

**The 26th World Korea Forum**

## **Location:** University of Nairobi Towers.

## **Date:** August 6-7, 2025.

## **Background/Rationale**

The world is undergoing a profound geopolitical and socio-economic transformation, marked by a shift from traditional Global North dominance toward a more multipolar global order. In this emerging landscape, the Global South—particularly Africa—is asserting itself as a central actor in reshaping international relations, economic flows, and cultural exchange. At the heart of this evolution is Africa’s 54-nation bloc, the African Union (AU), whose Agenda 2063 vision for an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent positions Africa as a decisive force in global decision-making. As major powers, including the United States, China, Russia, the European Union, and BRICS, increasingly compete for influence across the continent, Africa’s youthful population, dynamic economies, and cultural leadership continue to gain prominence in global forums such as the United Nations.

Within Africa, the East African Community (EAC) stands out as a vital hub of regional integration, innovation, and peaceful cooperation. As the continent becomes a strategic center of global transformation, Nairobi—Kenya’s capital and a gateway to East Africa—provides an ideal venue for global dialogue and partnership-building. In this context, the **26th World Korea Forum (WKF)** will be held in **Africa for the first time**, convening in **Nairobi, Kenya**, from **August 6–7, 2025**. Since its inception in May 2000 in New Jersey, USA, the WKF has served as a platform for fostering dialogue on Korea’s role in global peace, cooperation, and development. Hosting the Forum in Africa signals a strategic shift—reflecting the importance of South–South cooperation and the growing relevance of Korea–Africa relations in shaping a more equitable, interconnected world.

The Korea Global Foundation and the University of Nairobi’s Department of Diplomacy and International Studies are organizing this high-level event in Nairobi, Kenya. This two-day event will bring together policymakers, development organizations, government officials, business leaders, academia and diplomats to strengthen solidarity between Africa and Korea in a shifting global environment by promoting international sharing, advancing peace, fostering new partnerships, and contributing to the development of a balanced global order. The Forum seeks to highlight the dynamic potential of Africa’s Global South leadership while reinforcing Korea’s role as a productive middle power.

**Objectives**

1. Strengthen Korea–Africa Strategic Partnerships by fostering dialogue on innovation, development, peacebuilding, and future cooperation.
2. Promote International Peace and Multilateralism by connecting lessons from Africa’s regional integration and peacebuilding experiences to efforts for peace on the Korean Peninsula.
3. Expand Public Diplomacy and Cultural Connectivity by amplifying the role of the African and Korean diasporas in shaping global narratives of identity, solidarity, and cooperation.
4. Develop New Global Theories and Frameworks by reflecting on shared histories, cultures, and the lessons of both regions in a transforming world.
5. Navigate Global Power Competition by discussing Africa’s and Korea’s roles amid competition among major powers (US, China, Russia, EU, BRICS) and promoting middle power diplomacy.

**Event Structure**

**The Forum will have a** hybrid format to accommodate physical and virtual audiences. The Agenda is structured to include keynote addresses, presentations, interactive panel discussions, networking sessions and exhibitions.

**Proposed Participants**

The following categories of participants are expected to attend the event:

* Government officials
* Diplomats
* United Nations Representatives
* Policymakers
* Academia
* Think tanks
* Business leaders

## **Expected Outcomes**

1. A strengthened Korea–Africa strategic partnership aligned with shared visions of prosperity, peace, and multilateralism.
2. Policy recommendations linking African and Korean experiences in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and regional integration.
3. Increased visibility and influence of African and Korean diasporas in global public diplomacy.
4. New academic and cultural insights contributing to emerging theories on identity, solidarity, and global cooperation.
5. Clear strategies for navigating multipolar competition and enhancing the constructive roles of middle powers.