



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

# KENYA *for* IMO COUNCIL CATEGORY 'C'

— 2026 - 2027 —

A Gateway to East & Central Africa

## Overview

Kenya participates in IMO meetings and working groups contributing to the formulation and development of international maritime policies and advancement of global maritime agenda. Kenya has demonstrated leadership by hosting IMO regional workshops and training programs. To further support IMO Activities, Kenya hosts the IMO Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa, The Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (RMRCC), the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) - Africa; the Maritime Organisation of Eastern and Southern Africa (MOESNA), and the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA). In addition, plans are underway to operationalize the Association of African Maritime Administrations (AAMA) Secretariat in Kenya.

## Strategic Geographical Location



Kenya's strategic location along the East African coast and the major maritime trading routes connects Africa to Europe, Asia, and the America. The Kenyan Ports of Mombasa and Lamu are located among the world's busiest international shipping lanes and critical gateways for trade in the land-linked countries of East and Central Africa.

## Kenya as a Maritime Nation



Land area:  
**582,650km<sup>2</sup>**



Ocean Area:  
**221,778km<sup>2</sup>**



Exclusive  
Economic Zone:  
**10,812km<sup>2</sup>**



Kenya's Blue  
Economy Value:  
**\$4 Billion**



Port Container  
Traffic:  
**2,005,076 TEUs**

Cargo  
Throughput:  
**41.1 million tons**



Transit Cargo  
volume:  
**13.4 million tons  
(17.4% rise)**



Imports:  
**768,088 TEUs  
(17.2% rise)**



Exports:  
**731,934 TEUs  
(6.6% rise)**





## Commitment to Maritime Safety and Security

Kenya has established the Kenya Coast Guard Service as a dedicated maritime security agency. The country has also developed the National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS) which outlines Kenya's approach to addressing unlawful acts of piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling and transnational crimes that threaten maritime safety and security.



## Maritime Education and Training

Kenya continues to strengthen the capacity of its maritime training institutions to advance maritime education and training that conforms with international standards. We are on the IMO White List of countries implementing the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification & Watchkeeping for Seafarers, (STCW 1978), as amended.

Kenya designated seafarers as key workers which is in alignment with the 2025 joint ILO-IMO amendment to Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006. Kenya contributes to the reduction of the global shortage of seafarers and protects the welfare of seafarers through an established legal framework and compliance to the MLC 2006.



## Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship



Kenya strongly advocates for sustainable maritime practices, including reducing Green House Gas Emissions (GHG) from ships and protecting marine ecosystems. Kenya continues to demonstrate its dedication to environmental protection in the maritime sector by taking practical remedies such as the production of green energy, afforestation and reforestation programmes.

Kenya has been a global leader in Climate Change Action and recently hosted high level global conferences including Africa Green Shipping Conference, the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa and the inaugural Africa Climate Summit. Kenya holds the Vice-President position of the Oceans Global Conference and will host the 'Our Oceans Conference' in 2026, the first ever to be held in Africa.

## Kenya's Commitment

Kenya's firm commitment in support of IMO's objectives and history of leadership in the Organization and within the region makes the country well positioned to enhance the IMO mandate in collaboration with other Member States. Kenya's re-election to the Council under Category C will bolster these efforts by providing a platform to contribute actively to Maritime Policy Development in advancing sustainable and innovative maritime solutions.



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**KENYA HIGH COMMISSION,**  
45 Portland place, London W1 B IAS,  
E-mail: [info@kenyahighcom.org.uk](mailto:info@kenyahighcom.org.uk)



**KENYA MARITIME AUTHORITY MOMBASA**  
E-mail: [info@kma.go.ke](mailto:info@kma.go.ke)  
[www.kma.go.ke](http://www.kma.go.ke)

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF SHIPPING & MARITIME AFFAIRS**  
NSSF Annex, Bishop Road, Nairobi  
E-mail: [ps@shippingmaritime.go.ke](mailto:ps@shippingmaritime.go.ke)



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