

Preview of the Upcoming State Visit of President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto of Kenya

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WHAT: Washington Foreign Press Center On-The-Record Hybrid Briefing

TOPIC: Preview of the Upcoming State Visit of President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto of Kenya

BRIEFER: Dr. Frances Brown, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs

WHEN: Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

WHERE: National Press Building, 529 14th Street, NW, Suite 800

RSVP: via this link: [Sign Up](#). Please note this briefing is for FPC-credentialed media only.

BACKGROUND:

In this on-the-record briefing, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs Dr. Frances Brown will discuss the upcoming state visit of President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto of Kenya, along with National Security news of the day.

Attendees are encouraged to submit questions in advance via the RSVP link. We anticipate that the briefer will call on a small number of questioners who pre-submitted questions that reflect global or regional issues before taking questions from others in attendance. We encourage you to submit questions in the above link but cannot guarantee yours will be chosen for the initial round of questions.

NOTE: All briefings are subject to change. Please visit the [FPC website](#) for the latest information on FPC programs.

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FOREIGN BROADCASTERS: Download a digital copy of the video for all on-camera FPC events at the [DVIDS website](#).

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Kenyan President Ruto's Visit to Atlanta

Press Statement

Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State

May 20, 2024

The United States warmly welcomes President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto of the Republic of Kenya to Atlanta, Georgia, today. The visit to Atlanta is the first segment of Kenya's diplomatic engagement with the United States and will be followed by a State Visit to Washington, D.C. on May 23.

United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa highlights the contribution American cities make to U.S. foreign policy and the mutual benefits of expanded societal exchanges with our African partners. President Ruto's visit to Atlanta reflects the city's growing global importance and underscores its central role in America's progress towards a more inclusive democracy. I welcome President Ruto's engagements with civic leaders on issues of democratic governance while in Atlanta, as well as his focus on our people-to-people ties, public health partnerships, educational exchanges, investments in shared prosperity, and his engagements with Atlanta's African Diaspora.

During the 2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, President Biden stated that, "The future of Africa and the United States depends on what we can achieve together." President Ruto's visit to Atlanta embodies our joint vision for a 21st century partnership that builds and strengthens relationships beyond capitals. I look forward to welcoming President Ruto to Washington, D.C. later this week and thank the Mayor and Atlanta's civic leaders for graciously hosting our Kenyan friends.

First Lady Jill Biden to Host Kenya State Dinner Media Preview and Spousal Program Events with First Lady Rachel Ruto

The White House

Statements and Releases

May 20, 2024

As part of the State Visit with the Republic of Kenya, First Lady Jill Biden will host a State Dinner Media Preview and a series of events in celebration of the continuing friendship between the two countries. Dr. Biden traveled to Kenya in February 2023 as First Lady and in 2010 and 2011 as Second Lady.

Airport Arrival

On Wednesday, May 22nd at 10:00 AM, First Lady Jill Biden will greet President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto of the Republic of Kenya at Joint Base Andrews. This airport arrival is open press. For interested media, please [REGISTER HERE](#) by **Tuesday, May 21st at 12:00 PM ET**.

Media Preview

On Wednesday, May 22nd at 2:30 PM, Dr. Biden will host a Media Preview in advance of Thursday evening's State Dinner. The Media Preview will include brief remarks from Dr. Biden and White House Social Secretary Carlos Elizondo, followed by presentations of the menu from White House Executive Chef Cris Comerford and White House Executive Pastry Chef Susie Morrison. Sample place settings for the State Dinner will be on display. This Media Preview will be pooled for TV and open to pre-credentialed media. For interested media, please [REGISTER HERE](#) by **Tuesday, May 21st at 12:00 PM ET**.

Spousal Program Events

On **Thursday, May 23rd**, Dr. Biden will host Mrs. Ruto for two Spousal Program events in Washington, D.C.

At 11:15 AM, Dr. Biden and Mrs. Ruto will visit the Advanced Technical Center, where they will hear from high school students and instructors about their nursing and cybersecurity career pathways program. The event will highlight investments in career-connected learning programs by the Biden-Harris administration, which are transforming the high school experience and unlocking new pathways to career opportunities for students. This visit will underscore Dr. Biden and Mrs. Ruto's shared commitment to advancing educational opportunities to help students and youth thrive. This event will be open to pre-credentialed media. For interested media, please [REGISTER HERE](#) by **Tuesday, May 21st at 5:00 PM ET**.

At 12:00 PM, Dr. Biden and Mrs. Ruto will visit the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center, where they will join a Biden Cancer Moonshot listening session about cancer screenings and the patient navigation efforts of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. The event will highlight Dr. Biden and Mrs. Ruto's shared interests in advocating for cancer prevention and supporting cancer patients and their families. This event will be open to pre-credentialed media. For interested media, please [REGISTER HERE](#) by **Tuesday, May 21st at 5:00 PM ET**.

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