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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NEWSLETTER

KENYA IN GENEVA



PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

IN THIS ISSUE



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From the Permanent Representative's desk,



The first half of the calendar year of 2023 has indeed been eventful. On behalf of the staff of the Kenya Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland, it was an honour to welcome His Excellency, **Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces** to the Kenya Mission in Geneva, as he attended the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), in June, 2023.

The ILC is the International Labour Organization's (ILO) highest decision-making body which meets annually and brings together the tripartite delegations from the Organization's 187 Member States and other international actors to consider the issues, placed on its agenda by the Governing Body of the ILO.

His Excellency, **Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto** was invited to speak at the 2023 World of Work Summit, whose focus was on social justice for all. He highlighted the important aspect of labour and human relations that seeks to address inequalities as an essential priority of Kenya. H.E the President further underscored the role of social justice in creating a more sustainable and equitable world and emphasized this as an opportunity to share Kenya's vision for and priorities for social justice; and while showcasing the steps Kenya is taking to advance social justice, both within government and across sectors.

In addition to the World of Work Summit, His Excellency, **Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto** held strategic engagements with a number Heads of Organizations in Geneva.

The second issue of this newsletter therefore highlights a number of activities that the Mission has engaged in over the first six months of 2023, including highlights from the 76th World Health Assembly as the World Health Organisation (WHO) celebrated its 75th Anniversary, the 16th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention, the 11th Meeting to Rotterdam Convention and 11th meeting to the Stockholm Convention that were held here in Geneva.

In addition, the Mission has engaged in several events aimed at amplifying key messages and cementing Kenya's role as a thought-leader in a number of priority areas, including; taking lead in calling for the strengthening of Africa's voices in global digital processes; education in emergencies; and in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

We look forward to an even more fruitful second half.

PICTORIALS



H.E the President arrives at the Kenya Mission, 15th June, 2023



H.E the President meets the staff of the Kenya Mission



H. E the President together with COTU Secretary General, Dr. Francis Atwoli, Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Ms. Florence Bore and Permanent Representative, Amb. Dr. Cleopa Mailu at PR's office



H.E the President addressing the Kenya delegation to the 111th session of ILC at the Mission



H.E. the President signing the visitors book at the Mission



Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Ms. Florence Bore, addressing Kenya's delegation to the 111th session of ILC at the Mission.



Delegates during H.Es visit to the Mission



Dr. Francis Atwoli, COTU Secretary Geneva, addressing Kenya's delegation to the ILC 111th session of during H.E the President's visit to the Mission



Permanent Representative, Amb. Dr. Cleopa Mailu giving welcome address during H.E, The President meeting with Kenya's ILC delegation



H.E the President is received at the Hotel President Wilson, in Geneva



The children of the staff of the Kenya Mission await the arrival of H.E the President at President Wilson Hotel

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

The International Labour Conference (ILC) held its 111th Session that started on 5th June 2023 and closed on 16th June 2023. The ILC is the supreme decision-making organ of the ILO and comprises of 187 Member States, including Kenya. The conference meets once a year in June in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ILO is tripartite in structure and give an equal voice to workers, employers and governments to ensure that the views of the social partners are closely reflected in labour standards and in shaping policies and programmes. The main aims of the ILO is to promote rights of work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue in work related issues.

The ILC is the international Parliament of the ILO, where labour and employment matters are debated. The Conference's main function is the adoption of International Labour Standards in form of conventions and recommendations.

Kenya's representation is traditionally by the Ministry of Labour, Central Organisation of Trade Unions (COTU) and the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE).

The 111th Session of the ILC dealt with a wide range of issues and discussions on the following:

- a. Standard setting discussions on quality apprenticeships.
- b. Recurrent discussion on the strategic update, objective of social protection (labour protection)
- c. Just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all.
- d. General affairs of the conference, including aggregation and withdrawal of standards and,
- e. Finance and administration affairs of the organisation ILO.



H.E the President delivers his remarks during the 111th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC)

Kenya's delegation to the 111th of ILC comprised of the following:

1. Hon. Florence Bore, Cabinet Secretary of Labour and Social Protection.
2. Hon. Jeffrey Kaituko, Principal Secretary for Labour and Skills Development.
3. Mr. Francis Atwoli., Secretary General of the Central Organisation of Trade Unions, COTU.
4. Miss Jacqueline Mugo, Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Kenya Employers, FKE.
5. Amb. (Dr), Cleopa Mailu, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.



Delegates at the 111th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC)

The Kenyan delegation fully participated in the discussions at all levels, Technical Committees, African Group, and plenary. At the regional level, Kenya was also assigned the role of observer at the African Group and participated in the drafting of the resolutions.

The theme of the Conference was “Social Justice for All”. In the plenary, Kenya highlighted its progress on the journey and drew attention to the Kenya’s Constitutional framework to achieve a just society that leaves no one behind, and the Bottom-Up Economic Approach (BETA) for the year 2022 to 2027 that have provided clear pathways and principles to aid social justice.

The World of Work Summit; Social Justice for All, took place on 14th and 15th June 2023 during the 111th session of ILC that brought together 16 heads of State and Governments, as well as highlevel representatives from the United Nations, other International Organisations, employers and workers organisations.

It is worth noting that His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Dr William Samoei Ruto was among the 16 Heads of State who addressed the Summit under the theme “Social justice for All”, the summit discussed various issues relating to social justice. A multilateral initiative that was welcomed by the ILO’s governing body and its 347th Session in March 2023.

The President stated that active engagement at the International Labour Conference and the World of Work Summit is part of Kenya’s broader Multilateral diplomacy.

The President further stated that he was invited to speak at the 2023 World of Work Summit, whose focus is on social justice for all, and it was on an important aspect of labour and human relations that seeks to address inequalities- an essential priority for many countries, including Kenya.

The summit highlighted the role of social justice in creating a more sustainable and equitable world. The summit also provided an opportunity to share Kenya’s vision for priorities for social justice and showcased the steps it is taking to advance social justice, both within the government and across sectors and therefore social justice is not just confined to labour issues. The summit will contribute to informing discussions in other Multilateral engagements that relate to social issues and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finally, the World of Work Summit; Social Justice for All aims to.

- i. Raise awareness and pleas for social justice to be prioritised in global, regional, and national agendas as a rallying point to put the social dimensions of the SDG’s back on track.
- ii. Promote and call for increased, coordinated and coherent action for the advancement of social justice through the foraging of the Global Coalition for Social Justice; and.
- iii. Feed the global debate by voicing priorities and commitments to do more to advance social justice for all.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 76TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AS WHO CELEBRATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The 76th World Health Assembly (WHA) was held from Sunday 21st May to Tuesday 30th May 2023 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Kenyan delegation was led by Hon. Susan Nakhumicha Wafula, Cabinet Secretary for Health and comprised of officials from the Council of Governors, National Assembly, Ministry of Health and the Permanent Mission.

The Kenyan delegation participated actively in the Assembly and Kenya hosted three side events on Strengthening Preparedness and Response to Health emergencies through amendments to the IHR, Pan African Ministerial dialogue on Climate change and Health as well as a side event on Developing a Fit-for-Purpose Health Workforce for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa.



H.E. Amb. Dr. Mailu welcomes Ms. Susan Nakhumicha, Cabinet Secretary for Health to the mission



This year's Assembly saw WHO celebrate its 75th year Anniversary under the theme for **“WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all”**. Over the past seven and a half decades, there has been extraordinary progress in protecting people from diseases and destruction, including smallpox eradication, reducing the incidence of polio by 99%, saving millions of lives through childhood immunization, declines in maternal mortality and improving health and well-being for millions more.



H.E. Amb. Mailu hosted Excellency Governors and Hon. Members of National Assembly who were part of the Kenyan delegation to the Assembly

National Statement

In the address to the Assembly, the Cabinet Secretary highlighted the Kenya Kwanza Administration's Bottom up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) for the health sector, based on four main thrusts:

- **Investing** in the health workforce, with a focus on Community Health Promoters
- **Reviewing** the health financing architecture to ensure sustainable financing through Social Health Insurance,
- **Strengthening** health commodity security by investing in local manufacturing

- **Leveraging** on integrated digital technologies to guarantee end to end visibility and accountability in the supply chain pipeline system.



Ms. Susan Nakhumicha Cabinet Secretary for Health, delivering national statement during plenary of the 76th WHA

Walk the talk

This year's Assembly was preceded by a walk whereby delegates were joined by athletes, local sports clubs, health partners and the Geneva community to celebrate the importance of healthy lifestyles and demonstrate measures to safely conduct public events. Notable Kenyan guests to the walk included decorated athlete Mr. Paul Tergat and Kenyan nurse Lukresia Robai, among others.



Ethiopian athlete Derartu Tul, WHO DG Dr. Tedros, Kenyan runner Paul Tergat and former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern

Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting

This meeting was held on 20th May and was also chaired by Kenya. **Kenya is the chair in office for the CHMM for the period May 2023 to May 2024.** The Ministers adopted a statement highlighting the urgent need to accelerate action on UHC commitments, including investing in primary healthcare, harnessing the potential of digital health technologies, integrating mental health services, and strengthening national capacity for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, as these efforts

will contribute to a more equitable and healthier society, leaving no one behind.



Commonwealth Health Ministers with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth

Meeting with Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General

The Cabinet Secretary appraised the DG of the progress made in the implementation of UHC since their last meeting in February 2023 during the Patient Safety Summit in Montreux. On their part, WHO committed to supporting the Ministry in exploring the feasibility of community-based health insurance and its possible relevance to the Kenyan context. The Director General also committed to deploy a technical team from WHO to support the ongoing work on UHC.



Ms. Susan Nakhumicha, Cabinet Secretary for Health with Dr. Tedros, WHO Director General

Meeting with Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and Dr Mamadi Yilla, Acting Principal Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator-PEPFAR

UNAIDS acknowledged and thanked GOK for strong leadership in HIV response and appreciated Kenya for co-hosting the Global Prevention Coalition meeting. She further welcomed the chairing by Kenya of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board in 2024.



Ms. Susan Nakhumicha, Cabinet Secretary for Health with Dr. Seth Berkeley, Chief Executive Officer of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance



Ms. Susan Nakhumicha, Cabinet Secretary for Health with UNAIDS Executive Director and PEPFAR Deputy Global AIDS Coordinator

Looking ahead

2023 is going to be a busy year for health with the UN General Assembly High Level Meetings on UHC, Pandemic Preparedness and Response and Tuberculosis scheduled for September 2023:

- A UN General Assembly High-Level meeting (HLM) on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR) on 20 September 2023.
- A second UN high level meeting on Universal Health Coverage on 21 September 2023 and will review progress on past commitments.
- A second UN high-level meeting on fight against tuberculosis (TB) on 22 September 2023 and will review progress on past commitments.



Ms. Susan Nakhumicha, Cabinet Secretary for Health with Xavier Becerra, US Secretary for Health and Human Services

H.E THE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



H. E the President during his meeting with the President of World Economic Forum, Mr. Borge Brende

H.E. Dr. William Ruto met with the President of the World Economic Forum, Mr. Borge Brende, on 16 June 2023 during his official visit to Geneva to address the World of Work Summit at the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference.

In this bilateral meeting, the President of WEF hailed Kenya for being a tech hub in Africa and consequently attracting immense international business interest. He disclosed that WEF was keen to partner with Kenya for mutual benefits. H.E. the President stated that there was a growing realization that Africa is the next frontier, hence the growing international interest in the continent. Kenya is therefore leveraging this interest, as well as its diversified economy to attract more international attention.

Mr. Borge Brende took the opportunity to invite H.E. the President to the WEF Annual Meeting to be held in Davos, Switzerland in January 2024.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international non-governmental organization, famously known as the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. The Forum engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agenda. WEF's work transcends all areas of humanity, including: Artificial Intelligence; Climate Change; Cybersecurity; Education, Skills and Learning; Workforce and Employment; Advanced manufacturing and production; Agriculture, food and beverage; Block chain; Circular Economy; Cities and urbanization; Diversity and Inclusion; Economic progress; Emerging technologies; Energy; Financial and Monetary systems; Health and Healthcare; Mobility; the Digital economy; the Ocean; Trade and Investment.

BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN H.E PRESIDENT RUTO AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND ON THE 15TH JUNE, 2023, ON THE SIDELINES OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

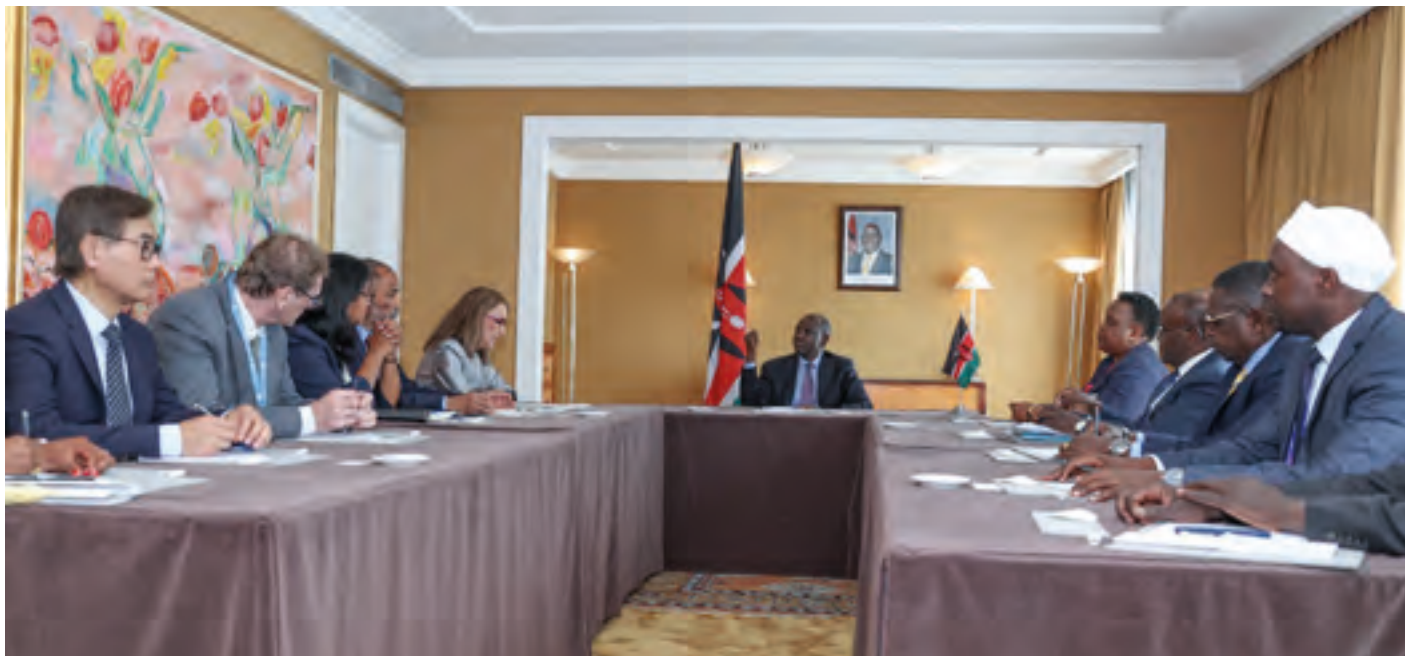
The bilateral meeting between H.E. Dr. William Ruto and Ms. Grynspan UNCTAD Secretary General, took place on the 15th of June, 2023 in Geneva and focussed majorly on the issue of financing for development, debt issues and addressing the global challenge of climate change.

Specifically, President Dr. William Ruto emphasized the need for the reform of the financial architecture and have one that is fair, inclusive and sustainable. He further noted that the reforms in the international financial system will help boost investor confidence in developing countries especially in Africa.

The same sentiments by the President were underscored by the UNCTAD Secretary General who stated that unequal international financial architecture makes developing countries' access to financing inadequate and expensive.

The President further reiterated the need to massively scale up affordable long-term financing to countries that are in need characterised by low interest and long repayment period that gives developing countries policy space to continue addressing national priorities.

Last but not least, the President noted that addressing climate change should not be a competition or blame game rather it demands objectivity in collectively addressing climate crisis with each country coming on the table with a role to play whether in terms of provision of climate finance, provision of necessary technology and capacity building and provision of clean energy sources.



H.E Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H, President of the Republic of Kenya, during a bilateral meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Ms. Rebeca Grynspan in Geneva on the sidelines of the International Labour Conference in June 2023.

THE 16TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO BASEL CONVENTION AND, THE 11TH MEETING TO ROTTERDAM CONVENTION AND 11TH MEETING TO STOCKHOLM CONVENTION WERE HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND FROM MAY 1ST - 12TH 2023

During the Opening Session, The Basel Convention COP 16 President, speaking on behalf of the three COP Presidents, **underscored the interconnectedness of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.** He highlighted the need for the BRS Conventions to address issues in an integrated and holistic manner.

Algeria spoke on behalf of the AFRICAN REGION and drew attention to **illegal dumping of wastes and toxic substances and characterized the pace of remedial intervention as slow.** Algeria stressed that Pops should be eliminated, not recycled and called for a working group on **nontraditional financial resources** and highlighted the importance of synergies.

After the meeting, Kenya was among the countries that were selected to participate in a Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) phase out project by UNEP. The project was still under the initial stages of development. Implementation of this project will be very instrumental for complying with the SC obligation in regard to phase out of PCB by 2025.



The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus Ng'eno with part of Kenya's delegation to the BRS COPs meetings during a courtesy call to the Mission in May 2023

KENYA AT THE FOREFRONT OF CALLING FOR THE STRENGTHENING AFRICAS VOICES IN GLOBAL DIGITAL PROCESSES

Kenya together with Djibouti and Namibia with the support of DiploFoundation, jointly convened a side event on the margins of the World Summit of the Information Society Forum (WSIS Forum) which took place in March, 2023. The side event dubbed> Strengthening Africa's Voices in Global Digital Processes.



Amb. Dr. Cleopa Mailu giving his intervention during the panel discussion

As coordinator of the Africa Group in Geneva on tech and digital matters, and in realization of the growing dynamism of Africa, the event focused on how to strengthen African digital voices globally, by leveraging what already exists, while developing digital foreign policies for countries, regions, and the overall continent.

Amb. Dr. Cleopa Mailu in his remarks noted that Digital technologies continue to play an increasingly important role in global economies and societies, especially so, after the pandemic highlighted the importance of promoting safe and effective digital solutions for a more accessible, more equal and inclusive world.

In parallel, as the international and security context is becoming even more complex, new digital technologies are increasingly a driver of geopolitical competition and a barometer of global influence.

He recalled that the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres stated that two seismic shifts will shape the 21st century: the climate crisis and digital transformation. Therefore, just as international cooperation is crucial to preserving the health of the planet, it is also needed to reap the benefits of digital technologies while mitigating their risks.

This entails the introduction of new issues on diplomatic agendas and new tools aiding the work of diplomats. In order to navigate this new world shaped by digital technologies, today diplomats increasingly require technological skills, critical thinking and the ability to discern conflicting information, policies and practices; informed by digital foreign policy.

In the global South, the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” (4IR), is seen by many policy makers as an important opportunity for job and economic growth, and an alternative way to catch up to more advanced economies, amidst trends towards deindustrialization. The African Union, as well as a number of African governments, have placed heavy emphasis on the potential of the 4IR to create opportunities for young unemployed people across the region.



Participants during a Side-Event on Strengthening Africa's Voices in Global Digital Processes.

He however noted that it is important to point out the policy and regulatory gaps as well as weak institutional structures that continue to not only uphold the existing centers of wealth and power of long-established geographical patterns of global capitalism; but that also leave African Countries vulnerable to the many risks rendering most unable to promote or protect digital strategic interests.

In conclusion, he highlighted the need to scale up the role of international agencies in supporting regional mechanisms; and in influencing country-level strategies and roadmaps by incentivizing governments to develop digital policies that adhere to global policy standards, providing technical assistance for capacity building, ensuring to focus on harnessing strategies that bridge national and global interests that should be synthesized, consolidated and scaled up.

LEVERAGING DATA AND EVIDENCE TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

“Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family”, Koffi ANNAN



Dr. Cleopa MAILU, Permanent Representative of Kenya in Geneva delivers welcoming remarks at the High-Level Reception on Education in Emergencies on the margins of the Education in Emergencies Data and Evidence Summit

On 6th June 2023, the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies and the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) convened a high-level reception on education in emergencies in Geneva, on the margins of the Education in Emergencies Data and Evidence Summit. Kenya, alongside the Permanent Missions of Canada and Switzerland in Geneva also co-hosted the event. The event brought together high-level representatives from Permanent Missions in Geneva, heads and senior representatives from International Organizations, influential policy makers, Education in Emergencies experts and the youth.

The event was premised on the need to;

- Elevate Education in Emergencies and raise awareness about the critical role of data and evidence in the field across sectors and the nexus.
- Facilitate high-level and cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange among influential stakeholders in Education in Emergencies and beyond in Geneva.
- Showcase the criticality of data and evidence for effective decision-making and programming in the field.
- Inspire innovative thinking and catalyze action towards achieving quality education for crisis-affected children and youth.

Kenya noted the very frequent and intense crises we are witnessed today from droughts, floods, violent conflict, epidemics, pandemics, wildfires, among others. These crises are becoming protracted in nature and are compounding on other crises. When they happen, various sectors of life are affected and education has been not been spared. This is putting immense pressure on already very stressed systems, with some of the largest education gaps witnessed in crisis -affected settings.

Amidst crises, Kenya underscored that education is a lifeline for children in crises. In line with this assertion, it becomes crucial to ensure that even in crises, no one is left behind particularly the most vulnerable. It is therefore important to address education gaps amidst crises – through anticipation, preparation, planning and responses. To undertake this, data and evidence are crucial for evidence-informed policies and actions. This is also key towards universal fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on quality education.

Quality and disaggregated data is crucial for a number of factors or follows;

1. Data and evidence offer a granular understanding of the specific needs of learners amidst crisis-affected eco-systems of learning. It can be used to shine light on changing situations in crises in order to develop appropriate measures, build resilience, ensure continuity of education and curb disruptions during crisis.
2. Disaggregation of data is also key to ensure tailor-made responses.
3. Data and evidence are crucial to reveal gaps, as well as identify specific areas where there is need to galvanize partnerships and external support.

At the national level, Kenya's Ministry of Education established the Education in Emergencies programme in 2008. As part of Kenya's Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) among measures to strengthen the programme, is establishing a data and information management system for Education in Emergencies.

Education remains a key priority for Kenya in displacement settings. At the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) held in Geneva in 2019, Kenya pledged to continue strengthening support to refugee and host community education. A number of very positive steps have been made in fulfilment of this pledge.

Ensuring that children, young people and adults who seek education in emergencies and crisis settings have stable, quality and equitable education is a key part of transition from emergency to development. It is also crucial towards ensuring a better self-reliant and dignified long-term future for the people, their families and the wider community.

Prioritization of Education in Emergencies is therefore critical and the necessity of data and evidence as an enabler. Strong advocacy, partnerships are also needed for funding, regular capacity enhancement and advocacy for Education in Emergencies, including for emerging issues and during flash appeal funding proposals. It is regrettable that in 2021, only 2.9% of global humanitarian financing was allocated to education.

Nelson Mandela once said that "Educating all of our children must be one of our most urgent priorities. We all know that education, more than anything else, improves your chances of building better lives." And in emergencies, this remains a transformational imperative.

SIDE EVENT ON “WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:
ENSURE WOMEN ADVANCEMENT AT THE
FOREFRONT OF OUR TIMES”
MAY 10TH 2023 AT 11.00-13.00 HRS-
PALAIS DES NATIONS. ROOM XXVI



Mr. Sospeter Ngoya, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Kenya delivered opening remarks on behalf of Ambassador, Dr. Cleopa Mailu, the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN preceded by H.E, CHEN Xu, the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office who welcomed the participants

The side event focused on sharing best practices and challenges that countries face while implementing commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Kenya, Mexico and Denmark convened the World Conference on Women, which gradually led to the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In addition, Kenya emphasized great importance at promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls at all levels as set in its Vision 2030, Kenya's Blueprint for development.

Kenya underscored two achievements 1) Access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health and 2) Women representation in decision making processes. Kenya reiterated its positive progress on the two areas. It has developed and enacted laws that guarantee the right to access appropriate reproductive healthcare services for all Kenyans, including women and girls.

Another significant achievement is the Free Maternity Programme dubbed “Linda Mama”, which is a publicly funded healthcare scheme launched by the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) in 2016, that provides a package of basic health services accessed by mothers in the targeted population based on need and not ability to pay, positioning Kenya on the pathway of Universal Health Coverage.

In respect to women representation in decision making processes, Kenya accentuated the gender parity in political representation is a requirement under the Constitution, which provides that no one gender should occupy more than two-thirds of appointive and elective posts.

Kenya continues to take various affirmative actions to give effect to the constitutional provision. These efforts have seen more women elected to and appointed in the Executive, Parliament and the Judiciary. In addition Kenya reiterated a National Strategy to enhance representation of women both in elective and appointive, in leadership positions through the “Kenya Kwanza Plan”.



A group photo of the Co-organizers of the side event, the Permanent Missions of China, Denmark, Kenya and Mexico to the UN

KENYA DEEPENS ENGAGEMENT WITH WIPO

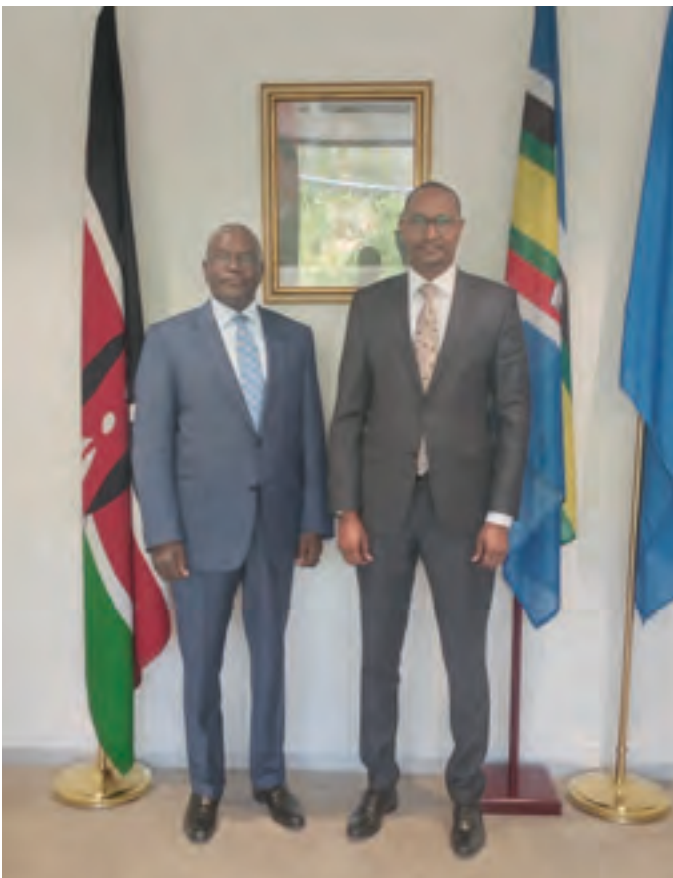
The Principal Secretary, State Department for Youth and the Arts and the CEO, Kenya Innovation Agency were in Geneva from 1 - 2 May, 2023. The main purpose of the visit was to engage with the World Intellectual Property Organisation on matters Intellectual Property, Innovation and entrepreneurship, and to explore possible areas of collaboration between the Government and WIPO. Also of interest was gaining a deeper understanding of WIPO's Global Innovation Index (GII), its constructs and indicators, and how this index can be leveraged for policy formulation in Kenya, including in the development of the National Innovation Masterplan.

In this connection, the Principal Secretary met Mr. Daren Tang, the Director-General of WIPO where they held in-depth discussions on these matters. Observing that Africa is the world's youngest continent by population, they both underscored the importance of leveraging youth creativity and energy to tackle local and global challenges.

They concurred on the need for joint efforts to increase the youth's competencies and skills to use intellectual property through targeted policies and customised programs to help them unleash their vast innovation potential and bring their ideas and outputs to the market.

The Principal Secretary extended an invitation to the Director-General to attend the Kenya Innovation week, 2023, to be held towards the end of November 2023, while the Director-General invited the Principal Secretary to attend the launch of the Global Innovation Index 2023 in August, 2023.

Thereafter, the Principal Secretary held meetings with Key Officials at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the International Trade Centre (ITC). These institutions deal with various facets of innovation and entrepreneurship. Here, discussions were held focusing on approaches that could help youth entrepreneurs, inventors, and creators add value to their products, support business growth, create employment, and promote economic development. Opportunities for collaboration in this regard were explored with a number of promising areas identified for further follow up.



The Permanent Representative receives Mr. Ismail Maalim Madey, Principal Secretary, State Department for Youth, Sports and the Arts, accompanied by Dr. Tonny Omwansa, CEO, Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA)

KENYA'S SUCCESSFUL BID FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DURING THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS (CG-19), FROM 22ND MAY TO 2ND JUNE 2023

Kenya has been a member of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) since 1964. The WMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations, dedicated to international cooperation and coordination on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.

The WMO, through its Technical Commissions, Programmes, Projects and Regional Offices, as well as its dynamic public-private partnerships; facilitates, coordinates and assists Member States with technology transfer, training for capacity development, collaboration on research, and the provision of weather, climate and water-related services. The Organization also contributes to policy formulation in areas related to weather, climate and water at national and international levels.

It is also worth noting that, the WMO Office for Eastern and Southern Africa is based in Nairobi, Kenya, and is the main contact point for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in the area that shares data and information and collaborates on developing early warning systems and adaptation strategies.



Kenya's delegation immediately after clinching the Executive Council seat

Following an announcement by Prof. Gerhard Adrian, President of the WMO, informing that the terms of office will expire on 2nd June, 2023 and that elections will take place during the 19th World Meteorological Congress (Cg-19), from 22nd May to 2nd June 2023; the Mission drafted a proposal for Kenya to consider vying for Executive Council.

The Council is the arm that coordinates programmes, manages the budget, considers and acts on resolutions and recommendations from the regional associations and technical commissions; and studies and makes recommendations on matters affecting international meteorology and related activities.

Following guidance from Headquarters, the Mission, engaged in a number of activities that led to successfully securing the Executive Council seat through meaningful negotiations and engagements, Diplomatic Note Verbales and agreements of reciprocal support.



Amb. Dr. Cleopa Mailu welcomed the Kenya Delegation to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Congress led by Dr. David Gikungu, Director General, Kenya Meteorological Department.

TEAM GENEVA



Mission Staff led by the Permanent Representative, Amb.(Dr.) Cleopa Mailu, posing for a photo outside the chancery building.



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