

Mr. Kofi A. Annan

Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Nobel Laureate

Kofi Annan is Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, an appointment he accepted in June 2007. As Chairman, he will lead a broad-based partnership for pro-poor, pro-environment policies to revitalise agriculture for Africa's small-scale farmers and replace widespread poverty with prosperity. In the balance of his time, he chairs the Mo Ibrahim Prize Committee, is a member of the Africa Progress Panel, and has launched the Global Humanitarian Forum.

Kofi Annan served as United Nations Secretary-General from 1997-2006. During his tenure, he made his mark as an advocate for human rights, the rule of law, and the revitalization of the United Nations. He has been a key player in the fight against HIV/AIDS and a leader of the multilateral response to the global terrorist threat.

When elected to the Secretary-Generalship in 1997, Mr. Annan became the first UN Secretary-General to come directly from the United Nations staff, and the first from a black African nation to hold the position.

In 1962, Annan took his first United Nations job with the World Health Organization in Geneva. Over his long career at the UN, Annan held a wide array of leadership posts, working in the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva and serving as the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping from 1992-1996, amongst other positions. Annan also worked on special assignments abroad, visiting global hotspots such as Yugoslavia and Iraq on behalf of the UN.

As Secretary-General, Annan worked to bolster the United Nation's relationship with businesses and civil society groups, sponsoring a Global Compact initiative to promote corporate social responsibility. He was instrumental in laying out the Millennium Development Goals, a strategy to meet the needs of the world's poorest by 2015. In 2005, Mr. Annan succeeded in persuading the United Nations to establish the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, new intergovernmental bodies dedicated to global peace and welfare. Annan was also a chief proponent of the creation of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. On 10 December 2001, Annan and the United Nations received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Born in Ghana in 1938, Annan studied in Kumasi, Minnesota and Geneva, before receiving a Master of Science in Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.