The African Union's Panel of Eminent African Personalities

After Kenya's disputed 2007 presidential election, the country descended into violence that left more than a thousand people dead. Rival leaders agreed in January 2008 to work with the African Union–backed Panel of Eminent African Personalities to forge peace. The three-person panel is chaired by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and also includes former Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapa and Mozambican rights activist Graça Machel. The panel's efforts resulted in a February 2008 power-sharing agreement between the two major parties calling for a number of political and institutional reforms, including a comprehensive review of the constitution. In August 2010 a new constitution was passed by national referendum.

AU Panel of Eminent African Personalities

• Authorization Date	January 2008
• Chair	Kofi Annan (Ghana)

The 2008 agreement established the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation (KNDR) process, featuring a ten-person negotiation team representing both major parties and chaired by Kofi Annan. The KNDR team holds regular review meetings several times a year on the status of implementation, with a focus on upcoming elections in March 2013.

The panel monitors compliance with the power-sharing agreement and engages with key actors in Kenya. It also commissions reports from a consulting firm to monitor and evaluate the KNDR's progress. These reports, released several times a year, often criticize the performance of political leaders. In 2012, they addressed issues including the lack of political will for reconciliation, the need for new electoral laws, and the resistance of the police to institutional reform.

Transitional justice and the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in prosecuting crimes committed by political leaders in 2007 has been a persistent issue in the KNDR process. On multiple occasions parliament has blocked legislation to initiate trials of the accused, and there have been frequent reports of witness intimidation and bribery. In January 2012 the ICC indicted four prominent Kenyans, including the deputy prime minister, for crimes against humanity and other offenses. Two of the accused are currently running for president. The panel has called on the political elite to cooperate with the ICC.

Violence struck the country again in 2012, with over sixty-five Kenyans killed in incidents in August and over 110 killed in a series of attacks in September. A member of parliament was arrested in connection with the latter violence. There is danger that fighting could escalate before the next elections. The situation has recently been aggravated by terrorist attacks in Kenya, blamed on the Somali-based Muslim militant group al-Shabaab, likely in response Kenya's military operations in Somalia. In this difficult environment, the panel continues to monitor and support the KNDR process.