

MR ABDOULIE JANNEH

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr Abdoulie Janneh (Gambia) is Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). ECA has a dual role as the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa and as a key pan-African institution. Since Mr Janneh joined ECA, he has taken steps to strategically reposition the organization to better support Africa's development agenda. He has also overseen the articulation of the ECA Business Plan 2007 – 2009 to operationalize the new strategic vision.



Before joining ECA, Mr Janneh served as Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Africa from June 2000 to October 2005. In that capacity, he managed United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) largest Regional Bureau, covering 45 countries in sub-Saharan Africa with a complement of over 1500 staff. Prior to that, he held a number of senior positions in UNDP and its affiliated funds, including Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative in Ghana (1996–99) and Niger (1993–96), as well as Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (1990–93).

As a senior UN manager, Mr Janneh has been a strong advocate for development efforts that respond effectively to Africa's national and regional priorities. Under his leadership, ECA has taken significant steps to support African countries in the area of regional integration, poverty eradication, trade, financing for development, ICTs, governance, statistics, climate change, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and natural resources management. Mr Janneh remains particularly interested in the institutional transformation of the African Union and the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), including the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), as critical initiatives for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr Janneh has been striving to enhance partnership-building for Africa, as a necessary vehicle to mobilize support and build inclusiveness for shared development objectives. In this regard, he has been able to cultivate strong partnerships at the highest levels between ECA and governments, the private sector, civil society, as well as national, regional and international organizations. He also serves on the advisory panels of a number of organizations involved in Africa's development and has delivered over the years a number of keynote addresses, policy statements and written articles on issues germane to Africa's development.