



BUILDING GLOBAL RECOGNITION: KENYA'S WASHINGTON ACCORD

PROGRESS REPORT



One Year On: Kenya Advances Washington Accord Ambitions with Strong International Engagements and Domestic Capacity Building

NAIROBI, Kenya — 13th June 2026, exactly one year after attaining Provisional Signatory status to the Washington Accord by a unanimous vote at the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) Meetings held in Mérida, Mexico, on 13th June 2025 Kenya's engineering sector continues to make significant strides toward Full Signatory status, targeted for 2029.

A high-level delegation led by the Principal Secretary, State Department for Roads, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, CBS, and Engineers Board of Kenya Acting Registrar/CEO, Eng. Grace Onyango, travelled to Cape Town to present a comprehensive progress report at the IEA Meetings, hosted by the Engineering Council of South Africa at Century City from 7th to 12th June 2026. These engagements reinforced Kenya's commitment while showcasing tangible domestic reforms.

The Washington Accord is the global agreement through which member economies mutually recognize one another's accredited engineering degrees. Full Signatory status will place Kenyan engineering qualifications on an equal footing in more than 20 economies including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, India, and South Africa expanding opportunities for Kenyan graduates, professionals, and firms in the global market.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Provisional Signatory Status
13 June 2025



Progress Report Presented
Cape Town South Africa



High-Level Government Delegation



Target Full Signatory
Year 2029



Recognised Across More Than 20 Economies



Washington Accord progress

2025
13 June

Kenya admitted as Provisional Signatory to the Washington Accord

2026

Cape Town Progress Report



OBE Training & Capacity Building



Programmes Transition Underway

2029

Target: Full Signatory Status

Strategic International Engagements and Progress Reporting in Cape Town

In Cape Town, the Kenyan delegation presented a detailed status report on national milestones achieved since attaining Provisional Signatory status and outlined the clear roadmap toward Full Signatory status by 2028/2029. The team held fruitful high-level discussions with three key partners:

Federation of African Engineering Organizations (FAEO)

The delegation engaged FAEO President Eng. Refilwe Buthelezi on strengthening collaboration, harmonizing engineering standards across Africa, and advancing capacity building, mentorship, and cross-border mobility. FAEO President Buthelezi commended Kenya's commitment and the unwavering support from the State Department for Roads, calling on African countries to work collectively toward IEA Accord compliance.



PS, Roads, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, together with EBK Ag. Registrar/CEO, Eng. Grace Onyango, and President of FAEO, Eng. Refilwe Buthelezi.

International Engineering Alliance (IEA)

led by Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua, CBS, and Eng. Grace Onyango, the team met IEA President Prof. Elizabeth Taylor. Discussions focused on global recognition of Kenyan engineering qualifications, alignment with international accreditation and competency standards, enhanced professional mobility, and opportunities for capacity building and knowledge exchange. Prof. Taylor expressed strong support for Kenya's progress and reaffirmed the IEA's commitment to supporting Provisional Signatories on the path to full membership.



The Kenyan delegation, led by Principal Secretary for Roads, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, during a meeting with IEA President, Prof. Elizabeth Taylor.

Jamaica Professional Engineering Board

In a bilateral with the Jamaica Professional Engineering Board, led by its Chairman, Eng. Glaister Ricketts, together with Registrar Dr. Lynette Bailey, Kenya shared its experiences, institutional reforms, and stakeholder engagement strategies that secured Provisional Signatory status. Principal Secretary Mbugua reaffirmed Kenya's readiness to provide technical support and encouraged continued collaboration in engineering regulation, accreditation, and professional mobility.

“The Government's support for this journey is total. Full Signatory status will mean a Kenyan engineering degree opens doors in every major economy, and that the infrastructure we build at home is designed by engineers trained to the highest global standards. What we presented in Cape Town shows Kenya is on schedule to deliver by 2029.”

Eng. Joseph Mbugua, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Roads.



The Kenyan delegation held a strategic engagement with representatives from the Jamaica Professional Engineering Board.



Key Domestic Milestone: Outcome-Based Education (OBE) Trainings



Outcome Based Education Training Workshop

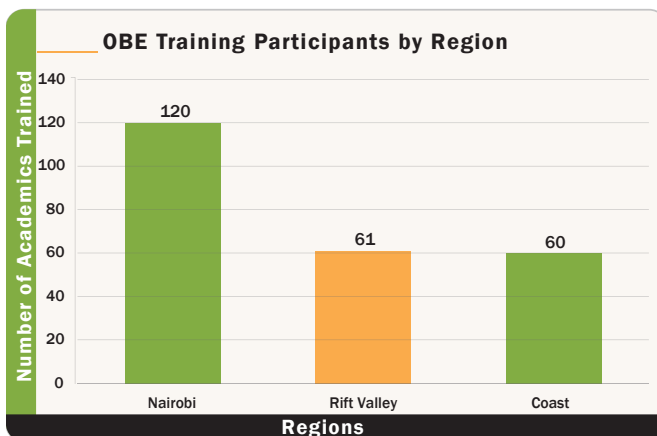
Complementing the international progress, the Engineering Accreditation Committee (EAC Kenya) launched the Outcome-Based Education (OBE) training workshops for engineering lecturers and university staff. These trainings have been conducted in the Nairobi, Rift Valley and Coast regions hosted by Strathmore University (120 participants), the University of Eldoret (61 participants) and the Technical University of Mombasa (approximately 60 participants) respectively reaching more than 240 academics. Eng. Grace Onyango emphasized that the training equips lecturers with practical skills to develop Washington Accord-aligned curricula, course learning outcomes, and assessment tools. The programme promotes student-centered and active learning approaches, strengthens institutional capacity for continuous quality improvement through proper documentation and evidence generation, and supports the smooth transition of all recognized engineering programmes to OBE.



Ag. Registrar/CEO giving her remarks during OBE workshop

“Cape Town confirmed that the world has confidence in Kenya’s reforms, but the real transformation is happening in our lecture halls. Every lecturer we train in outcome-based education brings us closer to producing graduates whose competence is recognized anywhere in the world and the ultimate beneficiaries are our students and the public they will serve.”

Eng. Grace Onyango, Acting Registrar/CEO, Engineers Board of Kenya.



Nairobi Region



Coast Region



Rift Valley Region

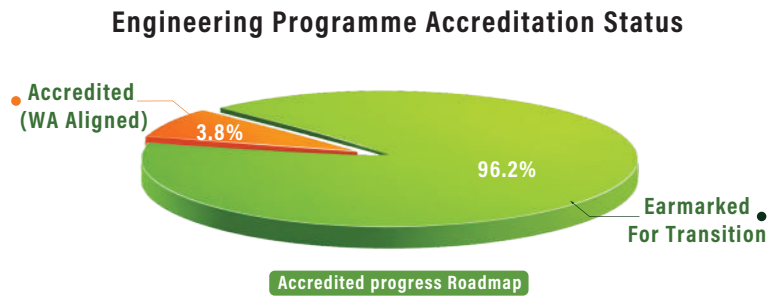


Kabarak University

Clear Progress and Strong Momentum

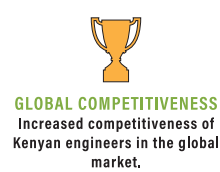
The combination of the Cape Town progress report and accelerated domestic reforms clearly demonstrates that Kenya is not only meeting Washington Accord requirements but is also positioning itself as a key player in shaping engineering excellence across Africa and beyond.

Three Kenyan programmes at Strathmore University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology are already accredited to Washington Accord-aligned standards. A further 77 programmes across 18 universities, currently accredited to national standards, are earmarked for transition under the Board's five-year roadmap, with five pilot universities set to begin redesigning their programmes in the 2026/2027 academic year.



Looking Ahead: Full Signatory Status and Tangible Benefits

Attaining Full Signatory status by 2029 will deliver substantial benefits, including:



Aligned with Kenya Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), EBK, in close collaboration with the State Department for Roads and training institutions, remains focused on institutional reforms, stakeholder engagement, curriculum alignment, and capacity-building initiatives.

Gratitude and Call to Action

The Board extends sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Roads and Transport, all Kenyan engineering institutions, practicing engineers, and stakeholders who have supported this journey. We call upon universities, engineering deans, lecturers, and the wider stakeholder community to sustain this momentum through active participation in OBE implementation, accreditation processes, and continuous quality improvement.

Kenya is on a clear and determined path. The successful progress report delivered in Cape Town, together with ongoing domestic actions, has reinforced our position and opened new avenues for collaboration. The journey to Full Signatory status by 2028/2029 continues with confidence and collective commitment.

About the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK):

EBK is the statutory body established under the Engineers Act, 2011 to register and license engineers and engineering consulting firms, regulate engineering professional services, set standards, and oversee the development and general practice of engineering in Kenya.

The Engineering Accreditation Committee (EAC Kenya), established by the Board, is the sole competent authority for accrediting engineering degree programmes in Kenya.

More information: www.ebk.go.ke | <https://eackenya.go.ke>.

About the Washington Accord:

Established in 1989 and administered under the International Engineering Alliance, the Washington Accord recognizes the substantial equivalence of accredited engineering degree programmes among its signatories.

Kenya was admitted as a Provisional Signatory on 13th June 2025.