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Resilient nations.

Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP)

The Secretariat of the United Nations welcomes applications for the position of Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the Assistant Secretary-General level, based in New York.

In order to ensure a wide pool of candidates for this position, UNDP welcomes applications to supplement the Secretary-General's search and consultations and would especially welcome applications from women candidates.

All applications should include the curriculum vitae of the candidates with full contact information (e-mail and telephone) and must be received by the deadline of Monday, 1 June 2026 (midnight New York time), submitted to: exo.cos@undp.org

Further information on UNDP is available at: <https://www.undp.org/>

The Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa of UNDP is a member of the Secretary-General's [Senior Leadership Team](#), and serves as a role model for the United Nations Values (Inclusion, Integrity, Humility and Humanity) and Behaviours Framework (Connect and Collaborate; Analyse and Plan; Deliver Results with Positive Impact; Learn and Develop; Adapt and Innovate), and the desired behaviours of the [United Nations System Leadership Framework](#).

Background

UNDP works in nearly 170 countries and territories. Anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and committed to the principles of universality, equality and leaving no one behind, UNDP's priorities are set in its Strategic Plan (2026–2029), aiming to help countries achieve sustainable development by eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development, and building resilience to crises and shocks. The Strategic Plan sets out a vision for the further evolution of UNDP over the next four years, responding to a changing development landscape and the evolving needs of its partners.

Encompassing 46 countries, the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) is UNDP's largest Regional Bureau. With its headquarters in New York, one regional Service Centre in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), and two sub-regional service hubs located in Dakar (Senegal) and Pretoria (South Africa), it covers almost one third of the countries in crisis or post-crisis situations. Across the region, UNDP partners with countries to build and share their own solutions to urgent development challenges, supporting coalitions for change and connecting individuals and institutions so they can share knowledge, experience and resources. As countries develop local capacity, they draw on UNDP's expertise and its wide range of regional and global partners.

The Regional Director is the leader of UNDP in the region as well as a member of UNDP's corporate leadership, and as such, serves as a role model for corporate values, behaviors and substantive skills. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa reports to the Administrator/Associate Administrator, is a member of UNDP's Executive Group, and contributes to shaping and monitoring overall corporate strategic directions. He/She directs and manages the overall policy and ongoing regional programme and country office operations in the region to address priorities and achieve outcomes.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Participating in UNDP's highest-level corporate decision-making body, the Executive Group (EG), helping to shape and implement strategic directions for the Organization as a whole;
- Building strategic partnerships with key stakeholders to carry out UNDP's mission, support countries in their development pathways and achieve results;
- Managing the Regional Bureau for Africa and working collaboratively across UNDP to achieve outcomes in line with UNDP's Strategic Plan, including by providing overall leadership and shaping strategic thinking for UNDP's engagement in the region; identifying development challenges and priorities; defining strategic programming priorities at the regional and country level; and implementing measures to improve the quality and effectiveness of programmes;
- Building and maintaining strategic partnerships for UNDP in the Africa region, notably cooperation with and support to the African Union, with a focus on knowledge sharing, joint development activities and resource mobilization, and representing UNDP as required in high-level events and fora relating to the Africa region;
- Engaging in collaborative platforms in the region to support the UN Resident Coordinator system, and advocating for greater coherence and harmonization of UN Country Teams; and supporting the effective implementation of United Nations development system reforms at regional and country levels.

Education, Skills and Expertise

The Secretary-General is seeking an individual with the following qualifications and competencies:

- A strong record of progressively responsible, substantive and results-oriented experience at the international level, including development programming, resource mobilization and advocacy, with a particular focus on Africa;
- Experience in interagency and international cooperation, negotiation of partnerships, mobilization of resources and management of programmes; demonstrated leadership and ability to advocate for effective solutions, including in crisis response and complex situations;
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience of the United Nations and/or other intergovernmental institutions and international entities, including the ability to influence and advance dialogue at global and regional fora; and
- Values of inclusion, integrity, humility and humanity; and behaviours to connect and collaborate, analyse and plan, deliver results with positive impact, learn and develop, and adapt and innovate.

Languages

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. For this position, fluency in English is required. A working knowledge of French or other United Nations official language will be an advantage.

Human rights screening

Individuals who seek to serve with the United Nations in any individual capacity will be required, if short-listed, to complete a self-attestation stating that they have not committed, been convicted of, nor prosecuted for, any criminal offence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and have not been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

Conflicts of interest screening

All United Nations staff members are expected to uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Senior leaders in particular, have the responsibility to serve as role models in upholding the Organization's ethical standards.

A conflict of interest occurs when, by act or omission, a staff member's personal interests interfere with the performance of their official duties and responsibilities, or call into question their integrity, independence and impartiality. Risk for conflicts of interest may arise from a staff member's engagement in outside (non-United Nations) employment or occupation; outside activities, including political activities; receipt of gifts, honours, awards, favours or remuneration from external (non-United Nations) sources; or personal investment. In particular, no staff member shall accept any honour, decoration, favour, gift or remuneration from any Government (Staff Regulation 1.2 (j)).

Where a real or perceived conflict of interest does arise, senior leaders are obligated to disclose this to the Organization without delay. In order to avoid real or perceived family influence or preferential treatment and conflicts of interest that could stem from such situations, the United Nations Staff Rules provide that appointments "shall not be granted to anyone who is the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of a staff member" (Staff Rule 4.7 (a)).

Short-listed individuals will be required to complete a pre-appointment declaration of interests for senior positions to identify possible conflicts of interest that may arise and to proactively prevent and manage, as much as possible and in a timely manner, situations in which personal interests may conflict, or appear to conflict, with the interests of the United Nations, should the individual be appointed to this position.

7 May 2026