

AMBASSADOR MARTIN KIMANI, C.B.S, Ph.D

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RESUME

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, New York (11/2020 - Present)
 - 2023 President of the Executive Board of the UN Development Programme, the UN Population Fund, and the UN Office for Project Services (Vice President in 2022)
 - Member, Strategic Advisory Group, United Nations Joint SDG Fund (09/2023 -)
 - President of the UN Security Council in October 2021
 - Director of the National Counter Terrorism Centre and the President's Special Envoy for Countering Violent Extremism (09/2015 - 12/2022)
 - Secretary, Strategic Initiatives, Executive Office of the President (12/2018 - 08/2022)
 - Permanent Representative, the UN Office at Nairobi, the UN Environment Programme, and the UN Human Settlements Programme (12/2012 - 09/2015)
 - Director, IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (04/2011 - 12/2012)
 - Deputy Director (+Acting Director), Africa Center, The Atlantic Council of the United States (3/2010 - 4/2011)
 - Senior Counter Terrorism Advisor (& Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies), IGAD Capacity Building Program against Terrorism (04/2006 – 06/2008)
 - Teaching Fellow on defense and security at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, UK (09/2004 — 05/2006)
 - Head of Africa Division, Exclusive Analysis Ltd (now IHS Markit) (10/2004 – 04/2006)
 - Vice President, Foreign Exchange Concepts Inc. (01/1998 – 08/2002)
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ACTION

United Nations, Multilateralism, Diplomacy

- President of the Security Council, October 2021.
- Leveraged the A3+1 caucus' to closely align the Security Council's tools with the Kenya and AU-led negotiations that delivered the permanent cessation of hostilities to the 2021-22 Ethiopian civil war.
- As 2023 President of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNOPS, and UNFPA, my leadership championed the resurgence of program countries in global development conversations.
- Co-Facilitated the landmark Financing for Peacebuilding resolution 76/305 in September 2022.
- Principled advocate for effective multilateralism, demonstrated while leading Kenya's delegation to the UN Security Council. My February 2022 [speech](#) following Russia's recognition of breakaway regions in Ukraine resonated globally and [influenced](#) the international policy agenda.
- As co-chair of the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security, made a strong push for experts to engage critically with the World Bank's fragility work.
- Chair to the 2021 Seventh Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN [press conference](#)).
- 2018 Bipartisan Accord Following Kenya's Post-Election Crisis: As the designated representative of President Uhuru Kenyatta, I served as the sole negotiator in discussions with my counterpart appointed by opposition leader Raila Odinga. The secret negotiations aimed to stave off deepening political divisions and the looming threat of widespread violence similar to the post-2007 election crisis. The talks culminated in a 9-point agenda, which became the cornerstone of the widely-recognized handshake on 9 March 2018. This seminal event led to the formation of the Building Bridges Taskforce. As the Joint Secretary of the taskforce, I took on the pivotal role of chief coordinator and principal drafter of the Building Bridges to a United Kenya [report](#), an unprecedented endeavor in public consultation and constitutional reform.
- I coordinated a senior group of policymakers from Kenya and one other East African state who undertook extensive and discreet negotiations in 2017 and 2018 to accelerate the political federation process of the East African Community.
- One of a 3-person team of mediators instrumental in facilitating a smooth transition of power in the Democratic Republic of Congo in December 2018, and its subsequent application to join the East African Community in June 2019.
- February 2014 successful negotiation for the [release](#) of SPLM detainees who were crucial in negotiating the May 9 2014 IGAD-led Agreement to Resolve Crisis in South Sudan.

- My background in trading currencies and sovereign interest rates equips me with an understanding of the capital flows and market forces that influence central banking and actions by the IFIs.
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Coordination, Operations, Systems Reforms, Program Management

- Led significant parts of the multi-agency operational responses in thwarting numerous attacks by Al Shabaab between 2015 and 2020, including the noteworthy response to the attack on the 14 Riverside Drive complex in January 2019.
- Chaired the multi-agency South Sudan Crisis Response Technical Team responsible for evacuating almost 3000 Kenyans from imminent danger in South Sudan following the breakout of civil war in December 2013.
- Secretary to the [Core Group](#) of the Concerned Citizens for Peace that was a key actor in negotiation for the National Accords following the Kenya 2008 post-election crisis.
- As Director of the National Counter Terrorism Centre, I strengthened the incident response framework, incorporating training protocols for multi-agency teams across the national and local operational structures. This approach was instrumental in promoting a unified response to the Dusit2 Al Shabaab attack in January 2019.
- Pioneered a groundbreaking approach to terrorism prevention by writing and implementing the national countering violent extremism strategy. I also guided the conceptualization and institutionalization of County Action Plans in all 47 Kenyan counties.^{1,2}
- Designed and rolled out a nationwide program for the disengagement and reintegration of extremists, acknowledged globally as one of the most comprehensive efforts to thwart terrorist recruitment.
- At the National Counter Terrorism Centre, under my leadership, Kenya for the first time deployed a home-made machine intelligence platform in the security sector.
- Operational knowledge of how extreme weather events — including those caused by climate change — worsen insecurity. Serving as Director of IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism, where I conceptualized an innovative peacebuilding and mediation strategy that saw seven countries collaborate in resolving violent cross-border conflicts. Raised over \$2 million for CEWARN, including the seeding of its Rapid Response Fund with €360,000, in a span of two years.
- In 2010/11, as Deputy Director and subsequently Acting Director, I was instrumental in the genesis of the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council of the United States. I spearheaded advocacy initiatives that augmented the US-Nigeria strategic dialogue, with a particular focus on energy security.

¹ See independent case study by students in the Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs, 23 June 2020, webpage: https://issuu.com/woodrowwilsonschool/docs/preventing_violent_extremism

² Video presentation to the UN, 21 June 2023, webpage: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1o/k1ozbcf9yn> (from minute 10:00 — 15:27)

SCHOLARSHIP

Education

- PhD in War Studies, King's College, University of London (May 2010)
 - MA War Studies, King's College London (2003)
 - BA Philosophy, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA (1996)
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Essays, Policy Writing, Research, and Teaching

- UN Security Council Advocacy Research
 - Conceptualized and designed the October 12, 2021, Open Debate on 'Peacebuilding and Sustainable Peace: Diversity, State-building and the Search for Peace.' Focus was placed on exclusion and marginalization as indicators of state fragility, advocating for their consideration as fundamental aspects of statecraft and insertion into Security Council conflict resolution tools.
- Building Bridges Presidential Taskforce Report
 - Kimani, Martin & Mwangi, Paul (Joint Secretaries). (October 2019). Building Bridges to a United Kenya: From a Nation of Blood Ties to a Nation of Ideals. Presidential Taskforce on Building Bridges Advisory.
 - I was the primary writer of this report, which is arguably the most comprehensive in Kenyan history due to its extensive public consultations. The report led to a Constitutional Amendment Bill 2020. On December 10, 2020, its advocates submitted a substantial 4.4 million signatures to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to propel their constitutional reform efforts. IEBC verified 1,140,845 signatures, exceeding the minimum constitutional requirement of 1 million signatures.
- Kimani, Martin. (2016). National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism. Editor and Director of the National Counter Terrorism Centre.
- Kimani, Martin. (5 February 2014). "In Praise of Complexity." Chimurenga Magazine.
- Kimani, Martin. (4 December 2013). "Kenya Can Heal Itself." The New York Times
- Art Review in Wangechi Mutu Monograph
 - Kimani, Martin, Kent, Rachel, Edwards, Adrienne & Cameron, Dan. (2013). Wangechi Mutu. ISBN: 9781921034633. Sydney: Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.

- Strategy Development at IGAD's CEWARN, 2012: A Systems Thinking Approach
 - Engineered an eight-week strategy development initiative using a systems thinking approach, aimed at understanding emergent complexities. Engaged nearly 5,000 stakeholders across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda through a methodologically robust process. Use a visualizing approach with national officials and NGOs to show the crisis response system's interconnected elements and emergent properties. The strategy, validated in July 2012, was designed to be responsive to the complex, dynamic nature of the environments within which CEWARN operates.³
- Kimani, Martin. (2011). "Airport Theatre, African Villain." In Ntone Edjabe & Edgar Pieterse (Eds.), *African Cities Reader II: Mobilities and Fixtures*.
- Kimani, Martin. (2010). "The Work of War." *Granta Magazine, Issue 109*.
 - This commissioned essay featured alongside works by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Daniel Alarcón, Julian Barnes, Aminatta Forna, and Derek Walcott.
 - Granta Books acquired world rights, excluding North America. Project has been on hiatus due to commitments in public service.
- **Doctoral Thesis (2010): Genocide as Revelation: Religion, Race and the 1994 Rwandan Genocide.**
 - My doctoral thesis "Genocide as Revelation: Religion, Race, and the 1994 Rwandan Genocide", submitted to King's College London in March 2009, examines the Rwandan genocide from a unique perspective. It argues that the ideological support for the genocide among Hutu civilians was rooted in a combination of racialism and religious narratives, particularly influenced by Rwanda's Catholic Church. The thesis explores the historical development of racial myths in Rwanda, the political role of the church in the Hutu-Tutsi divide, and how religious and racial ideologies manifested in the media of the 1990s. It emphasizes the role of biblical narratives and symbols in shaping the ideology of Hutu Power and in the genocidal actions against the Tutsi population, particularly massacres in religious institutions. The research investigates both the historical and symbolic aspects that contributed to the genocide, offering a detailed analysis of how these factors influenced the actions and beliefs of the people involved. This work was conducted under the guidance of Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman and Professor Mats Berdal.
 - Practice: This research significantly influenced Kenya's counter-terrorism strategy, particularly in violent extremist disengagement and reintegration. Implemented these practices nationally as Director of the National Counter Terrorism Centre in Kenya.

³ Group Partners article on the innovative method of building a regional strategy from the group-up, 6 November 2012, webpage: https://issuu.com/johncaswell/docs/thearticle_v5

- Chimurenga 14: Everyone Has Their Indian (April 2009)
 - Kimani, Martin & Deliss, Clémentine. (August 2008). "A lowercase Condition of Humanity." In Deliss, Clémentine & Tuazon, Oscar (Eds.), *Dragged Down into lowercase: Zentrum Paul Klee Summer Academy and Exhibition*, Bern, Switzerland.
 - Kimani, Martin. (2008). "Terrorist Attacks and the Kenyan Economy." In Wafula Okumu & Anneli Botha (Eds.), *Understanding Terrorism in Africa: Building Bridges and Overcoming the Gaps*. Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria, South Africa.
 - Kimani, Martin. (2007). "Melting into my Blues." *Farafina 11*. Lagos: Kachifo Limited.
 - **Teaching Fellow on Defense and Security, Joint Services Command and Staff College, UK. (September 2004 — May 2006)**
 - Senior Counter Terrorism Advisor & Senior Researcher, IGAD Capacity Building Program against Terrorism. (April 2006 – June 2008)
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Inclusion, Equity and Fairness

- Spearheaded the African Union's resolution on the 400th anniversary of the Transatlantic Slave Trade as the President's Special Envoy in 2019.
 - Elected to a three-year term on the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.
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Honors, Awards and Elections

- Honorary Award of the German Africa Foundation (December 2022)
 - Elected to the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent for 2022-2024
 - Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear, First Class (C.B.S) award of the Republic of Kenya (2021)
 - Fellow, African Leadership Initiative and the Aspen Global Leadership Program
 - 2013 Distinguished African Visiting Fellow, South African Institute of International Affairs
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Boards

- 2023 President of the Executive Board of the UN Development Programme, the UN Population Fund, and the UN Office for Project Services (VP in 2022)
- Member of the Executive Board, Eastern African Museum of Art
- The Advisory Group, Center on International Cooperation, New York University