



**Ambassador Raychelle Awuor Omamo**

**Curriculum Vitae**

**Candidate of the Republic of Kenya**

**for the post of**

**President, International Fund For Agricultural Development**

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### AMBASSADOR RAYCHELLE AWUOR OMAMO

#### UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

**BA in Law**, University of Kent at Canterbury – 1982

**Post-Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice**, Kenya School of Law – 1984

**Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Administration**, University of Liverpool – 2016

#### OVERALL CAREER PROGRESSION

**1985-2002**: Legal Counsel and Managing Partner, Omamo and Omamo Advocates

**2003-2009**: Kenya Ambassador to Republic of France, with the accreditation to the Kingdom of Spain, the Holy See, the Republic of Portugal and the Republic of Serbia

**2003-2006**: Permanent Representative of Kenya to UNESCO

**2010-2013**: Senior Counsel Coulson and Harney Advocates

**2013-2020**: Cabinet Secretary/Minister for Defence

**2014**: Acting Cabinet Secretary/Minister for Labour and Social Services

**2020 to Present**: Cabinet Secretary/Minister for Foreign Affairs

#### DETAILED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

##### **CABINET SECRETARY/MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA:**

##### **2020 to Present**

**Lead the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** which has an annual budget of KES 18.3 billion [US\$180 million] 58 diplomatic missions, 5 consulates general and 30 honorary consuls across the globe and 816 staff. Preside over the administration of all foreign representation in Kenya, including UNEP, UN Habitat, and the United Nations Office in Nairobi - [the only UN Headquarters in the global South comprising 73 UN offices] as well as 92 foreign embassies and high commissions and 44 consulates, providing relevant protocol and consular services. **In charge of the formulation and implementation of the Kenya's foreign policy** including the negotiation of agreements and MOUs and the facilitation, alignment and coordination of Kenya's international relations between spheres of government. Serve on the National Security Council of Kenya. **Represent Kenya in all international fora** especially during its current tenure as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Presidency of the Organization of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and the East Africa Community (EAC), and her memberships in the AU Peace and Security Council and AU Bureau of Heads of States and Government. Serve as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (2020 to date), on the Board of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (2020 to date) and Chairperson of the Joint Sectoral Council on Defence Inter-State Security and Foreign Policy Coordination. (2020 to date). **Mobilize**

**international engagements and hosting or co-hosting major multilateral forums on key development issues** including: the African Female Foreign Ministers Meeting on ‘Enhancing Women’s leadership in COVID-19 responses’ (May 2020); the OACPS Virtual Inter-Sessional Summit on “Transcending the COVID-19 Pandemic-Building Resilience through Global Solidarity’ (June,2020); the Global Education Summit: Financing GPE 2021 -2025 in partnership with the United Kingdom (July 2021); the First AU-CARICOM Summit (September, 2021); UNEP @ 50 (March,2022). Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya will partner with the governments of Sweden and Portugal, respectively, in co-hosting Stockholm @ 50 and the UN Oceans Conference (June 2022). **Oversee and lead Kenya’s foreign policy interventions for peace, conflict resolution and state stabilization** in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, including its peace keeping missions. **Assemble bilateral and multilateral largesse to surmount crises**, including emergency humanitarian support for drought and flood and disaster response, including grants of COVID-19 vaccines. Through the direct efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over 20 million vaccines donations were received from partners. **Advance relations with Kenya’s Diaspora** and overseeing the provision of consular support services. **Report to Parliament** on the activities and expenditure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**CABINET SECRETARY/MINISTER FOR DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA:**  
**2013 – 2020**

Led the Ministry of Defence which had an annual budget of KES 130 billion [US\$ 1.3 billion]. **Oversaw civilian staff members** and the administration of the Ministry. **As Chairperson of the Defence Council of Kenya, was responsible for the overall policy, control, supervision of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF)** comprising the Kenya Army, Kenya Air Force, and the Kenya Navy as well as their defence training, research and industrial entities and attendant legislation ,in addition to the authorization of the deployment of KDF in peace keeping and peace support operations around the world – e.g., AMISOM and its internal deployments in support of the civil authority. **Oversaw and authorized defence budgeting and complex defence procurement** and presided over the modernization of the mobility, fire power, intelligence and sustenance of KDF. **Formulated and implemented critical policy documents** as well as bilateral agreements, such as the Defence White Paper 2017, Gender Policy, Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Policy, the Defence Industrialization Policy and undertook substantial amendments to the Kenya Defence Forces Act. **Represented Kenya in regional and global defence policy fora and served as** Chairperson of the Council of Defence Ministers of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (2013-2014), Chairperson of the East African Community Sectoral Council on Cooperation in Defence (2013), Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Defence Forces Medical Insurance Scheme (2013-2020), and Chairperson of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (2019-2020). **Oversaw the establishment of the Kenya Space Agency** and the installation of its first Board and management team (2018-2019). **Reported to Parliament** on the activities and expenditure of the Ministry of Defence.

**ACTING CABINET SECRETARY/MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA: 2014**

Led the Ministry of Labour and Social Services which had an annual budget of KES 35.6 billion [US\$ 350 million] and 1,700 staff. **Oversaw the administration and financial oversight of the Ministry and the formulation and implementation of policies** related to industrial relations, national manpower planning and skills development, national productivity, migrant labour issues and occupational safety matters. Managed intermittent industrial action by various workers unions. **Reconstituted critical wages and labour relations institutions namely:** the National Labour Board, and the General Wages Council and the Agricultural Wages Council and supervised the work of the Task Force on Migrant Labour and Employment, which set the policy direction for the management of Kenya's migrant labour. **Reconstituted the Board of the National Social Security Fund valued at KES 300 billion [US\$ 3 billion]. Supervised the preliminary conceptualization of the *Inua Jamii Social Protection Program*,** which currently provides monthly stipends to over 1 million Kenyans over 70 years of age, 300,000 orphaned children and 47,000 severely disabled persons. Oversaw provision of children services and street childrens' programs and the reform of Kenya's child adoption policies. **Reported to Parliament** on the activities and expenditure of the Ministry of Labour and its agencies.

**AMBASSADOR PLENIPOTENTIARY AND EXTRAORDINAIRE OF KENYA TO THE Republic of France with accreditation to Kingdom of Spain, the Holy See, the Republic of Portugal, the Republic of Serbia: 2003 -2009**

**Represented Kenya in the aforementioned countries and served as Kenya's Permanent Representative to UNESCO.** Managed and had financial responsibility for the Mission in France and its staff and oversaw the establishment of the Mission in Madrid in 2008. **Promoted and projected Kenya's interests** in tourism, trade, culture, diaspora affairs and the environment in line with the pillars of Kenya's foreign policy. **Engaged key development partners** such the French Development Agency (AFD) with respect to issues regarding water, sanitation, energy, capacity building and environmental conservation. **Participated in proceedings of UNESCO's Executive Board** and the Africa Group and served as Chairperson of the UNESCO Headquarters Committee. Advanced Kenya's interests in education and science and garnered support for Kenya's pioneering work in the provision of free primary education.

**LEGAL PRACTICE: 1985 – 2002; 2010 -2012**

**Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Commissioner for Oaths since 1984,** serving with Omamo and Omamo Advocates and Coulson and Harney Advocates. Legal practice specialised in civil litigation and undertook a wide variety of litigation at all levels of the Kenyan Court system. Undertook legal research, rendering of legal opinions, negotiation, drafting of pleadings, contracts and conveyances. Focused on women's' and children rights and was the co-draftsman of Kenya's first Children Act, 2002.

**I was the first woman to be elected as Chairperson Law Society of Kenya (2000-2002),** serving two terms in the largest national Bar association in East and Central Africa. **I also served as the Vice Chairperson of the East Africa Law Society.** As leader of the Kenyan Bar, I chaired the Council of the Society and had oversight of the Secretariat, its budget, human resources and organizational efficacy. During my tenure I led the restructuring of the Secretariat and the development of the Society's Continuing Legal Education Program. **I led the Law Society in making pivotal contributions to Kenya's constitutional reform process and the reform of the Judiciary.** In 2012 I was conferred **the rank of Senior Counsel.** I have also engaged in the following legal related public service roles:

- Legal Counsel to the Ndungu Commission of Inquiry into the Illegal/Irregular Allocation of Land in Kenya (2003)
- Member of the Task Force on the Establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission for Kenya (2002 -2003)
- Member of the Task Force on Landlord and Tenant Law (1998)
- Vice President of the East Africa Law Society (2002)
- Chairperson of the Advocates Benevolent Fund Board (2001-2002)
- Member of the Council of Legal Education in Kenya (2002)

#### **MAJOR SPEECHES AND ADDRESSES:**

**During my service as government Minister, I have made numerous interventions and speeches at regional and global levels and participated in a wide variety of high-level panels on peace and security, multilateralism, climate change, food security, COVID-19 mitigation.** These include interventions at the United Nations Security Council, the AU Peace and Security Council the Manama Dialogue 2018, the Aswan Forum 2019, The Munich Security Conference 2019 & 2022, the Berlin Climate Security Conference 2020, the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development (2020), the International Conference on Women Peace and Security Vietnam 2020, the Atlantic Council Panel at COP26 (2021), the Global Education Forum Summit (2021), the Rasina Dialogue (2021), the Alliance for Multilateralism 2020, the International Conference on Women Peace and Security Vietnam 2020. Samples of my interventions can be found on the following links:

#### **VIDEO RECORDING LINKS:**

##### **1. Atlantic Council Live from COP26: Paving the way with climate innovation**

Speakers:

**His Excellency Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber**, the UAE's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology

**Bill Gates**, founder of Breakthrough Energy and co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation;

**Secretary John Kerry**, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate

**Ambassador Raychelle Omamo**, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Kenya.

Moderator **Frederick Kempe**, President and CEO of the Atlantic Council, will join the panelists live from the UAE Pavilion in Glasgow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlwjAGYZ3Wo>

2. **2020 Virtual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development 'Sustaining Peace in the Time of COVID-19'. The open session 'Climate Change: The Other Crisis'**,  
Moderator: Dan Smith, Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute  
Speakers: Peter Eriksson, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden  
Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kenya  
Hanna Tetteh, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union  
Hindou Ibrahim, SDG Advocate and co-director of the World Indigenous Peoples' Initiative and Pavilion at COP21, COP22 and COP23  
Margot Wallström, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden, Environment Commissioner and Vice-President of the European Commission  
<https://youtu.be/uoZj5qDF5tI>
3. **Global Partnership for Education Opening Session**  
Co-Speakers  
H.E. Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab, MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Alice P. Albright- Chief Executive Officer of GPE,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7mzW-0TrL0>  
Intervention from 1:08:27
4. **Speech by Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kenya at ICIPE 50th Anniversary Ceremony**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LE2MO9OhYy0>
5. **Kenya on the situation in the Great Lakes region - Security Council Media Stakeout (20 October 2021)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYS5289viOQ>
6. **Kenya on Women, Peace, and Security & Afghanistan- Security Council Media Stakeout (21 October 2021)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xUoelrO7w0>
7. **Raisina Dialogue: Africa Rises: The Continent Means Business**  
Speakers: Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya  
Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, India  
Gwendoline Abunaw, Managing Director, Ecobank, Cameroon  
Moderator - Navdeep Suri, Distinguished Fellow and Director, CNED, Observer Research Foundation, India  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28V00AxIQbA>

**8. International Conference on Women, Peace and Security Strengthening Women's Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: from Commitments to Results**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Az1MDs2S5Nc>

Intervention at 1:15:39

**9. Raisina Dialogues: The Road to Sustainable Development Goals**

Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bhutan Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya Ann Marie Yastishock, Chief Advisor to the Acting Administrator, USAID, United States Rachel Glennerster, Chief Economist, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India Moderator – Maitreyi Bordia Das, Manager, World Bank, United States

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJLRZKeXM4>

**STATEMENTS:**

**All statements can be found on:**

[https://www.un.int/kenya/statements\\_speeches](https://www.un.int/kenya/statements_speeches)

Statement delivered by Amb. Raychelle Omamo, SC, EGH Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs during the Security Council Meeting on Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Climate and Security

[https://www.un.int/kenya/statements\\_speeches/statement-delivered-amb-raychelle-omamo-sc-egh-cabinet-secretary-foreign-affairs](https://www.un.int/kenya/statements_speeches/statement-delivered-amb-raychelle-omamo-sc-egh-cabinet-secretary-foreign-affairs)

Ministerial Debate on the Great Lakes Region

[https://www.un.int/kenya/statements\\_speeches/ministerial-debate-great-lakes-region](https://www.un.int/kenya/statements_speeches/ministerial-debate-great-lakes-region)

Statement by Amb. Raychelle Omamo SC, EGH Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs during the Security Council Briefing on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: Preserving Humanitarian Space

[https://www.un.int/kenya/statements\\_speeches/statement-amb-raychelle-omamo-sc-egh-cabinet-secretary-foreign-affairs-during-0](https://www.un.int/kenya/statements_speeches/statement-amb-raychelle-omamo-sc-egh-cabinet-secretary-foreign-affairs-during-0)

Statement by Amb. Raychelle Omamo SC, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs during the Security Council High-Level meeting on the theme “Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Upholding Multilateralism and the United Nations-Centered International System

[https://www.un.int/kenya/statements\\_speeches/statement-amb-raychelle-omamo-](https://www.un.int/kenya/statements_speeches/statement-amb-raychelle-omamo-)

Statement as delivered by H.E Amb. Raychelle Omamo, SC, EGH Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya during the Briefing on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security: follow-up on the implementation of resolution 2532 (2020)

[https://www.un.int/kenya/statements\\_speeches/statement-delivered-he-amb-raychelle-omamo-sc-egh-cabinet-secretary-foreign](https://www.un.int/kenya/statements_speeches/statement-delivered-he-amb-raychelle-omamo-sc-egh-cabinet-secretary-foreign)

Statement Delivered by CS Raychelle Omamo during the Open VTC meeting on 20th Anniversary Of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2020) And The Establishment Of The Counter-Terrorism Committee

[https://www.un.int/kenya/statements\\_speeches/statement-delivered-cs-raychelle-omamo-during-open-vtc-meeting-20th-anniversary](https://www.un.int/kenya/statements_speeches/statement-delivered-cs-raychelle-omamo-during-open-vtc-meeting-20th-anniversary)

#### **MAJOR HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Elder of the Golden Heart of the Republic of Kenya (2015)
- The Constitution Award (2012)
- Senior Counsel Kenya (Conferred in 2012)
- Croix de l'Ordre de Saint Gregoire le Grand - The Holy See (2007)
- Jurist of the Year, Kenya Chapter of the International Commission of Jurists (2002)
- Rule of Law Award, National Council of Women of Kenya (2002)
- Young Woman Professional of the Year, Kenya Association of Business and Professional Women (2002)