The Nairobi International Political Forum (NIPFO) is a non-profit platform that seeks to strengthen dialogues on international political issues, while exploring futures of the African continent on identified thematic areas. The selection of the participants - global in nature - is due to the intrinsic background of our shared global futures, where we are cognizant of the fact that problems or successes in a remote village anywhere in the world affect, directly or indirectly, the problems or successes in another part of the world. The Forum’s exclusivity will be enhanced by the suspended formalities to ensure that new ideas can be tried out in complete freedom focused on important issues away from the everyday official pressures and conventional paths. Freedom of speech will be protected, coupled by the stringent adherence to the Chatham House Rule.

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<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>AMBITIONS</th>
<th>OUR COMMITMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>To provide a platform that complements academia and practice in International Studies and its ecosystem.</td>
<td>Develop a contextual and conceptual framework to inform global order, Influence thought-leadership in Africa’s International Relations and Foreign Policy</td>
<td>Bring together leaders from diplomatic corps, government and academia; Facilitate contacts at the highest level.</td>
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<td>To engage in informal reflections on matters that affect the global public interest.</td>
<td>Harness the goodwill of the members and participants to translate recommendations to revised policies</td>
<td>Observe the International Political Environment; Discover new trends and follow closely their development.</td>
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<td>To provoke forethought to the expected challenges and recommendations to relevant bodies to secure futures within the scope of the agenda.</td>
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<td>Maintain the informal atmosphere, among the membership, and contribute to strengthening its recommendations to concerns raised.</td>
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The Nairobi International Political Forum held its first session on the 29th of July 2017, at the Best Western Plus Meridian Hotel in Nairobi, organized by the Center for International Security and Affairs (CISA), an independent think-tank based in Nairobi.

The forum was attended by participants from the diplomatic corps, government and academic influencers and personalities. The forum convened to examine the diplomatic, political, economic, social and cultural effects of the America First Policy and Brexit effect on Africa, East Africa and Kenya.

Following the discussions, it was identified that there was need for Africa as a continent to have a strategy that would advance the interests of all the 54 states. A resonating consensus was that Africa lacks committed leaders who understand the needs of their people. As a result, African nations are shortchanged to the advantage of European countries.

It was acknowledged of the need for African states to take advantage of International Trade Agreements such as the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA). Kenya hasn’t maximized on exploiting fully the benefits AGOA offers. It was established that Kenya needs to produce value chain analysis, and establish value chain for produce such as cotton and honey.

Finally, it was underscored that Brexit will have an impact on education, especially universities that rely on The U.K. funding through the Department for International Development (DFID) for research. It was established that the impact of Brexit in other sectors hasn’t been measured and, therefore, it would be important for key stakeholders to determine this and consider proper judgment that will safeguard their interests.

Looking forward, a declaration was also made to the effect that there will be another forum in November this year, to share on matters affecting global public interests, having in its midst the highest diplomatic and public participation.

NIPFO forum is grateful to Prof. PLO Lumumba—Kenya School of Law, the Keynote Speaker. Many thanks also to the panelists Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee—UNDP resident coordinator, Prof. Macharia Munene—USIU, Dr. Luis G. Francesci—Dean of Strathmore Law School, Mr. Andrew Bowes-Political Counselor British High Commission and Dr. Anita Kiamba—UoN, for making the forum a success.
INTRODUCTION

Global order has been characterized by change and momentum since the establishment of the Westphalian order of 1648. Historians have defined the pre-Westphalian order as anarchic, characterized by conflict and war among peoples of diverse religious beliefs, civilizations and cultures. The Peace of Westphalia in creating the modern state system was an attempt at establishing order in a global system governed by the state of nature.

With the advent of the modern state system, new challenges emerged, engendered by a burgeoning global population, industrialization and the insatiable need for natural resources to drive the needs of the state and its people. Whereas much of these changes were taking shape in Europe, the concept of nationalism and national sovereignty quickly spread to other parts of the world, leading to decolonization of the African continent, emergence of new states, and a shift from the traditional inter-state conflicts, to intra-state conflicts, increased poverty rates in developing states, the spread of diseases and challenges in governance structures of the new states.

In concerted effort, world leaders through international organizations have sought to counter the challenges of statehood, through collaboration in tackling these challenges, with countries such as the US and Europe taking a leadership role in providing developmental assistance to developing nations faced with a myriad of challenges. The African continent has been at the center of the magnanimity of higher ranking states, key among them, the US and the UK. The 21st Century provides for interesting times in global order. Coupled with technological advancement in information technology and globalization, the world has become a market place. National boundaries are no longer a limiting factor to travel and immigration, spread of information, proliferation of arms and disease, climate change and international terrorism.

The challenges faced by one state, have become the challenges faced by all states. Poverty, disease, undemocratic governance and violent conflict are no longer African problems, but global problems; and yet, in an era of shared burdens, the world is witnessing a reversal into nationalistic ideals, led by the ‘America First’ foreign policy approach by the US, and Brexit, with Great the U.K. opting to cease being a member of the European Union. A rise in populist and right-wing governments in Europe is threatening to see similar isolationist actions such as Brexit and America First in Europe, by countries such as Greece and Hungary, and France was seen as having nationalistic leanings with the candidature of Le Pen.

Amid a changing international political environment, Africa appears silent on the impending effects of the instability in Europe and North America, brought about by the recent events of Brexit and the election of President Donald Trump. It is prudent for the African leadership to begin conversations on the continent's preparedness, or lack-thereof in positioning itself strategically to impeding changes.

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<tr>
<th>America &amp; Europe</th>
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<td>America and Europe view Africa as a single country, while additionally, their stories keep being told by different human civilizations. This is the reason as to why Africa keeps on having choices made for her. It was underscored that Africa now needs to set its own agenda and stop depending on the West to make decisions for her. The emphasis for a United Africa was underlined.</td>
<td>Brexit poses no economic crisis for Kenya, at least based on the short-term effects and on account of the Balance of Payments between Kenya and the U.K., and there is a huge imbalance. The U.K is profiting more than Kenya. Accentuation was laid on intra-African trade that would create a bigger number of advantages than it is currently.</td>
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<th>Africa</th>
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<td>Africa needs to invigorate her eight regional bodies to engage distinctively with the world. This will increase Africa's political influence and respect at the international level.</td>
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It is the collective experiences in our lifetime and in the lifetimes of those who lived before us, that continue to shape our actions now and influence the philosophies that push our lives forward. This gathering is the quintessential epitome of the needful will, necessary to model the societies we are in. We hope to share both wisdom and experiences in a bid to make forward steps to stabilize our societies in these uncertain times…

SESSION I

AMERICA FIRST POLICY & AFRICA/KENYA

SPEAKERS

Siddharth Chatterjee
United Nations Resident Coordinator and Country Representative Kenya (UNDP)

Prof. Macharia Munene
Professor of History and International Relations, United States International University in Nairobi

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The first session of the America First Policy, Brexit and the place for Africa was meant to discuss the implications of America First Policy in Africa. This was to identify which way for Africa for it to meaningfully contribute towards the continent’s development, despite the America’s policy, which leans towards a narrower interpretation of vital American interests.

The convention acknowledged the shift of America’s foreign policy, driven by pursuit of its economic advantage even at the expense of the global common good.

It was noted that it upon Africa to determine its future by first and foremost, identifying its weaknesses and addressing them. Some of the weaknesses identified in the session included lack of good governance, lack of clear aspirations and lack of unity as the reasons as to why Africa continues to be dependent on the West.

The session recommended the need for Africa to have a focused strategy to develop, take advantage of its demographic strength by enhancing the capacities of the youth to achieve tremendous growth and, exploiting international markets, including those within the continent.

ISSUES

Trump understood what the general American population needed and that is the reason of his election. Interestingly, African leaders are by and large completely confused of what is the interest of their people and that of Africa. This is the reason why they are duped into bilateral talks and furthermore, still dependant on aid, which has really impeded economic advancement in Africa. Keeping away from the aid trap ought to be a move taken by Africa, and should also start questioning the new world order — neo-colonialism, where legitimacy has been denied to the people and instead, sent to multilateral organizations’ headquarters and foreign capital cities, where once a decision is made, it is transferred to the African people as the official policy.

America First Foreign Policy, nor is Brexit, is an alarming issue. However, the key test is with Africa, and why it is not taking the initiative to reassess the situation, and how it influences its interests. Along these lines, preparation against real or perceived setback is important for Africa to do what is to its greatest advantage.

Africa has the highest rate of population growth in the world with 75 per cent of the population comprising young people below the age of 35 - a demographic dividend. Kenya’s population was the same as Sweden in 1946 and 1947, at 7 million. Today, Sweden population
is at 10 million while Kenya is around 46 million. By 2030, Kenya's population will be 65 million and Africa's population will be 2.3 billion. Africa needs to turn this into a demographic advantage.

To benefit from this demographic dividend of a young population, Africa will need to invest in the education and tooling for the youth for African economies to take off, a model adopted by successful Asian economies. The investments that have been made in human capital, health and education allow provision and uptake of higher quality jobs or highly productive ventures, which significantly develop the national economy.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE
The Democratic society ought to decide how it will engage moving forward. In any case, it was reiterated that it is imperative for states to consider values. So far, Brexit has not disintegrated its or any other states values and in such manner, Africa should stick to values and take after what is to its greatest advantage.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE ON THE STATE OF AFRICA
African governments have been sold out by tolerating financial incentives from foreign states, at the expense of putting the continent's legitimate interests as priority. A decent illustration is Kenya's invitation to America's war on terror to the detriment of its interests of fighting genuine insurgency.

African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) is the only agreement that bodes well. Unfortunately, Kenya hasn't utilized it fully. This is because Kenya has spent 17 years without building a value chain for cotton and other produce. Every one of the Export Processing Zones built up in Kenya are bringing in materials from outside Kenya and proceed to assemble before exporting. Accordingly, this makes the Chinese and Taiwan organizations as the principle beneficiaries of AGOA.

It was also underscored that there are more than 6,000 commodities to be exported to the United States through AGOA but Kenya isn't exploiting this prime opportunity. A relevant example is honey; Kenyan exporters of organic foods haven't taken of the opportunity to export honey to the American Market. There is need for them to familiarize themselves with United States importation law, and understand the international commerce terms. Kenya keeps on missing the open doors because of lack of political will that would give a sense of direction.

Africa continues to fail to utilize the trade opportunities among the states themselves as a result of the lack or limited of free movement of people and capital. Regional organizations such as SADC and EAC keep on having unresolved integration issues that hinder trade. Differences that exist within a bloc should be addressed in advance, concretely and conclusively as they are likely to cause more cooperation and integration problems.
The opportunities and means with us today provide useful instruments that could be employed in the pursuit of our shared visions. Increased human interactions over time have led to multi-cultural societies, technology has improved access to basic human needs, partnerships between state and non-state actors have created poly-lateral diplomatic complexes that make a cocktail of the global public and the global private interests.

SESSION II
BREXIT & AFRICA

SPEAKERS

**Andrew Bowes**
Political Counselor
British High Commission
Kenya

**Dr. Anita Kliamba**
Lecturer
Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies
University of Nairobi

**Dr. Luis G. Franceschi**
Dean
Strathmore University Law School

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The second session convened conversations that explored what Brexit and the opportunities available for Kenya. The conversations also identified visible impacts of Brexit on the education sector in Kenya. The session also recognized that the consequences of Brexit haven’t been measured and, therefore, it would be difficult to identify which other sectors that could be highly affected.

BREXIT: WHICH WAY FOR THE U.K.

Brexit doesn’t mean Isolation of the UK, and The U.K. is not leaving Europe. If Brexit negotiations are done right, then it may provide excellent opportunities for The U.K. and partners around the world.

The reason why The U.K. voted to leave would have been a referendum strategy, isolationism or simply the ignorance of the common electorate on the impact of such a decision. it is now up to The U.K. to sort out its internal issues and it is likely that The U.K. is making all possible efforts to minimize any negative impacts by negotiating a compromise that would in practice allow them to retain as far as possible the status quo.

The U.K. would pursue an open Brexit, the one that ensures the UK engages with the rest of the world and is not isolated. Therefore, a keen look would be given to the interest of more than 3.2 million citizens of the EU living in the UK.

The U.K. is concerned to have an open Brexit because it wants to safeguard trading relations. The global economy has been growing at a slow rate and there haven’t been cuts in global free trade deals since the Uruguay rounds in 1994. The UK is therefore, aligning itself to be the new champion for this. The UK wants to use the ongoing Brexit negotiations to create huge zero-to-zero trade deals.

The UK remains a key player in International development through the Overseas Development Assistance, supporting maternal health and agriculture. Trade preferences that the EU already has with least developed countries will also be retained by the UK.

EFFECTS OF BREXIT

Brexit will impact on the education sector in Kenya. Kenyan universities have been undertaking research with the UK through DFID, and other research bodies, with a large chunk of money coming from the European Union.

Strathmore University is one of those affected. Her most common partners in Europe have been Oxford, Warwick, LSE and Cambridge.
These universities are no longer qualifying partners for EU long-term grants. This has forced Kenyan universities to search for new partners in Europe; Germany, France, Spain and Belgium. The U.K. has seen an opportunity through the commonwealth and therefore should take this chance to give a huge push to the Commonwealth of Nations as well as keep their strategic partners through their traditional donor agencies. This is also an opportunity for African countries to seek opportunities with the U.K. and the E.U. separately.

The consequences of Brexit have not been measured and, therefore, it would be difficult to identify which other sectors will be highly impacted.

Kenya needs to be attentive to Brexit and forge new agreements, strengthen ties and make the most of the situation. By strategically engaging in strong bilateral agreements that can improve its economy and development.

THE GLOBAL ECONOMY HAS BEEN GROWING AT A SLOW RATE AND THERE HAVEN'T BEEN CUTS IN GLOBAL FREE TRADE DEALS SINCE THE URUGUAY ROUNDS IN 1994
Throughout these sessions, the forum was able to map the following emerging issues.

**AMERICA FIRST & AFRICA**

The America First marks the possibility of a new world order where self help is supreme within the international system. Those affected by America First policy, will likely look elsewhere for new trading grounds and investments; African countries will be critical loci of interest for them. The continent has this opportunity to proactively assess and forge cooperation’s on areas where it is likely to benefit. Focusing on establishing sustainable livelihoods for the African youth should be a priority.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) remain to be the cornerstone of the US-Africa trade relations. Taking full advantage of this agreement would benefit Africa, considering that it provides duty-free entry of African products into the US market. 39 sub Saharan African countries currently qualify for the AGOA. Post-AGOA relationship between Africa and the US is not clear for now and hence it will be wiser for African countries to strengthen regional integration with the aim of accelerating growth in Africa; this creates a wider market that is attractive to potential investment partners.

**RESEARCH RECOMMENDATION**

Value chain analysis is required and will help African countries such as Kenya make the most of their exports. This requires in-depth research and designing of strategy. This should involve the collaboration between government, the private sector and research institutes. This synergy will provide a better understanding of how different sectors in the economy can contribute to national socioeconomic development by using exports as a tool for development.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

The need to make substantive investments for the youth in Africa, especially in education and health. Taking advantage of the demographic strength and capabilities through development; governments in African Countries should enhance targeted skills through development programs and vocational training courses that are needed as a matter of urgency and will allow greater economic growth.
Brexit works in favor of Africa, with the U.K. going alone, it has potential to strengthen African countries' negotiations in both multi-lateral and bi-lateral diplomatic levels. This is due to the recourse in having to face the E.U. and The U.K. separately, rather than dealing with the EU as a block. There is more leverage for Africa when negotiations are done as larger blocs, such as the E.A.C. or S.A.D.C.

The U.K.’s clarified intention of pursuing an open Brexit, assures that they will engage with the rest of the world and will not isolate itself. This gives confidence to E.A.C. and the Commonwealth of signing new trade agreements that offer a win-win scenario.

RESEARCH RECOMMENDATION
The effects of Brexit on different sectors are yet to be measured, since the two-year consultation, following the activation of Article 50. There is a need to keenly follow on the development while investigating the effects.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION
African governments need to refocus on the Bi-lateral trade relations with the U.K., to identify new areas so as to play a more central role in U.K. economic planning.

CISA seeks to continue to examine issues around global politics by commissioning studies and documenting lessons from these forums. We believe that through forums like this we will be able gather, connect and articulate the knowledge generated by participants and network of members. In this round of talks the participants acknowledged the sincere discussions, and being the first of its kind, it was a refreshing platform to discuss global politics. CISA will now be convening another forum in November and will require support from members and participants of goodwill to offer a helping hand to facilitate these conversations.
This forum seeks not only to find answers, but to also influence players thereafter, in a bid to shape necessary policies that will improve the state of humanity and global relations.

**Institutions Present**

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<tr>
<th>Africa Policy Institute</th>
<th>The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ambassador Francis K. Muthaura Foundation</td>
<td>The Embassy of the Republic of Angola</td>
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<td>British Institute in Eastern Africa</td>
<td>The Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan</td>
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<td>Franklin Management Consultants</td>
<td>The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey</td>
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<td>Kenya School of Law</td>
<td>The Embassy of the United States of America</td>
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<td>Research Institute for Peace, Policy and International Affairs</td>
<td>The Embassy of Ukraine</td>
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<td>Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies</td>
<td>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>Strathmore University Law School</td>
<td>The United States International University- Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>The British High Commission</td>
<td>The University of Nairobi - Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies</td>
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<td>The Embassy of Algeria</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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**Credits**

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<td>Joel Okwemma</td>
<td>Monica Ng’ang’a</td>
<td>Albert Mbaka</td>
<td>Barbara Karimi</td>
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<td>Eliud Kibii</td>
<td>Sammy Mwirigi</td>
<td>Gerald Anderson Photography</td>
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