



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

“60 Years of U.S.-Kenya Partnership: Reflecting on the Past, Inspiring the Future”

Date: Thursday 25th September 2025

Time: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Location: University of Nairobi Towers- Manu Chandaria Auditorium- 6th Floor

Background

The United States and Kenya have maintained a dynamic and evolving partnership spanning six decades since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1964. This relationship has weathered global changes, regional challenges, and transformative developments in both nations, emerging as a cornerstone of stability and cooperation in East Africa and beyond.

From Kenya's early years of independence through to the present day, the U.S.-Kenya partnership has encompassed multiple dimensions of engagement including trade and investment, security cooperation, educational exchanges, technological advancement, and cultural diplomacy. The relationship has evolved from traditional development assistance to a more sophisticated strategic partnership addressing contemporary global challenges such as digital transformation, security threats, and economic empowerment.

Over the past year, the University of Nairobi's Africa Centre for the Study of the United States of America (ACSUS) has conducted an extensive panel discussions examining six thematic areas of this partnership:

1. **Trade and Investment Partnership** - Exploring the Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP) and bilateral economic opportunities
2. **Partnership in AI and Digital Transformation** - Examining collaboration in technology, digital infrastructure, and innovation
3. **Creative Economy Partnership** - Highlighting collaborations in film, music, fashion, arts, and digital content creation
4. **Diaspora Relations** - Showcasing the role of the Kenyan diaspora in strengthening bilateral ties
5. **Education and Cultural Exchange** - Celebrating academic partnerships and people-to-people connections
6. **Security Cooperation** - Assessing joint efforts in regional stability and counterterrorism

This conference serves as the culminating event of this examination, bringing together the insights, recommendations, and future pathways identified through each thematic seminar. The timing is particularly significant as both nations navigate an increasingly complex global landscape while seeking to deepen their strategic partnership for the next 60 years.



Conference Objectives

1. **Synthesize and Present** the key findings, insights, and recommendations from the six-part ACSUS seminar series on U.S.-Kenya relations
2. **Facilitate Strategic Dialogue** between senior government officials, diplomats, academics, business leaders, and civil society representatives from both countries
3. **Identify Future Opportunities** for enhanced cooperation and partnership in emerging areas of mutual interest
4. **Strengthen Networks** and foster new collaborations between American and Kenyan stakeholders across all sectors

Expected Outcomes

- **Immediate Outcomes:** Enhanced understanding among participants of the partnership's evolution, achievements, and challenges
- **Immediate Outcomes:** Strengthened networks and new collaboration opportunities between American and Kenyan stakeholders
- **Medium-term Outcomes:** Publication of a comprehensive conference report synthesizing all seminar series findings and conference discussions

Conference Format & Structure

The conference will adopt a hybrid format combining in-person and virtual participation to maximize accessibility and engagement. The program is structured around three main sessions, each building upon the insights from the preceding ACSUS seminar series:

- Session I: 60 Years of Diplomatic Engagement
- Session II: People-to-People Connections
- Session III: Youth and the Next 60 Years

About the Organizers of the Conference

The Africa Center for the Study of the U.S. (ACSUS) was established by the Department of Diplomacy and International Studies (DDIS) at the University of Nairobi on November 11, 2022, with a mission to foster intellectual and cultural exchanges that deepen understanding of U.S.-Africa relations. ACSUS is committed to amplifying African-generated knowledge, empowering scholars, researchers, and students to critically engage with U.S. society, history, and policies. This conference is part of an ACSUS program sponsored by the U.S. Embassy Public Diplomacy Section (PDS), and is part of the commemoration of 60 years of U.S.-Kenya partnership. It aims to enhance awareness and understanding of U.S.-Kenya bilateral relations, while exploring future opportunities for collaboration in key areas such as trade, investment, security, governance, and health.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

"60 Years of U.S.-Kenya Partnership: Reflecting on the Past, Inspiring the Future"

Date: Thursday 25th September 2025

Time: 8.30 am – 4:00 pm

Location: University of Nairobi Towers, Main Campus - Chandaria Auditorium- 6th Floor

08:30 – 09:15 | Guest Arrival & Registration

09:15 – 10:00 | Opening Keynotes

- National Anthems (Kenya & USA)
- Welcome Remarks- Director, Institute of Diplomacy & International Studies, University of Nairobi
- Cultural Performance
- Opening Remarks - Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi
- Keynote Speeches:
 - Chief of Mission, US Embassy Nairobi
 - PS Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs-Kenya

10:00 – 11:15 | Session I: 60 Years of Diplomatic Engagement

- Screening: Short Documentary on U.S.-Kenya Milestones
- Panel Reflections: US Embassy Representative; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Representative; Scholar; Former Kenyan Ambassador to the US
- 15-minute Q&A Session with Audience

11:15 – 11:45 | Group Photo & Light refreshments

11:45 – 12:45 | Session II: People-to-People Connections

- People to People Panel: US Embassy Representative, Exchange Program Alumni; Civil Society; Creative Economy; Diaspora Community
- 15-minute Q&A Session with Audience

12:45 – 13:45 | Lunch & Networking- Walk-through Photo Exhibition: 5th Floor - Photo Timeline of U.S.-Kenya Celebration of 60 years of Diplomatic Relations

13:45 – 14:00 | Crowd Engagement- Mentimeter Poll

14:00 – 15:00 | Session III: Youth & the Next 60 Years

- Youth Panel: Public Service, Innovation, Diaspora engagement, Civil Society
- Audience Q&A

15:00– 15:15 | Crowd Engagement- Mentimeter Poll

15:15 – 16:00 | Closing Ceremony

- Final Cultural Performance and Recognition of Distinguished Contributors
- Closing Remarks- *Dr. Winnie Rugutt and Susan Muriungi*



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