



Kenya's Good Governance Moment: At home, regionally and globally

Key recommendations

Since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, Kenya has, and continues to, put in place measures for building and strengthening institutions for governance for the benefit of citizens. There is notable progress especially in delivery of services under devolution. The country has made significant progress in strengthening institutions, tackling corruption domestically, and taking an active role regionally through the EAC and the African Union. However, there are concerns that weak institutions may undermine the country's progress, especially in the context of the upcoming referendum and 2022 general election.

Based on a two day international conference held in February 2021, the following key recommendations are made.

1. There is urgent need to strengthen the elections management body, IEBC, and the judiciary which play a key role in promoting electoral accountability. This can be achieved through enhancing financial and political independence, and strengthening their capacity for service delivery.
2. There is a need to enhance engagement between electoral institutions and citizens in order to regain citizens' trust and improve public confidence in their delivery of service.
3. Structures for public participation and feedback mechanisms that essentially promote public engagement appear to be weak. In this case, there is need to strengthen structures that promote public participation at all levels of governance in Kenya.
4. The working relationship between the national government and county governments has been characterized by mistrust and suspicions. There is need to forge better and strong inter-governmental working relations promoting dialogue and improving communication between the two levels of government.
5. Gender gap and imbalance continues to impede good governance in Kenya in spite of the two-third gender rule enshrined in the Constitution. It is evident that representation of women in leadership and political participation remains relatively low. There is therefore need to promote gender mainstreaming at all levels of governance in Kenya.
6. Enhancing media freedom is critical for governance. However, commercial and vested interests among the media houses appear to undermine this role. There is need to strengthen freedom of media protocols in Kenya; and also promote the relationship between the media and the government through dialogue.
7. While the state is largely bestowed with promoting policy frameworks for good governance, it is the private sector that consumes this service. Promoting the voice of the private sector in governance should be supported through their respective associations and platforms.
8. Regionally, Kenya should focus more on long term alliance and collaboration building with her neighboring countries that is consistent, structured and about Africa international relations for peaceful co-existence.
9. Kenya should offer leadership in strengthening regional integration institutions as these institutions provide framework for promoting peace and security in the region.
10. Using her position at the UNSC, Kenya should play a more active role in promoting peace and stability in the region.