



Cristina Duarte

Ms. Cristina Duarte is the United Nations Special Adviser on Africa and Under-Secretary-General of OSAA since 1 August 2020. She is the strategic adviser to the Secretary-General on the interlinkages between peace and development in Africa and the focal point in UNHQ for relations with the African Group with regard to Africa's development. As the head of OSAA, she supports the Secretary-General in promoting coherence in the UN system's engagement in Africa and chairs the Inter-Departmental Task Force on African Affairs (IDTFAA), and advocates and mobilizes the United Nations, its Member States and other key stakeholders around Africa's transformative vision articulated in the 2030 and 2063 Agendas.

Prior to joining the UN, Mrs. Duarte served Cape Verde as Minister of Finance, Planning and Public Administration for 10 years. She was also Director of a reform program on private sector development and competitiveness. In the private sector, she rose to become Vice President of Citibank, a world class financial institution. Before then, she provided advice to several international financial organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations. Over her long career, she has developed strong leadership and strategic management skills, played an instrumental role in public policy making and in the private sector. She has also been involved in numerous international programs representing Cape Verde or the private sector. Mrs. Duarte is committed to public service. Mrs. Duarte has global recognition and has worked well with a wide range of senior decision-makers both in government and in business around the world.

When Mrs. Duarte left Government in 2016, she was invited to governance and advisory positions in various international and regional organizations. She was a Member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration, established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). She was a Member of the United Nations High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs. She was a Member of President Paul Kagame's Advisory Committee on African Union Reforms. She was a Member of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and she was a Member of the Board of the Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development (UONGOZI Institute).

She has an abiding interest in issues of governance, private sector development, and particular competence in international negotiations, strategic and scenarios planning, development policy and management, and institution building. She has an excellent understanding of, and interest in, international and regional cooperation, as well as, the challenges facing African countries. In order to leverage her 10-year experience as Minister of Finance and prior to joining the UN, she was developing a research project as Visiting Research Fellow at WITS University, School of Governance in South Africa.

USG Cristina Duarte speaks English, French, Italian and Portuguese fluently.

Ahunna Eziakonwa



Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa is a leading development and humanitarian specialist with over 20 years' experience in the United Nations, culminating in her 2018 appointment by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to serve as **UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), at the rank of Assistant Secretary-General**. She leads an over 1-billion-dollar development programme for Sub Saharan Africa, and a team in 46 countries supporting African Governments to remove structural impediments to sustainable development. Her vision for Africa is captured in the document: "Africa's Promise: The UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa" which applies the opportunity lens to Africa's development trajectory. RBA's regional and country teams are now working with global and regional partners, to rapidly rejuvenate programmes. She has established innovative initiatives such as the Africa Influencers for Development (AI4D) – a powerful coalition of leaders in business, academia & the arts steering Africa's development agenda to ensure a future out of dependency and beyond aid by seeing that Africa's Money works for African Development. She created the UNDP-Tony Elumelu Foundation Partnership to empower 100,000 youth in Africa. Her brainchild, the Africa Young Women Leaders – a joint initiative with the African Union Commission, unleashed an outstanding corp of women leaders who are being nurtured across UNDP to drive change in Africa. Ms. Eziakonwa provides technical leadership to both the UNDP Africa and the UN system-wide socioeconomic response and recovery on COVID 19 in Africa. Further, she (Co) Chairs the UN Development Group in Africa – a body of Agency, Funds and Programmes and UN entities responsible for transforming the Secretary General's vision of UN reform into action. This entails optimizing regional assets to offer a stronger value proposition to Africa.

Ms. Eziakonwa's astute political acumen, communication skills and peace-building attributes advanced UN ideals supporting governments to navigate the pursuit of development amidst complex political and economic crises. This was evident during the over 10 years in which she led UN Country Teams in various nations as UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative). In **Ethiopia**, she oversaw UN support for the transition to a new political dispensation including convening the first ever Conference on Peace and Reconciliation at the height of political tension in 2016. Ms. Eziakonwa proffered lasting solutions to break cycles of humanitarian emergencies in Ethiopia's lowlands through comprehensive strategies. In **Uganda**, she led the UN effort at political dialogue – deepening democratic culture and strengthening emphasis on governance. The documentary film she initiated, commissioned, and guided on production: *"A Film for Northern Uganda"*; increased visibility and support for foreign investment in the region. It was selected for several international festivals and nominated for Best Feature Documentary, Best Cinematography and Best Soundtrack at The African Film Festival in Dallas, Texas. In **Lesotho**, she oversaw the political mediation that led to a peaceful transition of power in 2012, in an environment of complexity and volatility; and delivered impact-driven development programming on local government, disaster preparedness and HIV/AIDS.

As Chief of Africa at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Ms. Eziakonwa oversaw 15 operations covering West, East and Central Africa on UN system response to natural disasters and complex emergencies and transitions from relief to recovery. Other senior positions held in the field were in Liberia (Head of Office a.i) and Sierra Leone (Deputy Chief). Before joining the UN, she held senior positions in civil society organizations advocating for the rights of women and youth.

She is a graduate of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs where she attained a Masters of International Affairs with a focus on Economic and Political Development in Africa. She is also an alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Programme where she got specialized training on cutting edge development thinking. Her core training is in Education with a Bachelor's degree from University of Benin Benin City, Nigeria.



Cyril Obi

Cyril Obi is a program director at the Social Science Research Council, New York, where he leads the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) and (since September 2018) the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa programs. After completing his doctoral studies in political science at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, he joined the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Lagos, Nigeria, and became an associate research professor in 2004. That same year, Dr. Obi was awarded the Claude Ake Visiting Chair at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. From 2005 to 2011, he was a senior researcher and led the research cluster on "Conflict, Displacement and Transformation" at the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) in Uppsala, Sweden. He has received numerous prestigious international academic awards and fellowships. Dr. Obi is currently a research associate of the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria, South Africa; and was an adjunct professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). His publications include *The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions* (Zed Books, 2010), with Fantu Cheru; *Oil and Insurgency in the Niger Delta: Managing the Complex Politics of Petro-Violence* (Zed Books, 2011), with Siri Aas Rustad; *The Unfinished Revolution in Nigeria's Niger Delta: Prospects for Environmental Justice and Peace*, London and New York: (Routledge, 2018), with Temitope Oriola. His most recent book is, *Developmental Regionalism and Economic Transformation in Southern Africa*, (London and New York: Routledge, 2020), with Said Adejumobi.



Raphael Obonyo

Raphael Obonyo is a public policy analyst and multi award winning youth advocate at the national, regional and international levels. Mr Obonyo has extensive knowledge and experience in public policy, international development, political economy, gender, youth, governance and human rights, and serves on the board of World Bank's Global Youth Network, Global Diplomatic Forum and Africa Leadership Institute. He's an alumnus of the UN-Habitat's Youth Advisory Board, Les Aspin Institute of Governance and Leadership and the Ford Foundation International Fellowship Program.

Mr Obonyo is TEDx fellow, and has authored and coauthored numerous books, including the Conversations about the Youth in Kenya.

He holds a Masters in Public Policy from Duke University in the United States.



H.E. Marie Chatardová

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

Until her appointment in 2016, Ambassador Chatardová was her country's Ambassador to France and Monaco, and its Permanent Representative to the International Organization of la Francophonie. Between 2013 and 2016, she served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Ambassador Chatardová also served as President of ECOSOC from July 2017 to July 2018. In 2019, she co-chaired the fourth UN STI Forum. She also served as co-facilitator of 2019 alignment process.

Ambassador Chatardová held several positions within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She was Director of Diplomatic Protocol from 2007 to 2010, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Sweden from 2002 to 2007. Prior to that, she was Director of the Communications Strategies Department, from 2000 to 2002, and Unit Chief of the Department for the Coordination of Relations with the European Union, between 1999 and 2000. She also served in the Permanent Mission of Czech Republic to the European Union, between 1995 and 1999, and in the Ministry's Department of Analysis and Policy Planning, from 1994 to 1995.