

### **Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine - Bio**

Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine is a medical doctor from Mali. She holds a degree from the Medicine School of the University of Tizi-Ouzou (Algeria) with several researches in ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics and general medicine. She also holds a Masters in Humanitarian Action from the University of Geneva, focusing on interventions in crisis: armed conflict, marginalization/exclusion and natural disasters (earthquake, tsunami, drought, floods). The latter part of her studies focused on "The role of traditional medicine in Tuareg Mali." Mariam is currently studying nursing in Quebec (Collège Ste-Foy) and Global Community Health (Université Laval).

Mariam is a member of Tin Hinan, an association working for the defence, promotion and development of indigenous peoples in Africa, in particular the Tuareg (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya). Mariam has been a very active member of the organization since she was young and has worked on many issues related to health such as nutrition, malaria prevention, and education on sexual and reproductive health among the Tuareg.

She participated in training on ILO Convention 169 organized by the ILO and Tin-Hinan in 2001 in Ouagadougou. She participated several times in the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She also volunteered with African NGOs for advocacy on Human Rights at the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations and the Universal Periodic Review in Africa. Currently, Mariam advocates the cause of indigenous Africa particularly in improving the living conditions of the Tuareg and is a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

## **Kone Tanou Leon – Bio**

Mr. Kone Tanou Leon is the ECOWAS Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He holds a Master's Degree in Business and Public Administration from the South-Eastern University, Washington D. C., U.S.A and a High Studies Diploma in Commercial Policy from the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade course in Geneva, Switzerland. He had earlier in 1979 obtained a Bachelor of Social Sciences Degree from the University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire as well as a Degree in History and Geography in 1977 from the same institution.

Mr. Tanou began his public service life in 1983 as Head of the Department of Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Cote d'Ivoire. Before his current appointment, he was Minister Counsellor and Deputy High Commissioner, Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Benin from January 2012 to April 2014.

Between August 2007 and January 2012, Tanou was the Counselor, economic affairs, bilateral cooperation and ECOWAS matters and later First Counselor at the same Embassy. He had been the Deputy Director of Documentation and Archives of the Department of Communication and Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Côte d'Ivoire between March 2005 and December 2006.

He had also served as the Senior Officer, Department of Ivoirians abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs after completing his term as Senior Officer in the Department of International Economic Relations of the same Ministry between 2002 and 2005

Mr. Tanou was the Counsellor in charge of Economic and Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire in Algeria and later Tunisia between July 1987 and October 2002.

He has participated in several ECOWAS technical meetings from 2007 up to the period of his current appointment. These meetings included the Council of Ministers and ECOWAS Ordinary and Extraordinary Summits as well as related meetings such as the annual Conferences of the American Planning Association (APA), Boston in April 1981 and in April 1982 in Dallas (Texas) USA.

Among the relevant training sessions he has attended are the Marketing Training Seminar (MATCHMAKERII) for Export in Development Emerging Countries, Rotterdam, Netherlands in March 1985 as well as the seminar on fairs, exhibitions and trade missions organized for promoters of African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) French exporting countries by ITC / UNCTAD / GATT in Geneva, Switzerland, in March 1986.

Mr. Tanou had been the President of the 62nd edition of the trainees of the GATT in Geneva, Switzerland 1986 and a member of the *Ariana La Rose* Rotary Club of the District 9010, Tunis. He was also the chairman of the Diplomatic Club of Algiers between 1992 and 1993 and had been a member of the Italian Club of Tunis in the years 1999 to 2000

He is fluent in both French and English and has a working knowledge of Spanish. He is married with four children.

### **Jonathan (Jon) Mitchell – Bio**

Jon Mitchell is a senior executive in international development and humanitarian affairs with extensive experience leading, managing and improving effectiveness of organisations in the international development and humanitarian affairs fields.

He is currently interim Managing Director for ODI, reporting to the Executive Director, responsible for overseeing and supporting ODI programmes, leading a transformation process, and contributing to overall leadership of ODI.

Prior to joining ODI, Jon worked for CARE International, Oxfam Great Britain and Plan International in a number of leadership roles at country, regional, and global levels.

Jon has lived and worked in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Americas and Europe, he has a BSc in Mechanical Engineering and is a dual citizen of the UK and USA.

### **Ruby Sandhu-Rojon – Bio**

Ms. Ruby Sandhu-Rojon is the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel. She has extensive experience with the United Nations, including in leadership positions at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and strong strategic planning, coordination, and programmatic skills. Since 2014, she has been the UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa. She served as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ghana from 2010 to 2014, and was the UNDP Country Director in Burkina Faso, where she also assumed the interim role of Resident Representative.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Sandhu-Rojon was posted to Germany as Chief of the Africa Section of United Nations Volunteers (UNV), and to Madagascar as Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP from 1999 to 2002. She was Special Assistant to the UNDP Administrator from 1997 to 1999, having begun her career as a Programme Officer at the Africa Section of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Born in 1962, Ms. Sandhu-Rojon holds a Master of Science in Russian Politics from the London School of Economics, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College in the United States, specializing in international economics and politics.