H.E. MR. CHEIKH NIANG
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations since July 2018. He serves as the Chair of the Africa Group of the month of May. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Niang served as Senegal’s Ambassador to Japan concurrently accredited to Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Viet Nam and Singapore a post he first took up in November 2014. From 2012 to 2014, he was his country’s Ambassador to the United States, concurrently accredited to Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay. Between 2010 and 2012, Mr. Niang served as Senegal’s Ambassador to South Africa, also with jurisdiction in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

MS. BIENCE GAWANAS
Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General

Ms. Bience Gawanas was appointed Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General in January 2018. Her former positions include that of Special Advisor to the Namibian Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and Special Advisor to the Namibian Minister of Health and Social Services.

Other career achievements of which USG Gawanas is especially proud include her role as the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Social Affairs, a position for which she was elected for two terms by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 2003 and 2008. In that capacity, she developed policy instruments, projects and programmes on social development, including the Social Policy Framework and the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. In partnership with Member States and UN agencies, she initiated pioneering activities such as the launch of the AU’s Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), a movement for maternal and child health that mobilizes global, regional and country-level support from governments, civil society, and community leaders.

MS. FATIMA KYARI MOHAMMED
Permanent Observer of the African Union Mission to the United Nations

Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed is the Permanent Observer of the African Union Mission to the United Nations. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Mohammed was a Senior Special Adviser to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, with a focus on peace and security, regional integration and organizational development. Before joining ECOWAS, she was the Executive Director at West Africa Conflict and Security Consulting. Earlier, she worked as a Programme Manager at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS; and as Regional Project Manager for Security Policy Projects in West Africa with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. Ms. Mohammed holds a Master of Arts in peace, security, development and conflict transformation from the University of Innsbruck, Austria, as well as a master’s degree in sustainable economic development from the United Nations University of Peace. Additionally, she holds a Master of Business Administration from the European University, and a bachelor’s degree in environmental design from the Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria.