



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 25, 2005**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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AFRICAN STATESMEN TO MEET TO CONFRONT CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN SECURITY

Former African Heads of State to Convene in Bamako, Mali, June 5-8

WASHINGTON DC-- More than 20 former heads of state and government will attend a June 5-8 symposium to discuss the challenges of peaceful political transitions in Africa and to share experiences on humanitarian and democratization efforts across the continent. The symposium, called the African Statesmen Initiative (ASI), will be held in Bamako, Mali.

The goals of ASI are to encourage democratic former heads of state to continue to play a constructive role in democratization efforts on the continent and provide a forum for these leaders to share experiences on initiatives on democratization and other challenges that they have undertaken since leaving office.

The three-day symposium will include discussions on topics including democratization and security, conflict management, economic development, health challenges affecting Africa, elections, democratic governance, parliaments and civil society.

Confirmed participants to date include:

Nicéphore Soglo (*Benin*)
Ketumile Masire (*Botswana*)
Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro (*Cape Verde*)
Aristides Maria Pereira (*Cape Verde*)
Dauda Kairaba Jawara (*The Gambia*)
Jerry Rawlings (*Ghana*)
Malam Bacai Sanhá (*Guinea-Bissau*)
Amos Sawyer (*Liberia*)
Albert Zafy (*Madagascar*)
Karl Auguste Offmann (*Mauritius*)

Mahamane Ousmane (*Niger*)
Alhaji Shehu Shagari (*Nigeria*)
Abdulsalami Abubakar (*Nigeria*)
Yakubu Gowon (*Nigeria*)
Manuel Pinto da Costa (*Sao Tome and Principe*)
Miguel Trovoada (*Sao Tome and Principe*)
Ali Hassan Mwinyi (*Tanzania*)
Joaquim Chissano (*Mozambique*)
Sam Nujoma (*Namibia*)
Kenneth Kaunda (*Zambia*)

Over the course of the three day symposium, participants will be joined by Club of Madrid members Kim Campbell (*former Prime Minister of Canada*), Antonio Guterres Oliveira (*former Prime Minister of Portugal*), Petre Roman (*former Prime Minister of Romania*) and Al Sadig Al – Mahdi (*former Prime Minister of Sudan*).

International experts will also be attending, including Jeffrey Sachs (*Earth Institute, Columbia University*), Awa Marie Coll-Seck (*Roll Back Malaria Partnership -Secretariat hosted by World Health Organization*), Carlton W. Fulford, Jr. (*Africa Center for Strategic Studies*), Charles R. Stith (*Africa Presidential Archives and Research Center*), Bernard Kouchner (*founder of Médecins Sans Frontières*) and Abdoulie Janneh (*United Nations Development Programme*).

This initiative by African leaders is being supported by the African Center for Strategic Studies, the Club of Madrid, the Gates Foundation, the National Democratic Institute, the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, the National Endowment for Democracy, the United Nations Development Programme and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

For more information about the African Statesmen Initiative, please visit the website at www.ndi.org/asi/

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NOTE TO THE PRESS:

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SYMPOSIUM.

The plenary discussions will be open to press coverage.

Press will be required to pre-register, so please contact NDI if interested in attending.

Visit our website at www.ndi.org/asi/ to register and for more details about the program.