

AFRICAN GENDER FORUM AND AWARD

BIOGRAPHIES



Honourable Joseph Nyumah Boakai is the Vice-President of Liberia. He is Vice-President to fellow Unity Party member Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. From 1983 to 1985, he served as the Liberian Minister of Agriculture.



Honorable Olubanke King-Akerele was named Liberia's Minister of Foreign Affairs in August 2007 and assumed the post in October. She had been Minister of Commerce and Industry, a position to which she was appointed in 2006. Previously, she worked for 20 years for the United Nations. Minister King-Akerele served as Deputy Director for the United Nations Development Program for Women, and as the Resident Representative in Mauritius and in Zambia for the UNDP.



Honourable Awa Ndiaye is the Minister of Family and Women's Entrepreneurship in Senegal. Previously, she held the post of Counsellor for the President of the Republic in Education and Development. She is an expertise in French literature and has worked for the University of Dakar and various departments within The International Organization of Francophonie.



Honourable Valérie Nyirahabineza is the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office in Charge of Gender and Family Promotion, in the Republic of Rwanda.



Honourable Gisèle Mandaila is the State Secretary for Family and Disabled Persons for the Belgian government. In 2000, she was the collaborator of a Member of Parliament for the French Community's Parliament. Since 2000, she is an advisor for the city of Etterbeek. She was also the member of associations involved in humanitarian assistance and of the African Women's Union.



Immaculée Nahayo was on 16 August 2005 elected Speaker of the National Assembly - the lower house of parliament - becoming the first woman in Burundi to hold the position. From 1969 to 1973, she taught in Mugera, Gitega Province, but was forced to flee the country in 1973 to the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 1991, she returned home and held several jobs: first as an adviser to the minister of sports and culture, then as a laboratory technician at the Centre for Food Technologies. She is a widow of former Minister of the Interior Simon Nyandwi.

Philomène Omatuku Atshakawo Akatshi is a politician in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and is a member of the People's party for Reconstruction and Democracy. Since February 2007, she is Minister of Women's Affairs. Before, she was part of the Constituent Assembly and Legislative - Parliament of Transition.



Aminata Tall is a member of the Democratic Party of Senegal. She was the Ancient Minister of State, and Minister of Decentralization.



The First Lady of Senegal, Her Excellency Viviane Wade



The First Lady of Rwanda, Her Excellency Jeannette Kagame



The First Lady of Sierra Leone, Her Excellency Sia Koroma



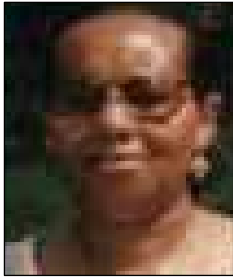
Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi is the co-founder and executive director of the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF). The AWDF is a fundraising and grant-making initiative, which aims to support the work of the African Women's movement.



M. Parker Anderson, president and founder of The Anderson Advantage Group (TAAG) is a certified professional coach and life strategist, who specializes in leadership coaching for individuals, boards, and organization management teams. She is an elected board member with Coaching the Global Village (CGV), the International Association of Coaches (IAC), and also is a member in good standing with the International Coach Federation (ICF).



Kiran Luchmun is a member of AfricaRecruit. It is a programme plan of action taken to build robust and enduring productive capacity throughout the continent. It is an innovative service delivery vehicle with its focus on capacity building through human resources using its various networks within and outside Africa.



Marie-Louise Baricako is the Chair of the Executive Board of Femmes Africa Solidarité and a human rights' activist. Before joining FAS, she was a lecturer and the Head of Department at the University of Burundi.



Thérèse Bishagara is the president of PRO-FEMMES Rwanda.



Yvonne Chaka Chaka is the internationally recognized and highly respected Princess of Africa, performing diva, entrepreneur, and humanitarian. She started in 1984 as a music star of infectious pop melodies and dance music during the height of apartheid, is married to a prominent physician, a mother to four boys, entrepreneur, businesswoman, and now a philanthropist with the recently established Princess of Africa Foundation in 2007. In 1989 she created her own company, Chaka Chaka Promotions. In 1995 she created her own music label, Chaka Chaka Music.



Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie is co-founder and Executive Director of the London-based African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) and a private consultant specializing in supporting clients' Diaspora engagement strategies, private sector/enterprise development, and leadership, management, and organizational development. Prior to AFFORD, he worked as a senior industry analyst for a US-based international research and consulting firm.



Dorothy Davis is the founder and president of The Diasporan Touch in the United States. She has worked with the United Nations system since she was first hired in 1999. She developed and managed the UNDP's Goodwill Ambassador Programme. Prior to her work with the United Nations, Ms. Davis served as the Director of the first Office of Public Affairs of the Africa America Institute (AAI) in New York City.



Vivian Lowery Derryck is currently the Senior Vice President and Director of Public Private Partnerships at the Academy for Educational Development. Previously, Ms. Derryck was employed by USAID as the Assistant Administrator for Africa. She has been an active participant in African affairs by working at the Africa Leadership Forum, African-American Institute and National Council of Negro Women.



Bineta Diop is the Executive Director and founder of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS). In 1997, Ms. Diop and FAS fostered the creation of the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET). Ms. Diop played an instrumental role in achieving gender parity within the African Union Commission in 2003 and personally led the campaign for gender parity in the African Union. Ms. Diop is also focusing on the completion of Femmes Africa Solidarité's Pan African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development in Dakar, Senegal.



Abdelfattah Ezzine is a research professor at l'Institut Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique (IURS). He conducts research, in partnership with the German Foundation Friedrich Ebert (2007-2009) on issues relating to citizenship in Morocco. He also works as a project leader with UNESCO, on a project entitled "Enfant, Jeunes et Espaces de vie". Prior to appointment at the university, he worked as an expert at the office of the adviser of S.M The Sultan with the Economic Businesses of Planning to the Sultanate of Oman from 2003 to 2006.



Gibril Faal has been a management consultant, business adviser and University lecturer for over 15 years – working on private, public and charitable sector development. In the past 5 years, whilst on a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-funded project, he was one of the pioneers of social enterprise business support delivery in the UK. Gibril was previously a lecturer with The Open University. He is a Director at GK Partners – a UK-based consultancy.



Yassine Fall is the Regional Coordinator for UNIFEM. She is a Senegalese feminist, economist, researcher and advocate for economic and social justice, and one of the biggest leaders of Women's movement in Africa. She has more than 20 years of experience in the field of research on the field, and analysis of policies and management.



Yvette Patricia Faraut is the Governor of Zone Africa 4. She is part of RENAF Renaissance African. She is the President of Aquarius International France and the Founder of Africa Femmes Performantes.

Fatima Zohra Karadja is a Vice-President for the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council for Northern Africa. She is a child therapist specialised in working with children affected by trauma. As a member of the African Women Committee for Peace and Development (AWCPD), she has established a national network in Algeria of local NGOs for sensitisation and the dissemination of information on sustainable development and peace building.



Alpha Oumar Konaré is the President of the African Union Commission. In 1990, he is a founding member of Alliance pour la Démocratie au Mali (ADEMA) which later became Alliance pour la démocratie au Mali-Parti africain pour la solidarité et la justice (ADEMA/PASJ). In 1991, he created the first Malian community radio called Radio Bamakan. From 1992-2002, he served as the President of the Republic of Mali.

Dr. Angeline Low is Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Technology in Sydney. She has as a varied background, comprising successful careers in senior corporate management, private business and academic research, and is an authority on immigrant women's entrepreneurship. She has been the guest of the European Union, the OECD and the ILO to deliberate on gender issues in entrepreneurship.



Coumba Mar Gadio is the Coordinator of SURF, Regional Gender and Development advisor, UNDP. Ms Gadio is a rural sociologist who worked for the UNFPA, UNIFEM and the association of economist women in Western Africa. She has competences in all question linked to poverty and gender/development. During the past 15 years, she got involved in training on development issues. Her publications are mainly about the labour of African women in informal sector.



Gertrude Ibwengwe Mongella is a Tanzanian diplomat and holds the position of High Official for the United Nations. In 2004, she was elected President of the new Pan-African Parliament.



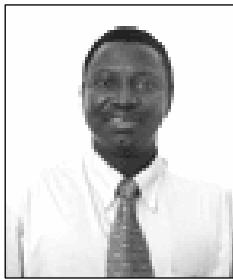
Brice Monnou is the Vice-President of the FORIM (Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations) and the Vice-President of Coordination Sud.



Cécile Mukarubuga is currently the Regional Director of UNIFEM in Francophone and Lusophone West Africa. She is also a Board-Member of Peace Women across the Globe (where she coordinates their projects in Central and East Africa region) and the Vice-Chair of PREFED – “Programme régional de formation et d’échange pour le développement”. Before joining UNIFEM in 2006, she has worked as Head of the Institutional Development Unit for the IPPF and as Head of ACORD.



Ndiémé Ndao is President of Ndiema Cosmetics in Switzerland. Her company makes cosmetics from shea butter. The products are 100% natural. She is an inventor, business and entrepreneur woman from Senegal, living in Geneva (Switzerland) since 17 years. She is the founder and president of Swiss Association of the Women of the Planet (AWP).



Pape Diouf Ndiaye is a Docteur ès Sciences de l'Education in charge of teaching courses at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.



Ndioro Ndiaye is the Deputy Director General, IOM. From late-1980 to mid-1990s, she worked as Minister for Social Development and Minister for Women's, Children's and Family Affairs in Senegal. In mid-1990s, she founded an NGO called "Reseau de femmes africaines leaders pour la paix et le développement" (Network of African Women Leaders for Peace and Development), which she coordinated until her appointment to IOM.



Bola Olabisi, LLB (Hons), LLM, FRSA, is the CEO of the Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network (GWIIN) which she founded in 1998. Bola is also the President, African Women of Essence International – an Alliance of African Women in the Diaspora Linking with Africa and Vice President of the British Association of Women Entrepreneurs.



Elsie-Bernadette Onubogu is a trained Sociologist and an International Lawyer with expertise in the area of gender, human rights, and post-conflict management, including the areas of conflict and migration. As a member of the Social Transformation and Programmes Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, she leads the Secretariat's work in the area of mainstreaming gender into democracy, peace and conflict policies and programmes of member states.



Amabel Orraca-Ndiaye has been working with the African Development Bank for over 28 years. Currently, she holds the position of Lead Resource Mobilization & Partnership Expert, Front Office of the Operations Sector Vice President.



Conchita Poncini Jimenez has worked for the International Labour Office for over 25 years. Various titles that she has held within the NGO sector include, President of NGO Committee on the Status of Women of the Conference of non-governmental organizations in consultative relations with the United Nations, consultant for International Federation of University Women (IFUW), and Coordinator of Geneva Representatives to the United Nations and ILO.



Märta Elisabeth Rehn was the first woman Minister of Defence in Finland. In 1995, as Minister of Defence, a law on voluntary female enlistment in was passed. Recently, she has held the positions of UN Under-Secretary General and as the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Thokozile Ruzindaza is the Director of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development at the UN Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Khady Sakho Niang is responsible for Gender and Migration in FORIM (Forum des organisations de solidarité internationales issues des Migrations). She is also President of MECSEF (Mutuelle d'Épargne et Crédit des Sénégalais de France). She is in charge of communication and skills' of CSSSE (Comité de Suivi du Symposium sur les Sénégalais de l'Extérieur).



Diery Seck is, since March 2002, Director of the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) in Dakar, Senegal. Previously he served as Executive Director of the Secretariat for Institutional Support for Economic Research in Africa (SISERA) of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). He serves as an expert for the African Union, several African Regional Economic Communities, African governments and the United Nations ECA.



Jeannine B. Scott is the Vice President of Africare since May 2003. As Sr. Vice-President, Ms. Scott is responsible for Africare's operations of over 200 projects in 26 countries. She provides strategic guidance and direction to the organization. Prior to joining Africare, Ms. Scott founded America to Africa Consulting, LLC, and provided business development and advisory services.



Alistair Soyode is the CEO of BEN (Bright Entertainment Network) Television. It is a British television network that was launched in 2003. It is mainly intended for members of African diaspora living in Europe and North Africa.



Nana Tanko is the Executive Director of Open Society Institute of West Africa (OSIWA). She has a Bachelors Degree in Sociology, a Masters, and a Ph. D in Demography. She has vast experience in research which has over the years distinguished her as a prolific researcher and an academican of repute. She has conducted researches for different United Nations organizations with a high degree of accuracy and has published works in fields relating to women affairs and development



Yetunde Teriba is the Acting Director of the African Union Commission's Women, Gender and Development Directorate. Other titles she has held include Women's Affairs Officer of the Women's Unit in Organization of the African Union, Officer in the Women's Unit in the African Unity, and Acting Director in the Gender Unit.



Boi-Betty Udom is the Technical Officer of Roll Back Malaria Partnership with WHO, Switzerland.



Abibatou Wane-Fall works since 2004 for the IOM Regional Office for Centre and Western Africa. She is in charge of Migration and Development Programs. She has been an IOM officer since 2000, where she started as a program assistant at the Africa desk of the department of external affairs.