

## **Statement of qualifications**

### **Personal data**

Name: Samuel P.O. Itam  
Date of Birth: 17 February 1952  
Place of Birth: Freetown, Sierra Leone  
National of: Sierra Leone

### **Current position**

December 2010 - present Chairman and Managing Director, Institute for Technical Analysis and Monitoring (The ITAM Foundation, Freetown, Sierra Leone)

2007 - present Member, International Advisory Board, Queen Mary, University of London, United Kingdom.

### **Immediate prior positions at the International Monetary Fund**

2008 - 2010 Executive Director for Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

- In addition to representing the interest of these countries, as a member of the Executive Board, was responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These included formulating policies, exercising oversight, and providing guidance to management and staff. As Executive Director, contributed to the review of macroeconomic policies of individual member countries under the various surveillance activities, the approval of lending programs for member countries, and the overview of the IMF's budget and finance operations.
- Served on several committees, including the Executive Board Committee on Administrative Matters; IMF Committee on Capital Budget; IMF Audit Committee; Committee of the Whole on IMF Budget; Executive Board Ethics Committee.

2006 - 2007 Senior Advisor Responsible for review of IMF policy for the sub-Saharan African countries; main liaison for relations with other international and regional organizations/agencies; mission head for Ethiopia and Ghana; Coordinator for the presentation of cross-country and other applied research in the African Department of the IMF; member of the Review Committee for appointments and

promotions across the institution as a whole; and member of the Diversity Council.

Chairman of the sub-Saharan African Group of the IMF and Co-Chairman of the World Bank Group/IMF African Society.

### **Immediate prior position with the Government of Sierra Leone**

2007 – 2008 Economic Adviser, Office of the President, Republic of Sierra Leone.  
Worked closely with the economic and finance ministries and the central bank in the development of policies, including the medium-term budget.

### **International Monetary Fund staff career**

1975 - 1984 Economist undertaking analytical research on the East African countries and preparation of the World Economic Outlook; Worked mainly on macroeconomic programs for East and Southern African countries (including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Uganda, and Seychelles), and for South East Asian and Pacific countries (including Thailand, Philippines, and Papua New Guinea). Invariably, these programs involved budget and finance adjustments to achieve medium-term sustainability.

1984 - 1987 IMF Resident Representative in Bangladesh (mainly as resident advisor to the Government on budget and financial policies).

1987 - 1990 Senior Economist.  
Worked mainly on Indonesia during the second major drop in oil prices that required severe budgetary adjustment with the design, development and implementation of a medium term budget aimed at sustainability.

1990 - 1997 Deputy Division Chief.  
Worked mainly as mission chief for Pacific countries (including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tonga) and Caribbean countries (Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago). Of particular relevance was the design of fiscal policies to deal with a heavily-indebted country (Guyana) and putting in place an effective framework for medium-term budgeting.

1997 - 2000 Advisor/Division Chief, Western Hemisphere.  
Responsible for review of relations with countries in the region and the overall management of the individual country teams for five countries in the Caribbean including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago). Jamaica was adjusting to a financial crisis centered in the state owned banks, and Trinidad and Tobago was preparing for the boom in resources from oil and gas. In both cases, the core of adjustment rested on the design and implementation of appropriate fiscal policies.

- 2001 - 2004 IMF Senior Resident Representative in Kenya. This was a challenging period for Kenya as the economy stagnated or declined, with significant net outflow of private capital, net repayment to multilateral institutions, and widespread concern about corruption. I worked closely on fiscal management with a “Dream Team” from the Diaspora that was put together by the government with the assistance of the IMF and World Bank.
- 2004 - 2006 Assistant Director in charge of four country teams, responsible for general administration, and mission chief for Ghana. Ghana was on an adjustment path with the key objective of significantly reducing the public debt/GDP ratio through the formulation of appropriate medium-term fiscal adjustment. This was quite successful, so much so that Ghana was able to access the international capital market at the completion of its adjustment program.
- 2006 - 2007 Senior Advisor, Immediate Office, Africa region. Assisted Ethiopia as efforts were made to absorb expected large increases in development assistance over the medium term.
- 2008 - 2010 As Executive Director, worked with Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors and their officials in developing macroeconomic policies, including appropriate budget and finance policies.

### **Education**

- 1974 B.Sc. (Econ.), First Class Honors, Economics, Queen Mary College, University of London, United Kingdom.
- 1975 M.Sc. (Econ.), Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, United Kingdom.

### **Awards**

- 1971 National Scholarship.
- 1973 University of London, United Kingdom, Drapers Company Prize in Economics.

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