

AFRICA DAY BIOS



H.E. Ambassador Hilda Suka-Mafudze

Ambassador Hilda Suka-Mafudze is the Permanent Representative of the African Union to the United States of America. Her core mandate is to enhance and maintain existing bilateral ties. These ties strengthen democratic institutions, advance trade and investment, knowledge sharing, promotes peace and security, mutual relationships between U.S and all 55 AU member countries based on culture and shared values. A career diplomat with experience that spans the African continent, Ambassador Suka-Mafudze assumed her most recent duties on November 2, 2020. Prior to coming to the U.S., she helped lead diplomacy for more than two decades in a variety of top government positions in her home country – Zimbabwe. Wellknown as a “quiet champion of democracy,” Ambassador SukaMafudze held ambassadorial positions representing her country in Khartoum Sudan and South Sudan between 2010 and 2019, and most recently in the Republic of Malawi. With a staunch commitment to democracy and the will of the people, Ambassador Suka-Mafudze worked fastidiously with the 55 AU member countries to promote and deepen democracy and democratic elections on the African continent. While Ambassador to Malawi, she chaired the group of regional ambassadors representing the South African Development Community (SADC), a regional Economic Community comprising 16 member states. With an agreed objective to coordinate efforts and settle issues of a contested national election, the Ambassadors engaged deeply with the African Union Election Observers and other international observers. Ambassador Suka-Mafudze herself was serving as an international observer. In Khartoum Sudan and South Sudan, she led important high-level political processes that continue to move the entire region toward greater peace and security. In 2007, Ambassador Suka-Mafudze was the Executive Director of Community Development where she

was responsible for the day-to-day running of an organization and technical professional staff who interfaced with the government, civil society, and private sector. She worked to ensure civil society needs were articulated and streamlined in public policies and programs. From 2000 to 2005, Ambassador Suka-Mafudze served as an elected member of Zimbabwe's Parliament. As one of the few women parliamentarians, she was an influential voice committed to ensuring Zimbabwe's laws were balanced and served the interests of the poor and other marginalized groups – women, youth, the elder and children. Ambassador Suka-Mafudze has a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and the World Order from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom, and a Bachelor of Science degree (with Honours) in Sociology and Gender Development from the Women's University in Africa (WUA). Located in Marondera, Zimbabwe, WUA is a private university that works to address gender disparity and foster equity in tertiary education while developing knowledge and skills in areas of vital importance for women. Ambassador Suka-Mafudze's other professional and academic training include: The United Nations Senior Mission Leaders' Course, Interaction Leadership from the British Council, a professional certificate in Networking Leadership, Diplomacy, and Mediation Skills, Leading in Conflict Environments and Skills for Conflict Transformation. Ambassador SukaMafudze is fluent in English, working knowledge of French and some Southern African languages, including Shona and Ndebele. Ambassador Hilda Suka-Mafudze is married with four beautiful children.

Ambassador of Angola



Ambassador Joaquim do Espírito Santo (born July 12, 1959 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo) presented his credentials to the President of the United States on September 16, 2019. Before arriving to Washington, he served as the Director for Africa, Middle East and Regional Organizations in Angola's Ministry of External Relations from 2011-2018. A career diplomat, Ambassador Espírito Santo also served as Minister-Counselor at the Angolan Embassy to France from 2004-2009 and as Minister-Counselor and Chargé d'Affaires at the Angolan Embassy to Mexico from 2002-2004.

Prior to that, Ambassador Espírito Santo served in various senior positions in Angola's Ministry of External Relations, including as the Director for Europe. Throughout his career, Ambassador Espírito Santo has represented Angola as part of several high-level international delegations and in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, including at the African Union and the United Nations. He is also an accomplished lecturer, having presented around the world on issues related to African development, peace, and security.

Ambassador Espírito Santo holds a degree in economics from Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, Angola) and a master's degree in political science from the School of Advanced Political Studies (Paris, France). He is multilingual, speaking Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, and some African languages. Ambassador Espírito Santo is married with two children.



Ambassador of Burkina Faso

Seydou Kaboré, an economist, was appointed Burkina Faso's ambassador to the United States on September 14, 2016, and officially assumed his responsibilities in the post on January 18, 2017. He is also accredited to Mexico.

Kaboré attended secondary school at Lycée Technique of Abidjan, in neighboring Cote d'Ivoire and graduated in 1980. He returned to Burkina Faso and earned a bachelor's degree (in 1983) and master's (1984) in business administration from the University of Ouagadougou.

The following year, Kaboré started at the Bank for the Financing of Trade and Investments as a corporate customer service manager. In 1992, he was named deputy commercial credit manager and in 1995 Kaboré was made senior manager.

Later that year, Kaboré left the bank to serve as director general of Faso Baara, a project management and construction company. Faso Baara builds buildings, roads, hydro-agricultural projects and other infrastructure for the Burkina Faso government with an eye toward creating jobs.

In 2008, Kaboré was named Burkina Faso's minister of infrastructure and road development under Tertius Zongo, who was then prime minister of the landlocked West African nation. In 2010, Kaboré signed a deal to borrow the equivalent of \$12.7 million to finance infrastructure repairs needed after a 2009 flood dropped 300 millimeters of water—about a foot—on the country in 10 hours.

In May 2012, Kaboré dedicated a mosque he had financed in his native village of Tanghin-Dassouri, near Burkina Faso's capital of Ouagadougou.

Kaboré left the cabinet in July 2012 for a brief stint as human resources and community affairs manager for Belahourou Mining Company. The following September, Kaboré set up a consultancy on public works projects. He also founded Alunet Sarl Co., a window and door manufacturer, and in 2016 created the African Agency for Public Works and Energy in Africa, which specialized in transport, hydro-agricultural infrastructures and energy sector projects management.

Kaboré speaks French, English and his native language of Moré.

Ambassador of Cameroon



H.E. Henri Etoundi Essomba

Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to the United States of America

H.E. Henri Etoundi Essomba is a Senior Diplomat. He was appointed Ambassador of The Republic Of Cameroon To The United States Of America On April 11, 2016. He has Presented His Letters Of Credentials to President Obama On June 27, 2016. He was appointed Ambassador of The Republic Of Cameroon To Israel Where He Also Served As The Dean Of The Diplomatic Corps. Has served in different positions at the Ministry Of External Relations and other diplomatic and consular missions of The Republic of Cameroon abroad, such as, Desk Officer of North America Affairs, Ministry Of Externational Relations, First Secretary And Consul, Embassy Of Cameroon In Paris (France), and Counselor And Charged' Affaires A.I., Embassy Of Cameroon In Tel Aviv (Israel). He is married with four children and is fluent in English and French.



Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire

H.E. Mamadou Haidara

Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire to the United States of America

H.E. Mamadou Haidara, the current Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire to the United States of America is a graduate from University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and post-graduate from Strayer University in Washington, D.C and from University of California, Los Angeles.

Ambassador Haïdara held various positions in private sector as well as public sector.

In private sector, he successively held the following positions:

Chairman of the Board of Directors of SONITRA (SOCIETE NATIONALE IVOIRIENNE DE TRAVAUX); CEO of GSC, the West African Leader in Tank Level Monitoring Technologies; Africa Director of AFIMEX, Lyon, France; Financial Analyst at T & B Investments, Dakar, Sénégal. In this capacity he identified opportunities, audited, and analyzed investment targets and followed up performances of portfolios.

In the public sector, Ambassador Haïdara led the Economic and Commercial Bureau as Commercial Counselor at the Ivorian Embassy to Washington, DC, As such, he: represented Côte d'Ivoire on the Washington, DC Cotton Advisory Council; planned and managed investment promotion to Côte d'Ivoire; followed up trade agreements and treaties as well as World Bank and IMF programs with Côte d'Ivoire.

On March 28, 2018, H.E. Mamadou Haidara took office as Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire to the United States.

He is fluent in French and English.

Ambassador of Guinea



Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF Dr KERFALLA YANSANE

Current Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea in the United States of America, Dr Kerfalla YANSANE, after a carrier in academia, has served over the past 30 years in different positions in the Government of Guinea, from Central Bank Governor (1986-1996), to Minister of Economy and Finance (2010-2014), and Minister of Mining and Geology (2014- 2016), and Special Advisor to the President (2016-2017).

As Central Bank Governor, Dr Yansane actively participated in the vast economic reform program undertaken in Guinea in 1985-1986, aimed at shifting from state run economy to market economy. He was particularly instrumental in the restructuring of the Central Bank, and the liberalization and modernization of the monetary and banking system. As Minister of Economy and finance, Dr Yansane largely contributed to the strengthening of the cooperation between Guinea and the international financial institutions. Dr Yansane also contributed to achieving the completion point of the initiative for Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and the cancellation of large part of the guinea public debt. In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Dr Yansane was promoted Senior Minister (Ministre d'Etat), and he was elected the Minister of Finance of the Year 2012 of Africa, at the sidelines of the African Development Bank Group Annual Meetings in May 2012 in Arusha, Tanzania.

As the Minister of Mining and Geology, the main achievements of Dr Yansane included amongst others the signing in May 2014 of the Investment framework of the Simandou iron ore project (20 billions \$ investments) with partner institutions and organizations, namely the mining giant Rio Tinto (Anglo-Australian), Chinalco (China), and the International Financial Corporation (IFC, private sector branch of the World Bank Group). Dr YANSANE was very instrumental of the mining sector reforms, which make Guinea today the second largest producer of bauxite in the world.

From January 2016 to January 2018 Dr Yansane served as Senior Minister, Advisor of

the President of the Republic of Guinea for International financial Institutions, and he was the Sherpa for the G20 of the President of the Republic of Guinea, who was Chairman of the African Union.

Dr Yansane was associated with a number of regional and international boards and technical committees, including amongst others: Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the African Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi, Kenya); Executive Board, African Capacity Building Foundation (Harare, Zimbabwe); Member of the United Nation Committee for Development Policy (New York) responsible for the graduation criteria of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Dr Yansane holds a State Doctorate (Phd) from University of Paris-Sorbonne, Faculty of Economics and Law, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Finances from the Institute of Political Sciences of Paris. Dr Yansane was Professor at the University of Dakar, Senegal, and he is often invited to give lectures in several universities, including CERDI (Centre de Recherches pour le Development International) Clermont Ferrand, France, and the Institute of Political Sciences of Paris.

Ambassador of Liberia



Ambassador George S.W. Patten, Sr.

Ambassador George S. W. Patten, Sr. is a career diplomat with more than two decades of experience in the Liberian Foreign Service. He served in various capacities at the Liberian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and rose through the ranks of the Liberian Foreign Service. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Liberia to the United States of America, Ambassador Patten served as Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary of Liberia to Ethiopia and Kenya, and Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

He previously served as Minister Counsellor in charge of political and legal affairs at the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations. His functions included coverage of the United Nations Security Council; the African Union Observer Mission to the United Nations; Expert in the Fourth and Sixth Committees of the UNGA; Peacebuilding Expert and focal point for the Liberia Country-Specific Configuration on the Agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC); focal point of the New Deal for engagement in fragile states; focal point for the Responsibility to Protect (R2P); focal point for peacekeeping activities-represented Liberia in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations; focal point in relation to the International Criminal Court (ICC); focal point on Liberian history and foreign policy, etc. Ambassador Patten had other diplomatic assignments in West, North and East Africa, as Counselor and First Secretary, respectively.

Ambassador Patten has a master's degree in international relations from the University of Liberia, a bachelor's degree in laws from the St. Mary's University College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Liberia. He has certificates in diplomacy, public international law, and conflict management and resolution.

Ambassador of Libya



Wafa Bughaighis was appointed Ambassador of the State of Libya to the United States in November 2017. She served as Chargé d'Affaires from 2015 to 2017. Prior to her appointment to Washington, Ambassador Bughaighis was the Assistant Deputy Minister for Political Affairs in the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation between 2013 and 2014. She was then designated as acting Foreign Minister in the Libyan Ministry of

Foreign Affairs in 2014. Ambassador Bughaighis has a distinguished career in education and served as the director of the International Bureau of the Ministry of Education in Libya from 2011 to 2013. Furthermore, in 2011, Ambassador Bughaighis co-founded and chaired the UN-recognized Commission to Support Women's Participation in Decision Making.

Ambassador Bughaighis has been a member of the Wilson Center's Global Women's Leadership Initiative in Washington, DC since 2012.

Previously, Ambassador Bughaighis began her working career as a process engineer at the Arabian Gulf Oil Company in Benghazi and continued to work in the field for over 14 years. She initially embarked on a journey to specialize in nuclear engineering, but due to the U.S. ban on Libyan students pursuing this field in the 1980s, Ambassador Bughaighis changed her specialization to chemical engineering and earned a Bachelor of Science from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Furthermore, Ambassador Bughaighis completed graduate studies in Engineering Management and International Relations at The George Washington University.

Ambassador Bughaighis is fluent in both Arabic and English, and is proficient in German. She is married and has two daughters and a son.

Chargé d'Affaires of Madagascar



Amielle P. Niriniavisoa Marceda

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Embassy of Madagascar in Washington D.C.

Niriniavisoa Marceda has been appointed Deputy Chief of Mission to the Embassy of Madagascar in Washington D.C since November 2019. Until the appointment of the new Malagasy Ambassador in the United States, she directs the Embassy in the capacity of *Chargé d'Affaires a.i.*

Niriniavisoa Marceda is a career diplomat. After she graduated from the National School of Administration of Madagascar in 2010 as Diplomatic and Consular Agent, she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to her assignments to the United States, she holds several positions, such as North Africa and Middle East Desk Officer, Human Resource Planning Senior Officer, Cooperation with Asia Senior Officer, cooperation with Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Senior Officer. She was the Director of Planning and Monitoring at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being a member of the Strategic Analysis Unit as research analyst.

She majored in public Law and political science. She has a master's degree in political science, oriented in public Law and international relations in 2007, from the Catholic Institute of Madagascar. She also holds a master's degree of the French National School of Administration in Strasbourg in 2014. The international economic Law is her main area of research. Marceda is fond of discovering the world and people's culture, as well as dancing.

Ambassador of Mali



Bio of H.E. Mahamadou NIMAGA

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mali to the United States of America and the United Mexican States.

Currently incumbent of the role of Ambassador of Mali, in Washington D.C., the youngest to occupy that positions, he holds a 20-year-old career in Diplomacy, during which he has performed inside embassies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and at the Malian Presidency, where he was the Diplomatic Advisor to the President from 2014 to 2018.

He holds a 'Leadership in Crisis' Executive Program Certificate from Harvard Kennedy School, a Master's degree in Legal Sciences from the National School of Administration (1998) - and a degree in Public Administration from the ENA of Paris (promotion Martin Luther King in 2006) with honors. Additionally, he holds several other certificates, amongst others, in multilateral Diplomacy of the Institute of the International Studies of Geneva, in international law of Office of Codification of the United Nations, in international humanitarian law, in European Studies in Strasbourg, in Post-Conflict Management at the ENA of Paris.

Passionate and adept on human security and post-conflict management matters, he is the author of several reports and co-author of several other publications, including "The reform of the security sector in Mali," "The armed groups in the French-speaking ECOWAS" and "The Infiltration of the GSPC in Niger and Mali in 2003."

Endeavoring to strengthen not only bilateral cooperation with the U.S. but Africa as a whole, he co-chairs the Comity of Strategic and security affairs of the African ambassadors' group as well as 'The policy and public affairs in the West African ambassadors' group in Washington, D.C.

Aside from work, he enjoys spending time with his family, listening to "tizita" music from Ethiopia (the strong influence of his four years living in Addis Ababa), and Riding his bike.

Chargé d'Affaires of Niger



Mahamane Fifi Bachir

Ambassador of Senegal



Mansour Elimane Kane is the Ambassador of Senegal to the U.S. previously he held the position of Minister of Infrastructure, Land Transport and Opening up. A mining engineer who became a banker, he boosted Senegal's infrastructure. Holds a degree in financial engineering in Canada, complemented by a doctorate in the United States of America, Mansour Elimane Kane is primarily a product of the Senegalese public school.

Born on January 10, 1959 in Ndioum (St. Louis), the current Minister of Infrastructure did his primary education in his hometown and high school Blaise Diagne of Dakar. From there, he obtained a Bachelor of series C with honors Bien. His mining engineer diploma obtained in Morocco opens later the doors of the Senegalese company phosphates Taiba. Mansour Elimane Kane then direct the vice-presidency of City Bank. Later admitted to the World Bank, he served as Chief Investment Officer function for Africa in Washington for ten years.

Ambassador of South Sudan



Ambassador of Togo



Mr. Frédéric Edem HEGBE was born on April 27, 1951 in Togo. He was a career diplomat and **was appointed by Presidential Decree as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Togo to the United States of America in January 19, 2017. He presented his letters of credence to the President of the United State of America, Donald J. TRUMP on April 24, 2017.** At the height of his career as Minister Plenipotentiary of Foreign Affairs of exceptional class within the Togolese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration, he served as Chargé d’Affaires ad interim (1992-1994) and Minister-Counselor/ Deputy Chief of Mission (1994-1999) at the Embassy of the Republic of Togo in Washington, D.C. Before, he held a position of First Secretary/DCM at the Embassy of the Republic of Togo in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire).

Over the course of his career, Mr. HEGBE attended many meetings and conferences in Togo and abroad.

In 1992, he was member of Togolese delegation to the 47th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York (Commission of Finances and Budget). From 1985 until 1987, he was the Representative of the Government of Togo at the Pan African Telecom Union Board of Governors meetings in Kinshasa-Zaire (current DRC).

In March 1983, he took part to the Non-Aligned Countries 7th Summit in New Delhi, India and to the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in Colombo, Sri Lanka in June 1979.

He went on missions in Nairobi (Kenya), Victoria (Seychelles Island) and Lusaka (Zambia) to assess the performance of the OAU (current African Union) Ad Hoc Committee set up to support the Frontline countries and the refugees from Zimbabwe (former Republic of Rhodesia).

He also attended meetings and conferences of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Development Bank (ADB) and African Development Fund (ADF) as well as of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Mr. HEGBE graduated in International Relations at the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (I.R.I.C) – University of Yaoundé, (Cameroon) in 1980. He also holds a master's degree (C1) in Comparative and African Literature and a bachelor's degree in Modern Arts, Majoring in Classic and Contemporary French Literature, from the University of Benin (now University of Lomé, Togo). He trained U.S. diplomats in languages and culture for their deployment overseas at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) within the National Foreign Affairs Training Center of the Department of State – (NFATC) in Washington, D.C from 2000 to 2016.

Ambassador HEGBE has notably distinguished himself in humanitarian areas by supplying water and installing solar panels that generate electricity in rural zones of his country with the assistance of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). He also personally financed public latrines in some villages.

Ambassador HEGBE is bilingual. He is fluent in French and English.
As hobbies, Mr. HEGBE likes reading, jogging and table tennis.
He has three (3) children.

Ambassador of Tunisia



Ambassador of Uganda

