

## One-Pager Track NAI

The West Wing is the official youth think tank of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a youth think tank, we provide the ministry with advice in various areas of Dutch foreign policy. The written communication will be done in English, due to the stakeholders of the Embassy in Nairobi having various international backgrounds.

### **Cause**

In June 2022 the Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation published the policy note: 'Doen waar Nederland goed in is' (English translation pending). In this policy note Kenya is mentioned as a priority country for both development cooperation and trade. Moreover; the Minister in her policy note states that global challenges, such as climate change, can provide opportunities for Dutch business abroad through successful Public-Private collaboration. The government wants to encourage companies to take the leap to lower- and middle-income countries to link trade, investment and development cooperation and to have them strengthen each other.

### **Kenya**

In Kenya the Dutch Embassy in collaboration with the responsible directorates in the Hague (DDE, DIO, IGG), will give shape to this new policy. The aim is to combine trade opportunities with development impact in the so-called 'combi' approach. A specific policy framework will be drafted to strengthen agri-supply chains through sea-freight.

Kenya is a strong trade partner for the Netherlands. The Netherlands holds a position in the top-5 of Kenya's largest export destinations. Export products include flowers and other horticultural products, with a total value of +/- 500 million Euro per year. Globally, the main mode of transport for trade is ocean shipping, but this is not the case for Kenya. Most export products are transported by air, as this is a quicker and better streamlined form of transportation. For agricultural products with a short shelf life such as flowers, fruits and vegetables this is especially important. In 2020 however, COVID-19 exposed the limitations of airfreight in Kenya. Passenger flights carry freight in the belly of the plane, and due to a high amount of flights being canceled there was a huge shortfall of airfreight capacity. By increasing maritime shipping, Kenya can provide an alternative way of transporting goods, decreasing costs and reducing its environmental footprint. This all leads to Kenya becoming more competitive in the region, and to achieving the 2030 Agenda

This 'combi' on strengthening sea-freight capacity should go hand in hand with achieving more impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general, and specifically on the themes of (youth) entrepreneurship, climate change, digitalization, innovation, post-harvest losses.

### **The assignment**

## The West Wing

The Dutch Embassy in Nairobi asks The West Wing to help strengthen the new 'combi' strategy on sea-freight by providing concrete ideas and examples on how to connect the dots between the new policy framework, identification of Dutch trade-opportunities and achieving impact on the SDGs.

Ideally, the final result of The West Wing's efforts will be a number of concrete actions that the Dutch Embassy in Kenya together with its counterparts in the Hague can implement to strengthen its 'combi' strategy.

