REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY ON TECHNOLOGY



1ST HALF 2025 IN REVIEW

Amb. Phillip Thigo, MBS

Foreward



It is my privilege to introduce this review of our work during the first half of 2025. Over these past six months, we have advanced Kenya's vision of harnessing artificial intelligence as a catalyst for national transformation—enhancing our sovereign compute capacity, deepening international partnerships, and embedding trust, inclusivity, and and sustainability at the heart of every initiative. From securing a landmark US $220 million commitment to establish the National AI Factory to issuing the Kenya AI Guidelines in collaboration with the International Network of AI Safety Institutes, our collective efforts are charting a path toward a resilient, human-centered digital future.

This report captures the breadth and depth of our engagements: convening multilateral roundtables from Dubai to Rome; co-designing global AI funds and resolutions; forging public–private partnerships with leaders such as the IBM AI Alliance, NVIDIA, AMD, Google, and Meta; and equipping thousands of young people and women with AI and digital skills. It also highlights our commitment to open government, transparency in climate finance, and the development of cutting-edge digital public goods—each initiative reinforcing our belief that technology diplomacy must be both principled and pragmatic.

As we look ahead to the second half of 2025 and beyond, Kenya will continue to lead by example—championing sovereign AI, advancing ethical governance frameworks, and fostering vibrant, home-grown innovation ecosystems. I extend my deepest gratitude to His Excellency William Ruto for his leadership; to His Excellency Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary; and to Dr. Korir Singoei, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, for their unwavering support and guidance. I also thank our partners in government, industry, academia, and civil society: your collaboration and shared purpose make these achievements possible.

Together, we will build on this momentum to ensure that Kenya not only participates in the age of intelligence, but shapes it for the benefit of all.

Ambassador Philip Thigo, MBS
Special Envoy on Technology
Republic of Kenya

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Executive Summary

In the era of rapid technological advancement, innovations shape the global landscape and influence every aspect of human life—how we live, work, communicate, and tackle critical challenges. As nations navigate these transformations, technology diplomacy has emerged as a crucial tool for fostering international collaboration, addressing urgent global issues, and securing a prosperous and sustainable future.

Kenya's foreign policy is a dynamic framework for guiding the nation's engagement with the global community. Rooted in the country's national development blueprints, it is designed to protect and promote Kenya's interests while advancing international security, political stability, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

In this context, technology diplomacy has become a vital component of Kenya's foreign policy agenda, reflecting the central role of digital transformation in shaping the country's future.

Kenya's role as a leader in technological innovation Within Africa, often called the "Silicon Savannah," highlights the nation's dedication to utilizing technology for economic growth and social progress. Building on this base, Kenya's Tech Diplomacy Strategy (2024–2027) outlines a vision for harnessing technology to achieve sustainable development, boost international collaboration, and position Kenya as a global leader in technology Governance.

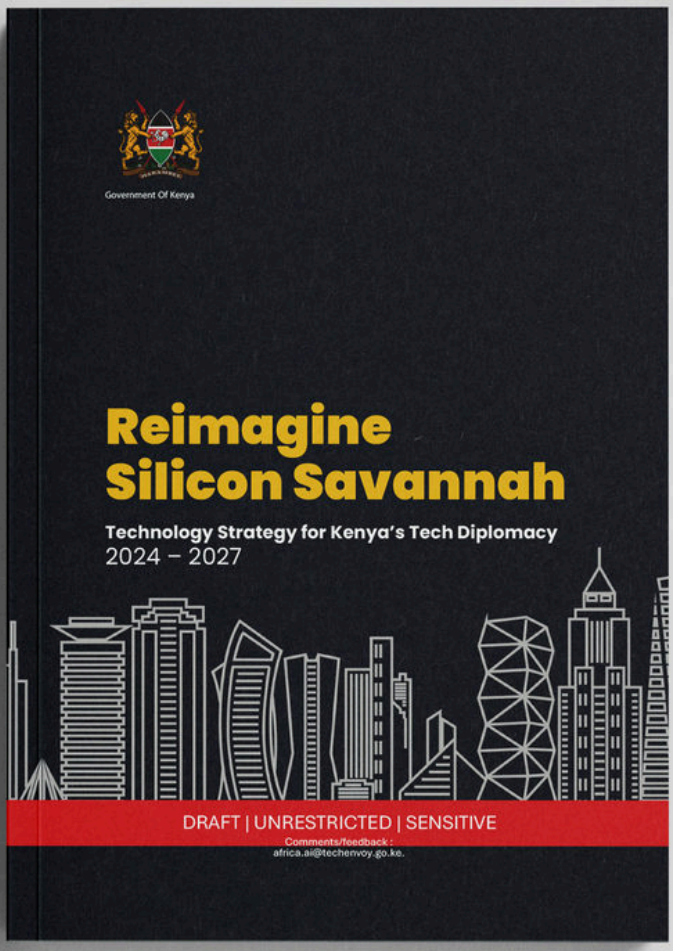
As the office of the special envoy on tech, we aim to:

- Promote international collaboration in scientific research and innovation to ensure that technological advancements propel global Progress.
- Improve diplomatic service delivery by integrating digital tools and platforms that foster efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity.
- Adapt to technological advancements to enable Kenya to sustain a competitive edge in an increasingly interconnected global environment.
- Address cybersecurity issues while promoting secure, ethical, and inclusive digital environments.
- Take advantage of new opportunities in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other emerging technologies to foster economic growth.
- Incorporate diverse perspectives to guarantee that technology promotes equitable and sustainable development.



Vision & Mission

Vision	To be a regional and global leader in pioneering safe, secure, inclusive, trustworthy, and environmentally conscious technologies that drive innovation, promote economic prosperity, address developmental challenges, and set the global gold standard for equitable digital transformation through international collaboration and technology diplomacy.
Mission	Lead through technology diplomacy by promoting innovation, establishing transformative partnerships, facilitating the development of impactful technologies, and advocating for inclusive, secure, and sustainable solutions to tackle developmental challenges and improve economic prosperity.



This report builds on the foundational vision and priorities articulated in the **Reimagine Silicon Savannah: Technology Strategy for Kenya's Tech Diplomacy (2024–2027)**, developed by the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology. It deepens the strategy's core focus on inclusive, ethical, and sustainable technology governance, and outlines actionable pathways to advance Kenya's leadership in global tech diplomacy while ensuring equitable access and impact for all.

Key Achievements from this period (Jan-June) include:

- **Securing a $220 million commitment for Kenya's National AI Factory,** in partnership with Cassava Technologies, NVIDIA, and Strive Masiyiwa—bringing sovereign compute and model training capacity onshore for national and regional benefit.
- **Launching the Kenya AI Safety Institute,** with foundational collaborations at UNESCO in Paris and the International Network of Safety Institutes, advancing world-class standards for AI safety and ethical use.
- **Operationalizing real-time digital carbon market monitoring and the national dMRV framework** through high-level dialogues (Kenya Carbon Markets Summit 2025), positioning Kenya as a leader in climate-aligned digital innovation.
- **Expanding open government platforms and public dashboards,** including citizen engagement tools and justice sector data initiatives, to drive transparency and fight misinformation (Open Government Partnership, AU Governance dialogues).
- **Forging 50+ public-private partnerships** with global technology leaders—AMD, Google, Microsoft, Meta, and others—unlocking investment in local chip design, cloud infrastructure, and AI-enabled sectoral applications.
- **Upskilling thousands of youth and women in AI and digital skills** via targeted innovation hubs, launch of the School on AI Diplomacy (SAID) —an achievement delivered in partnership with IDI, Alliance for Science, SCDDD, and Foreign Services Academy (FSA) to equip diplomats with AI governance and ethical leadership skills., and the UNESCO #WomenAndAI Conference, ensuring inclusive participation in the digital economy.
- **Championing open source, African language AI, and data equity,** highlighted by Kenya's role in co-hosting the OSPOs for Good Conference and shaping international open data policy (Brookings Foresight Africa Report, GPSDD Regional Consultation).
- **Elevating Kenya's global** profile with strategic leadership roles and high-level interventions at AI and digital summits in Dubai, Kigali, New York, Berlin, and through diplomatic briefings, furthering the nation's influence on global digital governance and cooperation.
- We confirmed Kenya **as Host for the AfriLabs Annual Gathering 2025: A Milestone for Innovation and Collaboration**:
- Secured strategic partnership with the European Innovation Council to channel investment into Kenya's innovation ecosystem—an important milestone linking early wins to national priorities like water sector transformation.
- Finalizing the entry of 30 Kenyan startups into the Saudi market in partnership with **DCO**—unlocking new investment pipelines and direct VC engagements for homegrown innovation.
- Joined Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary in a high-level bilateral meeting with the World Economic Forum to fast-track the establishment of a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Kenya, marking a major milestone in positioning the country as a regional tech policy and innovation hub.



Multilateral Meetings

February

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology began the year by elevating Africa's perspective on artificial intelligence at the #AiEverything forum in Dubai. During a panel with WIRED UK's David Rowan, the Special Envoy emphasized that AI must not be treated as a winner-takes-all race, but rather as a long-distance endeavor that demands sustained investment in capacity building and ethical innovation. The message was clear: Africa should chart a distinct path—rooted in regional priorities, inclusive innovation, and sovereign capability—rather than replicate the trajectories of entities like OpenAI or DeepSeek.



Feb

The Office met with colleagues from the Singapore AI Safety Institute at the Paris AI Summit to discuss ongoing model testing on linguistic diversity. The meeting also explored South-South collaboration between ASEAN and Africa on joint research, use case development, and evaluation.



The office was part of the launch of the Responsible AI Future Foundation—an initiative by Microsoft, the Government of the United Arab Emirates, and key partners —during the Paris AI Action Summit. The platform aims to advance global collaboration on AI research, with a strong emphasis on linguistic diversity and inclusive innovation.





Feb

We were honored to speak at the Cohere meet-up during the Paris AI Summit, where we shared our enthusiasm for ongoing collaboration on language innovation, research, and experimentation. The session also provided a valuable opportunity to engage with peers and reconnect with longstanding partners.

Attended the AI Alliance Leaders Reception at the Paris AI Action Summit, where discussions with leaders from Meta, IBM, and AITOMATIC focused on the future of AI through the lens of open-source and open science. Key themes included the role of openness in accelerating innovation, global collaboration, and the risks of over-regulation, especially for Africa. The office emphasized that open-source has long been a cornerstone of Africa's innovation ecosystem, driving scalable, homegrown solutions.





Wrapped up the AIActionSummit with a high-level convening of the International Network of Safety Institutes—capping off an inspiring week. Building on the San Francisco work program, collaborative progress continues, especially in model testing across languages. Focus now deepens on shared challenges, such as cybersecurity and online harms.

AI ACTION SUMMIT

Feb

General outcomes from the Paris AI Summit

The Office of the SE worked on the following collaborations in preparation and during the Ai Action Summit held in Paris:

- Africa Preparatory Meeting (Nairobi, 2024): Co hosted by France and Kenya alongside the UK's FCDO, aligning Africa's priorities ahead of Paris.
- Paris Declaration Endorsement (Feb 2025): Kenya formally signed the "Declaration on Inclusive and Sustainable AI," underscoring shared values.
- Current AI Fund (Feb 2025): France and Kenya co designed this $400 million international AI fund for public interest datasets, tools, and infrastructure.
- Coalition for Sustainable AI: Co signed with UNEP and ITU in Paris, uniting 11 countries (including Kenya) and 37 tech firms to curb AI's environmental impact.

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology participated in a high-level roundtable hosted by Leaders on Purpose and the Cities in Action Forum. The discussions focused on Africa's role in global economic transformation, emphasizing scalable frameworks, digital innovation, and youth-driven enterprise. Key insights underscored the need for long-term, inclusive, and climate-resilient investment strategies.

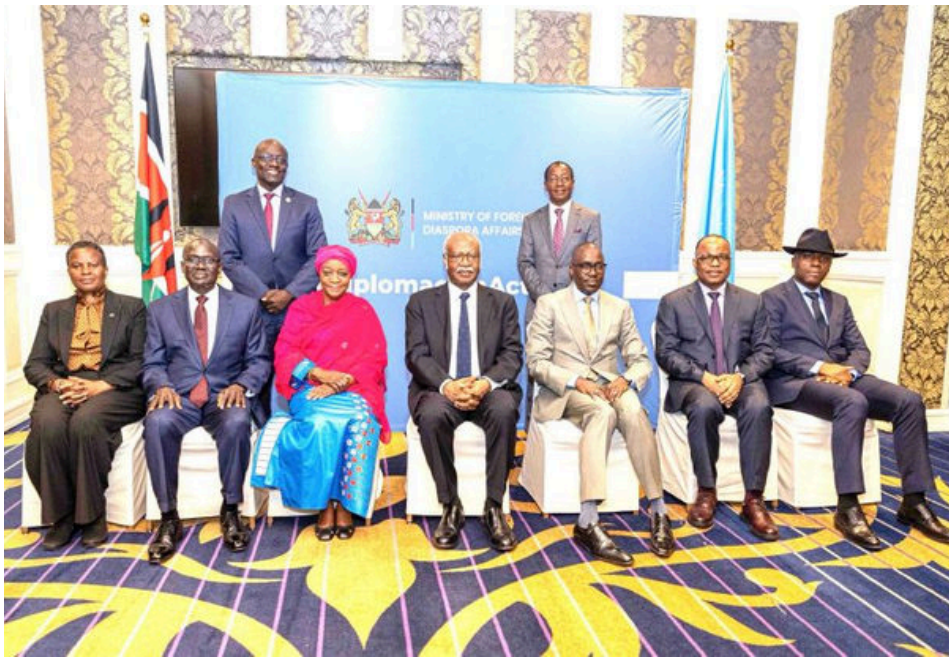


Feb

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, in collaboration with Claire Melamed of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, co-hosted a breakfast consultation on the network's global AI strategy. Drawing from insights gathered through prior events, research, and grassroots engagements since 2023, the session convened leading AI experts from Kenya and the region to explore how collective efforts can close key gaps in the AI ecosystem. The discussions reflected a shared commitment to leveraging technology for sustainable development and shaping an inclusive, impactful strategy.



The Office joined Ambassador Lazarus Amayo, Special Envoy on AU Reforms, to brief UNGA President H.E. Philemon Yang on President William Ruto's vision for an inclusive and secure digital future. Hosted by PS Korir Sing'Oei, the session underscored Kenya and Africa's leadership in global digital governance, particularly through WSIS+20 and the Global Digital Compact. The Office reaffirmed its commitment to deepening engagement with the UN and AU to advance peace, security, development, and human dignity.



Feb

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology attended the inaugural partnership meeting for the establishment of Africa's first School on AI Diplomacy (SAID) at Kenya's newly launched Foreign Services Academy (FSA). This initiative seeks to equip diplomats with critical skills in AI-enhanced diplomacy, ethical governance, and cross-sector collaboration. Key partners include the Foreign Services Academy, Institute of Design and Innovation (IDI), Alliance for Science, Savanna Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy, and Development (SCDDD), and Thunderbird School of Global Management. Planned courses will cover AI foundations, diplomacy strategy, and experiential learning, marking a significant step toward strengthening Africa's voice in global AI governance.



Mar

The office joined a strategic meeting chaired by CS Rebecca Miano to explore innovative, sustainable conservation financing. We discussed private sector engagement, monetizing conservation benefits, and scaling impact-driven solutions. With colleagues, we emphasized how AI and tech can modernize conservation, enable data-driven decisions, and empower youth through nature-based enterprises—advancing the President's Conservation at Scale initiative.





A team from our office participated in Harvard's AI for Negotiations certificate program, engaging in simulated climate negotiations ahead of COP30. Their strategy paper earned the Certificate of Excellence, emerging top of the class. This milestone highlights the potential of AI in shaping global climate diplomacy and decision-making.

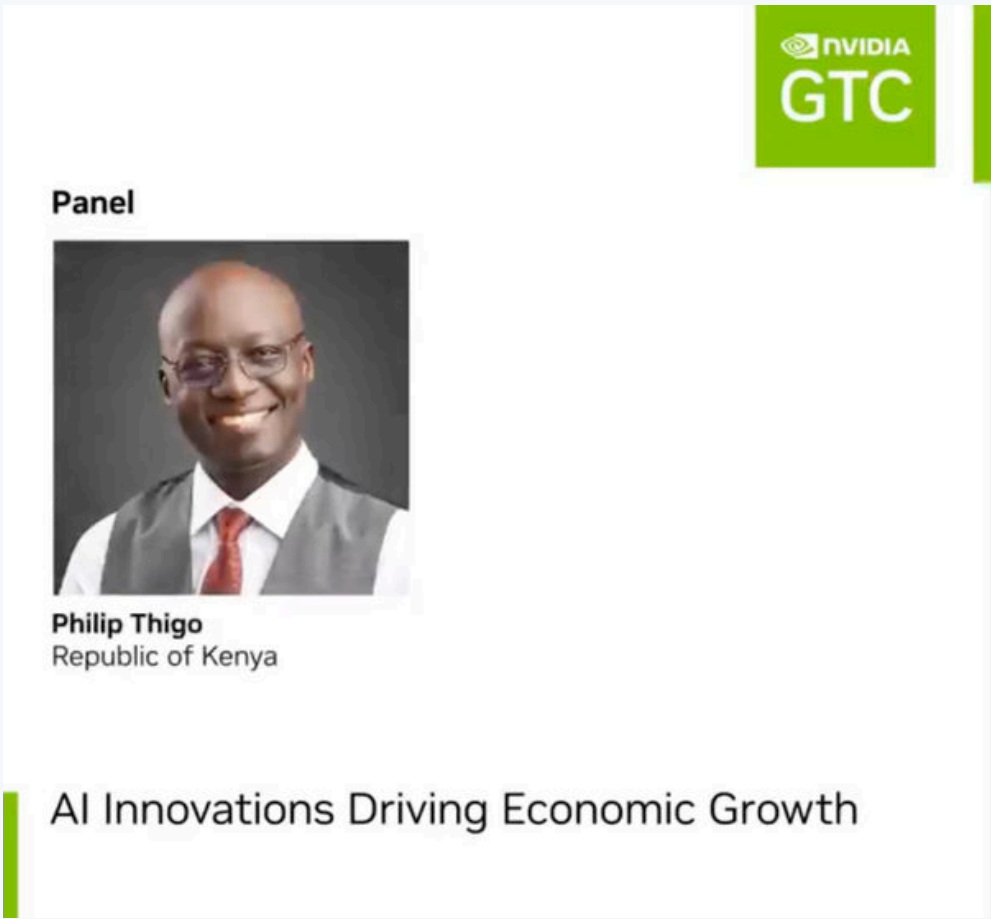


Mar

Joined the AI for Africa Roundtable at NVIDIA GTC 2025 to explore building resilient sovereign AI ecosystems through strategic collaborations.Inspired by NOVATION CITY's progress and excited about partnering with Cassava Technologies to drive Africa’s AI future.

NVIDIA GTC GPU TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

At NVIDIA GTC 2025, I joined a panel on "Harnessing AI for Economic Growth in Africa," discussing how AI is transforming healthcare, agriculture, and education, and the role of emerging technologies like large language models in driving real-world impact across the continent.





Mar

During a visit to Stanford University, we engaged global experts on how academia, industry, and government can collaborate to advance Kenya's innovation and economic resilience agenda. Building on President Ruto's Silicon Valley visit, we explored strategies to empower the next generation and future-proof Kenya's economy. A follow-up delegation visit is planned later this year to solidify partnerships and drive actionable outcomes.

Navigating the Digital Power Shift: Digital Governance in Africa and the Middle East

The office of the envoy participated in a session at the OGP Africa & Middle East Regional Meeting, which highlighted AI's dual role as a driver of progress and a source of risk, particularly in contexts of digital fragmentation. Emphasis was placed on the need for strategic autonomy, regional partnerships, and Sovereign AI to ensure technology aligns with local values and priorities.



April



Rebuilding Trust through Open Government

The Office of the Special Envoy together with the Open Government Partnership hosted the 2025 OGP Africa and Middle East Regional Meeting in Nairobi, bringing together government leaders, civil society, and private sector actors. The forum focused on advancing transparency, civic participation, and digital governance to restore public trust. Key highlights included high-level roundtables, innovation panels, and a strong call for inclusive, accountable reforms.



Engaged in a dynamic Google-hosted panel on Africa leading in the AI era, covering talent development, skilling policymakers, and collaborative African-contextualized AI solutions.



April

Philip Thigo joined the Prime Cabinet Secretary and the PS for Foreign Affairs during the recent Diplomatic Briefing to share key outcomes from the Global AI Summit in Kigali, notably Cassava Technologies' $420M plan to establish Africa's first AI Factory. The initiative, set to deploy NVIDIA's advanced AI infrastructure across countries including Kenya, marks a major step in boosting regional AI leadership and innovation capacity.

Held a strategic session with iXAfrica leadership to advance Kenya's ambition of becoming a hub for emerging technologies through a Sovereign AI Region. The initiative aims to unlock advanced compute access and foster homegrown AI solutions tailored to emerging market needs.





At GITEX Africa 2025 in Marrakech, we joined regional open government champions to discuss how digital transformation can be inclusive, participatory, and accountable by design. We shared insights from the Africa and Middle East Regional Meeting in Nairobi and Kenya's experience with the OGP Digital Cluster—an ecosystem uniting government, civil society, technologists, and academia. The session underscored the role of open government principles in shaping the ethical design and oversight of emerging technologies.

April

The Office of the Special Envoy engaged Bridges to Prosperity on leveraging GeoAI to support data-driven planning, water monitoring, and resilient infrastructure in Kenya.The collaboration aims to align national and county priorities through scalable geospatial intelligence solutions.



The Office of the Special Envoy participated in the “Innovation in Global Markets” conference, marking the renaming of the Legatum Center to the Kuo Sharper Center for Prosperity and Entrepreneurship. The convening underscored inclusive innovation and offered pathways for deeper engagement with Kenya’s innovation ecosystem.



April

The Office of the Special Envoy joined a high-level working lunch with Prof. Dame Fiona Murray to explore concrete collaboration between the MIT Kuo Sharper Center and African partners. Discussions centered on advancing locally rooted R&D, unlocking capital, deepening DeepTech platforms, and building resilient innovation ecosystems to drive inclusive prosperity.





May

The Office of the Special Envoy briefed African Permanent Missions at the UN on AI, global governance, and Africa's strategic role, during a session convened by USG Amandeep Gill. The discussion underscored the need for African-led collaboration on digital infrastructure, talent pipelines, and inclusive AI norms within the UN system.

We participated in ECANY's Spring Gala, engaging global investors on unlocking Africa's growth through private capital and infrastructure development. Discussions emphasized diaspora-led blended finance, inclusive innovation, and the role of women entrepreneurs in shaping Africa's future markets.



May

At a New York Policy Soirée hosted by the French-American Foundation, thought leaders including Yann LeCun and Vilas Dhar engaged in a critical dialogue on AI, ethics, and human agency. The discussion emphasized shared accountability, inclusive innovation, and centering human dignity in AI design.





The Office joined UNDP and partners at the UN Headquarters for a high-level dialogue on catalyzing investment in Africa's innovation ecosystem. Emphasizing the need to unlock capital, compute, and data access, the Office highlighted how initiatives like Timbuktoo can reshape Africa's startup future through belief, partnership, and action.

May



At the Global Citizen Conference, the Office participated in discussions on AI, innovation, and equity, emphasizing the role of inclusive technology and governance in closing the opportunity divide. Stakeholders underscored that AI's potential to reduce inequality depends on strong partnerships, investment, and responsible oversight.



Pleasure joining the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) at UNHQ for a strategic session hosted by Kuwait's Permanent Mission. The Office engaged partners on advancing Kenya–DCO collaboration especially in driving inclusive, sustainable, and secure digital transformation.

May



Held a high-level engagement at Google’s Nairobi offices to explore AI-powered solutions across key sectors like climate, health, and justice. Discussions emphasized inclusive, context-sensitive approaches and foundational models that reflect linguistic and cultural diversity in the Global South.

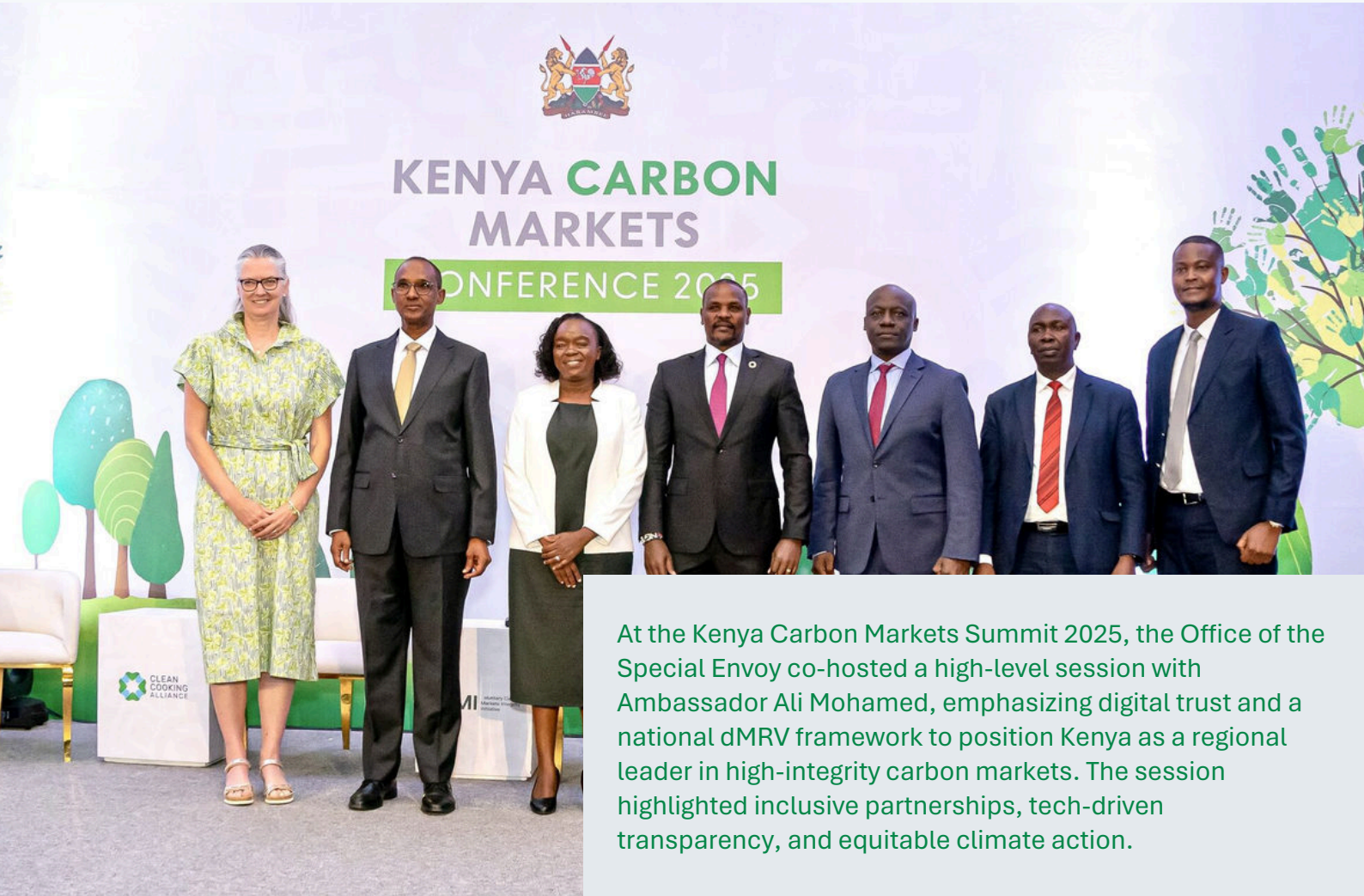


The Office of the Special Envoy participated in a fireside chat at Meta’s “Shaping Tomorrow” event to engage youth on careers in AI, tech, and innovation. The fireside chats were conversations on exploring Gen-Z pathways, sustainable AI, data equity, and homegrown solutions for Africa’s digital future.

May

The Office of the Special Envoy convened with stakeholders to advance Kenya's 5th OGP National Action Plan, aligning on priorities such as climate transparency, digital governance, and civic participation. A short-term roadmap was developed ahead of the Global OGP Summit in Spain.





At the Kenya Carbon Markets Summit 2025, the Office of the Special Envoy co-hosted a high-level session with Ambassador Ali Mohamed, emphasizing digital trust and a national dMRV framework to position Kenya as a regional leader in high-integrity carbon markets. The session highlighted inclusive partnerships, tech-driven transparency, and equitable climate action.

May

GITEX BERLIN

Kenya participated in the inaugural GITEX Europe in Berlin, where over 2,000 exhibitors and 1,000+ startups gathered to showcase global tech innovations. Representing Kenya alongside our Ambassador to Germany, the office engaged with leaders exploring partnerships in AI, green economy, and digital innovation. Special thanks to GIZ for spotlighting Kenyan startups and to Berlin's Mayor for advancing green-economy collaboration with Nairobi.



Kenya officially announced AI Everything x GITEX Kenya 2026, hosted by KAOUN International in partnership with the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, set for 19–21 May in Nairobi. The summit marks a bold step toward Kenya's digital transformation, leveraging AI to drive jobs, GDP growth, and inclusive innovation across Africa.



May

Visited the Kenyan SMEs pavilion at GITEX Berlin, supported by GIZ, to witness firsthand the creativity and resilience of local entrepreneurs. Their innovation and drive reaffirm Kenya’s emergence as a leading technology hub in Africa



June

The Office of the Special Envoy co-hosted the Compute Dialogue with Italy and UNDP, spotlighting equitable access to computing in Africa. The session showcased strong alignment among policymakers, technologists, and global partners toward inclusive digital transformation.



The Office of the Special Envoy co-hosted a two-day workshop led by MIT's Kuo Sharper Center, convening 70+ stakeholders to address FX risk and unlock local-currency financing for African SMEs. Key outcomes included actionable hedging pathways, cross-sector collaboration, and prototyping Africa-backed stablecoins to reduce transaction costs.



June



The Office of the Special Envoy, alongside Ambassador Ali, co-convened Kenya's 5th Open Government Multistakeholder Forum alongside with Mzalendo to review the 5th National Action Plan (2023–2027)—Kenya's roadmap for deeper transparency, accountability and citizen empowerment. The Forum focused on reforms in digital governance, public participation, open data, and institutional resilience. Partners reviewed milestones and committed to deepening transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement across all levels of government.

At the WEF Global Technology Retreat in San Francisco, discussions focused on AI's growing energy footprint, data sovereignty, and the race between compute demand and sustainable power. Solutions such as modular edge data centers and harmonized AI governance standards gained traction. Creative economy concerns, ethical safeguards, and equitable digital futures also featured prominently in bilateral and multistakeholder exchanges.

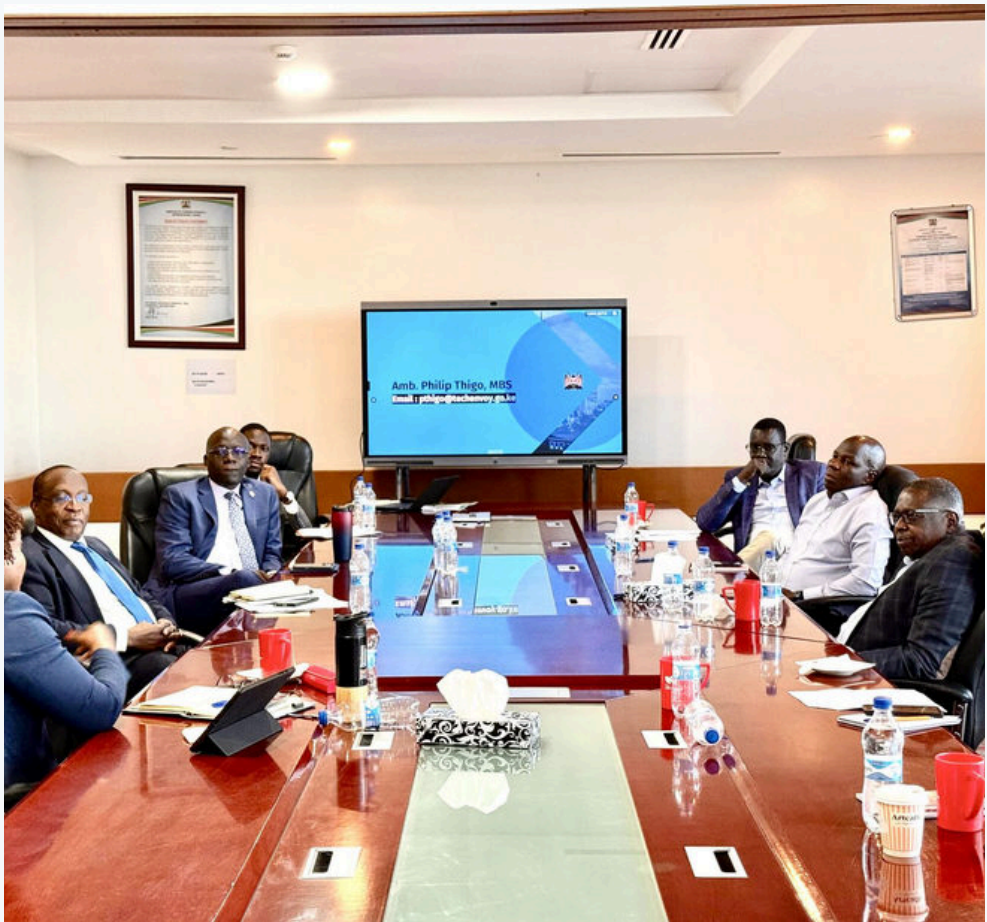


June



The Nairobi launch of the WomenXCollective Hub brought together global champions of women's health, including UNFPA, Aga Khan Development Network, and Africa CDC. The office was privileged to join this moment, which underscored the urgency of closing the gender innovation gap as maternal mortality in Kenya remains high at 1-in-37. The Hub reaffirms Nairobi's role as a living lab for ethical, inclusive innovation led by African women across the AI value chain.

The Office of the Special Envoy engaged new ambassadors at the Foreign Services Academy on the role of digital diplomacy in the age of AI and misinformation. The session aligned with Kenya's foreign policy priorities, underscoring the need for agile, youth-inclusive, and AI-informed diplomatic approaches. Emphasis was placed on equipping envoys with tools to enhance Kenya's global digital influence.





June

Kenya joined the inaugural Executive Steering Group of the AI Hub for Sustainable Development under the Mattei Plan, alongside partners from the EU, AfDB, UNDP, Egypt, and Italy. As a Steering Group member and infrastructure anchor, Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive, sovereign, and climate-aligned AI ecosystems in Africa.

The office of the special envoy on tech co-convened a high-level roundtable to explore how AI can drive resilience, equity, and opportunity, anchored in shared values and lived realities. As we prepare for the Global Trust Summit in Nairobi this October, we reaffirmed the call for inclusive, trustworthy AI grounded in African values and multilateral cooperation.



June

Kenya reaffirmed its AI leadership at the official launch of the AI Hub for Sustainable Development in Rome, where the team had the honour of joining UNDP, EU, AfDB, government officials, private sector leaders, and innovators. As a member of the Hub's Executive Steering Group, Kenya supports responsible AI growth across Africa through data, compute, talent, and partnerships.





Bilateral Meetings

Bilateral Meetings

February

The Office engaged in a dialogue with Emir Gelen, Director of Public Policy for METAPSA at TikTok, on fostering trust and empowering youth in the platform economy. Discussions centered on striking a balance between freedom of expression and user protection, promoting digital literacy, and advancing global digital governance through collaboration. (followed by a TikTok training).





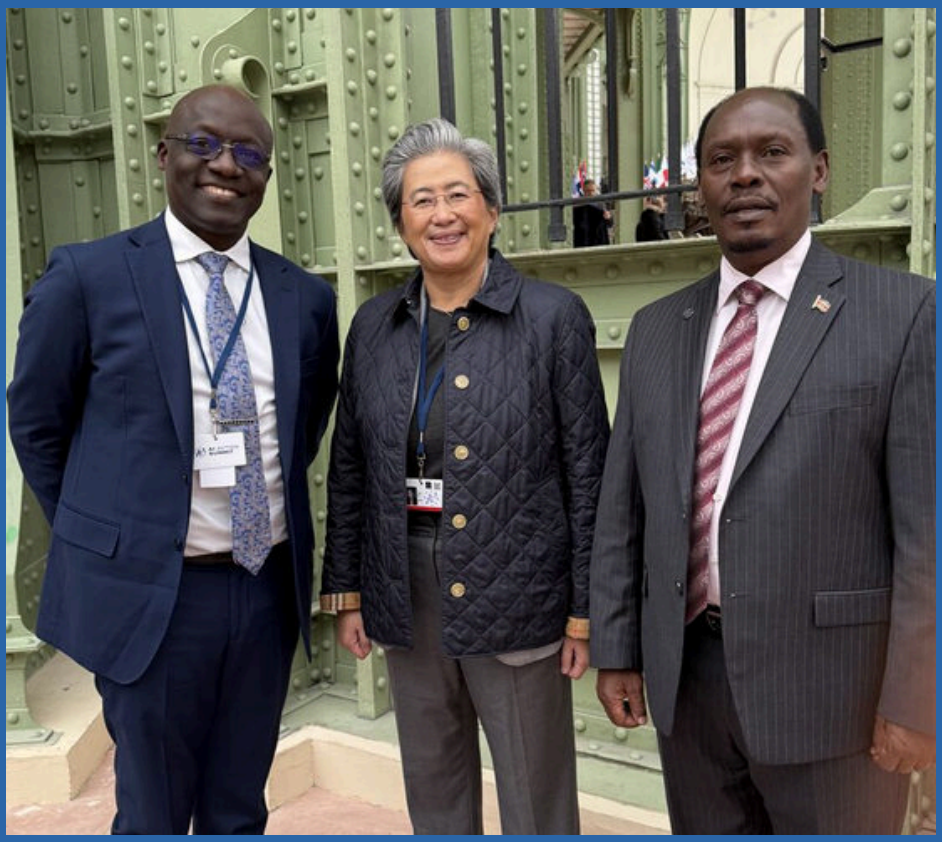
The Office met with Rupert Adam of the Dubai World Trade Centre during AI Everything to explore potential collaboration between Kenya and GITEX GLOBAL—the world's largest tech and startup show, focusing on supporting SMEs and startups within the AI economy through investment, research, and development.

The Office held discussions with Eniola Mafe on opportunities to leverage GeoAI and emerging technologies to accelerate progress toward the SDGs.



AI Action Summit in Paris

At the AI Action Summit, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, alongside the Cabinet Secretary for ICT and the Digital Economy, Hon. William Kabogo, met with Dr. Lisa Su, Chair and CEO of AMD. The conversation focused on advancing collaboration in Sovereign AI and supporting Kenya's ambition to become a Silicon Savannah, building an inclusive AI value chain powered by local innovation and talent.





The Office of the Special Envoy met with the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Secretariat during the Paris AIActionSummit to discuss dialogue mechanisms for emerging technologies and align on the upcoming Africa IGF, IGF2025, in Norway, and WSIS+20. Kenya, as co-facilitator with Latvia, is proud to support global digital governance efforts.



The office reconnected with UNDP Chief Digital Officer Robert Opp and team at the AIActionSummit in Paris. Discussions centered on deepening collaboration around building public trust in the AI era, empowering youth-led innovation hubs, aligning with WSIS+20, and co-hosting the Global Trust Summit later this year.



The office reconnected with Prof. Nicholas Davis at a side event hosted by the Australian Embassy in Paris on ASEAN's vision for Sovereign AI. The conversation echoed shared regional priorities—shifting from exclusion to building trustworthy and inclusive AI ecosystems.

AU Summit

At the AU Summit sidelines, the Office of the Special Envoy on Technology met with Hannah Ryder of Development Reimagined to explore how AI and emerging technologies can shape Africa-China relations. Agreed to collaborate on white papers and policy research to inform decision-making.





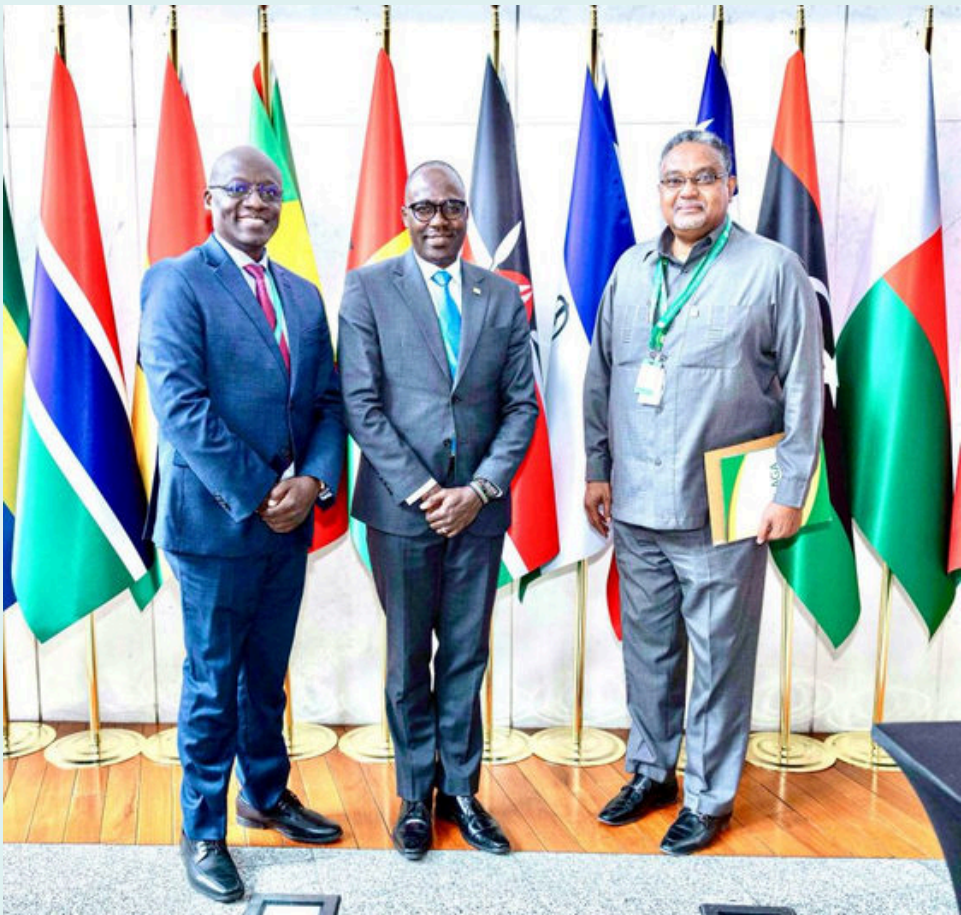
Had a productive working session with Waleed Hamdi of the African Union Commission, aligning the Global Digital Compact with key AU strategies, including the Africa Digital Transformation Strategy, STISA-2024, the Continental AI Strategy, and the African Space Policy. We focused on practical use cases in infrastructure, data, and talent to build a resilient African AI ecosystem for peace and prosperity.

AU Summit



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology held a strategic meeting with Winnie Karanu, AI Skilling Director at Microsoft, to align on advancing AI fluency among policymakers. The partnership will focus on delivering targeted masterclasses and thought leadership initiatives to equip decision-makers with practical tools and relevant use cases. This collaboration aims to strengthen policy capacity and foster informed adoption of AI across diverse sectors.

The office of the Special Envoy joined PS Korir SingOei in a pivotal meeting with Ambassador Salah S. Hammad of the African Union Commission. We explored partnerships to deepen collaboration with H.E. President William Ruto, focusing on leveraging emerging technologies to boost citizen engagement and counter misinformation. This builds on years of joint efforts and aligns with the AU's commitment to harness digital tools for democratic governance across the continent.

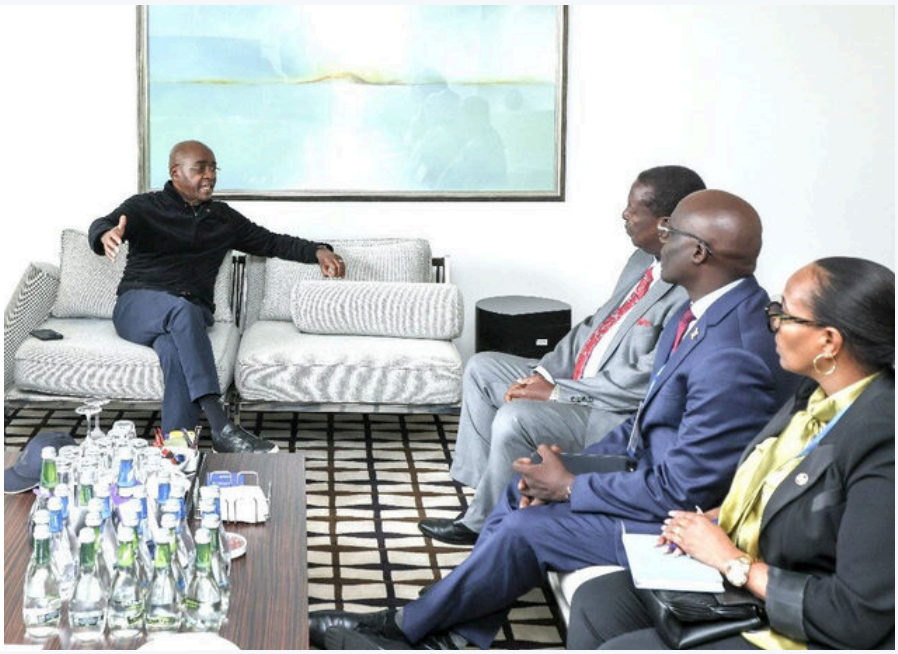




April

The office advanced discussions with Emmanuel Lubanzadio from OpenAI on expanding capabilities for African entrepreneurs and progressing our AI-powered negotiation training tool for diplomats.

The office of the special envoy, together with UNDP engaged in Strategic collaboration and preparations for the Global Trust Summit, and highlighted critical insights from this year's Human Development Report on AI threats to human agency.





The office Joined Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary in a productive bilateral with the World Economic Forum Managing Director Jeremy Jurgens to accelerate the establishment of a Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Kenya.



April

Advancing AI Trust & Safety with Anthropic
Had an insightful conversation with Elizabeth Kelly, Vice President of Policy at Anthropic, on deepening collaboration with the Kenya AI Ecosystem—particularly around Trust and Safety frameworks.

This dialogue, held at the margins of the WEF Global Technology Forum, reflects our shared commitment to shaping AI systems that are responsible, inclusive, and aligned with public interest values.



The office joined the Principal Secretary, DR. Korir Sing'oei in a bilateral meeting with the United Nations Resident Coordinator. The discussions encompassed various topics, including the vision of positioning Nairobi as a hub for 'Techplomacy,' reflecting our commitment to integrating technology and diplomacy to drive sustainable development.

Dialogue on Strengthening Kenya–Germany Cooperation in Technology and Digital Policy:

Met with Maria Adebahŕ from Germany's Federal Foreign Office to reinforce our shared commitment to sustainable digital transformation, responsible emerging tech, and multilateral cooperation grounded in democratic values.



April

GITEX AFRICA



The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology held a bilateral meeting with Morocco's Minister for Digital Transition on the sidelines of GITEX Africa to advance collaboration on digital governance. Discussions centered on AI policy alignment, joint research for SME innovation, and a proposed inaugural research convening in Morocco. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to open, transparent, and resilient digital transformation grounded in shared democratic values.

GITEX AFRICA

April

On the sidelines of GITEX Africa 2025, Kenya held bilateral talks with Uganda's Minister and PS for ICT to explore cross-border collaboration on compute infrastructure, regional talent pipelines, and interoperable data ecosystems. The discussions aimed to lay the groundwork for a shared East African Sovereign AI framework.





The Office of the Special Envoy held discussions with KAOUN International at GITEX Africa 2025 to explore Kenya’s deeper engagement in the AI Everything platform. The meeting underscored Kenya’s commitment to responsible emerging tech leadership, co-creation, and public-private collaboration across Africa.

April



The Office of the Special Envoy held discussions with Space42 on Kenya's strategic positioning for commercial space operations. Kenya's equatorial location, talent, and logistics infrastructure were highlighted as key assets for driving Africa's space economy.



April



The Office of the Special Envoy held bilateral discussions with Presight and UNECA to advance Kenya's leadership in Africa's sovereign AI development. Discussions focused on strengthening Africa's voice in global AI governance and enhancing data ecosystems to enable trusted, inclusive AI systems.

TThe Office of the Special Envoy engaged with the MIT Kuo Sharper Center on preparations for a Nairobi-based Currency Conference focused on reimagining Africa's payment systems. Discussions emphasized the need for inclusive, resilient platforms and cross-border data flows to enhance financial sovereignty and support small traders.



May

The Office of the Special Envoy held discussions with Timbuktoo on strengthening collaboration around critical and emerging technologies in Kenya. The meeting explored value propositions, partnership models, and innovation pathways to address public sector and multilateral challenges.





The Office of the Special Envoy held an exchange with OCP Group on Morocco's leadership in sustainable agriculture and green innovation. Discussions highlighted digital soil mapping, tailored fertilizers, and youth-led climate solutions as key strategies for advancing climate-smart agriculture in Africa.

May

The Office of the Special Envoy and the Rockefeller Foundation explored collaboration on using AI and frontier tech to expand energy access, focusing on smart grids, digital twins, off-grid storage, and clean energy innovation.





The Office of the Special Envoy engaged with Enda in New York on evolving its athlete wellness brand by integrating AI and genomic data, while outlining a 12–18 month roadmap to re-shore advanced footwear manufacturing to Kenya. The initiative aims to boost local innovation, job creation, and athlete resilience.

May

The Office of the Special Envoy held strategic discussions with Mozilla Foundation's Executive Director on co-creating inclusive, rights-based AI solutions tailored to Global South realities. The dialogue emphasized the role of open, equitable technology in strengthening public services and entrepreneurial ecosystems.





The Office engaged with the Digital Cooperation Organization to explore its new strategy for scaling startup ecosystems in growth markets. Discussions included a planned initiative—led with DCO and UNDP—to support 30 startups from the Global South in accessing capital and investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia.

May

At a high-level event hosted by the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation at the U.S. Supreme Court, the Office engaged with Justices Barrett, Jackson, and Sonia Sotomayor on AI's role in enhancing judicial access and equity. The conversation underscored the potential of AI to improve transparency, multilingual legal support, and justice delivery for underserved communities.

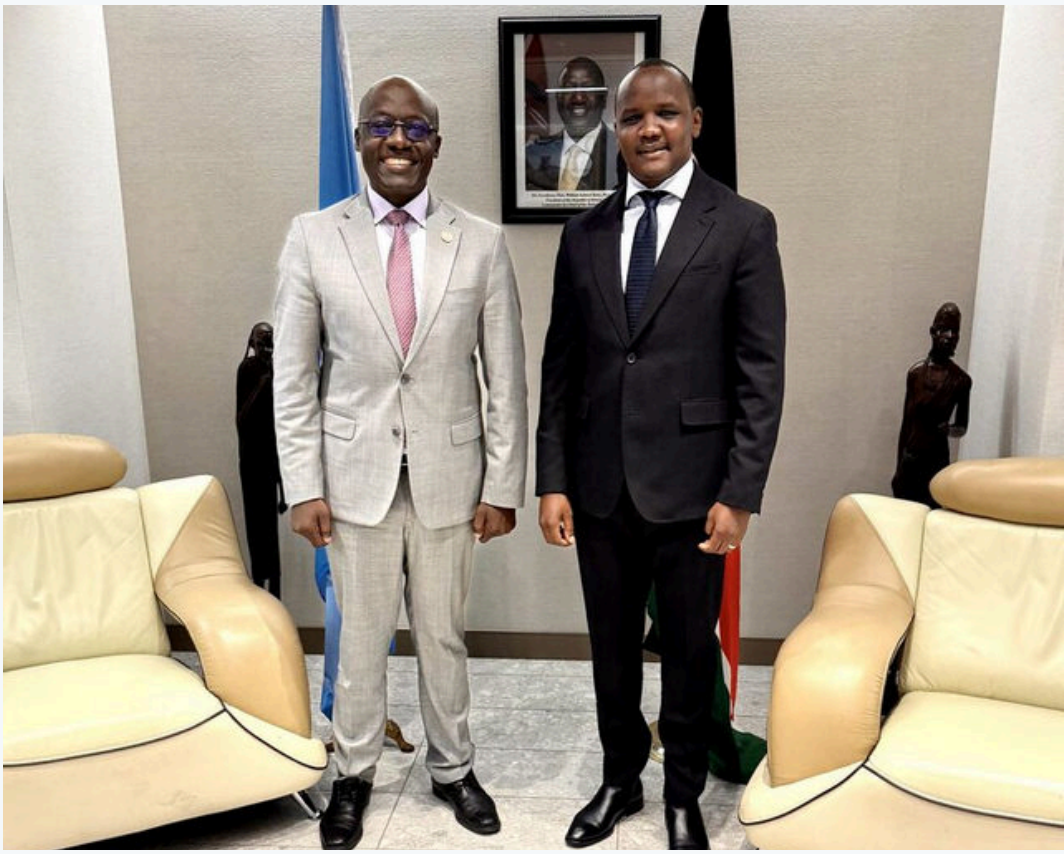




Pleasure connecting with Ambassador Chola Milambo during the UN STI Action Day to advance conversations on financing digital infrastructure for inclusive development. The Office reiterated Kenya's call for reforming the global financial architecture to support equitable access to AI-ready infrastructure.

May

Pleasure reconnecting with Ambassador Ekitela Lokaale, Kenya's Permanent Representative to the UN, for a strategic debrief on the many critical strands of negotiations around technology and Kenya's co-facilitation of the WSIS+20 review process. The Office commends the Mission's principled leadership in advancing a responsive and multilateral UN system amid complex negotiations.

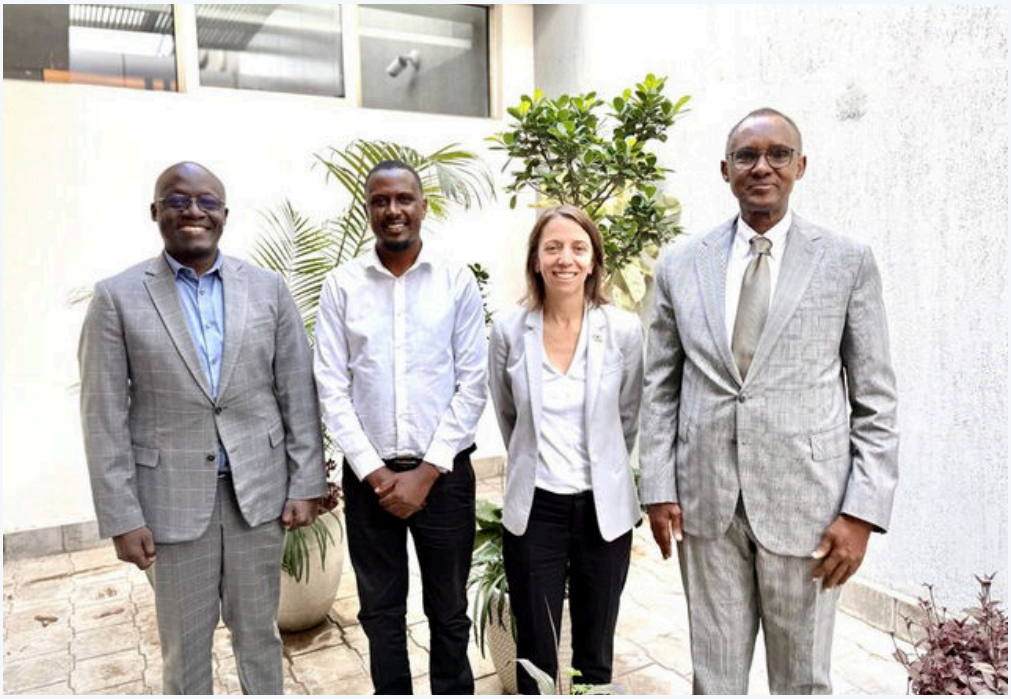




The Office of the Special Envoy held a strategic follow-up meeting with KAOUN International to discuss AI Everything Nairobi 2026—the first edition to be hosted outside the UAE. The convening presents a landmark opportunity for Africa to shape global AI discourse and drive impact across key sectors.

May

The Office of the Special Envoy, together with Ambassador Ali, met with One Carbon World to explore Kenya's leadership in building a high-integrity carbon economy. Discussions focused on scaling digital MRV tools, strengthening policy frameworks, and ensuring climate solutions are community-centred and globally credible.





The Office of the Special Envoy and Ambassador Ali met with RLabs Global to discuss scaling youth-centered innovations that restore dignity through digital livelihoods and entrepreneurship. The exchange highlighted shared priorities in advancing inclusive, community-driven development models.

May

The Office engaged Toyin Akinniyi, Africa VP at Luminate, in a strategic exchange on advancing safe, inclusive, and rights-based AI in Africa. The discussion emphasized the need for AI governance grounded in equity, ethics, and local realities.





Met with Nassima Ferahtia (Senior Investment Manager, EIC) and Yousef Yousef (EIC Board Member) at GITEX Berlin to explore leveraging EIC investment instruments for Kenya's innovation ecosystem. Agreed on concrete next steps with short-, medium-, and long-term milestones, including early-win timelines.

May

Held a strategic discussion with Meta’s VP for Africa, Kojo Boakye, on leveraging Meta’s ecosystem to boost SME growth, open-source AI applications, and public trust initiatives across Africa. Key focus areas included digital inclusion, localized AI solutions, and combating misinformation.





June

The Office of the Special Envoy held a courtesy meeting with Cisco Africa leadership to explore deeper collaboration on AI, cybersecurity, and tech talent development. Discussions highlighted ongoing initiatives such as the Edge Centre at the University of Nairobi and potential joint programs with the Foreign Services Academy. The Office affirmed support for positioning Nairobi as a regional hub for emerging technologies.

The Office of the Special Envoy held strategic discussions with the World Bank on accelerating AI innovation in Kenya's justice and health sectors through a value-chain lens. Key focus areas included enhancing data governance, fostering public-private partnerships, and empowering local innovators through capacity building.





June

The Office of the Special Envoy is co-curating the AI & Creative Economy track at the 2025 Global Trust Summit in Nairobi, themed Building Trust Through Creativity in the Intelligent Age. In collaboration with Derrick Ashong and Juliana Rotich, the session will explore safeguarding African cultural identity in AI, embedding real-time feedback, and designing inclusive, creator-centric AI and fintech solutions. The track aims to unite creatives, technologists, policymakers, and investors in shaping trusted, culturally-rooted AI systems.

In Rome, Amb. Philip Thigo held strategic discussions with Italy's Mattei Plan Task Force to explore a Sparkle submarine cable landing on Kenya's coast under the EU Global Gateway initiative. This partnership will strengthen Kenya's digital resilience, support its sovereign AI strategy, and accelerate regional integration. Grateful to the Embassy of Italy for their support and commitment.



June



At the AI Hub for Sustainable Development launch in Rome, I engaged with Cisco’s Africa Public Policy Director, Charmaine Houvet, continuing strategic conversations that began with Fran Katsoudas and the Cisco Africa leadership. We discussed advancing an inclusive tech ecosystem through cybersecurity training, public sector resilience, and upcoming tech diplomacy initiatives.



Strengthening Tech Bridges: California x Nairobi



Had a productive bilateral conversation with my good friend Vera Zakem, Chief Technology Innovation Officer for the State of California. Given California's global significance in driving cutting-edge innovation and emerging technology governance, we explored concrete ways to deepen collaboration, particularly how we can better "twin" Nairobi, Africa's leading technology hub, with California's vibrant tech ecosystem.

As the world grapples with both the promise and perils of emerging technologies, building trusted, values-driven, and inclusive partnerships is more urgent than ever. Looking forward to what we can co-create between Kenya and California across AI, digital public infrastructure, climate tech, and more.

June



Grateful for the insightful engagement with Peter Mulford, Global Chief Innovation Officer & Executive Vice President at BTS, and Kibugi Kigundu, Associate Director for IMEA and Country Lead for Kenya. Our conversation opened up a timely and strategic dialogue on how to position Africa—not just as a consumer of global innovation—but as a driver of it.

We explored how BTS, with its global expertise in leadership simulations and organizational transformation, can partner with our office to accelerate the continent's AI and digital future. From upskilling Chief Information Officers and senior leaders on AI-readiness to designing high-impact simulations that drive institutional agility, the potential for collaboration is vast and urgent.

We also discussed the opportunity to co-develop practical AI use cases that are rooted in Africa's unique challenges and aspirations, and how these can be scaled across value chains in both public and private sectors. Market failures were a key theme—alongside the importance of mobilizing financial partners to support national digital ambitions in countries such as Kenya, Egypt, South Africa, and Senegal.

BTS' active participation in the Techplomacy dialogue—where diplomacy meets technology—will be vital as we build trust-based frameworks for AI governance and responsible innovation. With my upcoming trip to San Francisco, we look forward to continuing this conversation in person and moving on actionable next steps.



Thought Leaderships

February

The Office co-hosted the OSPOs for Good Conference with the UN and the German Government, launching the OSPOs for Good initiative and publishing the 2024 Report. The report captured best practices and recommendations for leveraging open source to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in the Global South.



March

The Office, through Amb. Philip Thigo, MBS participated in the Future of Science Communication in the Age of AI, sharing insights on how tools like GPT-4, DeepSeek, and Gemini are transforming how scientific knowledge is created and shared. While these tools improve access and understanding, the Office emphasized the importance of addressing ethical concerns, bias, and misinformation. It called for AI-driven communication to remain secure, inclusive, and trustworthy. The panel featured Juliana Rotich and was moderated by Hon. Michael Onyango.





African Children Pre-Summit – Seen, Heard and Engaged

The Office opened the African Children Pre-Summit, where children raised bold questions on education reforms, affordable technology, online safety, and inclusion. Amid climate urgency and digital growth, the Mtoto News Strategic Plan (Platforms, Learning, Access, Yield, Evidence) guided by Safety by Design, aims to build unity and equity. Children called for safe digital spaces, accessible education, and support to lead Africa's future.

April



AMB. Philip Thigo, from the office Delivered the keynote at the UNESCO CIO Africa by dx[5] Women and AI Conference, emphasizing the urgency of inclusive, anticipatory AI governance. Amid rapid tech advances, inclusive AI policymaking is essential—addressing bias, gender gaps, and funding inequities to empower women in shaping our digital future. Called for empowering women in AI as essential to shaping a safe, sustainable, and trustworthy digital future.

Amb. Philip Thigo through the office Delivered a keynote at the invitation of Open Society Foundations on how emerging technologies like AI are reshaping economies and democracies. Emphasized the opportunity to reimagine equitable futures amid disruption, grounded in shared purpose and societal resilience.



April

The office delivered the keynote at the 2025 INAET Conference in Nairobi, highlighting Kenya's Geo-AI for Energy Planning initiative that is transforming energy access through data-driven planning. Emphasized how digital infrastructure and smart technologies can fast-track universal electrification while aligning with climate and economic resilience goals.



The office Set the context for Kenya's high-level dialogue on integrity and trust in carbon markets, emphasizing the role of Digital MRV, AI, and Geo-AI in ensuring transparency, equity, and global alignment. Highlighted Kenya's positioning as a regional leader in high-integrity carbon credits that deliver fair value to communities and support national development.



April

Governing Technology in an Era of Uncertainty and Opportunity

At the ISACA forum, Amb, Philip Thigol spoke on the critical theme of governing technology in an era of uncertainty. And emphasized the urgent need for adaptive leadership and agile governance in the face of rapid digital transformation. He highlighted how emerging technologies are reshaping society, calling for inclusive, collaborative, and human-centered approaches to ensure a secure and trusted digital future for all.





At GITEX Africa, a keynote by the office of the special envoy, Amb. Phillip Thigo, on “The AI-Powered Path to Transparent and Active Government,” highlighted how Kenya is leveraging AI to advance justice reform, climate resilience, and inclusive governance. Emphasis was placed on ensuring AI development remains people-centered, ethical, and aligned with global equity and trust.

April

The Office of the Special Envoy moderated a session on “Harnessing AI for Prosperity in Global Growth Markets,” spotlighting inclusive, locally grounded AI innovation. Experts emphasized the need for ethical, contextually informed AI models to drive equitable development across emerging economies.

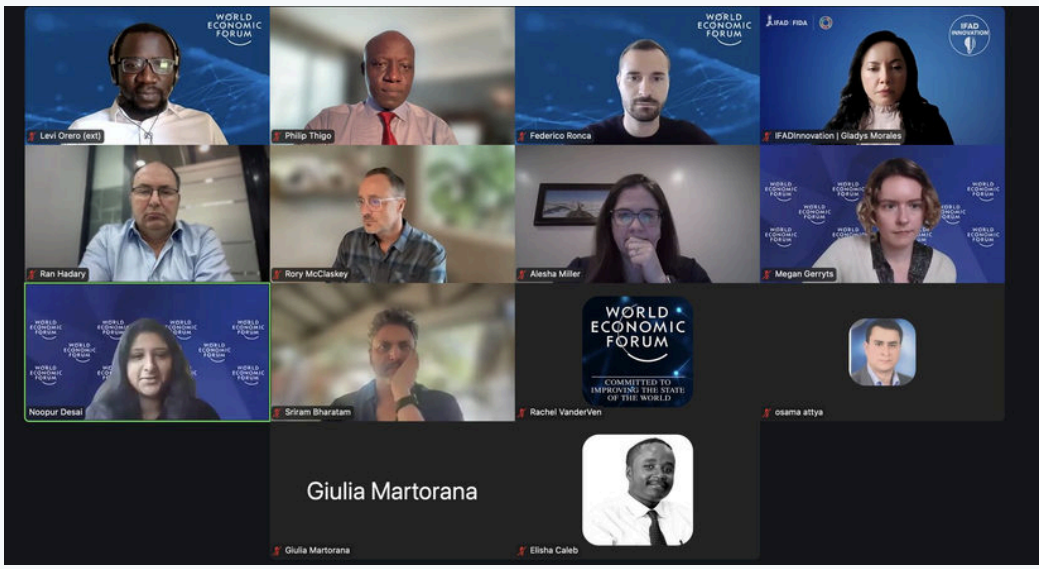




The Office of the Special Envoy participated in the opening panel on entrepreneurship and innovation at the “Growth Markets” forum, emphasizing Africa’s sovereign role in shaping the global digital economy. Discussions focused on transitioning the continent from consumption to creation, anchored in ownership of data, talent, infrastructure, and values-driven innovation.

April

The Office of the Special Envoy delivered opening remarks at the WEF Food Innovation Hubs' FIN Sprint on AI readiness in agriculture, highlighting Kenya's leadership in responsible data governance and digital innovation. The session showcased AI-driven solutions for water conservation at scale, crop yield optimization, and resilient food systems.





At the Global Citizen NOW Summit, the Office through Amb. Philip Thigo, alongside other panelists, addressed how youth- and women-led enterprises are driving Africa's growth through culturally rooted innovation. It emphasized AI's role in dismantling barriers, restoring dignity, and advancing a green, inclusive digital economy.

May

Honored to speak at ECOSOC's Special Meeting on AI at the UN, joining Dr. Rachel Adams for a fireside chat on emerging AI trends and the SDGs. The Office highlighted Kenya's leadership by outlining three key priorities: distributed AI capacity, trust by design, and equitable access through open models. With insights from global partners, the session reinforced the need for bold, values-driven AI leadership to accelerate the SDGs.



June



CONNECTED AFRICA SUMMIT, DIANI

At the Connected Africa Summit 2025 in Diani, the Office of the Special Envoy, through Amb. Philip Thigo moderated a high-level session on why foundational digital infrastructure must precede AI scale-up. The panel underscored that fibre, data centres, cloud ecosystems, and resilient energy systems are essential for inclusive AI deployment across Africa.



At the Connected Africa Summit 2025, Amb. Philip Thigo also moderated a ministerial roundtable on driving regional integration through digital policy and investment. Key outcomes included commitments to regular State of the Digital Economy dialogues, policy harmonization efforts, and a marketplace for private sector-led connectivity solutions.

June

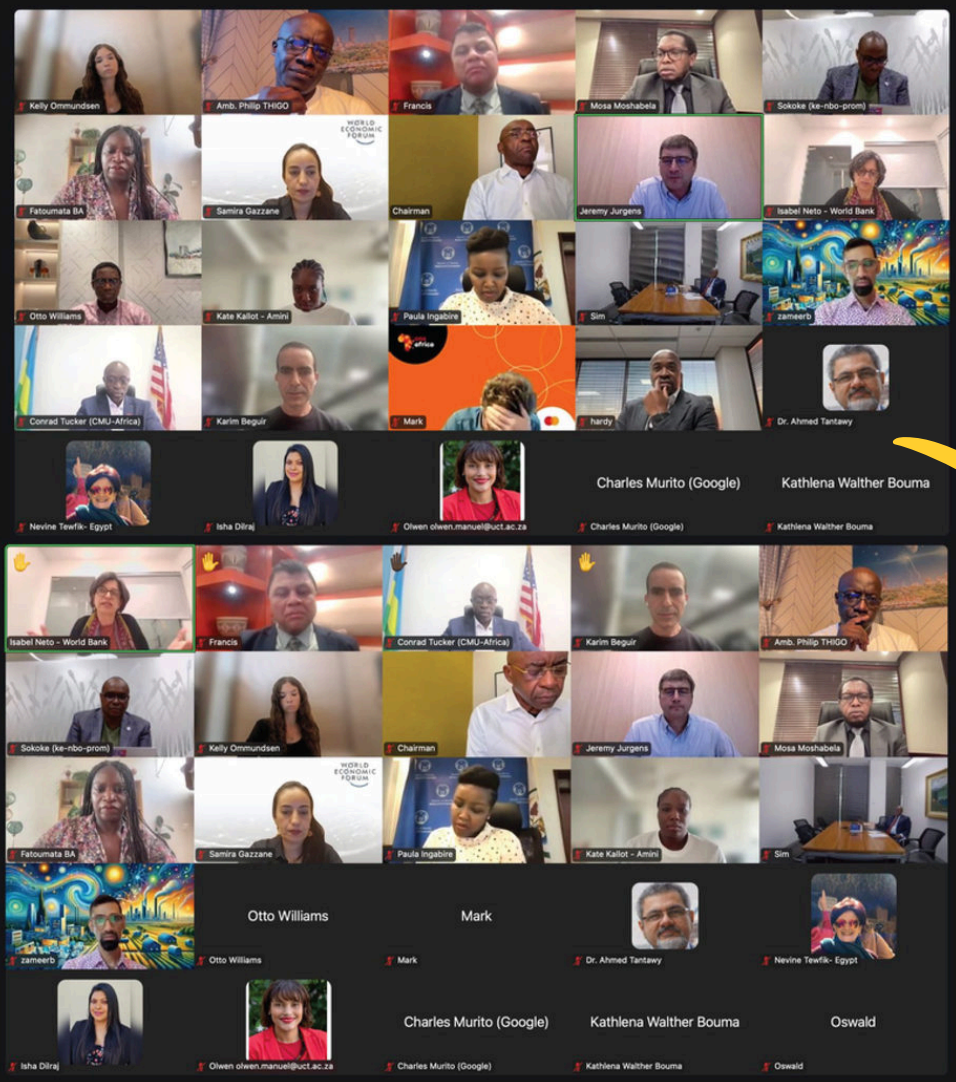


Honoured to have co-led two sessions at the WEF Global Technology Retreat in San Francisco. The first, Tangled Flows, explored how over $5T in tech trade and physical goods demand both national resilience and shared AI value chains. The second, Speed, Scale & Service, examined how citizen expectations are reshaping GovTech, underscoring the need for open data, shared infrastructure, and inclusive digital public goods.



The Office of the Special Envoy led a roundtable at the GIZ-UNEP East Africa Transboundary Environmental Data Sharing Workshop, convening 80+ experts from across the region. The session emphasized the use of standardized protocols, operational data tools, and incentive mechanisms to drive climate data sharing. A regional data marketplace was proposed to break silos and support real-time, cross-border climate action.

June



Accelerating Africa's AI Transformation

Honoured to deliver opening remarks alongside Minister Paula Ingabire of Rwanda at a high-level roundtable convened by Jeremy Jurgens, Managing Director of the World Economic Forum, and chaired by Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Executive Chairman of Econet Global and Cassava Technologies.

This session marks the launch of a bold, action-oriented initiative to accelerate Africa's AI transformation, focusing on building the infrastructure, talent, innovation ecosystems, and applications required to ensure AI becomes a driver of inclusive and sustainable growth on the continent.

As we emphasized, the time to act is now. The decisions we make today will shape Africa's technological and economic trajectory for generations. That is why strategic collaboration between governments and the private sector is vital—to democratize access to AI capabilities, tackle our development challenges, and unlock shared prosperity.

Africa must not only be a consumer of AI but also a co-creator of its future. I'm grateful to be part of this emerging coalition and look forward to working with partners across sectors to ensure that AI serves our people and our planet.

June



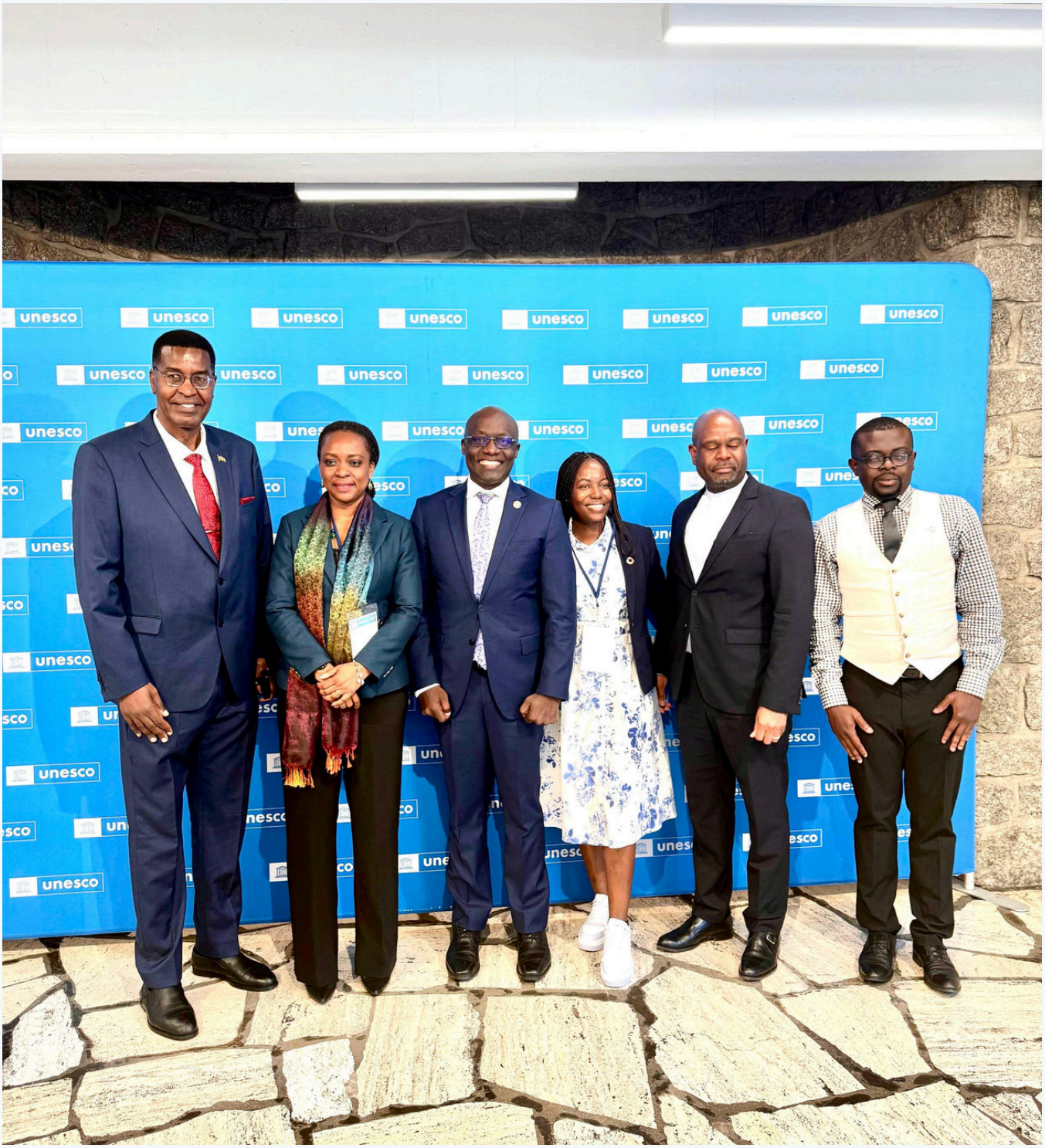
The Office of the Special Envoy co-hosted a high-level roundtable with SpaceAI and the GF2 SAIS Program to discuss transforming Kenya's dairy value chains through technology and farmer-centered insights. Key themes included AI-powered productivity, youth-driven agri-tech innovation, and improved nutrition and incomes. The convening emphasized scalable, inclusive solutions to unlock sustainable growth and strengthen cross-sector partnerships.



the Office of the Special Envoy convened a national Research Roundtable on "Collective, Responsive & Anticipatory Research-— Coordination at Scale to Advance Trust in Scientific Innovation in the Age of Intelligence."" to chart Kenya's sovereign, transdisciplinary research agenda for the age of intelligence. Key themes included AI fluency for policymakers, compute infrastructure readiness, and local talent development in experimentation, design, and innovation. The session reinforced the importance of coordination, data interoperability, and partnerships to advance Kenya's contributions to global research and policy frameworks.

June

At UNESCO’s Inaugural Tech Diplomacy Forum in Paris, Amb. Philip Thigo was honored to deliver the keynote on building trust through diplomacy in the age of innovation and geopolitical uncertainty. He highlighted the imperative for responsible governance, the evolving role of diplomats as norm-setters, and the opportunity of the Global Digital Compact to advance shared digital principles. Bridging divides in access, skills, and policy is vital to fostering global trust and inclusive digital cooperation.





Ongoing Initiatives



Data-Driven Electrification

At a glance

The Office of the Special Envoy has turned Kenya's patchwork of energy information into one living, nationwide picture. A Visual Decision-Intelligence Map now layers every ongoing and completed project, revealing service voids, overlaps, and the highest-return investment corridors at a glance. Beneath the map runs a National Data-Exchange Prototype—the first secure, multi-agency backbone linking REREC, KPLC, KenGen, EPRA, GDC, KETRACO, and NUPEA in real time. Together, these assets shift electrification from siloed guesswork to a single, evidence-based playbook—accelerating Kenya toward Vision 2030 and SDG 7.

NEXT MILESTONES

1. **Deploy an AI project-prioritisation engine to rank investments by equity and impact.**
2. **Develop a digital twin of the national grid for live scenario testing and rapid contingency planning.**

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY ON TECHNOLOGY



Digital Access to Justice

At a glance

A new National Policy Framework for AI in the Judiciary has hard-wired inclusion, transparency, and user-centred design into every digital justice initiative. Guided by this mandate, the team is assembling a Prototype Suite that pairs a multilingual large-language legal model with a digital litigant wallet and an AI case-triage engine. The result will be a justice pathway that speaks every major Kenyan language, guides users step by step, and channels cases to the right forum in record time—transforming courts from an administrative bottleneck into an accessible public service.

NEXT MILESTONES

1. Run live pilots in high-volume courts; track clearance rates, user satisfaction, and equity metrics.
2. Scale successful tools nationwide, supported by targeted training for judges and court staff.



Decision Intelligence Design Academy

At a glance

DIDA is Africa's first pipeline for decision-intelligent leadership. Its three-phase curriculum—Sense → Model → Act—blends data analytics, behavioural insight, and AI with context-rich assignments. A companion Negotiation Simulation Tool immerses diplomats and senior officials in high-stakes trade-offs, honing their ability to balance national priorities with global dynamics. Early cohorts have already applied these skills to refine Kenya's energy-planning road map and are now seeding the same methods across ministries.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

1. Triple the cohort size and embed DIDA modules in Kenya's civil service college.
2. Forge pan-African partnerships so decision intelligence becomes standard practice across governments and regional blocs.

INSTITUTE
OF DESIGN
& INNOVATION



School of AI Diplomacy

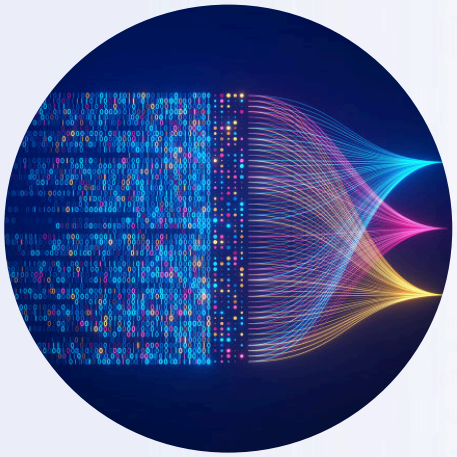
At a glance

Kenya is positioning its diplomats at the frontier of sovereign AI strategy. Participants complete an intensive AI Literacy & Negotiation Program—three days of technical deep-dive followed by six weeks of simulation-driven mastery—before graduating to a Cross-Border Data-Sharing Simulator that models the policy, legal, and technical trade-offs of real negotiations. Graduates are already influencing continental positions on AI ethics and data governance, giving Kenya a decisive voice in shaping emerging global norms.

NEXT MILESTONES

1. Roll out the curriculum in regional diplomatic academies and launch a fellowship that places AI-savvy diplomats in key multilateral institutions.
2. Integrate the simulator into AU and EAC negotiation prep, aligning national interests with continental agendas.

SAID
School of AI Diplomacy



Transboundary Environmental Data Flows

At a glance

In partnership with UNEP, OSET has mapped 146 critical datasets, profiled 90 + organisations, and co-designed EA-READY—a flagship cross-border early-warning system. The result is a Value-of-Data Framework, shared technical standards, a permanent Technical Working Group, and a Front-Line Fellowship for county disaster-risk officers. East Africa now has a blueprint for real-time, interoperable climate data that can cut disaster losses by up to 30 percent.

NEXT MILESTONES

1. Ratify the East Africa Data-Sharing Accord and stand up cross-border APIs.
2. Launch the three-country EA-READY flood-warning pilot and deploy the first cohort of fellowship officers.



AI Governance – Kenya's AI Statement of Principles

At a glance

Through a nationwide co-design, the Office crafted an eight-pillar AI Statement of Principles—from life-centred design and equity to transparency, security, and sustainability—anchored in global best practice and domestic law. Complementary mechanisms, including an AI incident registry and algorithmic-impact assessments, turn principles into enforceable guardrails. Kenya now offers a gold-standard template for inclusive, trustworthy AI in the Global South.

NEXT MILESTONES

1. Enshrine the principles in binding legislation and regulatory guidance.
2. Establish national and county Ethics Review Boards and a public AI incident registry.
3. Standardise algorithmic-impact protocols and roll out nationwide capacity-building.



AI Safety And Global Partnerships

At a glance

Over the past year we have shifted from ad-hoc safety checks to a recognised, ongoing programme that keeps advanced AI models honest, secure, and useful for everyone.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

1. Global test-bed in February. Our second joint exercise measured how well cutting-edge models handle many languages and fend off cyber-attacks. The results shaped new good-practice guidelines endorsed at the Action Summit in France.
2. Policy impact in May. At a GPAI workshop in Japan we spotlighted the practical hurdles facing the Global South; our evidence triggered a new work-stream on “fit-for-context” safety rules now being drafted.

WHERE WE ARE HEADED

1. Publish → Brief → Adopt. Release the new report, then walk regulators and multilaterals through key recommendations so our benchmarks feed directly into the next wave of international standards.
2. 24/7 Safety Hub. Stand up a Kenyan-led centre that runs continuous audits on every major model update and shares early-warning alerts with developers and watchdog agencies.
3. Launch RAISI – the Regional AI Safety Initiative. RAISI will unite leading labs across Africa in a shared risk-monitoring network, co-developing threat checklists, pooling red-team talent, and ensuring Global-South realities shape global AI-safety norms.

Media Coverage and Publications

Media Coverage and Publications

January

The Office was featured on Citizen Digital to discuss the role of AI in Kenya and the country's tech-focused foreign policy, emphasizing a safe, inclusive, and globally aligned approach to governance and innovation.https://youtu.be/LJ9eIumkOY8?si=TlqwWfFQ52w7Bqy-

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February

FRANCE 24 aired a feature on Kenya's AI ecosystem during the AI Action Summit in France, spotlighting its innovation, leadership, and global collaborations. The coverage underscored Kenya's growing role in shaping inclusive and ethical AI development.https://youtu.be/jvaqudFO3R0?si=hc3nZ_judn2wSDOU

The Office of the Special Envoy is proud to have contributed to the inaugural Foresight Africa Report by the Brookings Institution. The chapter, "Shaping Africa's Inclusive and Trustworthy Digital Future: How Kenya Is Reimagining Technology Leadership," highlights Africa's transition from a consumer to a global creator of technology, especially in the era of AI and shifting geopolitical landscapes.

The Office of the Special Envoy appreciates Africanews for highlighting the transformative potential of AI in Africa during an interview on the margins of the France AI Action Summit. The segment underscored the importance of linguistic diversity and how AI models can open new opportunities for entrepreneurs, students, and businesses across the continent. Africa News

The Office of the Special Envoy on Technology, in an interview with CIO Africa by dx^5, reflected on the #AIActionSummit in Paris, emphasizing the need for inclusive, trustworthy AI and stronger global cooperation. The interview called for African nations to lead in shaping a Sovereign AI Future, ensuring AI works for all.https://cioafrica.co/why-africa-must-define-its-own-ai-future/

The Office co-authored an article with Cabinet Secretary Hon. William Kabogo, emphasizing Kenya's leadership in shaping an inclusive AI future. The piece reflects Kenya's commitment to equitable AI, as highlighted at the Paris AI Action Summit. (Nation Africa

In a BBC News Daily segment hosted by Alan Kasujja, we discussed why AI sovereignty in Africa is not optional but essential. The conversation highlighted the need for African-developed AI systems that reflect our values, cultures, and aspirations. From data sovereignty and local talent investment to protecting linguistic diversity and building inclusive infrastructure, the vision is clear: AI for Africans, by Africans, and shared with the world.BBC News

March

The office recently spoke with Apolitical on a pressing question: Who gets to shape the future of AI, and why does it matter? AI can transform societies, but only if its development is inclusive and equitable. This goes beyond technology—it's about people, representation, and building systems that work for everyone. Apolitical

The office, through Amb. Philip Thigo's viewpoint for The Brookings Institution highlights Kenya's leadership in harnessing emerging technologies while championing responsible and inclusive governance."Africa must transition from being just a consumer of technology to becoming a global creator and shaper of it."https://www.brookings.Brookings Institution/articles/shaping-africas-inclusive-and-trustworthy-digital-future-how-kenya-is-reimagining-technology-leadership/

The Office participated in the Future of Science Communication Forum in Nairobi, emphasizing the need to embrace AI as a tool for inclusive innovation while addressing ethical and misinformation risks. Kenya's proactive efforts, including the upcoming AI Strategy and School of AI Diplomacy, position it as a leader in shaping a responsible AI future. People's Daily highlighted this critical conversation: People's Daily

Italian Undersecretary Fausta Bergamotto visited Kenya to strengthen ties in AI, innovation, and digital transformation, meeting Ambassador Philip Thigo to advance the AI Hub for Sustainable Development. She joined the Compute Dialogues, highlighting Kenya's role as a future compute hub, and engaged with startups and Smart City projects, reinforcing Italy's commitment to Africa's digital future. This was captured by different media: K24 TV, 47 Citizen TV, KTN, Sauti TV Kenya, Moja, KBC, Business Ansa News, decode39 Milano, chronicles corrieredelleconomia mimit.gov

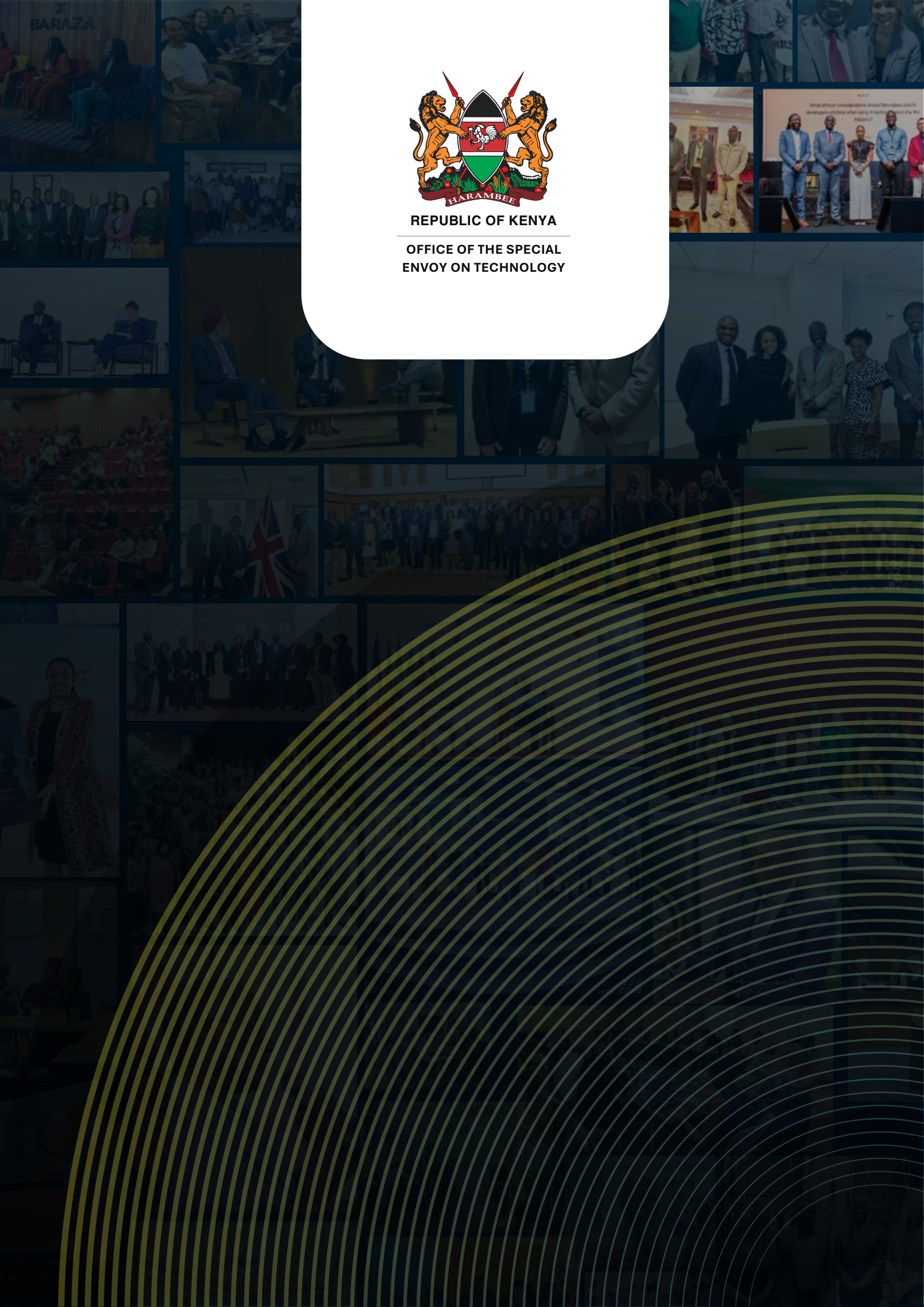
June

In a special episode of Voices of Africa, Philip Thigo joins Marie Wilke of Africa Practice to discuss Africa's evolving role in the global digital revolution. The conversation highlighted how strong policies, partnerships, and context-driven data can deliver equitable digital development across Africa.https://youtu.be/IkVqnxnvsbU?si=hzn4BI8tp-ONYfKB

A new IRM report highlights Kenya's progress as a long-standing OGP member, showcasing efforts by government and civil society to expand access to information, reform public procurement and beneficial ownership, and enhance civic participation and parliamentary openness.https://www.opengovpartnership.org/kenyas-open-government-journey/

In its latest OGP action plan, Kenya is advancing Open Contracting reforms to promote transparency, tackle corruption, and reduce inequality. By digitizing the public procurement system and enhancing access for marginalized groups, the government aims to ensure more inclusive participation in public contracting and foster a resilient, equitable economy.https://www.opengovpartnership.org/kenya-inclusive-public-procurement-story/





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