

Dear President Ruto,
Dear Minister Soipan,
Dear Minister Mutua
Dear Minister Chirchir,
Dear Minister Murkomen,
Dear Minister Ndungu,
Dear Governor Cheboi,
Dear Representatives Koech and Kandie,
Dear Ambassadors Amolo and Retzlaff,
Dear State Secretaries Kofler and Morgan,
Dear Dr. Eid, Dear Mrs. Odhiambo,
Colleagues of the Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to welcome you and your delegation to the German Parliament – 60 years after Kenya's independence.

Germany was the first country to recognize Kenya in 1963.

The presence of the Members of Parliament shows how important German-Kenyan relations are for us on the parliamentary level!

A delegation from the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development was recently in Kenya and took a close look at your country and our cooperation.

The potential of geothermal energy in your country also became clear: With the Olkaria power plants, you have been using an almost CO₂-neutral, renewable energy source since 1981.

This was supported by the German KfW, among others.

This makes your country a role model for the region and for cooperation at eye level.

This is certainly a success story that you will be reporting on at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue starting tomorrow!

But German cooperation does not only extend to energy supply.

Your country - and the entire region - are severely affected by the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is making food security in the country more difficult: more than 4 million people are at risk of hunger.

Transforming agriculture is therefore a major issue.

You are leading the way in research into site-adapted crops - as well as plans for efficient irrigation of your fields.

You are planning your own fertilizer production to reduce dependence on imports.

Germany can support you in all these areas - with know-how, but also with private-sector commitment.

However, education remains the dominant issue. Every government must offer its young population a good perspective - especially when it is growing as fast as in Africa.

In addition to basic education, this applies above all to vocational training. We are already cooperating in vocational training and youth employment. We want to strengthen this even more, also as a parliament!

This is especially important for young people. Otherwise, they are an easy target for extremism and crime. We can see where this leads in all clarity northwest of Kenya: in the Sahel.

Your country offers many opportunities for cooperation in vocational training: In renewable energies, in the production of tea, coffee and the added value of agriculture.

With its system of dual education, Germany can be a strong and reliable partner here. Exchange programs for skilled workers or internships for young Kenyans could be a good way to learn from each other.

Kenya has already shown that it is our partner: In just 5 minutes in February, your UN ambassador made an impressive speech, condemning Russian imperialism and clearly siding with Ukraine.

With which countries should we strengthen our cooperation, if we don't do it with countries like yours? Countries that clearly oppose aggression and violence?

That is also how I read your commitment to the DR Congo. There you are providing part of the task force to pacify eastern Congo and limit the influence of its immediate neighbors.

Over 1,000 Kenyan soldiers are there with Burundian and Ugandan troops trying to stop the advances of the M23 rebels.

They have a robust mandate, putting them at the forefront of protecting civilians. This mission must be appreciated and supported.

Dear Mr. President, as you can see: There are some ideas from within the Parliament to deepen our cooperation.

I have thought of agriculture, of education and of peace building.

I look forward to hearing from you in a moment where you see opportunities for cooperation. And I look forward to hearing back from my colleagues and hearing your ideas for strengthening German-Kenyan relations.

But before that, I'd like to turn the floor over to the President of the German Africa Foundation, Dr. Uschi Eid.