

Dear Joyce, Blessing and Selam,

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to celebrate a new beginning in my life. You have reconnected me to my African ancestral roots by honoring me with an African name **Mumbi Mukisa Desta** which means, “**She who Creates Blessing and Happiness**”. In African culture the naming of an individual is a sacred event, and it is believed that the named person will fulfill the meaning of the name. The name embodies me and my visionary leadership to contribute to gender equity for women and girls.

I look forward to my naming and blessing ceremony in East Africa.

Sincerely,
Mumbi Mukisa Desta

This is the note sent to me announcing my African name.



Joyce Kibet



Owomugisha Blessing Immaculate



Selamawit Zemene

Hi Brenda,

Now that the planning for the summit is over, Selam, Blessing, and I have taken some time to think through your African name, as we had promised.

In Africa, it's common for individuals to have three names, each carrying a narrative of their promising future and blessings envisioned by their parents and community.

and...in line with the just-ended IWTT summit... we can say that the following names tell your story as a visionary leader.

Here is what we came up with; we hope you like it.

Mumbi Mukisa Desta **She who Creates Blessing and Happiness**

Mumbi- is derived from one of the Kenyan tribes called Kikuyu, which is also Joyce's dialect.

Mumbi is a name given to a lady, meaning "She who creates." (Pronounced Mombi).

Mukisa - is derived from Luganda, a dialect from Uganda. Meaning, Blessing.

Desta - is derived from Amharic in Ethiopia, which means happiness.

We also created a simple e-flyer that you can use to announce on your social media and announce it to your friends and family if you want to. (see attached flyer)

In Africa, a name is synonymous to a blessing. When you visit us here in East Africa, we hope to have a **naming and blessing ceremony for you**, combining the naming and blessing practices from the three countries.

We truly believe that you embody these three names and that our elder mothers and aunties (who carry out the blessing and naming ceremony) would have named you these three names... we hope that this resonates with you.

Regards,
Ms. Joyce Kibet
Advisor.

Gender Economics & Gender Governance.
Organizational Strengthening

Kenya National Chair-ICGLR-Regional Women Forum.
Member of Regional Steering Committee-ICGLR-Regional Women Forum.



Shown in the picture is a rotating world globe presented to the International Women's Think Tank by NIRVANA TEA during the 2013 annual celebration of Women's History Month. The globe represents the world's cultural diversity. The globe is also symbolic of the International Women's Think Tank's social impact and its mission to globally empower women and girls.



Georgia Peach blended by Nirvana Tea exclusively for the International Women's Think Tank.