

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOR PEACE
Advisory Council

OUMOU SALL SECK - Mali
Mali Ambassador to Germany



Oumou Sall Seck was elected mayor of the city of Goundam, in the Tombouctou Region, northern Mali, in June 2004. She was the first woman to hold elected positions in the north and also one of the only two mayors of the country.

She took her first steps in politics during the 2002 presidential campaign, creating a support association for candidate Amadou Toumani Touré.

Oumou Sall Seck has built a strong reputation in the political arena that is often the exclusive domain of men. A former member of the Mali Analay municipalities, she was vice president of the Caucus of Women Councilors of Mali. She is currently Vice-President of the Union for the Republic and Democracy (URD).

In Goundam, she showed special commitment to the development of public services (health centers, supply of a multifunctional center for women, basketball court, local produce processing, school construction, etc.). The promotion of women has always been her priority.

In the 2012 crisis and conflict, Ms Oumou Sall Seck played an important role in advising the High Representative of the President of the Republic on dialogue and peace. As such, she actively participated in the Algiers talks that culminated in the signing of the peace and reconciliation agreement. In May 2015, she led the mediation in Ber, which led to the release of ten hostages in northern Mali.

Ms. Sell Seck participated in the Women for Africa "Women of Mali for Peace" project.

She is currently Mali's Ambassador to Germany.

HIBAAQ OSMAN - Somalia
President of Al Karama



Hibaaq Osman is a Somali global political strategist and has extensive experience working with civil society. She was Communications Director of the Peace Fund and Chair of the Washington-based Center for the Advancement of Somali Women and Children.

In addition to many other initiatives, Hibaaq is the creator of *Al Karama*, a movement to end violence against women and achieve a sustainable and inclusive peace and democracy in the Arab region. Hibaaq is committed to raising women's voices in Africa and the Middle East, promoting their profiles and developing their skills as peacemakers and leaders. *Karama's* guiding principle is to ensure that policies affecting women in the region not only respond to the needs of women on the ground, but are women-led and placed at the heart of the humanitarian response, conflict prevention and resolution.

Karama's work has led to the establishment of groups that have had a positive and lasting impact on women's rights and human rights. Organizations such as *Libya's Women for Peace Platform* and the *Syrian Women for Peace Forum* continue to work on women's rights and their participation in conflict resolution at the national level, while the *Arab Regional Network of Women, Peace and Security* has become one of the most respected voices in its field for women in North Africa and the Middle East.

Widely recognized for her work, Hibaaq Osman has been regarded as one of the "500 Most Influential Muslims". She is a member of the *James MacGregor Burns Leadership Academy* at the University of Cambridge and was previously a member of *UN Women's Global Civil Society Advisory Group*.

She has participated in various activities of *Women's for Africa*, especially those related to violence against women and women's participation in peace processes.

CADDY ADZUBA - Democratic Republic of Congo
Journalist



Born in 1981 in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Caddy Adzuba is a lawyer, journalist and, first of all, a women's rights activist. She holds a Law degree from the University of Bukavu. Armed conflict in DRC has claimed thousands of victims and resulted in staggering sexual violence. It is estimated that an average of 40 women and girls have been raped every day since the beginning of the conflict. She herself had to flee with her family and witnessed many atrocities directly.

A reputed activist for freedom of the press, peace and human rights, especially of children and women in conflict zones, Caddy Adzuba has denounced torture and rapes as a journalist in Radio Okapi, the radio of the United Nations Mission in

DRC (MONUSCO), which broadcasts since 2002. She is President of the Women's Media Association of the Eastern Congo (AFEM).

She advocates the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 and other resolutions on women, peace and security. She has submitted claims to the International Criminal Court denouncing the systematic rape of women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

His personal bravery and the social impact of his work have earned him numerous awards, including the Prince of Asturias award of Concordia in 2014.

WANJIRA MATHAI - Kenya

Chair of the Wangari Maathai Foundation



Wanjira Mathai is the current President of the Wangari Maathai Foundation and former President of the Green Belt Movement that has planted millions of trees in Kenya and across Africa.

She grew up in Kenya and graduated from Hobart William Smith College and Emory University's graduate schools of Business and Public Health. He worked as a Senior Program Officer for International Health at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta, especially on disease eradication issues.

She also runs the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environment Studies (WMI) at the University of Nairobi, which supports transformative leadership of children and youth in favor of these values. Wanjira also serves as senior advisor to the World Resources Institute and The Alliances for Women Entrepreneurs in Renewable Energy (wPOWER), and serves on the committee of the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF).

AMINATA TOURE - Senegal

Former Prime Minister - President of Senegal's Economic, Social and Environmental Committee



Aminata Touré was appointed as Chair of Senegal's Economic, Social and Environmental Committee in 2019 and has been the Special Envoy of the President of Senegal for International Affairs since 2015.

She was Prime Minister of Senegal from 2013 to 2014 and Minister of Justice from 2012 to 2013.

From 2003 to 2011 she was Senior Advisor and Director of the Gender and Human Rights Department of the UN Population Fund in New York.

Other posts include: UN International Technical Adviser in West Africa (1995 – 2003); Technical Advisor and Program Director in the Senegalese division of the International Family Planning Federation (1992-1995); and Head of Department at the National Transportation Company (1987- 1992).

OBIAGELI EZEKWESILI - Nigeria
Former Minister of Minerals and Education
Promoter of the campaign “Bring Back Our Girls”



Obiageli Ezekwesili is co-founder of Transparency International and was one of the pioneering directors of the Berlin-based global anti-corruption body.

Ezekwesili holds a Master's degree in International Law and Diplomacy from the University of Lagos, as well as in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Prior to working for the Nigerian government, Ezekwesili worked with Professor Jeffrey Sachs at the Harvard Center for International Development.

As Director of Budgets she established transparency criteria against corruption in government procurement.

She was appointed Minister of Mines and Steel in June 2005, and she led a vibrant reform program that led to Nigeria's global recognition as a credible mining investment destination. He was also President of the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).

In June 2006, Ezekwesili was appointed Minister of Education until her appointment in 2007 as Vice President for the African Region at the World Bank overseeing a loan portfolio of more than \$40 billion.

As a senior economic adviser to the Open Society, a group founded by George Soros, she has advised 9 reform processes, including in Liberia and Rwanda.

Following the abduction of nearly 300 girls in Chibok by Boko Haram, Ezekwesili was instrumental in the start of the #BringBackOurGirls campaign.

CATHERINE SAMBA-PANZA - Central African Republic
Acting President of the Central African Republic from 2014 to 2016
Chair of the Pan-African Observatory of Women's Leadership



She was born in 1954 in N'Dwellena, Chad. She moved to the Central African Republic at the age of 18 and holds a Law degree from the Panthéon-Assas University in Paris. Prior to her political career, Samba Panza was a renowned businesswoman and corporate lawyer.

During the conflict in the Central African Republic in 2012-13, she was appointed mayor of Bangui, a position that she held until her appointment as President. Following the resignation of President Francois Bozizé, Michel Djotodia acted as interim

President until the National Council of the Transition elected Samba Panza as interim President in January 2014. She led the country until the Presidential election held in 2015.

Catherine Samba Panza has become an international reference in peace and mediation and an example for other peace processes in Africa.

She currently chairs the Pan-African Observatory of Women's Leadership.

VALENTINE RUGWABIZA - Rwanda

Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations



Born July 25, 1963, she is a Rwandan businesswoman and politician who has served as the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in NY since 2016. Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza has worked for more than twenty-five years on development issues in Africa and the world, both in the corporate and public sector.

She has been a member of the government cabinet since 2013 and has held different portfolios as Minister in the Rwandan Government. She served as Executive Director of the Rwandan Development Board and as Minister for the East African Community until 2016.

She has served as Rwanda's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, and was also Rwanda's ambassador to Switzerland. Between 2005 and 2013, Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza served as Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Valentine Rugwabiza is a founding member of *Imbuto Foundation*, the Rwandan Private Sector Federation, the Organization of Women Entrepreneurs of Ruanda, and the Caucus of Rwandan Women.

In 2015, she was named as one of the 50 Mighty Women in Africa by Jeune Afrique.

She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Pharmacy from the National University of Zaire.

Valentine Rugwabiza is a founding member of *Imbuto Foundation*, the Rwandan Private Sector Federation, the Organization of Women Entrepreneurs of Ruanda, and the Caucus of Rwandan Women.

ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF - Liberia

Former President of the Republic of Liberia and 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate



As Africa's first democratically-elected female Head of State, she led Liberia through reconciliation and recovery following the nation's decade-long civil war, as well as the Ebola Crisis, winning international acclaim for achieving economic, social, and political change.

Recognized as a global leader for women's empowerment, President Sirleaf was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize for Peace in 2011. She is the recipient of The Presidential Medal of Freedom—the United States' highest civilian award—for her

personal courage and unwavering commitment to expanding freedom and improving the lives of Africans.

During her two terms as president, Johnson Sirleaf focused on rebuilding the country, attracting over \$16 billion in foreign direct investment.

In June 2016, President Sirleaf was elected the first female Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

In May 2012, she was appointed co-chair of the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In 1979, she rose to the position of Minister of Finance. Johnson Sirleaf has also served as vice president of Citicorp's Africa regional office in Nairobi and as a vice president for Equator Bank. Prior to her first campaign for the Presidency, Johnson Sirleaf served as Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and as director of its Regional Bureau of Africa.

AYA CHEBBI - Tunisia
Former Union Special Envoy on Youth
Former UNAOC Fellow



Aya Chebbi is the first ever African Union Special Envoy on Youth and the youngest diplomat at the African Union Commission Chairperson's Cabinet. She rose to prominence as a voice for democracy and shot to global fame as a political blogger during 2010/2011 Tunisia's Revolution. She recently received 2019 Gates Foundation Campaign Award. She is a graduate of University of Tunis El Manar with a Bachelor Degree in International Relations, a Fulbright scholar at George Southern University and a Mo Ibrahim Foundation Scholar for her Masters in African Politics at SOAS, University

of London.

She is the founder of multiple youth platforms and served on the Board of Directors of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation.

She is also the recipient of a 2017 United Nations Alliance of Civilizations fellowship.

Her political blogs at Proudly Tunisian were published at Open Democracy and Al-Jazeera among others. Since then, she has been traveling across the African continent to support and train thousands of social movement leaders and activists on mobilization, blogging, leadership and non-violence and continues to travel the world as a scholar, mentor, speaker and activist.

She was recognized in 2019 Inaugural List of 100 Most Influential African Women, 2019 Most Influential People of African Descent in the Politics & Governance, 2018 Apolitical World's 100 Most Influential Young People in Government and 2016 among 100 Most Influential Young Africans in the World.

She has received multiple awards including 2018 Young Talent of the year by UNLEASH Festival, 2017 Pan-African Humanitarian Award by Pahawards and 2016 Inspirational Woman of the Year by Women4Africa Awards.