

# mikutano

E-Newsletter of The Kenyatta International Convention Centre

AUG-DEC2024



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Cover : Africa Head of States Summit at the KICC Tsavo Ballroom

# Mikutano

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# Welcome Message from the CEO



**Mr. James Mwaura, Chief Executive Officer Kenyatta International Convention Centre**

*Hallo!* Welcome to the latest edition of Mikutano!

It is our pleasure to bring you a wealth of insights, updates, and stories that showcase the vibrant world of KICC.

This publication serves as a platform to showcase KICC's facilities, events, and the impactful contributions we make to the events and conferencing industry. Through insightful articles, captivating photographs, and updates on industry trends and personalities associated with our organization, Mikutano

enhances communication with stakeholders including clients, partners, government agencies, and the public. It also serves as a vital internal communication tool for our dedicated employees.

We invite you to delve into our achievements, innovations, and the extraordinary experiences we create. This will be a valuable resource as you contemplate your plans for your next meeting at KICC.

I am honoured to pledge my commitment to you all as we strive to elevate KICC to new heights in the realm of conventions and beyond. Together, we will uphold the highest standards of

excellence, innovation, and service delivery. Our collective efforts will ensure that KICC remains an inspiration

of professionalism and a preferred MICE destination.

As you navigate through these pages, I hope that you find inspiration and valuable information that enriches your understanding of KICC's role as a leader in the events and conferencing industry

Enjoy a wonderful read.

James Mwaura, CPA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Kenya International  
Convention Centre



**H.E. President William Ruto is welcomed by the KICC CEO James Mwaura during the African Development Bank Summit 27-31 May 2024 at KICC. Also present is the PS for Tourism, Hon. John Olotuaa at Kenyatta International Convention Centre**

*Jambo!* **Welcome to this year's** edition of the Mikutano Magazine.

In the recent past, Kenya has shown notable success, growing influence, and capability to host world-class events. From being ranked third in Africa in the International Congress and Conventions Association (ICCA) report to being elected chair of the committee on tourism and competitiveness (2023-2027)! In this Mikutano edition, KICC proudly shares professionally composed articles on how the Convention Centre has been and continues to be a major contributor to the exemplary performance of the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) industry in Kenya.

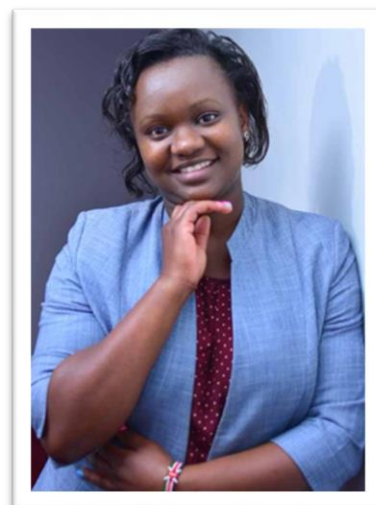
Hear it from us! You already know that we lead in this industry, focused not just on hosting events but also on creating experiences that leave lasting impressions, right? But did you also know that we offer the most affordable and competitively unbeatable prices? This year's read brings you an updated

KICC business catalogue for your convenience. Peruse through our detailed and diverse MICE offerings within the facility, complete with a comprehensive space rate card. Our dedication to detail and offering the highest standards of service excellence, innovation, and inclusivity in the global meetings industry is unmatched.

On behalf of the Mikutano team, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who contributed to making this edition a resounding success. To our writers whose articles have enriched these pages with insights and knowledge, thank you for your dedication and expertise. I also extend appreciation to those who graciously participated in interviews, sharing your valuable perspectives and experiences. Your contributions irradiate the diverse facets of KICC's achievements and initiatives.

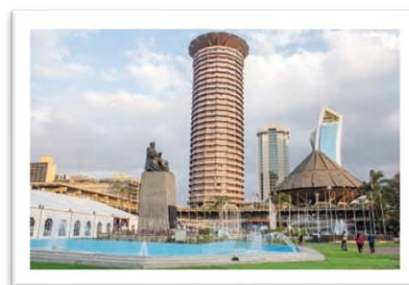
Welcome, and enjoy an informative and enriching read.

## Editor's Note



**Silvia Mochorwa, Editor**

**KICC Corporate Communications Manager**



**Kenyatta International Convention Centre grounds and the KICC Amphitheatre**

# KENYA CONFERENCE TOURISM PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2023

## Conference Tourism Statistics 2023

The Tourism Research Institute revealed MICE and Business Tourism accounted for 24% of the total tourist arrivals in Kenya, 2023. The sector continues to record a significant growth when compared to pre-COVID period when it accounted for 13.5% of the total arrivals.

The number of local delegates increased from 433,793 in the year 2022 to 444,638 in 2023 for the period between January and September. This was attributed to increased government promotion, bidding and lobbies that led to hosting of several high-profile meetings such as the Africa Climate Change Conference and Youth Connect Africa Summit 2023

## Number of International and local Delegates

In the year 2023, MICE segment recorded 25,703 international delegates which compared with the previous year that recorded 18,658

delegates translated to a growth of 37.75%. The number of international delegates increased during September in the year 2023 triggered by high-profile meetings Kenya hosted during the year. These were the EU- Kenya Business Forum in Nairobi, Africa Climate Summit at KICC and the East Africa Regional Tourism Expo and Magical Kenya Travel Expo and United Nations Habitat Assembly on Urban Agenda.

## Number of international conferences, 2019 – 2023

The number of international conferences held in the country significantly increased from 694 in the year 2022 to 794 in the year 2023 year on year basis from January to September. This was largely supported by the increase in visitors' arrivals and the hosting of high profile meetings by the government in the effort to boost MICE business.

The number of local conferences held in the country was 7,255 between the periods January to



**Rosemary Kamau KICC**  
**KICC Principal Corporate**  
**Communications Officer**

September in the year 2023 compared to same period 2022 that recorded 6,811.

The increase was attributed to increased hosting of several high-profile international meetings in the country.

It is clear from the statistics that KICC continues to play a significant role in hosting most of the international conferences and exhibitions held in Kenya. KICC continues to lobby for more international conferences.

In 2024, KICC in the last six months has hosted several international conferences and events such as African Development Bank Conference, the Africa

Head of State Summit, IDA21 Presidential Summit, the AFSH 2024 Summit and the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit.

# INSIDE THE CHAIR'S LIFE; EMBRACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES TO BECOMING A DRIVING FORCE FOR EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIETAL CHANGE

Hon. Adelina Mwau, current Chairperson of the Board of Directors at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), was born in the hilly terrains of Kilungu District,

Makueni County. She has founded and served as a Board Member of several organizations, including COVAW-K, WRC-DI, Kenya Women Political Alliance, Narc-Kenya, and the Institute for Social Transformation in Uganda. Adelina holds a Master's degree in Development Studies from the Institute of

Development Studies-The Hague, Holland, and a Degree in Adult Education from the Institute of Adult Studies-University of Nairobi. She was nominated for the Award of OGW by the Ministry of Devolution and Planning in 2013. She has authored

publications such as the Oxfam Gender Training

Manual and co-authored the Training Manual on Gender & Human Rights published by the World Health Organization (WHO). When not fulfilling her duties as KICC



chairperson, Adelina resides in Kilungu, where she has made substantial investments in agriculture—specifically poultry, dairy and organic farming. During her tenure as the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Governor of Makueni County from 2013 to 2022, she initiated a model of integrating public participation in county development. According to her, this initiative aimed to ensure that devolution did not exacerbate community wounds, but rather empowered people—both men and women—to champion their own development. She emphasized the importance



**Hon. Adelina Mwau, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC)**



of human-centered approaches by advocating for Special Interest Groups (SIGs), including women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, youth, and marginalized



### **Hon. Adelina Mwaui's book "Swimming with the Sharks"**

communities, to actively participate in decision-making processes. She introduced the theories and practices of social transformation by Paulo Freire, emphasizing community-driven development through problem identification, root cause analysis, and action initiation.

Her insights into women's leadership have been

particularly inspiring. She has demonstrated that women not only can but also should aspire to leadership roles for personal growth and societal benefit. Her advocacy for women's leadership, economic empowerment, gender-responsive planning,

mainstreaming, visibility of women's unpaid work, and campaigns against gender violence has had a profound impact. She has challenged and dispelled cultural myths and stereotypes, negative patriarchal norms, and glass ceilings, setting a powerful example and inspiring more women

and youth to engage in public leadership. Adelina's life experiences illustrate the relentless effort required to foster a more equitable world. Her efforts have earned her recognition, including the Dr. Fidelia Galon Pioneer States Woman Award and honors from the National Gender and Equality Committee and Diversity and Inclusion Awards for promoting equality and inclusion.

Adelina is preparing to unveil her memoir, "Swimming with the Sharks - With the Appetite of a Whale." This eagerly anticipated publication chronicles Adelina's journey through life's challenges, transforming them into unprecedented

opportunities fueled by her unwavering spirit of "Why Not?". Drawing from her career at the forefront of societal change, Adelina

intertwines personal narrations with profound reflections on justice, equality, and the empowerment of women in leadership. Her memoir not only documents pivotal milestones but also challenges readers to embrace their reality and confront traditional norms with courage and purpose. Get ready to be inspired as Adelina shares her remarkable experiences, urging readers to question limitations and embrace a mindset of limitless potential. Join us in celebrating a memoir that promises to ignite curiosity and provoke meaningful dialogue about the power of resilience and determination in shaping a better tomorrow.

Business Tourism or travel is a subset of tourism in which Business travelers go to another location (domestic or international) for professional reasons, such as to:

Attend local or international event, conference or trade show and exhibitions

Meet with business partners or prospects

To take part in company retreats or incentive trips.

Go to other countries to look for Market, to set up office or Factory.

It's one of the main types of tourism and a major contributor to global economic growth and knowledge exchange. Business tourism enables one to open new channels of communication, exchange information in a more efficient way, and work well with others.

What most people don't understand and always ask is, if business tourism is always strictly work-related. The response to this is No. Although in the past business trips used to be very short and purpose-oriented, more and more business travelers are now combining business and leisure tourism in what is now known as

"Bleisure,"(business + leisure).

Business tourism is very important; even in the digital age is because, when it comes to face-to-face communication, nothing beats it when it comes to connecting with others and building trust. And we all know how important trust is in developing strong business partnerships.

Sharing the same physical space enables people to connect in a more direct and immediate way than when using Zoom, Skype or Google Meets. This, in turn, helps them to:

Achieve important breakthroughs and solve problems faster

Work together more efficiently

Better understand common goals, needs, and challenges

Easily share knowledge and ideas

And indeed, business travel is still an essential part of doing business even in the age of remote

Work, most of employees say the best way to learn on the job is to be around colleagues. Having understood what Business tourism is, Kenya



**Faith Rono**  
**KICC Corporate**  
**Communications**

International Convention Centre is known as a leading venue for meetings in Nairobi, its national mandates is to nature and promote the country as a most preferred destination for business travel and MICE tourism.

Currently all countries in the world are gearing towards developing a strong MICE industry as a way of reviving economic developments. Apart from financial gains, the MICE industry is also a notable "driver of economics" social and cultural development worldwide.

Kenya has put in the works to maximize on the Mice initiative; it has taken major



steps to put itself on the map as one of the best destinations for business tourism. In doing so, KICC has been able to host some of the most prominent summits, exhibitions, conferences, concerts in the world. These include:

- ❖ Africa Climate Summit & Africa Climate Week 2023 Exhibition which saw a diverse range of participants, including government officials, policymakers, climate experts, businesses, civil society organizations, and international delegates.
- ❖ Medicare Africa 2011 was the largest international exhibition focusing on medical sector in Kenya. The exhibitors showcased a comprehensive range of new products, equipment and services to a highly focused and professional national and international audience. The show offered a wonderful platform for hospital administrators, practitioners, medical professionals, doctors and service providers to discuss about the recent

scientific innovations and latest medical instruments in African market. Medicare Africa Expo & Conference offered the opportunity for the attendees to hear directly from experts and learn more about the newest technology and healthcare services and medical equipment.

- ❖ The Shoke Shoke Fest 2023 is a musical event that was held at KICC. The show was headlined by international Nigerian musician Ayra Star and was feature an array of Kenyan artists including Dj CnG, Khaligraph Jones etc.

By vigorously and strategically marketing itself, KICC has in the past been able to receive notable international recognition and awards. Nairobi has been named Africa's Leading Business Travel Destination, while The Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) has been awarded Africa's Leading Meetings and Conference destination at the 26th Annual World Travel Award (WTA). This has in turn brought more

business opportunities and revenue to Kenya as a whole.



**The Climate Summit 2023 at KICC**



**The Shoke Shoke Fest at KICC Tsavo Ballroom**



# TRIUMPH IN THE FINAL STRETCH: UNRAVELLING THE KICC OWNERSHIP SAGA FROM DECADES OF DISPUTE.

The KICC land ownership saga was first whistle-blown by Auditor General Nancy Gachungu in her report to the parliament for the year ending June 2019. The Auditor General revealed that the land on which the iconic tower stands was not registered in the name of the state. Further, she revealed that KICC had no title deeds to prove ownership of the parking area, commonly known as COMESA Grounds, the land where Garden Square Restaurant stands, and the statue of Kenya's founding President Jomo Kenyatta. The parking area land as well as where Garden Square and Kenyatta statue-stand in records appeared as "unallocated government land. The findings by Ms. Gachungu reopened a twenty-year-old dispute over the ownership of the KICC building.

Since its inception, KICC was intended not just as a

conference center but also as a symbol representing unity, progress, and global

connectivity. Architects Karl Henrik Nostvik and David Mutiso designed the 27-storey building, which was commissioned by former President Jomo Kenyatta in 1967. Solel Boneh & Factah were the contractors responsible for its construction, which proceeded in three phases: Phase I for the podium, Phase II for the main tower, and Phase III for the plenary spaces. The construction was concluded in 1973, and the opening ceremony took place in September of that year, presided over by President Kenyatta. In September 2013, marking its 40th anniversary, the complex was renamed the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC).

The controversy surrounding KICC ownership dates back to 1967 when its foundation was laid. In June 1974, about eight months after its opening, questions about its ownership arose when

Kasim Mwamzandi, then MP for Msambweni, queried Minister of State Mbiyu



**Damaris Kavete**  
**KICC Corporate**  
**Communications Officer**

Koinange about whether the building belonged to the party members. Koinange responded by affirming that he had no doubts that the building belonged to KANU (Kenya African National Union), emphasizing that like any other organization in Kenya, KANU had borrowed money from financial institutions to construct the building, making it the property of all KANU members. This marked the beginning of confusion over KICC ownership.

In June 2002, the then Minister for Roads and Public Works, William Morogo, clarified that KICC was constructed between

1967 and 1989 by the government, and it was not sold to KANU but rather given to the party. A month later, President Kibaki addressed the issue, affirming that Kenyan taxpayers had funded the project, initiated during his tenure as Finance Minister. Upon assuming power in 2003, Kibaki issued an executive order that returned KICC to public ownership. KANU lost ownership of the building following what then Minister of Tourism and Information, Raphael Tuju, described as an executive order.

However, despite this change in ownership, the party continued to list the property as one of its assets in submissions to the Registrar of Political Parties. In 2012, former KANU Secretary General, Nick Salat, asserted that the party possessed a title deed to the building and included it in its list of assets. At one point, the building served as the party's headquarters

Plans by the former ruling party KANU to reclaim ownership of the KICC recently faced a setback when a judge ruled that the party had obtained a title

deed for the land illegally. Justice Jacqueline Mogeni determined that the land on which the building stands was not available for alienation, rendering the process leading to KANU's allocation of the parcel unlawful from the outset. The Environment and Land Court judge revoked the title deed issued to KANU on May 25, 1989, stating that the allotment letter provided to the party on May 10, 1969, by the Commissioner of Lands was procedurally flawed. KANU had sought a court declaration asserting its rightful ownership of the land LR No 209/11157, having been allocated the land and subsequently obtaining a 99-year lease title deed two decades later. The title deed listed former President Daniel Arap Moi and former Minister Oloo Aringo as trustees of KANU, with the party having been allocated the land by former Commissioner of Lands, Wilson Gachanga. However, Justice Mogeni questioned how KANU and its officials had not followed due process in the alienation and allocation of the land. The judge emphasized that while the

process might have been appropriate for land intended for religious, educational, or sports purposes; it was unsuitable for allocation to a political party.

Justice Mogeni upheld a new title deed, registered as number 209/19829 in June 2010, naming the Principal Secretary of the Treasury as trustee for the Ministry of Tourism, affirming its validity. The High Court sitting in Milimani conclusively ruled that the land housing the Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC) belongs to the government.





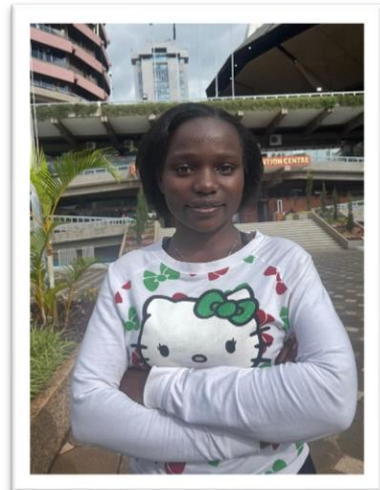
## BUSINESS TOURISM AT KICC

Business Tourism has become an essential component of the global economy fostering international cooperation, promoting trade and facilitating exchange of ideas and knowledge. Kenya, with existence of KICC which has focused on Meetings, Incentive travels, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE), being in a strategic location and vibrant business environment, it has emerged as a prominent destination for business tourism.

KICC is one of the premier convention centers in Africa, offering state of the art facilities for meetings and conferences. Located in the heart of Nairobi, KICC is spacious and is capable of accommodating events of varying sizes and complexities. The center's facilities include conference halls, lawns, exhibition spaces and the courtyard ensuring clients and attendees have an ample space for networking, collaboration and learning.

KICC is able to facilitate business interactions and promoting trade and commerce. It has been able

to host high profile events with over 4000 delegates across different states. It has recently held the AfDB and Climate Summit Action. KICC is also equipped with extensive exhibition spaces, capable of hosting large-scale trade shows exhibitions. Recently, it has hosted the Build Expo event, Agri-tech event, Meat Expo and the NGOs where people from different states and local areas have been able to showcase their products and sold. The attendees also benefit through interaction and information. It is done, whether it is showcasing the latest products and services or connecting with potential clients and partners.



**Getrude Emali**  
**KICC Corporate**  
**Communications**



**The Kenyatta International**  
**Convention Centre**

## WHERE STATE-OF-THE-ART MEETS

This iconic venue, with its distinctive tower and panoramic views of the bustling cityscape, is not just a symbol of Kenya's growth but a hub of innovation and collaboration. Offering state-of-the-art facilities and world-class services, KICC has become the premier destination for global conferences, trade shows, and corporate events, driving economic growth and showcasing Nairobi as a leading global city for business and culture. The Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) boasts a variety of versatile meeting settings designed to accommodate events of all scales. Its grand Plenary Hall, with a capacity of over 4,000 delegates, offers an impressive stage for large conferences and conventions, while the intimate and elegantly designed Amphitheatre provides a more focused environment for seminars and workshops for example the Tsavo Ballroom, capable of accommodating thousands of exhibitors and attendees, is designed to host large-scale trade shows, expos, and product launches. With modular booth setups, advanced lighting, and

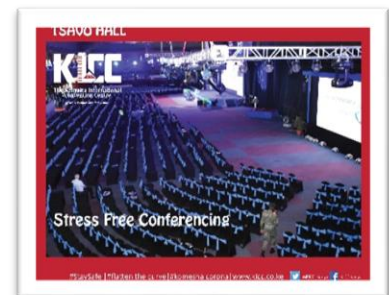
ample electrical supply, the space can be tailored to meet the specific needs of any exhibition. Additionally, KICC's versatile courtyards and concourse areas provide supplementary exhibition spaces, perfect for interactive displays and networking zones. The seamless integration of cutting-edge technology, including high-speed internet and sophisticated AV systems, ensures exhibitors can present their innovations dynamically, making KICC a premier destination for both regional and international exhibitions. For corporate meetings and smaller gatherings, KICC's numerous boardrooms and breakout rooms are equipped with cutting-edge technology such as advanced audio-visual equipment and high-speed internet KICC ensures every event is executed flawlessly. . Complementing these offerings are the centre's strategic partnerships with local hotels and tour operators, enabling tailored packages that include city tours, safaris, and cultural

experiences, making KICC the ultimate choice for unforgettable incentive



**June Chelapan**  
**KICC Corporate**  
**Communications**

event. The venue's scenic outdoor spaces, such as the rooftop helipad with panoramic views of Nairobi, add a unique touch for networking events and receptions, ensuring a memorable experience for all attendees.



# KENYA, ELECTED CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND COMPETITIVENESS (2023-2027)

The Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness convened in its 14th Meeting on 23 January 2024 at UN Tourism Headquarters in Madrid, Spain.

During the meeting, Kenya and Sri Lanka were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, respectively. Kenya was elected to Chair the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness, solidifying its position as a leader in the global tourism industry.

The announcement was made at the first meeting of the committee held at the UNWTO headquarters in Madrid, Spain. Kenya won the position after two rounds of voting, defeating strong bids from Thailand and Malta.

Commenting on the election, Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua said: "This is a historic moment and an important win for Kenya's as it put us in a position of decision making in matters that affect tourism across the globe. This vote

demonstrates the confidence that UNWTO member states have in Kenya's leadership and ability to steer the organization's agenda on tourism competitiveness."

He added that tourism is a key pillar of Kenya economy and chairing the committee would allow synergy with other UNWTO members in shaping policy, building partnerships, and promoting best practices in tourism. "We shall champion initiatives that will help in the creation of jobs, protecting of the planet as well as driving inclusive growth that can be felt and be impactful within communities," said CS Mutua

The Executive Director of the UNWTO Zoritsa Urosevic, congratulated Kenya on securing the chair position acknowledging Kenya's remarkable achievements in the tourism sector. She expressed confidence in the country's

ability to lead the Committee effectively.



**Rosemary Kamau KICC**  
**KICC Principal Corporate**  
**Communications Officer**

"I commend Kenya for its commitment to sustainable tourism development. As one of the important tourism economies in Africa, Kenya will bring valuable experience and expertise that will lead the Committee's work in enhancing competitiveness and responsible tourism across UNWTO member countries," Urosevic said.

Kenya's successful bid was anchored on its tourism competitiveness pillars such as destination marketing, diversified tourism offerings, sustainable tourism practices, cultural and natural heritage, training, and skills development programs as well as innovations and technology among other strengths.

The country's infrastructural development strides in areas of roads, airports



and hospitality facilities were also highlighted as key enablers which have unlocked growth potential for the sector.

The UNWTO Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness acts as a platform for cooperation between Member States to enhance the competitiveness of their offering, promote innovation, and ensure the sustainable growth of tourism worldwide.

Kenya takes over the chairmanship for three years and will hold the position between 2024 and 2027. Other committees of the UNWTO where Kenya is mandated to represent Africa include the Programme and Budget Committee (up to 2025) and the Committee on Tourism and Sustainability where Kenya will be a representative until 2027.



## **KENYA'S STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENTS TOWARDS BEING A PREMIER MICE DESTINATION**

President William Ruto recently outlined strategies to position the country as a leading destination for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions through a directive issued during a cabinet meeting. According to a brief released on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Kenya continues to open its doors to the world, with recent efforts receiving a boost through the introduction of Visa-Free entry under the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) framework.

In this Cabinet brief, it was announced that Kenya would host several international meetings in the upcoming weeks and months, including the BlueInvest Forum in July 2024 and the World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organization in August, both to be hosted by KICC. This stated as reinforced by the successful hosting of significant events such as the continent's



**Damaris Kavete**  
**KICC Corporate**  
**Communications Officer**

inaugural Africa Climate Summit, the Africa Heads of State Summit in support of the Twenty First (21st) Replenishment of the Resources of the International Development Association (IDA21), and African Development Bank (AfDB) Group Annual Meeting, all Hosted by KICC. In commemoration of Kenya's heritage, splendor, and the importance of language as a medium of cultural expression, Kenya is also set to host the East African Community (EAC) Member States to mark this year's World Kiswahili Day from July 5-7, 2024.

This comes after Kenya recently clinching the third-place ranking in Africa in the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) sector. This achievement published in the ICCA Business Analytics report marked a significant advancement for Kenya, shooting from its previous ninth-place standing in the 2022 report. Rwanda claimed the second spot, while South Africa led the African Continent rankings.

The ICCA Business Analytics 2023 report, drawing from an analysis of over 10,000 meetings, highlighted Kenya's remarkable progress. In 2023, Kenya climbed to the 58th position globally, a substantial improvement from its 80th place in 2022. Similarly, Nairobi City surged to the 111th position in 2023 from its previous standing at 292nd, based on the global tally of meetings held.

The International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) is the global nexus and knowledge centre for the international association meetings industry, boasting over 1,000 member companies and organizations spanning

nearly 100 countries. With a professional network of approximately 100,000 individuals specializing in the international association meetings sector, ICCA provides unparalleled data, communication channels, and business development opportunities to its members, who represent top destinations worldwide and experienced specialist suppliers. International meeting planners rely on the ICCA network for solutions tailored to their event objectives, including venue selection, technical and strategic advice, delegate transportation assistance, full convention planning, and ad hoc services.

Key highlights from the ICCA report included:

**Rising Rankings:** Kenya demonstrated a remarkable ascent in the ICCA rankings, reflecting a substantial increase in the number of international meetings hosted within the country.

**Diverse Offerings:** From vibrant urban hubs to breathtaking natural landscapes, Kenya offers a rich tapestry of experiences for event attendees. With

world-class convention facilities, luxurious accommodations, and unparalleled hospitality, Kenya provides the perfect backdrop for memorable and impactful gatherings.

**Strategic Partnerships:** The success showcased in the ICCA report is a result of collaborative efforts between various stakeholders, including government agencies, private enterprises, and the local community. Through strategic partnerships and proactive initiatives, Kenya has created an enabling environment conducive to the seamless execution of international events.

**Sustainable Practices:** As a responsible host nation, Kenya remains committed to sustainable practices in the meetings industry. From eco-friendly venues to community engagement initiatives, Kenya strives to ensure that its growth is both inclusive and environmentally sustainable, aligning with global sustainability goals.

Kenya's achievement stands as a testament to its steadfast commitment and

concerted efforts to enhance infrastructure, promote tourism, and cultivate a conducive business environment. Emerging as a beacon of excellence in Africa, Kenya is increasingly preferred for hosting conferences, exhibitions, and corporate gatherings of global significance. The ICCA report findings underscore Kenya's pivotal role in the global meetings industry, marking a remarkable journey of growth and development.

Building on this new paradigm, Kenya is continuing to showcase itself as a premier destination for international conferences, especially in the MICE sector. This commitment has resulted in Kenya hosting 50 Heads of State and Government, along with a record number of delegates, in the past year.

The Kenya International Convention Centre (KICC) expresses immense pride in Kenya's accomplishments and extends gratitude to all stakeholders for their steadfast support. This achievement underscores Kenya's growing influence and capability to host world-class events,

reaffirming its dedication to the highest standards of service excellence, innovation, and inclusivity in the global meetings industry.

### **About                      Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC):**

The Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) stands as East Africa's largest and most versatile conference facility, situated in Nairobi, Kenya. With its iconic architectural design and state-of-the-art amenities, KICC serves as a premier venue for conferences, meetings, exhibitions, and special events of all sizes. Committed to excellence and innovation, KICC offers world-class facilities and personalized services to ensure the success of every event.



**The Kenyatta International Convention Centre foyer**



**The entrance of the Kenyatta International Convention Centre during the African Development Bank Conference**



**The KICC Amphitheatre**



**KICC Comesa grounds**





# APPRECIATING LONG SERVING STAFF AT KICC: WILFRED ONGERI'S JOURNEY

INTERVIEWED BY ROSEMARY KAMAU

Wilfred Ongeru joined Kenyatta International Conference Centre (as it was called then), in 1995, almost 30 years ago. He was employed as a Technician, but his job title later changed to Artisan.



**A younger Ongeru in 1995**

Ongeru recalls that In 1995, KICC was under the KICC Management. The building was under KANU (Kenya African National Union). The KICC management paid all the money they generated to the KANU Secretariat. The Managing Director of the KICC management was Mr. Hassan. He vividly remembers when the lower comesa grounds were put under KICC having been owned previously by the Nairobi City Council.

Years later, KICC was put under receivership under Lloyd Masika Ltd, a real estate company. After this

period, KICC was put under the Ministry of Tourism and it became a Parastatal in 2005.

Ongeru remembers the first KICC Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Philip Kisia. He served for three years. Then came Ms. Beatrice Makawiti who also served for three years, Mr. Fred Simiyu, Ms. Nana Gecaga, Ms. Patricia Ondeng and the present CEO, Mr. James Mwaura.

He appreciates the fact he has a job at KICC and loves the central location of KICC in the heart of the city of Nairobi. His most memorable conferences in the last thirty years were 14th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and The 6 Tokyo International Conferences on African Development (TICAD). These were very big conferences that took many days. What he found memorable was how well organized they were.

Ongeru appreciates a KICC benchmarking visit he made to South Africa to see how they conduct their conferences.



**Wilfred Ongeru**

The CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria was impressive. He noted that they had higher standards. Their podiums were in a fitted place and did not require to be moved. Payments for conferences were done beforehand.

As his parting shot, after years of experience and gained wisdom, he highly recommends that "when work arises we should put our heads together for one common goal. Expert contractors and KICC experts should work together for better results. Let us learn to listen to each other."

# GETTING TO KNOW KICC PROTOCOL & CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER: BEATICE MBAIKA

INTERVIEWED BY ROSEMARY KAMAU

**How long have you been at KICC and what is your day like?**

I started working at KICC on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008, 15 years ago.



## A younger Mbaika in 2008

I love my work as the Protocol and Customer Service Officer and I am very passionate about it. My day starts at 7am, I check on the rooms that have events that day until 10am. I then charge clients visiting the rooftop and assist visitors to find their way around KICC and answer their queries.

**What do you enjoy most about working at KICC?** I like the exposure. KICC allows me to meet interesting people. I have met Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and even the current US President Joe Biden. This is the kind of exposure you would not get anywhere else.

I have also had the privilege of visiting the US, Germany and Dubai to benchmark on how conferences are done in those countries.

**What do you find challenging at KICC?**

In rare cases I find it challenging dealing with difficult clients.

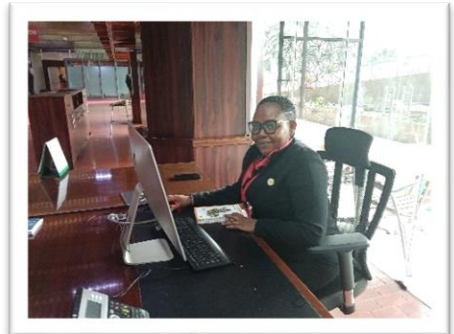
**Are you a morning person or a night person?**

I am a flexible person. There was a time I had to work for 28 hours this year as we prepared for the African Development Bank conference.

**What memorable conferences have you witnessed at KICC?**

All conferences held at KICC are unique, but the 14th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 2015-2016 was the most memorable because it involved many heads of state. It was well organized and everyone was involved.

**What was your most embarrassing moment at KICC?**



## Mbaika working at her desk

The AGOA conference in 2009 vividly comes to mind. Hillary Clinton was the VIP guest. I was working in the housekeeping department. I was responsible for keeping the keys of the VIP rooms. The keys went missing and I could not find them. Luckily the spare keys were used. Despite the missing keys, the event was a success.

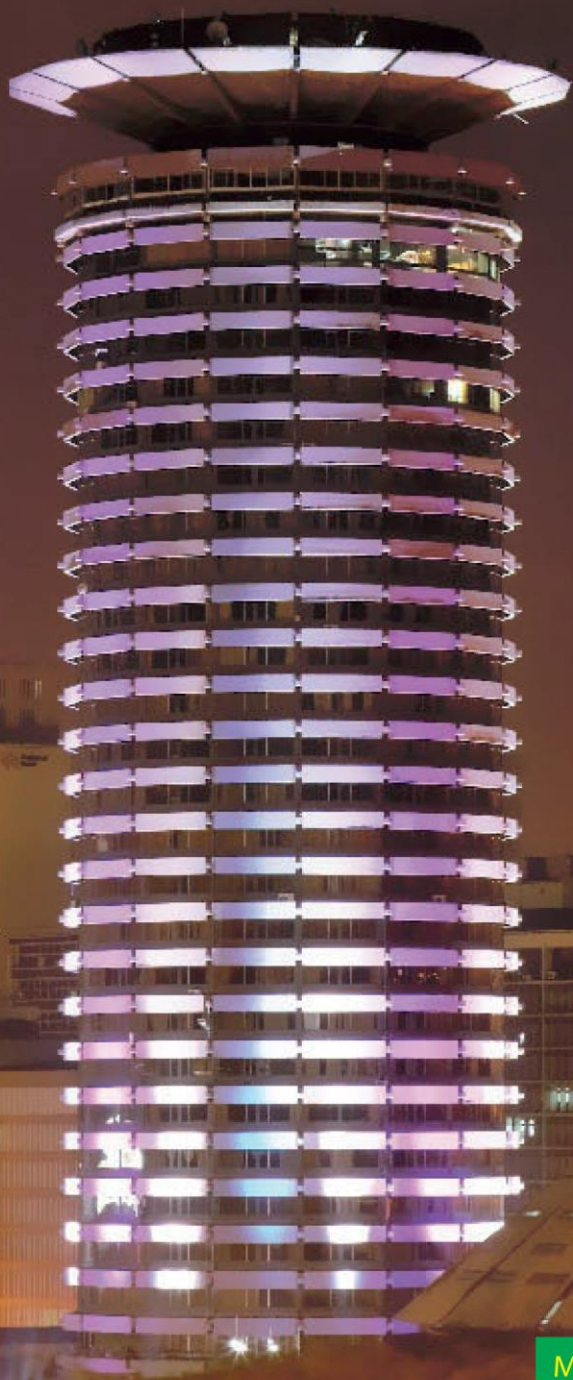
**What motivates you?**

I work for God.

**What are you most proud about yourself?**

I am very proud to be a mother of two. I get my favor from God. I have a passion for working with people with special needs. I have been trained in communicating with sign language.

# Experience the KICC Helipad



Mpesa Paybill  
Business no. 314888  
Account: View Tower

## HELIPAD CHARGES

KENYAN CITIZENS & EAST AFRICAN CITIZENS (with proof)	
Adults	Kshs. 200
Secondary School Students	Kshs. 100
Primary Pupils & below	Kshs. 50

RESIDENTS (with proof)	
Adults	Kshs. 300
Secondary School Students	Kshs. 200
Children under 12	Kshs. 100

NON-RESIDENTS	USD	KSHS
Adults	\$ 5	Kshs. 500
International Students (with Proof)	\$ 3	Kshs. 300
Children under 12	\$ 2	Kshs. 200

HELIPAD CHARGES	Rate Per Unit	Extra Adult
Photo shoot (first 10 pax) (Day/ Night)	Kshs. 7,500	Kshs.100
Filming -Video shoot (Day/Night)	Kshs. 20,000	—
Helipad Functions/Events Maximum 4hours	Kshs. 50,000	—
Helicopter Landing (Exclusive VAT per landing)	Kshs. 20,000	Kshs. 1000 per Extra Hour

All payments are to be through bank cards or mpesa only at the Main Reception inside the building



# KICC SPACE CARD

FACILITY	LOCATION	SIZE (SQ METRES)	RATES (EXCLUSIVE OF TAXES & SERVICE CHARGE (Kshs)	RATES INCLUSIVE OF 7.5% SERVICE CHARGE & VAT
Tsavo Ballroom	Ground floor	2444	306,936	382,749
Tsavo A	Ground floor	1400	231,000	288,057
Tsavo B	Ground floor	1044	178,500	222,589
Amphitheatre	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	2666	185,440	231,244
Aberdares Hall	Lower ground floor	355	92,446	115,280
Lenana Hall	Lower ground floor	295	84,042	104,800
Impala Room	1 <sup>st</sup> floor	140.5	25,000	37,410
Lake Turkana Room	1 <sup>st</sup> floor	140.5	25,000	37,410
Shimba Hills Rooms	1 <sup>st</sup> floor	205.41	60,000	74,820
Taifa Room	Lower ground floor	285	35,000	43,645
VVIP Lounge	1 <sup>st</sup> floor	100	95,000	118,465
Batian Room	1 <sup>st</sup> floor	40	18,000	22,446
Courtyard	Oppo. City Hall Way	7056	130,000	162,110
Upper Comesa	Oppo. Parliament	5497	216,000	232,200
Lower Comesa	Oppo. Parliament	6057	216,000	232,200
Raised Tree Area	Oppo. City Hall Way	6450	100,000	124,700
Lawns	Next to Comesa	7500	130,000	162,110
Delegates Lounge	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	806	54,000	67,338
Amphi-foyer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Terrace	1659	45,000	56,115
Secretariat Rooms	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	6	10,000	12,470

# KICC Facilities Pictorials



*KICC Global forest*



*KICC Courtyard*



*KICC Water fountains and Courtyard*



*One of the KICC Executive Boardrooms*



*Private Client's Lactating Rooms*



*KICC Tsavo Ballroom*



## KICC Staff Pictorial



*Handing over Ceremony of outgoing Ag. CEO Patricia Ondeng with incoming CEO James Mwaura with the KICC Board Chairperson Andelina Mwau and Mr. Mutinda from the Ministry of Tourism*



*KICC CEO James Mwaura with the outgoing Ag. CEO Patricia Ondeng'*



*KICC CEO James Mwaura wishes Fridah Robai "Happy Mothers Day" with flowers*



*KICC CEO James Mwaura wishes Rose Shimaka "Happy Mothers Day"*



*Happy Mother's Day to mothers working at KICC*



*KICC Staff tree Planting in Kilgoris. Former KICC Ag. CEO Patricia Ondeng 'and KICC Operations Director Mr. Gomeri Kombo*



*KICC Staff plant trees at KICC on the National Tree Planting Day*



*Enoosaen primary school visits KICC*

## Some Prestigious Events at KICC



*Africa Homes Expo at the KICC Courtyard*



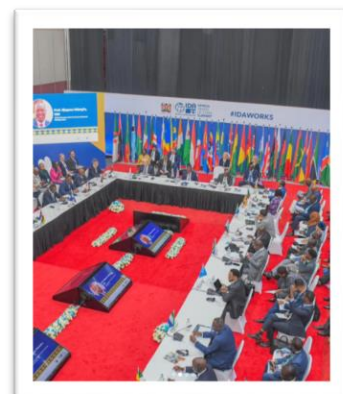
*Beautiful KICC Grounds*



*Africa Homes Expo Exhibitions at the Tsavo Ballroom*



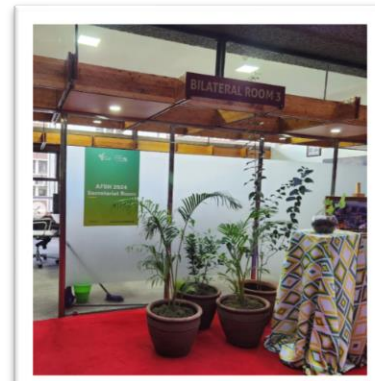
*IDA21 Presidential Summit at the expansive KICC Tsavo Ball Room*



*African Development Bank Conference at KICC*



*E-Mobility Forum Exhibition at the Tsavo Ballroom*



*Africa Head of States Summit using Annex Rooms at KICC*



# KICC Facilities, Description and Cost

Prices inclusive of 7.5% VAT and Service Charge

**Kshs. 382,749 Tsavo Ballroom (2444 Sq. metres)**

**Kshs. 288,057-Tsavo A (1400 Sq. metres)**

**Kshs. 222,589-Tsavo B (1044 Sq. metres)**



Welcome to the crown jewel of our convention center, the magnificent Tsavo Ballroom! As the largest and most versatile space in our facility, Tsavo Ballroom is your canvas to create unforgettable moments. With a sprawling ground-floor location, this grand hall can comfortably accommodate up to 4,000 guests, making it the ultimate choice for your next large meeting, exhibition, banquet, or reception event. Its sheer size and adaptable design allow you to bring your visions to life, ensuring that your event will be nothing short of spectacular. Elevate your gatherings to new heights and make a statement that will leave a lasting impression.

# KICC Facilities, Description and Cost

## Amphitheatre

Kshs. 231,244 Amphitheatre (2666 Sq. metres)



Step into a world where tradition and modernity converge in perfect harmony at our one-of-a-kind Amphitheatre. Inspired by the iconic African hut, this exceptional space is a celebration of culture and innovation. Nestled on the 2nd and 3rd floors, it offers a captivating setting for your symposia and seminars. With its unique design, the Amphitheatre embodies the spirit of Africa while embracing the future. Imagine your event unfolding in this remarkable blend of tradition and technology, where ideas come to life, and connections are forged.



# KICC Facilities, Description and Cost

## VVIP Lounge

VVIP Lounge Kshs. 118,465 (100 Sq. metres)



## VVIP Holding Area



Sophistication meets class on first floor. This is a floor for very very important people with the best of furniture and wall to wall carpeting. It is simply beautiful and worth every penny. It is the pride of Kenyatta International Conference Centre.



# KICC Facilities, Description and Cost

## Aberdares and Lenana Halls



**Lenana Hall -Kshs. 84,042 (295 Sq. metres)**



**Aberdare Hall -Kshs. 92,446 (355 Sq. metres)**



Nestled on the lower ground floor, our Aberdare and Lenana Halls are the hidden gems of our convention center, waiting to host your medium-sized conferences, meetings, and seminars. These versatile spaces are designed with your needs in mind, providing the perfect backdrop for productive gatherings and insightful discussions. But that's not all – we've added a touch of relaxation with a comfortable lounge area, offering a soothing cascade view for your well-deserved refreshment breaks. Whether you're brainstorming, presenting, or networking, Aberdare and Lenana Halls offer the ideal setting to make your event a success. Elevate your next gathering, and let the inspiration flow in these tranquil and inspiring spaces.

# KICC Facilities, Description and Cost

## Shimba Hills, Taifa Hall, Turkana & Impala Rooms



Shimba Hills Room - Kshs. 74,820 (Sq. Metres 205.41)



Taifa Room Kshs. 35,000 (Sq. Metres 285)



Lake Turkana Room -Kshs. 37,410 (140.5 Sq.metres)



Impala Room -Kshs. 37,410 (140.5 Sq. metres)

KICC has a variety of rooms of all sizes and shapes. Rooms with scenic views and even theatre style rooms. What ever your needs are we have the room for you at very affordable prices.



# KICC Facilities, Description and Cost

## Courtyard, Amphi-foyer, Upper Comesa and Lower Comesa



**Courtyard -Kshs. 162,110 (7056 Sq. metres)**



**Amphi-foyer -Kshs. 56,115 –( 1,659 sq. metres)**



**Upper Comesa -Kshs. 232,200 (5,497 Sq. metres)**



**Lower Comesa -Kshs. 232,200 (6,057 Sq. metres)**

Step into our magnificent courtyard, where open skies meet limitless possibilities! This vast outdoor facility, with its expansive size and boundless potential, is your canvas for creating unforgettable moments. With the capacity to host up to 6000 guests, it's the ultimate space for your grandest dreams to come to life. Whether you envision a lively concert under the stars, or a corporate extravaganza that leaves a lasting impression, our courtyard can accommodate it all. Immerse yourself in the beauty of nature while enjoying the convenience of a versatile event space. The Amphi-foyer is located on the second floor and is ideal for tea/coffee breaks, cocktails and exhibitions.

Overlooking the iconic Kenyan Parliament, this exceptional outdoor venue is the epitome of sophistication and versatility. Whether you're envisioning an unforgettable concert, a captivating exhibition, a glamorous gala, or a spectacular extravaganza, COMESA grounds provide the ideal backdrop for your wildest dreams to come true. With its expansive and picturesque setting, your event will be bathed in an atmosphere of magnificence, offering your guests an unforgettable experience.



# KICC Facilities, Description and Cost

## Raised Tree Area and Lawns



**Raised Tree Area - Kshs. 124,700 (6450 sq.metres)**

Discover the enchanting oasis nestled above the bustling city, where nature meets elegance in perfect harmony. Our raised tree area is not just a venue; it's an experience. Whether you're planning an intimate cocktail or a captivating exhibition, our unique space offers a canvas for your creativity.

**Lawns -Kshs. 162,110 (7,500 Sq. metres)**



Our spectacular Lawns are the perfect outdoor canvas for your next extraordinary event! Nestled next to the prestigious COMESA grounds, these lush lawns offer a breathtaking backdrop for exhibitions, elegant dinners, lively parties, and unforgettable cocktails. With a generous capacity of up to 5000 guests, you have the freedom to dream big and host your event in grand style. Whether you're planning a corporate gathering, a one-of-a-kind exhibition, our Lawns provide the ultimate setting to make it truly remarkable. Embrace the beauty of the outdoors while enjoying the convenience of a versatile event space.

# KENYA FOR THE FIRST TIME ELECTED TO LEAD AFRICA'S MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS ASSOCIATION

KICC CEO James Mwaura to spearhead Africa's business meetings' agenda in the global arena



**Mr. James Mwaura, KICC CEO**

On 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024...Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) Chief Executive Officer Mr James Mwaura was elected Chairperson of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) –African Chapter for a two-year term following a competitive process. This is the first time

Kenya has won the position.

ICCA is an international body which represents the world's leading suppliers in handling, transporting and accommodating international meetings and events. It comprises of 1,100-member companies and organizations across the world. It specializes in the international association's meetings sector in 100 countries.

The African chapter has about 50 members and plays a pivotal role in developing and growing the local meetings and events industry and enhancing the global competitiveness of the continent.

As the new Chair, Mwaura will work with his colleagues in the ICCA Africa chapter to position Africa as a prime business conferencing destination and showcase the potential of the continent to host big events. Africa has a great deal of potential in the meetings



**Silvia Mochorwa**

**KICC Corporate Communications Manager**

and conference business and his efforts will be dedicated in helping Chapter members exploit this potential to increase the number of meetings that Africa hosts. Kenya will gain greatly from this position through the strategic influence Mwaura will have in hosting of rotational conferences.

Mwaura expressed his gratitude to the Africa Chapter members for believing and voting for him. Commenting on his new role, Mwaura said he will use the influential post to further position Kenya as an attractive destination for conference tourism also known as Meetings, Incentives, Travel, Conferences and Exhibition (MICE) Tourism.



“Key will be to showcase Kenya and the continent’s capabilities to host large conferences and events. Africa is ready to do business with the world. With the right in-country partnerships, member countries are able to host major events and as ICCA Africa Chapter, we will work to ensure we raise this profile,” said Mwaura

Mwaura further commits to deliver on his promises to grow the Chapter. “I will push for strategic Chapter involvement that provide valuable business and learning opportunities for Africa, develop initiatives that foster greater participation and networking among Africa Chapter members as well as mobilize new members to the chapter,” Mwaura said.

The post will enable Kenya gain access to valuable industry data, research, and insights that can inform the country’s MICE strategic decisions. It will also give the country increased global visibility and recognition through strategic business speaking opportunities in international ICCA forums.

Mwaura further commits to leverage on the position to influence the growth and development of Kenya’s meetings and conventions industry on a global scale. “Kenya will possess the

potential to successfully secure leads for conventions to be held within the country” Mwaura added. Further, the position will give Kenya an upper hand in collaborating with teams of experienced professionals and support from ICCA’s resources and infrastructure.

Some of the objectives of the African Chapter as the voice of Africa in the global meetings world include increasing Africa’s market share of the global meetings industry, extracting more business between countries on the continent, growing & nurturing the people within the industry and creating a positive image about Africa as a unique and inspiring destination for international meetings and events.



*KICC Round table discussion rooms*



*KICC Executive Bilateral Rooms*



*Scenic beautiful outdoor meeting areas*





The Kenyatta International  
Convention Centre  
*Africa's Premier Meeting Venue*

**Get in touch with us:**

Kenyatta International Convention Centre Corporation

P. O. Box 30746 - 00100 NAIROBI

**Telephone:** 254-020-2247290, 2247277, 2217/11

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