

Within the series

Africa - Dimensions of a Continent

by and with Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl and Georg Lennkh
and in co-operation with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
and the Federal Ministry for Defense / Department for Security Policy

the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue kindly invites to the lecture of

CHEICK SIDI DIARRA

Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the
Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

THE SITUATION OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SETTING

Welcome address and introduction

Georg Lennkh

Special Envoy for Africa, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Moderator and respondent:

Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl

Director General for Development Cooperation, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Thursday | December 3, 2009 | 19.00 hours

Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue | Armbrustergasse 15 | 1190 Vienna |
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Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed Ambassador Diarra of Mali in July 2007 as Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. At the time of his appointment, Cheick Sidi Diarra was serving as the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations in New York.

Ambassador Diarra has over 25 years of professional experience in international relations, law and development, an advanced first-hand knowledge and experience of bilateral and multilateral relations. He was also involved in Mali's national reconciliation efforts that paved the road to the country's peaceful and democratic development.

Cheick Sidi Diarra has been actively involved in furthering African integration efforts and the African development agenda at the international level. He has served as one of the lead negotiators on these issues at African Union summits since 1982. Multilateral diplomacy has been the major area of his long diplomatic career. From his decade-long experience dealing with the United Nations, he acquired first-hand knowledge and experience of multifaceted issues of the United Nations and its intergovernmental processes in particular. Ambassador Diarra made important contributions to the reform process of the United Nations aimed at strengthening the Organization's global role in economic and development matters. He has been an active advocate for the cause of Africa, the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries as his country uniquely represents all three groups of countries. Because of his well-known efforts, he was elected Chairman of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries.

Cheick Sidi Diarra obtained masters degrees in international public law and international relations from Dakar University in Senegal. He was born on 31 May 1957 in Kayes, Mali and is married with two children.

Georg Lennkh

Special Envoy for Africa, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

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