



DEVOLUTION  
CONFERENCE  
2025

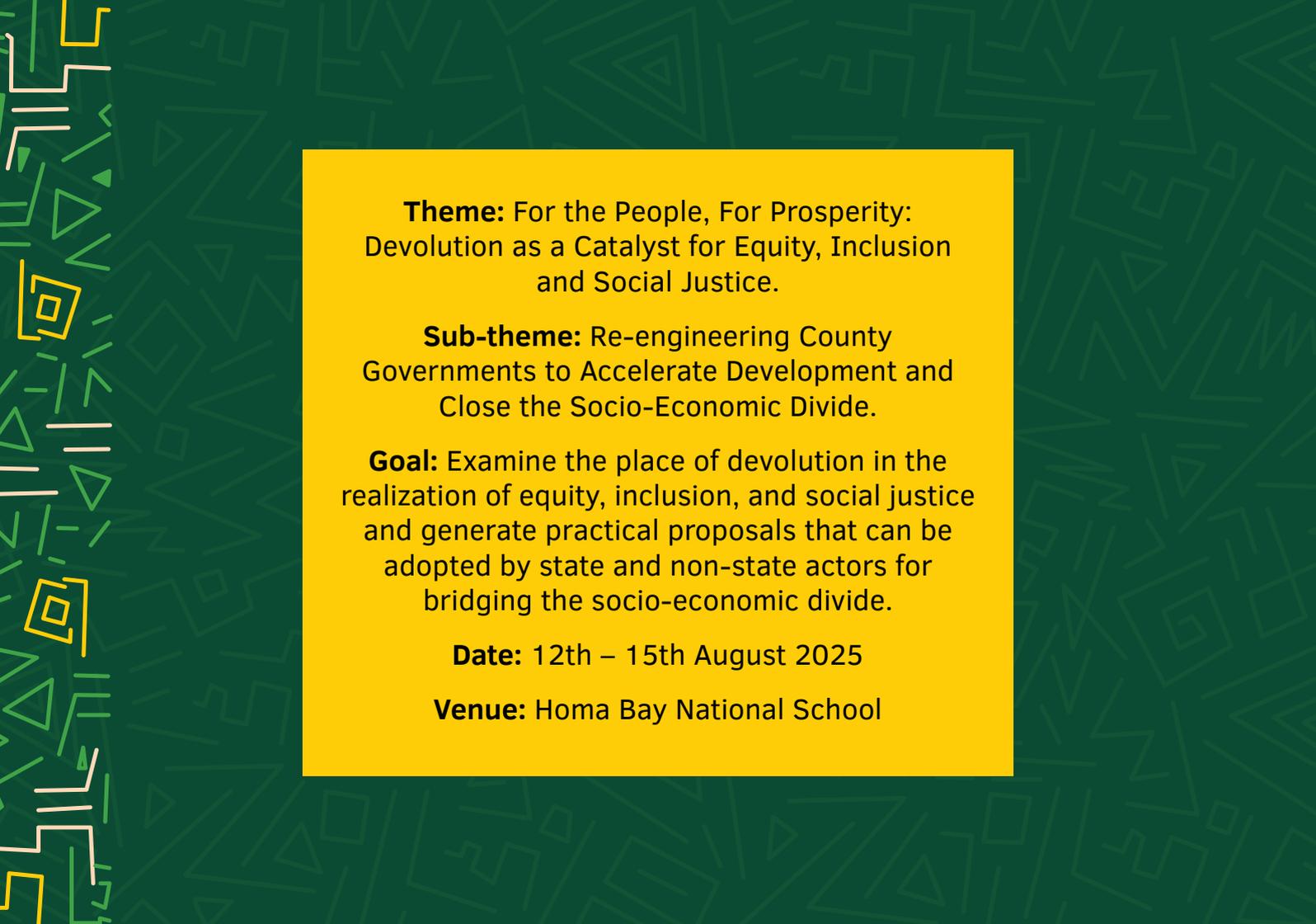


**PROGRAMME**

**DEVOLUTION  
CONFERENCE 2025**

**12<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025**

**HOMA BAY COUNTY**



**Theme:** For the People, For Prosperity:  
Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion  
and Social Justice.

**Sub-theme:** Re-engineering County  
Governments to Accelerate Development and  
Close the Socio-Economic Divide.

**Goal:** Examine the place of devolution in the  
realization of equity, inclusion, and social justice  
and generate practical proposals that can be  
adopted by state and non-state actors for  
bridging the socio-economic divide.

**Date:** 12th – 15th August 2025

**Venue:** Homa Bay National School

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## Message from the Chair, Council of Governors

**O**n behalf of all the 47 Governors, it is my honor to say karibuni to the Devolution Conference 2025. This year, we focus on equity, inclusion and social justice- in development and in service delivery. Our country is grappling with unequal resource distribution, economic imbalances, and social exclusion of vulnerable populations. Therefore, the discourse in this year's conference will examine how County Governments, in collaboration with the National Government, can: expand the economy to accommodate the young people; improve accessibility and availability of healthcare, education, housing and other public goods; and eliminate poverty and existing systemic vulnerabilities. My desire is that the communique that is read on 15th August will contain practical and actionable policy, legislative, institutional and administrative measures that can be adopted to realize the promises of Article 174 of the Constitution of Kenya. May we dwell in unity, peace and liberty and may plenty be found within our borders- for the people and for prosperity!

**Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH**  
Chairperson, Council of Governors



**The 2025 Devolution Conference focuses on equity, inclusion, and social justice – for the people and for prosperity.**



## Message from the Host Governor

This August, all roads lead to Homa Bay County. It is with profound humility and immense gratitude that we, the people of this great County say to you delegates- machiegni uru! There is a saying here that goes- welo kelo chiemo! The Devolution Conference has profiled Homa Bay County nationally and contributed remarkably to the boost of the local economy. I am aware that the program will be packed with insightful discussions. Nevertheless, I cordially invite all conference attendees to take time and explore the sights and sounds of our County. Visit the pier for an unforgettable sunset; book a guided tour across the islands; take a game drive in Ruma National Park and enjoy the savory traditional cuisines. I thank the County Executive and County Assembly teams for their tireless efforts in ensuring that we offer a memorable experience to all our visitors. My heartfelt appreciation goes to the members of the Steering and Planning Committees- your commitment and sacrificial service has been admirable. I wish you all a wonderful time in Homa Bay County!

**Governor Gladys Wanga, EGH**  
Homa Bay County



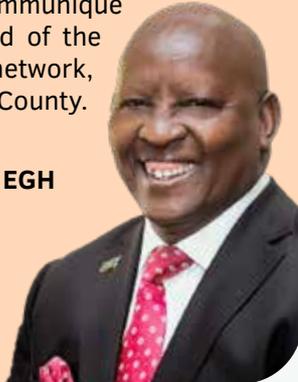
This August, all roads lead to Homa Bay County – where insightful discussions meet breathtaking sights, rich culture, and unforgettable experiences.



## Message On Behalf of the Steering Committee

**W**elcome to Devcon 2025! This year, the conference experience will be different- but exceptional! We will have exciting side-events, allowing the delegates to engage in a myriad of discussions around the conference theme and sub-theme. I am delighted to inform all participants that side-events are being hosted by a mix of stakeholders- government ministries and agencies; civil society organizations; private sector; development partners; and professional associations. Each day of the conference has been designated a thematic area to focus the discussions so that a refined joint communique can be generated at the end of the event. Please take time to network, learn and explore Homa Bay County. Warwakou!

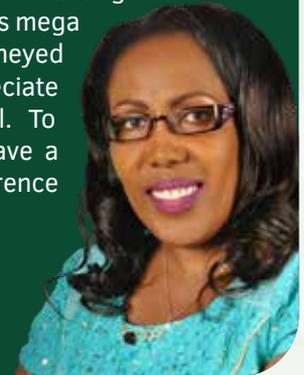
**Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, EGH**  
Vice Chair,  
Council of Governors



## Message On Behalf of the Planning Committee

**I**t's finally here- Devcon 2025! This week is a culmination of months of meticulous coordination and planning aimed at delivering unforgettable memories for all attendees. Other than contributing to the vibrant discourses in the overall plenums and side-events, I implore all delegates to take some time and visit the pavilions and exhibition booths which will offer a unique learning experience. I would like to sincerely thank the Steering Committee that provided strategic guidance to the preparations of the conference. Also, to the entire planning team- comprising of internal and external personnel- thank you for your committed and outstanding service towards organizing this mega event. Our partners who journeyed with us until the end- we appreciate you and we remain grateful. To all our delegates- may you have a wonderful time at the conference and see you again in 2027!

**Mary Mwitwi, EBS**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Council of Governors



## **A DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE- THE JOURNEY!**



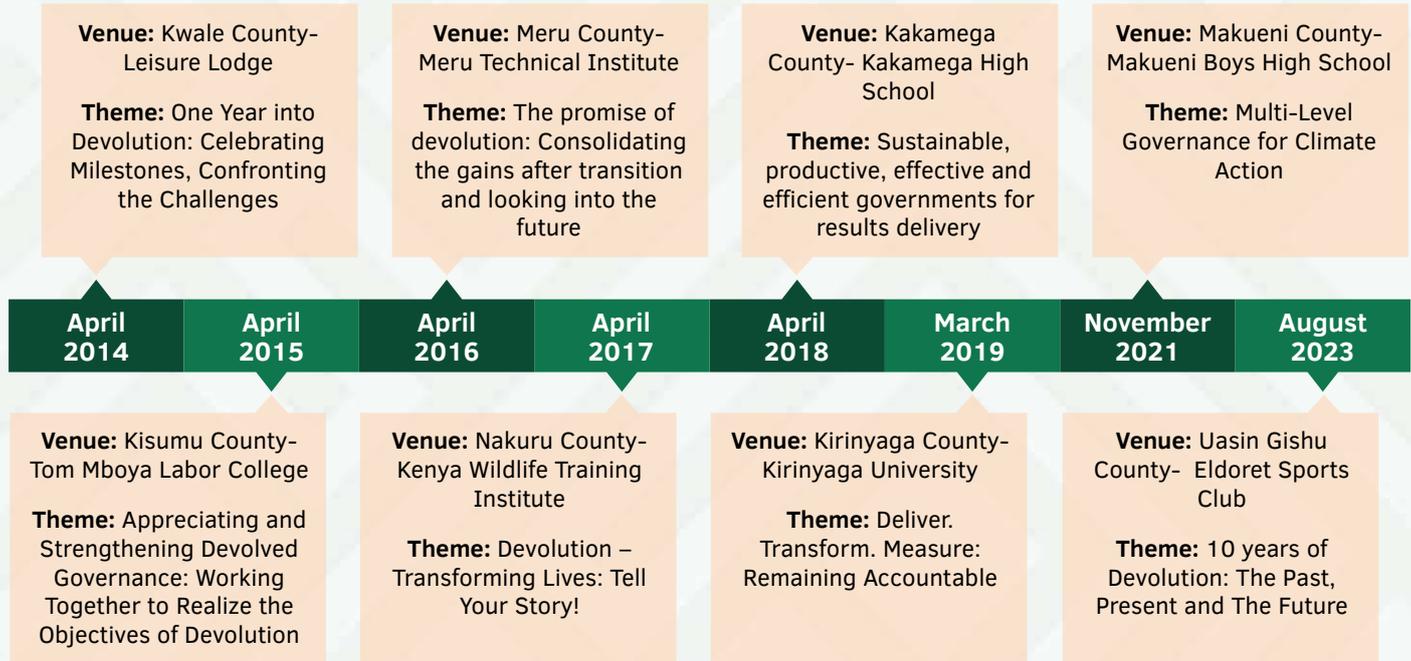
**The Devolution Conference has evolved into a powerful platform for shaping policy, evaluating progress, and fostering innovation in county service delivery – while boosting local economies and enabling peer-to-peer learning across the devolved system.**



**T**he Council of Governors (CoG), in collaboration with partners, has hosted eight (8) Devolution Conferences in various parts of the country. Attracting domestic and international delegates, the conference has been known to shape devolution's policy and legislative environment through the Joint Communique that is generated at the end of each event. It has become an instrumental platform through which stakeholders can evaluate the progress made in the performance of the fourteen (14) devolved functions.

The plenums, breakaway sessions and exhibition booths facilitate deep reflections and conversations on the milestones, challenges and opportunities experienced in implementing the devolved system of the governance. The event has proved to be a powerful platform for networking and peer to peer learning on innovations and best practices emerging in service delivery at the County level. Worthy of noting also is that over the years, the Conference has become a real economic booster for communities in the host Counties. All the conference reports can be accessed at <https://maarifa.cog.go.ke/reports>

The first seven (7) conferences were held annually, with the Eldoret event ushering the biennial convening of the conference. Indeed, after two (2) years, 2025 is due to host the mega event. Previous conferences were held and themed as below:



## **B GUIDING CONFERENCE THEME, SUB-THEME, OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**



**The 2025 Devolution Conference is a timely call to action — placing equity, inclusion, and social justice at the heart of governance. It's about re-engineering county governments to bridge socio-economic divides and deliver prosperity for all.**



The selection of the focus areas for the 2025 Devolution Conference is driven by the pressing need to address equity, inclusion, and social justice in Kenya, the region and the world. Recent global and national discussions have exposed persistent socio-economic disparities, challenges in accessing essential services and economic opportunities, and inadequate participation in governance. ‘Reducing inequality within and among countries’ is Goal 10 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)- cementing the importance of state and non-state actors in sealing socio-economic and political differences amongst populations. Through high-level plenary sessions, sectoral discussions, and side events, the conference will explore actionable solutions that can enhance inclusivity and prosperity.

## THEME

For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice.

## SUB-THEME

Re-engineering County Governments to Accelerate Development and Close the Socio-Economic Divide.

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To assess the role of devolution in promoting equity, inclusion and social justice; and provide an exploratory platform for consultations and dialogue on how devolved governance can be designed to accelerate development and close the socio-economic divide.

### The Specific Objectives of the Devolution Conference are:

- 1** To assess the extent to which devolution has promoted equity and equality in socio-economic development and service delivery by comprehensively examining the successes and challenges therein.
- 2** To identify strategies that can be employed by subnational governments to promote inclusion and social justice and particularly protection of the rights of marginalized and minority groups, the youth, women and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).
- 3** To identify collaborative strategies that promote good governance, transparency, and accountability in subnational governance in order to build public trust and enhance service delivery.
- 4** To discuss innovative approaches that can accelerate economic growth at the local level in order to close the socio-economic divide.
- 5** To facilitate networking, learning and exchange of ideas amongst stakeholders.

## C PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

The following pre-conference activities are scheduled as follows:

1. **9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> August:** Badge Collection at Homa Bay Primary School
2. **10<sup>th</sup> August:** Pre-marathon concert at Ruma National Park
3. **11<sup>th</sup> August:** Roan Marathon at Ruma National Park, Cycling, Skating and performances.
4. **12<sup>th</sup> August:** Football at Tom Mboya University; Canoe Rigatta (boat racing) and Ajua- at the Pier

## D DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE THEMATIC DAYS- IT'S SHOW TIME!

### a) Day 1: Good Governance Day - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

The aim of the *Good Governance Day* is to provide an opportunity to address the mainstreaming of principles of good governance and inclusive development in day to day operations of subnational governments. Delegates will have vibrant discussions on the strategies, plans of action and priorities that need to be adopted by devolved units with the ultimate goal of positioning local and County Governments as centers of excellence in service delivery.

The Good Governance Day includes:

- **Morning:** High-level Overall plenum for two (2) hours
- Official Opening with **H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander- in-Chief of the Defence Forces**

• **Afternoon:** Side events on Good Governance, focusing on the following sub-sectors:

- Public Participation
- Citizen and community engagement
- Social accountability
- Citizen oversight
- Civic education
- Transparency
- Rule of law

### b) Day 2: Human Rights and Social Justice Day - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

The *Human Rights and Social Justice Day* will focus on the mainstreaming of socio-economic, political, civil and cultural rights; and social justice principles of access to resources, inclusion, equality and diversity- in subnational governance. The participants will be able to reflect on the challenges that have been experienced so far in entrenching the human-rights

based and social justice approach in governance and actions will be agreed on to place County and local governments at the center of realization of human rights.

The Human Rights and Social Justice Day includes:

- **Morning:** Overall plenum for two (2) hours
- **Morning and Afternoon:** Side events on Human Rights and Social Justice, focusing on the following sub-sectors:
  - **Civil and political rights:** right to participate in civil and political life without discrimination
  - **Cultural rights:** right to participate in cultural life, education, scientific research, and copyright
  - **Economic rights:** rights that focus on the well-being of individuals and communities through economics, social services, and cultural expression.
  - **Social Justice:** access to resources and public goods by all citizens, inclusivity in governance and diversity in public service.
- Evening Closing with **Rt. Hon. Former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH**

### c) **Day 3: Financing Equity and Inclusion Day - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**

The aim of the *Financing Equity and Inclusion Day* is to trigger candid conversations on allocation of resources to address systemic inequalities and

promoting fairness in the access of finances by all. The discussions will be two-fold:

- Examining access to finance by potential entrepreneurs- the role of subnational governments in promoting ease of doing business;
- Examining the division of revenue between national/central and devolved governments- strategies to guarantee equity and fairness.

The Financing Equity and Inclusion Day includes:

- **Morning:** Side events on Financing Equity & Inclusion, focusing on the following sub-sectors:
  - Access to finance by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
  - Consultation, cooperation and coordination in resource allocation
  - Pro-poor and vulnerability costing and financing
  - Development in marginalized areas
  - Sustainable financing
  - Financial prudence
  - Special Interest Group Funds- Youth Fund, Women Fund, etc
  - Access to procurement opportunities by special groups- AGPO
- **Mid-Morning:** Overall plenum for two (2) hours
- Official Closing with **H.E. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, EGH, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya**

## TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025 | PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

|                   |   |                        |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| 7.30 am – 6.00 pm | Arrival and Picking of Badges   | Conference Secretariat |
| 11:00 am-3:00 pm  | Pre-conference activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football, Wrestling, Ajua, Canoe Rigatta, Roan Marathon</li> </ul> | Conference Secretariat |

## DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025 | THEME OF THE DAY: GOOD GOVERNANCE

*Empowered Communities, Accountable Counties: Rebuilding the Foundations of Good Governance*

*Objective: To evaluate the extent to which devolved governments have entrenched good governance principles and propose actions that can be adopted to foster transparency, accountability and participatory decision-making for better service delivery at the local level.*

| Time              | Speaker/ Moderator   | Panelists   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 9.00 am- 10.30 am | <p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b><br/> <b>Amb. Henriette Geiger</b><br/>                     European Union (EU) Ambassador to Kenya</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b><br/> <b>Mr. Eric Latiff</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Governor Dr. Ochillo Ayacko, EGH</b><br/>Governor Migori County</li> <li><b>Mr. Joseph Mogosi Motari</b><br/>Principal Secretary, Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs</li> <li><b>Sen. Catherine Muyeka Mumma</b><br/>Nominated Senator</li> <li><b>Justice George Odunga</b><br/>Court of Appeal Judge</li> <li><b>Mr. Oliver Waindi</b><br/>Executive Director, Uraia Trust</li> <li><b>Mr. Brian Odongo</b><br/>Law Society of Kenya (LSK)</li> <li><b>Bishop Dr. David Oginde</b><br/>Chair, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)</li> </ol> |

| 10:30am -11:00am   | Commemoration of the Tree Growing Initiative and Unveiling of the Iconic Monument by:-<br><b>H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H.</b><br><b>President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander- in-Chief of the Defence Forces</b>   |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 10.30am- 11:00am   | <b>Rolling Videos:</b><br><b>1. Devolution Conference 2025 Documentary</b><br><b>2. Maarifa Centre documentary</b>   |  |
| Time               | Speaker  | Facilitator  |
| 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | <b>Official Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival of the President</li> <li>• Local entertainment</li> <li>• Tour of Exhibitions</li> <li>• Playing of the National Anthem &amp; East Africa Anthem</li> <li>• Opening Prayers (Christian and Muslim)</li> <li>• Remarks by Platinum Sponsor/s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kenya Commercial Bank</b></li> <li>• <b>Safaricom</b></li> <li>• <b>Jospong Group of Companies</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remarks by the Co-Chair of the Devolution Donor Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amb. Sebastian Groth, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kenya</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remarks by the Chairperson of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hon. Seth Mwatela Kamanza</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remarks by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Devolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Micheal Loikenu Lenasalon</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <b>Governor Stephen Sang</b><br>Governor, Nandi County and<br>Chief Whip, Council of Governors |

| Time               | Speaker   | Facilitator  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remarks by Host Senator               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sen. Moses Kajwang', M.P.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Welcoming Remarks and recognition of local leaders by Host Governor               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Governor Gladys Wanga, EGH</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Status on action points from the 2023 Devolution Conference and Introduction of the Devolution Conference Steering Committee               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Governor Dr. Mutahi Kahiga, EGH</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remarks by the National Assembly Speaker               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetangula, EGH, M.P.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remarks by the Speaker of the Senate               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, M.P.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Murang'a County Innovation showcase</li> <li>• Remarks by Chairperson, Council of Governors and recognition of the invited guests               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Official Opening               <p><b>H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H.</b><br/> <b>President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander- in-Chief of the Defence Forces</b></p> </li> <li>• Unveiling of The Council of Governors Devolution Institute (COG-DI)</li> <li>• Presentation of gift to H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya</li> <li>• Presidential Group Photo</li> </ul> | <p><b>Governor Stephen Sang</b><br/>           Governor, Nandi County and Chief Whip, Council of Governors</p> |

**1.00pm – 2.00pm Lunch Break**

**SIDE- EVENTS: 2:00pm - 4:00pm**



**MAIN  
HALL**

**Session:** Open Governance, Open Dialogue: Towards Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice in Devolved Governance

**Convenor:** Bajeti Hub



**TENT  
1**

**Session:** Advancing Social Equity, Inclusion, and Justice through Public Participation: The Strategic Role of Effective County Governance

**Convenor:** Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis



**TENT  
2**

**Session:** Accelerating Equitable Health Access Through Drone Technology and Innovative Partnerships

**Convenor:** Fly Zipline Kenya



**TENT  
3**

**Session:** Inclusive Pathways for Accelerating Implementation of the SDGs at the Devolved Levels

**Convenor:** Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya



**TENT  
4**

**Session:** Lessons from The Grave Through County MPDSR: Call to Action for Ending Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths by Upscaling Quality Maternal Care

**Convenor:** Inter County Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) Initiative



**TENT  
5**

**Session:** Performance Management: Restoring Trust and Excellence in County Governments

**Convenor:** GIZ

**SIDE- EVENTS: 2:00pm - 4:00pm**



**Session:** Health and Technology:  
Leveraging Emerging Technologies to  
Achieve Universal Health Coverage  
[UHC]

**Convenor:** Jacaranda Health



**Session:** Good Governance: Ensuring  
that Governance and Policies are  
Responsive To and Work for the  
Youth

**Convenor:** Shining Hope For  
Communities



**Session:** Participatory Multilevel  
Governance and Localization of  
SDGs: Cities and the Blue Economy  
& Community-led Social Housing in  
Urban Areas

**Convenor:** UN HABITAT



**Session:** Investment Ready Counties:  
Re-Engineering Systems for Shared  
Prosperity and Inclusion

**Convenor:** Kenya Private Sector  
Alliance



**Session:** Forest Sector Governance  
and the Journey Towards the  
Devolution of Forestry Functions to  
Counties for the Prosperity of Kenyans

**Convenor:** Kenya Forest Services



**Session:** Devolution@13 Citizens'  
perspectives

**Convenor:** Kenya Devolution Sector  
Working Group

**4:00pm- 4:30pm**

**End of Day 1**

Delegate Visits to the Booths and Pavilions  
Departure

## DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025 | THEME OF THE DAY: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

8.00 am – 8.30 am Recap of Day 1 by the Overall Facilitators

### *Leading at the Forefront: Subnational Governments as Protectors of Human Rights and Social Justice*

**Objective:** To reflect on the status- in subnational governance- of mainstreaming of socio-economic, political, civil and cultural rights and social justice principles of access to resources, inclusion, equality and diversity; and identify interventions that will place County and local governments at the center of realization of human rights.

| Time              | Speaker/Moderator  | Panelists   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 8:30 am- 10:30 am | <p><b>Keynote speaker:</b><br/> <b>Hon. Judith Pareno</b><br/>                     Principal Secretary<br/>                     State Department for Justice, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs, Office of the Attorney General</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b><br/> <b>Ms. Jaki Mbogo</b><br/>                     Chief of Party – UKAID REINVENT Programme</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Governor Hon. James Orenge, EGH</b><br/>Governor, Siaya County</li> <li>2. <b>Hon. Odhiambo, Millie Grace Akoth</b><br/>Member of Parliament, Suba North Constituency</li> <li>3. <b>Senator Wakili Hillary Kiprotich Sigei, CBS, MP</b><br/>Chairperson, Senate Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights</li> <li>4. <b>Hon. Rehema Jaldesa</b><br/>Chairperson, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)</li> <li>5. <b>Mr. Hussein Khalid</b><br/>Chief Executive Officer, VOCAL Africa</li> <li>6. <b>Hon. Dr. Willy Mutunga, EGH</b><br/>Former Chief Justice of the Judiciary</li> <li>7. <b>Ms. Ruth A. Bolo Okul</b><br/>Chairperson, Young Women Leaders Connect</li> </ol> |

**SIDE- EVENTS: 11:00am - 1:00pm**



**MAIN  
HALL**

**Session:** Closing The Gap: The Role of Digitization in Health Care in Promoting Social Equity, Justice and Inclusion

**Convenor:** Digital Health Authority



**TENT  
1**

**Session:** Digitalization of County Government Services to Enhance Efficiency, Productivity and Sustainable Growth

**Convenor:** The Institution of Engineers of Kenya



**TENT  
2**

**Session:** End to End Climate Resilient Planning in Kenya

**Convenor:** World Resources Institute



**TENT  
3**

**Session:** Affordable Housing Program

**Convenor:** Affordable Housing Board



**TENT  
4**

**Session:** Strengthening Intergovernmental Partnerships for Inclusive Development for Refugees and Host Communities

**Convenor:** Refugee Consortium of Kenya (inter-governmental)



**TENT  
5**

**Session:** Accelerating Agroecology Adoption Through Devolution: Advancing Inclusive Prosperity and People-Centered Development

**Convenor:** PELUM Kenya

**SIDE- EVENTS: 11:00am - 1:00pm**



**Session:** Strengthening Disability Inclusion in County Governments by Turning Policy Commitments Into Practical Actions.  
**Convenor:** National Council for Persons with Disabilities



**Session:** Powering Universal Health Coverage Through Community Health Partnerships in Kenya: CHU4UHC Approach  
**Convenor:** CHU4UHC



**Session:** Accelerating County-Led Solutions for Ending the Tripple Threat of New HIV Infections, Mistimed Pregnancies and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Among Adolescents  
**Convenor:** National Syndemic Diseases Control Council



**Session:** Reengineering Human Capital for Efficient and Effective Service Delivery in Collaboration With County Governments  
**Convenor:** Public Service Commission



**Session:** Unlocking the Future: Innovative Strategies for Nutrition Financing, Strategic Planning, and Transforming Children's Food Systems to End Malnutrition.  
**Convenor:** Ministry of Health



**Session:** Investing in the Future: Promoting Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development in the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB)  
**Convenor:** Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB)



**Session:** Knowledge, Data, Digitalization and Capacity Development: Training for Municipal Boards in Kenya on People-Centered Smart Cities  
**Convenor:** UN HABITAT

**1.00 pm – 2.00 pm: Lunch Break**

**SIDE- EVENTS: 2:00pm - 4:00pm**



**MAIN  
HALL**

**Session:** Rethinking Urban Expansion: Planning the Periphery for Equity and Inclusive Growth

**Convenor:** Africa Urban Lab



**TENT  
1**

**Session:** Digitizing Surgical Equity: An Innovation led Collaboration to Strengthen Access, Patient Safety, and Devolution

**Convenor:** Proximie Limited



**TENT  
2**

**Session:** Nourishing Kenya's Future: School Feeding as a Catalyst for County Development, Equity, and Economic Empowerment

**Convenor:** Food for Education



**TENT  
3**

**Session:** Financing Resilience of Cities and Communities: Sharing Insights and Learning About Support Opportunities

**Convenor:** GIZ



**TENT  
4**

**Session:** The Resilience Revolution: Polycentric Governance Systems for Climate Action Through Decentralized Lens for Inclusive Sustainable Development

**Convenor:** Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)



**TENT  
5**

**Session:** Leveraging ICT Infrastructure for Inclusive, Smart and Equitable Counties

**Convenor:** Technology Service Providers Association of Kenya

**SIDE- EVENTS: 2:00pm - 4:00pm**



**Session:** Advancing Inclusive, Accessible and Quality ECD Services through County-Level Coordination and Investment  
**Convenor:** ECD Network



**Session:** Bridging Gaps: Digital Health as a Driver and Enabler of Equity in Devolved Systems  
**Convenor:** Centre for Fiscal Affairs



**Session:** Catalyzing Food Systems Transformation through Youth Empowerment  
**Convenor:** Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)



**Session:** Sustainable Infrastructure & Urban Resilience; Promoting Equitable Development through Devolution  
**Convenor:** National Construction Authority



**Session:** Unlocking County Trade Potential by Strengthening Local Value Chains for Inclusive Growth  
**Convenor:** State Department for Trade



**Session:** Sparking Change, Saving Lives for Mothers and Babies: Lessons from Exemplar Facilities  
**Convenor:** AMREF



**Session:** Public Health Priorities for Cleaner and Safer Communities in Kenya  
**Convenor:** State Department for Public Health & Professional Standards

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>4.00pm – 5.30pm</b></p> | <p><b>Closing of Day 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival of Guest Speaker- Rt. Hon. Former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH</li> </ul>   |
|                               | <p><b>Session Facilitator: Governor Stephen Sang, Governor, Nandi County and Chief Whip, Council of Governors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remarks by the Senate Minority Leader, <b>Sen. (Rtd.) Justice Stewart Madzayo, CBS, M.P.</b></li> <li>• Remarks by the Senate Majority Leader, <b>Sen. Aaron Cheruiyot, MGH, M.P.</b></li> <li>• Remarks by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, <b>Hon. Aden Duale</b></li> <li>• Remarks by the Host Governor, <b>Governor Gladys Wanga, EGH</b></li> <li>• Remarks by the Prime Cabinet Secretary, <b>Hon. Musalia Mudavadi</b></li> <li>• Remarks, recognition and welcoming of the Chief Guest by <b>Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH</b>, Chairperson Council of Governors</li> <li>• Keynote address by <b>Rt. Hon. Former Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga, EGH</b></li> <li>• Presentation of Gift to the Chief Guest</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>7:00pm-9:00pm</b></p>   | <p><b>Host County Dinner</b></p>   |

**DAY 3 – FRIDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025 | THEME OF THE DAY: FINANCING EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

**8.00 am- 8.30am**

Recap of Day 2 by the Overall Facilitators

**SIDE- EVENTS: 8:30am - 10:30am**



**Session:** Financing Social Sectors for Equity and Inclusion at Devolved Level

**Convenor:** UNICEF



**Session:** County Energy Futures: LPG Infrastructure & Fiscal Planning in County Energy Strategy

**Convenor:** Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)



**Session:** Securing the Future: Financing Immunization for Resilient Health Systems

**Convenor:** HENNET



**Session:** Strengthening Ecosystem Collaboration and Public Private Partnerships for Improved Financing and Investment in Healthcare Across Kenyan Counties

**Convenor:** Open Phences



**Session:** Empowering MSMEs through Sustainable Financing and Market Linkages

**Convenor:** Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry



**Session:** Scaling Foundational Learning: Building Inclusive and Resilient Early Childhood Education Systems Together

**Convenor:** INSPIRED-EDT

**SIDE- EVENTS: 8:30am - 10:30am**

**TENT  
6**

**Session:** Financing People-Centred Health: The Role of PFM in Delivering Quality Healthcare in Devolved Units

**Convenor:** AMREF

**TENT  
7**

**Session:** Advancing Equity and Social Justice Through Devolved Climate Action: Community-Led Adaptation as a Tool for Equity

**Convenor:** FLLoCA

**TENT  
8**

**Session:** Integrated Urban and Territorial Planning, Management, Investment And Finance: Sustainable Mobility Panel

**Convenor:** UN HABITAT

**TENT  
9**

**Session:** Advancing Human Rights and Social Justice through Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Services in Kenya

**Convenor:** Clinton Health Access Initiative

**Sealing the Fault Lines: Strategies for Action in Financial Inclusivity**

**Objective:** To examine the role of subnational governments in promoting access to financial opportunities in order to address systemic economic inequalities and disparities.

| Time               | Speaker/Moderator   | Panelists   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 10:45 am- 12:30 pm | <p><b>Keynote speaker:</b><br/><b>Dr. Abraham Rugo</b><br/>Executive Director Bajeti Hub</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b><br/><b>Ms. Wangari Muikia</b><br/>Managing Director, Expertise Global</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Governor FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW</b><br/>Chairperson, CoG Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee</li> <li><b>Hon. Aden Duale</b><br/>Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health</li> <li><b>Senator Oketch Eddy Gicheru</b><br/>Chair, Senate Committee On Roads, Transportation &amp; Housing</li> <li><b>Hon. Samuel Atandi</b><br/>Chair, National Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee</li> <li><b>Hon. Chege Mwaura</b><br/>Secretary General, County Assemblies Forum (CAF)</li> <li><b>Ms. Nyabenyi Tito Tippo</b><br/>FAO Representative in Kenya (a.i)</li> <li><b>Ms. Fridah Githuku</b><br/>Head of Programme, Women's Rights Irene M. Staehelin Foundation</li> </ol> |

**Closing Ceremony**

12:30 p.m-2:30pm

Presentation of the joint communique

Co-chairs of the Devolution Conference  
Steering Committee

**Closing Ceremony**

**Session Facilitator: Governor Stephen Sang, Governor, Nandi County and Chief Whip, Council of Governors**

- Remarks by the Speaker of Homa Bay County Assembly  
**Hon. Polycarp Ouma Okombo**
- Remarks by the National Assembly Majority Leader  
**Hon. Kimani Ichung'wah, CBS, M.P.**
- Remarks by the Host Governor  
**Governor Gladys Wanga, EGH**
- Vote of thanks by the Whip, Council of Governors  
**Governor Stephen Sang**
- Remarks by the Cabinet Secretary of The National Treasury  
**Hon. John Mbadi**
- Remarks and Invitation of the Deputy President by Chair, Council of Governors  
**Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH**

**Official Closing of the Devolution Conference 2025 by H.E. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, EGH  
Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya**

- Video on the Model School Feeding Policy
- Launch of the Model School Feeding Policy
- Presentation of gift to H.E. the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya

2.30 pm - Late Lunch

**DAY 5 – SATURDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025 | DEPARTURE**

## **E PAVILLIONS AND EXHIBITION BOOTHS- VISIT AND LEARN!**

These are dotted with a myriad of exhibitors- Counties, National Government agencies, financial institutions, MSMEs, CSOs, private individuals and many more. The pavilions and exhibition booths will:

1. To showcase best practices and innovations.
2. To promote knowledge sharing and learning amongst conference participants.
3. To showcase technology in various sectors and trigger investment.

## **F SPECIAL EVENTS FOR DELEGATES- NETWORK AND UNWIND!**

Delegates have an opportunity to network in the following events:

1. Host County Dinner in the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> August; and
2. Concert on 15<sup>th</sup> August, in the evening.

## **G EXPLORE HOMA BAY COUNTY- SIGHTS AND SOUNDS!**

For the period of the Conference, delegates have an array of options to explore Homa Bay County:

- Cultural Village at Homa Bay Tourist Hotel- The cultural village will showcase Homa Bay County's traditional artefacts, folklore, legends, and celebrated heroes and heroines, traditional foods among many others.
- Island Hopping – a guided boat tour across various islands within the County.
- Tour visits to local tourist sites- Ondago bird sanctuary, Tom Mboya Mausoleum, fishing expeditions
- Game drives at Ruma National Park,
- Sunset sighting at the Pier.





### **Governor FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi, EGH**

**Governor Ahmed Abdullahi Jiir** is a distinguished Kenyan politician and two-term Governor of Wajir County. With a robust background in commerce and extensive experience in auditing and finance, he transitioned into politics in 2007. Since assuming office in 2013, the Governor has championed transformative initiatives in infrastructure, healthcare, and water resource management, significantly enhancing the

quality of life in Wajir. His leadership has earned him prestigious accolades, including The Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya, recognizing his unwavering commitment to public service and community development. He is also a Fellowship Certified Public Accountant (FCPA), the highest rank in accounting. Currently, he serves as the Chair for the Council of Governors, playing a crucial role in shaping national policy and governance.



### **Governor Gladys Wanga, EGH**

Governor Gladys Wanga, the Chief Executive of Homa Bay County, is a seasoned leader having previously served as a Woman Representative for Homa Bay County from 2013 to 2022. From 2013 to 2017, she served as a Commissioner in the Parliamentary Service Commission making her the first woman Commissioner from Nyanza Region. In 2020 she scored another first when she was appointed Chair of the Finance and National Planning Committee of the Kenya

National Assembly, the first woman to hold the position in Kenya. On the professional front, Governor Wanga is a holder of a MSc and an BSc in Health Management from Kenyatta University. She served as a project manager at the Trust for African Rock Art and later at Liverpool VCT health for 10 years cumulatively. Her passionate and exemplary leadership in the political space has earned her admiration and she is considered a trail blazer in women empowerment.



**BIODATAS**  
**OVERALL FACILITATORS,**  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS,**  
**PANELISTS & MODERATORS**



## **Governor Stephen Kipyego Sang**

Governor Stephen Kipyego Sang is currently serving as the Governor for Nandi County and the Chief Whip of the Council of Governors, having been re-elected on August 9, 2022 for his second term. At the age of 32, he became the youngest Governor in Kenya since the adoption of devolution.

An Advocate of the High Court of Kenya with a Bachelors of Laws Degree from the University of Nairobi, Sang also made history in 2013 when he was elected the youngest Senator at the age of 28 in Kenya's Senate. At the Senate, Governor Sang served as the

Chairperson of the Sessional Committee on Delegated Legislation, Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and a representative of Kenyan Parliament in the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU). His legislative record speaks for itself having sponsored a record six Bills during a single parliamentary term. These Bills include the County Government Amendment Bill, Office of County Attorney Bill and the County Boundaries Review Bill, the County Development Boards Bill, County Statutory Instruments Bill, County Hall of Fame Bill and County Assembly Services Bill and the County Development Boards Act.



## Eric Latiff

**Eric Latiff** is a seasoned communicator with over 27 years' experience in media operations and management. He is currently a host of Fixing The Nation, Kenya's most viewed live multi-platform daily talk show that broadcasts simultaneously on NTV, Nation FM, YouTube, Facebook, X, TikTok every weekday morning between 6am and 10am.

He has worked as Senior Editor in charge of Digital Media at Capital FM and a News Anchor at KTN. Eric was also the founder General Manager at K24 – Kenya's first 24-hour news television station - and was among the pioneers at Family FM/TV and Kameme FM.

In 2019, he was part of the team that introduced The Situation Room. He also moderated the Presidential Debate 2022, several interviews with President William Ruto, Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, international dignitaries and captains of industry in various sectors. He has also moderated a number of Devolution Conferences - Kisumu, Meru, Makueni and Uasin Gishu.

Eric founded Zeze Digital Agency in 2015, a company that offers training and development of strategies in digital marketing and communications as well as corporate events. He has conducted C-Suite and executive level training for blue chip companies and civil society organizations.



### **Michelle Ngele-Odhiambo**

**Michelle Ngele-Odhiambo** is a respected broadcast journalist and news anchor, known for her authoritative and in-depth reporting. She is the host of NTV's 'Unpacked', a segment that simplifies complex governance issues for a wider audience. With over a decade in news presentation and production, she is best recognized for her contribution

to national discourse through high-level interviews with policymakers, experts, and thought leaders. Beyond the screen, Michelle is a skilled moderator and media trainer, frequently leading public forums, policy dialogues, and capacity-building workshops across Kenya.



# **PLENUM 1**

**EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES,  
ACCOUNTABLE COUNTIES:  
REBUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS  
OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**

## KEY NOTE SPEAKER



### Amb. Henriette Geiger

**Amb. Henriette Geiger** is the European Union Ambassador to Kenya since September 2021. She is a former Director for People and Peace in the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission, where she was responsible for cooperation on human development, migration, security, gender equality, human rights, education and health. Previously, she served as Head of Unit in the same Directorate, responsible for bilateral cooperation with Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Pacific, and before that was responsible for the political

dimension of the EU's relations with the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Indian Ocean in the European External Action Service. Her Excellency also served in the EU's Council of Ministers, the United Nations General Secretariat and has worked in the private sector and civil society.

Educated in both Germany and the United States, she obtained two master degrees in social sciences and earned a distinction as a Fulbright Scholar. She is a German Citizen and in addition to English speaks French and Spanish.

## PANELIST



### **Governor Dr. Ochilo Ayacko, EGH**

**Governor Dr. Ochilo Ayacko, EGH** is the governor of Migori County since August 2022. He also serves as the Chairperson of the Legal, Constitutional and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee at the Council of Governors.

Governor Ochilo Ayacko was the Senator for Migori County from 2018 to 2022 where he served in the County Public Accounts and Investments Committee. He served as a Member of Parliament for Rongo Constituency in 1997 to 2007 and was

Chair of the Public Investments Committee in the National Assembly.

He has also served as Minister of Energy and Gender, Sports, and Culture. Dr. Ochilo Ayacko has a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) and Master of Laws (LL.M) from the University of Nairobi and a Doctorate in Leadership & Change Management from the United States International University (USIU). He has also served as the Chair of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy.

## PANELISTS



### **Mr. Joseph Mogosi Motari, CBS**

**Mr. Joseph Mogosi Motari, CBS** is the Principal Secretary, State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. He assumed the role of Principal Secretary for the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs on December 5th, 2022. In this capacity, he leads and oversees crucial initiatives related to community empowerment and promoting

the rights and welfare of vulnerable persons. Before he was appointed Principal Secretary, he was Director of Administration in the then State Department for Post Training and Skills Development, Ministry of Education from May 2022. He holds a Master of Arts in Public Administration from Moi University and a Bachelor of Arts from Kenyatta University. He has also undertaken numerous Senior Management Training programs.



### **Senator Catherine Mumma**

**Senator Catherine MUYEKA MUMMA** is a nominated senator and member of the Speaker's Panel in the Senate. She serves as Vice Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations and is an active member of the Committees on Education, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. A champion of inclusive

governance, she is also Vice Chairperson of the Kenya Women Parliamentarians Association (KEWOPA) and a member of the Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA). Senator Mumma is a seasoned human rights lawyer and advocate for gender equality, constitutionalism, and social justice.

## PANELIST



### Justice George Odunga

**Justice George Vincent Odunga** is a Judge of the Kenya Court of Appeal, Nairobi. He is the Chair of the Mediation Accreditation Committee, a Statutory Committee within the Judiciary of Kenya that accredits mediators. He is also the Chair of the Judiciary Rules Committee, a Statutory Committee that enacts the rules of procedure for courts and tribunals in Kenya and a member of the Judiciary Management Committee.

Formerly Presiding Judge, Judicial Review Division of the High Court Served in the Kenya High Court Advisory Committee, the Kenya Employment and Labour Relations Rules Committee and the inaugural

Technical Committee of the Kenya Supreme Court Rules Committee. Represented the judiciary in the Committee tasked with the enactment of the architecture of the Kenya Court Martial Rules. He is also a member of the International Refugee Law Judges Association – Africa Chapter.

He has authored “Odunga’s Digest of Civil Case Law and Procedure” comprising of 10 volumes now in its Third Edition. He was Winner of the 2015 Law Society of Kenya’s Distinguished Award in the Administration of Justice, 2018 Jurist of the Year Award and 2023 Transparency International (Kenya) Judicial Integrity Award.

## PANELISTS



### Mr. Brian Odongo

**Mr. Brian Odongo** is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a Partner at Kiptinness & Odhiambo Associates LLP, a full-service corporate and commercial law firm based in Nairobi with a regional presence. He also serves on the Public Interest Litigation Committee of the Law Society of Kenya, where he contributes to advancing justice through strategic legal advocacy. With a strong foundation in corporate and

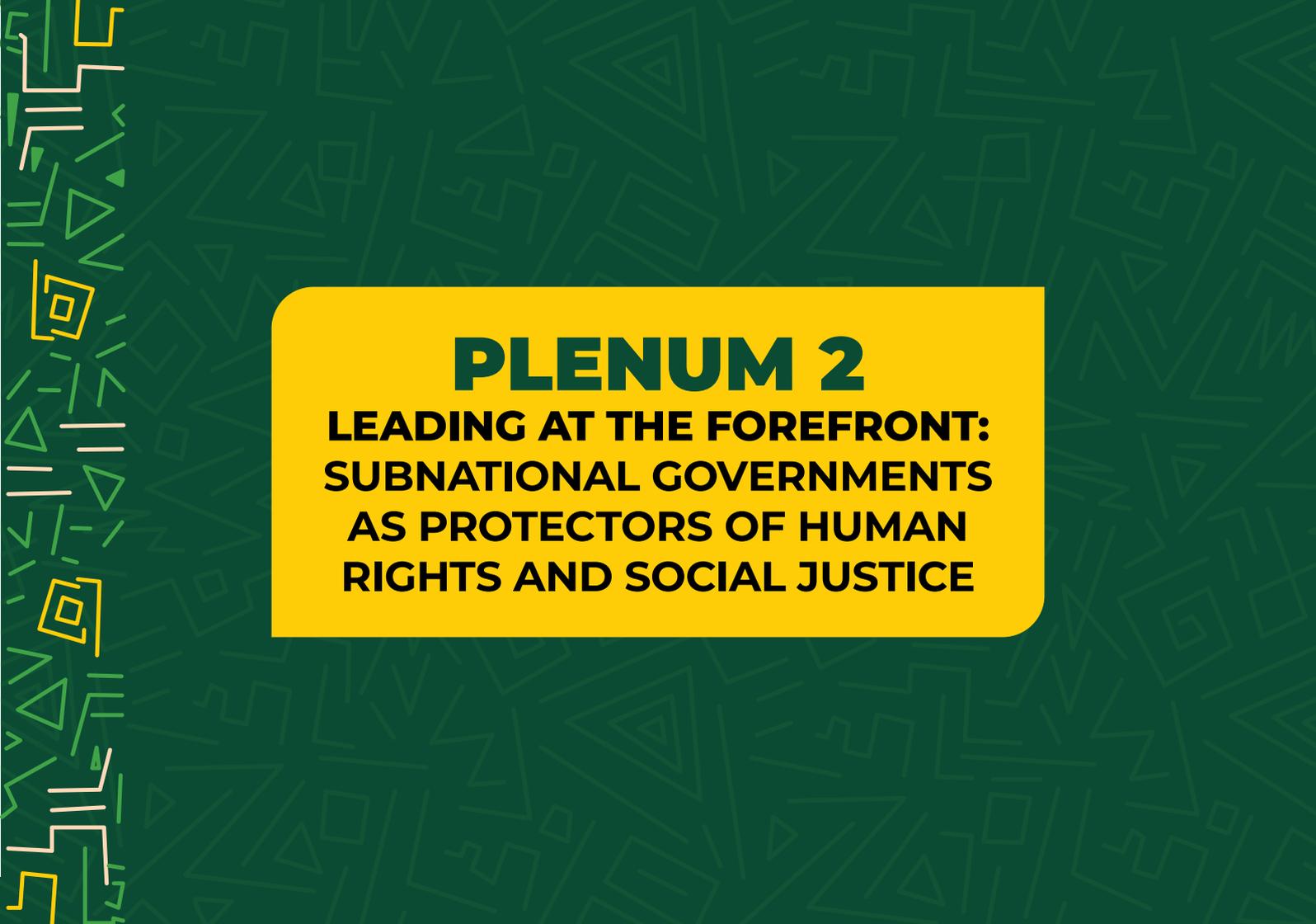
commercial law, Brian's expertise spans: complex transactions and deal structuring; project finance and asset acquisition; legal and regulatory compliance and strategic litigation. He champions homegrown legal solutions to address the challenges facing local and regional communities. He views legal services not just as a profession, but as a transformative tool for societal progress and inclusive development.



### Mr. Oliver Waindi

**Mr. Oliver Waindi**, currently the Executive Director, Uraia Trust has over 23 years of working experience in progressively senior management roles with leading international organizations. His experience has been in community and youth development; civic education; health, humanitarian; education, and food security programs. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in International Relations and

Diplomacy (University of Nairobi); holds a master's degree in International Relations (University of Nairobi); a BA (Kenyatta University); Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management (College of Professional Management, Liverpool); Diploma in Business Management (Kenya Institute of Management) and advanced certificates in French and in Project Management.



# **PLENUM 2**

**LEADING AT THE FOREFRONT:  
SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS  
AS PROTECTORS OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

## KEY NOTE SPEAKER



### Hon. Judith Nayiai Ramaita Pareno

With a remarkable career spanning over 29 years, Hon. Judith Pareno currently serves as the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Justice, Human Rights, and Constitutional Affairs. She is a seasoned lawyer and a prominent figure in public service. Previously, she held the demanding role of Chairperson for the ODM Election Board for 12 years. Her Career highlights also include serving as a

nominated Senator, where she was member of Speakers Panel, National Security, National Cohesion, Equal Opportunities and the Committee on Delegated Legislation. Further, she contributed to regional governance as a member of the East African Legislative Assembly, sitting on the House Commission, the Legal and Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committees.

## MODERATOR



### Ms. Jacqueline Mbogo

**Jacqueline Mbogo** is a dynamic and visionary executive leader with over two decades of experience driving transformational change across the peace and security, international development, and gender equality sectors in Africa. Currently serving as Chief of Party for the UKAID Peace and Security Program

– REINVENT, as well as serving as a G7 Advisory Council. She brings deep expertise in designing and leading complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives that advance inclusive governance, peacebuilding, and women's leadership.

## PANELISTS



### **Governor James Orengo**

**Governor James Orengo** is the current Governor of Siaya County. He has previously served as an elected Member of Parliament for six terms with stints in the National Assembly and the Senate. In 2007 he was appointed as the Minister of Lands in the National Government. He

is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a Senior Counsel who has participated in many celebrated cases including being the lead counsel in a Presidential Election petition that invalidated the Presidential Elections held in the year 2017.



### **Justice (Ret'd) Hon. Dr. Willy Mutunga**

**Justice (Ret'd.) Dr. Willy Mutunga** was Kenya's 14th Chief Justice and the first President of the Supreme Court under the 2010 Constitution. He served in that capacity from 2011 to 2016. He is currently an Adjunct Professor of Public Law, Kabarak Law School, Kabarak University. In 2003, he was bestowed the honour of Senior Counsel of the Kenyan Bar. Justice Mutunga played a pivotal role in the constitution-making processes in Kenya from the 1970s and particularly, from the early 1990s

and has won various awards and sits in several boards that are multi-disciplinary. He continues to work with various social movements led by the grassroots youth and the middle classes that are committed to Kenya's fundamental transformation and a new world. He is a member of the Kenya Left Alliance, an initiative of political parties and social movements of the Kenya Left that is engaged in struggles for alternative political leadership in Kenya that is anti-imperialist and anti-comprador.

## PANELISTS



### Hon. Millie Odhiambo

**Hon. Millie Odhiambo** is a seasoned human rights lawyer and advocate of the High Court of Kenya with over 30 years of experience, specializing in children's and women's rights. She is the longest-serving woman MP, currently in her fourth term and serving as the Minority Chief Whip in Parliament. She has held key roles in the Pan-African

Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union, and Parliamentarians for Global Action. Before politics, she worked with FIDA, ICJ-K, the Attorney General's office, and is the founding director of The CRADLE and The Maiden Institute. She has received numerous awards and consulted widely with UN agencies, NGOs and governments.



### Kiprotich Sigei Hillary

**Kiprotich Sigei Hillary CBS**, is the Senator representing Bomet County. He currently serves as the Lead Member of the Senate Speaker's Panel, assisting the Speaker in presiding over Senate sittings and upholding decorum. As Chairperson of the Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee, he has played a pivotal role in shaping critical legislation. He has spearheaded significant amendments to the IEBC Act, championing structural reforms to enhance transparency and efficiency within the electoral commission. Under his leadership,

the committee has also overseen vital national legislation, including the Conflict-of-Interest Bill (2023), where he carefully balanced ethical governance with practical implementation. In 2025, he introduced progressive amendments to the County Governments Act to. Additionally, Wakili Sigei is an active member of the Senate Business Committee, contributing to the formulation of the parliamentary agenda, and serves as an Executive Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Kenya Branch.

## PANELISTS



### **Ruth A. Bolo Okul**

**Ruth A. Bolo Okul** is Co-Founder of the Sisterhood Project KE and Chairperson of Young Women's Leaders Connect, bringing eight years of expertise in democratic governance, political dialogue, elections observation, policy development and inclusive leadership. She has worked extensively with

MCAs across Kenya, developing strategic programs. As a Danida Fellow, AWLI 2023 Fellow, Binti Uongozini Fellow and KAS Young Politician Fellow, she has been recognized with multiple awards and continues to shape critical discourse around governance and development in Kenya.



### **Hon. Rehema Jaldesa**

**Hon. Rehema Jaldesa** is the Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), appointed in December 2024. She is a former Woman Representative for Isiolo County (2017–2022) and has held leadership roles at Kenya Industrial Estates, Ewaso Nyiro North Development Authority, and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and

Heritage. She has championed key legislative reforms, including amendments to the Health Act and pastoralist-focused bills. She holds degrees in Leadership, Governance, Management and Public Relations. Hon. Rehema is committed to inclusive governance and social justice in Kenya.

## PANELIST



### Hussein Khalid

**Hussein Khalid** is the Executive Director of VOCAL Africa, a pan-African human rights organisation based in Nairobi, Kenya. For over 20 years, he has championed for human rights, social justice, and agitated for the freedom and liberties of communities at the grassroots level freedoms across Kenya and Africa. He has worked with national,

continental, and international initiatives, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), HAKI Africa, Muslims for Human Rights, CLARION, and KHRC. He holds a law degree and additional certifications from Rhodes University, the University of Nottingham, and USIU.



**PLENUM 3**  
**SEALING THE FAULT LINES:  
STRATEGIES FOR ACTION IN  
FINANCIAL INCLUSIVITY**

## KEY NOTE SPEAKER



### Dr. Abraham Rugo

**Dr. Abraham Rugo Muriu** is the Executive Director of Bajeti Hub (formerly International Budget Partnership Kenya), a role he has held since July 2017. He is deeply committed to local development, with over 20 years of experience in decentralization, participatory governance, and public finance management in Kenya. Dr. Rugo has supported citizen engagement in service delivery through research, policy

analysis, advocacy, capacity building, and public dialogue. He previously worked at the Institute of Economic Affairs (2007–2013) and as a public policy and devolution consultant (2014–2017). He holds a Doctorate and Master's in Public Management from the University of Potsdam, Germany, and is driven by a passion for locally rooted and globally connected leadership.

## MODERATOR



### Wangari Muikia

**Wangari Muikia** is a Harvard-trained African Fiscal Policy Economist and Managing Director of Expertise Global, with over 20 years of experience in public finance management. She has led fiscal reforms across Africa, collaborating with governments, the World Bank, UNICEF, IMF, UN Women, and USAID. Renowned for her strategic leadership and inclusive approach, she champions gender equality

and the well-being of women and children. Wangari founded Kenya's Aid Effectiveness Secretariat, advised at the Ministry of Finance, and expanded Dalberg's operations. A frequent voice in global policy forums and media, she advocates for data-driven, locally grounded strategies to promote sustainable and transparent governance across sectors such as education, climate, and health.

## PANELIST



### **Governor FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW**

**Governor FCPA Fernandes Barasa, OGW** is the current Governor of Kakamega County and the Chairman of the Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs Committee at the Council of Governors. He is a holder of a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) from Kenyatta University and currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy and Management at the same University.

Before being elected the Governor of Kakamega County, he served as Managing Director & CEO, Kenya Electricity Transmission Company, KETRACO; Finance

Director, KETRACO; Finance Director, Kenya Tea Development Authority, KTDA; and Chief Accountant at Kenya Airways, KQ. He has also served as the Chairman of Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) where he is also a member.

In 2012, Governor FCPA Fernandes Barasa was awarded Fellow of Certified Public Accountant (FCPA) and in 2018 feted with a state commendation - the Order of Grand Warrior (OGW) by the President. He values Integrity, Honesty, Transparency and Professionalism.

## PANELISTS



### Hon. Aden Duale, EGH

**Hon. Aden Bare Duale, EGH** is Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Health, leading the country's health transformation, Universal Health Coverage, and global health diplomacy. In 2024, he served as Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, where he advanced Kenya's climate governance and led preparations for COP29. From 2022 to 2024, he was Cabinet Secretary for Defence, overseeing

regional security and military readiness. A former Leader of Majority in Parliament, he sponsored over 150 bills and strengthened legislative processes. He also served as Assistant Minister for Livestock (2008–2011). Duale is the author of the bestselling memoir *For the Record* and holds an MBA, a Bachelor's in Education, and an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science.



### Sen. Eddy Oketch

**Sen. Eddy Gicheru Oketch** is the Senator for Migori County. He serves as the Chairperson for Roads, transport and housing committee, Vice Chairperson of the County Public investment committee and a member of the Budget and Finance committee. Sen. Eddy is also a visionary business leader, fintech entrepreneur, and climate advocate. He founded Ongoza,

an SME incubator, Anywair Group, a fintech provider of micro asset loans, and Treeco Fund which promotes agroforestry activities in rural areas. He is a graduate of Yale University, Trinity College, African Leadership Academy, and Friends School Kamusinga. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy at the University of Nairobi.

## PANELISTS



### **Hon. Samuel Atandi**

Hon. Samuel Onunga Atandi is the Member of Parliament for Alego Usonga Constituency, Siaya County, and currently chairs the Budget and Appropriations Committee of Kenya's National Assembly. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Egerton University. Before joining politics, Hon. Atandi had a distinguished banking

career. He worked at Standard Chartered Bank (2005–2010), Bank of Africa as Head of Sales (2011–2014), and later at NIC Bank as Senior Relationship Manager. In 2015, he joined the National Bank of Kenya as Director of Transactional and Institutional Banking, a role he held until March 2017, when he resigned to enter politics.



### **Dr. Nyabenyi Tipo**

**Dr. Nyabenyi Tipo** is the FAO Representative in Tanzania and, since May 16, 2024, also serves as FAO Representative ad interim in Kenya. With over 30 years of development experience, she focuses on agrifood system transformation to enhance food and nutrition security and support the 2030 Agenda. Previously, she was FAO Representative in Sierra Leone (2016–2021). She holds a Master's in Veterinary

Epidemiology and Economics from the University of Nairobi and a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from Khartoum University. Dr. Tipo began her career in Sudan's Ministry of Livestock and has led humanitarian and recovery programs with African Development Solutions, Save the Children (UK), VSF Belgium, and VSF Germany in South Sudan.

## PANELISTS



### Hon. Chege Mwaura

**Hon. Chege Mwaura** is the Member of County Assembly for Ngara Ward, Nairobi City County, with over 10 years of experience in public policy, focusing on devolution, social accountability, and parliamentary development. He has held key roles including Majority Whip (2017–2018), Acting Speaker (2018–2019), and served on several committees such as

budget, transport, and public accounts. Since 2014, he has been a member of the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) Executive Committee and Governing Council, making him the longest-serving member and was recently elected Secretary General of CAF. He holds a bachelor's degree in project planning and management from Moi University.



### Fridah Githuku

**Fridah Githuku** is a gender equality expert and Head of Women's Rights at the Irene M. Staehelin Foundation, overseeing grants for women's rights initiatives. Formerly Executive Director of GROOTS Kenya, she led impactful programs advancing women's leadership, economic autonomy, and financial inclusion. Notable achievements include co-designing the

Jasiri Fund for GBV survivors, founding the Grassroots Public Budget Academy, and establishing a women-only SACCO. In 2019, she was named among Apolitical's 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy. A frequent global speaker, Fridah champions grassroots-led development, believing that communities closest to problems hold the solutions.

# CONFERENCE PARTNERS



OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT



County Government  
of Homa Bay



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Co-funded by  
the European Union



EMBASSY  
OF DENMARK  
Nairobi



Leading in  
disability inclusive  
development



## SIDE EVENT HOSTS





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Website: [www.maarifa.cog.go.ke](http://www.maarifa.cog.go.ke)

X: @maarifa\_centre