



ECOWAS GROUP  
At The United Nations



**ECOWAS  
GOLDEN  
JUBILEE**

## **ECOWAS DAY 2025 AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

**HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT:  
ECOWAS @ 50 - ADVANCING REGIONALISM AND MULTILATERALISM FOR SHARED PROSPERITY**



25<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

ECOSOC CHAMBER, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK



# PROGRAM

**3pm – 3.10pm:** Networking (Light West African Folklore Music – KORA AND BALAFONG)

## SESSION 1

**3.10pm – 4pm: Opening Session**

- **Opening Statement by**
- **H.E. Michael Imran Kanu**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN, and Chair of ECOWAS Group of Ambassadors at the UN (3 mins)

- **Welcome Remarks and Introduction**  
**H.E. Amb. Kinza Jawara-Njai**, ECOWAS Permanent Observer to the UN (3 mins)

- **Goodwill Musical Intro** by renowned West African Artist

- **HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENTS**
  - **H.E. Philmon Yang**, President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
  - **H.E. Aliou Omar Touray**, President of the ECOWAS Commission, represented by H.E. Mrs. Damtien Larbli Tchintchibidja, Vice president of the ECOWAS Commission
  - **Ms. Martha Pobee**, Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, (DPPA-DPO)

- **Partners' Statements**

**H.E. Amb. Fatima Kyari Mohammed**, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, (3 mins)

**H.E. Amb. Stavros Lambrinidis**, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, (3 mins)

**Dr. Rita “Kiki” Edozie**, Professor of African Affairs, UMass Boston, (3 mins)

- **Goodwill Statement** from **H.E. Mohamed Ibn Chambas**, Former ECOWAS President, SRSG UNOWAS & Current AU Special Rep. Silencing the Guns
- **Goodwill Statement** from **H.E. Gen. Yakubu Gowon**, ECOWAS Founding Father and former President and Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- **Closing Remarks by Chair of Session**

## SESSION 2

**4pm-5:10pm: High Level Panel Statements**

- Session Chair: **Ms. Nathalie Ndongo-Seh Kane** Director, Western Africa Division (UN DPPA-DPO)
- **Keynote Presentation- H.E. Abdel-Fatau Musah**, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (15 mins)

**Contributions from the UN:**

- **Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)(7 mins)
- **Ms. Aissata De**, Deputy Regional Director of the UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa (5 mins)

## Roundtable on ECOWAS @ 50

- **Moderator – Mrs. Oge Onubogu**, Principal, Teraanga Strategies, LLC (5 mins)
- **Academia – Dr. Rita Kiki Edozie**, Professor of Global & African Affairs, University of Massachusetts-Boston (5 mins)
- **Academia – Mr Joshua Walker**, Director, University of New York Center for International Cooperation (5 mins)
- **Civil Society – Dr. Gilles Olakounle Yabi** – Founder and CEO, West Africa Citizen Think Tank (WATHI) and Non-Resident Scholar at Carnegie Endowment for Int'l. Peace Africa program (5 mins)
- **Diaspora/Think Tank – Dr Cyril Obi**, Senior Director, African Peace-building Network and the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Program Social Science Research Council (5 mins)

## SESSION 3

- **5.10pm-5.50pm:** Moderated by **Amb. Harold Adlai Agyeman**, Deputy Dean of the ECOWAS Group of the UN and Permanent Representative of Ghana (3min)
  - Statements on Regionalism, Social Cohesion, and Development in West Africa by Permanent Representatives of ECOWAS Member States to the United Nations and Collaborators (3 mins each)
- **Open Contributions/ Discussions**
- **5:50PM -6:00PM:** Wrap up and Close of Session by **H.E. Michael Imran Kanu**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN, and Chair of ECOWAS Group of Ambassadors at the UN (3 mins)

**6pm – 8pm:** A reception will follow immediately after at the Delegates Dining Room, 4th floor. UN Headquarters.

## CONTEXT

### ECOWAS @50

#### **Stronger together for a Brighter Future – Advancing Regionalism and Multilateralism for shared Prosperity in West Africa**

Birthered in Lagos, Nigeria on 28th May 1975, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established to promote cooperation and integration that would lead to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa. Economic union sought to raise the living standards of West Africans as well as maintain and enhance economic stability, foster relations among Member States, and contribute to the progress and development of the African Continent among its 15 founding member states.

The revision of the ECOWAS Treaty in 1993 broadened the scope of the organization's original goals to include a vision that seeks to build a fully integrated community of peoples, living in a peaceful and prosperous region, with strong democratic institutions and respect for fundamental rights, freedoms, striving for inclusive and sustainable development.

ECOWAS marked its Golden Jubilee on 28th May 2025. To commemorate this historical milestone, the ECOWAS Permanent Observer Mission at the United Nations and ECOWAS' Permanent Representatives to the United Nations (The ECOWAS Group at the UN), in close collaboration with several partners, presents a three-fold, High-Level Dialogue Series at the UN Headquarters in New York on the theme, **"ECOWAS @50: Stronger together for a Brighter Future - Advancing Regionalism and Multilateralism for shared Prosperity in West Africa"**.

The series, scheduled to be held in July, September, and November 2025, respectively, will serve as platforms for ECOWAS and its partners to reflect on the regional economic community's political and economic integration journey over the past 50 years. Each forum will assess achievements, challenges and opportunities in promoting regionalism, peace, security, good governance and sustainable development in West Africa as well as seek innovative ideas and suggestions on new ways of improving and adapting the commission's instruments, mechanisms, policies and strategies for better service delivery. The sessions will also discuss the numerous opportunities for recalibration and renewal, build multilateral partnerships for development, and further facilitate a collective understanding of ECOWAS's approach to strengthening regionalism in West Africa, as well as create visibility on its rich culture, art, and development agenda.

#### **Objectives:**

The first ECOWAS flagship Commemorative Event in New York, focusing on Governance, Peace, and Development in West Africa, aims to highlight the pivotal role of regionalism in strengthening multilateralism, demonstrating how ECOWAS has served as a model for collective action and global partnerships. It will provide a platform for stakeholders to:

1. Reflect on ECOWAS' Political and Economic Integration Agenda in West Africa over the past 50 years.
2. Assess Gains and Challenges in promoting Regionalism, Peace, Security, Good Governance, and Sustainable development.
3. Discuss Opportunities for recalibration to achieve a better, stronger, peaceful, integrated, and developed Region and Exchange, build and strengthen Multilateral Partnerships.
4. Create Visibility on ECOWAS' Regional Integration Initiatives and showcase ECOWAS' rich Culture, Art, and Music for Peace, Social Cohesion, and development.

#### **Expected Outcome:**

The occasion will provide an opportunity for deep reflection and collective understanding of ECOWAS' Regional Integration Agenda and intervention strategies for the realization of a strong Political and economic union. It will also provide a platform for exchange of achievements, Challenges, and opportunities for renewal and enhanced cooperation to strengthen regional construction and multilateralism in a rapidly changing global context.

#### **Guiding questions:**

1. ECOWAS at a Crossroads, 50 Years on - What are the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned in promoting regionalism, peace, democracy, good governance, and development in West Africa, and what are the emerging threats and opportunities for development?
2. With the present socio-political and security challenges in ECOWAS, how do you envision the future of regionalism in West Africa?
3. 50 Years on, in a changing World, what Strategies can ECOWAS deploy to recalibrate and consolidate democracy, good governance, peace, and sustainable development to better respond to the quest of its citizenry, and attain its vision of an ECOWAS of peoples?
4. What role can the international community and partners play in supporting regionalism and democracy in West Africa to strengthen multilateralism and sustainable development for shared prosperity?



## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



### **H.E General Yakubu Gowon**

Former President and Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Sole Surviving Founding Member of ECOWAS.

H.E General Yakubu Gowon is a distinguished Nigerian statesman and former President who served as the Head of State of Nigeria from 1966 to 1975. Renowned for his leadership during a pivotal period in Nigeria's history, he played a crucial role in navigating the country through the turbulent years of the Nigerian Civil War and fostering national unity and stability.

He is the Sole surviving Founding Member of the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS). General Gowon graduated from the Nigerian Military Academy and quickly progressed through various military ranks, demonstrating exceptional leadership and strategic acumen.

His rise to power culminated in his appointment as Nigeria's Head of State following a military take over, and he subsequently led the country as a unifying figure dedicated to restoring peace and fostering national development.

During his tenure, General Gowon emphasized reconciliation and rebuilding, initiating policies aimed at national integration and economic development. His efforts in promoting peace, stability, and infrastructural growth laid the foundation for Nigeria's ongoing development trajectory. After peacefully relinquishing power in 1975, General Gowon transitioned into various roles advocating for peace, democracy, and African unity. He has been extensively involved in regional and international initiatives, serving as a respected diplomat and global advocate for peace, stability, and sustainable development.

He is also the founder of the Nigeria Prize for Science; an influential initiative aimed at fostering scientific innovation in Nigeria. His lifelong commitment to public service, pan-Africanism, and social development continues to inspire leadership across Africa and beyond.

General Yakubu Gowon holds numerous national and international honors and has been recognized globally for his contribution to peace and leadership in Africa.

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



**Dr. Omar Alieu Touray**

President of the ECOWAS Commission.

Dr. Omar Alieu Touray is the current President of the ECOWAS Commission, providing leadership and fostering regional integration, peace, and development across West Africa. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Touray served for many years as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the African Union and as Ambassador to

Ethiopia, with concurrent accreditation as High Commissioner to South Africa and Kenya. He was also designated as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York before being appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of The Gambia. His extensive experience includes roles as Regional Policy Advisor at the United Nations World Food Programme's Regional Bureau for East and Central Africa, and as a consultant for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme Gambia Country Office, and the African Union Commission. From 2012 until his appointment as ECOWAS President, he worked at the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, contributing to development finance and policy engagement. Dr. Touray holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, University of Geneva. He also studied Finance and Islamic Finance at IE Business School in Madrid. As an accomplished author, he has published peer-reviewed books including *The African Union: The First Ten Years* (2016) and *The Gambia and the World: A History of the Foreign Policy of Africa's Smallest State* (2000), alongside numerous papers on international development and African affairs.



**H.E Amina J. Mohammed**

Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

H.E Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Mohammed served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria where she steered the country's efforts on climate action and efforts to protect the natural environment. Ms. Mohammed first joined the United Nations in 2012 as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the responsibility for post-2015 development planning. She led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Mohammed began her career working on the design of schools and hospitals in Nigeria. She served as an advocate focused on increasing access to education and other social services, before moving into the public sector, where she rose to the position of adviser to four successive Presidents on poverty, public sector reform, and sustainable development. Ms. Mohammed has been conferred several honorary doctorates and has served as an adjunct professor, lecturing on international development. The recipient of various global awards, Ms. Mohammed has served on numerous international advisory boards and panels.



**Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas**

African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns, Former ECOWAS Commission President and SRSG UNOWAS.

Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas is a distinguished Ghanaian politician, lawyer, diplomat, and academic. He is currently serving as the African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns, leading efforts to accelerate peace, security, and stability across the continent. Dr. Chambas previously served as the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa, and Head of the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWAS), from 2014 to 2021, where he played a pivotal role in regional peace and security initiatives. From 2013 to 2014, he was the Joint Special Representative (JSR) of the African Union–United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and Joint Chief Mediator (JCM) overseeing the Darfur peace negotiations. Between 2010 and 2013, Dr. Chambas served as Secretary-General of the African Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP). Prior to his leadership of the ACP, Dr. Chambas served as President of ECOWAS from 2007 to 2010, having previously served as its Executive Secretary since February 2002. Additionally, he has held positions as a Member of Parliament, Ghana's Deputy Foreign Minister, and as the first Deputy Speaker of Parliament. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Cornell University in New York, and a juris doctorate in Law from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.



**Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão**

Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão is currently the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

He also serves as Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission. With extensive experience in public administration and international affairs, Mr. Simão brings a wealth of expertise to his current role. Prior to his appointment, he served as the Special Envoy of the Government of Mozambique from 2021 to 2022, advocating for Mozambique's bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2023-2024 term. From 2009 to 2014, he led the Technical Peace Mediation Team for Madagascar as part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), facilitating dialogue and peacebuilding efforts. Mr. Simão's distinguished career also includes serving as Mozambique's Minister of Health from 1988 to 1994, and as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation from 1994 to 2005. His extensive diplomatic and governmental experience underscores his commitment to peace, stability, and regional development across Africa.



**Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee**

Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations

Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee is the current Assistant Secretary-General for Africa within the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO) at the United Nations responsible for advancing peace, political stability, and development across the African continent. Ms. Pobee brings over 30 years of extensive experience in international diplomacy, having held key positions that span multilateral diplomacy, regional integration, and strategic policy development. Her prior role as Ghana's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations saw her leading critical initiatives, including chairing the African Group of Ambassadors, serving as Vice-President of the 71st UN General Assembly, and actively participating in global negotiations on development, gender parity, and financing for sustainable growth. Her diplomatic career includes senior postings such as Deputy Head of Mission and Chargé d'affaires at the Ghana High Commission in Pretoria, Director of the Information and Public Affairs Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Head of Chancery at the Ghanaian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Additionally, Ms. Pobee has served at Ghana's missions in Tel Aviv, Geneva, Moscow, and other key diplomatic postings. A graduate of the University of Ghana, she holds a Master's degree in Development Studies specializing in Women and Development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.



**Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and the United Nations Development Program Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa.

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP's) Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa. In this role she leads UNDP's work supporting 46 countries in Africa to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Prior to taking up this post, Ms. Ahunna was UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia (2015-2018), UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda (2012-2015), and before that held the same position in Lesotho (2008-2012). She has also worked as Chief of the Africa Section for Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) where she managed over 15 country operations in Africa. Before joining the United Nations, she held a series of senior positions with civil society organisations in Africa. Ms. Ahunna holds a Master's degree in International Affairs with a focus on economic and political development in Africa from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York.





**Ambassador Abdel-Fatau Musah**

Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS)

Ambassador Abdel-Fatau Musah is the current Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security at the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS). With more than two decades of experience in both the United Nations and the (ECOWAS), his current roles involve leading strategic responses to political crises, conflict prevention, mediation, and electoral governance across West Africa. Before rejoining ECOWAS, Ambassador Musah served as Director of the West Africa Division in the joint United Nations Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO). From 2016 to 2018, he led the Africa II Division in the UN Department of Political Affairs, managing portfolios covering Central, North, and West Africa. He previously served as Deputy Head of Office and Director of Political Affairs at the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU). Before joining the UN, Amb. Musah served as Director of Political Affairs at ECOWAS from 2009 to 2014, and Senior Conflict Prevention Adviser to the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and ECOWAS on West Africa (2005-2009). Amb. Musah has worked/consulted for and served on the Boards of a number of institutions and INGOs/IGOs, including the UN Office in West Africa and the Sahel, UN Women, International IDEA, the Open Society Institute, the Center for Democracy and Development, the African Leadership Centre, and the British- American Security Information Council. He has also served as visiting lecturer in leading European and African institutions, and has written extensively on democratization, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, privatization of security, and broader peace and security issues in Africa. Amb. Musah received his bachelor's degree from the University of Ghana, Legon, a Master's Degree in Mass Communication and a PhD in International Historical Relations from M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University.



**Amb. Michael Imran Kanu**

Chair of the ECOWAS Group at the UN and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN.

Dr. Michael Imran Kanu is the current Chair of the ECOWAS Group at the UN. He also serves as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN in New York, and also to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in

Kingston, Jamaica. He is Vice-President of the ICC Assembly of States Parties (23rd to 25th sessions) and Co-Chair of the Review Mechanism of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Rome Statute system. He is also a Member of the Legal and Technical Commission of the ISA (2023-2027). From September 2018 to August 2023, Dr. Kanu was Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative for Legal Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN in New York. Between 2017 – 2018, Dr Kanu worked as a legal practitioner in Sierra Leone and served as Managing Partner, Kanu & Associates (formerly Cole, Kanu & Associates Partners), a commercial and public interest law firm in Sierra Leone. Between 2011 – 2015, he served as a prosecutor of the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and also Secretary (part time) of the General Legal Council, Republic of Sierra Leone. He holds a Doctoral of Juridical Science in International Business Law (SJD), Central European University (2015 – 2018); Master of Laws in International Business Law (LL.M), Central European University (2014 – 2015); Degree of Utter Barrister (B.L), Sierra Leone Law School (2007– 2008); and Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LL.B), Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone (2003 – 2007). Dr. Kanu is a Visiting Senior Fellow in Practice, the Law School of the London School of Economics and Political Science.



**Ambassador Kinza Jawara-N'Jai**

Permanent Observer for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to the United Nations.

Ambassador Kinza Jawara-Njai, ECOWAS Permanent Observer to the United Nations is a Gambian national with over 32 Years of experience in Public Administration, Diplomacy and International Development.

As a Former Permanent Secretary of the Office of the President of The Gambia, she has served in various capacities including Foreign Policy Adviser, Political Affairs officer, and Economic Development Cooperation Officer in the Gambia's Foreign Ministry and Office of the President. She has been in the service of ECOWAS Commission since 2008 serving as Principal Programme Officer and Head of Division in the Directorate of Free Movement and Migration heading the ECOWAS Cross-Border Cooperation Programme. Prior to Joining ECOWAS, Amb. Jawara-Njai served as an International Consultant for UNDP/UNIFEM in the Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister of Rwanda. Amb. Jawara-Njai has worked extensively with International Development Partners in development cooperation and Partnership building at Local, National and Regional Levels and is keenly interested in Promotion of Regional Peace and Security, Migration and Development, Facilitating Gender and Youth Empowerment Programmes for sustainable livelihoods as well as establishing Regional Public Goods in Africa and Strengthening Good Governance and Regional Integration. She holds a Master's Degree in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom.



**H.E. Ambassador Fatima Kyari Mohammed**

Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations

Amb. Fatima Kyari Mohammed is the Permanent Observer of the AU to the UN. Her mandate is to represent the AU at the UN as well as develop and maintain constructive and productive relationship between the AU and Member States in New York. Prior to her appointment, she was Senior Special Advisor to the ECOWAS Commission.

Her career spans over 2 decades with a focus on peace, security, socio-economic development, regional integration, organizational development, and project management, both in the public and private sectors. Her academic background is in Peace, Security, Development and Conflict Transformation (University of Innsbruck), Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development (UN University for Peace, Costa Rica), and Business Communication (European University, Switzerland). She also has a BA in Environmental Design (ABU, Zaria, Nigeria). She is also the Founder of the Like Minds Project, a non-profit, Organization working with vulnerable communities in Nigeria. She is an Eisenhower Fellow and was further honored with the ExxonMobil. Distinguished Fellow Award in 2017





**Amb. Stavros Lambrinidis**

Ambassador of the European Union to the United Nations

Amb. Stavros Lambrinidis is the European Union's Ambassador to the United Nations. Prior roles include EU Ambassador to the United States and EU Special Representative for Human Rights, where he enhanced the EU's human rights policy.

He has also served as Greece's Foreign Minister and was elected twice as a Member of the European Parliament, holding positions such as Vice-President of the Parliament, Vice-President of the Civil Liberties Committee, and Head of the PASOK delegation. From 2000 to 2004, Lambrinidis was Director-General of the International Olympic Truce Centre, promoting peace initiatives during the Olympics. Earlier, he served as Greece's Ambassador ad personam, Secretary-General for Diaspora Affairs, Chief of Staff to the Foreign Minister, and Special Advisor to the Minister of Education. He practiced law at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Washington, D.C., specializing in international trade and arbitration. Recognized for his leadership in human rights, democracy, and privacy, he received the Electronic Privacy Information Center's "Champion of Freedom" (2020) and the Boston Global Forum's "World Leader in Artificial Intelligence" (2021). He is a member of Yale University's President's Council on International Activities, a former President of the DC Bar's Human Rights Committee, and a Professor Emeritus at the Mariupol Institute of Humanities. He holds an honorary doctorate from West Virginia University. Lambrinidis has lectured globally on human rights, sustainable development, climate, international trade, internet privacy, and transatlantic relations. He holds a BA from Amherst College and a JD from Yale Law School.



**Rita Kiki Edozie (PhD)**

Professor of Global Governance and African Affairs, University of Massachusetts-Boston

Rita Kiki Edozie (PhD) is currently Professor of Global Governance at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. She is the university's former interim Dean of the John W McCormack School of Policy and Global Studies and the Deval Patrick Endowed Chair of

Political, Economic, and Social Innovation. Receiving her PhD in politics from New York City's New School for Social Research in 1999, Kiki has been a teacher-scholar and an academic administrator of graduate education and undergraduate studies for over twenty years. Prior to UMass Boston, Kiki was a Professor of International Relations at Michigan State University's James Madison College of Public and International Affairs and the Director of the African American and African Studies at the university's College of Arts and Letters. She was a former Deputy Director of the Institute of African Studies at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Kiki is an accomplished scholar and author of several academic books and scholarly articles on global development, democratization, African affairs, and race and identity. Some of Kiki's recent books, *The African Union's Africa: New Pan-African Initiatives in Global Governance* (2014) and *Pan-Africa Rising: The Cultural Political Economy of Nigeria's Afri-capitalism and South Africa's Ubuntu Business* (2017). Her recent book *Africa's New Global Politics: Regionalism in International Relations* (with Moses Khisa, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2022) received Choice Magazine's 2022 rating as highly recommended reading.



**Ms. Oge Onubogu**

Principal, Teraanga Strategies, LLC

Oge Onubogu is the principal of the Teraanga Strategies LLC. Prior to this role, Ms Oge served as the Director of the Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars based in Washington DC.

Oge was also the Director of the West Africa Program at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and prior to USIP, Ms. Onubogu was a Program Manager at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) where she managed citizen engagement, elections, and political party strengthening programs in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Botswana, and South Africa. At NDI, she also oversaw a multi-country program to strengthen women's political participation in Southern Africa, and supported election and legislative strengthening activities in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Ms. Onubogu also worked as the Program officer for West Africa at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), where she managed a multi-million-dollar grants portfolio to civil society organizations across Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Cameroon. She has consulted on a range of governance, elections, and research programs in Africa with the World Bank, Freedom House, and the Carter Center, and has coordinated refugee resettlement programs in the United States with the International Rescue Committee. Ms. Onubogu holds an MA in International Development from the Heller School at Brandeis University, and a BA in International and Area Studies from the University of Oklahoma. She also holds a Public Leadership Credential from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



**Gilles Olakounle Yabi (PhD)**

Founder and CEO the West Africa Citizen Think Tank

Gilles Olakounlé Yabi (PhD) is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the West Africa Citizen Think Tank (WATHI), an organization dedicated to fostering participative, multidisciplinary, and citizen-focused dialogue on development and governance issues in West Africa.

Before founding WATHI, Dr. Yabi served as the West Africa Project Director at the International Crisis Group, where he contributed to research and advocacy on conflict resolution and regional stability. His professional background also includes experience as a journalist with Jeune Afrique in Paris. Dr. Yabi maintains an active media presence through his weekly column and broadcast on Radio France International (RFI). In addition to his practical experience, Dr. Yabi is a non-resident scholar at the Africa Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a prominent U.S.- based think tank. He holds a PhD in Development Economics from the University of Clermont-Ferrand in France.



**Cyril Obi (PhD)**

Program Director, the African Peacebuilding Network, (APN – SSRC)

Cyril Obi (PhD) is the Program Director for the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) and the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa program, of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) where he brings with him his extensive research, networking, and publishing experience on African peace, security, and development

to the Council. After earning his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, Dr. Obi joined the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), where he was promoted to Associate Research Professor in 2004. That same year, he was awarded the Claude Ake Visiting Chair at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, University of Uppsala, Sweden. From 2005 to 2011, he served as a senior researcher and led the “Conflict, Displacement and Transformation” research cluster at the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) in Uppsala. He has received research fellowships and awards from organizations including CODESRIA, SSRC, Africa Studies Center Leiden, St. Antony’s College (Oxford), Salzburg Seminar, and 21st Century Trust. Currently, Dr. Obi is a Research Associate at the University of Pretoria’s Department of Political Sciences, a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University’s Institute of African Studies, and an Adjunct Professor at CUNY Graduate Center. He serves on the editorial boards of several leading journals, such as African Affairs, African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review, African Security Review, and others. Dr. Obi is a member of the Boards of the African Studies Association (ASA) and the International Panel on Exiting Violence (IPEV). His notable publications include *The Rise of China and India in Africa* (Zed Books, 2010), *Oil and Insurgency in the Niger Delta* (Zed Books, 2011), and a special issue of the *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review* (2014).

## West African Symbols for strength and courage



Osram ne Nsoromma  
(moon and star)  
faithfulness &  
fondness,



Nteasee  
understanding



Nea Onnim  
(He who does not  
know)  
continued quest for  
knowledge.



Nyame Nti  
(Because of God)  
I won't feed on leaves  
(like an animal)."



Bese Saka  
(Cola nuts)  
Power & abundance



Akoben  
(War horn)  
Vigilance & Wariness



Eban  
(Fence)  
Safety & security



Adinkrahene  
(Chief symbol)  
Greatness & leadership



Fafanto  
(butterfly)  
tenderness &  
gentleness



Sankofa  
(An expression in the  
Twi language of  
Ghana)  
Go back and get it!



Wawa Aba  
(Seed of wawa tree)  
Resilience & Toughness



Nayme Dua  
(Tree of God)  
Protection & cleansing





# ECOWAS GROUP AT THE UNITED NATIONS

## PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF ECOWAS MEMBER STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS

JULY 2025



**Benin:**  
Ambassador Marc  
Hermanne  
Gninadoou Araba



**Cabo Verde:**  
Ambassador Tania  
Serafim Yvonne  
Romualdo



**Cote d'Ivoire:**  
Ambassador  
Tiémoko Moriko



**The Gambia:**  
Ambassador Lamin  
B. Dibba



**Ghana:**  
Ambassador  
Harold Adlai  
Agyeman



**Guinea:**  
Ambassador  
Mohamed Dabo



**Guinea Bissau:**  
Ambassador  
Samba Sane



**Liberia:**  
Ambassador Lewis  
Garseedah Brown  
II



**Nigeria:**  
Mr. Syndoph P.  
Endoni, (Charge  
d'affaires ad  
interim)



**Senegal:**  
Ambassador Coly  
Seck



**Sierra Leone:**  
Ambassador  
Michael Imran  
Kanu



**Togo:**  
Mr. Koffi Akakpo  
(Charge d'affaires  
ad interim)



ECOWAS Permanent Observer to the UN  
Ambassador Kinza Jawara-N'Jai

## ECOWAS GROUP AT THE UN & PARTNERS COMMEMORATE ECOWAS GOLDEN JUBILEE



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