
PLENARY MEETING

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Note by the Secretary-General

CANDIDACY FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to the information contained in Document 3, I have pleasure in transmitting to the conference, in annex, the candidacy of:

Mr Brahim SANOU (Burkina Faso)

for the post of Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union.

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General

Annex: 1

Burkina Faso

Ouagadougou, 17 November 2017

The Prime Minister

To:

Mr Houlin Zhao,

Secretary-General of the International
Telecommunication Union

Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20

Switzerland

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Reference: No. 017 2433/PM/CAB

Subject: Candidacy of Mr **Brahima Sanou** for election
to the post of **Deputy Secretary-General** of the
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Dear Sir,

Further to your Circular Letter CL-17/42 of 23 October 2017, I have the pleasure of informing you, on behalf of the government and people of Burkina Faso, that Burkina Faso is putting forward the candidacy of Mr **Brahima SANOU** for election to the post of **Deputy Secretary-General** of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the period 2019-2022, at the elections which are to take place during the Plenipotentiary Conference to be held in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) from 29 October to 16 November 2018.

A telecommunication engineer, Mr SANOU also holds a postgraduate diploma in Financial, Economic and Banking Studies. This diversified training has afforded Mr SANOU the proficiency and open-mindedness required to grasp the issues involved in the development of telecommunications and ICTs in terms of their technical, economic and financial aspects.

Mr SANOU's experience in the field as ITU Regional Director for Africa for ten years, combined with his wealth of experience as Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau since 2011, bestows on him the essential tools required for the post of Deputy Secretary-General.

Mr SANOU also embodies the vision, commitment, energy and enthusiasm required to reposition ITU within the ICT ecosystem and implement the ICT solutions for sustainable development.

Moreover, Mr SANOU's leadership qualities have recently been rewarded with the African Personality of the Year Award, conferred on him at the 2017 African Leadership Awards.

Burkina Faso, which believes in ITU's ideals, reaffirms its readiness to pursue and strengthen, over the coming years, its efforts in terms of an increasingly active contribution to the life of our shared organization.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed with official stamp of the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso)

Paul Kaba THIEBA

Grand Officer of the National Order

Enclosures: Vision and CV of Mr SANOU

BRAHIMA SANOU

Candidate for the post of **Deputy Secretary-General**
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



ICTs FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MY VISION

In a rapidly expanding global knowledge-based economy, it is our collective responsibility to tap into the full potential of ICTs to accelerate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To this end, I strongly believe that we need to promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) and strengthen cooperation and collaboration amongst all stakeholders in the telecommunication/ICT ecosystem. I am committed to working with all stakeholders to make a difference.

THE CANDIDATE

- Mr Brahima Sanou has more than 35 years of experience in the telecommunication/ICT sector. He was elected Director of the ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in 2010 and unanimously re-elected in 2014.
- Prior to his election as Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, Mr Sanou served as the ITU Regional Director for Africa and Liaison Officer to the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for more than 10 years, and prior to that, as Representative of Burkina Faso to the ITU Council for almost 10 years.
- A telecommunications engineer by training, he is also the holder of a Post-Graduate Diploma in Financial, Economic and Banking Studies. This diversified educational background, combined with his long and rich experience, grants him the ability and open-mindedness that are vital to understand ICTs in their technical, economic and financial dimensions, necessary for the acceleration of the attainment of the SDGs.
- In addition, his unique profile and his field experience, close to the needs and realities of countries and local communities, grants Mr Sanou the key assets to grasp the opportunities of telecommunication/ICT for the benefit of ITU membership.
- Mr Sanou brings with him a vision, a commitment and the relentless energy and enthusiasm required to make a difference in delivering ICT solutions for sustainable development.
- Mr. Sanou's skillful leadership is recognized by the international community, as illustrated at the 2017 edition of the African Leadership Awards where he was bestowed with «African Leader of the Year Award».

A PERSON COMMITTED TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

As Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Sanou will continue to enhance the implementation of good governance through:

- promoting a relationship between ITU and its Members founded on **transparency, consultation, efficient management of resources and accountability**;
- fostering **team spirit** by supporting the Secretary-General and the three Directors for the efficient management of the ITU Secretariat, including motivating and inspiring staff, in order to deliver concrete results to the membership in a timely manner;
- spearheading **innovation** to strengthen ITU as an **active player** and **facilitator** in the rapidly changing telecommunication/ICT sector;
- strengthening **partnership and cooperation** by building upon ITU's comparative advantage to foster effective and stronger relationships with regional and international telecommunication organizations, private sector, the Internet community and other stakeholders of the ICT ecosystem in order to create complementarities and constructive synergies;
- promoting **collaborative approaches** with other United Nations agencies with the view of streamlining ICTs for accelerating the attainment of the SDGs in agriculture, health, education, gender, trading, infrastructure, environment and climate change.

“The will to act, the commitment to deliver”

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

January 2011 to present: Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

Elected Director of BDT and unanimously re-elected in 2014, Mr Sanou successfully implemented the Hyderabad and Dubai Action Plans, guided by the cardinal pillars of good governance, transparency, accountability, partnership and innovation.

During his tenure as Director of BDT, Mr Sanou also launched three major initiatives within the framework of an overarching vision of sustainable development. He extended and strengthened partnerships with regional and international telecommunication organizations, the Internet community, the private sector, and development partners.

Under his leadership, global multistakeholder meetings were organized, for the first time, between ministers of education and ministers of ICTs in cooperation with UNESCO, as well as between ministers of health and ministers of ICTs in cooperation with WHO, to start a structured conversation on cross-sectoral collaborative policies and regulations for using ICTs to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs through e-education and e-health. Under his leadership, e-agriculture strategy guidelines were also developed in partnership with FAO.

2000 to 2010: ITU Regional Director for Africa and Liaison Officer to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Throughout these years of work in the field, Mr Sanou achieved a lot by applying innovative solutions to ICT development issues and disparities in a region marked by the highest concentration of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Another key achievement of Mr Sanou is the strengthening of cooperation with the African Union, regional and sub-regional telecommunication organizations, finance and development partners, and sister agencies of the United Nations.

1997 to 2000: Coordinator, African regional project on telecommunication reform and General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

During this period, Mr Sanou actively supported African countries in adapting to the changing international telecommunication paradigm and the emergence of new regulatory frameworks (liberalization, competition, harmonization of regulations, and market access within the WTO framework).

1981 to 1997: Senior Officer in the Postal and Telecommunication Company of Burkina Faso

Mr Sanou held a number of very senior positions in the development of his country's telecommunication/ICT sector.

International experience

Mr Sanou's career is marked by a rich variety of international experience. Mr Sanou has served amongst others as Councillor and Head of Burkina Faso's delegation to the ITU Administrative Council (now the Council), Vice-Chairman of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board, Governor (representing a group of 15 African countries) on the Board of Governors of INTELSAT, and Representative of ITU at numerous high-level meetings.

"The will to act, the commitment to deliver"



EDUCATION

- Masters Degree in Telecommunication Engineering from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications (ENST, Paris)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Financial, Economic and Banking Studies (CEFEB, Paris)

LANGUAGES

French, English, Arabic (notions)

FAMILY STATUS

Married with 3 children

AWARDS & HONORS

- Knight "Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Burkina Faso"
- Knight "Ordre National du Mérite de la République Gabonaise"
- Africa Telecom People's "Best Manager or Public Affairs Manager" Award 2007 edition
- "African Leader of the Year Award" by 2017 edition of African Leadership Awards

CONTACTS

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