



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

## CAREER & MENTORSHIP FORUM

### THEME:

Shaping Future International Relations and  
Diplomacy Leaders for Global Stewardship





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**International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK)**

Tel: (+254) 724 731 740

Email: [info@irskkenya.or.ke](mailto:info@irskkenya.or.ke)

Web: [www.irskkenya.or.ke](http://www.irskkenya.or.ke)

**East African Tax and Governance Network (EATGN)**

Jaflo Limited

106 Brookside Dr, Nairobi

P.O. Box 25112 – 00100

Nairobi, Kenya

Email: [info@eataxgovernance.net](mailto:info@eataxgovernance.net)

Web: [www.eataxgovernance.net](http://www.eataxgovernance.net)

**Compiled By:**

Peter Mwencha (Ph.D.)

Fred Mandi

**Designed By:**

Patrick Silla

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**Cover Photos:**

CUEA Media Team

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The successful completion of the 2024 International Relations and Diplomacy Career and Mentorship Forum would not have been possible without the dedication, support, and contributions of many individuals and organizations.

First and foremost, we express our sincere gratitude to all the distinguished speakers, panelists, and mentors who shared their invaluable insights and experiences with the participants. Your willingness to engage with the next generation of professionals in international relations and diplomacy has inspired and motivated many to pursue their career goals with renewed vigor.

We are deeply thankful to our organizing committee, whose tireless efforts and meticulous planning ensured the smooth execution of the forum. Your commitment to creating a meaningful and impactful event is greatly appreciated.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners and sponsors-Austrian Embassy in Nairobi, Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA), East Africa Tax and Governance Network (EATGN), and the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) Kenya-whose generous support made this event a reality. Your belief in the importance of fostering career development and mentorship in the field of international relations and diplomacy has been instrumental in bringing this forum to life.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) for graciously hosting this year's forum. Your hospitality and excellent facilities provided the perfect environment for learning, discussion, and networking. We are truly grateful for your support in making this event a success.

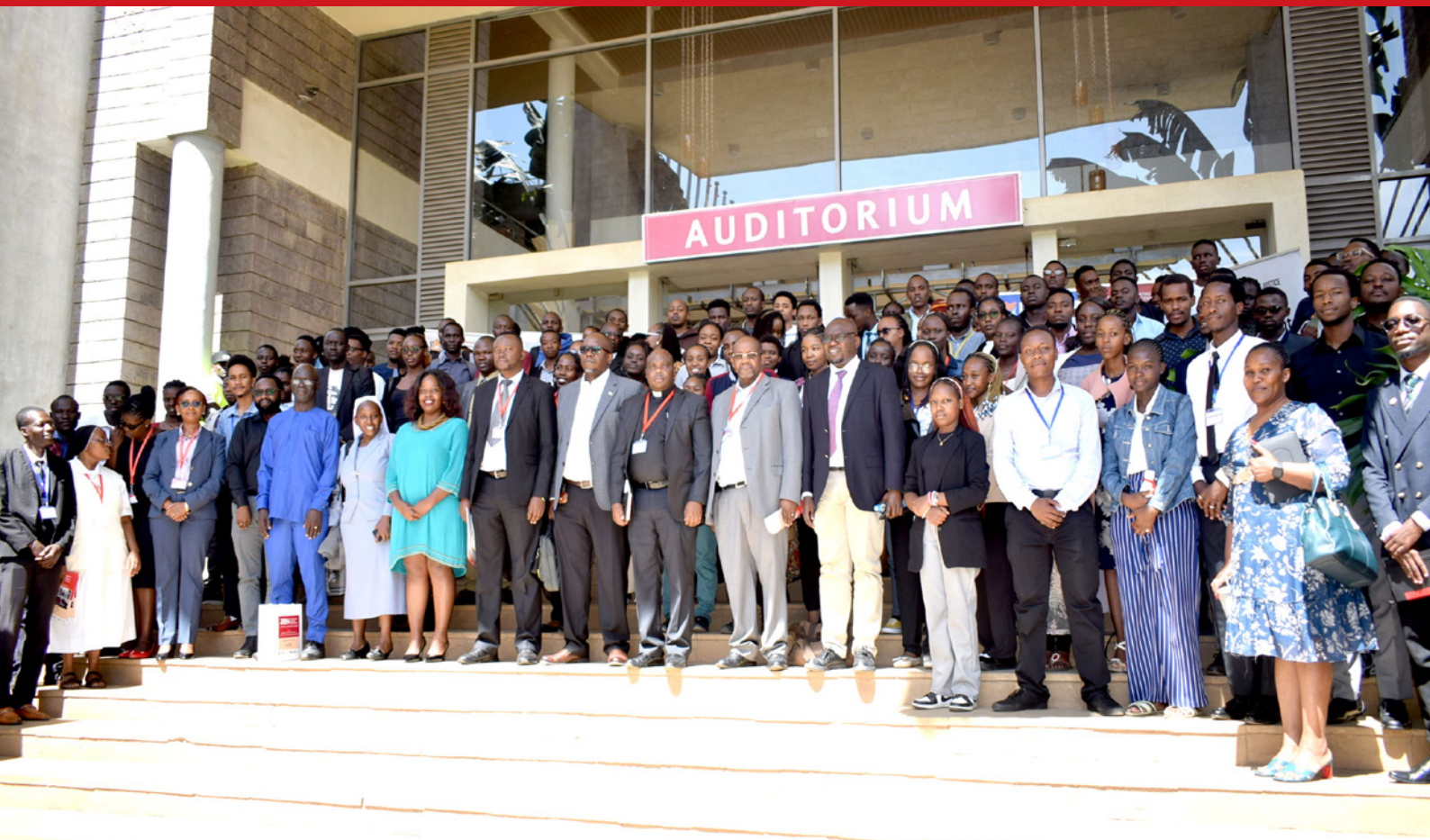
We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the International Relations Student Association of Kenya (IRSAK), a student-led organization that serves as a forum for uniting and mentoring international relations students nationwide. Your partnership was crucial in reaching a wide audience and making the forum a success.

To the participants, thank you for your enthusiastic participation and engagement throughout the forum. Your passion for learning and growing in the field of international relations and diplomacy is the driving force behind the success of this event.

Lastly, we extend our gratitude to everyone who worked behind the scenes, including our technical and administrative teams. Your hard work and dedication ensured that every aspect of the forum was executed flawlessly.

We look forward to continuing this journey together, and we hope to see you all at future forums and events.

Thank you.



The International Relations and Diplomacy Career Mentorship Forum was held at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) auditorium on 19th March 2024.

The theme of the forum was 'Shaping Future International Relations and Diplomacy Leaders for Global Stewardship.'

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# THE ORGANIZERS



# OPENING PRAYER

**Rev. Dr. William Kosgei (Ph.D.)**

*University Chaplain*

*Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)*



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Almighty God. As we gather here this morning to participate in this forum for the international relations and diplomacy with the theme “shaping the future, international relations and economic leaders for global stewardships.” We pray that the sharings during these sessions shall be fruitful in every way by providing learning opportunities and openness to career paths based on the gifts, the talents and competencies you have granted each and every one of us. Bless the organizers of this forum with the wisdom and grace they require throughout this forum. Bless all the participants with the gift of receptivity and synthesization of the content that shall be disseminated. Bless the presenters with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to deliver the content effectively. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, amen. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

# WELCOMING REMARKS

**Dr. Francis Muchoki (Ph.D.)**

*Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,  
Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)*



His Excellency Dr. Christian Fellner, Ambassador of Austria to Kenya, H.E. Tareque Muhammad, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Kenya, Professor Kimathi, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs, Madam Mukupa Nsenduluka, the Tax Justice Network Africa, Madame Roselyn Musera, Vice Chair, International Relation Society of Kenya, faculty members, students invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning! I welcome all of you to the Catholic University of Easter Africa and in particular to the Faculty of Arts And Social Sciences which houses the Department of Political And International Studies where the international relations and diplomacy program belongs.

The international relations and diplomacy program has continuously attracted students from across Africa and other parts of the world. However, one major criticism against universities in many parts of the world is the failure to connect with industry and the evolving job market, which renders the knowledge acquired largely theoretical. As I had pointed out elsewhere in another article, Africa and the world today do not





simply require graduates with impressive academic credentials as we might be having enough of this. Here at the Catholic University, we believe in a holistic education that produce graduates who are well-rounded, graduates who are morally upright graduates, who will make the world better than they found it. We want to produce graduates with skills and knowledge that will enable them to actively participate in confronting and solving the challenges facing society. This can be done by connecting them to the real world. This is in line with the objective of this mentorship program. I therefore take this opportunity to welcome the professionals to mentor and advise our students.

Some of the students are not always sure about their prospects and as a faculty we are very glad that our students will today have some insights into their career prospects. In addition to the students who are taking the international relations and diplomacy program, there is also a group of students who are taking international relations and history. This is therefore a very good opportunity for all of them to have some insights into their future career prospects and growth. It is my hope that by the end of this forum, our students will learn from the experiences of the professionals here present and develop essential skills for their future career.

I take this opportunity to thank the organizers and the sponsors for bringing this forum to the catholic university and particularly to the faculty of arts and social sciences. I wish you all a very fruitful forum and may God bless you. Thank you.

# WELCOMING REMARKS

**Ms. Roselyn Musera**

*Vice Chair, International Relations  
Society of Kenya (IRSK)*



Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests and aspiring diplomats, allow me to take the opportunity to recognize and appreciate the presence of Dr. Muchoki, the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and thank you for having us, Professor George Kimathi, the deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Catholic University, Miss Mukupa Nsenduluka, and his Excellency Christian Fellner. Thank you very much for finding time to join us today. I want to welcome you with great pleasure and enthusiasm.

I see this as one of the largest mentorship workshops that we have held as IRSK. It is indeed an honor to stand before you today and witness the beginning of what promises to be a transformative journey in our pursuit of global understanding and cooperation. Today marks a very significant milestone as we gather to inspire, guide and empower the next generation of leaders in international relations. Our aim is very simple - to cultivate a community of scholars and practitioners who are dedicated to navigating



the complexities in global affairs with wisdom, empathy and foresight. In a world that has been marked by rapid change and interconnectedness, the need for competent and compassionate international relations experts has been more and more urgent day by day. Therefore, whether you aspire to represent your country or the world stage, work in any International Organization, or contribute to peace and development efforts the workshop serves as a steppingstone towards real realizing some of these dreams.

Throughout the session, we will have an opportunity to engage with seasoned professionals gain invaluable insights and be able to build bridges across cultures and borders and remember that each one of you possesses the potential to make a difference not only in your lives not only in your country but across borders. With that, I invite you to seize the moment and embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as we embark on a journey of discovery, a journey of growth, and a journey of impact. Together, let us shape and bring a brighter future and a more inclusive future in the generations here and the generations to come. So, karibuni sana! We look forward to interacting with you in the course of the day and feel free to enjoy yourself and make sure that this is an exciting moment for you as an aspiring diplomat and as an aspiring international relations expert. Thank you.

# OPENING REMARKS

**Prof. George Kimathi (Ph.D.)**

*Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs,  
Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)*



His Excellency Dr Christian Fellner, Austrian Ambassador to Kenya, Ms. Roselyn Musera, Vice Chair, International Relations Society of Kenya, Ms. Mukupa Nsenduluka, Policy Lead, Tax and Natural Resource Governance, Tax Justice Network Africa, the International Relations Society of Kenya Council Members present, Dr. Francis Muchoki, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Reverend Dr William Kosgey, University Chaplain Catholic University of Eastern Africa, all heads of departments and coordinators of programs present, moderators and panelists of the various panel discussions, all diplomats present, all aspiring diplomats that are present. Ladies and gentlemen, I



welcome you to the International Relations and Diplomacy - Career and Mentorship Forum under the theme shaping future international relations and diplomacy leaders for global stewardship.

Your excellencies, thank you for gracing the event and for accepting to join us today at this career and mentorship Forum at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa that is popularly referred to as CUEA. We would also like to thank the international Relations Society of Kenya, the Tax Justice Network Africa, the Austrian Embassy Nairobi, the Foreign Service Academy – Kenya, the East African Tax and Governance Network and the Catholic University of Eastern Africa for jointly organizing this event and for hosting us today. The Catholic University of Eastern Africa with a population of over 10,000 members from more than 35 countries across the globe commits to organize, host and actively participate in this and such other student-centered events and forums. I am reliably informed that the International Relations and Diplomacy Career and Mentorship Forum is an initiative aimed at providing international relations students with opportunities to engage with experienced professionals in their field of study.

As such, students will gain valuable insights, advice and networking opportunities to enhance their academic performance, career prospects and personal growth. This Mentorship forum will bring together distinguished international relations practitioners, foreign diplomats, journalists, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, researchers, humanitarian professionals, security analysts, alternative dispute resolution mechanism experts, and public speaking communication professionals. We expect over 300 delegates or participants to attend. This comprises of students, recent graduates, early career international relations and diplomacy and broader international relations enthusiasts.

This Career and Mentorship Forum will cover a diverse range of topics aimed at addressing the multifaceted aspects of international relations and diplomacy professional and career development. I'm happy to note that there will be panel discussions with a rich blend of moderators and panelists on navigating careers in international relations and diplomacy, emerging career opportunities in international relations and diplomacy, effective networking and relationship building strategies for international relations and diplomacy professionals. We would wish to make this Career and Mentorship Forum an annual event with CUEA as a host. Let us purpose to have elaborate and considerate discussions in this forum and ensure that we attain most if not all our intended objectives. I therefore take this singular opportunity on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and on behalf of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa to welcome you all to this forum. Thank you very much.

## FEATURED ADDRESS

**Ms. Mukupa Nsenduluka**

*Policy Lead, Tax & Natural Resource Governance,  
Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA)*



Good morning to everyone. I would like to ride on the existing protocols that have already been observed. I'll start by introducing the Tax Justice Network Africa, a Pan-African research and advocacy NGO based in Nairobi working in about 26 countries through our Network member organizations. We work to promote progressive tax systems for enhanced domestic revenue mobilization and sustainable development financing in Africa. On behalf of the Tax Justice Network Africa and its leadership team, I would like to start by thanking the event organizers - the Catholic University of East Africa and the International Relations Society of Kenya - for the invitation and according us the opportunity to support this important Forum on Career and Mentorship for International Relations students. It's important that students like yourselves gain valuable insights, advice and networking opportunities to enhance your



academic performance, career prospects and personal growth. So, we're really excited to be here and joining you all today.

As future leaders, it's important to realize that international relations diplomacy, multilateralism and global cooperation have become critical now more than ever because we are living in a time and era of multiple crises, what is also known as the 'polycrisis' era. The global economy is grappling with slowed economic growth, pandemics, conflicts, migration, poverty, inequality and climate change which is now the biggest existential threat of our time. These impacts are increasingly being felt especially on the African continent. As the Tax Justice Network Africa, we are also concerned and have observed that illicit financial flows, capital flight and corporate tax abuse are on the rise. This is money that is illegally leaving our borders to other jurisdictions and about 89 billion dollars is lost annually through illicit financial flows from the African continent. This is money that could be channeled to development and public service delivery.

Therefore, we need international relations, diplomacy, global co-operation and multilateralism to help fix these challenges because our world has become more interconnected with the advance of globalization trade technology and transportation. Our role as development professionals in the NGO space and civil society in international relations is therefore to fight for equity, fairness and justice for developing countries as we address the multiple crises of our time. As a development professional in the NGO world, we believe that there should be fairness, equity in global governance and international relations, diplomacy and multilateralism for global cooperation to be a win-win for all countries including Africa.

As future leaders in this field, it's therefore important that you appreciate the global Justice perspective and reflect on how you would like to contribute positively to shaping the future of international relations and diplomacy for the benefit of the African continent. I know this forum has scheduled very interesting sessions to discuss this further, so I kindly ask that you actively engage and pay attention to these discussions. Coming from the Tax Justice movement with a lens of the Justice agenda, we really hope that at the end of the day, you'll be able to appreciate that to solve some of the developmental challenges of our continent, we need to have more voices like yourselves involved in international relations and diplomacy. I therefore wish you fruitful deliberations and networking moments that will enhance your career and future prospects. Thank you.

# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Dr. Christian Fellner (Ph.D.)**

*Ambassador, Austrian High Commission to Kenya*



A wonderful good morning Professor Kimathi Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, my dear colleague, Ambassador Paul Ndungu, Director General of the Foreign Service Academy, my dear colleague Mr. Tariq Muhammad, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Kenya, Ms. Roselyn Musera, Vice Chair of the International Relations Society of Kenya, Miss Mukupa Nsenduluka from the Tax Justice Network Africa, Mr. Leonard Wanyama from International Relations Society of Kenya, Reverend Dr. William Koskei, our University Chaplain, Dr. Francis Muchoki, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. May I also mention our MC Dr. James Sankale, the Head of Department of the Social Sciences and International Relations as well as my very good friend, Ms. Caroline Kithama from Education Hungary and all Deans, all Heads of Departments and particularly dear students.



Dear friends, it is both an honor and a pleasure to speak with you this morning. With great humility, allow me to draw from a long career in Foreign Service and offer some words of advice as you prepare to transition from student life to professional careers. This transition brings its own set of challenges and significant changes. When I think back to the time when I started working, it was a fantastic moment because I knew everything: I knew how State finances should be handled, how unemployment should be fought, how the Austrian society would become a better one, and of course, how Africa should be developed. I felt prepared because of my university education. However, I soon learned from experienced colleagues that the world is much more complex than I had imagined. They explained that for every problem you address, three others come to the surface, highlighting the complexity and nuances of international relations.

In retrospect, allow me to quote the ancient Greek philosopher, Socrates, who once said in a trial “I know that I don’t know anything, but at least that little bit I know more than you.” Needless to say, he was convicted to death! Why do I tell you the story of my good old friend Socrates, and what does that mean in the 21st century for people who will work in an international environment? Dear friends, working in an international environment, one meets people from all over the world. They have different genes, parents, siblings, teachers, and priorities in school. Their peers play different games, and they come from diverse backgrounds.

For those about to start their career journey, I have some valuable advice to help you navigate and excel in your careers. First, obtain a master’s degree in international relations, as this provides essential cross-cultural experience and interdisciplinary skills. Next, conduct thorough career research to understand the characteristics of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in Korea, aligning your interests and goals accordingly. Secure internships in international relations to build your network and access job opportunities with organizations such as the UN, EU, NGOs, and multilateral cooperations. Additionally, gain international experience and learn foreign languages to develop cross-cultural awareness and stand out to recruiters. Finally, utilize your business networking skills by attending relevant events and conferences, and engage with professors and industry practitioners to enhance your job prospects.

My proposal is to avoid following the crowd or mimicking others’ actions. Instead, find a unique area where you can offer something valuable to potential employers. For example, in peace negotiations, security experts are crucial, yet many peace negotiators are pacifists who lack knowledge about weapons. Security experts are often in uniform, while civilian women and men may not be well-versed in security or gender issues. Therefore, if you are a woman interested in security, gaining knowledge in this area could be advantageous. Similarly, if you are female and Christian, consider studying Islamic Studies to bridge cultural and religious gaps, as there is a need for diplomats who can interpret between cultures. Conversely, men should also seek niches where there is less competition, but only pursue subjects that genuinely interest you to avoid dissatisfaction later on.

Let’s consider the two main predictors of success in a job: interest in the subject and relevant skills. It may seem counterintuitive, but skills are crucial. For instance, if you’re passionate about astronomy but lack proficiency in math and physics, you can still enjoy reading about it and watching documentaries. However, pursuing a career in astronomy requires exceptional math skills—being merely competent is



“

If a door opens, don't be afraid to enter a new room. You may still go back if it isn't yours, but try out things; look for your options, be interested in the world and the world is going to be interested in you.

”

**H.E. Dr. Christian Fellner (Ph.D.)**  
*Austrian Ambassador to Kenya*



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AND DIPLOMACY





not enough; you need to excel. The world is vast and full of opportunities, so seek out a field where you excel and where not everybody will focus on. Diplomacy is a complex and dynamic field with evolving challenges over time so there will be opportunities.

Today, diplomacy is more important than ever, as many challenges the world faces can only be addressed on an international scale. While you may not yet have a full grasp of what is relevant, I have witnessed dramatic changes in the world. For instance, in the 1970s and 80s, it became evident that substances like chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons were depleting the Ozone layer. This led to international negotiations and the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, which has since improved the Ozone layer. Nairobi, as the UN headquarters for Africa, underscores the significance of international organizations and diplomacy in tackling global challenges. Addressing issues like climate change, conflict resolution, human rights, and economic development requires expert knowledge, and I see potential experts among you.

Finally, let me emphasize that your studies can lead you in unexpected directions. You might end up in a field quite different from what you currently envision. Change is inevitable—both in the world and in your own life. Don't fear the future. Once you graduate, you will have achieved something remarkable, as very few in Kenya's population reach this milestone. Remember, your initial field of study is just the beginning. Lifelong learning is crucial, and I have personally gained much knowledge since my graduation. Without continuous learning, I would not have achieved my current position. Therefore, my advice for you young people is as follows: If a door opens, don't be afraid to enter a new room. You may still go back if it isn't yours, but try out things; look for your options, be interested in the world and the world is going to be interested in you. Thank you very much.



“

Embrace the concept of being a global citizen.  
Understand that your actions have a broader  
impact, and contribute positively to the world.  
Learn other skills such as trade, security,  
engineering etc.

”

**H.E. Dr. Kennedy Wangu**  
Provost and President,  
International College of Peace Studies (ICOAPS)



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## PANEL SESSION 1

### NAVIGATING CAREERS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY



**Dr. James Sankale (Ph.D.)**

Head of Department, Political Science and International Relations, Catholic University of Eastern Africa  
(MODERATOR)



**Ms. Caroline Kithama**  
Head of Regional Office,  
Education Hungary  
(PANELIST)



**H.E. Dr. Kennedy Wainu**  
Provost and President, International  
College of Peace Studies (ICOAPS)  
(PANELIST)



**H.E. Mr. Tareque  
Muhammad**  
High Commissioner and Permanent  
Representative, High Commission  
of the People's Republic of  
Bangladesh to Kenya  
(PANELIST)



**H.E. Amb. Paul K.  
Ndung'u**  
Ag. Director General, Foreign  
Service Academy, Kenya  
(PANELIST)



**H.E. Dr. Christian Fellner  
(Ph.D.)**  
Austrian Ambassador to Kenya  
(PANELIST)

**PANEL SESSION 1****Navigating Careers in International Relations and Diplomacy**

The session objective was to explore practical strategies, insider tips, and expert advice aimed at helping students and professionals navigate the intricacies of building a successful career in international relations and diplomacy. Panelists shared valuable insights on acquiring relevant skills, leveraging networking opportunities, and understanding global political dynamics. They stressed the importance of internships and continuous learning to remain competitive. Additionally, the experts highlighted the necessity of staying informed about international affairs and geopolitical shifts. By sharing these key strategies, the session aimed to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively navigate and build successful careers in the complex field of international relations and diplomacy.

**MODERATOR**

**Dr. James Sankale (Ph.D.)**, Head of Department, Political Science and International Relations, Catholic University of Eastern Africa

**PANELISTS**

**Ms. Caroline Kithama**, Head of Regional Office, Education Hungary

**H.E. Dr. Kennedy Wainyungu**, Provost and President, International College of Peace Studies (ICOAPS)

**H.E. Mr. Tareque Muhammad**, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative, High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Kenya

**H.E. Amb. Paul K. Ndung'u**, Ag. Director General, Foreign Service Academy, Kenya

**H.E. Dr. Christian Fellner (Ph.D.)**, Austrian Ambassador to Kenya

## PANEL SESSION 1

### KEY INTERVENTIONS

In her presentation, Ms. Caroline Kithama provided an overview of Hungary and its universities that offer courses in climate diplomacy. She defined climate diplomacy as the use of diplomatic strategies to address global climate change and its effects on international relations. Ms. Kithama emphasized the importance of integrating climate risks into foreign policy agendas and highlighted several key legal treaties related to climate change, including the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, and COP 28. She discussed the crucial role of education in climate diplomacy and outlined various career opportunities in this field, such as climate change diplomats, negotiators, and policymakers. Ms. Kithama also mentioned the Stipendium Hungaricum program, which offers scholarships covering tuition fees, monthly stipends, accommodation, and medical insurance. She encouraged students to apply, noting that Kenya has a significant number of slots available due to bilateral agreements between the Kenyan and Hungarian governments.

On his part, H.E. Dr. Kennedy Wainu advised students pursuing a career in diplomacy to focus on several key areas. Firstly, he emphasized the importance of understanding and leveraging their unique skills and being authentic to create a competitive edge. Secondly, the Provost stressed that learning foreign languages like French and Spanish, along with understanding international etiquette and protocols, is crucial for appreciating diverse cultures. Thirdly, he highlighted the necessity of continuously seeking knowledge and staying updated on current affairs for awareness of global developments, while embracing a maverick mindset by innovating and challenging conventional norms. Additionally, he urged students to take advantage of opportunities in the dynamic international landscape and to improve their communication skills in both verbal and written forms. Lastly, he recommended considering alternative education tracks, such as trade, security, and engineering, and striving to be global citizens who contribute positively to the world.

In his remarks, High Commissioner Tareque Muhamad observed that highlighted the enduring nature and increasing complexity of diplomacy, tracing its origins back to the days of Moses. He noted modern challenges such as inadequate tools, climate change, inequality, and a profit-driven corporate world. He advised students pursuing international relations and diplomacy to maintain an open and correct moral mindset, emphasizing the importance of considering diverse viewpoints to achieve inclusive diplomatic outcomes. He defined moral diplomacy as promoting democratic ideals and ethical principles, such as human rights advocacy, supporting democratic movements, and addressing global issues like poverty and climate change through diplomatic channels. Additionally, Muhamad stressed the need for flexibility, engaging with various stakeholders including governments, NGOs, civil society, and the private sector. He emphasized the importance of staying updated on political developments and embracing technology to enhance decision-making efficiency. He urged aspiring diplomats to be pragmatic yet unselfish, prioritizing the greater good over individual national interests. This approach builds alliances based on shared values rather than purely strategic or economic interests.

Addressing students, Ambassador Paul Ndung'u highlighted the complexity of diplomacy, emphasizing its internal challenges despite its fascinating external appearance. He described diplomacy as a forward-

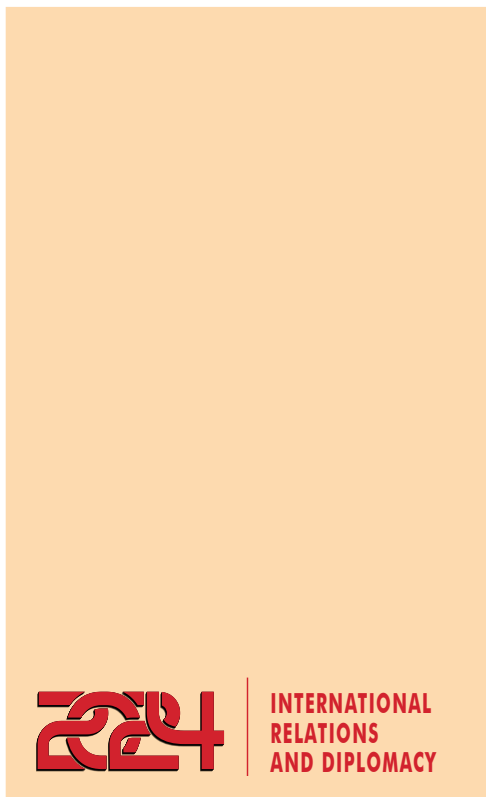


“

Be pragmatic but not selfish. Serve your country but not at the cost of others. A diplomat should always look at the greater good and not just focus on the individual needs of his or her country.

”

**H.E. Mr. Tareque Muhammad**  
High Commissioner and Permanent  
Representative, High Commission of the  
People's Republic of  
Bangladesh to Kenya





**PANEL SESSION 1**

thinking journey essential in addressing urgent global issues, including economic instability, climate change, human trafficking, and terrorism. Given the intricate nature of these challenges, he emphasized the necessity for versatile international relations experts capable of navigating the multifaceted landscape. Ambassador Ndung'u encouraged young people to engage in diplomacy, highlighting the need for diverse skills such as communication, psychology, education, and security. He advised them to focus on achieving good grades, being diligent, hardworking, and cultivating strong communication skills. He also emphasized the importance of a positive mindset towards their studies, reassuring them that the government is actively working to improve economic conditions and create more job opportunities for graduates. Furthermore, he urged students to use their acquired skills to create self-employment opportunities. This comprehensive approach, he suggested, would better prepare them for the evolving demands of international relations and diplomacy.

According to Ambassador Christian Fellner, migration is expected to become a major issue in diplomacy. Against this backdrop, diplomacy can play a crucial role in addressing migration-related security concerns while also promoting international cooperation. Diplomatic channels can be used to negotiate and implement migration management agreements, including border controls, visa policies, and collaborative efforts on migration-related security issues. Ambassador Fellner also pointed out that Africa, with its substantial young population, is set to become a key labor supplier, noting that Kenya and Austria have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to meet Austria's labor needs. However, despite these efforts, illegal migration continues to be a problem, leading to exploitation.



“

Be a good communicator. Great diplomats prioritize effective communication. You need to be able to convey your message, convincingly, and respectfully to diverse audiences. You also need to be able to listen actively, understand different perspectives, and find common ground.

”

**Ms. Irene Ogaja**  
Conflict Analyst,  
East African Standby Force (EASF)



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## PANEL SESSION 2

### EMERGING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY



**Ms. Eunice Wawuda**

International Relations student, department  
of Diplomacy and International Studies,  
University of Nairobi (UoN)  
(MODERATOR)



**Dr. Jonathan Omuchesi  
(Ph.D.)**

Lecturer, Catholic University  
of Eastern Africa (CUEA)  
(PANELIST)



**Dr. Kizito Sabala (Ph.D.)**

Senior Lecturer, IDIS,  
University of Nairobi (UoN)  
(PANELIST)



**Mr. Con Omoro Osendo**

Governance Adviser, Foreign  
Commonwealth and Development  
Office, British High Commission to  
Kenya  
(PANELIST)



**Ms. Irene Ogaja**

Conflict Analyst, East African  
Standby Force (EASF)  
(PANELIST)

**PANEL SESSION 2:****Emerging Career Opportunities in International Relations and Diplomacy**

The session delved into the dynamic and ever-expanding realm of career opportunities in international relations and diplomacy, highlighting emerging trends, in-demand skills, and innovative pathways for aspiring and seasoned professionals alike. Panelists highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary knowledge, language proficiency, cultural sensitivity, and technological competence. They also stressed the importance of practical experience through internships, participation in think tanks, and engagement in international forums was emphasized as essential for career advancement. They also urged attendees to be flexible and open to various career paths in NGOs, international agencies, and multinational corporations. Overall, the session provided valuable insights into the various opportunities in the evolving landscape of international relations and diplomacy, equipping participants with the knowledge to navigate and succeed in this field.

**MODERATOR**

**Ms. Eunice Wawuda**, International Relations student, Department of Diplomacy and International Studies (DDIS), University of Nairobi (UoN)

**PANELISTS**

**Dr. Jonathan Omuchesi (Ph.D.)**, Lecturer, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)

**Dr. Kizito Sabala (Ph.D.)**, Senior Lecturer, DDIS, University of Nairobi (UoN)

**Mr. Con Omore Osendo**, Governance Adviser, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, British High Commission to Kenya

**Ms. Irene Ogaja**, Conflict Analyst, East African Standby Force (EASF).

## PANEL SESSION 2

### KEY INTERVENTIONS

In his remarks, Dr. Jonathan Omuchesi emphasized the importance for students in international relations to define their unique areas of expertise, given the increasing opportunities within the field. He urged students to rigorously seek and analyze reliable information, as this foundational step is crucial for their professional development. Additionally, Dr. Omuchesi highlighted the significance of teamwork, advising students to leverage group work to enhance their people skills and public speaking abilities. He argues that by collaborating with peers, students can refine these essential skills, which are vital for success in international relations. In response to a question on how universities can better prepare students for careers in international relations, Dr. Omuchesi recommended a multifaceted approach that encourages students to immerse themselves in research in order to deepen their knowledge while allowing them to find their own niche by actively participating in various forums and networking opportunities to gain practical experience and build valuable connections. Dr. Omuchesi also emphasized that universities play a crucial role in supporting these efforts by equipping students with the skills and networks necessary for success in the field of international relations.

To start with, Dr. Kizito Sabala encouraged students to explore various pathways, emphasizing that careers in international relations and diplomacy can start from a variety of entry points, such as teaching, working with local NGOs, or other roles that may not directly relate to international relations but still offer valuable experience. He acknowledged that while there is a gap between academic learning and practical application, an International Relations degree remains crucial and relevant. While noting that the field of international relations is continuously evolving, Dr. Sabala urged students to recognize and seize the emerging opportunities around them, highlighting the importance of engaging with think tanks and other resources to gain deeper insights and practical knowledge. He stressed that as aspiring diplomats, they should not view the position of ambassador as the sole pinnacle of their career, as there are many other valuable ways to serve and make an impact in the field. He also pointed out that specializations, such as peace and security studies or maritime studies, can provide a competitive advantage and open up additional career opportunities. In today's digital age, Dr. Sabala advised students to embrace technology, become proficient in attending and participating in online meetings, and present themselves effectively in virtual environments. Crucially, they should also stay updated on current affairs, as it ensures that they are well-prepared to provide information and timely insights when needed.

In his comments, Mr. Con Omore emphasized that the International Relations and diplomacy field is vast and diverse. He highlighted that becoming an ambassador can occur through either political appointment or a career path, noting the competitive nature of the job market. Accordingly, Mr. Omore stressed the importance of students developing their competitive edge while still at university, particularly by honing skills in public speaking and staying informed about global affairs through international news. Furthermore, he encouraged students to build strong networking skills and to appreciate and understand different cultures, as cultural insensitivity has historically led to conflicts. Effective communication and body language skills were also underscored as critical for success in this field. Mr. Omore noted that countries are increasingly integrating foreign policy with development agendas, and thus advised students to specialize in areas such as trade, climate change, or engineering to enhance their competitive

**PANEL SESSION 2**

advantage. Additionally, he advised that students should have a comprehensive understanding of their country's foreign policy and national interests, be aware of global issues impacting Africa, and engage in continuous research and learning. He also recommended that they develop analytical skills and obtain certifications in order to stay ahead in the evolving landscape of international relations and diplomacy.

Ms. Irene Ogaja highlighted that diplomacy extends beyond the role of an ambassador, covering diverse fields such as security and trade. She provided several strategies for success, emphasizing the importance of effective communication as diplomats must convey messages clearly and respectfully while actively listening and finding common ground. She encouraged students to seek job opportunities beyond local and national borders, highlighting the value of a global outlook. Additionally, she underscored that learning additional languages can provide a competitive edge, and gathering information through networking and attending various forums is crucial in international relations. Ms. Ogaja also recommended obtaining additional certifications, such as GIS, election monitoring, or data analysis, to enhance career prospects. Furthermore, she stressed the importance of mentorship for career guidance. Addressing conflict analysis, she explained its importance and identified several areas in the field which students can explore. Finally, she advised students to stay informed about global discussions and funding trends in international relations.

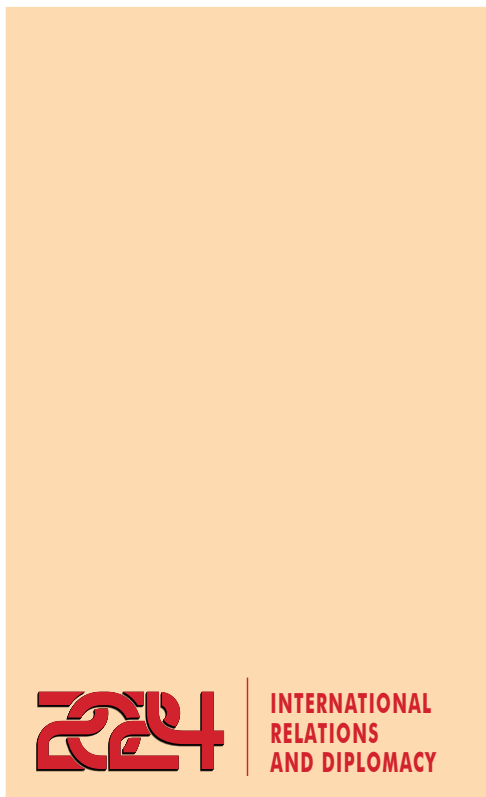


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One must confidently state the value they bring and provide specific examples of how they can make a difference. It's about being proactive, action-oriented, and not being afraid to ask for feedback or help when needed.

”

**Mr. Leonard Wanyama**  
Regional Coordinator, East Africa Tax and Governance Network (EATGN)



## PANEL SESSION 3

### Effective Networking and Relationship-Building Strategies for IR and Diplomacy Professionals



**Ms. Wambui Gacih**

Vice-chair, International Relations Students  
Association of Kenya  
(MODERATOR)



**Mr. Leonard Wanyama**

Regional Coordinator, East Africa Tax  
and Governance Network (EATGN)  
(PANELIST)



**Dr. Carlyne Kiarie (Ph.D.)**

Lecturer, Graduate School of Media  
and Communication, Aga Khan  
University (AKU), Kenya  
(PANELIST)



**Mr. Dan Muger**

Chief Executive Officer, Dan  
Mugera and Associates  
(PANELIST)



**Ms. Roselyn Musera**

Vice Chair, International Relations  
Society of Kenya (IRSK)  
(PANELIST)



**PANEL SESSION 3****Effective Networking and Relationship-Building Strategies for IR and Diplomacy Professionals**

The session explored practical tips, best practices, and innovative approaches to cultivating meaningful connections, fostering collaborations, and navigating the complexities of professional relationships for career success. The panelists highlighted the importance of soft-skills, strategic communication, continuous learning, and proactive relationship-building in international relations and diplomacy, noting that irrespective of their gender, professionals must demonstrate various capabilities that are in-demand in order to scale up the career ladders effectively.

**MODERATOR**

**Ms. Wambui Gacih**, Vice Chair, International Relations Students Association of Kenya (IRSAK)

**PANELISTS**

**Mr. Leonard Wanyama**, Regional Coordinator, East Africa Tax and Governance Network (EATGN)

**Dr. Carolyn Kiarie (Ph.D.)**, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Media and Communication, Aga Khan University (AKU), Kenya

**Mr. Dan Muger**, Chief Executive Officer, Dan Muger and Associates

**Ms. Roselyn Musera**, Vice Chair, International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK)

### PANEL SESSION 3

#### KEY INTERVENTIONS

In his insightful remarks, Mr. Leonard Wanyama addressed the students on how to distinguish themselves in the workplace, underscoring the importance of adopting the principle of “Jitume,” a local Swahili term meaning to go beyond what is required. He emphasized that students and young professionals must confidently state their value by providing specific examples of how their contributions can make a tangible difference to organizations. Being proactive and action-oriented, he noted, is essential in demonstrating one’s worth. Mr. Wanyama also highlighted the importance of having a learning mindset, recognizing opportunities, and understanding the impact one leaves on an organization. Mr. Wanyama stressed the importance of integrity and urged them to maintain high ethical standards. Addressing the issue of bridging the gap between academia and the job market, Mr. Wanyama reassured students that the knowledge and skills they acquire during their studies will prove invaluable at different stages of their careers. He encouraged them to use their academic experiences as steppingstones to their next job, applying their skills in practical, impactful ways. Additionally, he encouraged students to take advantage of available scholarship opportunities to further their education and career prospects.

Dr. Carolyn Kiarie emphasized the importance of effective communication and relationship-building in her remarks. She advised that to communicate effectively, one must identify where their stakeholders are active and focus the message there. According to her, information, particularly on social media, should be well-packaged to resonate with the intended audience. Dr. Kiarie elaborated on strategies for building and maintaining relationships. She stressed the difference between mere contacts and meaningful connections, encouraging the use of connections to foster relationships and knowing what to seek or offer in a connection. She highlighted the reciprocal nature of relationships, emphasizing the importance of both giving and taking. In response to a question on how to be competitive in the job market, Dr. Kiarie recommended obtaining additional certifications to complement an International Relations degree in areas such as data analysis, security, or trade. She encouraged students to attend various forums to broaden their perspectives and expand their networks. Lastly, Dr. Kiarie advised students to learn how to adapt to different environments as it will increase the likelihood of forming significant connections.

Mr. Dan Mugeru emphasized the importance of networking in diplomacy and international relations, advising students to actively engage in conferences, interact with professionals from various backgrounds, and nurture diverse relationships. Mr. Mugeru stressed the critical need for diplomacy students to develop strong verbal and written communication skills that will enable them to convey complex ideas clearly and persuasively. He also encouraged students to enhance their public speaking skills and use effective storytelling techniques, noting that understanding and mastering different communication styles is essential for international relations professionals. Mr. Mugeru also advised students to recognize and capitalize on their strengths, such as leveraging language skills in diplomacy. Additionally, he urged students to adopt a forward-thinking mindset, recognizing the numerous opportunities available in the field. In conclusion, Mr. Mugeru underscored that international relations professionals must excel in negotiation, consultation, conflict mediation, and public speaking to navigate and succeed in the global landscape effectively.

**PANEL SESSION 3**

In her address, Ms. Roselyn Musera emphasized several key points that are important for relationship-building in both personal and professional contexts. She highlighted the importance of soft skills for effective interaction, staying informed about local and international affairs for purposes of decision-making and negotiations as well as the role of tact and diplomacy in handling delicate situations and diverse perspectives constructively and respectfully. Ms. Musera also stressed the significant role of women in diplomacy, noting that women naturally possess diplomatic skills and have ample opportunities to excel in the field, arguing that their inherent soft skills are crucial for fostering peace and driving change, making them key negotiators in diplomacy. She also highlighted the importance of maintaining a positive outlook and being open-minded. Furthermore, she urged upcoming professionals to be adaptable, intentional, and adept at leveraging technology so as to handle opportunities effectively. In her opinion, each job should be seen as a chance to gain skills for future roles, continuously building one's skillset. Ms. Musera emphasized the need for young professionals to work with integrity and strive to make a significant impact. According to her, gender imbalance should no longer be a barrier, as equal opportunities are now available for all. Accordingly, women should actively pursue available opportunities and demonstrate their capabilities, ensuring that their contributions are recognized and valued.



“

Be open-minded. Consider diverse viewpoints and embrace different perspectives to reach comprehensive and inclusive diplomatic outcomes in the pursuit of conflict resolution. Without open-mindedness, negotiations are more likely to be unproductive, and the risk of continued conflict remains high.

”

**Ms. Roselyn Musera**  
Vice Chair,  
International Relations Society of Kenya  
(IRSK)



## CLOSING REMARKS



**Dr. James Sankale (Ph.D.)**  
Head of Department, Political Science and  
International Relations, Catholic University  
of Eastern Africa (CUEA)  
(MODERATOR)



**Mr. Jeremy Oronje**  
Chair, International Relations Student  
Association of Kenya (IRSAK)  
(PANELIST)



**Ms. Roselyn Musera**  
Vice Chair, International Relations  
Society of Kenya (IRSK)  
(PANELIST)



**Dr. Mary Mutisya**  
HoD - Developmental Studies,  
Catholic University of Eastern Africa  
(CUEA)  
(PANELIST)



**Mr. Leonard Wanyama**  
Regional Coordinator, East Africa Tax  
and Governance Network (EATGN)  
(PANELIST)



**Sr. Rose Mwangi**  
Career Services Director, Catholic  
University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)  
(PANELIST)

**CLOSING SESSION****CLOSING SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY CAREER AND MENTORSHIP FORUM**

In the closing session, the speakers expressed their gratitude to the dignitaries, panelists and participants. They also conveyed deep satisfaction with the event's success. They highlighted the significance of the connections made during the forum, stressing their potential to enhance future career opportunities. Speakers also urged students to join IRSK in order to grow their professional contacts and networks. The session concluded with a heartfelt message of appreciation to the students and guests, with the hope that the event would be impactful.

**MODERATOR**

**Dr. James Sankale (Ph.D.)**, Head of Department, Political Science and International Relations, Catholic University of Eastern Africa

**PANELISTS**

**Mr. Jeremy Oronje, Chair**, International Relations Student Association of Kenya (IRSAK)

**Ms. Roselyn Musera**, Vice Chair, International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK)

**Dr. Mary Mutisya**, Head of Department, Developmental Studies, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)

**Mr. Leonard Wanyama**, Regional Coordinator, East Africa Tax and Governance Network (EATGN)

**Sr. Rose Mwangi**, Career Services Director, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)

## CLOSING REMARKS

Addressing the audience, Mr. Jeremy Oronje highlighted the important role played by the International Relations Student Association of Kenya (IRSAK) in organizing the event. He expressed gratitude to several universities for participating in the career mentorship forum and extended special thanks to the International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK), particularly Mr. Leonard Wanyama and Dr. Peter Mwencha, for their mentorship and support. He underscored the importance of their guidance and advice shared in their planning meetings, which greatly contributed to the event's success and the mentorship of the students involved. Jeremy also acknowledged the event sponsors, including the East African Tax and Governance Network (EATGN), for their technical and logistical support. Reflecting on his personal journey, Jeremy shared his internship experience at the Horn International Institute for Strategic Studies, where he learned valuable lessons from esteemed professionals, which helped to shape his career trajectory. He concluded by encouraging students to remain ambitious, maintain good relationships with mentors, and focus on future opportunities. Quoting from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, he urged everyone to leave the past behind and strive for what lies ahead, and to pursue their goals with determination and resilience.

Speaking on behalf of the Council of the International Relations Society of Kenya (IRSK), Ms. Roselyn Musera began by expressing profound gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. She particularly highlighted the warm hospitality extended by Catholic University, praising the institution for its welcoming atmosphere and expressing eagerness for future collaborative ventures. She extended special thanks to the dignitaries who attended and shared their valuable experiences and advice, noting that their insights provided attendees with actionable tips to advance their careers. She also acknowledged Mr. Jeremy Oronje and the IRSAK team for their significant contributions to organizing the event. Ms. Musera emphasized IRSK's role as a supportive community that values diverse viewpoints while adhering to ethical guidelines. She reassured attendees that IRSK fosters an environment where all members, regardless of their status, are treated with respect and encouraged to engage openly. Furthermore, she praised the panelists for their timely and purposeful discussions, which offered a fresh perspective on career development in international relations and motivated participants to approach their professional endeavors with renewed drive. Ms. Musera also recognized the dedication of the event organizers led by Sister Rose for their commitment and detailed planning. In closing, she invited attendees to become part of IRSK, either as students or professionals, so as to benefit from the society's dynamic discussions and global network. She concluded by wishing everyone success in their careers and studies and expressed a keen interest in continuing interaction with them.

On his part, Mr. Leonard Wanyama expressed his profound satisfaction with the success of the inaugural international Relations and Diplomacy Career and Mentorship Forum. He underscored the event's effective facilitation of meaningful interactions and its invaluable role in delivering valuable career guidance to attendees. He encouraged attendees to leverage networking opportunities availed by the gathering, stressing that such connections can open doors and lead to new possibilities. Reflecting on his own experience, he highlighted the value of networking and the opportunities IRSK has afforded him in his work in the field of taxation. Mr. Wanyama extended gratitude to the Catholic University, IRSK colleagues,



Look at the connections you have and not the contacts you have. There is a difference between contacts and connections. Use the connections to build relationships. Assist those connections.

Relationships are a two-way traffic.

One must give and take.



**Dr. Carolyn Kiarie (Ph.D.)**

Assistant Professor,  
Graduate School of Media and Communication,  
Aga Khan University (AKU), Kenya





## CLOSING SESSION

the Austrian Embassy, and the Tax Justice Network for their support, emphasizing the importance of their willingness in supporting students' learning experiences. He also acknowledged the role of leadership and service in the field of international relations and diplomacy, while urging participants to adopt a mindset of quiet ambition and self-reliance, citing 1 Thessalonians 4:11 as guidance. His closing message was one of encouragement, urging attendees to persevere, emphasizing that their contributions are vital for national growth and development. He also invited them to become members of IRSK and to actively engage in the society's initiatives.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Mary Mutisia expressed profound gratitude to all attendees for their presence and contribution to making the day a success. Highlighting the importance of networking, Dr. Mutisia emphasized the value of connections made during the event for future endeavors. She extended special thanks to the dignitaries and panelists, including Dr. Muchoki, Professor George Kinoti, and Amb. Dr. Christian Fellner, among others, for their sharing their invaluable knowledge with the students. In addition, she acknowledged His Excellency Amb. Christian Fellner, Amb. Paul Ndungu, Dr. Jonathan Omuchesi, and other key speakers for their insightful contributions which enriched the discussions, providing valuable knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities of diplomacy among the attendees. Dr. Mutisia also recognized the crucial support from the International Relations Society of Kenya and the Tax Justice Network of Africa, highlighting their critical roles in providing resources and expertise that significantly contributed to the event's success. Furthermore, Dr. Mutisia extended her appreciation to university representatives, faculty members, and the administrative staff for their dedicated efforts, which were instrumental in organizing and ensuring the smooth execution of the event. She concluded by emphasizing the ever-evolving nature of diplomacy and encouraged participants to pursue careers in diplomacy.

Speaking on behalf of the CUEA Career Office, Sister Rose Mwangi expressed her sincere pleasure and gratitude for the opportunity to host the landmark event, describing it as a significant and uplifting occasion. While conveying her joy and appreciation for the enthusiastic participation of the students from various universities, Sister Mwangi highlighted the critical role played by the IRSAK team led by Jeremy and Wambui in ensuring that the event was a success. She emphasized the importance of patience, as highlighted in the day's discussions on diplomacy, and reflected on the teachings of Jesus, recognizing Him as the greatest diplomat who brought people closer to God. She also noted that diplomacy, much like religion, is relational and aims to create impactful change. Drawing inspiration from Acts 17:22 and Proverbs 16:17, she drew parallels between Jesus' diplomatic skills and the relational nature of diplomacy, noting that when one's actions please the Lord, even adversaries are at peace with them. She also stressed the significance of finding joy and fulfillment in one's work, a joy that comes from God and cannot be taken away by the world. She further observed that many people in the current generation do not remain in one career for long, thereby underscoring the need for flexibility and continuous learning in one's career journey. Sister Mwangi concluded with a message of gratitude to the students and guests, hoping that the event would be a transformative experience that would reinforce the values of joy, patience, and impactful change as espoused the University.

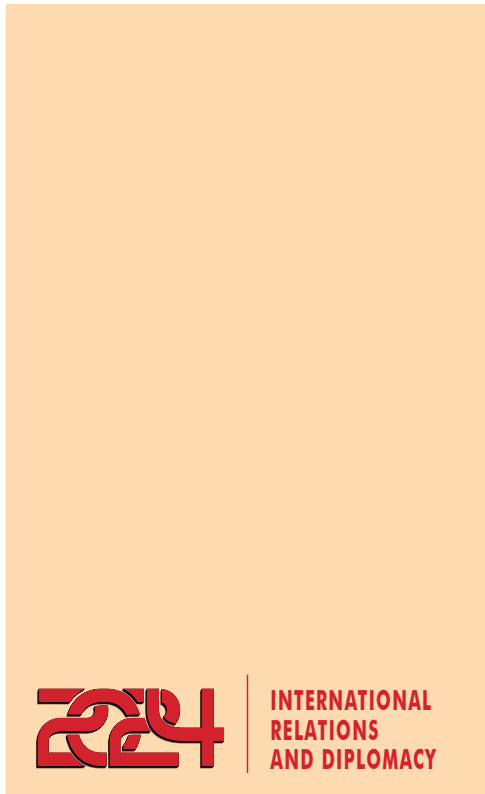


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Diplomacy and international relations have never been more urgent in the current world because of challenges mounting in the international community. Some of the challenges that undermine economies and governments include climate change, human trafficking, and terrorism.

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**H.E. Amb. Paul K. Ndung'u**  
Ag. Director General,  
Foreign Service Academy, Kenya





## **CLOSING SESSION**

Reverend Dr. William Kosgey closed the event with a word of prayer, expressing gratitude for the International Relations and Diplomacy Career and Mentorship Program. He thanked the organizers, presenters, panelists, and participants, particularly the students from various colleges and universities who benefited from the guidance and inspiration provided. He prayed that these students would continue to find career opportunities, be resilient, and embrace new and dynamic career paths as they navigate their future. He also prayed for safe travels for those journeying to different destinations.

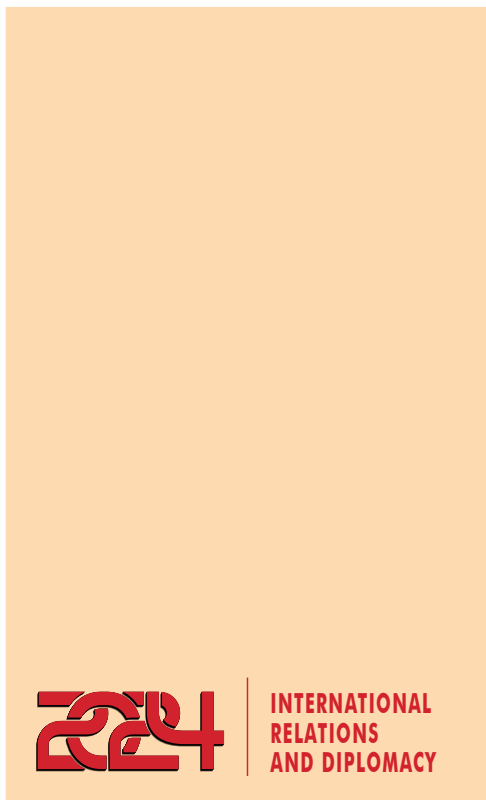


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Build a robust network by attending conferences, engaging with professionals from diverse backgrounds, and nurturing relationships. A good diplomat is not afraid to forge unconventional connections that can lead to unexpected opportunities.

”

**Mr. Dan Mugeru**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Dan Mugeru and Associates



**2024** | **INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS  
AND DIPLOMACY**

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**CAREER & MENTORSHIP FORUM**