



AMB. DR. MONICA JUMA, (Oxon), EGH
Profile

The Person

Ambassador (Dr) Monica Juma is the Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kenya. She previously served as the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Juma is a distinguished diplomat, with grounded expertise in strategic management, policy making and analysis in international affairs, defense, peace, security and governance. She combines in-depth expertise with experience drawn from public, diplomatic service, research and academia, accumulated over three decades from across the world. As a person, she is a consensus builder, who is known for building fit-for-purpose institutions and for creating teams around their strategic visions. She conducts her private and public affairs with integrity and utmost professionalism.

Career

Ambassador (Dr.) Monica Juma has had an impactful career as a cabinet minister, principal secretary, ambassador, lecturer and a researcher. She currently is the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kenya, a position she has held since January 2020. As the Minister in charge of Defence in Kenya, she is the current Chair of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGCS).

Amb. Juma was appointed to the Ministry of Defence from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she served first as Principal Secretary (2016-2018) and then as Cabinet Secretary (2018-2020). During her tenure Kenya became a demonstrative thought leader and championed numerous agenda that brought like-minded countries and regions together. She also served as the Chair of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (2018-2020).

Before serving at the helm of Kenya's diplomacy, Dr. Juma served as Principal Secretary in the security triad of government. In the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government (2014-2015) she championed national security and administrative reforms. Prior to being at the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Dr. Juma was the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Defence (2013-2014) where she was instrumental in strengthening the business process systems within the Ministry, clarifying the defence strategic orientation and bolstering the professional stature of the Kenya Defence Forces.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs she led Kenya in championing and convening on critical global agenda such as environment, terrorism, and blue economy to mention a few. She also led efforts in deepening Kenya's Pan-African and global south engagements.

Previously, Dr. Juma was Ambassador Extra-Ordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kenya to Ethiopia and Djibouti, and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the African Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA), (2010-2013). She forged consensus around complex issues facing the continent and the United Nations at the time, such as the Arab Spring, rise of fundamentalism, terrorism, international migration, political fragility and state formation.

Before joining the top executive in Kenya in 2010, Dr. Juma had developed a depth of experience in research and policy analysis from working for various continental and international think tanks, including the International Peace Academy, SaferAfrica, and the African Institute of South Africa. She also served in the United Nations Secretary General's (UNSG) High Level Panel on Resourcing African Union led, UNSC mandated peacekeeping missions (otherwise known as the Prodi Report 2008), and consulted for many UN Agencies, the African Union and its agencies, in particular NEPAD on matters of security, peace, governance and development.

Amb (Dr.) Juma has strong academic credentials, having served as a lecturer in the Department of Government and Public Administration and Research Director at the Centre for Refugee Studies, both at Moi University, Eldoret. She began her work experience as a Management Analyst in the Department of Personnel Management - Office of the President, where she focused on organizational development within the public service.

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Relevant Achievements

- While serving in the security triad, between 2013 and 2021, Dr. Monica Juma provided leadership on critical agenda at the regional, continental and global levels, strongly advocating for multilateralism in the context of growing uncertainty caused factors such as climate change, international terrorism, state collapse and resurgence of ethno-centric nationalism.
- As the accounting officer at Interior, in 2014-15, Dr. Juma led multi-agency teams that systematically transformed security services in line with our democratization process. These policy reforms transformed the management and execution of our national security across state departments of National Administration, Immigration and Registration of Persons, and National Police Service.
- Dr. Monica Juma contributed immensely to the reduction of Kenya's vulnerability to terrorist attacks, restoring security across the country following heightened terrorist attacks in Kenya in 2012-2016. She initiated work that led to the development of Kenya's strategy on Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism and creation of the multi-agency approach in tackling security challenges, in general, and terrorism in particular. She further reached out to her counterparts from the region and the rest of the world, with a view to enhancing cooperation and collaboration in building secure societies and regions for humanity.
- Between 2010 and 2013, as the Permanent Representative to the African Union between 2010 and 2013, she reached out to all Parties and stakeholders in the Sudan conflict and contributed to consensus on pending issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). In part, this paved

the way for the birthing of South Sudan on 9th July 2011, as the world's newest nation.

- As the Chair of the African Union Peace and Security Council in more than three occasions over the period 2010 to 2013, she reversed global fatigue and complacency through information sharing and consensus building and evolved a shared understanding on how to end the perpetual transition in Somalia. She campaigned for the strengthening of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), mid-wived the hatting of the Kenyan forces into AMISOM; and was critical in the engagement of the AU and the UN on the various missions in Africa, inter alia, the UN missions in Darfur, DRC, and the in Sahel.
- She contributed to the debate and took practical steps to strengthen partnerships between the African Union Peace and Security Council and other actors engaged in peace and security, in particular the European Union and the United Nations Security Council. As a consequence of a shared understanding, she became a thought leader in breathing life to the Report of the UNSG High Level Panel on Resourcing AU-UNSC-mandated Peace missions (Prodi report) and initiated discussions around possibilities of using the African union's accessed contributions to facilitate faster deployment of the African Lead Mission in Mali (AFISMA), a decision adopted by the AU Summit, and later given effect in dealing with the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR).
- She led various teams in the development of critical AU policy documents including the AU Peace and Security Architecture, AU Governance Architecture, Women, Peace and security, and the AU Vision 2063, amongst others.

Key Competencies

- Dr. Monica Juma is a strategic, visionary, innovative and a transformative leader. She is a seasoned public servant with a track record of successful public service, political acumen, commitment and integrity.
- She is a distinguished diplomat with diplomatic experience in regional and multilateral relations, international development, security and humanitarian issues.
- Dr. Juma has a track-record as a consensus-builder with sterling ability to bring opposing views to reach a shared understanding of issues. A significant success of this was the successful Kenyan bid for the UNSC elective seat; strengthening of the South-South Cooperation and Pan African agenda.
- She has a wide range of technical competencies in the security and development domains. This led to the forging of common positions on critical issues, challenges and solutions.
- Dr. Juma has demonstrated expertise in building institutions that are fit-for-purpose and an ability to create teams around the vision of those institutions, enabling them to maximize their potential.
- She is a stickler of good governance - creating business processes that ensure accountability, transparency and value for money. This has seen her drive institutional development and strengthening in every docket that she has served.

Academic qualifications

Amb (Dr.) Monica Juma has written and published extensively in her areas of specialization. She holds a number of academic qualifications: a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Master of Arts Degree in Government and Public Administration from the University of Nairobi; a Certificate of Refugee Studies and a Doctor of Philosophy in Politics from the University of Oxford.

Others

Juma is a senior research fellow in the Department of Political Science, at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, an adjunct faculty member at the African Centre for Strategic Studies of the National Defense University, in Washington DC in the United States of America, and offers lectures and engagements of opportunity in many defence and foreign relations establishments across the world.

Doctor Monica Juma is married and a mother of two children.

Why Amb. Dr. Monica Juma for Secretary General of the Commonwealth?

Ambassador Dr. Monica Juma is a seasoned public servant, with vast experience and expertise across various fields.

She is a strong institutional and consensus builder, with a range of competencies for strategic leadership, a critical requisite for an effective Secretary General in a complex and dynamic world. Undoubtedly, these qualities will strengthen the Commonwealth Secretariat, enable it to deliver on the decisions of Member States, shape strategies that deal with current and emerging challenges, forge innovative partnerships to optimize opportunities, as well as defend and enhance the core values and principles of the Commonwealth.

In addition to this expertise, Dr. Juma has stellar educational qualifications and is renowned for her impeccable professional conduct and integrity.

Combined, these attributes make Dr. Juma the most suitable candidate for appointment to serve as the next Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

Statement of Intent



Statement of Intent



I am deeply honoured, and accept, the nomination by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta as the candidate for the Post of Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. I am a strategic, visionary, innovative and a transformative leader with a track record of successful public service, commitment and integrity, at the national, regional and international levels.

Hopeful that I shall receive the endorsement of the Heads of Government at the next CHOGM Summit, to serve as the 7th Secretary General, I wish to share my vision of how I intend to lead the Commonwealth Secretariat. At the core of my vision is the ***imperative to build consensus and galvanize collective action*** by Member States. This will enable us address the challenges that face us. I will also leverage the opportunities presented by our diversity for development and shared prosperity.

Drawing on my experience in institution building, I intent on deliver an effective Secretariat, driven by Member State priorities that optimize and draw on the diverse advantages and potential of the Commonwealth. The Secretariat that I will lead will work with all Member States to bolster unity of the Commonwealth family, deploy innovative ways of maintaining existing, and forging new, partnerships with critical stakeholders.

I commit to ***champion the deepening of democratic values*** especially in the light of growing fragility that is accentuated by a range of risks and threats to governments and communities across the world. ***Building on past successes of the Commonwealth***, I will create effective teams around the core values and principles of the Commonwealth as articulated in the Commonwealth Charter. I conceptualize the role of an effective Secretariat as one that places the Commonwealth values, inter alia, democracy, human rights, sustainable development, peace and security, at the heart of its programmes.

As a unifying force, and driven by passion, *I will strengthen the influence of the Commonwealth* in shaping global

debates and solutions to challenges impacting its membership, such as climate crisis, debt relief and recovery, optimizing innovations, protections of vulnerable groups and facilitation of youth productivity, promotion of fair trade and investment, transnational organized crimes, pandemics and epidemics, to mention a few. I will also enhance the Commonwealth's role and broaden its potential as an international organization.

I bring on board ***technical competencies*** in the security, development, and humanitarian domains, and are firmly ***committed to institutional performance***. I am convinced that sound management and administration must be matched with top-notch grasp of technical challenges confronting Member States, and is crucial to addressing the emerging, complex and dynamic issues that the Commonwealth is facing.

Together with the Member States, it is ***my intention to provide steadfast leadership and to leverage the Commonwealth's immense convening power*** to transform the Commonwealth into a vibrant organization that is responsive to the needs of its Member States; that remains seized of current and future threats that face its membership, and that advances shared interests in the international arena.

I will ***tap into Kenya's wealth of experience and partnerships*** as President-in-Office of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), as an outgoing Chair of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as Chair of the East African Community (EAC) and as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to foster prosperity, stability and innovative partnerships for the Commonwealth.

Believing that I have the expertise, experience, skills and competencies to move the Commonwealth Secretariat to the next level, I seek your support and endorsement, at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit, to serve at the next Secretary General.

My Approach: Commitment, Connections & Consensus

As Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, I will deploy a three-pronged approach to transform the Commonwealth to a dynamic, responsive and influential organization. The approach will focus on the following thematic priorities aimed at positioning the organization as a competitive and influential player in the international system.

(I) COMMITMENT: Support preservation of the Commonwealth's core values and principles among Member States through:

- Strengthening the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) to deal with political issues in Member States in collaboration with regional stakeholders.
- understanding of the uniqueness and peculiarities of political histories and democratization processes of Member States as manifested during political upheavals, terrorism, and insecurity. To achieve these, the Secretariat will aim at building effective partnerships to counter terrorism and violent extremism affecting Member States. It will also, engage partners to evolve common understanding of what needs to be done to assist Commonwealth countries to deal with challenges arising from conflict in neighboring countries and regions.
- Engaging the international community in support of collective action such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to ensure access to quality education for all children.
- Championing in collaboration with UNWOMEN the role of women and youth in the quest for global peace and security and for prosperity and protection of women and girls.
- Deploying innovative approaches to forge strong partnerships within the Commonwealth on the one hand, and between the Commonwealth and other partners across the world. The Secretariat, will collaboratively work with Commonwealth accredited organizations, business, civil society and other multilateral organizations and foster skills, experience, and perspective sharing and exchanges with the Commonwealth.

(II) CONNECTIONS: Achieve shared prosperity in the Commonwealth through sustainable development by:

- Encouraging and working with Member States of the Commonwealth to expedite programmes for sustainable development through boosting intra-Commonwealth trade and investment. This will include engaging Commonwealth Member States to play an active role in regional initiatives that promote trade among partners and support regional trade initiatives.
- Predisposing the Secretariat to support a more agile Commonwealth which is better able to respond and rally support among its Member States in times of crises – such as health emergencies, natural disasters, economic shocks or political upheavals. As an urgent required action, the Secretariat will innovatively work with partners across continents to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines by vulnerable Member States.
- Strengthening the Commonwealth advocacy and networks regime to champion sovereign debt restructuring for small and vulnerable states as they seek to recover from the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supporting sustainable initiatives to ameliorate the effects of climate change on Small-Island Developing States members of the Commonwealth who are adversely experiencing the destructiveness of climate change, subsequent receding of coastlines and consequent heightened levels of increased natural disasters.
- Safeguarding the role and position of the Commonwealth in building a stronger multilateral global system.
- Engaging the international community in finding solutions to today's challenges to build a common destiny for the Commonwealth Member States.
- Engaging the United Nations and its affiliate organizations in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards the achievement of better standards of living particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). With just less than a decade before 2030, the Secretariat will foster partnerships that will intensify the Commonwealth's efforts in assisting Member States to achieve the goals.

(III) CONSENSUS: Strengthen the Secretariat to deliver on the decisions of the Commonwealth through:

- Strengthening confidence on the effectiveness of the Secretariat to implement the decisions of the Commonwealth. A package of proposed reforms at the Commonwealth Secretariat, as agreed to by the Foreign Ministers in 2019 awaits endorsement by CHOGM in Kigali. The Secretariat will build on these and the Secretary-General will lead the transformation of the Secretariat while adhering to the principles of transparency, accountability and delivery of service. The Secretariat will coordinate closely with the Chair-in-office and Member States to enhance governance and delivery of service.
- Pursuing consensus in the decision-making processes in accordance to the procedures of the Commonwealth.
- Strengthening the Secretariat in tandem with the core values and principles of the Commonwealth.

Thank you.



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Monica Juma -Commonwealth
Secretary General Candidate