

## **EFFICACY OF KENYA'S PEACE DIPLOMACY IN PROMOTING REGIONAL INTEGRATION WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

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**Publication Date: August 2026**

### **ABSTRACT**

**Purpose of Study:** To examined the efficacy of Kenya's peace diplomacy in promoting regional integration within the East African Community.

**Problem Statement:** Kenya has consistently positioned itself as a key diplomatic and security actor within the East African Community, actively engaging in mediation, peace facilitation, and regional security cooperation. However, while these diplomatic engagements are often acknowledged at the political and security levels, there is limited clarity on whether, and to what extent, Kenya's peace diplomacy has effectively promoted core objectives of regional integration such as the reduction of trade barriers, expansion of cross-border investment, and coordinated infrastructure development.

**Methodology:** The study adopted a mixed-methods research approach using a convergent parallel research design. The target population consisted of 250 respondents drawn from government agencies, regional organizations, civil society organizations, and academic institutions involved in peace and regional integration. Data was collected using questionnaires, key informant interviews, and document analysis. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis.

**Result:** Kenya employs several peace diplomacy strategies, including mediation, diplomatic dialogue, peacebuilding, institutional cooperation, and multilateral engagement. However, Kenya's peace diplomacy has been less effective in preventing interstate conflicts, improving regional peace and security and responding to emerging security threats. Major challenges identified included differences in national interests, political differences, weak institutional coordination, inadequate financial resources, external geopolitical influence, and emerging security threats.

**Recommendation:** Strengthening preventive diplomacy, improving institutional coordination, increasing political commitment among EAC Partner States, investing in peacebuilding and

conflict prevention, promoting inclusive stakeholder participation, harmonizing regional policies, and providing adequate financial support to enhance regional peace and integration.

**Keywords:** *Peace Diplomacy, Regional Integration, East African Community, Kenya, Mediation, Preventive Diplomacy, Neofunctionalism, Pan-Africanism*

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## INTRODUCTION

At the global level, peace diplomacy has increasingly evolved from conflict mediation toward a broader instrument for restructuring political-economic relations among states. The United States has historically deployed peace diplomacy not only to stabilize conflict zones but also to open pathways for economic reintegration through reduced trade barriers, reconstruction assistance, and investment frameworks. Post-conflict engagements in regions such as the Balkans and parts of the Middle East illustrate how U.S.-led peace initiatives have been accompanied by market liberalization, cross-border infrastructure rebuilding, and security cooperation mechanisms that facilitate trade and investment flows (Paris, 2004; Doyle & Sambanis, 2006). These engagements demonstrate a strategic linkage between peace agreements and economic cooperation, where stability becomes a prerequisite for economic integration into global markets.

Norway's peace diplomacy, particularly through the Norwegian Peace Facilitation (NPF) model, provides a distinct global case where neutrality, long-term engagement, and institutional capacity-building are emphasized. Norway's involvement in peace processes in Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Colombia, and South Sudan illustrates how sustained facilitation contributes to post-conflict economic normalization, including investment confidence, donor coordination, and infrastructure rehabilitation (Paffenholz, 2014; de Carvalho & Sending, 2015). Although Norway does not directly impose economic conditions, its peace facilitation creates governance and security environments that lower transaction costs, encourage cross-border investments, and enable economic cooperation among former adversaries. This model underscores the indirect but critical role of peace diplomacy in shaping economic outcomes beyond ceasefires.

At the continental level, African regional blocs have increasingly adopted peace diplomacy as a tool for both conflict mitigation and economic integration. The Economic Community of West African States represents one of the earliest examples where peace enforcement and diplomacy were institutionalized alongside economic objectives. Through mechanisms such as ECOMOG, ECOWAS intervened in conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, subsequently facilitating post-conflict trade normalization, cross-border movement, and regional investment recovery (Adebajo, 2002; Francis, 2009). These interventions illustrate how security stabilization can directly contribute to lowering trade barriers and restoring regional economic interdependence.

Similarly, the Southern African Development Community and the African Union (AU) have integrated peace and security architectures with broader continental development agendas. SADC's involvement in conflict resolution in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Lesotho demonstrates how security interventions are tied to regional infrastructure development and investment protection (Nathan, 2012). At the AU level, instruments such as the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) complement economic frameworks like Agenda 2063 by recognizing peace as a foundation for continental integration, free movement, and intra-African trade (African Union Commission, 2015). These continental efforts reflect a growing recognition that peace diplomacy is inseparable from long-term economic cooperation and integration.

At the regional level in Eastern Africa, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has played a central role in mediating conflicts in South Sudan, Somalia, and Sudan. IGAD's peace diplomacy efforts have increasingly incorporated economic considerations, particularly the protection of cross-border trade corridors, infrastructure development, and investment flows critical to regional stability (Healy, 2011; Mengisteab, 2014). Despite institutional limitations, IGAD's mediation frameworks demonstrate how peace processes can facilitate transitions from conflict economies to cooperative regional economic arrangements.

The East African Community (EAC) provides a more advanced example of the institutionalization of peace diplomacy within an integration agenda. The adoption of the EAC Peace and Security Protocol in 2012 marked a critical shift toward harmonized security cooperation aimed at supporting political federation and economic integration (EAC, 2012). Through coordinated security mechanisms, reduced non-tariff barriers, and joint infrastructure projects such as transport and energy corridors, the EAC illustrates how peace and security cooperation can directly enhance cross-border investment and economic interdependence. This regional framework positions peace diplomacy as a foundational pillar for sustained economic cooperation and political integration.

Kenya has emerged as a pivotal actor in peace diplomacy within the Horn of Africa and the broader Eastern African region. Kenya's mediation roles in the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the South Sudan peace processes, and the Somalia reconciliation efforts highlight its strategic use of diplomacy to stabilize neighboring states while safeguarding its own economic and security interests (Murithi, 2009; Khadiagala, 2010). These engagements have had tangible economic implications, including the protection of trade routes, expansion of Kenyan investments in neighboring states, and promotion of regional infrastructure initiatives such as the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor.

Kenya's peace diplomacy is closely linked to its regional integration agenda under the EAC framework. By supporting regional security protocols and conflict mitigation initiatives, Kenya has positioned itself to benefit from reduced trade barriers, increased cross-border investments, and enhanced infrastructure connectivity. The transition from conflict-prone regional relations to economic cooperation underscores Kenya's strategic understanding of peace diplomacy as both a foreign policy tool and a driver of national and regional economic development (Brown, 2013; Owuor & Mwendwa, 2019). This dual role makes Kenya a compelling case for examining the nexus between peace diplomacy, security cooperation, and economic integration.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Kenya has positioned itself as a key diplomatic and security actor within the East African Community, actively engaging in mediation, peace facilitation, and regional security cooperation. Through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, Kenya has contributed to conflict resolution efforts and supported regional peace frameworks intended to stabilize the EAC region. However, while these diplomatic engagements are often acknowledged at the political and security levels, there is limited clarity on whether, and to what extent, Kenya's peace diplomacy has effectively promoted core objectives of regional integration such as the reduction of trade barriers, expansion of cross-border investment, and coordinated infrastructure development. African scholars caution that peace diplomacy is frequently evaluated in normative or reputational terms, rather than through measurable integration outcomes (Khadiagala, 2010; Murithi, 2015).

Within the EAC, peace and security cooperation is formally recognized as a foundation for deeper integration, particularly following the adoption of the EAC Peace and Security Protocol

in 2012. The protocol was intended to harmonize security arrangements, build political trust, and create conditions conducive to economic cooperation and eventual political federation. Nevertheless, empirical studies indicate that insecurity, uneven commitment by partner states, and weak enforcement mechanisms continue to disrupt trade flows, discourage investment, and delay regional infrastructure projects (Kasaija, 2021; Mwanika, 2018). This raises concerns about the actual effectiveness of peace diplomacy, particularly Kenya's role within these frameworks, in translating security cooperation into tangible integration gains.

Kenya's diplomatic engagements in the EAC region have been closely linked to its national economic and strategic interests, including access to regional markets, protection of transport corridors, and expansion of Kenyan capital across borders. Despite this, existing literature rarely interrogates how Kenya's peace diplomacy has influenced specific integration indicators such as non-tariff barriers, cross-border infrastructure connectivity, or investment regimes within the EAC. According to Murunga and Nasong'o (2017), the absence of systematic assessment of economic outcomes creates a gap between diplomatic intent and development impact, making it difficult to determine whether peace diplomacy is functioning as an effective integration tool or merely as a conflict management strategy.

The problem, therefore, lies in the limited focus on empirical analysis examining the efficacy of Kenya's peace diplomacy in promoting regional integration within the EAC. Without such analysis, policy actors risk overestimating the integrative value of diplomatic interventions while addressing structural and institutional constraints that limit economic cooperation in a limited manner. Addressing this problem is essential for understanding how Kenya's diplomatic engagements can be better structured to support sustainable regional integration grounded in peace, security, and shared economic development.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- i. To examine Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies put in place to promote regional integration in East African Community.
- ii. To assess the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies in promoting regional integration in East African Community.
- iii. To evaluate the challenges facing Kenya's peace diplomacy in advancing regional integration in East African Community.
- iv. To explore potential opportunities of Kenya's peace diplomacy in advancing regional integration in East African Community.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Pan-Africanism Theory (Kwame Nkrumah, 1963)**

Pan-Africanism, as articulated by Kwame Nkrumah in *Africa Must Unite* (1963), provides an African-centered theoretical lens for examining the relationship between peace diplomacy and regional integration. Nkrumah conceptualized African unity as a political and economic necessity arising from shared historical experiences, structural vulnerabilities, and the challenges of post-colonial statehood. Rather than treating peace as an end in itself, Pan-Africanism situates peace and security as enabling conditions for collective development and integration among African states (Nkrumah, 1963; Adedeji, 2002). This perspective is particularly relevant in regions where conflict has historically disrupted trade, mobility, and cooperative development initiatives.

Within Pan-Africanist thought, diplomacy and conflict resolution are viewed as instruments for preserving regional solidarity and preventing fragmentation that undermines integration efforts. Murithi (2005) observes that African peace diplomacy has often been driven by normative commitments to unity and collective responsibility, especially within regional organizations. Applied to the EAC context, this suggests that Kenya's peace diplomacy can be understood not simply as a pursuit of national interest, but as part of a broader regional obligation to stabilize the integration space. This framing avoids assuming automatic success and instead allows for empirical examination of whether such diplomatic efforts actually contribute to integration outcomes.

Pan-Africanism also provides a basis for linking security cooperation to economic integration in a concrete manner. Nkrumah (1963) argued that economic cooperation cannot be sustained in the absence of political trust and collective security arrangements. Later African scholars have echoed this position, noting that insecurity increases transaction costs, disrupts cross-border trade, and discourages long-term investment (Adedjei, 2002; Zondi, 2017). In the EAC, instruments such as the 2012 Peace and Security Protocol reflect this logic by seeking to harmonize security policies in order to support economic cooperation and political cohesion. Pan-Africanism therefore helps explain why peace diplomacy is institutionally embedded within integration frameworks rather than treated as a separate policy domain.

### **Neofunctionalism Theory (Ernst Haas, 1958)**

Neofunctionalism provides a complementary theoretical basis by explaining how regional cooperation deepens over time through functional spillovers and the increasing engagement of non-state actors. Haas (1958) posited that integration begins with technical and economic cooperation but gradually expands into political, security, and diplomatic sectors as states recognize mutual benefits. This process is propelled by the interconnectedness of regional problems which cannot be addressed through isolated national efforts.

African scholars have extended Neofunctionalist logic to regional organizations such as the EAC, arguing that cooperation in trade, infrastructure, and movement of people inevitably spills over into peace and security cooperation. For instance, Adar (2011) observes that East African integration has historically been driven by functional linkages, transport, migration, trade, and as these grow, member states increasingly find it necessary to coordinate peace and security policies. Similarly, Njoroge (2019) notes that Kenya's peace diplomacy in the EAC emerges from deeper economic interdependence, where instability in one member state directly threatens the functionality of shared regional systems.

Neofunctionalism is therefore relevant to the present study because it helped explain how Kenya's peace diplomacy is not just a bilateral or national effort but part of a broader integration process within the EAC. The theory clarified why peace initiatives increasingly fall under regional mechanisms and why Kenya assumes responsibility for steering these processes as part of advancing deeper regional integration.

## **EMPIRICAL REVIEW**

### **Peace Diplomacy Strategies and Regional Integration**

In parts of Europe and the Middle East, the United States has integrated peace negotiations with broader economic incentives, reconstruction assistance, and institutional reforms designed to open markets and facilitate trade. Paris (2004) and Doyle and Sambanis (2006) find that U.S.-led peace processes often include economic components such as trade liberalization frameworks and donor-supported infrastructure projects intended to create economic interdependence among former combatants. Similarly, research on Norwegian peace facilitation highlights a strategy that prioritizes long-term engagement, confidence-building

processes, and institutional support, rather than coercive diplomacy (Paffenholz, 2014; de Carvalho & Sending, 2015).

Within Africa, regional organizations have adopted peace diplomacy strategies that explicitly integrate political stabilization with regional development goals. ECOWAS's interventions in Liberia and Sierra Leone are among the most studied cases. Adebajo (2002) and Francis (2009) document how ECOWAS combined military and diplomatic strategies to end conflict, while also negotiating economic reintegration measures that reopened trade routes, facilitated movement of people, and coordinated reconstruction efforts. These strategies were embedded in ECOWAS's broader mandate to promote economic community objectives, demonstrating how peace diplomacy can be aligned with integration frameworks.

At the continental level, the African Union has institutionalized peace diplomacy through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), linking diplomatic responses to conflict with continental integration aspirations under Agenda 2063. The AU's strategic frameworks place emphasis on conflict prevention, mediation, and reconstruction as prerequisites for sustainable development and intra-African cooperation (African Union Commission, 2015). Empirical analyses of APSA by Zondi (2017) highlight both the promise and challenges of these strategies, noting that while institutional mechanisms exist, their impact on economic integration outcomes remains uneven due to political, resource, and coordination constraints.

### **Effectiveness of Peace Diplomacy Strategies in Promoting Regional Integration**

At the global level, empirical literature provides mixed evidence on the effectiveness of peace diplomacy in producing broader economic integration outcomes. Analyses of U.S. involvement in peace processes show that, under particular conditions, diplomatic engagement combined with economic incentives can support the resumption of trade and cross-border economic activity. For instance, Paris (2004) and Doyle and Sambanis (2006) find that in the Balkans and parts of the Middle East, U.S. diplomatic interventions helped catalyze reduction of trade barriers and facilitated donor-supported reconstruction of transport and trade infrastructure, which were critical to economic normalization. However, such effects were uneven and highly contingent on post-agreement compliance, local institutional capacity, and sustained economic support.

On the African continent, empirical research has begun to examine the effectiveness of peace diplomacy within integration mandates of regional bodies. ECOWAS's intervention in West Africa has shown that peace diplomacy can support restoration of commercial links and market re-entry following conflict. Adebajo (2002) and Francis (2009) document how ECOWAS-brokered ceasefires in Liberia and Sierra Leone were followed by efforts to reopen major trade routes and harmonize customs procedures, which enabled gradual resumption of intra-regional trade. Nonetheless, these authors caution that formal agreements often outpaced actual economic integration on the ground due to weak state capacity and entrenched informal economies.

At the continental architecture level, Zondi (2017) highlights that the African Union's peace diplomacy efforts, under APSA have contributed to a continental climate of cooperation that supports integration initiatives under Agenda 2063. However, the effectiveness of APSA in reducing trade barriers, fostering cross-border investment, or triggering coordinated infrastructure investments remains uneven, largely due to resource constraints, varying political will, and competing national interests.

For the East African Community, the adoption of the 2012 Peace and Security Protocol marked a strategic effort to institutionalize peace diplomacy as part of the integration agenda. Empirical analyses by Kasaija (2021) and Mwanika and Were (2020) show that these coordinated security

mechanisms have contributed to reductions in certain non-tariff barriers and created frameworks for joint infrastructure planning, especially in transport and energy sectors. However, the extent to which peace diplomacy directly accelerates economic integration remains debated. For example, while some joint projects (such as harmonized border facilities) emerged following security cooperation, others experienced delays due to uneven policy implementation and resource limitations.

### **Challenges of Peace Diplomacy in Promoting Regional Integration**

Empirical studies at the global level suggest that even well-resourced peace diplomacy interventions often face challenges that limit their effectiveness in promoting broader economic and integration outcomes. Analyses of U.S. peace initiatives indicate that, while diplomatic engagement can reduce immediate conflict, challenges such as short-term political priorities, dependency on external aid, and limited local ownership frequently constrain the sustainability of post-conflict integration efforts (Paris, 2004; Doyle & Sambanis, 2006). In some cases, while ceasefires and agreements were reached, translating them into concrete outcomes such as trade restoration or cross-border investment was hindered by weak institutional capacity and inconsistent follow-through. Similarly, Norwegian facilitation, known for its neutrality and long-term engagement, faces limitations when conflicting parties fail to commit fully to post-agreement cooperation, delaying tangible economic or integration benefits (Paffenholz, 2014; de Carvalho & Sending, 2015).

On the African continent, regional peace diplomacy faces multiple institutional and political constraints that affect its ability to advance integration objectives. ECOWAS's interventions in Liberia and Sierra Leone, while largely successful in ending active conflict, were constrained by insufficient financial and logistical resources, weak governance structures in post-conflict states, and inconsistent commitment among member states (Adebajo, 2002; Francis, 2009). These factors limited the pace and depth of economic reintegration, including the reopening of trade routes and facilitation of cross-border investments. In Southern Africa, SADC's engagements in Lesotho and the Democratic Republic of Congo were similarly constrained by political rivalries and conflicting national interests, which complicated the harmonization of security policies that are critical for integration (Nathan, 2012). At the continental level, the African Union's peace diplomacy mechanisms, such as the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), face persistent challenges of funding deficits, limited enforcement authority, and uneven compliance among member states (Zondi, 2017). These structural and political challenges often undermine the ability of continental peace diplomacy initiatives to translate into concrete integration gains such as coordinated infrastructure development or market liberalization.

At the national level, Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies face a combination of political, institutional, and structural challenges that affect their effectiveness in promoting integration within the EAC. Empirical studies indicate that while Kenya has played a pivotal role in mediating conflicts in South Sudan, Somalia, and Sudan, political divergences within neighboring states, as well as differing priorities among EAC member states, have at times undermined the effectiveness of its interventions (Khadiagala, 2010; Murunga & Nasong'o, 2017). Additionally, Kenya's capacity to sustain long-term diplomatic engagement is limited by financial and human resource constraints, particularly in contexts requiring prolonged negotiation, monitoring, and coordination. Scholars also emphasize that while Kenya's peace diplomacy has succeeded in creating stable environments conducive to trade and investment, the connection between these diplomatic initiatives and measurable integration outcomes—such as harmonized trade policies, infrastructure development, and regional investment—remains uneven (Zondi, 2017; Nathan, 2016).

### **Opportunities of Peace Diplomacy in Promoting Regional Integration**

Empirical studies at the global level suggest that peace diplomacy, when effectively implemented, can create significant opportunities for promoting economic cooperation and integration. U.S. interventions in post-conflict settings, for example, illustrate that mediation efforts coupled with reconstruction and economic support can provide openings for market liberalization, cross-border investment, and infrastructure development (Paris, 2004; Doyle & Sambanis, 2006). These interventions demonstrate that peace diplomacy can go beyond conflict resolution to foster environments where trade corridors are restored, investment risks are reduced, and regional collaboration becomes possible.

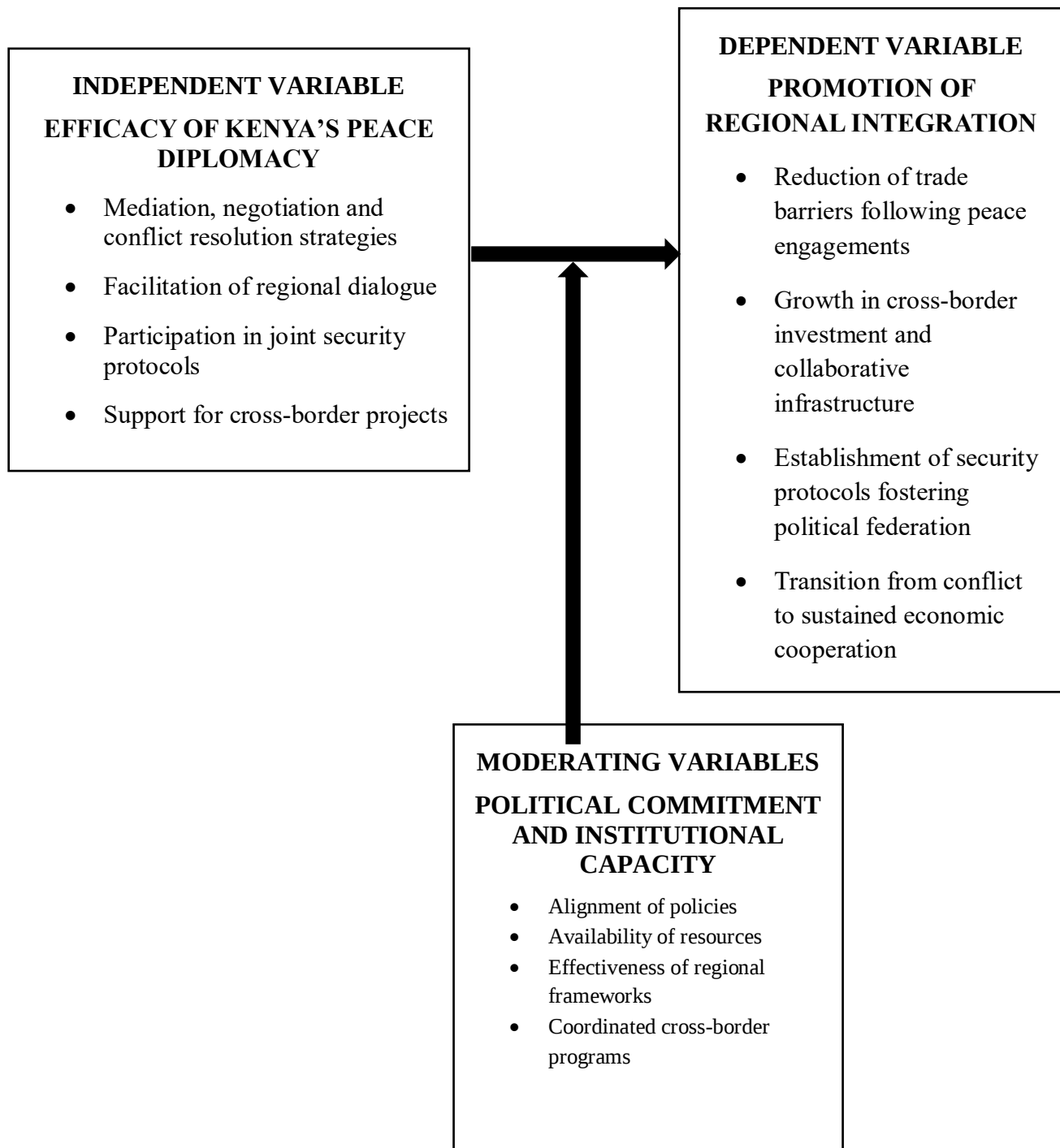
Within Africa, regional organizations provide tangible examples of how peace diplomacy opens opportunities for integration. ECOWAS interventions in West Africa have not only helped end conflicts but also enabled the reopening of trade routes and revitalization of economic networks (Adebajo, 2002; Francis, 2009). By stabilizing conflict zones, ECOWAS created opportunities for cross-border commerce, coordinated infrastructure rehabilitation, and the promotion of regional development initiatives. In Southern Africa, SADC's engagement in countries such as Lesotho and the Democratic Republic of Congo demonstrates that peace diplomacy can foster trust and cooperation among member states, providing a foundation for coordinated investment and shared development projects (Nathan, 2012).

At the continental level, the African Union's peace diplomacy frameworks, particularly through APSA, present opportunities for harmonizing political, security, and economic agendas across African states (Zondi, 2017). Through mechanisms such as early-warning systems, mediation panels, and coordinated post-conflict support, the AU creates spaces where member states can engage collaboratively on infrastructure, trade facilitation, and integration-oriented policy reforms. These continental-level experiences suggest that peace diplomacy is not only a mechanism for conflict mitigation but also a strategic enabler of opportunities for deeper regional cooperation and integration.

At the national level, Kenya's peace diplomacy presents multiple opportunities for advancing integration within the EAC. Empirical studies highlight that Kenya's role in mediating conflicts in South Sudan, Somalia, and Sudan has enabled the country to safeguard trade corridors, maintain investment confidence, and promote regional infrastructure projects (Murunga & Nasong'o, 2017; Khadiagala, 2010). By hosting negotiations, facilitating dialogue among political elites, and supporting regional security arrangements, Kenya creates environments that not only stabilize conflict-affected areas but also open opportunities for cross-border economic activities and cooperation.

### **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

The conceptual framework for this study examined the efficacy of Kenya's peace diplomacy in promoting regional integration within the jurisdiction of the East African Community (EAC). At the center of the framework is Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies, which were considered the independent variable. The dependent variable, regional integration in the EAC, represents the outcome of Kenya's peace diplomacy. Integration is conceptualized as the process by which member states harmonize policies, promote economic cooperation, and strengthen political and security collaboration. Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework.



**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework**

**Source: Researcher, 2026**

## **METHODOLOGY**

The study adopted a mixed methods research design, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches. This approach allowed the research to quantify the relationships between variables while capturing detailed contextual insights that explain how Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies influence regional integration (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). The study focused on Kenya within the EAC region. Although the EAC comprised six member states,

Kenya was the primary unit of analysis because it plays a central and active role in peace diplomacy. Kenya's foreign policy is expected to continue emphasizing regional stability and diplomatic engagement in conflict resolution across neighboring states such as South Sudan, Somalia, and Sudan (Khadiagala, 2010; Murithi, 2009). Its strategic economic position, infrastructure corridors, and diplomatic presence make Kenya a key driver of EAC integration initiatives (Owuor & Mwendwa, 2019). Other member states also engage in peace diplomacy, but Kenya's sustained involvement and influence in regional processes provides a robust case for analyzing the efficacy of peace diplomacy in promoting integration. This focus allowed the study to generate findings that are analytically rich and applicable to broader regional dynamics.

The population of the study comprised of individuals and institutions engaged in peace diplomacy and regional integration within Kenya and the broader EAC. This included officials from the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Ministry for East African Community Affairs, the EAC Secretariat, IGAD, international partners and NGOs involved in peacebuilding, and academics specializing in diplomacy and regional integration. The study used mixed sampling strategy, combining purposive and stratified random sampling. Purposive sampling was used to select key informants, such as senior diplomats and policy experts, who provided in-depth qualitative insights. Stratified random sampling was applied within larger institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EAC Secretariat, to ensure diversity and representativeness among staff members with relevant responsibilities. The sample size was 250 respondents but the complete responses achieved were 203.

The study employed structured questionnaires as the primary instrument for collecting quantitative data. Items were structured using five-point Likert scales to allow for quantification of attitudes, perceptions, and levels of agreement with key statements derived from the study objectives and conceptual framework (Creswell, 2014; Babbie, 2016). Quantitative data collected through questionnaires was analyzed using descriptive and explanatory techniques. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations was used to summarize respondents' views on the efficacy of Kenya's peace diplomacy and its role in promoting regional integration outcomes within the EAC (Field, 2013).

Validity in this study was ensured through several deliberate measures aimed at enhancing the accuracy and credibility of the research instruments and findings. Content validity was achieved by ensuring that all items in the questionnaire and interview guide are derived directly from the study objectives, conceptual framework, and reviewed literature. Expert review was sought from scholars in international relations and diplomacy to assess the relevance, clarity, and adequacy of the instruments in measuring the intended constructs. According to Orodho (2005), expert judgment is a critical step in enhancing the validity of research instruments. Reliability of the study was ensured by establishing consistency in the data collection process and the measurement instruments. A pilot study was conducted among respondents drawn from institutions similar to those in the main study but excluded from the final sample. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) emphasize that pilot testing is essential in improving the reliability of research instruments. The study adhered strictly to ethical principles governing social science research.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The study targeted 250 respondents drawn from government institutions, regional organizations, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders involved in peacebuilding and regional integration processes within the East African Community (EAC). Out of the 250 questionnaires distributed, 203 were successfully

completed and returned, representing a response rate of 81.20%, while 47 questionnaires, representing 18.80%, were not returned. Demographic results revealed that 100 respondents (49.26%) possessed bachelor's degrees, making them the largest educational category. This was followed by 35 respondents (17.24%) who possessed master's degrees, 30 respondents (14.78%) who held diploma qualifications, and 20 respondents (9.85%) who possessed doctoral qualifications. The remaining 17 respondents (8.37%) indicated other educational qualifications.

The findings revealed that 69 respondents (33.99%) were drawn from regional organizations such as the East African Community (EAC) and the African Union (AU), making them the largest category of respondents. This was followed by 46 respondents (22.66%) from government agencies, 41 respondents (20.20%) from non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, 28 respondents (13.79%) from academic institutions, and 19 respondents (9.36%) from other institutions. The findings indicate that the study captured perspectives from a diverse range of institutions that play critical roles in diplomacy, governance, peacebuilding, and regional integration initiatives within the EAC.

The study also found out that 82 respondents (40.39%) had between six and ten years of work experience, making them the largest category of respondents. This was followed by 60 respondents (29.56%) who had between zero and five years of work experience, 33 respondents (16.26%) who had between eleven and fifteen years of work experience, and 28 respondents (13.79%) who had over fifteen years of work experience. The findings indicate that the majority of respondents possessed considerable professional experience and were therefore likely to provide informed perspectives regarding Kenya's peace diplomacy initiatives and regional integration processes within the EAC.

Moreover, 99 respondents (48.77%) indicated that they were familiar with Kenya's peace diplomacy within the EAC, while 61 respondents (30.05%) reported being very familiar with Kenya's peace diplomacy initiatives. In addition, 24 respondents (11.82%) were neutral, whereas 12 respondents (5.91%) indicated that they were not familiar, and only seven respondents (3.45%) reported that they were not familiar at all. Collectively, 160 respondents, representing 78.82% of the study population, indicated that they were either familiar or very familiar with Kenya's peace diplomacy within the EAC.

The findings further showed revealed that 77 respondents (37.93%) indicated that they followed regional peace and integration issues very often, while 75 respondents (36.95%) reported that they often followed such issues. Additionally, 27 respondents (13.30%) stated that they sometimes followed regional peace and integration matters, whereas 18 respondents (8.87%) rarely followed such issues and only six respondents (2.96%) indicated that they never followed regional peace and integration affairs. Collectively, 152 respondents, representing 74.88% of the study population, reported that they either often or very often followed regional peace and integration issues.

### **Kenya's Peace Diplomacy Strategies Put in Place to Promote Regional Integration within the East African Community**

The first objective of the study sought to examine Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies put in place to promote regional integration within the East African Community (EAC). Peace diplomacy remains one of Kenya's principal foreign policy instruments for fostering peaceful coexistence, strengthening interstate relations, and creating an enabling environment for regional integration. The findings are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Perceptions of Kenya's Peace Diplomacy Strategies**

| Statement                | Frequently Used | Moderately Used | Not Used |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| Security Cooperation     | 148             | 48              | 7        |
| Bilateral Diplomacy      | 108             | 73              | 22       |
| Peace Negotiations       | 110             | 82              | 11       |
| Mediation                | 118             | 74              | 11       |
| Economic diplomacy       | 119             | 69              | 15       |
| Institutional Frameworks | 110             | 73              | 20       |
| Preventive Diplomacy     | 99              | 67              | 37       |

*Source: Field Data (2026).*

Table 1 demonstrates that respondents generally perceived Kenya as actively employing a broad range of peace diplomacy strategies to promote regional integration within the East African Community. Across the strategy indicators, the majority of respondents expressed agreement that Kenya has consistently relied on diplomatic engagement rather than coercive approaches to address regional disputes and strengthen cooperation among Partner States. The relatively high scores recorded across the indicators suggest a positive perception of Kenya's commitment to dialogue, mediation, peacebuilding, and collaborative diplomacy as mechanisms for fostering regional peace and integration. Collectively, these findings indicate that respondents view Kenya's peace diplomacy as multidimensional, involving complementary diplomatic instruments that reinforce one another in advancing regional stability and integration.

One of the most prominent findings emerging from the data is the centrality of mediation in Kenya's regional diplomacy. Respondents largely perceived mediation as Kenya's most visible diplomatic strategy, reflecting the country's longstanding involvement in facilitating dialogue and negotiated settlements in regional conflicts. Kenya's role in peace negotiations involving neighbouring states has positioned it as a trusted intermediary capable of bringing conflicting parties together while promoting consensus-based solutions. Beyond resolving immediate conflicts, mediation contributes to rebuilding political trust among states, strengthening diplomatic relations, and creating conditions that support regional cooperation. The findings therefore suggest that mediation remains one of the cornerstones of Kenya's peace diplomacy within the East African Community.

Respondents also attached considerable importance to bilateral and multilateral diplomacy as complementary strategies for advancing regional integration. Bilateral engagements were perceived as strengthening diplomatic relations between Kenya and individual Partner States through continuous political consultations, joint commissions, and cooperative agreements. At the same time, multilateral diplomacy was viewed as enabling Kenya to pursue regional objectives through collective decision-making within institutions such as the EAC, IGAD, and the African Union. Rather than operating independently, these diplomatic approaches appear to reinforce one another by creating institutional platforms through which member states coordinate policies, address shared security concerns, and deepen regional cooperation. This finding underscores the importance of institutional diplomacy in transforming political goodwill into practical mechanisms that facilitate regional integration.

**Effectiveness of Kenya's Peace Diplomacy Strategies in Promoting Regional Integration within the East African Community**

The second objective of the study sought to assess the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies in promoting regional integration within the East African Community (EAC). Specifically, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they perceived Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies as effective in strengthening regional peace, enhancing interstate cooperation, fostering political stability, promoting economic integration, preventing conflicts, and strengthening regional institutions. The findings are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Effectiveness of Kenya's Peace Diplomacy Strategies in Promoting Integration**

| Statement                                                                                                    | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Kenya's peace diplomacy has enhanced peaceful resolution of interstate conflicts within the EAC.             | 31             | 49    | 20      | 70       | 33                |
| Kenya's peace diplomacy has contributed to regional peace and security.                                      | 41             | 12    | 41      | 71       | 32                |
| Kenya's peace diplomacy has promoted political and economic and social cooperation and regional integration. | 32             | 72    | 42      | 46       | 11                |
| Kenya's peace diplomacy has strengthened collaboration among regional institutions.                          | 48             | 75    | 32      | 36       | 12                |
| Kenya's peace diplomacy has enhanced trust among EAC Partner States.                                         | 52             | 81    | 24      | 36       | 10                |
| Kenya's peace diplomacy has improved regional responses to emerging security challenges.                     | 42             | 35    | 36      | 79       | 11                |

Source: Field Data (2026).

The findings presented in Table 2 reveal mixed perceptions regarding the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy strategies in promoting regional integration within the East African Community (EAC). While respondents generally acknowledged Kenya's contribution towards strengthening institutional collaboration, building trust among Partner States, and promoting regional cooperation, opinions were more divided regarding its effectiveness in resolving interstate conflicts, enhancing regional peace and security, and responding to emerging security threats. These findings suggest that although Kenya's peace diplomacy has generated positive outcomes in several areas, its effectiveness remains constrained by persistent regional political and security challenges.

The study established that enhancing trust among EAC Partner States was the most positively rated outcome of Kenya's peace diplomacy. A majority of the respondents, representing 65.52% (133 respondents), agreed that Kenya's diplomatic initiatives have enhanced trust among Partner States, comprising 25.62% (52 respondents) who strongly agreed and 39.90% (81 respondents) who agreed. In contrast, only 22.66% (46 respondents) disagreed with the statement, while 11.82% (24 respondents) remained neutral. These findings suggest that Kenya's sustained engagement in mediation, diplomatic dialogue, and confidence-building initiatives has strengthened interstate relations and fostered mutual confidence among EAC

member states. Trust is a fundamental pillar of regional integration because it facilitates cooperation, promotes policy coordination, and encourages the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Similarly, respondents perceived Kenya's peace diplomacy to be effective in strengthening collaboration among regional institutions. Overall, 60.60% (123 respondents) agreed that Kenya has strengthened institutional collaboration, including 23.65% (48 respondents) who strongly agreed and 36.95% (75 respondents) who agreed. The findings further indicate that Kenya's peace diplomacy has positively influenced political, economic, and social cooperation and regional integration, with 51.23% (104 respondents) in agreement.

In contrast, perceptions regarding Kenya's effectiveness in enhancing peaceful resolution of interstate conflicts were less favourable. Only 39.41% (80 respondents) agreed that Kenya's peace diplomacy has enhanced peaceful resolution of interstate conflicts. Conversely, a larger proportion of respondents, 50.74% (103 respondents), disagreed with the statement. A similar pattern emerged regarding Kenya's contribution to regional peace and security. Only 26.11% (53 respondents) agreed that Kenya's peace diplomacy has contributed significantly to regional peace and security, whereas 50.74% (103 respondents) disagreed. Likewise, respondents expressed reservations regarding Kenya's effectiveness in improving regional responses to emerging security challenges. Overall, 37.93% (77 respondents) agreed, while 44.34% (90 respondents) disagreed with the statement.

**Challenges Facing Kenya's Peace Diplomacy in Advancing Regional Integration within the East African Community**

The third objective of the study sought to evaluate the challenges facing Kenya's peace diplomacy in advancing regional integration within the East African Community (EAC). Although Kenya has consistently employed diplomatic initiatives to foster peace, cooperation, and regional stability, several political, institutional, socio-economic, and security-related constraints continue to undermine the effectiveness of these efforts. Respondents were therefore asked to indicate the extent to which various factors impede Kenya's peace diplomacy in promoting regional integration. The findings are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Challenges Facing Kenya's Peace Diplomacy in Promoting Regional Integration**

| Statement                                                                                       | Very Great Extent | Great Extent | Moderate Extent | Low Extent | Very Low Extent |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Political differences among EAC Partner States hinder Kenya's peace diplomacy efforts.          | 101               | 72           | 17              | 10         | 3               |
| Inadequate financial resources limit the implementation of Kenya's peace diplomacy initiatives. | 96                | 66           | 25              | 12         | 4               |
| Weak institutional coordination affects the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy.           | 112               | 59           | 22              | 7          | 3               |
| Emerging security threats undermine regional peace diplomacy efforts.                           | 124               | 56           | 14              | 6          | 3               |
| External geopolitical interests interfere with regional peace initiatives.                      | 116               | 62           | 15              | 7          | 3               |

|                                                                                         |     |    |    |    |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|---|
| Differences in national interests among EAC Partner States weaken regional cooperation. | 126 | 52 | 15 | 7  | 3 |
| Limited political goodwill among Partner States affects regional integration efforts.   | 86  | 77 | 26 | 11 | 3 |

Source: Field Data (2026).

The findings presented in Table 3 indicate that respondents overwhelmingly perceived political, institutional, financial, and security-related factors as major impediments to Kenya's peace diplomacy in advancing regional integration within the East African Community. Across all the indicators assessed, the majority of respondents rated the identified challenges to either a very great extent or a great extent, suggesting a broad consensus that the effectiveness of Kenya's diplomatic initiatives is constrained by structural and political realities within the region.

The study established that differences in national interests among EAC Partner States constitute the most significant challenge to Kenya's peace diplomacy. Overall, 87.69% (178 respondents) indicated that divergent national interests weaken regional cooperation to a great or very great extent, comprising 62.07% (126 respondents) who rated the challenge to a very great extent and 25.62% (52 respondents) to a great extent. Only 4.93% (10 respondents) perceived this challenge to a low or very low extent, while 7.39% (15 respondents) rated it as moderate. These findings suggest that competing political and economic priorities among Partner States frequently undermine consensus-building and delay the implementation of regional initiatives, thereby limiting the effectiveness of Kenya's diplomatic efforts.

Respondents also perceived emerging security threats as a major challenge to Kenya's peace diplomacy. A combined 88.67% (180 respondents) reported that terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime, transnational organized crime, and other emerging threats undermine regional peace diplomacy to a great or very great extent. Specifically, 61.08% (124 respondents) rated this challenge to a very great extent, while 27.59% (56 respondents) rated it to a great extent. This finding underscores the increasingly complex security environment within the region and highlights the need for integrated diplomatic and security responses.

Similarly, external geopolitical interests were identified as a significant obstacle to regional peace initiatives. Overall, 87.68% (178 respondents) agreed that external actors interfere with regional diplomacy to either a very great or great extent. The findings further reveal that weak institutional coordination significantly affects the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy. A substantial 84.23% (171 respondents) indicated that inadequate coordination among regional institutions limits diplomatic effectiveness to a great or very great extent. Another important challenge identified by respondents was political differences among EAC Partner States, with 85.22% (173 respondents) reporting these hinder Kenya's peace diplomacy to either a very great or great extent.

The study also found that limited political goodwill among Partner States constrains regional integration efforts. A combined 80.29% (163 respondents) perceived inadequate political commitment as a significant challenge. Finally, respondents identified inadequate financial resources as another key challenge facing Kenya's peace diplomacy. Overall, 79.80% (162 respondents) indicated that financial constraints limit the implementation of diplomatic initiatives to either a very great or great extent.

These findings corroborate Morgenthau (1948), whose Realist Theory argues that states primarily pursue their national interests in international relations, often making regional cooperation difficult where interests diverge. Likewise, Waltz (1979) contends that the

international system compels states to prioritize national security and strategic interests, thereby limiting the effectiveness of collective regional initiatives.

**Opportunities for Kenya's Peace Diplomacy in Advancing Regional Integration within the East African Community**

The fourth objective of the study sought to explore the potential opportunities for strengthening Kenya's peace diplomacy in advancing regional integration within the East African Community (EAC). Respondents were therefore asked to indicate the extent to which various interventions could strengthen Kenya's peace diplomacy and contribute to deeper regional integration. The findings are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Opportunities for Strengthening Kenya's Peace Diplomacy**

| Statement                                                                                                          | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Strengthening regional institutional cooperation can enhance Kenya's peace diplomacy.                              | 105            | 82    | 11      | 3        | 2                 |
| Increased political commitment among EAC Partner States would improve regional peace diplomacy.                    | 131            | 51    | 15      | 3        | 3                 |
| Enhanced investment in peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives would strengthen regional integration.    | 116            | 68    | 15      | 3        | 1                 |
| Increased financial support for diplomatic initiatives would improve the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy. | 114            | 57    | 26      | 3        | 3                 |
| Greater stakeholder participation would strengthen regional peace initiatives.                                     | 115            | 60    | 21      | 4        | 3                 |
| Improved policy harmonization among EAC Partner States would enhance regional integration.                         | 121            | 50    | 17      | 7        | 6                 |
| Encouraging preventive diplomacy to counter emerging security threats would improve peace diplomacy outcomes.      | 150            | 40    | 5       | 6        | 2                 |

Source: Field Data (2026).

The findings presented in Table 4 indicate an overwhelming consensus among respondents that significant opportunities exist for strengthening Kenya's peace diplomacy in advancing regional integration within the East African Community. Across all the proposed interventions, the majority of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that these measures would enhance the effectiveness of Kenya's diplomatic efforts. This suggests that respondents view regional integration as an achievable objective provided that existing institutional, political, and operational gaps are adequately addressed.

The study established that encouraging preventive diplomacy to counter emerging security threats represents the greatest opportunity for strengthening Kenya's peace diplomacy. An

overwhelming 93.60% (190 respondents) agreed with this proposition, comprising 73.89% (150 respondents) who strongly agreed and 19.70% (40 respondents) who agreed. Only 3.95% (8 respondents) disagreed, while 2.46% (5 respondents) remained neutral. These findings underscore the growing recognition that preventing conflicts before they escalate is more effective than responding after violence has occurred. Respondents therefore viewed preventive diplomacy as a critical strategy for addressing terrorism, violent extremism, cyber threats, and other emerging security challenges affecting regional integration.

Respondents also strongly supported enhancing investment in peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives. Overall, 90.64% (184 respondents) agreed that increased investment in these initiatives would strengthen regional integration, with 57.14% (116 respondents) strongly agreeing and 33.50% (68 respondents) agreeing. Similarly, strengthening regional institutional cooperation emerged as a key opportunity, with 92.11% (187 respondents) in agreement. The findings further reveal that increased political commitment among EAC Partner States is essential, with 89.65% (182 respondents) in agreement.

Respondents likewise acknowledged the importance of greater stakeholder participation in regional peace initiatives. A total of 86.21% (175 respondents) agreed that involving governments, civil society organizations, women, youth, academia, the private sector, and local communities would strengthen Kenya's peace diplomacy. Similarly, respondents viewed improved policy harmonization among EAC Partner States as an important opportunity for advancing regional integration, with 84.24% (171 respondents) in agreement. Finally, respondents perceived increased financial support for diplomatic initiatives as another important opportunity, with 84.24% (171 respondents) in agreement.

These findings support Neofunctionalism Theory as advanced by Haas (1958), which posits that regional integration is strengthened through continuous institutional cooperation and functional spillover. The strong support for institutional strengthening, policy harmonization, preventive diplomacy, and political commitment suggests that respondents perceive deeper cooperation in these areas as capable of generating broader political, economic, and social integration across the East African Community. The findings therefore reinforce the theoretical proposition that effective regional institutions and sustained cooperation create favourable conditions for long-term integration.

Key informant interviews similarly emphasized that strengthening regional institutions, investing in preventive diplomacy, and promoting political goodwill among Partner States would significantly improve the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy. Several informants further observed that greater involvement of non-state actors and sustained financial support would enhance the implementation and sustainability of regional peace initiatives. Document analysis also revealed that the EAC Treaty, the Protocol on Peace and Security, and Kenya's Foreign Policy Framework consistently prioritize preventive diplomacy, institutional strengthening, policy harmonization, and collaborative governance as strategic pathways towards sustainable peace and regional integration. The findings demonstrate that respondents are optimistic about the future of Kenya's peace diplomacy and believe that strengthening preventive diplomacy, institutional cooperation, political commitment, stakeholder participation, policy harmonization, and financial investment will significantly enhance Kenya's contribution to regional peace and integration within the East African Community.

## CONCLUSION

The study sought to examine the efficacy of Kenya's peace diplomacy in promoting regional integration within the East African Community. Based on the findings, the study concludes that Kenya has established itself as a significant regional diplomatic actor through its consistent

use of mediation, diplomatic dialogue, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, institutional cooperation, and multilateral engagement. These strategies have contributed to strengthening interstate trust, enhancing collaboration among regional institutions, and promoting political, economic, and social cooperation within the East African Community. Consequently, Kenya's peace diplomacy has played an important role in creating an enabling environment for regional integration.

However, the study further concludes that the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy remains uneven. Although diplomatic efforts have strengthened cooperation and confidence among Partner States, they have not produced comparable success in enhancing the peaceful resolution of interstate conflicts, improving regional peace and security, or effectively responding to emerging security threats. The findings suggest that Kenya's current peace diplomacy has been more successful in managing existing conflicts than in preventing new conflicts from emerging. This indicates that the country's diplomatic approach remains largely reactive, with interventions frequently intensifying after disputes have escalated rather than focusing on early conflict prevention.

The study also concludes that the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy is constrained by several interrelated political, institutional, financial, and security challenges. Differences in national interests among Partner States, emerging security threats, external geopolitical influence, weak institutional coordination, political differences, limited political goodwill, and inadequate financial resources continue to undermine regional diplomatic efforts. These challenges demonstrate that the success of peace diplomacy depends not only on Kenya's diplomatic initiatives but also on the collective commitment of EAC Partner States to implement regional agreements, strengthen regional institutions, and pursue shared regional interests.

Finally, the study concludes that considerable opportunities exist for strengthening Kenya's peace diplomacy and enhancing its contribution to regional integration. The findings demonstrate that respondents overwhelmingly support greater investment in preventive diplomacy, stronger regional institutional cooperation, enhanced peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives, increased political commitment, broader stakeholder participation, improved policy harmonization, and adequate financial support for diplomatic initiatives. Among these, preventive diplomacy emerged as the most significant opportunity for improving the effectiveness of Kenya's peace diplomacy.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Government of Kenya, in collaboration with the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat and Partner States, should strengthen preventive diplomacy as the cornerstone of its regional peace diplomacy strategy. This should involve enhancing early warning systems, promoting continuous diplomatic dialogue, undertaking preventive mediation, and addressing the political, economic, and social drivers of conflict before they escalate into violence. Given that the study found Kenya's peace diplomacy to be more reactive than preventive, prioritizing preventive diplomacy would improve regional peace and security while enhancing the effectiveness of Kenya's contribution to regional integration.

The Government of Kenya and the East African Community should strengthen institutional coordination mechanisms responsible for implementing regional peace and security initiatives. This can be achieved through improved collaboration among regional institutions, regular intergovernmental consultations, clearly defined institutional responsibilities, and effective monitoring and evaluation of peace diplomacy initiatives. Stronger institutional coordination

would enhance collective decision-making, reduce duplication of efforts, and improve the implementation of regional agreements aimed at promoting peace and regional integration.

EAC Partner States should demonstrate stronger political commitment towards implementing regional agreements, protocols, and peace initiatives. Governments should prioritize collective regional interests alongside national priorities by honouring agreed commitments, strengthening diplomatic dialogue, and fostering mutual trust among member states. Increased political goodwill will improve cooperation in addressing shared regional challenges and create a more conducive environment for sustainable regional integration.

The Government of Kenya and EAC Partner States should increase investment in peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives by allocating adequate financial, technical, and human resources to peace programs. Investments should focus on community peacebuilding, mediation support, conflict prevention programs, diplomatic capacity building, and research on emerging security threats. Such investments would strengthen regional resilience, reduce the likelihood of recurring conflicts, and support long-term regional stability.

The Government of Kenya and regional institutions should adopt a more inclusive approach to peace diplomacy by actively involving civil society organizations, academic institutions, women, youth, religious leaders, the private sector, and local communities in peacebuilding and regional integration initiatives. Inclusive participation broadens ownership of peace processes, improves the legitimacy of diplomatic interventions, and promotes innovative and locally informed solutions to regional challenges. This collaborative approach would strengthen both peace diplomacy and regional integration within the EAC.

The East African Community should accelerate the harmonization of regional policies, legal frameworks, and institutional procedures relating to peace, security, and regional cooperation. Greater policy harmonization improves consistency in the implementation of regional agreements, reduce policy contradictions among Partner States, and strengthen collective responses to emerging regional challenges. A harmonized policy environment also facilitates deeper political, economic, and social integration within the Community.

The Government of Kenya, together with EAC Partner States and development partners, should allocate adequate and sustainable financial resources to support peace diplomacy initiatives. Increased funding should support diplomatic missions, mediation processes, peacebuilding programs, institutional capacity development, and regional dialogue forums. Sustainable financing has the potential to improve the implementation of diplomatic strategies and enhance Kenya's capacity to respond effectively to both existing and emerging regional security challenges.

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