

FOOD CRISES IN AFRICA

27 October 2005

Biographies of Participants

H. E. Ambassador Munir Akram, President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

H. E. Ambassador Munir Akram is the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York since May 21st, 2002. He holds a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Law from Karachi University. He has previously held many diplomatic positions for Pakistan, among others, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland (1995-2002); Additional Foreign Secretary (1992-1995), Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Community, Belgium and Luxembourg (1988-1992), and Director-General (United Nations, Economic Cooperation and Policy Planning), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1985-1988).

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson was elected President of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly on 13 June 2005. At the time, he was Sweden's Ambassador to the United States, a post he held from September 2000 until July 2005. A veteran in the fields of diplomacy and foreign relations, from 1994 to 2000 Mr. Eliasson served as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, a key position in formulating and implementing Swedish foreign policy. Earlier, from 1988 to 1992, he was Sweden's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York. During this period, he also served as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Iran/Iraq and was Chairman of the UN General Assembly's working group on emergency relief (1991), Vice President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (1991 to 1992) and Chairman of the UN Trust Fund for South Africa (1988 to 1992). In 1992, Mr. Eliasson was appointed United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. A recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from the American University, Washington, D.C., Göteborg University, Sweden, and Bethany College, Kansas, he also has been decorated by a number of Governments.

H.E. Mr. Simeon A. Adekanye, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Simeon A. Adekanye is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations. Ambassador Adekanye was Nigeria's Ambassador to Austria, and Permanent Representative to UNIDO, UNOV, and IAEA (1991-1996). Mr. Adekanye was also appointed as Ambassador to Switzerland in 1999, and served also in various capacities at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Assistant Director-General of the first United Nations Department; and Director of the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Adekanye was also President of the General Conference of the IAEA in Vienna, September 1992, and also served as Chairman of Group of 77, Vienna Chapter in June 1992, and Chairman, Africa Group, Vienna Chapter from January to June 1992.

Mr. James T. Morris, Executive Director, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

Mr. James T. Morris became the tenth Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme at the beginning of April 2002. In July 2002, Mr. Morris was appointed UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa. For over 36 years, Mr. Morris has combined a distinguished career of business, philanthropic and humanitarian leadership with a personal life of public service. He has contributed time and guidance to many civic and community organizations. Mr. Morris earned his BA in Political Science from Indiana University and an MBA from Butler University. He has received 11 honorary degrees including the most recent from the University of Notre Dame in May of 2005.

Mr. Lennart Båge, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Mr. Lennart Båge from Sweden was elected President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on February 2001 by the Fund's Governing Council and was re-elected for a second four year term in February 2005. Mr. Lennart Båge joined IFAD with nearly 25 years of experience in international development, and longstanding and active involvement in the United Nations system and multilateral finance institutions. Prior to IFAD, he served as Head of the Department for International Development Co-operation in Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs in charge of Budget and Policy Development. Mr. Båge has previously held many diplomatic positions. In December 2002, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, designated Mr. Båge as chairman of the High-Level Committee on Programs (HLCP).

Mr. Henri Carsalade, Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr. Henri Carsalade was appointed Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization in 1995 where he headed the Sustainable Development Department until 1999. Since 2000, he has headed the Technical Cooperation Department. In this capacity, he is in charge of all FAO field operations. Mr. Carsalade joined FAO with over 25 years of experience in agricultural research and development. Prior to his appointment in FAO, he was the Director-General of the International Cooperation Center of Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD) from 1990 to 1993 and several executive positions in the CGIAR system and its centers.

Mr. Carsalade earned his degrees from the National Institute of Agronomy (INA) and the National Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering (ENGREF).

Mr. Mark Bowden, Chief of Policy Development Branch, Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Mr. Mark Bowden is the Chief of the Policy Development Branch, Office of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Prior to his appointment, he was Conflict Management Adviser to the Secretary of State for Africa in the Foreign Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom. He has also served as Regional Director of East & Central Africa and Director of Africa at Save the Children Fund UK where he worked for approximately 20 years. During this time he became an advocate for the people in the East African region, especially Ethiopia.

Ms. Julie Howard, Executive Director, Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa

Ms. Julie Howard is Executive Director of the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, an independent U.S.-Africa coalition dedicated to increasing the level and effectiveness of development assistance to Africa. Dr. Howard, who has lived and worked in Somalia and Zambia, serves as Adjunct Professor of Development in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University. Before joining the Partnership, she worked with the Department's Food Security project, carrying out research on agricultural technology development and transfer in Mozambique, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia. Julie Howard holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Michigan State University and an M.S. in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis.