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& MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

PRESS RELEASE

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**KENYA CELEBRATES HISTORIC MILESTONE WITH CABINET
APPROVAL OF THE FOREIGN POLICY 2024**

1. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs is proud to announce the approval by the Cabinet of the Kenya Foreign Policy 2024, a landmark achievement that underscores the country's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty, promoting economic prosperity, enhancing security, and solidifying its global influence. This **historic milestone marks a transformative step in Kenya's approach to international relations**, ensuring the country's foreign engagements remain relevant and forward-looking in an evolving global landscape.
2. Further, the Cabinet approved the integration of the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs into the **Security Sector Working Group under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework**, aligning its budget with its critical role in national security and international relations. This major step will enhance the budget of the Ministry and subsequent effectiveness in the Ministry's operations.
3. The move to have the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs included in the Security Sector budget framework will seek to strengthen the country's global presence. According to the constitution, the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs sits in the National Security Council (NSC) of Kenya, a body that oversees the country's national security and includes the President, Deputy President, Cabinet Secretary for Defense, CS Internal security, and Attorney-General. Others include the Chief of Kenya Defence Forces, the Director-General of the National Intelligence Service, and the Inspector-General of the National Police Service.

4. It is important to note that the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs is coordinating critical diplomatic interventions which are security related in nature such as the deployment of Kenya Security Personnel in Haiti and the Tumaini Peace Initiative and Mediation process on the South Sudan conflict and other diplomatic and humanitarian interventions of a security nature; for instance, evacuating Kenyans in distress abroad such as was the case in Lebanon and Sudan.
5. Also noteworthy is that the Ministry co-ordinates official Presidential foreign travel. It is notable that a number of presidential foreign visits arise out of emerging situations and demands which may not have been factored in the budget.
6. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs spearheaded this monumental undertaking with diligence and vision. The revision process embraced a “Whole of Government and Society” approach, ensuring inclusivity and the integration of diverse perspectives. The Ministry conducted comprehensive consultations with a wide array of stakeholders, including:
 - Government ministries, departments, and agencies;
 - Committees of the National Assembly and Senate;
 - County Governments;
 - The private sector and small and medium enterprises;
 - Civil society, academia, media, and faith-based organizations;
 - Representatives of women and youth; and
 - The Kenyan Diaspora and umbrella organizations of African ancestry.
7. These extensive engagements culminated in the development of a foreign policy that aligns with the Government’s Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), positioning Kenya as a hub for trade, investment, and diplomacy. The revised policy is a testament to Kenya’s adherence to constitutional principles and its commitment to ensuring public participation in decision-making processes.
8. Key Features of the Revised Kenya Foreign Policy 2024 include **Strategic Objectives** of a policy tailored to advance Kenya’s standing as a regional leader and advocate for Africa’s interests globally. Core objectives include protecting Kenya’s sovereignty, promoting economic prosperity, enhancing

regional and global peace, and positioning Nairobi as a global diplomatic hub.

9. **The Thematic Focus Area** with the policy are eight focus areas:

- Peace and Security Diplomacy;
- Economic and Commercial Diplomacy;
- Socio-Cultural Diplomacy;
- Diaspora Diplomacy;
- Digital Diplomacy;
- Environment and Climate Diplomacy;
- Global Health Diplomacy;
- Global Governance and Multilateral Diplomacy;
- Oceans and Blue Diplomacy.

10. **Institutional Strengthening:** To ensure effective implementation, the Foreign Service Act, 2021, will be amended, new regulations developed and a Sessional Paper tabled before Parliament. The Ministry's integration into the Security Sector Working Group under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework highlights the critical role of diplomacy in national security and international relations.

11. **Inclusivity and Collaboration:** The policy's development reflects insights from the National Assembly's Defence, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations Committee, the Council of Governors, civil society organizations and expert colloquiums. This collaborative process underscores Kenya's commitment to a unified and inclusive foreign policy framework.

12. **Alignment with Global Imperatives:** The policy advances Kenya's role in multilateral diplomacy, climate governance, and green industrialization, with initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and advocacy for reforms in global financial systems.

13. This milestone would not have been possible without the commitment and professionalism of the dedicated public servants at the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. The Government extends its deepest appreciation to all stakeholders and contributors whose invaluable input has shaped this visionary policy.

14. The importance of public awareness and participation cannot be understated. We acknowledge the vital role of media, academia, and civil society in demystifying foreign policy for ordinary Kenyans. By engaging the public and their elected representatives, the Government has ensured that this policy is not only a product of expert insight but also a reflection of the people's aspirations. Moving forward, the Government will take deliberate measures to publicize and disseminate information on foreign affairs in line with Article 35 of the Constitution of Kenya, which guarantees the right to access information.
15. The Revised Kenya Foreign Policy 2024 reaffirms our nation's resolve to leverage diplomacy for sustainable growth, national security and global prosperity. It is more than a policy document; it is a testament to Kenya's determination to achieve its vision of becoming a leading global player in diplomacy and international cooperation.
16. The Government is confident that this milestone will chart a transformative path for Kenya's foreign engagements. The Kenya Foreign Policy 2024 and its Sessional Paper provide a robust framework that aligns our national interests with global imperatives for the benefit of current and future generations.

JACOB NG'ETICH
Director, Press Service
Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary