



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



Fourth Annual Retreat

For Special Envoys and High Representatives
of Regional Economic Communities in Africa

Dakar, Senegal, 14-16 September 2025



FOURTH ANNUAL RETREAT FOR SPECIAL ENVOYS AND HIGH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS)

THEME:

CHANGING GLOBAL DYNAMIC AND THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL MEDIATION TOWARDS PEACE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA



14 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 →



HOTEL TERROU BI, EVASION 2 AND 3 CONFERENCE ROOMS, DAKAR, SENEGAL

14 September 2025

8.00–9.00 – Arrival and Registration of Participants

9.00–10.30 – Opening Ceremony

Masters of Ceremony: Dr Winluck Wahiu, Senior Adviser, Constitution Building, International IDEA, Africa and West Asia (AWA) Regional Office and Ms Jainaba Faye, IDEA Country Director, The Gambia

Welcome:

Dr Roba D. Sharamo, Regional Director, International IDEA, Africa and West Asia (AWA) Regional Office – 5 mn

Solidarity Messages:

H.E. Dr. Aminata Toure, High Representative of the President of the Republic of Senegal

Dr. Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary General, International IDEA – 5 mn

H.E. Ambassador Ibrahim Turay, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Senegal, Representative of ECOWAS President – 5 mn

H.E. Ambassador Philipp Stalder, Assistant State Secretary, Head of the Africa Division at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs – 5 mn

H.E. Ambassador Ismail Wais, Representative of the IGAD Executive Secretary – 5 mn

Mrs. Michele Ndiaye, Former AU Special Representative to DRC, OSF Director for Transformative Peace in Africa – 5 mn

H.E. Ambassador Leonardo Simao, UNSGSR for West Africa and Sahel – 5 mn

Context setting:

H.E. Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, Chief of Staff of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission – 7 mn

H.E. Mr. Joao Cravinho, EU Special Representative for the Sahel – 7 mn

Keynote address: Framing the conversation on the changing global dynamics and Africa's place in it:

H.E. Prof. Abdoulaye Bathily, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Senegal for International Affairs – 9mn

10.30–10.45 – Group Photo and Coffee Break



10.45-12.00 – Plenary Panel 1:

The Role of RECs in promoting peace and effective, accountable and constitutional governance under current dynamics of fading multilateralism and geopolitical changes

This panel will examine the evolving roles, opportunities and challenges facing RECs in fostering peace, stability, effective and constitutional governance in Africa amidst declining global multilateral cooperation and dynamic geopolitical landscapes. The panelists will specifically assess RECs responses and ongoing interventions amid the current dynamics.

Q: What is your organization's analysis of the current multilateral dynamics and how does it promote peace and effective governance in this challenging context?

Moderator: H.E. Mrs Bintou Djibo, Former UN Coordinator, former UNDP Representative

Panelists:

H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Abdel Fatau Musah, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security

H.E. Ambassador Ismail Wais, IGAD Special Envoy to South Sudan

H.E. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security

H.E. Mrs. Edite Ten Juq, Executive Secretary of the African Political Parties Summit, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sao Tome & Principe

Discussion with participants

12.00-13.15 – Plenary panel 2:

Adaptive and innovative solutions in the engagement of the RECs in the current geopolitical context

This panel will explore and evaluate adaptive and innovative strategies that RECs – including their special envoys and high representatives – can employ to effectively engage in and support complex political transitions in African states, considering the challenges and opportunities presented by the current geopolitical landscape. The discussion aims to identify practical solutions, exchange good practices, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to enhance RECs' roles in promoting stability, security, effective governance, and sustainable development during political transitions.

Q: How can RECs – including their High Representatives and Special Envoys – proactively reshape their role and actions in the new multilateral context?

Moderator: Mr. Abraham Okoko-Esau, Special Advisor of the President of ECCAS Commission

Panelists:

H.E. Ambassador El-Ghassim Wane, Former Head of MINUSMA

H.E. Prof. Fatima Karadja, Former Member of APRM Panel of Eminent Persons

H.E. Dr. Cheick Tidiane Gadio, Former Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, Chairperson of the Institute for Pan African Strategies o Mrs. Oury Traoré, Regional Director for West Africa and Sahel, ISS o Dr. Issaka Souaré, Senior Mediation Advisor, Mediation Support Unit, UN Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

Discussion with participants

13.15-14.30 – Lunch break

14.30–15.45 – Plenary Panel 3:

How have international organizations and partners responded, and how should they respond, to the changing dynamics in geopolitical landscape, including in their support to the capacity and role of RECs in transitional contexts?

This panel seeks to identify actionable insights for external policymakers and international organizations to navigate complex geopolitical environments effectively in accompanying African efforts to resolve complex political and constitutional transitions in Africa.

Q: What is the role of external policy makers and international organizations in accompanying African efforts to resolve complex political and constitutional transitions in the new multilateral environment?

Moderator: Mr Gram Matenga, Head of Programmes, International IDEA, AWA Regional Office

Panelists:

Mr Sumit Bisarya, Head of Constitution Building and Rule of Law, Global Programme, International IDEA
H.E. Ambassador Carmen Hagenaaers, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Senegal
H.E. Mr. Joao Cravinho, EU Special Representative for the Sahel
Dr Lori-Anne Theroux Benoni, Senior Advisor, ISS
Dr. Jean-Herve Jezequel, Director of the Sahel Project, ICG

Discussion with participants

15.45–17:00 – Bilateral meetings and networking

19.30–21.00 – Conference dinner (by invitation only)

15 September 2025

Country Specific Panels

9.00–11.00 – Panel 1: Challenges and opportunities for stabilization and institutional reforms in coastal States: the cases of Gambia, Gabon, Ghana and Senegal

Moderators: Dr. Adem K. Abebe, Senior Adviser, Constitution Building and Rule of Law, Global Programme, International IDEA and Prof. Alpha Sidy Ndiaye, Deputy Chief of Staff of the President of the Republic of Senegal

Panelists:

Hon. Hussein Thomasi, Legal Secretary and Solicitor General, Ministry of Justice, Republic of the Gambia
H.E. Prof. Guy Rossatanga-Rignault, Former Secretary General of the Presidency of the Transition in Gabon
Dr. Cheikh Gueye, Facilitator of the National Dialogue, Senegal
H.E. Ambassador Jean-Marc Pisani, European Union Ambassador to Senegal
Dr. Joseph Asunka, CEO, Afrobarometer
Mrs. Fatou Jagne Senghore, CSO Advocate, West Africa

Discussion with participants

11.00–11.15 – Coffee Break

11.15–13.15 – Panel 2:

How to promote and strengthen conditions conducive to peace and a return to constitutional order in Sudan
Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Haile Menkerios, Former UNSGSR and Head of the UN Mission to Sudan and South Sudan

Panelists:

H.E. Ambassador Lawrence Korbandy, IGAD Special Envoy for Sudan
Mrs Hala Al-Karib, Regional Director, SIHA
H.E. Mr. Sylvain Astier, Switzerland's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa
Dr. Hassan Khannenje, Director of the HORN Institute for Strategic Studies
Discussion with participants

13.15–14.15 – Lunch Break

14.15–16.15 – Panel 3:

How to promote reconciliation in Somalia and which mechanisms to implement it?

Moderator: Dr. Winluck Wahiu, Senior Adviser, Constitution Building, International IDEA, AWA Regional Office

Panelists:

H. E. Mr. Hassan Moalim Mohamud, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Federal Republic of Somalia
H.E. Ambassador El Hadji Ibrahima Boly Diene, Head of AUSSOM
Mr. Mahdi Abdile, Regional Director and Representative to the AU, Finn Church Aid
H.E. Mr Mohamed Yunis, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somaliland Discussion with participants

18.15 – Departure by bus

18.30 – 20.30 – Cocktail at the Swiss Residence, Fann

Launching of the 2025 Global State of Democracy Report: Dr. Roba D. Sharamo, Regional Director, International IDEA, Africa and West Asia

16 September 2025

9.00–10.30 – Panel 4:

The nature and future of support for return to constitutional governance in Central Sahel countries

Moderator: Dr. Maurice Engueleguele, Senior Adviser, Constitution Building, International IDEA, AWA Regional Office

Panelists:

Mr. Abdou Salam Diekpile, Director General of Territorial Administration, Representative of Mali
Mr. Siaka Coulibaly, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Representative of Burkina Faso
H.E. Dr Mamadou Tangara, AU Representative for Sahel and Head of MISAHEL
H.E. Mr Larry Gbevlo-Lartey, Ghana Special Envoy to AES

Discussion with participants

10.30-10.45 – Coffee break

10.45-12.00 Panel 5: Challenges and opportunities for constitutional governance in the Great Lakes Region

Moderator: Dr, Lindlyn Moma, Member of the Advisory Board, International IDEA

Panelists:

Dr. Andrews Asamoah, Senior Adviser, AU Support, International IDEA, AWA Regional Office

H.E. Mrs. Marie Madeleine Kalala, Chairperson of the Panel of Wise of ECCAS and Friend of the AU Panel of Wise

H.E. Ambassador Emile Ognimba, Ambassador of Congo Brazzaville, Former OIF Special Representative to Madagascar and Comoros

Discussion with participants

12.10-12.45 – Closing Ceremony

Masters of Ceremony: Dr. Winluck Wahiu, Senior Adviser, Constitution Building, International IDEA, AWA Regional Office and Ms Jainaba Faye, IDEA Country Director, The Gambia

Closing Remarks. Dr Roba D. Sharamo, Regional Director, International IDEA, AWA Regional Office

Closing Remarks. H.E. Ambassador Carmen Hagenaaars, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Senegal

Closing Remarks. H.E. Ambassador Sylvain Astier, Swiss Special Envoy for Horn of Africa

Official Closing. H.E. Prof. Abdoulaye Bathily, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Senegal for International Affairs

12.45-15.00 – Closing lunch (*by invitation only*)

16.00 – Departure of Participants

QUATRIÈME RETRAITE ANNUELLE DES ENVOYÉS SPÉCIAUX ET HAUTS REPRÉSENTANTS DES COMMUNAUTÉS ECONOMIQUES RÉGIONALES (CERS)

THÈME:

L'AVENIR DE LA MÉDIATION RÉGIONALE EN FAVEUR DE LA PAIX ET DE LA GOUVERNANCE
CONSTITUTIONNELLE ET DÉMOCRATIQUE EN AFRIQUE DANS UNE DYNAMIQUE MONDIALE EN ÉVOLUTION



14 – 16 SEPTEMBRE 2025 →



**HOTEL TERROU BI, EVASION 2 AND 3 CONFERENCE ROOMS,
DAKAR, SENEGAL**

14 septembre 2025

8.00–9.00 – Arrivée et inscription des participants

9.00–10.30 – Cérémonie d'ouverture

Maîtres de cérémonie : Dr Winluck Wahi, Conseiller principal, Élaboration des Constitutions, Bureau régional d'IDEA International, Afrique et Asie de l'Ouest (AWA) et Mme Jainaba Faye, Directrice pays d'IDEA International, Gambie

Bienvenue:

Dr Roba D. Sharamo, Directeur régional, IDEA International, Bureau régional Afrique et Asie de l'Ouest (AWA) – 5mn

Messages de solidarité:

S.E.M. Aminata Touré, Haute Représentante du Président de la République du Sénégal – 5mn

Dr. Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secrétaire Général, IDEA International – 5 mn

S.E. M. l'Ambassadeur Ibrahim Turay, Ambassadeur de Sierra Leone au Sénégal, Représentant du Président de la CEDEAO – 5 mn

S.E. M. l'Ambassadeur Philipp Stalder, Secrétaire d'Etat Adjoint, Chef de la Division Afrique au Ministère Fédéral Suisse des Affaires Etrangères – 5 mn

S.E.M. l'Ambassadeur Ismail Wais, Représentant du Secrétaire Exécutif de l'IGAD – 5 mn

Mme Michele Ndiaye, Ancienne Représentante Spéciale de l'Union Africaine en RDC, Directrice de la Paix Transformatrice en Afrique, OSF – 5 mn

S.E.M. l'Ambassadeur Leonardo Simao, RSSGNU pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel – 5 mn

Mise en contexte:

S.E.M. l'Ambassadeur Souel El-Alamine, Chef de cabinet du Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine – 7 mn

S.E.M. Joao Cravinho, Représentant Spécial de l'Union Européenne pour le Sahel – 7 mn

Allocution d'ouverture : cadrage de la conversation sur l'évolution de la dynamique mondiale et la place de l'Afrique dans celle-ci :

S.E. Prof. Abdoulaye Bathily, Envoyé spécial du Président de la République du Sénégal pour les Affaires internationales

10.30–10.45 – Photo de groupe et pause-café



10.45-12.00 – Table ronde plénière 1:

Le Rôle des CERs dans la promotion de la paix et d'une gouvernance efficace, responsable et constitutionnelle dans le cadre de la dynamique actuelle d'affaiblissement du multilatéralisme et de changements géopolitiques

Ce panel examinera l'évolution des rôles, des opportunités et des défis auxquels sont confrontés les CERs dans la promotion de la paix, de la stabilité, d'une gouvernance efficace et constitutionnelle en Afrique dans un contexte de déclin de la coopération multilatérale mondiale et dans un paysages géopolitiques dynamique. Les panélistes évalueront spécifiquement les réponses des CERs et leurs interventions en cours dans le contexte de la dynamique multilatérale en cours.

Q : Quelle est l'analyse de la dynamique multilatérale en cours pour votre organisation et comment contribue-t-elle à la paix et une gouvernance efficace dans ce contexte difficile ?

Modératrice: S.E. Mme Bintou Djibo, Ancienne Coordinatrice des Nations Unies, Ancienne Représentante Résidente du PNUD

Panélistes:

S.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Haut Représentant de l'Union Africaine pour Faire Taire les Armes

S.E. M. l'Ambassadeur Dr. Abdel Fatau Musah, Commissaire de la CEDEAO pour les Affaires Politiques, la Paix et la Sécurité

S.E. M. l'Ambassadeur Ismail Wais, Envoyé spécial de l'IGAD au Soudan du Sud

S.E. Mme l'Ambassadrice Liberata Mulamula, Envoyée spéciale de l'UA pour les femmes, la paix et la sécurité

S. E. Mme. Edite Ten Jua, Secrétaire Exécutive du Sommet des Partis Politiques Africains, Ancienne Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sao Tomé et Principe

Discussion avec les participants

12.00-13.15 – Table ronde plénière 2:

Solutions adaptatives et innovantes dans l'engagement des CER dans le contexte géopolitique actuel

Ce panel explorera et évaluera les stratégies adaptatives et innovantes que les CERs – y compris leurs envoyés spéciaux et hauts représentants – peuvent employer pour s'engager efficacement et soutenir des transitions politiques complexes dans les États africains, en tenant compte des défis et des opportunités présentés par le paysage géopolitique actuel. La discussion visera à identifier des solutions pratiques, à échanger des bonnes pratiques et à favoriser la collaboration entre les parties prenantes afin de renforcer le rôle des CERs dans la promotion de la stabilité, de la sécurité, de la gouvernance efficace et du développement durable pendant les transitions politiques.

Q : Comment les CERs – y compris leurs Hauts Représentants et Envoyés spéciaux – peuvent-elles remodeler de manière proactive leur rôle et leurs actions dans le nouveau contexte multilatéral ?

Modérateur: M. Abraham Okoko-Esau, Conseiller spécial du Président de la Commission de la CEEAC



Panélistes:

S.E. M. l'Ambassadeur El-Ghassim Wane, ancien Chef de la MINUSMA

S.E. Prof. Fatima Karadja, Ancienne Membre du Panel des Personnalités Eminentes du MAEP

Dr. Cheick Tidiane Gadio, Ancien Ministre d'Etat, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Président de l'Institut Panafricain de Stratégies

Mme Oury Touré, Directrice Régionale pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel, ISS

Dr. Issaka Souaré, Conseiller Principal en Médiation, Unité d'Appui à la Médiation, Département des Affaires Politiques et de la Construction de la Paix des Nations Unies

Discussion avec les participants

13.15-14.30 – Pause déjeuner:

14.30-15.45 – Table ronde plénière 3:

Comment les organisations et les partenaires internationaux ont-ils réagi, et comment et doivent-ils réagir, à l'évolution de la dynamique géopolitique, y compris en soutenant la capacité et le rôle des CERs dans les contextes de transition ?

Ce panel cherchera à identifier des idées exploitables pour les décideurs politiques externes et les organisations internationales afin de naviguer efficacement dans des environnements géopolitiques complexes pour accompagner des transitions politiques et constitutionnelles complexes en Afrique.

Q : Quel rôle jouent les décideurs politiques extérieurs et les organisations internationales dans l'accompagnement des efforts africains pour résoudre les transitions politiques et constitutionnelles complexes dans le nouvel environnement multilatéral ?

Modérateur: M. Gram Matenga, Chef des programmes, IDEA International, Bureau régional de l'AWA

Panélistes:

M. Sumit Bisarya, Chef de l'Élaboration de la Constitution et de l'État de droit, Programme mondial, IDEA International

S.E. Mme l'Ambassadrice Carmen Hagenaars, Ambassadrice des Pays-Bas au Sénégal

S.E.M. Joao Cravinho, Représentant Spécial de l'Union Européenne pour le Sahel

Dr Lori-Anne Theroux Benoni, Conseillère Senior, ISS.

Dr. Jean-Hervé Jezequel, Directeur du Projet Sahel, ICG

Discussion avec les participants

15.45-17:00 – Rencontres bilatérales et réseautage

19.30-21.00 – Dîner de conférence (sur invitation)



15 septembre 2025

Panels par pays

9.00-11.00 – Panel 1:

Défis et opportunités pour la stabilisation et les réformes institutionnelles dans les États maritimes : les cas de la Gambie, du Gabon, du Ghana et du Sénégal

Modérateurs: Dr. Adem K. Abebe, Conseiller principal Élaboration de la Constitution et de l'État de droit, Programme mondial, IDEA International et Prof. Alpha Sidy Ndiaye, Directeur de Cabinet Adjoint du Président de la République du Sénégal

Panélistes:

Hon. Hussein Thomasi, Secrétaire Permanent et Avocat Général, Ministère de la Justice, République de Gambie

S.E. Prof. Guy Rossatanga-Rignault, Ancien Secrétaire Général de la Présidence de la Transition au Gabon

Dr. Cheick Gueye, Facilitateur du Dialogue National, Sénégal

S.E. l'Ambassadeur Jean-Marc Pisani, Ambassadeur de l'Union Européenne au Sénégal

Dr. Joseph Asunka, Directeur Général, Afrobarometer

Mme Fatou Jagne Senghore, Représentante de la Société Civile, Afrique de l'Ouest

Discussion avec les participants

11.00-11.15 – pause-café

11.15-13.15 – Panel 2 :

Comment favoriser et renforcer les conditions propices à la résolution de la paix et au retour à l'ordre constitutionnel au Soudan

Modérateurs: S.E.M. l'Ambassadeur Haile Menkerios, Ancien RSSGUN et Chef de la Mission des Nations Unies au Soudan et au Sud Soudan

Panélistes:

S.E. M. Lawrence Korbandy, Envoyé spécial de l'IGAD pour le Soudan

Mme Hala Al-Karib, Directrice régionale, SIHA

S.E.M. Sylvain Astier, Envoyé Spécial de la Suisse pour la Corne de l'Afrique

Dr. Hassan Khannenje, Directeur de l'Institut HORN pour les Etudes Stratégiques

Discussion avec les participants

3.15-14.15 – Pause déjeuner

14.15-16.15 – Panel 3:

Comment promouvoir la réconciliation en Somalie et quels mécanismes pour la mettre en oeuvre ?

Modérateurs: Dr. Winluck Wahiu, Conseiller principal, Élaboration des Constitution, IDEA International, Bureau régional de l'AWA



Panélistes:

S. E. M. Hassan Moalim Mohamud, Ministre de la Justice et des affaires constitutionnelles de la République fédérale de Somalie

S.E. l'Ambassadeur El Hadji Ibrahima Boly Diene, Directeur de l'AUSSOM

Mr. Mahdi Abdile, Directeur Régional et Représentant auprès de l'UA, Finn Church Aid

H.E. Mr Mohamed Yunis, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somaliland

18.15 Départ en bus – Pause déjeuner:

18.30 – 20.30 – Cocktail à la Résidence Suisse, Fann:

Lancement du Rapport mondial sur l'état de la démocratie 2025 : Dr Roba D. Sharamo, Directeur régional, IDEA International, Afrique et Asie occidentale

16 septembre 2025

9.00-10.30 – Panel 4:

La nature et l'avenir de l'appui au retour à la gouvernance constitutionnelle dans les pays du Sahel central

Modérateurs: Dr. Maurice Engueleguele, Conseiller principal, Constitution Building, IDEA International, Bureau régional de l'AWA

Panélistes:

M. Abdou Salam Diekpile, Directeur Général de l'Administration du Territoire, Représentant du Mali

M. Siaka Coulibaly, Conseiller Spécial du Premier Ministre, Représentant du Burkina Faso

S.E.M. Dr Mamadou Tangara, Représentant de l'UA pour le Sahel et Chef de MISAHEL

S.E. M. Larry Gbevlo-Lartey, Envoyé spécial du Ghana auprès de l'AES

Discussion avec les participants

10.30-10.45 – pause-café

10.45-12.00 – Panel 5:

Les dynamiques et les trajectoires dans la région des Grands Lacs

Modérateurs: Mme Lindlyn Moma, Membre du Conseil Consultatif, IDEA International

Panélistes:

Dr. Andrews Asamoah, Conseiller principal, Appui à l'UA, IDEA International, Bureau régional de l'AWA

S.E. Mme Marie Madeleine Kalala, Présidente du Comité des sages de la CEEAC, amie du panel des Sages de l'UA

S.E. l'Ambassadeur Emile Ognimba, Ambassadeur du Congo Brazzaville, Ancien Représentant Spécial de l'OIF à Madagascar et aux Comores

Discussion avec les participants



12.10-12.45 – Cérémonie de clôture:

Maîtres de cérémonie: Dr. Winluck Wahiu, Conseiller principal, Élaboration des Constitution, IDEA International, Bureau régional de l'AWA et Mme Jainaba Faye, Directrice pays de IDEA International, Gambie

Remarques conclusives. Dr Roba D. Sharamo, Directeur régional, IDEA International, Bureau régional Afrique et Asie de l'Ouest (AWA)

Remarques conclusives. S.E. Mme l'Ambassadrice Carmen Hagenaaars, Ambassadrice des Pays-Bas au Sénégal

Remarques conclusives. S.E.M. Sylvain Astier, Envoyé Spécial de la Suisse pour la Corne de l'Afrique

Discours de clôture. S.E. S.E. Prof. Abdoulaye Bathily, Envoyé spécial du Président de la République du Sénégal pour les Affaires internationales

12.45-15.00 – Déjeuner de clôture (*sur invitation*)

16.00- Départ des participants



Dr. Aminata Touré Haut Représentant du Président du Sénégal

Aminata Touré est une femme politique sénégalaise et militante des droits humains. Elle a occupé plusieurs postes gouvernementaux dont ceux de Premier ministre (2013-2014), de Ministre de la Justice (2012-2013), d'Envoyée spéciale du Président de la République pour les Affaires intérieures et extérieures (2015-2019), Présidente du Conseil Économique, Social et Environnemental (2019-2020), Député à l'Assemblée nationale élue en 2022.

Depuis Août 2024, elle est Haut Représentant du Président du Sénégal Bassirou Diomaye Faye. Aminata Touré a travaillé pendant 24 ans à l'Organisation des Nations Unies où elle a occupé des postes d'expert-sénior au Burkina Faso, en Côte d'Ivoire et au Sénégal.

Elle a également dirigé la Direction du Genre et des Droits humains au siège du Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population à New York. Au début de sa carrière, Aminata Touré a travaillé dans le secteur privé et pour la branche sénégalaise de la Fédération Internationale pour la Planification Familiale.

De 2014 à 2020, Aminata Touré a dirigé et co-dirigé des missions d'observation des élections présidentielles au nom de l'Union Africaine et du Centre Carter à Maurice, en Côte d'Ivoire, au Kenya, au Libéria et en Guyane. Depuis 2021, Aminata Touré est un des 24 membres du Comité des Experts pour l'Administration Publique de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (CEPA). Elle est membre du Conseil d'Administration du Club de Madrid regroupant près de 120 anciens Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement.

Aminata Touré est également membre du Conseil d'Administration du Carter Center fondé par l'ancien Président américain Jimmy Carter. Aminata Touré est titulaire d'une Maîtrise en Economie et d'un MBA de l'Université d'Aix-Marseille en France et d'un Doctorat de l'International School of Management de Paris.

Aminata Touré a dirigé plus de 30 publications des Nations Unies et elle est l'auteur en 2021 d'un ouvrage mettant en lumière la contribution de l'Afrique au Droit pénal international à travers les Chambres Judiciaires Extraordinaires qui ont jugé Hissène Habré, ancien président du Tchad. Outre sa langue maternelle, le Wolof, Aminata Touré parle couramment le français et l'anglais.



H.E. Prof. Abdoulaye Bathily Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Senegal for International Affairs

He holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham and a Doctor of State from the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal.

Prior to retiring as a Professor from Cheikh Anta Diop, he served as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative in Mali (MINUSMA). He subsequently served as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of the UN Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) as well as Representative of the SG in the International Mediation on Central African Republic.

Abdoulaye had the honour of presiding over the Praesidium of the Bangui Forum in 2015. In addition, he has held several key positions in the Government of Senegal, including as Minister of Energy and Water Resources and Minister of Environment.

He has been a Member of the National Assembly and Deputy Speaker of Senegal's National Assembly. He was also a Member of the ECOWAS Parliament and Chair of the Parliamentary Commission on Environment and Natural Resources.

He was Head of African Union (AU) Observers for several election processes. He has also been Convenor of the Coalition on Dialogue in Africa at the UNECA in Addis Ababa.

Abdoulaye has written and published extensively on Africa History and Politics. Amongst these are 'Mai 68 à Dakar la révolte universitaire et la Démocratie' (1992) and 'The Military and Militarism in Africa', which he co-edited with Eboe Hutchful. He continues to work as an Independent Expert, on conflict resolution, peacebuilding and democratic processes in Africa.



Prof. Sidy Alpha Ndiaye

Directeur de cabinet adjoint, conseiller juridique du Président de la République du Sénégal.

Ministre, directeur de cabinet adjoint, conseiller juridique du Président de la République du Sénégal. Le Professeur Ndiaye est aussi universitaire, Professeur titulaire des universités, agrégé de droit public, spécialisé sur les questions de droit constitutionnel, droit administratif et de droit international.

Il Est aussi membre du Comité de rédaction des textes relatifs aux recommandations du dialogue national 2025 sur le système politique Senegalais.



Dr. Cheikh Gueye

Facilitateur du Dialogue National. Sénégal

Cheikh Gueye est docteur en géographie de l'Université Louis Pasteur de Strasbourg.

Il est actuellement Facilitateur du dialogue national sur le système politique, membre du comité de rédaction des projets de loi, Membre de l'Observatoire Citoyen des politiques publiques (OCIPP), Responsable de la Veille et de la Prospective à l'IPAR, Secrétaire général du Réseau des Think tanks sénégalais (SENRTT), secrétaire général du Cadre Unitaire de l'Islam, membre de Rawdou Rayaahin, de la commission culture et communication du grand magal (pèlerinage) de Touba, et du pool d'experts de la confrérie Mouride.

Il est l'auteur de nombreuses publications, notamment une dizaine de livres et des articles dans des ouvrages collectifs au niveau national et international.

Il a initié et coordonné des programmes sur des problématiques diverses, et également contribué au renforcement d'un discours alternatif sur le développement, notamment par l'économie sociale et solidaire.

Il est le Secrétaire Permanent de l'initiative continentale Rapport Alternatif sur l'Afrique (RASA) qui met en relation des institutions intergouvernementales de recherche, des think tank, des ONG panafricaines, des dizaines de chercheurs et intellectuels africains, etc.



Dr. Kevin Casas-Zamora
Secretary-General of the International IDEA

Dr. Kevin Casas-Zamora has been the Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), a Stockholm-based intergovernmental organization with a mandate to advance democracy, since August 2019. He is also Senior Fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue, a policy research centre in Washington, D.C.

Casas-Zamora has over 30 years of experience working on democratic governance issues as a public official, academic and international consultant.

Previously, he was Costa Rica's Second Vice President and Minister of National Planning; Secretary for Political Affairs at the Organization of American States; Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; and National Coordinator of the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report.

He has taught at Georgetown University, George Washington University, and the University of Texas in Dallas, among many higher education institutions. He holds a Law degree from the University of Costa Rica, a master's in government from the University of Essex, and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Oxford.

He has authored several studies on political finance, elections, democratization, citizen security and civil-military relations in Latin America.

His doctoral thesis, entitled "Paying for Democracy in Latin America: Political Finance and State Subsidies for Parties in Costa Rica and Uruguay", won the 2004 Jean Blondel PhD Prize of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) and was published in 2005 by the ECPR.

He was selected as Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2007.



Dr. Roba D. Sharamo
Regional Director for Africa and West Asia

Dr Sharamo has over 23 years of experience in international peace and security, conflict resolution, mediation, negotiation and diplomacy where he worked in senior management positions with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kenya, Government of Kenya, non-governmental organizations and a leading think-tank, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Addis Ababa and Nairobi, among other international institutions.

In August 2018, he joined ISS as the Office Director and Regional Representative to the African Union, Horn and East Africa.

Most recently, he worked as a Commissioner of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission of the Republic of Kenya.

He has also worked as Team Leader, Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Unit of UNDP-Kenya and as acting Office Director and the Programme Head of the Conflict Analysis and Prevention Programmes in ISS Addis Ababa and Nairobi Offices, respectively. He also served as a Political Officer in Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Roba received his Doctorate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and his doctoral dissertation is entitled, 'Predatory Politics and Struggles of Peacemaking in Somalia', at George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

He has lectured and made presentations at numerous regional and international conferences and published key monographs and scholarly articles on peace and security in Africa. Notably, he also co-edited three monographs: with Wafula Okumu and Andrews Atta-Samoah, *Silencing the Gun in Africa by 2020* (September 2020); with Berouk Mesfin entitled *Regional Security in Post-Cold War Horn of Africa* (April 2011); and *The State of Human Security in Africa* (co-edited with C. Ayangafac) in April 2012, respectively.



Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas
African Union (AU) High Representative for Silencing the Guns

Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas served as Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) from 2014 to 2021. During that period, he was also Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC) which was established to facilitate implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Cameroon-Nigeria boundary dispute.

He has extensive experience from a long and distinguished career in governmental and international service.

Before joining UNOWAS, he was the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur and Head of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

From 2010 to 2013, He was Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. Prior to that, he served as President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), from 2006 to 2009, and Executive Secretary from 2002 to 2005.

From the time he joined the Government of Ghana in 1987, he served as Deputy Foreign Minister and Deputy Minister in Charge of Tertiary Education at different periods. He was also a First Deputy Speaker and Member of Parliament of Ghana.

From the beginning of the outbreak of the Liberian civil war, he was involved in ECOWAS mediation efforts till the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (ACPA) of 2003. He was similarly involved in ECOWAS mediation efforts in several transitions from military to civilian rule in a number of West African countries.

Mohamed Ibn Chambas holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Ghana. He also has a master's degree and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Cornell University and a Jurist Doctorate Degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, both institutions in the United States. He was admitted to the Bar of the State of Ohio and the Republic of Ghana.

Dr. Chambas currently serves as the African Union (AU) High Representative for Silencing the Guns, a position he has held since his appointment in March 2023 and the Chairman of the AU High Level Panel on Sudan (HLP-Sudan) which took effect in January 2024.

He also serves as Chairman of the Task Force on the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS Africa), member of the Board of Governors of the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (Hd Geneva), member of the Board of Governors of the Swedish International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI Stockholm), member of the Advisory Board of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC Accra) and a member of the West Africa Elders Forum (WAEF GEJ Foundation Abuja).



H.E. Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef

Chief of Staff of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC)

Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef is the Chief of Staff of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), appointed in March 2025. He brings over 30 years of experience in diplomacy, peacekeeping, and international governance.

Before assuming his current role, he served as the Special Representative of the Chairperson in Somalia and Head of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), leading the transition from ATMIS in January 2025.

He has also held senior roles with the United Nations, including at MINUSMA in Mali and UNAMID in Sudan.

At the national level, Ambassador Souef has served the Government of Comoros in various high-level positions, including Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the United Nations and Egypt, Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Member of Parliament, and Adviser to the President.

He holds academic qualifications in language and literature from universities in Saudi Arabia and Morocco and has completed advanced diplomatic and leadership training in Egypt, Pakistan, Senegal, and Geneva. A fluent speaker of French, English, Arabic, and Swahili, Ambassador Souef is also a published author of six books on politics and geopolitics, and a former lecturer at the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center in Japan. He is married and has four children.



H.E. Ambassador Abdel-Fatau Musah, PhD

Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, ECOWAS Commission

Ambassador Dr. Abdel-Fatau Musah, in July 2022 was appointed as the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the ECOWAS Commission.

Prior to his current position, Ambassador Abdel-Fatau Musah served as the Director, Western Africa Division at the Department of Political and Peacebuilding and Peace Operations at the UN HQ, where he coordinated the UN policy and peace-building strategies for the region.

Dr. Musah, before joining the UNHQ, served as the Deputy Head of Office and Director of Political Affairs at the UN Office to the African Union, where he led the political pillar of the UN's strategic partnership with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities.

Having worked with ECOWAS from 2005 to 2014, occupying various managerial positions, including Director of Political Affairs, Ambassador Musah is a passionate pro-democracy activist and peace and security practitioner with vast experience not only in West Africa but globally.

In his first "mission" in ECOWAS, he played a lead role in formulating and backstopping political responses to crises in the region.

He facilitated the establishment of the ECOWAS Electoral Assistance and Mediation and Facilitation Divisions and coordinated various after-action reviews of ECOWAS interventions in the region.

He is renowned for being the architect of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, which is ECOWAS strategic operational document that deals with conflict structural conflict prevention. Ambassador Abdel-Fatau Musah is a prolific writer and has written extensively on democracy, good governance, peace and security.



H.E. Dr. Mamadou Tangara

Special Representative of the African Union Chairperson of the Commission in Mali and the Sahel and Head of the MISAHEL Office in Bamako, Mali.

He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad of the Republic of The Gambia from 2018 until June 2025, a position he had also previously held from 2010 to 2012. A consummate diplomat, Dr. Tangara also served as a distinguished member of the Gambian Foreign Service, in various capacities including Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations, in New York from 2013 – 2016 and re-appointed after the December 2016 political impasse from 2017 – 2018.

He is reputed for the crucial role played in averting a humanitarian catastrophe in The Gambia during the political impasse, as well as his efforts in returning The Gambia back to the comity of nations to promote and protect peace and security, human rights and progressive development of international law among others. Through his collective leadership efforts and demonstration of his diplomatic prowess as PR and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2017 – 2018 and 2018 – June 2025, respectively, he charted a coordinated roadmap for successful conflict prevention.

The Gambia has since been cited in reports such as the Secretary-General's on peacebuilding and sustaining peace as a success story for prevention. Among his many other cabinet portfolios is the position of Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science, and Technology. As an educator, Dr. Tangara served in this position with great joy and satisfaction, knowing that he provided life-changing opportunities to the future generation of The Gambia from 2010 – 2013.



Ambassador Dr. Ismail Wais
IGAD Special Envoy to South Sudan

Dr. Ismail Wais is a national of Djibouti. He was born in Dire Dawa in 1952. He was appointed as Special Envoy for South Sudan by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in June 2017.

Ambassador Ismail Wais has a Ph.D. in economics and social science from the University of Osnabrück. From 2005 to June 2017, Dr. Ismail has been economic advisor to the President of Djibouti in charge of bilateral relations between Djibouti and Germany, and focal person for Somalia.

He worked for more than 23 years in development cooperation in the Greater Horn of Africa region (including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda), Southern Africa (Zimbabwe), and Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Amb. Wais also worked for German and international private and public organizations of development cooperation, including the German Foundation for International Cooperation (DSE), German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ); German Agency for Technical Relief (THW); UNDP and EU sponsored projects in Ethiopia.

As early as 1982, he trained young professionals and experts in development cooperation to enhance the capacity and skills of staff of German organizations in country briefing (for Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia) on cooperation, project management and cross-cultural communication.



Ambassador Lawrence Korbandy
IGAD Special Envoy to Sudan

Diplomat with extensive knowledge and experience on the Horn of Africa and the Middle East
Former South Sudan Presidential Advisor and head of the Presidential Legal Team
Former Head of the National Human Rights in South Sudan– The South Sudan Human Rights Commission
Former Managing Partner, South Sudan Associated Advocates (SSAA)
A Businessman and owner of the newly established South Sudan University College (SSUC); Served as a head and member of various National committees on governance functions

Was a negotiator and mediated the Conflict between David Yauyau and the Government
Author of five books, in politics, literature and history.



Ambassador Liberata Mulamula
Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security

H.E. Amb. Liberata Mulamula, the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, is a distinguished Tanzanian diplomat and stateswoman with over 35 years in foreign affairs, peacebuilding, and governance.

She has served as Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

A seasoned negotiator, she played pivotal roles in regional peace processes and represented Tanzania globally. Renowned for championing women's leadership, peace, and regional integration, she continues to shape Africa's diplomatic and governance landscape with vision and dedication.



Prof. Fatima Zohra KARADJA
Ancienne Membre du Panel des Personnalités Eminentes du MAEP

Professeure de psychologie, elle a enseigné à l'université d'Alger pour, ensuite, se déployer sur le terrain, en prenant la direction d'une institution de recueil d'enfants privés de famille.

Militante des droits des femmes et des enfants, elle a fondé, en 1995, une association de soutien aux enfants en difficulté et aux mères isolées.

Dans ce cadre, elle a créé une unité pluridisciplinaire d'intervention psycho social pour prendre en charge les victimes de terrorisme et contribuer à la restauration des liens communautaires.

Au niveau continental, elle a contribué à la création de l'ECOSOCC / Union Africaine pour un espace dédié à la Société Civile, dont elle a assuré la vice présidence, jusqu'en 2017, date à laquelle elle est élue membre puis Présidente du Panel des Eminentes Personnalités du MAEP, pour la promotion de la bonne gouvernance.

Actuellement, elle préside la commission Femmes Enfants et Personnes Vulnérables au CNDH (Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme).

Par ailleurs, en qualité d'expert indépendant et de Médiatrice pour la paix, elle contribue, auprès de différents organismes régionaux et internationaux à des Think-Tanks d'analyses stratégiques et prospectives en matière de paix et de développement durables.



H.E. Mr. João Gomes Cravinho **European Union Special Representative for the Sahel**

João Gomes Cravinho, born in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1964, was appointed European Union Special Representative for the Sahel from 1 December 2024.

He served in the Government of Portugal as Minister of Foreign Affairs from March 2022 to April 2024, and Minister of National Defence from October 2018 to March 2022. Previously to that he served as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation from March 2005 to June 2011, and as Ambassador of the European Union to India from December 2011 to July 2015 and to Brazil from August 2015 to October 2018.



Ambassador Philipp Stalder **Assistant State Secretary, Head of the Africa Division at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs**

Ambassador Philipp Stalder, born on 29 January 1969 in Frauenfeld, Switzerland, has served as General Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa and Francophonie Division at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) since 2023.

He holds a degree in History, Constitutional Law, and Political Science from the University of Zürich.

A career diplomat with over 25 years' service, he joined the Swiss diplomatic service in 1999, with early assignments in Bern and at the Embassy of Switzerland in Vietnam.

Subsequent postings included the Republic of Korea, Greece and Azerbaijan. From 2019 to 2022, he was Ambassador to Ghana, Togo, and Benin, before serving as Senior Adviser in the FDFA's Internal Audit Division. He is fluent in German, English, and French, with working knowledge of Spanish, Italian, and Greek. He is married and the father of three daughters.



Carmen Hagenaars **Dutch Ambassador in Senegal**

2023 – present, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Senegal, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Mauritania

2022 – 2023 Programme director coordinating Dutch support and reconstruction aid to Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague.

2017 – 2022 Deputy Director of the Inclusive Green Growth Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague.

2014 – 2017 Head of the international cooperation and trade section, Dutch Permanent Representation to the EU, Brussels.

2013 – 2014 Head of Cabinet of the EU Special Representative for the Sahel, European External Action Service, Brussels.

2010 – 2013 Coordinator for West Africa at the Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague.
2007 – 2010 Senior policy officer at the United Nations and International Financial Institutions Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague
2004 – 2007 Second Secretary, Dutch Embassy in Dakar.

Education

1997 Postgraduate degree in International Relations, Clingendael Institute, The Hague 1996 Degree in Social Sciences (organisational psychology), University of Utrecht.

Languages

Dutch, English, French, Spanish, Italian, and German.

Passions

Marathon and trail running.



Ambassador Sylvain Astier **Swiss Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa**

Sylvain Astier holds a law degree from the University of Paris and a Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures (D.E.S.) in international relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

He joined the Federal Department of Justice and Police in 1999, where he held various management positions, including Head of the West Africa Section.

In 2011, he was appointed Counsellor at the Embassy of Switzerland in Kosovo in charge of Human Rights and Migration Affairs.

In 2013, he was appointed Deputy Head of International Cooperation at the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM).

He was temporarily transferred in 2016 as First Secretary at the Embassy of Switzerland in Sudan, before returning to his previous position as Deputy Head of International Cooperation at the SEM.

From 2018 to 2022, he has served as Delegate for Migration North Africa at the Embassy of Switzerland in Tunisia. Sylvain Astier was also a member of the Parliament of the Canton of Berne for 9 years (2002 – 2011).

He is married and has two sons.



Jean-Marc PISANI

Ambassadeur de l'Union Européenne en République du Sénégal.

Il a commencé sa carrière à la Commission européenne en 1997 où il a travaillé pendant plus de dix ans sur les grandes politiques de l'Union européenne - marché intérieur, recherche, industrie agro-alimentaire et pharmaceutique/bio-technologie, commerce, énergie et climat.

À partir de 2010, il se spécialise, au Service Européen d'Action Extérieure, dans les pays en transition politique et économique et dans la politique extérieure de sécurité et de défense commune européenne.

En 2012, en charge de la division pour la réponse aux crises il travaille pendant quatre ans sur les printemps arabes, les conflits au Sahel, et la crise des réfugiés syriens. Entre 2016 et 2020, Jean-Marc Pisani dirige la division responsable de la conduite des opérations civiles de l'UE en Europe, au Moyen-Orient, et en Afrique.

A partir de 2020, il devient chef de division au département Afrique, en charge de la Corne de l'Afrique et de l'Afrique de l'Est.

De nationalité française et maltaise, Jean-Marc Pisani est diplômé de l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris et titulaire d'une maîtrise en droit européen et droit international de la Sorbonne.

Jean-Marc Pisani a présenté ses lettres de créance à S.E.M. Macky Sall Président de la République du Sénégal le 11 octobre 2022.



Mr ABRAHAM ROCH OKOKO-ESSEAU

Senior Political Adviser to the Chairperson of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Commission

Congolese citizen, Abraham Roch OKOKO-ESSEAU is an international civil servant currently working as Senior Political Adviser to the Chairperson of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Commission.

Trained diplomat, he holds various Master's Degrees: Political Philosophy (University of Yaoundé, Cameroon), Political Studies (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France), Public Law (Université René Descartes, Paris, France) and Leadership and Negotiation (European University of Valencia, Spain).

His international professional experience includes amongst others working for the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and the African Union Commission.

The nexus between governance and peace and security as well as governance and development, and development and peace and security, have always been part of his research and programmatic interests.



Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão

Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission.

Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) on 2 May 2023.

In that capacity, he also serves as Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC), established in November 2002 to oversee implementation of the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the maritime and land

boundary dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria.

Mr. Simão has more than 30 years of experience in public administration, international affairs, diplomacy, and mediation.

From 2005 to 2023, he served as the Executive Director of the Joaquim Chissano Foundation (Mozambique), during which he oversaw the foundation's peace, social and economic development initiatives.

He was also Chairman of several boards and committees, promoting the eradication of diseases and pandemics and improved natural disaster management across the African continent.

From 2021 to 2022, he served as Special Envoy for the Government of Mozambique tasked with promoting Mozambique's candidacy for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

His efforts culminated in Mozambique's election as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2023-2024.

From 2009 to 2014, he was the Chairman of the Peace Mediation Technical Team for Madagascar of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), supporting the Community's efforts to restore political stability, consolidate democracy and strengthen economic growth in the country.

Mr. Simão served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique from 1994 to 2005.

Prior to that, he was the country's Minister of Health from 1988 to 1994.

A medical doctor by training, Mr. Simão was awarded several honorary distinctions and titles in recognition of his philanthropic work in Africa.

Mr. Simão holds a master's degree in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom and has served as Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine at the Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique.

He is fluent in English, French and Portuguese.



Ambassador Haile Menkerios

Former UNSRSG

DOB: 01 Oct. 1946

Education: B.A. Brandeis University (1970); M.A. Harvard University (1971)

Work experience:

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University (1971-73)

Member of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front - worked in military, political, and administrative fields (1973-91)

Ambassador of Eritrea to Ethiopia and the AU (1993-96); Eritrean Special Envoy to Somalia (concomitant as Ambassador to Eth and the AU - 1991-95), Eritrean Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region (1996-1997); Eritrean Permanent Rep to the UN (1997-2001); Chairman, UN Committee of Experts on Afghanistan (2001); Director, Africa 1 Division, UNDPA (2003-2005); Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (DSRSG), UN Mission to the DRC (2005-07); Assistant SG for Political Affairs (2007-2009); SRSR, UNMIS (Sudan) (2009-2011); Special Envoy of the SG for Sudan and South Sudan (2011-2015); SRSR and Head of UN Office to the AU (2013-18); Currently Senior Advisor, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Geneva); Counsellor, Dragoman Global (Sydney); Advisor to the Chairman of ECONET Holdings, an African communications company; Independent Consultant on Peace, Security and Development in Africa (2018-present).



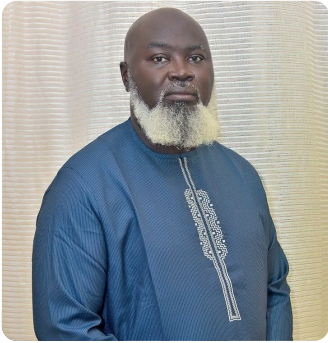
H.E. IBRAHIM TURAY

AMBASSADOR OF SIERRA LEONE TO SENEGAL

His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Turay, Sierra Leone's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Senegal, Cabo Verde, and Mauritania. He previously served as Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, implementing sustainable marine resource policies. He spent eight years as a Fisheries Expert and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist with the World Bank-funded West Africa Regional Fisheries Program in Dakar, supporting ten West African countries in fisheries governance and project implementation. With over 15 years in Sierra Leone's Ministry of Fisheries, he held roles such as Officer in-charge of the Southern Province and head of the Statistics and Research Unit. Turay holds an M.Sc. in Fisheries and

Marine Resources from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Ocean Governance

(UNCLOS) in Dalhousie University, Canada, along with other relevant certifications, reflecting his expertise in sustainable fisheries management, development and regional cooperation.



H.E. Ambassador El Hadji Ibrahima Diene

Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and Head of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM)

Mr. El Hadji Ibrahima Diene, a Senegalese national, is the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia and Head of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) since 21st April 2025.

He has tremendous experience in the military, diplomacy, and peacekeeping operations.

Until his appointment as the SRCC, Mr. Diene served as the Chief of Staff at the United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) from 25th December 2023 to 26th May 2025.

Prior to joining UNOCA, Mr. Diene served as the Chief of Staff ad interim – United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) from 5th January 2023 to 22nd December 2023.

While working for MINUSMA, he served in various capacities, including serving as:

- i – Head of Regional Office in Kidal – 2nd August 2022 to 4th January 2023. Previously, he served in the same capacity in 2017.
- ii – Chief JOC – 1st July 2019 to 1st August 2022.
- iii – Principal Political Affairs Officer and Special Adviser to the Chief of Staff – 24th October 2018 to 01st July 2019.

Before joining MINUSMA as Chief JOC on 01st August 2015, he served as Civil-Military Coordinator in OCHA, Mali, from July 2013 to August 2015.

Mr. Diene has extensive military experience, having served as a pilot and a Senior Military Officer with the Senegalese Air Force from 1989 to 2013.

During his over 24-years military career, he served in various positions at the Tactical, Operational and Strategic Levels both within and outside of Senegal, thus developed solid experience and a strong background knowledge on conflicts and crisis resolution strategies in West, Central and East Africa.

He took part in several peacekeeping missions, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and in Syria.

Mr. Diene holds several Masters' Degrees and diplomas in Military, Political Science, Aeronautics and Program Management.



Ambassador Akok Madut, Ph.D

is the Head of Mediation and Dialogue Division at the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, African Union Commission.

Dr. Akok is also an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Juba, South Sudan. Ambassador Akok was a South Sudanese diplomat with postings to Washington, DC, Abuja, London, and Ethiopia, including the African Union, IGAD and UNECA.

Dr. Madut holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies from SOAS, University of London and an MA in Political Science from the University of Missouri, USA. He is the author of "Clash of Major Powers in Africa: the US, EU and China," and a number of articles.



Ambassadeur Emile Ognimba

Ambassadeur du Congo Brazzaville.

Ancien Représentant Spécial de l'OIF à Madagascar et aux Comores

Diplomate de carrière, l'Ambassadeur Ognimba a intégré la fonction publique internationale après une dizaine d'années passées au service de son pays, la République du Congo, au Ministère des Affaires étrangères, à la présidence de la République et à l'Ambassade du Congo en Éthiopie.

Il a exercé durant de longues années à l'OUA/UA où il a notamment occupé les postes de Chef de Section "Défense et Sécurité", Chef de Division "Affaires humanitaires, Réfugiés et Personnes déplacées" et Directeur du Département des Affaires politiques qu'il a animé pendant 8 ans avant de rejoindre le service public national en qualité d'Ambassadeur de son pays en Afrique du Sud. Il a renoué avec la fonction publique internationale en intégrant, par la suite, le Secrétariat du Groupe des États d'Afrique, des Caraïbes, du Pacifique en qualité de Sous-secrétaire général chargé des Affaires politiques et du Développement humain.

L'Ambassadeur Ognimba a visité la presque totalité des 54 États membres de l'Union africaine et a acquis une connaissance exceptionnelle des questions africaines.

Au cours de sa longue carrière diplomatique, l'Ambassadeur Ognimba a également pratiqué les grandes institutions internationales singulièrement les Nations Unies et l'Union européenne.

L'Asie, le Pacifique et les Caraïbes ne lui sont pas étrangers.



H.E. Ambassador El-Ghassim Wane Former Head of MINUSMA

El-Ghassim Wane brings over three decades of experience in peace, security, and governance issues.

From May 2021 to December 2023, he served as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and previously as Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations (2016 and 2017). In 2024, he led the independent study on the future of peacekeeping, new models, and related capabilities, commissioned by the UN Department of Peace Operations to

inform the deliberations of the May 2025 Berlin Ministerial Peacekeeping Conference.

During his 23 years tenure at the Organization of African Unity/African Union, he notably served as Head of the Conflict Management Division, Director of the Peace and Security Department, and Chief of Staff/Chief Advisor to the Chairperson of the AU Commission.

Mr. Wane served as J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Visiting Professor of International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, lectured at Sciences Po.

Paris, and currently holds a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at King's College London African Leadership Centre.

He Wane holds a Postgraduate diploma in International and European Studies from the University of Lille II, France, and a master's in international public law from the University of Dakar, Senegal.

Mr. Wane was featured by Africa Report among the 50 most influential Africans in 2012.



Mrs. Oury Traoré Director of the ISS Regional Office for West Africa and the Sahel

EOury Traoré is the Director of the ISS Regional Office for West Africa and the Sahel. Oury has over 20 years of experience in leadership, implementing strategies and programmes, and delivering strategic counsel and knowledge products across the international human security spectrum.

She has worked with international, regional and local civil society organisations in the Sahel and ECOWAS regions, as well as the USA, Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Morocco and Yemen. Oury has a master's in human rights and democratisation from the European Inter-University Centre, Italy and University of Graz, Austria and a Master's in sustainable international development from the Heller School for Social Policy & Management, Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA.

Oury Traoré est la directrice du Bureau régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel. Du haut de ses vingt ans d'expérience en leadership, en conception et mise en œuvre de programmes, elle s'est distinguée par son expertise en conseil stratégique et en production de savoirs sur la sécurité humaine à l'échelle internationale.

Elle a collaboré avec des organisations de la société civile aux niveaux international, régional et local, notamment au Sahel et dans l'espace CEDEAO, ainsi qu'aux États-Unis, en Afghanistan, en Bosnie-Herzégovine, au Kosovo, au Maroc et au Yémen.

Oury est titulaire d'un master en droits humains et démocratisation du Centre interuniversitaire européen (Italie) et de l'Université de Graz (Autriche), ainsi que d'un master en développement international durable de la Heller School for Social Policy & Management de l'université Brandeis (Massachusetts, États-Unis).



H.E. Mrs. Edite Ten Jua

Executive Secretary of the African Political Parties Summit, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of São Tomé & Príncipe

Mrs. Ten Jua is a Santomean lawyer, graduated from Lisbon Faculty of Law, and with a Postgraduate degree in Communication and Political Marketing from the Higher Institute of Social and Political Sciences, both from the prestigious Lisbon University.

She headed the Tax and Legal practice of KPMG Angola and collaborated with KPMG South Africa and Mozambique.

The first Santomean woman jurist in the Oil and Gas sector in São Tomé and Príncipe, having accumulated more than a decade of experience in Nigeria, where she headed the Legal Department of the Nigeria-São Tomé and Príncipe Joint Development Authority.

A former Special Advisor for Petroleum Affairs and Investments to the Prime Minister and Head of the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe. Edite Ten Jua was Judge to the São Tomé and Príncipe Constitutional Court, and its first woman Vice-President.

Former Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Parliamentary Affairs, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities of São Tomé and Príncipe.

She is currently Executive Secretary African Political Parties, and also Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the MLSTP party (Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe).

Member of the Advisory Boards of the Institute for Security Studies-ISS, Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto – FEP, CE-CPLP Business Confederation of Lusophone Countries and member of the Advisory Board of the African Trade Chamber – ATC.



Ms. Michelle Ndiaye

Former AU Representative to DRC; Director, Transformative Peace in Africa, Open Society Foundations

Michelle Ndiaye is since August 2024 the Director for Transformative Peace in Africa at Open Society Foundations.

Prior to her appointment, Michelle served as the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission (SRCC) and Head of the African Union Liaison Office in DRC.

Her previous positions include Director of the Africa Peace and Security Programme at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), a programme established in collaboration with the African Union, the German Cooperation and several other partners. She also headed the Tana Forum Secretariat, a decision-makers' forum (at the Heads of States level) which has established itself in recent years as a forum of excellence in the search for peace and security in Africa.

Her expertise covers defense, peace and security, democratic and local governance, post-conflict and community recovery, sustainable development, and environmental issues.

She also worked on the following fields of transitional justice, communication for development, corporate responsibility, public-private partnerships and global reporting, institution building, and large-scale multi-donor programme management.

She is the founder of the African Foundation for Peace and Security (@theafps). A Think Tank for the promotion of an effective, citizen and human-centered approach to security policy in Africa.

Ms. Ndiaye also served as Managing Director of the Mandela Institute for Development Studies and led several African and international organizations as Executive Director of Greenpeace Africa and CEO of the African Institute for Corporate Social Responsibility. She also founded and directed the African Project branch of Akena Research and Consulting. Positions for which she worked or conducted field work in almost all countries in sub-Saharan Africa.



Dr. Joseph Asunka

CEO at Afrobarometer

Dr. Joseph Asunka is the CEO at Afrobarometer, a pan-African survey research organization that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, the economy, and social issues across the continent. He was previously Program Officer at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Before joining Hewlett, Joseph was a lecturer in political science at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to this, Joseph served as program officer at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development.

Joseph's research focuses on governance, democracy, and political economy of development, with special interests in electoral politics, public sector accountability, and the social contract. Joseph holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at Los Angeles and first and second degrees in Statistics & Computer Science and Economics from the University of Ghana.



Mme F. Bintou Djibo

Ancienne : Coordonnateur Résident du Système des Nations Unies et Coordonnateur Humanitaire pour le Niger et Représentant Résident du PNUD

Mme Bintou Djibo, Ancienne Coordonnateur Résident du Système des Nations Unies (RC/RR) au Gabon, Sénégal et Niger et également en temps que Coordonnateur Humanitaire des Nations Unies pour le Niger.

Economiste de formation et bilingue (français et anglais), de nationalité burkinabé, Mme Bintou Djibo capitalise 32 ans d'expérience dans le Système des Nations Unies.

Elle a été activement impliquée dans le processus électoral de la RDC, du Gabon, du Sénégal et a initié les premières négociations politiques du processus électoral au Niger.

Au Niger, elle était également engagée en tant que Coordonnateur Humanitaire des NU sur les questions humanitaires et sur les défis sécuritaires dans le Sahel.

Personne ressource de la CEDEAO sur le développement et la sécurité au Sahel et envoyé spécial pour l'IDEA.

Elle a également occupé les postes de gestionnaire de portefeuille à la Banque Mondiale à Washington DC. et travaillé pour plusieurs autres agences des Nations Unies. tel que l'UNWOMEN, l'UNOPS et la division des Nations Unies à Vienne, en Autriche.



Prof. Serge Théophile Balima

Conseiller Spécial du Président du Faso

Serge Théophile BALIMA, produit du journalisme universitaire de Strasbourg et Bordeaux, il exerce la profession tout en s'orientant dans les travaux de recherche scientifique. Titulaire d'un doctorat de 3ème cycle et d'un doctorat d'État en sciences de l'information et de la communication, d'une licence d'histoire contemporaine et d'un certificat d'études supérieures africaines de l'IEP de Bordeaux, il est professeur CAMES de journalisme, sciences de l'information et de la communication à l'Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo de Ouagadougou, auteur de plusieurs travaux scientifiques et consultant international.



Prof. Guy Rossatanga-Rignault

Ancien Secrétaire Général de la Présidence de Transition au Gabon

Guy ROSSATANGA-RIGNAULT est Docteur de l'Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France).

Professeur des Universités à la Faculté de Droit et Sciences Économiques de Libreville et professeur invité dans plusieurs universités étrangères, il est Consultant pour de nombreuses organisations nationales et internationales.

Co Agent, Conseil et Avocat de la République Gabonaise près la Cour Internationale de Justice, il a occupé plusieurs fonctions étatiques (Haut Représentant Personnel du Président de la République, chargé des Relations Internationales, Ministre, Secrétaire Général de la Présidence de la République Gabonaise de 2016 à 2018 puis de 2023 à 2025 sous la Transition).

Auteur d'une quinzaine d'ouvrages et d'une soixantaine d'articles, il est titulaire de plusieurs distinctions honorifiques gabonaises et étrangères.



Mr. Abdou Salam DIEPKILE

Administrateur Civil, Directeur général de l'Administration du Territoire

J'ai obtenu mon baccalauréat en série Langues et Littérature en 2006. Je me suis alors inscrit à la Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et politiques de Bamako. Après quatre années de formation, j'en suis sorti avec une maîtrise en droit public international en 2010.

Admis à l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration du Mali en 2011 au corps des administrateurs civils. En 2014, après avoir terminé la formation à l'ENA, j'ai été affecté au Gouvernorat de la Région de Sikasso. J'y ai servi pendant deux ans en tant que

chargé des affaires administratives et juridiques jusqu'en 2016, date de ma nomination en qualité de Sous-préfet de l'Arrondissement de Tonka (Région de Tombouctou). Ensuite, j'ai été muté à Koury, Région de Sikasso toujours en qualité de sous-préfet.

En 2019, j'ai été admis au cycle international long de l'ENA de France. J'ai profité de cette occasion pour faire un master en management de l'Administration publique à Sciences Po Strasbourg.

Depuis mars 2021, je suis le Directeur général de l'Administration du Territoire du Mali.



Dr Issaka K. Souaré

Senior Mediation and Governance Advisor

Dr. Issaka K. Souaré is a senior mediation and governance advisor with over 20 years of professional experience, spanning academia, think tanks and policy organisations, including as a member of the UN Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisors and Special Advisor to the African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel.

In the last ten years, he has been intimately involved in mediation and dialogue processes in support of UN, AU and ECOWAS mediators in Mali, DRC, CAR, Sudan, Western Sahara, Haiti, Togo, among others.

He has widely written on governance and peace and security issues, in both English and French, including La diplomatie de la République de Guinée (2022), Les partis politiques de l'opposition en Afrique (2017), Civil Wars and Coups d'État in West Africa (2006) and Africa in the UN System, 1945-2005 (2006).



Dr. Hassan Khannenje Director of the Horn

Dr. Hassan Khannenje, a Fulbright scholar and Director of the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies in Nairobi, a think tank that was recently ranked number 18 as a “think-tank to watch” by the Global Think Tank Index.

Holding a PhD in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from Nova Southeastern University and a Master’s in Peace and Conflict Studies from Duquesne University, and a BA in Political Science and History from the University of Nairobi. He is a renowned expert in geopolitics, defense, security, terrorism, and diplomacy.

Formerly an assistant professor at Wayne State University, Dr. Khannenje is a prolific author, contributing books, peer-reviewed articles, and opinion pieces in major outlets like BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, and the New York Times. His regular media analyses on platforms such as VOA, TRT, and Daily Nation shape discourse on regional and global security issues.



Hon. Hussein Thomasi Solicitor General and Legal Secretary, Ministry of Justice, The Gambia

Mr. Hussein Thomasi is the Solicitor General and Legal Secretary at the Ministry of Justice. He is a Gambian by nationality and married with three children.

He served as Adviser to the Minister of Justice from 2017 before his appointment as Solicitor General in December 2020.

He obtained a bachelor’s degree in law from the University of Lagos and a master’s degree in international legal studies at American University, Washington.

He was subsequently called to the Nigerian Bar and the Gambian Bar after completion of his professional training at the Nigerian Law School in June 1987.

He also received further training on development law from the International Development Law Institute in Rome, Italy in 1990.

Mr. Thomasi started his career in 1987–1994, as a State Counsel. He was subsequently promoted to Senior State Counsel and later elevated to Principal State Counsel at the Ministry of Justice.

From 1994 – 1996, Mr. Thomasi proceeded as a Legal Manager and subsequently Managing Director at the Assets Management Recovery Corporation (AMRC).

Mr. Thomasi was also Head of Legal Unit, Central Bank of The Gambia from 1996 – 1998, before becoming Director Legal Affairs, West African Monetary Institute in Accra, Ghana from 2001 – 2014.

Mr. Thomasi currently serves as a Co- Agent in the case of the Republic of The Gambia vs The Republic of the Union of Myanmar before the International Court of Justice and very passionate about human rights matters.



Dr. Lindlyn Tamufor Moma
Member of the IDEA Board of Advisors

Dr. Lindlyn Tamufor Moma is the Director of Strategic Impact at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). A practitioner, she advances human and environmental rights in addressing climate change justice, critical minerals and sustainable energy transitions.

She has led global advocacy for the Laudato Si' Movement, directed programmes at Greenpeace Africa, and, during her tenure at Third World Network Africa, she worked with mining-affected communities across the continent.

There, she co-led the African Initiative on Mining and Environment and served on the founding secretariat that drafted the African Mining Vision (2009).

Dr. Moma holds a PhD in Law and an LLM in Human Rights and Democracy in Africa. She is a guest lecturer on climate change and human rights at the University of Pretoria Law School.

She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, where she is also a special adviser to its climate and democracy programme. She also sits on the Board of Razom We Stand, a local NGO supporting Ukraine's clean energy transition.



Mrs. Hala Al Karib
Director of SIHA Network

Hala Al Karib, the Regional Director of SIHA Network, is a renowned Sudanese pro-democracy advocate and African feminist activist with over two decades of experience in various international and regional development and humanitarian roles across Sudan, South Sudan, Eastern Africa, and the Horn of Africa.

Her work primarily focuses on the challenges and rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict areas, including minorities, refugees, and displaced persons, advocating for their rights and well-being. At SIHA, Hala leads the organization's efforts to empower women and promote gender equality.

She plays an instrumental role in shaping SIHA's strategies and programs, driving initiatives that make an impact on the lives of women and girls in the region.

Deeply entrenched in the Horn and Eastern Africa civil society landscape, Hala has established herself as a prominent activist, social and gender research practitioner, and a thought leader in these regions. Her expertise encompasses a broad range of issues, from gender-based violence and socio-economic challenges to political empowerment and advocacy for legal reforms. Hala is also recognized for her work as the chief editor of "Women in Islam," an annually published journal that explores and challenges the narratives surrounding women in Islamic societies and has an active voice in the media, regularly contributing her insights to international and national media outlets.



Hon. Larry GBEVLO-LARTEY, Esq.

Special Envoy of His Excellency the President of Ghana to the Alliance of Sahelian States (AES)

Larry GBEVLO-LARTEY, Esq., is the Special Envoy of His Excellency the President of Ghana to the Alliance of Sahelian States (AES).

He was the AU Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT/-CAERT) from April 2016 to May 2020. He was also Ghana's National Security Coordinator from January 2009 to

May 2014 and served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Ministry of National Security from February 2022 to January 2025.



S.E. Mme. Marie-Madeleine KALALA NGOY MONGI

membre du Comité des Sages de la Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique Centrale

Avocate, membre du Comité des Sages de la Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique Centrale depuis le 26 juin 2023 (actuellement présidente), militante des droits des femmes, elle a été Ministre des Droits humains de 2003 à 2007 et conseillère dans plusieurs cabinets politiques de 1990 à 1997.

Elle est également « amie » du Groupe des Sages de l'Union africaine, Membre du Comité de pilotage du Réseau des Femmes Médiatrices de l'Afrique Centrale, REFEMAC, membre de FemWise-Africa et pionnière du Réseau africain des femmes

leaders (AWLN).

Elle participe à de nombreuses conférences tant nationales qu'internationales relatives aux droits des femmes et des enfants, à la paix et à la sécurité.

Elle a participé au dialogue inter congolais (processus de paix en RDC) dans la délégation de la société civile (2001-2003) ; elle a été Rapporteuse du Groupe de Contact et co-modératrice du Groupe thématique Désarmement, Démobilisation, Réinsertion sociale et Rapatriement (DDR) pendant les concertations nationales en 2013.

Elle est signataire pour le compte de la société civile de l'Accord de l'Union Africaine du 18 octobre 2016 et de celui de la Saint Sylvestre du 31 décembre 2016.

Auditrice au Synode spécial des Évêques pour l'Afrique, elle est nommée le 29 septembre 2012, par le Pape Benoît XVI, membre du Conseil Pontifical « Justice et Paix » et y siègera jusqu'en 2018.



Madame Sonia Fatimata OUEDRAOGO

MDirectrice de la cellule Alliance des Etats du Sahel, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Internationale, République du Burkina-Faso

2008

Madame Sonia Fatimata OUEDRAOGO, Mle 104 409 N, Conseiller des affaires étrangères, 1ère classe, 1er échelon, est nommée chargée d'études.

2021

Madame Sonia Fatimata OUEDRAOGO, Mle 104 409 N, Conseiller des affaires étrangères, 1ère classe, 8ème échelon, est nommée Ministre conseiller à l'Ambassade

du Burkina Faso à Brasilia, République fédérale du Brésil.

2023

Madame Sonia Fatimata OUEDRAOGO, Mle 104 409 N, Conseiller des affaires étrangères, 1ère classe, 10ème échelon, est nommée Directrice du Bureau national de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO).

2024

Madame Sonia Fatimata OUEDRAOGO est Directrice de la cellule Alliance des Etats du Sahel.



Mr. Kiswendsida Marius ZONGO

Directeur par intérim des Organisations régionales africaines et des Communautés

Janvier 2025 – aujourd'hui Directeur par intérim des Organisations régionales africaines et des Communautés

Août 2022 – octobre 2024

Premier conseiller

Mission Permanente du Burkina Faso à Bruxelles (poste à temps plein)

Décembre 2019 – mars 2025

Deuxième conseiller

Ambassade du Burkina Faso à Bruxelles (poste à temps plein)

Octobre 2006 – décembre 2019

Chef de service des Avis juridiques et du Contentieux

Ministère des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération du Burkina Faso



Dr. CHEIKH TIDIANE GADIO
President and Founder of IPS

organization MPCL and was a presidential candidate in 2012. In 2014 he launched and organized "the Dakar International Forum for Peace and Security in Africa".

Special Envoy to Mali of the SG of the OIF (2020-2023), he was also a former Special Envoy of the OIC to CAR.

In March 2008, during the Dakar OIC Summit, he was the chief negotiator of the "Dakar Peace Agreement" between Chad and Sudan. From 2003 to 2009, he led several mediation missions concluded by ceasefire agreements or political agree-

ments that brought peace, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mauritania and Guinea Bissau. He also greatly helped to avoid direct military confrontation between the US and Libya between 2003 and 2005.

Former Africa Director of SIT (School for International Training - State of Vermont) and former Africa Director of World Links for Development (World Bank-Washington), he holds a DEA from Paris-Sorbonne V in Mass-Communication, and a Ph.D in Communication and International Development from Ohio State University (USA).



Dr. Jean Herve Jezequel
Crisis Group's Sahel project Director

He is the Crisis Group's Sahel project Director.

He is responsible for conducting extensive research and advocacy on the prevailing political and security issues in the Sahel region including Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso in order to work toward promoting stability and security.

Based in Dakar since 2013, he was appointed Deputy Director for the West Africa Project in 2016, and he led the creation of Crisis Group's Sahel Project in 2018.

Jean-Hervé received his MA at Science-Po Paris in Political Science and History.

He completed his PhD at École des Hautes Études en Science Sociales, focusing on History and African Studies. Prior to joining Crisis group, he worked as an Assistant professor at the university of Bordeaux and as a Visiting Professor of History and African Studies at the Emory University in Atlanta and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.



Dr. Lori-Anne Thérour-Bénoni

Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

Lori-Anne Thérour-Bénoni is currently the Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

Previously, she served for over a decade as Director of the ISS Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel, and the Lake Chad Basin. Her expertise spans key policy issues in the region, including violent extremism, terrorism, political instability, local conflicts, peace operations, and political processes.

Before joining ISS in 2012, Dr Thérour-Bénoni worked as a researcher with the Network on Peace Operations at the University of Montreal, the Carter Center in Côte d'Ivoire, and Radio-Canada.



Mrs. Mariama Gamatie Bayard

Conseillère Spéciale du Président de la République, Chef de l'État

Coordonnatrice Nationale de la Plateforme Unique des Femmes de la Confédération AES du Niger La candidate est titulaire d'un diplôme de Doctorat en Relations Internationales et d'une Maîtrise en sciences sociales. En post-universitaire, Mme Bayard a participé au « United Nation High Level Mediation Course » (Istanbul, Turquie 2013), au « UN Senior Mission Leaders Course » (Centre Pearson, Ottawa, Canada (2006) et a suivi à l'École des Cadres des Nations Unies de Turin (Italie, 2001) la « Formation des Formateurs sur l'Alerte Précoce et les Mesures préventives des crises et conflits à caractère politique ».

Elle a une longue carrière professionnelle dans le domaine du dialogue politique au niveau de plusieurs gouvernements et des institutions internationales (Nations Unies, IDEA) avec un savoir-faire probant et une capacité de transfert de compétences démontrée dans plusieurs États Africains en situation de crises post-conflit et en phase préélectorale, facilitant le rapprochement des acteurs (politiques, factions armées, société civile), les mesures de confiance et l'inclusion de toutes les parties en conflits, en particulier les femmes et les jeunes, dans la recherche de solutions durables aux crises.

Son sens de diplomatie et ses compétences en sciences sociales sont des atouts qui lui facilitent la compréhension, l'analyse des contextes sociopolitiques et le discernement des enjeux des crises afin de concevoir, d'entreprendre et de réussir des actions de plaidoyers auprès des gouvernements et des partenaires techniques et financiers et autres parties prenantes pour obtenir leur adhésion et leur engagement aux processus de médiation en vue de la construction de la paix et de restauration de l'état de droit.

Pour cette raison, son expertise est de bonne réputation et souvent sollicitée au plus haut niveau par les Nations Unies, le Gouvernement du Niger, les ONG et par la société civile des jeunes, des femmes et des autorités coutumières locales et religieuses. Elle a ainsi exercé plusieurs fonctions de haut niveau de responsabilité impliquant à la fois compétence et redevabilité et l'obligation de résultats à échéance définie, notamment :

- En qualité : (i) de Ministre de la Communication, de la Culture, Porte-parole du Gouvernement (1997-98),
(ii) de Conseillère Spéciale du Président de la République du Niger (1996/97),
(iii) de Coordinatrice du Comité ad hoc sur la Prévention des Conflits au Bureau du PNUD



Mrs. Fatou Jagne Senghore CSOs Advocate

Mrs. Fatou Jagne Senghore is a jurist, human rights and freedom of expression, passionate about equality, social justice and women's rights. She served in different capacities within the international free expression organization ARTICLE 19 for two decades. In 2010, she established and led ARTICLE 19's West Africa office in Senegal, and among others supported advocacy and reform programmes in Tunisia from 2005 to 2012.

She has a proven track record in governance of both non-profit and government institutions and sits on several boards. These include: Chair of the Board of Directors of the Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS) from 2019–2022, member of the Governing Board of the Pan African Network of Human Rights defenders, Co-chaired the development of the first national action plan for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in Senegal 2019–2022, Chair of the board of Alliance Française/Gambia.

She is the founder of the Center for Women's Rights and Leadership in the Gambia, a fellow (Amujae Leader) of the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development. She serves as an Independent Expert on Governance and Human Rights and was part of the Group of 4 Co-Mediators for the Resumption of the Constitutional Reform Process of the Gambia 2023–2025.

She holds Bachelor and postgraduate degrees in Law: LLM, Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) in Economic and Communication Law, a master's degree in international and European Law, a LLB civil law, Bachelor degree of languages and comparative law.



Gram Matenga Head of Programmes Africa and West Asia, International IDEA

Gram Matenga is a senior governance, conflict, and fragility expert with extensive experience in regional contexts. Gram currently serves as the Regional Head of Programmes for Africa and West Asia at International IDEA.

Through this role, he oversees the regional programme portfolio, business development, and establishing strategic partnerships.

Previously, Gram served as International IDEA head of the office for Kenya and regional thematic lead on Political Participation and Representation, where he led initiatives on citizen engagement, democratic accountability, political parties, parliaments, women and youth political participation and representation, and the regulation of money in politics. His extensive background includes managing a UNDP governance and peacebuilding programme in Zimbabwe and serving as Senior Programme Manager for Elections and Citizen Participation programmes with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) across Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Sudan. Additionally, Gram has offered his skills as a Governance Advisor and Programme Manager for several international NGOs in regions like Somaliland, Jamaica, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe.



Mr. Sumit Bisarya

Head of Constitution-Building Programme, Global Programme, International IDEA, Head of Constitution-Building Programme

Sumit Bisarya heads International IDEA's Constitution-Building and Rule of Law Programme, which produces global comparative knowledge, conducts policy advocacy within the field of constitution-building and provides technical support to in-country constitution reform programmes. Bisarya also serves as Head of Mission for International IDEA in the Netherlands.

In 2020–2021, Bisarya was seconded to the UN as the senior constitution advisor for the Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

Prior to joining International IDEA, he worked with the International Development Law Organization based in Rome, Italy, where he was manager of IDLO's field programmes.

He designed, managed and implemented rule of law assistance programmes in Afghanistan and East/Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan), including designing and establishing institutions for Violence Against Women, Legal Aid and Legal and Judicial Training.

Bisarya has been engaged in constitution-building assistance programmes in a range of countries and contexts including Barbados, Chile, Haiti, Jamaica, Myanmar, Nepal, the Gambia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.



Adem Kassie Abebe

Senior Adviser, Constitution Building, Global Programme, International IDEA

Adem Kassie Abebe is Senior Advisor in the Constitutional Governance and Rule of Law Programme of International IDEA. He supports constitutional and democratic consolidation and resilience, and transitions from conflict/authoritarianism to peace/democracy.

Adem advises decision makers in constitutional reform processes and CSOs seeking to influence such processes and convenes and develops resources on constitutional governance. Adem has published books and articles with prominent academic platforms, and has been featured on the BBC, Al Jazeera, France24, Foreign Policy, The Conversation, The Guardian and The Economist. Adem serves as Vice President of the African Network of Constitutional Law; in the Advisory Council of the (Bonavero) Institute of Human Rights, Oxford University; in the Advisory Board of the International Journal of Constitutional Law; in the Executive Committee of the International Association of Constitutional Law; in the Governance Board of Article 19 (Eastern Africa); and as Extraordinary Lecturer, University of Pretoria.

He was amicus curiae in the Kenyan Supreme Court and the Ethiopian Council of Constitutional Inquiry.



Winluck Wahiu

Senior Adviser, Constitution Building Processes, International IDEA Africa and West Asia Programme

Winluck Wahiu has over twenty years of experience in the fields of constitutional law, constitution building, rule of law and democratic governance. He has advised constitution makers, UN agencies, the African Union, international bodies, and civil society organizations and think tanks, on constitution making and on the design of inclusive constitutional negotiations in conflict affected settings. He provided technical assistance on constitutional review for the Rule of Law and Democratic Governance units of the UN missions in Liberia and South Sudan and has advised government officials and parliamentarians on implementation of inclusive consti-

tutional and inclusive political transitions in Kenya, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia.

He headed the Constitution Building Programme at International IDEA headquarters in Stockholm during its foundation from 2008 to 2012 and rejoined the Institute in 2023 based with the African and West Asia regional office, where he is a senior adviser on constitution building processes. He provides technical assistance regionally to the African Union and regional economic communities in the Horn of Africa, Central Africa, and the Great Lakes region on inclusive constitutional transitions after unconstitutional changes of government and violent political conflict. He also advises national actors, foreign missions and international organizations on constitutional issues such as power sharing, federalism, separation of powers, rule of law, bills of rights and constitutional review in contexts of reforms and ODA strategies in Africa and West Asia. He also supports conceptualization, design and building of knowledge resources on the impact of contemporary challenges of climate change and digitalization on constitutional governance.

Winluck obtained a PhD in Constitutional Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK and a distinction Master of Laws from the same institution. He has been admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and is an active member of the International Law Association (UK and Sweden), the International Commission of Jurists (Sweden), and the Pan African Lawyers Union.



Dr. Andrews Atta-Asamoah

Senior Advisor, AU Support, at the International IDEA

Prior to this, he served as Head of the African Peace and Security Governance Programme at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He also served as a member of the United Nations Panel of Experts on South Sudan (2015–2018) and held various positions at both the ISS and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).

His research interests span peace and security, governance, conflict resolution, mediation, and development policy in Africa. He has published extensively on these themes, contributing to policy reports, peer-reviewed journals, and edited volumes. His recent publications include the edited volume *African Union at 20: African Perspectives on Progress, Challenges, and Prospects*. He previously served as editor of the ISS Peace and Security Council Report, which provides critical analysis of regional peace and security efforts, with a particular focus on the African Union Peace and Security Council.

Dr. Atta-Asamoah holds a PhD in Political Studies from the University of Cape Town and an MA in International Affairs from the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), University of Ghana. He is also a Visiting Lecturer and Research Associate at Rhodes University, South Africa.

Dr. Atta-Asamoah holds a PhD in Political Studies from the University of Cape Town and an MA in International Affairs from the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), University of Ghana. He is also a Visiting Lecturer and Research Associate at Rhodes University, South Africa.



Maurice Enguélégué

Senior Adviser, Constitution-Building Processes, Africa and West Asia

Maurice Enguélégué is the Senior Adviser, Constitution-Building Processes for the Africa and West Asia region.

He is a Professor of Political Science and has taught for 20 years in French universities (Amiens, Bordeaux and Douai) and in Cameroon at the International Relations Institute. He also worked for the French Government as a Technical Advisor at the Office of the Prime Minister and as Head of Project for the Foreign Ministry's 'Promoting Democratic Governance in Africa'.

Enguélégué was the Programme Coordinator of the Africa Governance Institute from May 2008 to July 2013.

He was Executive Director of the AGI from July 2013 to September 2015. He is Senior Adviser at the Africa Region Bureau of International IDEA since October 2015. Enguélégué is member of the Advisory Council of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation since 2012.



Ms. Jainaba Faye

Head of International IDEA's Gambia office

Jainaba Faye is the Head of International IDEA's Gambia office and Programme Manager for the EU Funded CODE Project. She is a Programme Management Specialist and Political Analyst with years of professional experience in delivering policy and programmes with particular interest in democracy, good governance, human rights, and rule of law.

Before joining International IDEA, she served as the Political & Economic Affairs Officer at the British High Commission in Banjul for six years where she was also the lead on bilateral programmes. Jainaba obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Diplomacy and International Affairs at ADA University, Baku – Azerbaijan and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and Finance at the University of The Gambia.

Jainaba is a young professional with great passion for development and making positive and dignified change in the lives of every human.

Concept Note

As part of the operationalization of the Regional Mechanism on Support to Inclusive Constitutional Transitions (RMSICT), International IDEA – in collaboration with regional and international partners – will convene the fourth edition of the Annual Retreat for Special Envoys and High Representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs). As in previous editions, this retreat primarily seeks to provide an open and reflective forum where senior officials from regional multilateral organizations and governments, constitution and peace building professionals, as well as key civil society figures engage in strategic conversations on current developments and crises, as well as the challenges facing constitutional and democratic governance in Africa and the instability that accompanies it. The Fourth Annual Retreat for RECs Special Envoys/High Representatives is building on one of the key recommendations of the Third one held in Nairobi (Kenya) in October 2024: the need to have an in depth and proactive reflection on the impacts of the changing dynamics in multilateralism on mediations in complex constitutional and political transitions in Africa.

The Fourth Annual Retreat will occur amid a dramatic acceleration of the shifts in the global governance framework, particularly since the turn of 2025. Notably, multilateral systems of governance face unprecedented challenges, arguably bordering on complete dysfunction. This crisis of multilateralism manifests itself in several ways: a decline in global cooperation and the effectiveness of international institutions – including their High representatives and Special Envoys – power rivalries, and domestic political shifts. While some argue multilateralism can adapt through reform or regional cooperation, others see a permanent shift toward a multipolar, fragmented world order. The relative weakening of multilateral platforms has coincided with the intensification of geopolitical competition and unilateral efforts to exert influence and foster (often ad hoc and highly transactional) partnerships. Due to its economic, climatic, technological and socio-political potentials and vulnerabilities, Africa is arguably more exposed to the storms arising from these changing global dynamics. Indeed, the steep rise in the number of unconstitutional changes of government, instability, conflicts, entrenchment of authoritarianism and disenchantment in the performance of democracy, even in relatively stable countries, in the past decade is no coincidence.

As part of the global recession in multilateralism, the RECs have struggled to maintain their influence, while actors, big and small, from outside of the continent are seeking and gaining access and influence. Some African states are also unilaterally pursuing their own interests outside continental and sub-regional collective platforms. External political and material support to REC's agenda of regional integration, peace and security and broadly to constitutional and democratic governance has also steadily declined. Simultaneously, internal resistance to the vision and decisions of the RECs – notably those focused on democracy, constitutional order and human rights – has expanded, with assertions of (absolutist) visions of sovereignty and anti-western/colonial sentiment (re)surging. In this regard, three west African countries have withdrawn from ECOWAS and formed the Association of Sahelian States; some countries have suspended their membership from IGAD. In many contexts, despite the existence of robust regional frameworks to govern the return to constitutional order, targeted countries that have undergone unconstitutional change of government or conflict have come to dictate the terms and nature of the role of the RECs, if at all they choose to engage. These multilateral actors are no longer able to impose the terms of return to constitutional order.

These developments call for a serious (re)assessment of the roles of the RECs in the changing African and geopolitical dynamics and rejuvenation of their visions, assumptions, strategies and actions. The changes should also inform the vision, strategies and modes of engagement of international organisations (such as International IDEA) and partners (including donors). While the developments pose enormous challenges, they may also offer opportunities to think outside the box to imagine innovative ways to engage in contexts of constitutional transitions, including unconstitutional changes of government. These opportunities may also include a shift in focus toward enhancing the capacity and legitimacy of relatively competitive political systems, in order to reduce the risk of abrupt crises and manage them more effectively, whether in the form of conflict or military coups.

Concept Note

In view of these fundamental changes, in addition to reassessing the insights from and developments since the previous retreats, the fourth retreat will focus on exploring the changing nature of the role of the RECs in a global dynamic of multilateralism in crisis. In particular, it will provide a platform for strategic conversations on the state and future of continental and sub-regional engagement to shape peace, stability, political settlements and effective and accountable governance in member states. It will also assess whether and how the RECs should revitalise their vision, standards and modalities of engagement in promoting and defending regional integration and democratic constitutional governance.

Specific Objectives

The Retreat specifically seeks to:

- Facilitate the exchange of experiences among special envoys, high representatives and other stakeholders on transitions to constitutional order in the new international geopolitical environment characterized by a focus on business, national priorities, stability, and security;
- Enable a shared understanding of the peace and security landscape in Africa, with a particular focus on the AES, ECOWAS and IGAD regions, and the fate of post-coup transitions and ongoing conflicts;
- Learn about the limitations, the potential and opportunities for adjustments and innovation by the RECs in addressing transitions and conflicts in light of rapidly changing global geopolitical dynamics, including ways to support (ostensibly) stable countries with competitive policies in order to improve their democratic resilience and reduce the risks of backsliding and instability;

Strengthening relationships between RECs and International IDEA in order to enhance cooperation on preventing and addressing unconstitutional changes of government, supporting inclusive constitutional transitions, and consolidating relatively functioning and stable countries.

Methodology

The Retreat will feature plenary discussions based on moderated panels focused on the broad themes, as well as panels dedicated to specific selected countries. There will also be bilateral meetings. The retreat will be conducted in English and French. Simultaneous translation will be provided for participants.

Participants

The Fourth Annual Retreat – which will bring together around 50 high level participants.

Output

A report will capture the key insights emerging from the Retreat. These will inform follow-up engagement with the RECs to adapt their thinking and interventions in specific countries. The insights will also be shared with partners and donors to inform and shape their engagement strategies on the continent.

Contact

For more information on this Retreat, please contact Maurice Engueleguele at: m.engueleguele@idea.int, with copy to Lilina Solomon at: l.solomon@idea.int and Alexandra Oancea at: Alexandra.Oancea@idea.int

Note conceptuelle

Dans le cadre de l'opérationnalisation du Mécanisme régional de soutien aux transitions constitutionnelles inclusives (RMSICT), IDEA International organisera – en collaboration avec les partenaires régionaux et internationaux – la quatrième édition de la Retraite annuelle des Envoyés spéciaux et Hauts représentants des Communautés économiques régionales (CERs). Comme les éditions précédentes, cette retraite vise principalement à fournir un forum ouvert de réflexion où les hauts responsables des organisations multilatérales régionales et des gouvernements, les professionnels de la constitution et de la consolidation de la paix, ainsi que les principales personnalités de la société civile s'engagent dans des conversations stratégiques sur les développements et crises actuelles ainsi que sur les évolutions auxquelles est confrontée la gouvernance constitutionnelle et démocratique en Afrique, et l'instabilité qui l'accompagne. La quatrième retraite annuelle des envoyés spéciaux/hauts représentants des CER s'appuie sur une recommandation récurrente des précédentes éditions tenues à Banjul (Gambie) en octobre 2022, à Abuja (Nigéria) en octobre 2023 et à Nairobi (Kenya) en octobre 2024 : la nécessité de mener une réflexion approfondie et proactive sur la dynamique des changements géopolitiques internationaux et leurs impacts sur le multilatéralisme en ce qui concerne la stabilité et les médiations dans les transitions constitutionnelles et politiques complexes en Afrique.

La quatrième retraite se tiendra dans un contexte d'accélération spectaculaire des changements dans le cadre de la gouvernance mondiale depuis le tournant de 2024. En particulier, les systèmes multilatéraux de gouvernance sont confrontés à des défis sans précédent, sans doute à la limite du dysfonctionnement complet. Cette crise du multilatéralisme se manifeste aujourd'hui de plusieurs manières : déclin de la coopération mondiale et de l'efficacité des institutions internationales – y compris de leurs envoyés spéciaux et hauts représentants – rivalités de pouvoir et bouleversements politiques nationaux. Si certains affirment que le multilatéralisme peut s'adapter par la réforme ou la coopération régionale, d'autres voient une évolution permanente vers un ordre mondial multipolaire et fragmenté. L'affaiblissement relatif des plateformes multilatérales a coïncidé avec les guerres complexes qui opposent l'Ukraine et la Russie, les guerres dévastatrices à Gaza, ainsi qu'avec l'intensification de la concurrence géopolitique et des efforts unilatéraux visant à exercer une influence et à favoriser des partenariats (souvent ponctuels et hautement transactionnels). En raison de ses potentiels et vulnérabilités économiques, climatiques, technologiques et sociopolitiques, l'Afrique est sans doute plus exposée aux tempêtes découlant de ces dynamiques mondiales changeantes. En effet, la forte augmentation du nombre de changements anticonstitutionnels de gouvernement, l'instabilité, les conflits, l'enracinement de l'autoritarisme et le désenchantement quant à la performance de la démocratie, même dans des pays relativement stables, au cours de la dernière décennie ne sont pas une coïncidence.

Dans le cadre de la récession mondiale du multilatéralisme, les CERs ont eu du mal à maintenir leur influence, tandis que les acteurs, grands et petits, de l'extérieur du continent cherchent et obtiennent un accès et une influence. Certains États africains poursuivent également unilatéralement leurs propres intérêts en dehors des plateformes collectives continentales et sous-régionales. Le soutien politique et matériel extérieur au programme d'intégration régionale des CER et, en général, à la gouvernance constitutionnelle et démocratique, n'a cessé de diminuer. Dans le même temps, la résistance interne à la vision et aux décisions des CER – notamment celles axées sur la démocratie, l'ordre constitutionnel et les droits de l'homme – s'est étendue, avec des affirmations de visions souverainistes et un sentiment anti-occidental/colonial en plein essor. À cet égard, certains pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest se sont retirés de la Communauté Economique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et ont formé la Confédération des États du Sahel (AES) ; certains pays ont suspendu leur adhésion à l'Autorité Intergouvernementale de Développement (IGAD). Dans de nombreux contextes, malgré l'existence de cadres régionaux solides pour régir le retour à l'ordre constitutionnel, les pays ciblés qui ont subi un changement de gouvernement ou un conflit anticonstitutionnel en sont venus à dicter les termes et la nature du rôle des CER, le cas échéant, qu'ils choisissent de s'engager. Ces acteurs multilatéraux ne sont plus en mesure d'imposer les conditions du retour à l'ordre constitutionnel.

Note conceptuelle

Ces développements appellent une (ré)évaluation sérieuse des rôles des CERs dans l'évolution de la dynamique africaine et géopolitique, ainsi qu'à un rajeunissement de leurs visions, hypothèses, stratégies et actions. Les changements devraient également éclairer la vision, les stratégies et les modes d'engagement des organisations internationales (telles qu'International IDEA) et des partenaires (y compris les donateurs). Bien que ces développements posent d'énormes défis, ils peuvent également offrir des opportunités de sortir des sentiers battus pour imaginer des moyens innovants de s'engager dans des contextes de transitions constitutionnelles, y compris des changements anticonstitutionnels de gouvernement et des adaptations. Ces opportunités peuvent aussi inclure un changement d'orientation vers l'amélioration de la capacité et de la légitimité de systèmes politiques relativement compétitifs pour réduire les risques de crise brutale et de mieux la gérer, que ce soit sous la forme d'un conflit ou de coups d'État militaires.

Compte tenu de ces changements fondamentaux, en plus de réévaluer les idées et les développements depuis les retraites précédentes, la quatrième retraite se concentrera sur l'exploration de la nature changeante du rôle des CER dans une dynamique mondiale de multilatéralisme en crise. En particulier, elle fournira une plateforme pour des conversations stratégiques sur l'état et l'avenir de l'engagement continental et sous-régional afin de façonner la paix, la stabilité, les règlements politiques et une gouvernance efficace et responsable dans les États membres. Elle évaluera également si et comment les CERs doivent revitaliser leur vision, leurs normes et leurs modalités d'engagement dans la promotion et la défense de l'intégration régionale et de la gouvernance constitutionnelle démocratique.

Objectifs spécifiques

La retraite vise spécifiquement à :

- Faciliter l'échange d'expériences entre les envoyés spéciaux, les hauts représentants et les autres parties prenantes sur les transitions vers l'ordre constitutionnel dans le nouvel environnement géopolitique international caractérisé par la priorité accordée aux affaires, aux priorités nationales, à la stabilité et à la sécurité ;
- Permettre une compréhension commune du paysage de la paix et de la sécurité en Afrique, avec un accent particulier sur les régions de la CEDEAO et de l'IGAD, et sur le sort des transitions post-coup d'État et des conflits en cours ;
- Tirer des enseignements sur les limites, les potentiels et les opportunités d'ajustements et d'innovation des CER dans l'élaboration des transitions et des conflits compte tenu de l'évolution rapide des dynamiques géopolitiques mondiales, y compris sur les moyens de soutenir les pays (ostensiblement) stables avec une politique compétitive afin d'améliorer leur résilience démocratique et de réduire les risques de régression et d'instabilité ;
- Renforcer les relations entre les CER et IDEA international afin d'améliorer la coopération en matière de prévention et de réponse changements anticonstitutionnels de gouvernement, de soutien aux transitions constitutionnelles inclusives et de consolidation des pays relativement fonctionnels et stables.

Méthodologie

La retraite comprendra des discussions plénières basées sur des panels modérés axés sur les grands thèmes, ainsi que des panels dédiés à certains pays. Il y aura également des réunions bilatérales. Les travaux se dérouleront en Anglais et Français. La traduction simultanée sera fournie aux participants.

Participants

La quatrième retraite annuelle – qui réunira environ 50 participants de haut niveau.

Résultats attendus

Un rapport présentera les principales idées qui ressortiront de la retraite. Celles-ci éclaireront les suites des interactions avec les CER afin d'adapter leur réflexion et interventions dans des pays spécifiques. Les informations seront également partagées avec les partenaires et les donateurs en vue d'informer et de façonner leurs stratégies d'engagement sur le continent.

Contact

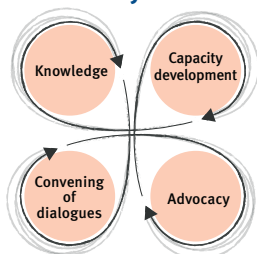
Pour plus d'informations sur cette retraite, veuillez contacter Maurice Engueleguele au : m.engueleguele@idea.int, avec copie à Lilina Solomon au : l.Solomon@idea.int et Alexandra Oancea au : Alexandra.Oancea@idea.int

Supporting democracy worldwide

Who we are

We are an intergovernmental organization, founded in 1995 with a mandate to support sustainable democracy worldwide. We have Permanent Observer status at the United Nations.

Our Four Ways of Working



What we do

We develop policy-friendly research and analysis related to elections, parliaments, constitutions, digitalization, climate change, inclusion and political representation, all under the umbrella of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We assess the performance of democracies through our unique [Global State of Democracy Indices](#) and the [Democracy Tracker](#).

We provide capacity development and expert advice to democracy actors including governments, parliaments, election officials and civil society.

We develop tools and publish databases, handbooks, reports and primers in several languages on topics ranging from voter turnout to gender quotas.

We bring states and non-state actors together for dialogues and lessons sharing.

We stand up and speak out to promote and protect democracy worldwide.

35

Member States

20+

Offices around the world

60+

Working in countries

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance 2025

Our expertise

Democracy Assessment

Our Global State of Democracy reports and indices provide accurate, detailed and timely information on democratic performance across the world. Our Democracy Tracker continually monitors trends in 173 nations.

Electoral Processes

Our expertise stretches from risk management in elections to special voting arrangements and the future of electoral assistance. This enables us to support electoral management bodies and election officials.

Constitution-Building and Rule of Law

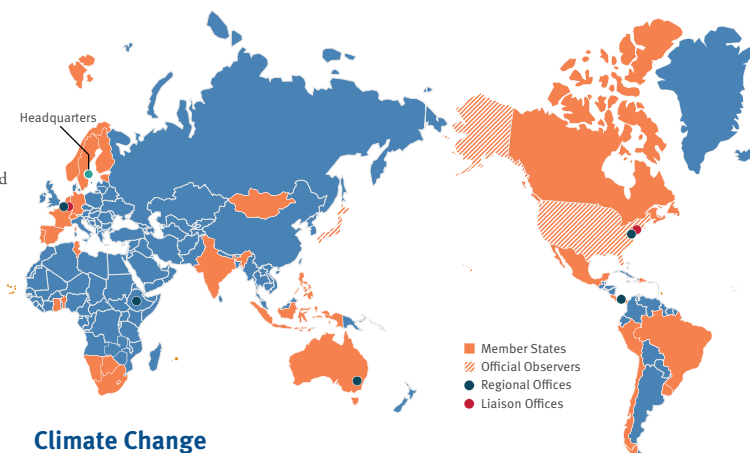
We develop comparative knowledge and provide advice on constitutional design, constitution-building processes and the rule of law, in fragile as well as more consolidated democracies.

Political Participation and Representation

We support political parties, parliaments, and women and youth with knowledge and capacity development, with an increasing focus on new forms of political participation and representation.

Money in Politics

We produce data and research, provide technical assistance to political finance oversight agencies and political parties, and support peer-to-peer learning among practitioners.



Climate Change

We develop research and tools that can help democracies tackle the climate crisis.

Gender and Inclusion, Conflict and Environment

Gender equality and inclusion, conflict sensitivity and environmental protection are mainstreamed in all areas of our work, from project planning to implementation.

Digitalization

We support institutions in reaping the benefits of digital innovation as well as countering digital threats to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights.

For interviews and general media inquiries, email press@idea.int

View our Annual Review

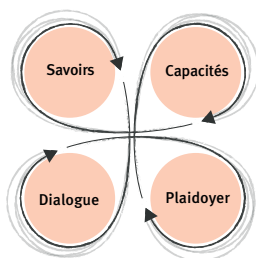


Soutenir la démocratie dans le monde

Qui sommes-nous?

Nous sommes une organisation intergouvernementale fondée en 1995, qui a pour mandat de soutenir la démocratie durable dans le monde entier. Nous avons le statut d'observateur permanent auprès des Nations Unies.

Nos quatre façons de travailler



Que faisons-nous?

Nous menons des recherches et analyses politiques en matière d'élections, de parlements, de constitutions, de numérisation, de changements climatiques, d'inclusion et de représentation politique, et ce dans le cadre des Objectifs des Nations Unies pour le développement durable.

Nous évaluons les performances des démocraties grâce à nos propres outils, l'[Index sur l'état de la démocratie dans le monde](#) et le [Democracy Tracker](#).

Nous fournissons des services de renforcement des capacités et des conseils d'experts aux acteurs démocratiques, notamment les gouvernements, les parlements, les agents électoraux et la société civile.

Nous développons des outils et publions des bases de données, des manuels, des rapports et des synthèses dans plusieurs langues sur des sujets allant de la participation électorale aux quotas de genre.

Nous réunissons des acteurs étatiques et non-étatiques pour qu'ils puissent dialoguer et échanger.

Nous défendons haut et fort la promotion et la protection de la démocratie partout dans le monde.

35

États
membres

20+

Bureaux dans
le monde

Nous
travaillons dans

60+

pays

Institut international pour la démocratie et l'assistance électorale 2025

Nos domaines d'expertise

Évaluation de la démocratie

Nos rapports et index sur l'état de la démocratie dans le monde fournissent des informations précises, détaillées et actualisées sur la qualité de la démocratie à travers le monde. Notre Democracy Tracker surveille en permanence les tendances dans 173 pays.

Processus électoraux

Notre expertise s'étend de la gestion des risques électoraux aux modalités spéciales de vote, en passant par l'avenir de l'assistance électorale. Ces connaissances nous permettent de soutenir les organes de gestion des élections et les agents électoraux.

Élaboration de constitution et état de droit

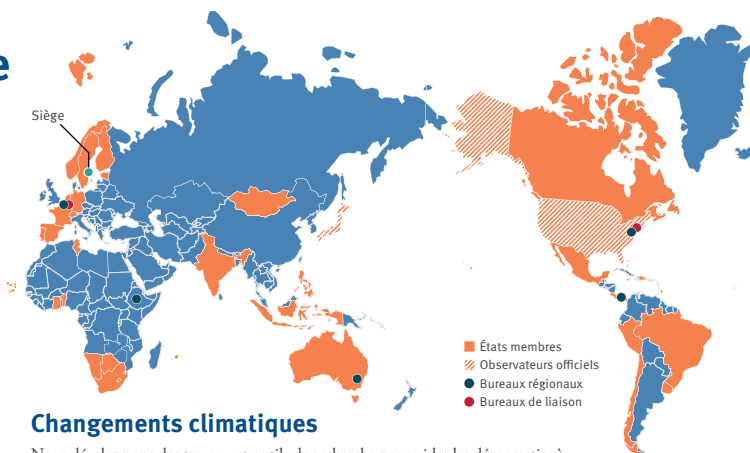
Nous développons des connaissances comparatives et proposons une expertise sur les processus de conception et d'élaboration de constitutions et sur l'état de droit, tant dans des démocraties fragiles que bien établies.

Participation et représentation politiques

Nous soutenons les partis politiques, les parlements, les femmes et les jeunes en renforçant leurs connaissances et leurs capacités, en mettant l'accent sur les nouvelles formes de participation et de représentation politiques.

L'argent en politique

Nous produisons des données et de la recherche ; nous proposons une assistance technique aux agences de contrôle des financements politiques et aux partis, et soutenons l'apprentissage entre professionnels du secteur.



Changements climatiques

Nous développons des travaux et outils de recherche pour aider les démocraties à relever le défi du changement climatique.

Genre et inclusion, Conflits et environnement

De la planification à la mise en œuvre des projets, nous intégrons les dimensions d'égalité des genres et d'inclusion, de sensibilité aux conflits et de protection de l'environnement.

Numérisation

Nous aidons des institutions afin qu'elles tirent parti des innovations numériques et luttent contre les menaces cybernétiques dans le respect des droits humains fondamentaux.

Médiatique,
veuillez contacter
press@idea.int

Voir notre Bilan annuel





Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



Fourth Annual Retreat

For Special Envoys and High Representatives
of Regional Economic Communities in Africa

Dakar, Senegal, 14-16 September 2025