

Our history

Kenya Permanent Mission, New York

Kenya joined membership of the United Nations on 16th December 1963, effected by the General Assembly resolution A/RES/1976(XVIII) on the recommendation of the Security Council S/RES/185(1963). This established the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations with the appointment of the first Ambassador and Permanent Representative, H.E. Mr. Burudi Nabwera.

Kenya, through the Permanent Mission, has since been engaged in multilateral and bilateral discourse with the 193 UN Member States and several Observer Missions, mainly through three Principal Organs, namely: the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA); the United Nations Security Council (UNSC); the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); and their subsidiary bodies and functional commissions. In this, the Mission collaborates with the UN Secretariat, Funds and Programmes, Specialised Agencies and other UN Entities key in the implementation of projects and programs that align with Kenya's foreign policy goals.

The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the UN and is composed of representatives of all Member States. All year-round the work of the UN derives largely from the mandates given by the General Assembly structured around six (6) main committees. The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime. The Second Committee deals with issues relating to economic growth and development, and environmental sustainability. The Third Committee addresses agenda items relating to a range of social, cultural, humanitarian and human rights issues that affect people all over the world. The Fourth Committee considers a variety of political subjects related to decolonization, UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions. The Fifth Committee is charged with responsibilities for deliberating and making recommendations to the General Assembly on Administrative and Budgetary matters. The Sixth Committee deals with international legal matters.

The Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It consists of 15 members with five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. Kenya has held membership in the UNSC in 1973-1974, 1997-1998, and 2021-2022

The ECOSOC is the principal organ that advances the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. It coordinates a diverse family of subsidiary bodies and UN entities dedicated to sustainable developments. It consists of 54 members for three-year terms. Kenya has held membership in ECOSOC in 1970-1972, 1974-1977, 1981-1983, 1989-1991, 2003-2005 and 2019-2021.