

Ambassador ABDOULAYE DIOP

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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mali (2014 – 2017)

Africa Director, UN World Food Program (2009 – 2014)

Ambassador of Mali to the United States (2003 – 2009)

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

H.E. Abdoulaye Diop is a career diplomat, skilled negotiator and a proven mediator with over 20 years of experience. With a sound background and track record in **highly strategic and political positions at the national and international levels**, Abdoulaye Diop holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the International School of Public Administration (Paris, France).

Diop more recently served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mali as the country was recovering from a political and security crisis. **As Foreign Affairs Minister, Diop worked on behalf of the Malian government as chief negotiator in the drafting of the 2015 Algiers Peace Accords with rebel groups.** This was a critical contribution to peace and stability in Mali and in the Sahel region.

As chair of the Council of Ministers of the G5 Sahel countries, Diop was instrumental in mobilizing international support for the operationalization of the G5 Sahel Joint Force aimed at combatting terrorism and setting a regional development agenda for the Sahel. Serving as Director of the World Food Program (WFP) Africa Office in Addis Ababa, he strengthened a partnership with the African Union on food security and nutrition. As Country Director of WFP in Malawi, Diop repositioned the organization as a partner to the government in food security and social safety nets.

Prior to working with the United Nations, Diop served as Mali's Ambassador to the United States and Senior Diplomatic Advisor to two Presidents of Mali. He received a Doctorate Honoris Causa Degree in Public Service of Chatham University, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA. He is fully bilingual in English and French.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and African Integration
GOVERNMENT OF MALI, Bamako, Mali

2014 – 2017

- Chief Negotiator on behalf of the Malian Government and leader of the ministerial delegation to the Inter-Malian inclusive peace talks held from June 2014 to May 2015 in Algiers. The negotiations led to the signing of the 2015 Algiers Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The agreement put an end to Mali's fourth Tuareg rebellion. It was a critical contribution to maintaining Mali's territorial integrity, as well as peace and stability in the Sahel;
- Principal government's focal point to the United Nations/MINUSMA for the oversight and monitoring of peace and security in Mali. Oversaw the negotiation, preparation, adoption and implementation of the various resolutions of the UN Security Council on the situation in Mali;
- Regular appearances at the United Nations Security Council briefings and interaction with its members and UN secretariat;
- Initiated, chaired, provided oversight and strategic direction and coordination to the High-level Joint Steering Committee UN/Government on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in Mali (UNDAF+ 2015-2019) co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator;

- Launched the SDGs in Mali and championed the establishment of a national framework for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development;
- As Chair of the G5 Sahel Council of Ministers during Mali's rotating chairmanship of this organization (February-December 2017), increased the visibility, credibility and effectiveness of the organization. Developed and successfully implemented a roadmap for Mali's presidency focused on the implementation of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. Provided political, technical and financial support for the operationalization of the military force, with strong coordination with the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union;
- Planned and organized the International Conference on Rebuilding Mali held at the OECD in Paris (Oct. 2015), which successful raised USD\$3.2 billion for the economic recovery, reconstruction and implementation for the Algiers peace agreement in Mali;
- Organized and coordinated the political and diplomatic efforts for the Africa-France Heads of State and Government Summit (55 countries) held in Bamako, Mali (Jan. 2017), which resulted in the adoption of the Bamako Declaration on Partnership, Peace and Economic Development;
- Acted as Special Envoy and Represented the President of Mali to summits and other international fora (UN Climate Summit, UNGA, AU and OIC Summits);
- Led Mali's ministerial delegations to international conferences and bilateral partnership commissions in Africa, Europe, Middle East and Asia.

Director, Africa Office

2013 - 2014

Representative to the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD Secretariat)

UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- Proactively engaged and strengthened the partnership and dialogue between WFP and the African Union, its member states, UNECA and NEPAD on food security, nutrition, resilience and capacity building issues including the integration of the nutrition agenda in continental frameworks and ensure constant and senior level interface with African leaders;
- Spearheaded the Africa Risk Capacity and Cost of Hunger in Africa Study, which generated valuable lessons on how to best apply WFP's capacities for the benefit of the African Union and its Member States;
- Oversaw the overall rollout in 12 African countries and the continental launch of the first report of the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study which revealed staggering statistics for each country and unveiled the crushing impact of children malnutrition on the economies of four African countries.

Representative and Country Director

2009 - 2012

UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP), Lilongwe, Malawi

- Repositioned WFP and the strategic and operational direction of humanitarian, development and political engagement of WFP in Malawi. WFP was at the time negatively perceived by the government and the country office almost bankrupt;
- Established a new foundation for WFP/Government of Malawi partnership on food security, nutrition and capacity building programs and secured funding for the country program.

Ambassador of Mali to the United States of America and Latin America

2003 - 2009

GOVERNMENT OF MALI, Washington, DC

- Improved, oversaw and managed bilateral relations and programs with the United States, Latin America, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, the United States Agency for International Development and mobilized funds for the economic development of Mali;
- During my tenure, Mali benefited from major United States Government initiatives such as the Millennium Challenge Account (MCC), the Presidential Initiative for Education in Africa, the Presidential Initiative to Fight Malaria and the African Growth and opportunity Act (AGOA);
- Actively contributed to place agriculture, rural development and food security at the center of the development assistance agenda in Washington, DC. and regularly attended and spoke at the World Food Prize annual events in Des Moines, IOWA, USA and the United States Congress;
- Successfully led the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies resulting in the adoption of the historic “Bamako Consensus on Democracy and Development,” emphasizing the link between democracy and development (2007);
- Initiated public diplomacy actions to enhance Mali’s political, economic and cultural image and outlook and strengthened partnerships with members of United States Congress, US Government and States’ Officials, Think Tanks, civil society and grassroots organizations, private sector, universities and others.

Ambassador and Senior Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Republic of Mali
MALI’S PRESIDENT’S OFFICE, Bamako, Mali

2000 - 2003

- Advised the President of Mali on foreign policy, international cooperation and key diplomatic initiatives to advance country objectives in promoting peace, security, good governance, stability, building regional integration and forging partnerships for economic development;
- Served as representative of the President of Mali to the Steering Committee of New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD);
- Organized, planned and monitored diplomatic activities/initiatives of the President of the Republic Mali acting as rotating chair of the Economic Community of West African States. (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS);
- Served on an informal team of experts to initiate the drafting of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and engaged in diplomatic efforts to mobilize African leaders to support the creation of the African Union;
- Took part in initiatives and facilitated adoption of resolutions of the United Nations Security Council under Mali’s rotating chairmanship - for example, through the first ever Security Council Summit at the level of Heads of State and Government held in 2000 to address global security challenges. This was held on the margins of the historic United Nations Millennium Summit;
- Contributed to the design and development of various good governance and conflict prevention and management mechanisms and protocols within the African Union, NEPAD, ECOWAS and the Community of Democracies.

Political and Diplomatic Adviser to the Foreign Minister of Mali
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Bamako, Mali

1999 – 2000

- Responsible for political and diplomatic initiatives and for the drafting of policy papers on peace and security, governance, strategies to accelerate regional integration (African Union, ECOWAS and other regional organizations), United Nations, bilateral issues, presidential official visits and liaison with Presidency.

Counselor in charge of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) & European Union Relations and other Multilateral issues

1998 - 1999

EMBASSY OF MALI, Brussels, Belgium

- Engaged in political, economic and trade negotiations between ACP Group of States and the European Union;
- Maintained bilateral cooperation and dialogue between Mali and the European Union.

Coordinator for Mali/European Union Partnership and Programs

1992 – 1998

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Bamako Mali

- Responsible for Mali-European Union and ACP-European Union relations and cooperation: strengthened the role and contribution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the oversight and implementation of European Development Fund (EDF) supported projects through the creation of a Special Unit and adoption of new guidelines and procedures, which increased the effectiveness and a high level of disbursement of funding with a portfolio of over \$200 million.

Program Officer at the Directorate for International Cooperation

1990 – 1992

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, Bamako, Mali

- Managed and monitored the cooperation of Mali with Arab and Islamic Development and Financial Institutions, Western European countries and the International Organization of the Francophonie.

EDUCATION AND LANGUAGES

M.A., International Relations, with Honors

1994

International Institute of Public Administration (IIAP), Paris, France

M.A. in Diplomacy and Management of International Organizations

1994

Jean Monnet School for International Studies, University Paris XI, France

B.A. in Diplomacy (Political Science & International Relations), with Honors

1989

National School of Administration (ENA), Algiers, Algeria

Fluent in French, English and Bambara

HONORS

- Officer of the National Order of the Republic of Mali (2017)
- Golden Cowries Award (Cauris d'Or) for African Integration by the Movement of Senegalese Enterprises, Senegal (2017)
- Grand Officer of the National Order of Merit of the French Republic (2016)
- Doctor Honoris Causa in Public Service, Chatham University, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania (2009)
- Former Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the "Partnership for the Reduction of Hunger and Poverty in Africa", an independent research and advocacy group based in Washington, DC, USA
- Former Chairman of the Committee of African Ambassadors on Trade and Economic Development in Washington, DC, USA