

## **Blaak Sow, Mirjam**

Uganda nominee for election to the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court.

### **Curriculum vitae**

#### **Ambassador Mirjam Blaak Sow**

#### **Profile**

- International Lawyer with over 30 years of experience as an international civil servant and diplomat
- Professional Legal Mediator with excellent negotiating skills
- Seasoned manager with entrepreneurship skills in both the public and private sectors
- Charismatic, warm and energetic, attributes emanating from the multicultural background as a natural consequence of global citizenship
- Passionate about justice and a strong advocate of international judicial mechanisms and interstate cooperation to bring perpetrators to justice and justice to victims. Serving on various working groups of the ICC and international legal institutions
- Excellent knowledge of and fluency in several European languages

#### **Personal data**

Place of Birth: Zeist, The Netherlands  
Nationality: Ugandan (revoked Dutch nationality)  
Status: Married with one son and two daughters

#### **Education**

##### **University of Amsterdam 2010-2011**

Professional Legal ADR/Legal Mediator, under the auspices of the NMI, (Netherlands Mediation Institute)

##### **University of Utrecht 1975-1981**

Bachelor of Law and Master of Laws degrees:  
Dutch law with specialisation in international law  
Awarded the outstanding achievements prize

#### **Professional working experience**

2012 to present      Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and the European Union

2003 - 2012        Deputy Ambassador accredited to Brussels but based in The Hague representing Uganda in all legal institutions including:- the International Criminal Court (ICC), International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the Organisation

	for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapon (OPCW). Promotion of Tourism, Trade, Transfer of Technology and Investments as key elements of this mandate
2000 - 2002	Management consultant acting as financial advisor to Drillcon a Danish company based in Kampala dealing with installation of water boreholes
2000 - 2003	Country Representative for the Netherlands Management Cooperation Programme (PUM) in Uganda
1985 - 2003	Legal, marketing, and management consultant operating in East Africa representing commercial companies in Kenya, Uganda and Sudan
1995 - 1996	Consultant for the European Union (EU) promoting Uganda's tourism by producing a 26 minute promotional video and other promotional material
1990 - 2001	Owner and Director of Delmira Travel and Tours Ltd., an IATA travel agency and appointed official representative for Carlson Wagonlit and Thomas Cook in Uganda
1982 - 1985	Legal/Associate Protection Officer with UNHCR, United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Nairobi, Kenya
1977 - 1982	During the university studies employed as Flight Attendant with KLM

### **Memberships to boards of directors and organisations**

2014 - present	Member of the Brussels Business Club, Cercle de Lorraine
2011 - present	Elected Chairperson (representing Uganda) of the Board of Justice Rapid Response (JRR) an intergovernmental organisation based in Geneva. From 2008 appointed member of Policy Group representing Uganda. After 2014 Member of the Executive Board of JRR. In 2011 certified in private capacity as JRR expert
2011 - present	Appointed Member of the Governing Council of Africa Legal Aid (AFLA), an international NGO promoting human rights in Africa. Previously February 2010 Member of the African Legal Aid (AFLA) Steering Committee on a Policy Agenda for International Justice
2010 - 2011	Member of the Team of Experts revising the Model Law for implementing legislation of the Rome Statute initiated by the Commonwealth Secretariat – adopted by the Council of Justice Ministers (CHOGM) in June 2011
2007 - 2010	Initiator, intermediary and organiser on behalf of the host state Uganda of the ICC Review Conference successfully held in Uganda in May 2010
2009 - present	Chairperson of the “Uganda Table” in close cooperation with the Rabobank Charity desk discussing with their wealthy clients how to develop projects in Uganda
December 2007	Elected by the Assembly of States Parties (ICC) in New York to represent Africa on the jury handling the architectural design competition for the new ICC premises to be built at the Alexander Kazerne in The Hague
Dec. 2003 - 2009	Elected Executive Director of the Executive Board by the Governing Council of the Common Fund for Commodities representing six countries in East and Southern Africa
June 2006 - 2008	Appointed as Member of the Peace Talks Support Committee (PTSC) headed by the Ministry of Defence for the Juba Peace talks between the LRA and the Government of Uganda
1997 - 2002	Founding member and Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Interplast Uganda, a Non-Governmental Organisation in medical sector
1997 - 2002	Appointed Member of the Board of Trustees of the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre based in Entebbe

1997 - 2001	Elected and re-elected Member, and Vice-Chairperson, of the Board of Management and Board of Trustees of the International School of Uganda
1995	Consultant - provided services to a visiting team of Senior Managers of Hewlett Packard to raise funds in Uganda for Operation Raleigh, a British based NGO
1998 - 2000	Member of the Society for Incentive & Travel Experts (SITE - East Africa Chapter), a worldwide professional organisation, based in New York

### **Languages**

Excellent knowledge and proficient in Dutch, English, French, German and basic Swahili

### **Hobbies**

Swimming, golf, skiing, travelling, reading and social activities

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