Union. How can Kenya leverage this role to ensure that African perspectives, interests, and priorities are reflected in emerging global rules and norms on AI?
- As AI-generated content, deepfakes and automated influence operations become increasingly sophisticated, what new capabilities should governments, diplomats, media and strategic communicators develop to protect credibility, detect manipulation and effectively shape narratives in the emerging Africa's information environment?

Final Roundtable Discussion points

Core issues: Digital influence, national reputation, AI governance and information security.

- How can Kenya and other African countries harness digital diplomacy, strategic communication and responsible artificial intelligence to strengthen international credibility?
- What practical lessons does Kenya offer in shaping global narratives, safeguarding national interests and responding effectively to misinformation and disinformation?
- How can Kenya's digital diplomacy prioritise Africa's perspectives and influence emerging global technology governance frameworks?

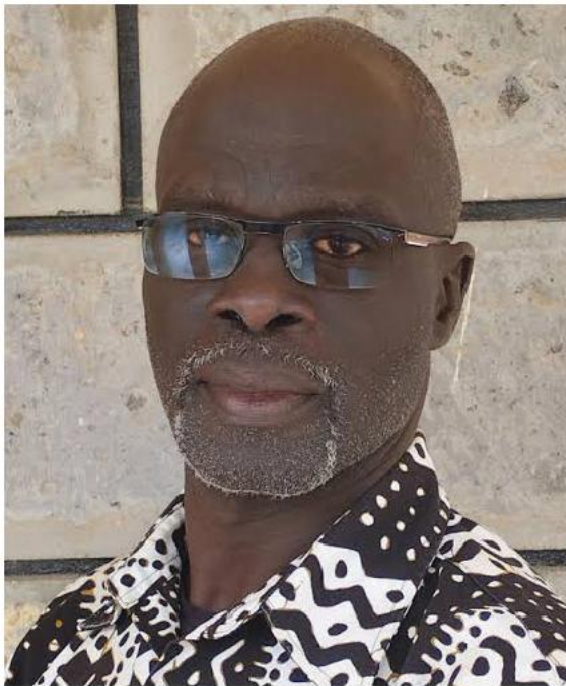
Profiles of Speakers and Facilitators



**Dr. James Juma Olela, PhD,
OGW**

DVC Teaching and Learning NIRU

Dr. James Olela, PhD, is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning at the National Intelligence and Research University (NIRU) and expert in security and intelligence studies. A regular contributor to strategic think tanks and defense journals, he plays a vital role in shaping national public discourse on national security policy and regional stability. Dr. Olela is a senior academic associate at NIRU's core research directorate.



Dr. Kizito Sabala, PhD

(University of Nairobi, IDIS, Chair IRSK)

Dr. Kizito Sabala is a scholar and practitioner in international relations, diplomacy, peace and security, with over 20 years of professional experience. He holds a PhD and a Master of Arts in International Studies, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Sociology, from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

He also holds a Master of Arts in Peace and Security Studies from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Dr. Sabala has worked with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and consulted for the Government of Kenya, the East African Community (EAC), COMESA, and the European Union. He previously served as Head of IGAD Liaison Offices in Juba, South Sudan, and Nairobi, Kenya.

He currently lectures at the University of Nairobi's Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, the National Defence College, and the Defence Staff College. He is also an adjunct lecturer at Strathmore University and has previously taught at USIU-Africa and the Technical University of Kenya. His research focuses on regional integration, human security, counterterrorism, conflict management, international mediation, and climate change in the Horn of Africa.

His notable publications include *The IGAD Strategy on Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism* (2018) and *Human Rights and Countering Terrorism* (2018). Dr. Sabala is a member of the African Peace Network and the American Political Science Association.



**Amb. (Eng) Mahboub M. Maalim,
CBS, OGW, C Eng**

**(GLOCEPS Council, Former Executive
Secretary of IGAD, National
Equalization Fund Advisory Board)**

Amb. (Eng) Mahboub M. Maalim is the current Chancellor of Umma University in Kenya and Chairman of the Equalisation Fund Advisory Board at the National Treasury. He is a highly experienced professional in the Horn of Africa, with extensive experience in leadership positions. In recognition of his exemplary service, he received prestigious presidential awards, including the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW) and the Chief of Burning Spear of Kenya (CBS). Amb Maalim has made a substantial impact locally and internationally.

He is the immediate and longest-serving Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). He previously served as the Permanent Secretary of two government ministries, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Special Programmes in the Office of the President. Amb Maalim previously served as the Board Chair of Kenya Power and Lighting Company.

Amb Maalim holds a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University College, USA. He is a registered Engineer with the Engineers Board of Kenya and Member of GLOCEPS Council of Advisors.



Amb. Josphat Maikara, EBS

(Director General for Political and
Diplomatic Affairs, MFDA)

Ambassador Josphat K. Maikara, EBS, is a Kenyan diplomat serving as Director General for Political and Diplomatic Affairs at the State Department for Foreign Affairs.

Prior to his appointment, Maikara served as Chief of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. Amb. Maikara has also served as Director-General of the Americas and the Caribbean Directorate at the State Department for Foreign Affairs.

He previously served as Director for East African Affairs and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (EAA&ICGLR), where he advanced Kenya's diplomatic engagement with the East African Community and Great Lakes Region countries, promoted bilateral relations, and supported regional integration in line with Kenya's Afrocentric Foreign Policy Approach. He has also served as Director-General of Foreign Service Administration and as Kenya's Ambassador to Angola.

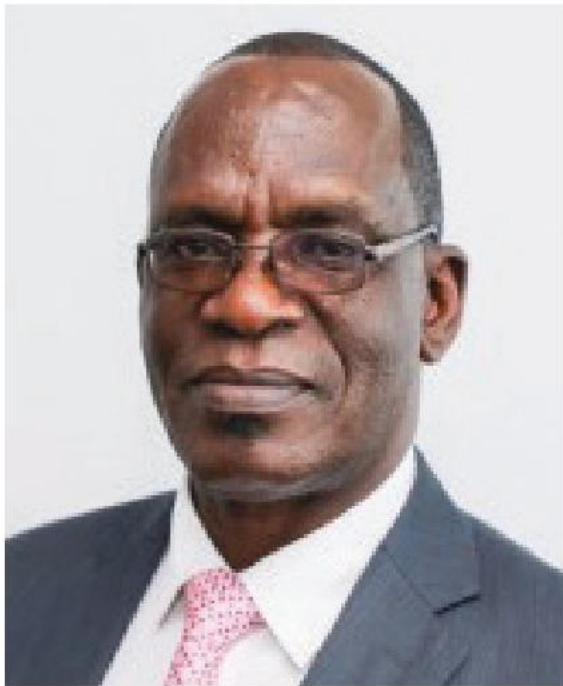


Amb. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, PhD

(GLOCEPS Associate, Former Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations, and Former Ambassador of Kenya to the United Nations, New York)

Dr. Amb. Josephine Ojiambo is a senior research associate of GLOCEPS, distinguished diplomat, academic, and global advocate for sustainable development and inclusive partnerships. A former Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, she also served as Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

Dr. Ojiambo is currently an adjunct lecturer at Kenyatta University and honorary lecturer at the University of Nairobi. She leads the Green Transitions Project on natural hydrogen and supports Kenya's national innovation master plan. She serves as Honorary President of the Commonwealth Business Network Kenya, Rotary International Representative to UNICEF and UNON, and is Founding Director of the Peter Ojiambo Foundation empowering youth and persons with disabilities.

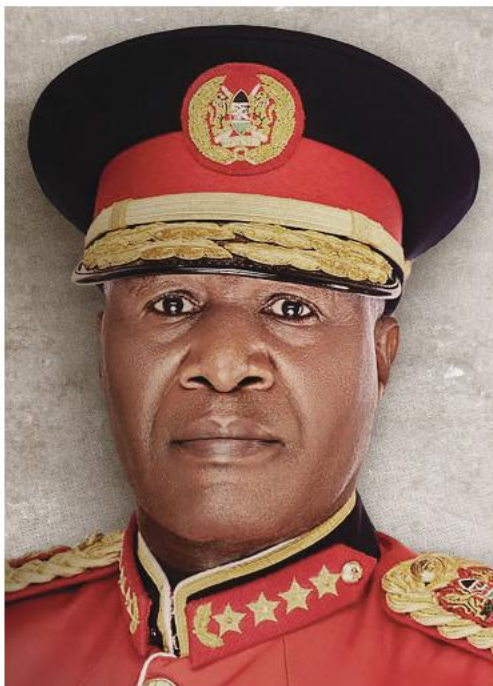


Dr. Silas Oloo Mc Ópiyo, PhD, EBS, OGW, MKIM

(Rtd S/AIG National Police Service,
Former Deputy CEO National Police
Service Commission)

Dr. Silas Oloo Mc'Ópiyo, PhD, EBS, OGW, is the former Acting Commission Secretary of Kenya's National Police Service Commission (NPSC), having previously served as the Deputy CEO in charge of Human Capital Management Technical Services. Prior to his leadership roles at the commission, he completed a 39-year career within the National Police Service, rising to Assistant Inspector General of Police.

His senior command deployments included serving as the Director of Logistics and the Director of Planning, Research, and Development at police headquarters. He holds a Higher Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Kenya Polytechnic, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Sunderland, and a PhD in Management Science from Kampala International University.

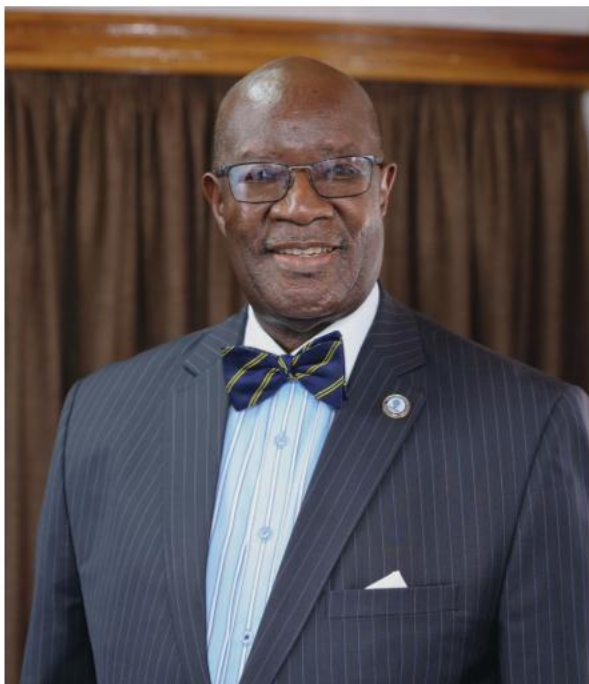


Gen (Rtd) Dr. Robert Kibochi, PhD, EGH, CBS)

Former CDF, Kenya Defence Forces

Gen (Rtd) Dr. Robert Kibochi, PhD, EGH, CBS, is the former Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and a prominent scholar-soldier in regional peace and security studies. His 40-year military career includes senior commands as Vice Chief of Defence Forces, Commander of the Kenya Army, and commander of the United Nations peacekeeping contingent (UNAMSIL) in Sierra Leone. Within the military structure, he was the first officer from the Signals Corps to rise to the position of CDF.

Academically, he made history as the first sitting Kenyan military chief to earn a doctorate while in office, focusing his research on national security policy, regional peace architecture, and defense modernization. Gen (Rtd) Kibochi has recently published a memoir. He holds a Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Nairobi, a Master of Science in Computer Based Information Systems from the University of Sunderland, and a PhD in Peace and Conflict Management from Kenyatta University.



Prof. Noah Midamba, PhD

(GLOCEPS Senior Associate, Chair, Moi University Council)

A Senior Associate of the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy, previously served as Vice-Chancellor and CEO of KCA University. With a distinguished background, he was CEO and Senior Partner at International Education and Consulting Services in the USA.

Prof. Midamba's scholarly career includes roles such as Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Kent State University and Chief International Officer at Youngstown State University. Active in higher education and curriculum development, he is renowned as a commentator.

His research focuses on economic development at international, regional, and national levels. Holding a PhD in Defence and Foreign Policy, an MA in International Relations from the University of Denver, an MPP, and a Bachelor's from the University of Puget Sound, along with an associate's in business from Tacoma Community College, Prof. Midamba is an accomplished academic and leader in higher education and policy.



Prof. XN Iraki, PhD

(Professor of Economics, University of Nairobi)

Professor X N Iraki is A Professor of Economics at the University of Nairobi faculty of Business Management Sciences and one of Kenya's most influential public intellectuals. He previously taught economics in the United States and served as research fellow at Kenya's National Economic and Social council. Prof. Iraki has consulted widely for local and global firms and brings interdisciplinary expertise in economic analysis, innovation, technology management, and sinology.

He has been a columnist in the Standard Newspaper since 2006. Shaping public discourse on economic policy and global affairs. He holds degrees from Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, Jackson State University, and the University of Toronto. He is a senior associate of GLOCEPS.

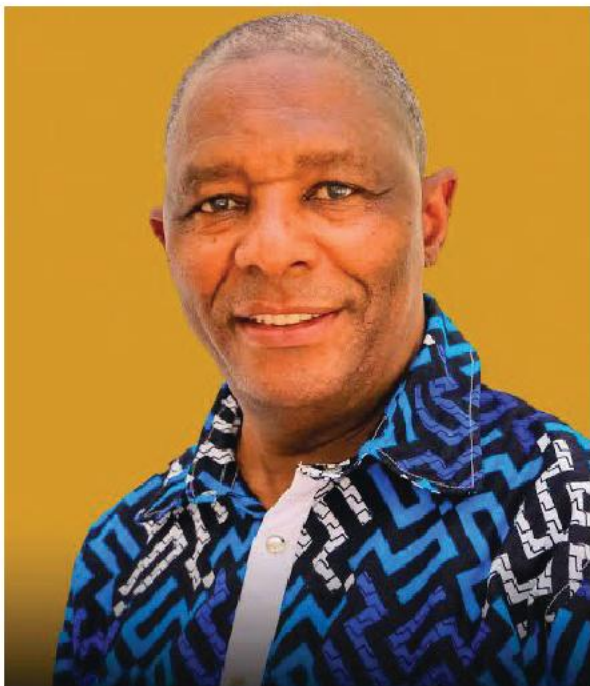


Mr. Erastus Kwaka Omolo, FCPA, (KE), CPA, (RW)

(Managing Partner at Crowe Erastus &
Co. Certified Public Accountants)

FCPA Erastus Kwaka Omolo is the Managing Partner at Crowe Erastus & Co. He is a Fully Qualified CPA, a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), Holder of ICPAK's Commendation Award for distinguished service to the Accounting Profession in Kenya, Certified Forensic Investigation Professional (CFIP). He is a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Rwanda (ICPAR), Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), Kenya Institute of Management (MKIM).

Erastus is a holder of a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Accounting from the University of Nairobi and an MBA in Strategic Management from Strathmore University. With an audit and finance career spanning more than two decades in the Not for Profit sector, he provides beyond par experience and technical expertise in matters relating to taxation. A man of integrity known for his fine eye for detail, he has a wealth of knowledge on Tax legislation and strategic approaches to compliance with the Kenyan Law.



Amb. Zachary Muburi Muita

(Former Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union; Former Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nations)

Amb. Zachary Muburi Muita is the former Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and Kenya's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He previously served as Kenya's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Counsellor at the Kenyan Embassy in Israel, and Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

Furthermore, Amb. Muita served as President of the UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation and subsequently chaired the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTCC) Board of Directors. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nairobi, a Post-Graduate Diploma from the University of Khartoum, and a Post-Graduate Certificate from Oxford University.



Amb. Dennis Awori

(Kenya's Former Amb to Japan;
Chancellor, USIU- Africa; Chairman,
CFAO Kenya & CFAO- Mobility, Funding
Chair, KEPSA)

Amb. Prof. Bitange Ndemo, PhD, Bitange Ndemo is Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Nairobi's Business School and Kenya's former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union. His public service includes an eight-year tenure as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Communications under President Mwai Kibaki, where he oversaw the implementation of the TEAMS submarine fibre-optic cable, the Kenya Open Data Initiative, and the foundational development of Konza Technopolis.

In academia, he serves as a Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Nairobi's Business School, focusing his research on the integration of ICT, artificial intelligence, and open data systems within small and medium enterprises. Amb. Prof. Ndemo holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Minnesota, an MBA from the University of St. Thomas, and a PhD in Industrial Economics from the University of Sheffield.



Dr. Vimal Shah, PhD, CBS

(Kenyan Businessman and Industrialist,
Chairman, BIDCO Africa)

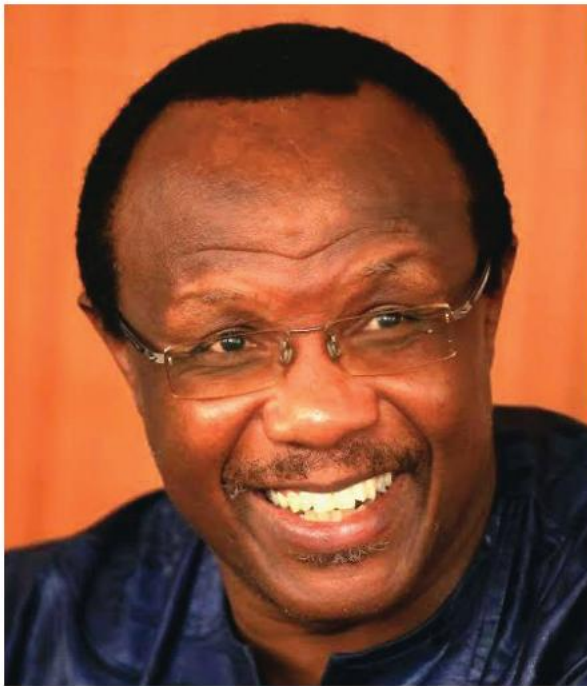
Vimal Shah is the Chairman of Bidco Africa, East Africa's leading manufacturer of Edible Oils, Hygiene and Personal Care products, and Food & Beverages. Bidco has over 60 brands and a footprint in 18 African countries. He is a distinguished global leader who is making an impactful difference in all fronts. A believer in the growth and a robust economic potential in Africa and its people. Vimal is passionate about Entrepreneurship and believes, living the true spirit, that it is the strong pillar that will move an Economic Africa forward.

Born in Kenya in 1960, Vimal went through his education in Kenya, going ahead to acquire an Accounting and Finance – Business Administration degree from United States International University – Africa, Nairobi Campus, that set the pace for his interest in Entrepreneurship. With a short-lived career in Insurance, Vimal's aggression and enterprising spirit steered him to taking a bold move to set up a new direction for the family-owned business in textile manufacturing.

Backed by a well-researched strategy, business was shaky and Vimal, coming together with his father B. D. Shah (whose name coined up the name BIDCO) and his elder brother Tarun Shah, moved to set foot in soap manufacturing in 1985 – founding BIDCO. The humble beginning in a small business unit was able to wade through raging waters of competition, tough economic times and uncertain sources of capital for expansion to become one of the leading consumer goods manufacturers in East Africa today.

Under their leadership, they led the strategic growth and expansion that saw entry into Uganda, Tanzania and Madagascar with manufacturing units to serve the markets. Vimal has also been in the frontline to crafting multiple winning partnerships – one of the key pillars that has set Bidco apart from its peers. The partnerships include joint ventures with leading global brands such as Wilmar with whom the Bidco Uganda Ltd partnership was begun in agribusiness and Oil Palm Plantations, Coro – a leading juices manufacturer in Denmark and Monarch Beverages of Atlanta, USA – from whom Bidco's license for beverage brands is. In 2016, Bidco also partnered with Land O'Lakes of America, a leading farmers' owned agribusiness cooperative, to revamp the company's animal feeds manufacturing – borrowing from the top-notch technology and innovation.

He has also, over the years, championed Innovation and initiatives towards a world-class excellence in the company's operations that has earned Bidco numerous awards, accolades and global recognition in Energy Management, Business Leadership, ICT, Manufacturing and Sustainability fronts.



Dr. David Ndii, PhD

(Chairperson, President's Council of Economic Advisers)

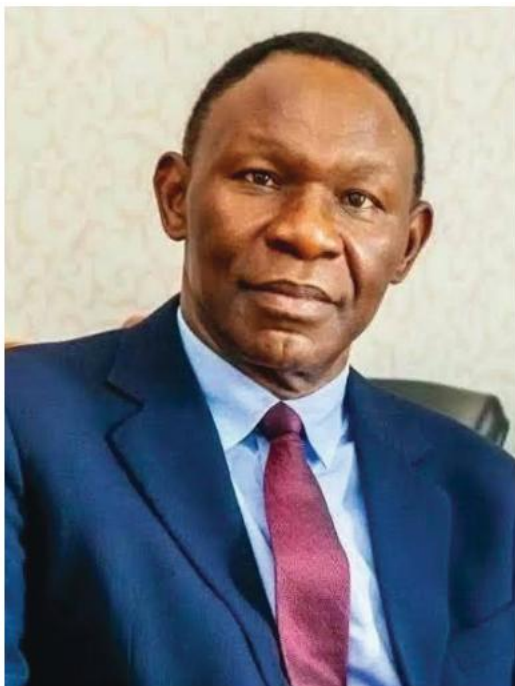
Dr. David Ndii is a prominent Kenyan economist, public policy expert, and the chairperson of the President's Council of Economic Advisors.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from the University of Nairobi and a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Economics from the University of Oxford. His professional career spans academia, economic policy, public finance, and institutional reform.

He has served as an economist at the World Bank and advised the Government of Rwanda on economic policy. He co-founded the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Kenya's first independent public policy think tank. He also served as a technical adviser to the Committee of Experts responsible for drafting Kenya's 2010 Constitution, contributing to the public finance provisions.

Dr. Ndii played a role in developing Kenya's Economic Recovery Strategy under President Mwai Kibaki's administration. In 2022, he contributed to the economic policy platform of the Kenya Kwanza coalition, including its bottom-up economic model.

Following President William Ruto's election, he was appointed Chairperson of the President's Council of Economic Advisors. His policy interests include fiscal management, public debt sustainability, structural economic reforms, and inclusive economic development.



Amb. Prof. Bitange Ndemo, PhD

(Former Permanent Secretary Ministry of ICT; Kenya's former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union)

Prof. Bitange Ndemo is a Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Nairobi's School of Business and a globally recognised thought leader in information and communication technology (ICT), innovation, and digital transformation. He has over 30 years of experience spanning government, academia, business, finance, and technology.

He previously served as Permanent Secretary in Kenya's Ministry of Information and Communications, where he championed the development of undersea fibre-optic cables in East Africa, the Kenya Open Data Initiative, and policies that enabled digital innovations such as M-PESA.

He has served on the board of Safaricom PLC and as an adviser to governments, international organisations, and public and private sector institutions. His advisory roles have included the United Nations Capital Development Fund's Better Than Cash Alliance, UNESCO's NETEXPLO Forum, Research ICT Africa, and the United Nations Global Pulse.

Prof. Ndemo has held academic leadership positions at the University of Nairobi, including Chair of the Department of Business Administration, and has supervised doctoral research in entrepreneurship and related fields. He is widely published in academic journals and book chapters and co-authored *Digital Kenya: An Entrepreneurial Revolution in the Making*.

His expertise encompasses technology policy, entrepreneurship, innovation management, social enterprise, and development strategies leveraging emerging technologies. Through his research, policy leadership, and international advisory engagements, Prof. Ndemo continues to contribute to Africa's digital transformation and innovation-driven development.



Janet Kiguru, PhD

Regional Policy and Research Manager
Australian High Commission

Janet Kiguru, PhD is a foreign policy expert, scholar and international relations practitioner with more than a decade of experience across diplomacy, academia, political and economic analysis, humanitarian affairs and policy research. She serves as Regional Political and Economic Manager at the Australian High Commission in Nairobi and is a Lecturer at Strathmore University.

She holds a PhD in International Relations from United States International University-Africa and has previously worked with UNOCHA, the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS), the Global Counter-Terrorism Institute and the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy. A published scholar and policy commentator, she has co-authored more than 20 publications covering foreign policy, geopolitics, regional integration, security and the Horn of Africa.

Dr Kiguru is a founding member of African Women in Diplomacy and International Affairs (AWDIA) and a Council Member of the International Relations Society of Kenya.

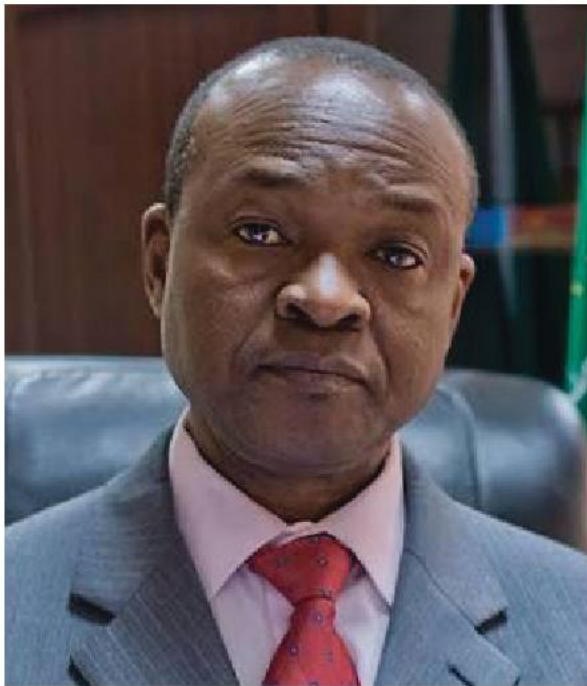


Mr. Zephaniah Aura

(Governance Team Lead, UN Women in
Nigeria and ECOWAS)

Mr. Zephaniah Aura is an experienced Electoral Management and Governance Expert, with more than 20 years of experience in governance, strategic planning, capacity building, and electoral management. Notably, Mr. Aura has supported electoral management bodies (EMBs), governments, and supra-national nongovernmental organizations in various roles related to governance and electoral processes, focusing on institutional integrity and accountability; electoral operations and planning, budgeting, design of voter registration and results management systems, procurement, training and logistics; electoral dispute resolution; political parties management and electoral security and conflict mitigation.

Mr. Aura expertise and skills in electoral and governance reforms has contributed in improving governance and management of key institutions, including EMBs and the judiciary in Kenya, Liberia, Sudan and Tanzania. Other areas of expertise include management of technical assistance and support to the devolution process in Kenya, enhancing women and youth political participation, and oversight on securing civic and political space and media freedom. Mr. Aura holds a Bachelor and master's degree from the University of Nairobi.



Amb. Erastus Mwencha

(Former Secretary General of COMESA;
Former Deputy Chairperson of the
African Union Commission)

Ambassador Erastus Mwencha is a former Vice Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). He was elected to this position in January 2008 by the Heads of State and Government of the 54 Member States of the African Union, and re-elected to the same position in July 2012. Prior to his election at the AUC, he worked at Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) for over 25 years, and served as its Secretary General for 10 years.

Amb. Mwencha contributed to the transformation of the regional body into a viable economic integration entity, with the largest free trade area (FTA) in Africa. He was particularly instrumental in contributing to the expansion of intra-COMESA trade, developing programs for private sector cooperation and trade with the rest of world, spearheading regional hard and soft infrastructure programs in transport, communication, and energy.

He also developed the continental negotiating position for the Doha Round of Negotiations of the World Trade Organization, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and actively supported the programs to integrate women in development.

Amb. Mwencha has also held several senior roles within the Ministry of Industry in Kenya.



Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi, PhD

(Vice Chancellor, USIU- Africa; Former
CEO-Commission for University
Education)

Professor Mwenda Ntarangwi is the Vice Chancellor, USIU- Africa. He is a scholar, teacher, researcher and an internationally renowned administrator. He holds a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree in Language from Kenyatta University, a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Kiswahili from Kenyatta University, and a Doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Illinois. A renowned and accomplished cultural anthropologist, Professor Mwenda Ntarangwi has dedicated his entire professional life, spanning three decades, in the higher education sector in Africa and the United States of America, through teaching, research, fund raising and senior leadership.

Professor Ntarangwi held several leadership roles in local and globally recognized institution, including serving as the Vice President of the Theological Book Network, Executive Director of the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education, and Deputy Principal-Academics, Research and Student Affairs at National Intelligence and Research University College, a constituent college of the National Defence University–Kenya, where he has been instrumental in the establishment and growth of the University's faculty and teaching programs; mentoring on developing research and publishing; and, assisted in developing student research and academic writing capacities.



Dr. Rose Ngugi, PhD

(Senior Economist, Former Executive Director, KIPPRA, Chair – Southern Voice; Research Fellow, AERC; Former Advisor to IMF))

Dr. Rose Ngugi is a distinguished economist and policy leader with extensive experience in public policy, financial markets, and global economic governance. She currently chairs Southern Voice Network of think tanks and previously served as Executive Director of the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis.

Dr. Ngugi holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham Business School and a degree in economics from the University of Nairobi. Her career includes senior advisory roles at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC and membership in the Central Bank of Kenya. She has taught economics at the University of Nairobi and published widely on financial sector reform, investment policy, and institutional development.



Prof. Violet Naanyu

(Fellow, African Academy of Sciences,
Member WHO Technical Advisory
Board)

Violet Naanyu is an Associate Professor at Moi University, Kesses, Kenya, and a Visiting Scientist at Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya. She is trained in sociology (USA), medical anthropology (Holland), and global bioethics (Mexico).

Violet is an elected Fellow at the African Academy of Sciences and a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Behavioural Sciences for Better Health. She is the Behavioural and Social Science Lead at the AMPATH Research Network in Eldoret and the Founder of the AMPATH Qualitative Research Core.

She is a Co-Founder of the Focus Projects and Research Organization, Eldoret, Kenya; Board member of the International Centre for Reproductive Health; a Scientific Advisory Board Member of the Irsay Institute; a facilitator of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa; and the Co-Chair of the Indigenous Populations Special Interest Group, Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases. She is a member of the National Scientific and Ethics Committee, Kenya; a Committee Member of the Bioethics Society of Kenya; and a member of two research ethics committees in Kenya.

Violet has served as a bioethicist on six global research projects. She has extensively used qualitative approaches, community-engaged research, and human-centred designs and has been involved in research activities in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, Gambia, Zambia, Canada, and South Africa. She has over 125 peer-reviewed publications.

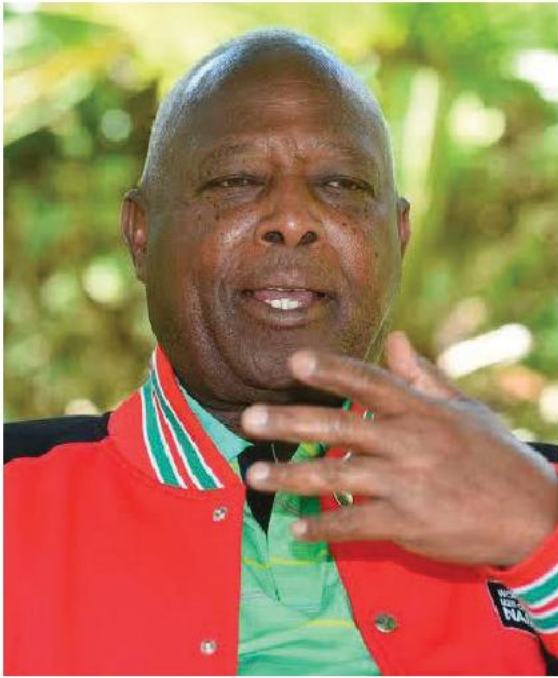


Ferdinand Omanyala, MBS, OGW

(Africa's Fastest Man; 10th Fastest Man
of all Times)

Ferdinand Omanyala, MBS, OGW, is a Kenyan sprinter, the African Record Holder in the 100 metres, and ranks as the 10th fastest man of all time. He won the gold medal in the 100 metres at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the 2022 African Championships in Athletics.

He previously competed in the World Athletics Championships finals and the Olympic Games. Omanyala has secured multiple victories on the Diamond League circuit and the World Athletics Continental Tour. He balances his professional athletics career with roles as an ambassador for corporate brands and national youth sports programs. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Nairobi.



Lt. Gen (Rtd) Jackson Tuwei

(President, Athletics, Kenya; Vice-
President of World Athletics)

Lt. Gen (Rtd) Jackson Tuwei is the President of Athletics Kenya and the Senior Vice-President of World Athletics. His career includes serving as the Commander of the Kenya Army and Commandant of the National Defence College (NDC) in the Kenya Defence Forces.

He transitioned to sports administration, where he headed the Local Organising Committees for the 2017 World Under-18 Championships and the 2021 World Under-20 Championships in Nairobi. Furthermore, Lt. Gen (Rtd) Tuwei serves as the President of the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) Region II and sits on the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) executive board. He holds qualifications from the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) in the United Kingdom.



Zainab Ismail

(Journalist and Strategic
Communications Specialist)

Zainab Ismail is a Kenyan multimedia journalist. With over a decade of experience as a news anchor, senior reporter, producer, and digital content creator, notably at the Nation Media Group, she has served as a senior journalist and hosted high-profile programs throughout her journalism career. Beyond newsroom work, she moderates high-level events and spoken on diverse platforms as a corporate MC and panelist.

Passionate about ethical storytelling, she combines sharp questioning with a commitment to impactful, audience-driven journalism and strategic communication that advances good governance.



Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, PhD

(Research Director, Development Studies at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi)

Prof. Professor Karuti Kanyinga is Director and Research Professor at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, and a leading authority on governance and development in Africa. He holds a PhD from Roskilde University, Denmark, and degrees from the University of Nairobi. Prof. Kanyinga has published extensively on ethnicity and development, devolution, electoral politics, and governance reform.

His work has informed national policy debates and commissioned studies on justice, law and order, and institutional reform. Widely respected in academic and policy circles, he brings deep insight into the political economy of development and democratic governance in Kenya and the broader African context.



Prof. Patrick Maluki, PhD

(Chair, Department of Diplomacy and International Studies- UoN, Chair Foreign Service Academy Council)

Prof. Patrick Maluki is an Associate Professor and Director of the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies at the University of Nairobi. He holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies and has over 20 years of experience in training, research, and consultancy in diplomacy, international negotiation, mediation, conflict management, peacebuilding, governance, and international political economy.

He chairs the Council for the Foreign Service Academy and the Diplomacy Scholars Association of Kenya. Prof. Maluki has extensive experience in diplomatic negotiation and international mediation, including training at the University of Nairobi and the International Peace Support Training Centre. He is an accomplished researcher and author of several books on peacebuilding, regional cooperation, maritime security, parliamentary engagement in peacebuilding, and disaster management. His publications include *Peace Building Strategies and Sustainable Peace in Rwanda and Burundi*, *Regionalism in the Indian*.

Ocean: Order, Cooperation and Community, and Combating New Piracy in the Indian Ocean. He is also the Executive Chairman of the Poverty Eradication and Community Empowerment (PEACE) NGO. At the University of Nairobi, he has founded and directed several specialised centres focusing on the United States, China, Pan-African and diaspora studies, climate change diplomacy and peace, and counterterrorism and violent extremism. His work contributes to scholarship, diplomatic capacity-building, and policy engagement on regional and international peace and security.



DG (Rtd) Alexander M. Imbenzi, ndc(k), CBS, OGW

(GLOCEPS Council Member, Former
Director General, Department of
Immigration; Author, Managing
Ethnicity in a Democracy)

Mr Alexander M. Imbenzi is an accomplished professional with extensive experience in security, foreign policy and immigration services. He has served in various national security capacities including Director General of the Directorate of Immigration Services, Kenya.

He holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Nairobi (UoN) and two diplomas from UoN, one in Armed Conflict Studies and the other in International relations. His expertise encompasses public policy, national security, and strategic performance management, underscoring his proficiency in navigating complex national and international security landscapes.



Amb. Nancy Karigithu, CBS, SC

(Former PS, Maritime Affairs; Kenya's
Special Envoy on Maritime and Blue
Economy)

Ms Nancy Karigithu is the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs at the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works. She is a Board Member of the Governing Council of the World Maritime University and the IMO International Maritime Training Institute.

She also serves as a Vice President (Africa) for the International Maritime Satellite Organization. Previously, she has served as the Director-General and Chief Executive of the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), a Maritime Law Consultant for Burport Marine Consultancy (Africa), a Senior Legal Officer at the Kenya Ports Authority and a Legal Counsel at the Attorney General's Office in Kenya.

She holds a Masters Degree in International Maritime Law from the IMO-International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), Malta and a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Nairobi.



Prof. Mohamud Jama, PhD
(GLOCEPS Council Member)

Prof. Mohamud Jama is a Development, Agricultural and Environmental Economist. He has over 35 years of teaching, training and research in sustainable development and policy. Prof. Jama has served as Consultant for the World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Government of Kenya and several international institutions.

He is the former Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) and Director, Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi. Director, Environmental Economics Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (EENESA) and Executive Committee member, Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa (CEEPA), University of Pretoria.

Jama has been Resident Director for Minnesota Studies in International Development; Administrative Coordinator, School for International Training (SIT), North Carolina. He also served as guest lecturer for US Study Abroad programs, including, Lewis & Clarke, Dartmouth, St. Lawrence, American University, Kalamazoo and James Madison University. Jama has been on numerous Boards, including, National Governing Council, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); Executive Committee, Greater Horn Horizons Forum (GHHF), UNESCO & IGAD sponsored; and Environment & Economic Consultant for Government of Kenya. Prof. Jama, is a member of GLOCEPS council.



Prof. Fred Jonyo, PhD

(Lecturer, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Nairobi.)

Professor Fred Jonyo is Chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Nairobi and a respected Authority in Political economy, International relations and Security studies.

He holds a degree from the University of Nairobi, Japan's Graduate School of International Relations, and Makerere University. Prof. Fred Jonyo has served as a council member of the Kenya School Government and chaired its Audit and Risk Management Sub committee. He has consulted for the National Assembly, National Counter Terrorism Centre, European Union, and international foundations. A prolific scholar.

He has authored and published widely in academic journals. Linking scholarship to governance practice. He is a senior associate of GLOCEPS.



Dr. Sam Oando, PhD

(Program Manager, Research and Policy
– Partnership for African Social and
Governance Research- PASGR)

Dr. Sam Oando, PhD, is the Programmes Manager for Research and Policy Uptake at the Partnership for African Social & Governance Research (PASGR). He also serves as an Adjunct Lecturer at Africa International University (AIU) and the United States International University-Africa (USIU-Africa).

His expertise spans field research, capacity building, and project management. Doubling as a peace and gender expert his work traverses behavioral research across various sectors like livelihoods, education, economic and social justice, and conflict transformation. Previously, he served as a Research Manager at Tanager and as the Chief Executive Officer at PeaceNet-Kenya. He holds a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree, and a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Otago, New Zealand.



Dr. Julian Rowa, PhD

(AI & Blockchain Assessor)

Dr. Julian Rowa is a business leader, strategist, academic, and commentator specialising in leadership, organisational development, innovation, and emerging technologies. He is the Founder of Dr. Julian Rowa Inc., a conglomerate addressing diverse workplace and organisational challenges. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Oxford Brookes University and a Doctorate in Business Administration from the University of Liverpool, both in the United Kingdom.

His professional experience spans the financial services and international development sectors, having worked with Barclays Bank in Kenya and Uganda. He also served as Executive Director of Carolina for Kibera, an international development organisation headquartered in North Carolina, USA. Dr. Rowa has a keen interest in blockchain technology, digital assets, artificial intelligence, and the evaluation of technology, innovation, and start-ups.

His professional recognition includes being named among the "Most Influential Black Leaders to Watch" by Exeleon Magazine in the United States. He has also served as a jury member for the Global Startups Awards Africa 2024 and co-authored the book *Dear Son* in Botswana. Through his work in leadership, mentorship, and organisational strategy, Dr. Rowa supports innovation, youth development, and institutional growth.



Amb. Philip Thigo, MBS

(Kenya's Special Envoy on Technology)

Amb. Philip Thigo is Kenya's Special Envoy on Technology and a globally recognized leader at the intersection of technology governance, and development. He serves on the United Nations High Level Advisory Board on Artificial Intelligence, appointed by the United Nations Secretary General. Ambassador Thigo previously founded the Africa regional presence of the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona State University and has worked across international organizations, foundations, and startup ecosystems. He co-founded landmark civic technology Initiative including a Budget Tacking Tool, Huduma, and Uchaguzi with Ushahidi.

His global recognition includes Apolitical's World 100 Influential people in Digital Government and Mozilla's RISE25 award for ethical AI leadership.



Dr. Caroline Sambai, PhD

(GLOCEPS Council Member; Language and Communications Expert – Moi University, Dept of Languages and Linguistics)

Dr. Caroline Sambai is a member of GLOCEPS Council of Advisors and a lecturer at Moi University with over 10 years experience both at graduate and post graduate level.

She is a passionate researcher with an interest in literature, media including new media, popular culture, gender and sexuality studies. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree from Egerton University, Master of Arts in African Literature from the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa and PhD from Moi University Kenya.

She is flexible, reliable, hardworking, responsible and an enthusiastic person who is able to work well both in team-led Speaker environments as well as an independent player.



Dr. Robi M. Kinga, PhD

(CEO & Executive Director, Anti Counterfeit Authority; Former Member Media Council of Kenya & Public Relations Society of Kenya)

Dr. Robi M. King'a is the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kenya's Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) and Secretary to the Board. He leads the agency's efforts to combat counterfeiting, protect intellectual property rights, safeguard consumers, and promote fair trade and innovation. An Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, Dr. King'a is an accomplished public-sector leader with extensive experience in intellectual property, governance, law, strategic communication, institutional development and public administration.

Before joining ACA in August 2022, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Association of Music Producers, contributing to copyright administration and the development of the creative sector. Dr. King'a holds a PhD from Kenyatta University, master's degrees in Communication and Intellectual Property, and qualifications in law and education, including a Bachelor of Laws degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law.

His leadership received recognition from the Head of Public Service in 2025 for ACA's achievement of an unmodified audit opinion for the 2023/2024 financial year. Internationally, he was elected Vice-Chair of the Nineteenth Session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Advisory Committee on Enforcement (WIPO ACE), contributing to global dialogue on intellectual property enforcement and cooperation.



Ms. Rachael Shitanda

(Vice Chair- Africa ICT Alliance (AfCFTA))

Rachael Shitanda is a technology professional specialising in cybersecurity, product leadership, IT governance, and education technology. She serves as Acting Chairperson and Vice Chair for East Africa at the Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA). She is also Head of Products at MentorList and a Council Member of the Computer Society of Kenya's Policy Formulation and Engagement Committee. Rachael advises organisations on cybersecurity, IT governance, audit, risk management, policy development, and digital transformation.

Through her leadership and professional engagements, she contributes to technology policy development, product innovation, and improved digital systems and services.

She has played an active role in advancing the technology sector in Kenya and across Africa, particularly in areas of internet governance, business transformation, and education technology. Her work focuses on promoting innovation, strengthening organisational technology practices, and enhancing the usability and efficiency of digital solutions.



Dr. Lawrence Nderu, PhD

(Founder J-HUB & Chair Computer
Science Department- JKUAT)

Dr. Lawrence Nderu is the Chairman of the Department of Computing at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), where he also serves as a lecturer and researcher. He founded JHUB Africa, an innovation hub based at JKUAT, and the co-founder of gDIH in Konza City, Nairobi.

Dr. Nderu holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Paris VIII, France, as well as a Master's degree in Software Engineering and a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from JKUAT. His research interests encompass Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Science, and Software Engineering. He has authored numerous papers in peer-reviewed journals and presented his research at international conferences.



Prof. Elisha Opiyo, PhD

(Professor of Computing and Informatics, Open University of Kenya)

Prof. Elisha T. Opiyo Omulo is a Professor of Computing and Informatics at the Open University of Kenya, specialising in artificial intelligence and intelligent systems. He holds a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Nairobi and a Master of Philosophy in Computer Science from the University of Wales. He has over 25 years of experience in university teaching, research, and academic leadership, having previously served as an Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer at the University of Nairobi.

His teaching experience spans undergraduate and postgraduate computing, including artificial intelligence, multi-agent systems, machine vision, embedded intelligent systems, modelling, and simulation. Prof. Opiyo has contributed to interdisciplinary research collaborations between computing and health sciences, including serving as Co-Director and Health Informatics Track Lead for an HIV/AIDS research project for over seven years.

His research interests include applying artificial intelligence across education, healthcare, and technology. He has also been associated with the African Academy of Languages and the British Computer Society's Expert Systems Specialist Group. His work bridges computing research, intelligent systems, and practical technological applications across multiple sectors.

Profile of Track Coordinators:



Brig (Rtd) Foustine O Sirera
'ndc '(IND)'psc'(K)

(GLOCEPS Non- Resident Research)

Brigadier (Rtd) Foustine O Sirera is an Independent Security and Defence Consultant. He is a Senior Associate Advisor at Alceon, Senior Non-Resident Fellow at The Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS), and Senior Researcher at The Consulting House (TCH) – (Policy Innovation and Security Think Tank). Brigadier (Rtd) Sirera has been a Security Training Consultant at SGA Security. He is a professional military officer who served diligently before retiring from the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in 2013 after 34 years of service. In the course of his service, he held various command and staff appointments among them, Command of a Brigade and Chief of Training and Doctrine at Defence Headquarters.



Col (Rtd) Godfrey Gitonga

(GLOCEPS Non - Resident Research
Fellows)

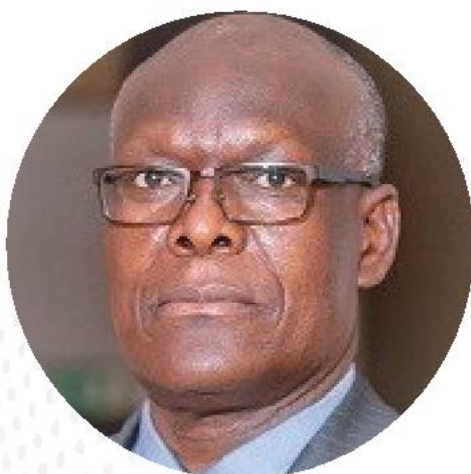
Col (Rtd) Godfrey Gitonga Musa is a retired military officer serving as a Non-Resident Research Fellow for Security and Defence at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS). He has extensive experience in military operations having worked in the Kenya Defence Forces for over thirty years. He is a consultant on international and domestic peace support operations, humanitarian defence and security (military and civil defence resourcing), disaster and emergency response and deployment strategies. He assists the resident research fellows in reviewing research documents on defence and security policies.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies from Kisii University, a Diploma in Strategic Studies from the University of Nairobi, a Diploma in Military Science from Egerton University and a Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the Technical University of Kenya.



Amb. Solomon K. Maina, MBS
(GLOCEPS Non- Resident Research)

Ambassador Solomon K. Maina is the Non-Resident Fellow for Foreign Policy at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy. Ambassador Maina is a seasoned career diplomat with over 30 years' multilateral experience. He is an ardent Foreign Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist with a passion for policy transformation of African economies geared towards achieving active representation in global affairs and governance. He previously served as an Ambassador/Director General, Office of the President of the Organization of African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). Between November 2014 and February 2020, he was the Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Tokyo, Japan.



Mr. Samuel Otieno, CBS, MBS,
(GLOCEPS Non- Resident Research)

Mr. Samuel Otieno is the Non-Resident Fellow for the Development Pillar at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy. He is an accomplished security expert with 40 years working experience. His expertise is in the areas of policy development, environment, migration, human development and research. He has published on diverse areas including refugee studies, violent extremism, and migration with a focus on Kenya. His academic qualifications include a Master of Arts in Armed Conflict and Peace Studies, a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, and a Diploma in International Studies.



Col (Rtd) Julius, M. Minyori, MBS, 'ndc'(K)'psc'(K), 'acsc' (USA)

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Col (Rtd) Julius, M. Minyori is the Non-Resident Research Fellow for Transnational Organised Crimes at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS). Minyori retired from the Military in March 2020 after 35 five years of service. Minyori is an accomplished researcher and trainer specializing in various security areas such as: security risk analysis, strategy development, monitoring and evaluation, counter terrorism, security management, guard force training and VIP protection.



Mr. Stephen Kiema

(GLOCEPS Non- Resident Research)

Stephen Kiema is the Non-Resident Fellow for the Governance and Ethics Pillar at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy. He is an accomplished consultant in strategic security, governance / leadership, information, and communications technology innovations, and disability empowerment. As a strategic security consultant, he has worked in various positions in the Government of Kenya specializing in economic, political, environmental, social, and security domain aspects. As a governance/leadership consultant, he has provided leading advisory at county and national spaces regarding the relevant and realistic performance index conducive in the 21st century through social lab approaches. In addition, he has been instrumental in setting up the first primary government data center in 2008 supported by the Chinese Government. He previously delivered leading technology coaching strategies, and tactics relevant to local content and local talent innovations in the cyber security domain, big data analytics, and actionable-timely accurate information systems. In Disability Empowerment, he has programmed a service and empowerment platform for persons living with disabilities and associates across Kenya. Stephen holds an MSc-Information Systems from the University of Nairobi and MA-Peace Studies and International Relations from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, PGDip. He also holds a BSc Mathematics (Operational Research) from the University of Nairobi.

Rapporteurs:



Denis Muniu
(GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Denis Muniu is the Centre's Research fellow for the Foreign Policy and Security and Defence Pillars. He has previously worked at the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in the East African Community Affairs Directorate where he was involved in undertaking research and providing reports on EAC integration. He has also worked in the Ministry of East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), and Regional Development where he was attached to the Directorate of Social Affairs. His research interests are in the areas of foreign policy, peace, security and development. Denis holds a BA Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from The Technical University of Kenya (TUK) and is currently pursuing a Master's in International Relations and Diplomacy at Kenyatta University.



Mwanaiddi Shafi
(GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Mwanaiddi Shafi is a Kenyan university student at Daystar University, with an academic background spanning Kilimani Primary School and Al Suhaim Girls High School. She is currently undertaking an internship at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS), where she is gaining practical experience in research, policy analysis, and international relations. Her academic journey and internship provide her with opportunities to develop her professional skills, broaden her understanding of policy issues, and gain exposure to strategic research. She speaks both English and Kiswahili and is committed to building her knowledge and experience in preparation for future professional opportunities.



Fidel Appolo
(GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Fidel Appolo is a lawyer, certified professional mediator, and public policy researcher who holds an LL.B (Hons) from the University of Nairobi. Driven by a passion for the intersection of law and public policy, Fidel focuses on how evidence-based research can strengthen institutions, inform governance, and address contemporary global challenges. His expertise spans legal research, advocacy, and domestic and international dispute resolution, with a long-term commitment to bridging the gap between scholarly inquiry and practical, sustainable policy decisions.



Levin Sagero
(GLOCEPS Research Assistant)

Levin Sagero is a Research Assistant at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS), with a background in International Relations and a keen interest in understanding the political, economic, and security dynamics shaping regional and international affairs. His work and interests center on exploring contemporary policy issues, examining geopolitical developments, and understanding the factors influencing relations among states and other international actors. Levin has a particular interest in diplomacy, international security, foreign policy, strategic studies, and regional cooperation. Through research and engagement with emerging global issues, he seeks to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities shaping the international system. His interests reflect a commitment to informed policy analysis and a broader appreciation of the role of research in addressing complex regional and global challenges.



Gilbert Francis Odhiambo
(GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Gilbert Francis Odhiambo is an Applied Linguistics and Communications professional whose work spans training, content strategy, editing, storytelling, and knowledge management. He is a GLOCEPS Associate and currently serves as Editor of The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy. He holds a Master of Applied Linguistics from the Technical University of Kenya. His thesis title is Terrorism Threat Notes: A Corpus-based Forensic Linguistic Analysis of Selected Texts. A published researcher and experienced editor of academic books, reports, and journals, he combines strategic communication expertise with a lifelong interest in learning.



Ken Ngatia
(GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Ken Ngatia is the Centre's Research Assistant. He has previously worked in the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) conducting audit work to the Chamber's County Chapters and providing reports. He has also worked in the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and was involved in mapping and collection of data across Kenya. He has worked as an Accounting Assistant for both the Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority (ENNDA) and Sidian Bank Headquarters' in Nairobi. Ken holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce specializing in Finance from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), and a holder of Certified Public Accountant (CPA) II.



Stephen Nyamu Nduvi
(GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Stephen Nyamu Nduvi is a public policy and governance expert with over 10 years of experience in policy research, strategic advisory, and institutional development. He serves as the Centre's Head of Research and Research Fellow for Public Policy, Ethics and Governance at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS). Previously, he worked at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) as a Young Professional in public policy analysis and research. His contributions include discussion papers, policy briefs, and policy blogs published by GLOCEPS, the Brookings Institution, Africa at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), KIPPRA, and leading Kenyan media. He is part of the Southern Voice on Global Development 2027 research consortium, collaborating with the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) from Bangladesh and Ethos from Mexico. His research interests include political economy, governance, geopolitics, digital transformation, social protection and regional integration. He holds a First-Class Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance from Kenyatta University and a Master's degree with Distinction in Governance and Regional Integration from the Pan African University in Cameroon. He is a KIPPRA Young Professionals Programme alumnus and a beneficiary of a fully sponsored master's scholarship awarded by the African Union Commission.



Joyce Defence Adhiambo
(GLOCEPS Research Assistant)

Joyce Defence Adhiambo Onyango is a data and technology professional specialising in geospatial data science, machine learning, and AI-driven spatial analysis. She holds a Bachelor's degree and an Honours degree in Geoinformatics from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, where she is also completing her Master's degree in the same field. She is an Associate at GLOCEPS, with professional experience spanning geospatial technology, risk modelling, conservation, and infrastructure analysis. She focuses on applying data science and AI to complex problems and developing analytical solutions that support evidence-based planning and decision-making.



Teddy Odira
(GLOCEPS Research Fellow)

Teddy Odira is the Senior Editorial Assistant at The Platform for Law, Justice & Society and holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) from the University of Nairobi. He has worked with TripleOK Law LLP, the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR), and the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), gaining experience in legal analysis of governance, economic policy, and debt regulation. A legal researcher and emerging public-interest scholar, his work spans human rights, constitutional and public law, economic governance, and artificial intelligence regulation. His writing has appeared in publications of The Platform for Law, Justice & Society, the African Society of International Law (AfSIL), and the Kenyan Chapter of the International Review of Constitutional Reform, among others. He is a recipient of the Chief Justice C.B. Madan Student Laureate Prize.



Gillian Sheila
(GLOCEPS ICT Assistant)

Gillian Sheila is an Information Security professional, researcher, and postgraduate student pursuing a Master of Science in Information Security at the United States International University–Africa. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Security and Forensics from KCA University and currently serves as an ICT Intern at the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS). Her interests span cybersecurity, emerging technologies, digital governance, and the intersection of technology and strategic policy. Through her technical background and research experience, she is interested in how digital technologies shape communication, security, and strategic engagement.



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