

The African Union's Agenda 2063: Assessing the Development Vision for Africa

A conference organized by the African Diplomatic Corps, African Women Diplomatic Forum (AWDF), and the Institute of African Studies, Carleton University

March 12, 2015

2220-2228 River Building

Carleton University

Synopsis

Africa in 2015 is regarded as the continent with the most remarkable changes in its economy, governance and socio-cultural development. Agenda 2063 emerged out of the African Union's decision to rise to the challenge of mapping-out a vision to inspire and guide Africa's transformation agenda for the next 50 years.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity/African Union, in 2013 the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) pledged their commitment to make progress in eight areas as part of the continent's development agenda. These include promoting African Identity and Renaissance, implementing a Continental Free Trade Area, establishing agendas for Social and Economic Development as well as Peace and Security, and promoting Democratic Governance. These ideals and goals are to be implemented in national and regional plans and to be integral to a vision for Africa for the next fifty years. Titled Agenda 2063, the African Union Commission engaged in a people-driven process to develop this vision of the AU for "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."

This conference will examine some of the key themes of this new continental agenda as a way to better understand it, exploring its strengths and areas in need of improvement, and possible points of intersection with Canadian governmental, non-governmental, academic and community groups. It brings together scholars, diplomats, governmental and non-governmental officials, and members of African diaspora organizations and the wider community in a scholarly discussion of this important African framework for achieving a more prosperous and equitable future for the continent.

The conference starts off with an opening address by the Hon. Lois Brown, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and a keynote address highlighting the main thrust of Agenda 2063 and reflecting upon the challenges and opportunities that the agenda presents. The keynote will be presented by H.E. Dr. Sulley Gariba, High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana in Canada. This will be followed by three panels of specialists on the following themes:

1. Sustainable Development, Governance and Leadership
2. Women and Africa's Transformation Agenda
3. Empowering Youth, Cultural Heritage, Values and Ethics

Following are the program and brief biographical sketches of the speakers and panel moderators.



Program

9:00am **Official Welcome**
Dr. Roseann Runte, President of Carleton University
H.E. Dr. Mathabo Tsepa, High Commissioner of Lesotho to Canada

9:15-9:45 **Opening Session**

Opening Address “Improving Lives – A Global Imperative” by
Hon. Lois Brown, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development

Keynote Address: “AU Agenda 2063 – A vision for Transformation” by
H.E. Dr. Sulley Gariba, High Commissioner of Ghana to Canada

9:45: 10:15 *Coffee Break*

10:15-11:45 **Panel 1 – Sustainable Development, Governance and Leadership**

Convener and Moderator:

Dr. Moses Kiggundu, Sprott School of Business & African Studies, Carleton

Speakers:

Dr. Teddy Samy, NPSIA & African Studies, Carleton

Ms. Louise Ouimet, Chair, Africa Study Group

Ms. Patricia Malikail, Director General Pan-Africa Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs,
Trade and Development Canada

11:45-12:45 *Lunch*

12:45-2:15pm **Panel 2 –Women and Africa’s Transformation Agenda**

Convener and Moderator:

H.E. Madame Nancy Ndiaye Ngom, Ambassador of Senegal to Canada

Speakers:

Ms. Malejone Thakanyane, Lesotho Federation of Women Entrepreneurs

Hon. Susan Nakawuki, MP, East Africa Legislative Assembly

Dr. Éliane Ubalijoro, Study of International Development, McGill University

2:15-2:45pm *Coffee*

2:45-4:15pm **Panel 3 – Empowering Youth, Cultural Heritage, Values and Ethics**

Convener and Moderator:

Dr. Nduka Otiono, African Studiesm Carleton

Speakers:

Ms. Irene Tamajong, AIMS-Next Einstein Initiative (UK)

Dr. Pius Adesanmi, English & African Studies, Carleton

4:15-4:20pm **Wrap-Up/Closing remarks**

H.E. Solomon Azoh-Mbi, High Commissioner of Cameroon to Canada and Vice Dean of the
African Diplomatic Corps, Ottawa

Short Biographical Sketches of Speakers and Panel Moderators

Pius Adesanmi is one of Nigeria's contemporary leading public intellectuals and celebrated columnists. He is a Professor of English and African Studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. A widely cited commentator on African affairs, he has lectured widely in Universities in Africa, Europe, and North America. Among his numerous lecture and keynote credits, Adesanmi has notably addressed audiences on African issues on such prestigious platforms as the Stanford Forum for African Studies, the International Leadership Platform of the university of Johannesburg, the African Unity for Renaissance series of the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute and the Africa Institute of South Africa, the Diaspora Consultation series of the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Academy of Science of South Africa series. He has just completed a one-year stint in Ghana as a Carnegie Diaspora Visiting Professor of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. Adesanmi is also a writer. He is the internationally-acclaimed winner of the inaugural Penguin Prize for African Writing (2010) in the non-fiction category with his book, *You're not a Country, Africa*.

Solomon Azoh-Mbi is the High Commissioner of Cameroon to Canada and Vice Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps. He joined the Cameroon Foreign Service as a Career diplomat in 1985, and served successively in various capacities in the Cameroon Ministry of External Relations and in the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon. Over his many years of service, he specifically focused on issues involving the Law of the Sea, the International Criminal Court, the Commonwealth, besides closely following bilateral relations with countries of the Americas. He has travelled widely in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas, and has a keen interest in issues of development and transformative change around the world. Prior to his appointment in 2008 as High Commissioner for the Republic of Cameroon to Canada, he served as Senior diplomatic Adviser to the President.

Lois Brown is a second-term Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora for the Conservative Party, having been first elected in October 2008, and then re-elected in May 2011. Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed her as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development in January 2011 and reappointed her following her re-election later that year. She is a member of the House of Commons Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs and International Development as well as a member of several Parliamentary Associations, Bilateral Associations and Interparliamentary Groups. Prior to her election she was the vice president of a successful disability management company she co-founded with her husband - working with large Canadian manufacturers including those in the automotive and forestry sectors. She was a public appointee to a governing board of health care professionals from 2001 to 2003 during which time she was elected Vice-Chair.

Sulley Gariba, PhD, is Ghana's High Commissioner since February 2015. Prior to his appointment, he was the senior Policy Advisor to the President of Ghana, and head of the President's Policy Delivery Unit. Dr. Sulley Gariba is a policy analyst and governance specialist with over 30 years of experience in advising governments and international institutions on development policy, governance, evaluation and international relations. He studied in Canada, obtaining a Masters and Ph.D in Political Science and International Relations, and spent some time teaching in those fields at Carleton University, Ottawa and the University for Development Studies in Ghana. In June 2014, Carleton University in Ottawa, conferred a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, on Sulley Gariba, in recognition of his longstanding work and academic scholarship in international development, civil society practices, government policy and program development in Africa.

Moses Kiggundu is Professor of Management and International Business, Sprott School of Business and cross-appointed to the Institute of African Studies, Carleton University. He is the Founding Editor of the *Africa Journal of Management* (AJOM), published by Taylor and Francis, which is dedicated to advancing management scholarship in and about Africa. He is also advisor to the African Capacity Building Foundation, Harare, Zimbabwe (www.acfb-pact.org). He is currently working on the Capacity and Management implications of the implementation of AU Agenda 2063. He is also working with the German Agency for International Cooperation to investigate the management and business implication of regional integration in the East African Community (EAC). More details on www.sprott.carleton.ca; or Google Scholar.

Patricia Malikail has served at Canadian Embassies in Canberra, Beijing and Singapore. Her headquarters assignments have spanned bilateral and multilateral relations, international energy, as well as trade and development issues. Ms. Malikail received a Government of Canada Merit Award for her work in the China Division (1994-96). Ms. Malikail led the team which formulated Canada's 2003 Least Developed Countries Market Access Initiative. From 2004-2008, Ms. Malikail served as Director of the International Economics Relations and Summits Division. During this period, she managed a wide range of economic, trade, investment and security files for eight G8 and APEC Leaders Summits. From 2008-2011, Ms. Malikail served as Executive Director of the Science, Technology and Innovation Council Secretariat, an advisory body of 18 eminent Canadians from business, academia and government. Ms. Malikail oversaw the preparation of independent advice to the Minister of Industry and major reports on the performance of Canada's science, technology and innovation system. From October 2011 to May 2014 she served as Director General of the Africa Bureau. Ms. Malikail is currently Director General, Pan-Africa, managing regional and continental issues and programs and supporting Africa Branch management.

Susan Nakawuki is Member of Parliament of the East African Legislative Assembly (a regional Parliament comprising of Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania) where she is a member of the General Purpose Committee, Accounts Committee, Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee as well as Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee. From 2006 to 2011 she was Member of Parliament for Busiro East, Uganda, where she served on the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, the Committee of Labour, Gender and Social Development and the Foreign Affairs Committee. Holder of Bachelor of Laws Degree from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, (1998), Nakawuki is a legal consultant and an advocate with Kampala Associated Advocates. She is married to His Excellency John Chrysostom Alintuma Nsambu, Uganda's High Commissioner to Canada.

Nancy Ndiaye Ngom is the Ambassador of Senegal to Canada. Before becoming an Ambassador, she had a distinguished career in public service in Senegal. She was President of the Conseil National Régulation de l'Audiovisuel from 2006-2013, the Director of l'Éducation surveillée et de la protection sociale from 1989-2006, and she was also a magistrate from 1980-1989.

Nduka Otiono, PhD, is an Assistant Professor with the Institute of African Studies, Carleton He is interested in the political relevance of "street stories" and how everyday people speak to power through such informal channels. He has recently completed a five-country research tour of Africa for his first academic monograph on street stories in Africa. Also a writer, he is the author of *The Night Hides with a Knife* (short stories), which won the ANA/Spectrum Prize; *Voices in the Rainbow* (Poems), a finalist for the ANA/Cadbury Poetry Prize; *Love in a Time of Nightmares* (Poems) for which he was awarded the James Patrick Folinsbee Memorial Scholarship in Creative Writing. He has co-edited *We-Men: An Anthology of Men Writing on Women* (1998), and *Camouflage: Best of Contemporary Writing from Nigeria* (2006). His research interests include Cultural Studies, Oral Literature, Postcolonial Studies, Media and Communication Studies, Globalization and Popular Culture.

Louise Ouimet, Chair of the Africa Study Group (www.africastudygroup.ca), affiliated to the National Capital Branch of the Canadian International Council, is a senior expert in Public Administration and a founding member of ACT-for-Performance. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the 'École Nationale d'Administration Publique' (Quebec, Canada) and is a certified Mediator. Ms. Ouimet has over 40 years' experience in international cooperation in different capacities, from advising the Prime Minister of Canada on International Cooperation and Africa (2000-01), to being a Program Manager at Headquarters and Ambassador in West Africa (a total of 10 years in the field). Ms Ouimet always championed aid effectiveness and led donor coordination groups for justice, decentralization, health and education reform programs. Louise is a member of the 'Laboratoire Citoyenneté', which studies and supports decentralization in West Africa.

Yiagadeesen (Teddy) Samy is an Associate Professor of International Affairs and the Associate Director (MA Program) at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University. He holds a PhD in Economics, and his fields of specialization are international trade and development economics. His current research focuses on state fragility, aid effectiveness, taxation and income inequality. He has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes, and he co-edited the 2013 edition of *Canada Among Nations on Canada-Africa relations*.

Irene Tamajong set up and directs the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) UK office, one of the key Advancement Chapters in the AIMS global network. With vast experience from the private sector, she made an effective transition to the development sector, contributing significantly to the rapid growth that AIMS is experiencing. Prior to joining AIMS-NEI, she was a product analyst and manager at Pershing Ltd, a BNY Mellon Company and Barclays, respectively. Irene holds a BSc (Hons) Applied Economics (UK), MSc Marketing from the University of Manchester (UK) and an Executive MBA from Cass Business School (City University London UK).

Malejone Thakanyane is Deputy President of the Lesotho Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (LFWE), a position she has held since the Federation's establishment in 2012. The Federation has established a broad network of women entrepreneurs who support and nurture women-owned businesses, in particular, providing mentorship and capacity building for young female entrepreneurs. Ms Thakanyane is a dedicated farmer and business woman specialising in horticulture and allied businesses. She obtained her Diploma in horticulture from the Lesotho Agriculture College in 1990.

Mathabo Tsepa, PhD, is Lesotho's High Commissioner to Canada since September, 2010. She is also accredited to Cuba, Jamaica, Barbados, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Haiti and Costa Rica. Prior to taking up her current position, she taught environmental studies and agriculture education at the National University of Lesotho. She obtained a PhD in Environmental Education and Food Security from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2008. Dr. Tsepa is a recipient of the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship which funded her doctoral studies. Having grown up an orphan, Dr. Tsepa has devoted her life to improving the lives of orphans in Lesotho. In 2010, prior to her diplomatic appointment in Canada, she established a pre-school with four children in a rented family house. In 2015, the number of children enrolled in the school has increased to 150.

Éliane Ubalijoro, PhD, is a professor of practice for public and private sector partnerships at McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development, where her research interests focus on innovation in global health and sustainable development. She teaches and advises in Leadership programs to help equip executives in international development with tools that support inner and outer sustainable transformation towards global prosperity. She is currently a facilitator in the International Health Leadership Development Programme (IHLDP) commissioned by the Kenya Red Cross and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance offered by Lancaster University's Management School. She has been a member of the Presidential Advisory Council since its inception in September 2007.