

Our history

Kenya Permanent Mission, UNEP

The Permanent Mission was established on 18th November 1975 through Cabinet Memorandum CAB (75) 60, which also recommended the appointment of a Permanent Representative at the level of Ambassador to represent Kenya's interests at the United Nations Environment Programme. The first office of the Kenya Permanent Mission to UNEP was located at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre.

Following the establishment of the Mission, Margaret Wambui Kenyatta was appointed as the Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme by Kenya's first President, Jomo Kenyatta. She represented Kenya in the UNEP Governing Council, a position she held until 1986.

She presented her Letters of Credence to Mostafa Kamal Tolba on 10th February 1977, officially accrediting her as the first Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UNEP.

The Permanent Mission served both UNEP and UN-Habitat until 2014, when the Government of Kenya separated the UNEP and UN-Habitat functions, leading to the establishment of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat to handle human settlement matters. Matters relating to UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi remained under the Kenya Permanent Mission to UNEP.

In furtherance of the Government's efforts to strengthen Nairobi's multilateral diplomatic capacity and to facilitate the efficient functioning of UNON, the Diplomatic Service Centre was established through Executive Order OP/CAB 5/1 dated 5th August 2022 and launched on 30th August 2022 as part of the Permanent Mission of Kenya to UNON. The rationale for establishing the Centre was to facilitate the delivery of essential Government services through a Government of Kenya multi-agency team to staff of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the wider diplomatic community in Kenya.