

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Kenya Summary 17 November 2023

President William Ruto (2022-current) on 9 November announces an early repayment of the \$2 billion Eurobond, calming investors over Kenya's ability to service mounting debt. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reaches a staff-level agreement with Kenya on 16 November to unlock immediate access to \$682.3m and boost its current lending programme by \$938m. Tensions between Kenya and Uganda's energy sectors heighten over Uganda's desire to decrease dependence on Kenya to import its fuel. China issues a security warning on 25 October to its citizens in Kenya less than two weeks after the United States (US) embassy released a terrorist alert.

Ruto's tax policies help secure early Eurobond payment at cost of local taxpayers

President **William Ruto** (2022-current) gave his **State of the Nation** address on 9 November, announcing that the government will repay \$300m of its \$2 billion **Eurobond** debt in December, ahead of its maturation in June 2024.¹ Although the early Eurobond partial repayment is a positive sign for investors it comes at a cost for taxpayers. Ruto has been nicknamed 'Zakayo' after the biblical tax collector for his administration's mounting pressure on the **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)** to increase tax revenue collections to support debt servicing.

The newly enforced KRA directive to tax personal or household items worth \$500, whether new or used, by visitors entering the country has led to public outcry as tourists and returning Kenyan citizens have been subjected to extra luggage searches, harassment, and exposed to corruption. An **Africa Risk Consulting Briefing (ARC Briefing)** source travelling with a **European Union (EU)** delegation witnessed a high-ranking official being told to pay duties on her second (work) phone. A separate ARC Briefing source who owns a private business reported that one of his clients boasted about bribing airport officials to expedite leaving the airport without customs checks.

As the cost of living continues to increase amidst rising inflation the government's tax policies have been met with increasing public pushback.² Ruto's political opponents continue to urge his government to address the suffering felt by much of Kenya's population and the effect it has on local businesses who not only have to pay higher import fees but have lost customers due to increasing costs. Opposition members state that if remedying the cost of living is not prioritised in the final report from the **National Dialogue Committee** between opposition coalition **Azimio la Umoja** and Ruto's **Kenya Kwanza**, it may cause a deal breaker to the talks.³

... as IMF increases funding to help debt burden

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** announced on 16 November that it had reached a staff-level agreement with Kenya for immediate access of \$682.3m and an increase in its current programme's funding by \$938m.⁴ Kenya's debt burden is a focal point for investors as the country faces mounting energy and food import bills as well as foreign-exchange reserves that stand at \$6.84

¹ The Standard, 9 Nov 2023

² The Star, 1 Nov 2023

³ The Africa Report, 14 Nov 2023

⁴ Reuters, 16 Nov 2023

billion, equating to 3.76 months of import cover instead of the statutory minimum requirement of four months.⁵

Treasury principal secretary **Chris Kiptoo** revealed on 11 November that gross public debt reached KSh 10.58 trillion (\$69.15 billion) at the end of September with 53.5% (\$36.99 billion) attributed to external debt. Kiptoo stated that domestic and external liabilities have risen under Ruto's government and that the increase in public debt was affected by the government's continued borrowing and the impact of the weakening shilling (KSh) against foreign currencies.⁶ In the past year, the shilling has depreciated more than 21% against the **United States (US)** dollar (USD) with analysts expecting further depreciation into the end of the last quarter of 2023. Projected rates range between Ksh155 and Ksh160 against the dollar.⁷

Tensions between Kenya and Uganda increase over fuel imports

Over the next few weeks, the **Kenyan High Court** will determine whether to grant user rights to **Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC)** for the Kenyan oil pipeline following the Ugandan parliamentary passing of the **Petroleum Supply (Amendment) Bill 2023** on 14 November. The bill gives UNOC exclusive rights to import and supply all petroleum products to the Ugandan market.⁸ Ugandan President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-current) had become increasingly unhappy with the current Kenyan import structure and blamed "*profit-seeking middlemen*" for inflating petrol and kerosene prices and "*cheating their country*."⁹ **Bank of Uganda** (central banks) data from 2022 shows that Uganda imported petroleum products worth \$1.6 billion, with Museveni stating it would be more cost-effective for Uganda to conduct their purchases from refineries abroad and transport the product to Uganda via Kenya and **Tanzania**.¹⁰

Currently, Uganda imports over 90% of its petroleum products via Kenya's **Mombasa Port** through licensed Ugandan oil marketing companies (OMCs) under Kenyan importation structure.¹¹ With Uganda's monthly demand estimated at 5.4 billion litres, Kenya stands to lose up to \$100m per year if Museveni approves the bill.¹² Kenya's fuel sector depends almost as much on re-exporting the commodity to its neighbours as it does on domestic consumption with 40% of its fuel imports heading through Uganda to the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** and **South Sudan**.¹³ Breaking this chain will negatively impact local employment and collection of tax revenue which the government is depending on to service its foreign debt.

In a bid to decrease prices, which were being driven higher by a shortage of USD in the region, Kenya signed a fuel deal with **Saudi Aramco, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, and Emirates National Oil Company** in March 2023 which detailed that Kenya would switch to a fixed price direct procurement under a government-to-government deal from an open tender system.¹⁴ The deal provides 180-day credit terms which allows Kenya to accumulate dollars for the purchase over time, rather than requiring approximately \$500m every month under the previous open-tender structure.¹⁵ However, Kenya's deal with the **Gulf** states has not contributed to lower fuel prices within Kenya or its export partners.

In addition to what Uganda perceives as unfairly inflated fuel costs, Ugandan energy minister **Ruth Nankabirwa** highlighted that reliance on Kenyan importers exposed Uganda to supply vulnerabilities whenever Kenya experienced supply disruptions, which in turn affected prices:

⁵ People Daily, 25 Sep 2023

⁶ The Standard, 11 Nov 2023

⁷ The East African, 10 Oct 2023

⁸ Parliament of Uganda, parliament.go.ug, 15 Nov 2023

⁹ Citizen Digital, 5 Nov 2023

¹⁰ Reuters, 1 Nov 2023

¹¹ Citizen Digital, 5 Nov 2023

¹² The East African, 6 Nov 2023

¹³ The East African, 6 Nov 2023

¹⁴ Reuters, 1 Nov 2023

¹⁵ Reuters, 19 Sep 2023

“Kenya has for decades decided what petroleum products Uganda buys, when, from where, how much, who buys and at what price.”¹⁶

Supply problems however have existed before Ruto and arose out of election tensions, imposing of non-tariff barriers, industrial action among cross-border logistics companies, and health testing during the **Covid-19** pandemic. Global oil shortages due to sanctions against **Russia** over its war in **Ukraine** have further impacted the reliable flow of fuel to the inland country.¹⁷ As UNOC will still have to cross Kenya to import fuel it is unsure how the national oil company plans to overcome these risks. Despite Uganda’s declared intentions to shift its oil imports to Tanzania’s **Dar es Salaam Port** and contract with **Vitol Bahrain** to be its supplier, Dar es Salaam port does not have the current capacity to handle it. Although Vitol Bahrain has promised funding for capacity expansion at Tanzania’s **Namwambula Mpili** storage facility, it will take time before Uganda can cease reliance on Kenya for its fuel needs.

Uganda is Kenya’s largest trading partner, accounting for 11.1 % of Kenya’s total exports in 2022, valued at KSh 97.16 billion (\$634.9m).¹⁸ However, trade relations have fluctuated throughout Kenya’s different presidential administrations with Kenya imposing temporary milk import bans and ongoing disputes around fishing rights and territorial boundaries within **Lake Victoria**.¹⁹ In September, Kenya denied UNOC a license for the import, export, and wholesale of petroleum products to Uganda through Kenya because it would negatively impact local oil marketing businesses from using the pipeline. Court documents note that UNOC did not fulfil the necessary conditions for the licence as required by the Kenyan authorities including:

- UNOC being unable to handle oil evacuation from the **Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC)** system;
- UNOC did not prove their sale of 6.6 million litres of petrol;
- UNOC had no less than five retail stations;
- UNOC did not provide documentation of \$10m in turnovers for the three years prior.²⁰

Although Museveni is likely to approve the bill, it is received controversially within Uganda with critics noting the risks of giving the state oil company monopoly over the country’s fuel sector and it still necessitates coming to agreements with Kenya. The only winners from this ordeal are UNOC’s shareholders, Vitol Bahrain, and Tanzania.

Countering criminal and security risks remains priority for the Kenyan government

China on 25 October issued its debut terrorist notice to its citizens in Kenya, warning Chinese nationals about increased risks related to geopolitical and local issues and urging caution about travelling to locations along the **Somali** border such as **Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, and Lamu**.²¹ The notice, which highlighted the effect of “*continuous heating of global issues*” on increasing “*the uncertainty of Kenya’s domestic security situation*”, was only online for a few hours before being deleted without further clarification by the embassy.²² There is speculation that the warning may have referred to Kenya’s positioning on the **Israeli-Hamas** conflict. Although on 8 October Ruto initially announced that Kenya stood in “*solidarity with Israel*” he has since called for de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the conflict for the sake of civilians, stating that **Palestine** should be a free state and expressed support for a two-state solution.²³

¹⁶ The East African, 6 Nov 2023

¹⁷ The East African, 6 Nov 2023

¹⁸ The Standard, 7 Nov 2023

¹⁹ Capital News, 7 Oct 2023

²⁰ Standard Media, 7 Nov 2023

²¹ The Standard, 26 Oct 2023

²² The Star, 26 Oct 2023

²³ The East African, 26 Oct 2023

China's warning followed the **United States (US)** embassy's 13 October security alert which cautioned US citizens against visiting crowded places due to security concerns related to extremist violence, particularly from the **al Shabaab** terrorist organisation.²⁴ Interior ministry cabinet secretary (CS) **Kithure Kindiki** on 17 October published information on Kenya's 35 most wanted terror suspects predominately linked to several terror incidents in Lamu county and the nearby **Boni Forest** enclave where al Shabaab are suspected of having hideouts. Kindiki released the suspects' official names, nicknames, information on citizenship and countries of origin, and offered a "substantial cash reward" for information leading to the arrest of any of the individuals. The list includes suspects with links to Tanzania, **Bangladesh**, Somalia, and the **United Kingdom (UK)**.²⁵

In September, Ruto signed the **Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Terrorism Financing Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023** into law and Kenya has been ramping up its counterterrorism efforts. Throughout October the government has increased deployment of special forces and elite units to northern Kenya and the **Upper Coastal** regions which has led to the destruction of multiple terrorist bases.²⁶ However, **East African** security solutions provider **SGA Security** detailed in its October report that there has been a slight increase of 1.81% in the number of security incidents in October. Its data also shows that the number has been increasing month on month from approximately 100 reported incidents in February to 382 in October.²⁷

There has been a notable increase in the targeting/involvement of foreign nationals in organised criminal activities and opportunistic crimes - on 28 October a **Ugandan/Australian** couple were conned, robbed, and assaulted in a fake gold deal on 15 November the **Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)** announced that detectives had arrested eight suspects and foiled a \$439 trillion "mega fraud" case involving two **Dutch** nationals.²⁸

As the cost of living continues to increase opportunistic crimes will likely follow. However, elaborate schemes to defraud international citizens pose increased risks to investors who will need to ensure due diligence is carried out to avoid being scammed. Corruption also continues as a risk factor as a **State of National Security** report reveals that corruption cases increased by 64% between September 2022 and end of August 2023.²⁹ Ruto's government has stood firm in its commitment to eradicating corruption which he blames for undermining Kenya's development agenda.

Based on the findings from the **Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (EACC)**, the head of public service **Felix Koskei** named and shamed over 75 individuals including CEOs, heads of parastatals, ministries, and public institutions, and 67 police officers for alleged involvement in corruption related malpractices.³⁰ In efforts to lower crime rates, Ruto said that his government enacted preventative and protective public safety and security measures and enhanced multi-agency cooperation.³¹

Planner

27 Nov -1 Dec 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Kenya Innovation Week 2023 (Commonwealth edition)

30 Nov - 2 Dec 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** **India International Textile Machinery Exhibition Africa & Middle East 2023**

14 – 15 Feb 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** 6th Africa Tech Summit Nairobi

²⁴ US Embassy in Kenya, ke.usembassy.gov, 13 Oct 2023

²⁵ The Star, 18 Oct 2023

²⁶ Salama Fikira SF Breathe, Monthly Security Report Kenya, October 2023

²⁷ SGA Security Kenya Report, October 2023

²⁸ DCI Kenya, X, 15 Nov 2023

²⁹ The Star, 16 Nov 2023

³⁰ Press Release, Office of the State House Spokesperson, 16 Nov 2023

³¹ The Star, 16 Nov 2023

21 – 23 May 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) International Energy Agency (IEA)** 9th annual global conference on energy efficiency

2 – 5 Apr 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Connected Africa ICT and digital economy summit 2024

8 – 10 Apr 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** 5th Africa Women Summit

24 – 25 Apr 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)** business summit

27 – 31 May 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya) African Development Bank Group** annual meeting

16 – 21 Jul 2024 **Nairobi (Kenya)** Kenya Geothermal Congress 2024

2025 **Lamu (Kenya)** Expected commencement of **LAPSSET Corridor Programme** construction of standard gauge railway (SGR) linking Lamu port to **Ethiopia** and **South Sudan**

Chronology

16 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) The Standard.** National Assembly approves the deployment of police officers to **Haiti** for the Kenyan-led peacekeeping mission at an expected cost of KSh 91 billion (\$594.7m);

16 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) United States Department of State.** **United States (US)** special representative for global partnerships **Dorothy McAuliffe** launches a new Coalition for Climate Entrepreneurship (CCE) hub in Nairobi;

15 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) Business Daily.** Loans tapped from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** have tripled to KSh335.5 billion (\$2.19 billion) as of June 2023 from January 2021, mirroring the effect of Kenya's multi-year credit facility with the lender. The notable increase from KSh111.3 billion (\$727.7m) in January 2021 comes slightly over two years since Kenya reached a 48-month arrangement with the Fund under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangements in February 2021;

15 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) Daily Nation.** President **William Ruto** and **Romanian** President **Klaus Iohannis** sign four agreements to cooperate on environment and climate change, sanitation, veterinary and food security, and agricultural research and cooperation;

14 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) The Kenya Gazette.** Government publishes increased fees for immigration and citizen services effective from 1 January 2024. Notable increases are employment work permit fees from KSh 200,000 (\$1,305) to KSh 500,000 (\$3,263), single entry visa fees from \$50 to \$100, multiple entry visa fees from \$100 to \$500, and extension of visa after 6 months from free to \$200;

14 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) The Star.** Chief justice **Martha Koome** holds talks with **Danish** ambassador **Stephen Schønemann** about how to strengthen the existing collaboration between Kenya and Denmark in advancing the judiciary's reforms;

14 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) The Star.** **Chinese** embassy in Nairobi announces the removal of visa appointments for Kenyan citizens effective 20 November 2023;

13 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) VOA News.** International delegates meet between 13 and 17 November in Nairobi to discuss a draft text of a landmark **United Nations (UN)** treaty to fight global plastic pollution.

13 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya) President.go.ke.** President **William Ruto** and **Sudan's** president of the transitional sovereignty council **Abdel-Fattah Al Burhan** hold bilateral talks on the security situation in Sudan, highlighting the urgency to accelerate the process towards cessation of hostilities and humanitarian assistance and agreed to work towards the convening of an urgent **IGAD** summit to find ways to accelerate the **Jeddah** process towards cessation of hostilities;

13 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Kenya appoints **United States**-headquartered **Citi** and **South Africa**-headquartered **Standard Bank** as joint lead managers to assess the potential of borrowing in dollars in international markets;

12 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Standard*. Kenyan police announce that they have arrested four suspects and recovered KSh 9.1m (\$59,442) of the KSh 94m (\$614,025) that was stolen from retail giant **Quick Mart** by two **Wells Fargo** employees on 6 November;

10 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. Interior minister **Kithure Kindiki** tells parliament's joint security committee that Kenya will spend KSh36 billion (\$235m) on the one-year deployment of 1,000 police officers to **Haiti** which will be refunded by the **United Nations (UN)**, urging parliament's departmental committee on administration and internal security to approve the deployment;

9 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. **Romania's** President **Klaus Iohannis** is set to make an official visit to Kenya in mid-November as part of his wider **Africa** tour, aimed at relaunching Romania's relations with Africa, and will hold talks with President **William Ruto** and **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** executive director **Inger Andersen** in b;

9 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. The biggest telecoms operator in Kenya, **Safaricom**, reports a 19.1% fall in its earnings before interest and taxes to KES 41.45 billion (\$273.51m) for the first half of the year to the end of September. The company is rolling out its network in neighbouring **Ethiopia**, which is dragging down its performance;

7 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Interior Cabinet Secretary (CS) **Kithure Kindiki** declares 13 November a public holiday for countrywide tree planting efforts to contribute to the **Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Programme** target of growing 15 billion trees.

7 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. President **William Ruto** hosts **Czech Republic's** prime minister **Petr Fiala** at **State House** during his three-day visit to Kenya for the Czech-Kenyan business forum in Nairobi;

7 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. Chief economic advisor to the president **David Ndi** says the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has agreed to increase Kenya's lending programme by \$650m;

6 Nov 2023 **Mombasa (Kenya)** *People Daily*. President **William Ruto** says that the government will not privatise **Mombasa** and **Lamu** ports but says that there is a need to have a port development plan that involves concessions to investors to make the facilities more competitive;

3 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. **Nation Media Group** reports that **Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC)** has not refunded any of the debt it owes the **Treasury** for the repayment of the KSh566.12 billion (\$3.7 billion) **Chinese** loan to build the standard gauge railway (SGR) despite collecting billions of shillings in fees for more than six years of operation;

2 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. **United Kingdom (UK)** and Kenya sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide a framework for peer-to-peer learning between the countries on education policy and skills creation as part of the sustainable development pillar of their strategic partnership;

1 Nov 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. President **William Ruto** and first lady **Rachel Ruto** host **United Kingdom's** King **Charles III** and Queen Consort **Camilla** at **State House** as part of the monarch's four-day visit to Kenya;

31 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. The **Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)** party opposes a move by President **William Ruto's** **Kenya Kwanza** administration to include **World Bank** and **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** experts in ongoing bipartisan talks with the **Azimio la Umoja - One Kenya** coalition;

30 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Reuters*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** staff commence a visit to Nairobi as **Central Bank of Kenya** governor **Kamau Thugge** says they are discussing a possible

augmentation of its existing loan programme. This would be the third increase to the loan programme, which was set at \$2.3 billion in 2021;

30 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. Kenya says it will eliminate destination charges for importers from landlocked **East African Community (EAC)** partners using the **Port of Mombasa**, resulting in significant savings, in response to increased competition from the **Port of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)**;

30 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. **International Finance Corporation** provides \$2.9 billion in long-term and short-term financing to businesses in Kenya, **Tanzania** and **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**;

27 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. President **William Ruto**'s administration cuts development expenditure while increasing its maiden budget by KSh 187.3 billion (\$1.22 billion) to confront economic headwinds related to missed tax targets, huge debt repayment obligations and spending pressures from critical sectors such as education and health;

27 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. **Kenya Power** managing director **Joseph Siror** of **Kenya Power** says the state-owned electricity distributor is in talks with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to renegotiate paying back its KSh 6 billion (\$391.9m) foreign loans in local currency as Kenyan companies that rely on foreign loans and imported goods face an uphill task as rising finance costs put significant pressure on their profit margins;

27 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *People Daily*. The **Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)** is investigating several governors and senior county officials involved in a fraudulent scheme to loot public funds through integrated automated revenue management systems;

26 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The Star*. Kenya's **Stanbic Bank Africa** trade barometer (SB STB), the bank's annual tradability index, Kenya ranks sixth out of ten countries trailing behind **South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, Nigeria** and **Ghana**;

26 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital News*. **European Union (EU)** grants \$76.9m to Kenya to support the green transition on environmental sustainability and digital inclusion, good governance as well as peace and stability under the **Multiannual Action Plan 2023-2024**;

25 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Capital News*. National Assembly speaker **Moses Wetangula** tasks the National Assembly Administration and Security Committee to jointly consider the **National Security Advisory Council (NSAC)** memorandum seeking clearance to deploy Kenyan police to **Haiti**;

24 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *The East African*. The shilling surpasses the 150-unit mark against the **United States** dollar, marking a 17.7% depreciation since the beginning of the year, more than twice the percentage shed in the previous year;

24 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. Treasury cabinet secretary **Njuguna Ndung'u** confirms that as of September, the **African Development Bank's (AfDB)** loans to Kenya have reached \$3.95 billion, making the AfDB a major financier of Kenya's infrastructure projects and private sector;

23 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily Africa*. **Communications Authority of Kenya** reports that cyberattacks have dropped 55.4% in the first quarter of the new financial year, attributing this decline to its ongoing cyber awareness campaigns;

21 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto** and his **Angolan** counterpart, **João Lourenço** sign 11 memoranda of understanding. Ruto also agrees that Kenya will waive visa requirements for Angolan citizens;

19 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Daily Nation*. President **William Ruto** signs into law the **Primary Health Care Act 2023**, the **Digital Health Act, 2023**, the **Facility Improvement Financing Act, 2023** and the **Social Health Insurance Act, 2023**. The four bills are aimed at promoting universal health coverage; however, critics note that to do this, all workers will have to contribute 2.75% of their salaries towards a new health fund;

18 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Business Daily*. National assembly speaker **Moses Wetang'ula** hosts **Yemeni** foreign affairs minister **Ahmed Bin Mubarak** and asks that the Yemeni government increase its investments in Kenya;

17 Oct 2023 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Bloomberg*. President **William Ruto** says during the 3rd **Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation** in **China** that he has held discussions with his counterparts in **Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo** and **Republic of Congo** to extend Kenya's **Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)** across the border, however, the extension would be reliant on additional Chinese investment;