

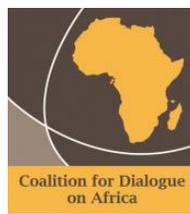
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Background Note on Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA)

1. Background

Established in March 2009 the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA) was created to combine the best elements of three high-level policy forums which had been previously established (in the 1990s) to promote dialogue on Africa's development. The three forums were the **Global Coalition for Africa (GCA)** which brought together African policy makers and their partners to deepen dialogue and build consensus on Africa's priority development issues; **The Big Table** which was an initiative designed by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to promote frank, constructive dialogue between African finance ministers and their Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) counterparts; and **The African Development Forum**, a flagship biennial multi-stakeholder platform for debating, discussing and initiating concrete strategies for Africa's development. In the same vein, CoDA was established in Addis Ababa (2009) as an independent and international but African-owned forum which identifies and discusses issues of importance to Africa's development within a global context. It is a think tank that advocates for the continent, brings together a range of stakeholders to promote dialogue and provides a platform for African voices to be heard. It is policy-oriented, and works in collaboration with other African and international organizations addressing issues of Africa's security, peace, governance and development. CoDA is sponsored by, but is not a program of its three founding Pan-African institutions, the African Union Commission (AUC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Following its establishment, it was agreed that the organization should place particular emphasis on promoting dialogue and debate that would bring together the ideas of diverse groups of individuals. CoDA therefore provides a platform for the ongoing engagement in rigorous and candid dialogue on crucial, and at times controversial, questions of vital interest to the future of the continent. It also sets a premium on convening informal and inclusive dialogue on niche issues between diverse and influential groups of stakeholders (including government leaders, policy makers, civil society, the private sector and media) and advocating their recommendations effectively to influence policy. Additionally, the initiative seeks to play the role of a think-tank and change agent, which takes a proactive stand, and helps define new perspectives, on a wide range of issues, including the most sensitive and controversial. In addition to this, the institution aims to build strong partnerships and synergies with leading African research institutions with the objective of grounding its work on solid scientific findings. It aims to place particular attention on bridging the gap between the research and policy making communities in Africa.



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2. Governance Structure

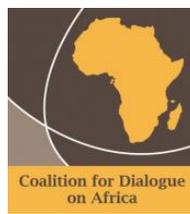
CoDA's work is guided and the institution itself is governed by a Board of eminent African and non-African personalities. The Board Members serve in their personal capacity and are selected among the most eminent, effective and esteemed African and international personalities noted for their professional accomplishments, their national and international leadership experience, and their commitment to Africa's growth and development. The current Chairperson of the CoDA Board of Directors is H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Prior to this, the Board was led by H.E. Festus Mogae, former President of the Republic of Botswana.

The work of the **Board of Directors** has always been supported by the **CoDA Secretariat** which currently has offices at the AUC and ECA. However, reflecting on the various pertinent decisions made by the Board of Directors at its 11th meeting in April, 2015; it was proposed that a technical committee should be formed in support of the Board. This committee would be responsible for reviewing the analytical papers as well as other documents prepared by the CoDA Secretariat and will submit its recommendations to the board accordingly. The committee would also provide guidance to the Secretariat regarding the CoDA annual work program. Finally, the committee would oversee the day-to-day functioning of the secretariat on behalf of the Board. In line with this, the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** for the CoDA Board was established following the approval of the Board itself. The establishment of the TAC was also necessary in order to avoid the unchecked autonomy of the Secretariat and/or its leadership from diligently adhering to the Board's decisions. In essence, CoDA is led by its Board of Directors with the support of the TAC which also oversees the CoDA Secretariat.

3. CoDA Activities and Priorities

Based on the guidance provided by the Board at its inaugural meeting (March, 2009), CoDA's substantive activities between 2009 and 2010 focused on the following issues:

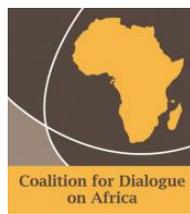
- Challenges to scaling up democratic governance
- Addressing the impact of climate change
- Africa's response to the Global Financial Crisis
- Advancing Regional Economic Integration



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The activities of CoDA since then have always expanded into promoting dialogue on Africa's core development issues particularly in the evolving global landscape. These include capacity development, the economic and social effects of migration, combatting hunger and illness continentally as well as promoting the development of African women and youth. Since its inception in 2009 CoDA has hosted or co-hosted a number of events to deal with various issues of concern on the continent. Between 2009-2012, CoDA organized, on average, 2.5 events per year. In July 2015, CoDA, in collaboration with the Turkish G20 Presidency and with support from UNDP and the World Bank Group, convened a High-Level side event on Inclusive Business as Contributor to the SDGs Implementation on the margins of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in Addis Ababa in July of 2015. The event was ground-breaking in that it was the first time that the G-20 had collaborated to organize such a high-level event with an African organization.

The year 2013 however, was a transition year for the management of the organization whereby the previous Executive Director (ED) left the position in June 2013 and a new ED came on board in November 2013. As the 2014 Progress Report shows, the secretariat spent the year focusing on putting in place the systems and processes as well as foundational documents needed to build an organization with the capacity to properly discharge its operational as well as fiduciary responsibilities. The activities of CoDA since that time have also focused on the internal reinvigorating of the institution and its secretariat particularly in the margins of its transition following the departure of the former Executive Director of the CoDA Secretariat. The first order of business involved reconstituting an adequate governance structure and facilitating the operations of the secretariat during the aforementioned transition phase by introducing certain procedures and redirecting the efforts of the Secretariat towards adhering to the original mission and core values of CoDA. These efforts were mainly aimed at improving the oversight and management of the Secretariat by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in order to increase staff effectiveness and commitment. Although the TAC and the Secretariat have dealt with a variety of legal and administrative issues, the overall functioning of the Secretariat has adhered to a streamlined performance and results based management system. This is as a result of the meticulous supervision of the Secretariat by the TAC as well as the commitment of the Board members. Additionally, the Board of Directors was renewed at the 13th Board meeting following the departure of some members as well as the inauguration of the current Chair.

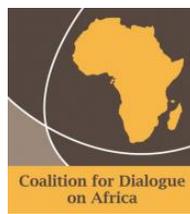


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Since CoDA had been a key member of the Consortium of institutions working to Stem Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and given the lack of a Secretariat to support the work of the High Level Panel (HLP) on IFFs from Africa, CoDA was requested to lead the administrative efforts of this process. In this regard, CoDA was also found to be best equipped to support both the AU and the Consortium in tackling the issue of IFFs. CoDA has consequently organized and convened several meetings of the Consortium and its technical arm, the IFF Working Group (IWG) to foster collaboration among all members for the implementation of a set of activities and ensure a coherent and coordinated delivery of capacity building efforts.

In support of these efforts, the African Union Commission officially launched the secretariat of the Consortium within the offices of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA) at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. This was done in a strategic move to strengthen the fight against illicit financial flows given that both CoDA and the Consortium on IFFs are special initiatives.

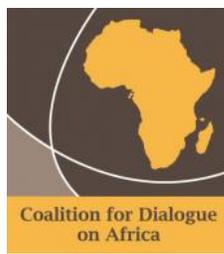
Since the launch of this CoDA/IFF Secretariat in January 2018, the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA) now holds a Secretariat jointly with the Consortium to Stem IFFs from Africa and will work to deliver on the implementation of the AU Special Declaration on IFFs. It will work under the purview of its founding institutions; the African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to directly lead the coordinated efforts of this implementation process. Concurrently, the various members of Consortium continually work through CoDA as the Secretariat to engage African Member States and collaborate to deliver coherent capacity building programmes.



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The following table lists the events that have been convened by CoDA since it was founded in 2009:

Discussions Forums	Date	Location
Seminar on “Transnational Trafficking and Political Instability in Africa”	October 22-23, 2009	Abuja
Forum on “Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Africa’s Response to the Global Financial Crisis”	November 28, 2009	Tunis
Launch of “Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA-IV Report)” – a Joint Publication by UNECA/AUC/ADB	May 24, 2010	Abidjan
Forum on “Financing Regional Integration in Africa”	May 25, 2010	Abidjan
Side event at ADF – Thematic Session on “Mobilizing Climate Change Initiatives”	October 15, 2010	Addis Ababa
Special Event on “Regional Integration, Food Security, Climate Change and Trans-Border Crime” on the sidelines of the 16 th AU Summit – With Prime Minister Meles Zenawi	January 31, 2011	Addis Ababa
Policy Forum on “Foreign Direct Investments in Land in Africa: Risks, Opportunities, Challenges”	June 7, 2011	Lisbon
Forum on “Land based Foreign Direct Investments in Africa: Making Investments Work for African Agricultural Development”	October 4-5, 2011	Nairobi
Forum on “Two Decades of Democratic Transitions in Africa”	November 12, 2011	Tunis
Forum on “Leveraging State-Society Dialogue for Improving Natural Resource Governance in Africa”	October 22, 2012	Addis Ababa
Side Event on “Inclusive Business as Contributor to the SDGs Implementation”	July 12, 2015	Addis Ababa
High Level policy dialogue on Migration, Governance and Development in West Africa	October 25-27, 2016	Dakar
Second Meeting of the IFF Working Group (IWG)	June 1 – 2 2017	Nairobi
Third Meeting of the IFF Working Group (IWG)	September 18-20 2017	Abidjan
Second Meeting of the Consortium to Stem IFFs from Africa	May 7 2018	Pretoria
Development of Knowledge Hub on IFFs from Africa	June 11 2018	Addis Ababa
Fourth Meeting of the IFF Working Group (IWG)	July 16-17 2018	Addis Ababa
High Level Policy Dialogue on <i>Improving People’s Lives Agenda: Challenges of Trauma and Care of the Injured in Africa</i>	September 16, 2018	Addis Ababa
Capacity Building Visit of AUC & UNECA High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows to Nigeria	October 03 - 05, 2018	Abuja, Nigeria



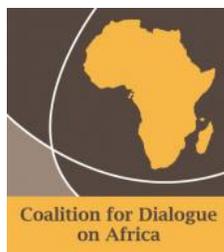
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Board of Directors for the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA)



H. E. Olusegun Obasanjo Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria & Chair of the CoDA Board of Directors

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo served as Nigeria's head of state twice. Once as a military ruler, from 1976 to 1979, after which he handed power to a democratically elected civilian president-hence becoming the first Military Head of state to transfer power peacefully to a civilian regime in Nigeria and again from 1999 to 2007, as the democratically elected President. Upon leaving office then, he also oversaw the first civilian handover of power in Nigeria from one democratically-elected leader to another. Former President Obasanjo has at different times served as Chairman of the Group of 77, Chairman of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Chairman of the African Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee on NEPAD, and serves on the African Progress Panel to monitor and promote Africa's development. In 2008, he was appointed by the United Nations as a special envoy for Africa and has since overseen democratic elections on behalf of the African Union and ECOWAS in countries across the continent.



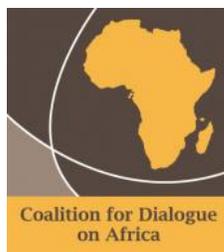
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H.E. Thomas Kwesi Quartey
Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC)
Board Member

Ambassador Kwesi Quartey, the third Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission since March 2017, manages the Commission's key administrative and financial portfolios to ensure operational efficiency of the Union. Amb. Quartey is a lawyer by training. He has over thirty-five years of experience as a career diplomat. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Quartey was Secretary to H.E. Mr. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, a position he served from 2015. In 2012, he was Ghana's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, where he was involved in the coordination and management of Ghana's Foreign Policy. In 2007, Amb. Quartey was appointed as Ghana's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union. During the period all through to 2008, he chaired the Advisory Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters, and helped draft the Commission's Staff Rules and Regulations. In 2001 and 2004, he served as Ghana's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He was Deputy High Commissioner at the Court of St. James, London. Between 1980 and 2001, Amb. Quartey served in various capacities in Ghana's Embassies and High Commissions. Amb. Quartey also served for many years as Director of the Legal and Consular Bureau that is, as the Principal Legal Advisor to the Ghana Foreign Ministry.

Ambassador Quartey graduated LLB (Hons) from the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana. He is a Barrister-at-Law, Solicitor at the Supreme Court of Ghana, and a Notary Public.



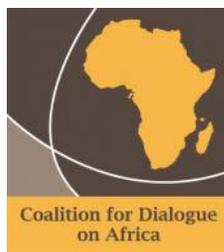
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Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina
President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group
Board Member

Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is the 8th elected President of the African Development Bank Group. He was elected to the position on May 28, 2015 by the Bank's Board of Governors at its Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He is the first Nigerian to serve as President of the Bank Group. Adesina served as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2011 to 2015, during which time he implemented bold policy reforms in the fertilizer sector and pursued innovative agricultural investment programs to expand opportunities for the private sector. He was previously Vice-President (Policy and Partnerships) of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He was also Associate Director (Food Security) at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he worked for a decade (1998-2008) in senior leadership positions, including as Regional Office Director and Representative for Southern Africa.

Adesina has received a number of global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. In 2010, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals, along with Bill Gates, the Spanish Prime Minister and the President of Rwanda. He was named Person of the Year by Forbes Africa magazine in 2013.



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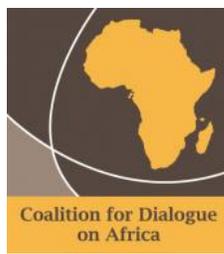


Dr. Abdalla Hamdok
Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of the ECA
Board Member

Dr. Abdalla Hamdok was appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as the Acting Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) from 2016 - 2018. Dr. Hamdok takes the reins following the departure of Dr. Carlos Lopes of Guinea-Bissau on 31 October.

With over 30 years' experience in the areas of public sector reforms, governance, regional integration and resource management. Dr. Hamdok has headed major portfolios, addressing diverse development challenges of the African policy landscape. Dr. Hamdok has served as Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of the ECA since 2011 prior to which, he successfully headed ECA's portfolios of activities on development policy management, NEPAD and regional integration, and governance and public administration. From 2003-2008, he served the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) as its Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East.

His earlier career saw him move progressively into key senior positions in the Public and Private Sector. He held the positions of Chief Technical Advisor (1995-1997) at the International Labour Organization, Zimbabwe; Principal Policy Economist (1997-2001) at the African Development Bank, Cote d'Ivoire; Head of the Public Sector Group and Member of the management committee (1993-1995) at Deloitte & Touche Management Consultants, Zimbabwe; and Senior Official (1981-1987) at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of Sudan. Dr. Abdalla Hamdok is from Sudan and he holds a PhD and MA in Economics from the School of Economic Studies, University of Manchester, UK and a BSc. (honours) from the University of Khartoum, Sudan.

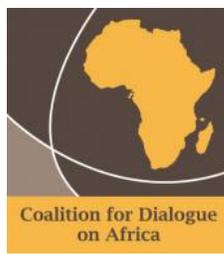


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H.E. Mr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae
NYB, MCC, PH, MP
Board Member

The Honorable Mr. Mogae, President of Botswana from 1998 to 2008, is Chairman of the Champions for an HIV-Free Generation, which is a leadership initiative he launched in 2008 to scale up global response to HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Mr. Mogae received the 2008 Mo Ibrahim Foundation Award for Achievement in African Leadership for having “ensured Botswana’s continued stability and prosperity in the face of an HIV/AIDS pandemic which threatened the future of his country and people.” He is co-Chairman of the High Level Independent Review Panel on Fiduciary Controls and Oversight Mechanisms of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Mr. Mogae is also a member of the UNAIDS Commission on HIV Prevention. He served as Minister of Finance and Development in Botswana in 1989 and was previously the Alternate and Executive Director for Anglophone Africa (1976-1980) for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC.

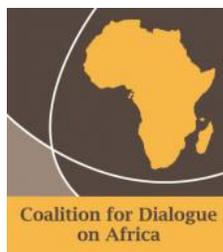


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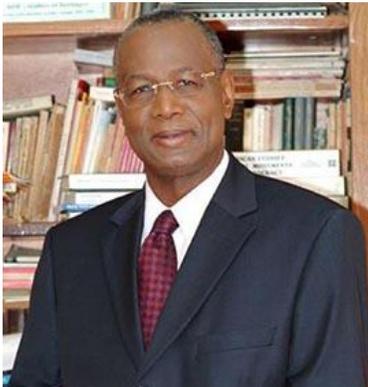


Mr. Abdoulie Janneh
Board Member

Mr. Janneh is Executive Director of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. He is a Gambian national who was the United Nations Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) from 2005 to 2012. During his tenure, Mr. Janneh fostered strong partnerships at the highest levels between ECA and governments, the private sector, civil society, as well as national, regional and international organizations. Prior to joining ECA, Mr. Janneh served as UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Africa (2000-2005). In that capacity, he managed the UNDP's largest Regional Bureau, covering 44 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and overseeing more than 1,500 staff. He had also previously held senior positions in UNDP and its affiliated funds, including Resident Representative posts in various countries, as well as Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (1990-1993).

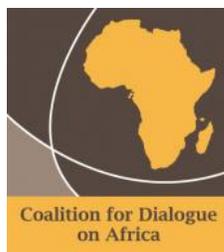


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Professor Abdoulaye Bathily
Board Member

Professor Bathily is Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the United Nations' Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). As such, he has monitored political affairs, mediation, human rights and civil affairs in Mali since July 2013. A Senegalese national, Professor Bathily has undertaken numerous official and unofficial conflict/crisis management missions throughout Africa, including Mali, Liberia, Sierra-Leone, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Madagascar, and Guinea. From 2012 to 2013, he served as Senior Minister in the Office of the President of Senegal, overseeing African Affairs. Professor Bathily was African Union Team Leader for the Observation of General Elections in Nigeria (2004) and Algeria (2005). From 1975 to 2013, Professor Bathily was a tenured professor of History at the Université Cheikh in Dakar, Senegal, where he taught general history, focusing on Sahel countries from pre-colonial period to decolonization, and post-colonial history and liberation struggles in Africa.

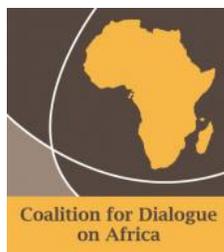


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Professor Jendayi Elizabeth Frazer
Board Member

Jendayi E. Frazer is known worldwide as a policy leader and expert on African Affairs. A member of the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University since 2009, she is a Distinguished Public Service Professor in the Heinz College's School of Public Policy and Management. Ambassador Frazer was the leading architect of U.S.-Africa policy for nearly a decade, most recently serving as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs from August 2005 to January 2009. She was Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council from January 2001 until her swearing-in as the first woman U.S. Ambassador to South Africa in June 2004. In recognition of her contributions, Secretary Condoleezza Rice presented Frazer with the Distinguished Service Award in January 2009, the highest award bestowed by the Secretary of State. In July 2010, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia awarded Frazer with the distinction of Dame Grand Commander in the Humane Order of African Redemption. Dr. Frazer received her B.A. degree in Political Science (honors) and African and Afro-American Studies (distinction) in 1985, and M.A. degrees in International Policy Studies in 1985 and International Development Education in 1989, and a Ph.D. in Political Science, 1994 all from Stanford University.

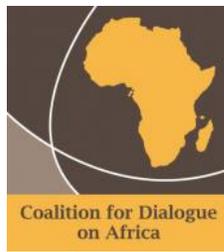


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Ambassador Walter Fust
Board Member

Ambassador Fust is Chairman of UNESCO's International Program for Development of Communication (IPDC), which is a multilateral forum within the U.N. system designed to mobilize and promote media development in developing countries. He is also Chairman of the Globethnics.net initiative, a worldwide ethics network that provides an electronic platform for ethical reflection and action based in Geneva. Ambassador Fust served as Head of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) from 1993 to 2008. From 2008-2010, Ambassador Fust served as CEO and Director of the Global Humanitarian Forum in Geneva. From 1990 to 1993 he served as Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior (Science, Research, Higher Education, Environment, Social Insurance, Public Health, Culture, Statistics, Constructions, and Federal Archives, etc). Ambassador Fust had also previously served as Managing Director of the Swiss Trade Promotion Office (OSEC) in Zürich and Lausanne.

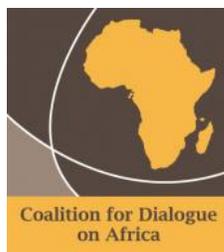


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H.E. Newai Gebre-Ab
Board Member

Ato Newai Gebre-Ab is a Chief Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and has been Executive Director of the Ethiopian Development Research Institute, a semi-autonomous economic research institute established in 2000. since 2000. Ato Newai has also been an economic adviser to the president of Ethiopia since 1991. During the 1960s and early 1970s, Ato Newai worked at the Development Bank of Ethiopia and the Planning Commission. He then worked as a consultant in the United Kingdom and served as a staff member or consultant for various United Nations organizations. Ato Newai earned his undergraduate degree in economics from Haile Selassie University, Addis Ababa, and his B.Litt. degree in economics from Oxford University.

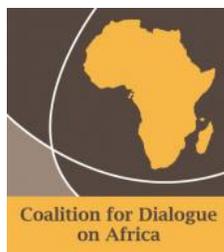


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Mr. Hakim Ben Hammouda
Board Member

Dr. Hakim Ben Hammouda served as the Minister of Economy and Finance under interim Prime Minister Medhi Jomaa from January 2014 to February 2015. Prior to his appointment to the independent, technocratic cabinet established to ensure credible elections, Ben Hammouda worked as special adviser to the president of the African Development Bank. He also worked in various capacities for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNCEA) from 2001 to 2008, serving as chief economist to the commission in his last two years there. From 2008 to 2011 he held the position of director of the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation at the World Trade Organization (WTO). He received his PhD in international economics from the University of Grenoble in France.

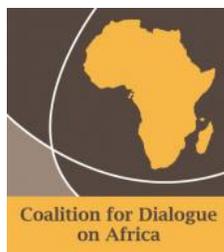


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Dr. Speciosa Wandira-Kazibwe
Board Member

Dr. Wandira-Kazibwe, Vice President of Uganda from 1994 to 2003, is the United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. A surgeon who received a Ph.D in Global Health and Population from the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Wandira-Kazibwe is currently also Senior Advisor to the President of Uganda on Population and Health, tasked with coordinating health sector reform. She had previously served in various Cabinet positions: as a Member of Parliament, and also as a Member of the Constituent Assembly that drafted Uganda's 1995 Constitution. Dr. Wandira-Kazibwe is one of the Champions for an HIV-Free Generation, an organization of African leaders whose goal is to mobilize and support African leadership and global policy makers to renew and intensify the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. Dr. Wandira-Kazibwe was the first President of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development of the African Union.

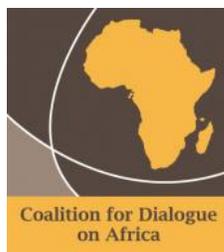


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Dr. Cheikh Modibo Diarra
Board Member

Dr. Cheikh Modibo DIARRA is a Malian astrophysicist, a specialist in space exploration and a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. In 2006, he was appointed head of Microsoft Africa at Bill Gates's request and with whom he has long been a friend. He was also the Prime Minister of Mali from April 17, 2012 to December 12, 2012. Cheikh Modibo Diarra was recruited by the Nasa and, as their first African researcher, he has participated in programmes such as Magellan (Venus), Ulysses (Sun's pole), Galileo (Jupiter), Mars Observer and Mars Pathfinder. In 1999, he created the Pathfinder Foundation for the education and development of Africa by 2002 had developed the laboratory for solar research at Bamako. On the 20th of February 2006, he was appointed the head of Microsoft Africa. The nomination of Cheikh Diarra has helped Microsoft, with projects such as the Pathfinder pilot scheme which is being carried out in Namibia. Nine African countries were selected for this project, the object of which has been to supply new computers in order to set up a network capable of using modern software which they could not have otherwise afforded. Doctor Diarra is the founder and President of the African Science and New Technology Summit, the Vice President of the World Commission for the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) in the United Nations and a member of the Independent Commission of Africa and the Millennium. He was also the first President of the Virtual African University and member of the Africa Union for panel of Biotechnology in the partnership for the development of Africa (NEPAD); he has also been awarded the African Lifetime Achievement Award.



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H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha
Board Member

Mr. Erastus Mwencha is a Pan Africanist with over thirty years of progressive experience in policy formulation and institutional transformation at national, regional and continental levels in Africa. Mr. Mwencha was elected in January 2008, as Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission by the Heads of State and Government of the 54 Member States of the African Union and re-elected to the same position in July 2012 with an overwhelming vote of 98%. Prior to his election at the AUC, he worked at Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) for over 25 years and served as its Secretary General for ten years. Mr. Mwencha contributed to the transformation of the regional body into a viable economic integration entity, with the largest free trade area (FTA) in Africa. He was particularly instrumental in contributing to the expansion of intra-COMESA trade, developing programs for private sector cooperation and trade with the rest of world, spearheading regional hard and soft infrastructure programs in transport, communication and energy. He also developed the continental negotiating position for the Doha Round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and actively supported the programs to integrate women in development. Mr. Mwencha has also held several senior roles within the Ministry of Industry in Kenya.