



THE DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



*« A Union of forces for a Strong African Union, embodying Shared Values,
Solidarity and Human Security, for the wellbeing and resilience of the
Women and Men of the Continent, leaving no one behind »*

Kapinga Yvette NGANDU

Candidate for the position of Commissioner of the African Union
For Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development

MY VISION

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BIOGRAPHY

Madam Kapinga Yvette Ngandu, is Commissioner for the Promotion of Gender, Human and Social Development, at the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), since her swearing in on August 30, 2020, in Libreville, Gabon.



She succeeded Messrs. Crispin Rondo and Andres-Edu Mba Mokuy, both from Equatorial Guinea. In addition to being the youngest of the seven elected to the new Commission, she is the first woman to head this Department which is responsible for the management of ten key sectors: health, humanitarian action, education, and scientific research, culture, migration, employment, gender, youth, sports and social affairs.

Having evolved within international, continental and sub-regional organizations, as well as diplomatic institutions, Ms. Ngandu already has to her credit more than twenty-four years of service in the diplomatic arena and the multilateral space. Thus, ECCAS, the African Peer Review Mechanism (AU-APRM) in Johannesburg, the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa where it remained for twelve years, the United Nations Secretariat in New York, the International Peace Institute (IPI) in New York, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in Washington DC, the Voice of America (VOA) and the US State Department in Washington DC participating in these high emblematic places which will have contributed to consolidating and refining his professional experience.

In her multiple past and current positions, she has devoted and continues to devote a large part of her career to social issues, protection and human development. In this context, she had to pilot and coordinate political processes, as well as she contributed to the development and adoption of continental policies of the African Union and ECCAS relating to the protection of vulnerable people in conflict and post-conflict contexts, notably the AU Gender Declaration (adopted at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2004) and the AU Report on Women and Children in Armed Conflicts (2010) which resulted in a Decision taken by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the AU, in June 2017, establishing a Pan-African Network of Women Mediators (FemWise-Afrique), including the Secretariat was entrusted to him the same year. In the same vein, we can mention the AU transitional justice policy; the creation of the ECCAS Women Mediators Network.

Ms. Ngandu also worked extensively in the political affairs, peace and security sector at the African Union, the APRM and elsewhere. For example, on behalf of UA-MAEP, she had the privilege of co-piloting the development of an evaluation report on the governance systems put in place in 40 African countries to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic. and measure the level of resilience of the States concerned. The fruit of this work resulted in a publication in July 2020. She also worked to establish a collaboration platform between the Peace and Security Council and the APRM on conflict prevention.

Furthermore, from 2008 to early 2018, she was Coordinator at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, of two concurrent and complementary projects at the Department of Peace and Security (the Continental Mediation Unit and the Secretariat of the Group of Wise Men), both established in 2008. As Coordinator of the two projects, Ms. Ngandu was, for 10 years, responsible for managing the AU's preventive diplomacy and mediation operations and, more particularly, from the Group of Sages.

At the AU, she coordinated conflict prevention, mediation and good offices missions of members of the Group of Wise Men, such as the post-election mediation led by Kofi Annan in 2008; in South Africa in 2009 during the pre-election period; in Tunisia and Egypt from 2011 to 2013 during the Arab Spring; the facilitation and good offices carried out by Edem Kodjo RDC from 2006 to 2018 in the DRC; in Senegal in support of the mediation led by President Obasanjo to avoid an electoral conflict; in Ghana in 2013, in Sierra Leone in 2013, in Togo since 2015 in support of mediation supported by the Catholic Church; in Burkina Faso in 2016 in support of the mediation led by Edem Kodjo for the restoration of constitutional order and the restitution of works to civilians, etc. She also supervised and coordinated the production of thematic reports to enable the various Chairpersons of the AU Commission (Mr. Jean Ping, Ms. Dlamini Zuma, and Mr. Mahamat Moussa Faki), the Commissioners for Peace and Security and AU Member States to take appropriate action on emerging threats to peace and security in Africa: such as the AU reports on "election-related conflicts" in 2008; the AU report on "Impunity, justice and national reconciliation" in 2009; and the report on "Women and children in armed conflicts" in 2010; the report on "the management of unconstitutional changes of government" in 2012, and finally the AU Decision on the Culture of Peace, in 2015.

Previously, Ms. Ngandu worked as Senior Program Officer (Africa Program) at the International Peace Institute (IPI) based in New York from 2003 to 2008. She was responsible for cooperation with the African Union and all Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for the strengthening of APSA.

The responsibilities assumed and the experiences acquired ended up propelling it to the center of reflection and all preventive diplomacy and mediation operations of the African Union over the last ten years. This function also allowed him to create and develop synergies and links with a wide range of international partners (European Union, United Nations, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNITAR, GiZ, DfiD, Belgium, Finland, Germany, USA, Italy, Sweden, England, Netherlands, Canada, etc.), as well as building excellent working relationships with national political and civic actors in different African countries, community leaders, local elders, associations of women and young people.

She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and International Relations from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, United States, since 2003.

Having participated in around twenty Summits of Heads of State, and having organized around thirty seminars in different African countries, she is used to interacting with officials and non-state actors.

Finally, Mrs. Kapinga Yvette Ngandu has a perfect command of French, English, Spanish and Lingala and intermediate skills in Portuguese and Swahili.

She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Africa, California State University, Sacramento, California, and the African Studies Association (ASA) at Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA. united).

◀ *Her Recent publications:*

Fast-tracking the establishment of the ECCAS Humanitarian Action Architecture & boosting its capacity to assist member states in times of crisis through a regional Solidarity Fund” <https://www.accord.org.za/analysis/anchoring-eccas-peace-architecture-on-human-security-retrospective-and-prospective-analysis-of-apsa-20/>

«Positioning the APRM as an Early Warning Tool for Conflict Prevention», published by the African Union African Peer Review Mechanism Newsletter, Governance Link, May 2020;

«Le rôle du Groupe des sages dans la prévention du déclenchement de conflits violents en Afrique», publié par The United Nations Chronicles, Vol. LIV n ° 3 2017 octobre 2017.

Le Groupe des sages de l'Union africaine: une histoire concise. Le Centre africain pour la résolution constructive des différends (ACCORD) 2015, co-écrit avec le professeur Joao Gomes Porto

Règlement pacifique des différends frontaliers: leçons de l'affaire Bakassi et accord de Greentree. Académie / Institut international de la paix; co-écrit avec Mashood Issaka

Évaluation des efforts pour améliorer la gestion des conflits en Afrique de l'Ouest. Académie / Institut international de la paix; co-écrit avec Dorina Bekoe et Marilyn Aniwa.

Groupe des Sages de l'Union africaine: Renforcer les relations avec des mécanismes régionaux similaires, Rapport du Groupe de la Retraite de haut niveau des Sages tenue à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso les 4 et 5 juin 2012, ACCORD, Durban , 2013.

«Conflits électoraux et violence politique: renforcer le rôle de l'Union africaine dans la prévention, la gestion et la résolution des conflits», rapport du Groupe des sages de l'UA (New York, Institut international de la paix, Union africaine, 2010)

Groupe des sages de l'Union africaine, «Paix, justice et réconciliation en Afrique: opportunités et défis dans la lutte contre l'impunité», Rapport du Groupe des sages de l'UA (New York, Institut international de la paix, Union africaine, 2013) ;

Conseil de paix et de sécurité de l'Union africaine et Groupe des sages, «Rapport d'experts sur l'élimination des vulnérabilités des femmes et des enfants dans les conflits armés», Addis-Abeba, 2014;

Groupe des sages de l'Union africaine, «Renforcement de la gouvernance politique pour la paix, la sécurité et la stabilité en Afrique», rapport final, Addis-Abeba, 2012.

◀ **The strong points of her skills-set and achievements:**

Over the past five years, I have had the honor of leading all aspects of the life of a department identical to the one I covet at the African Union, but on a regional scale. I worked to promote and strengthen human and social development in Central Africa (11 States) in five directions: Health, Education, Culture and Scientific Research; Gender; Social Affairs; Youth and Sports. My tenure was successful, demonstrating the skills required for the position of African Union Commissioner.

Soft skills

My background (family, academic and professional) has allowed me to develop great curiosity, intellectual flexibility, resilience and cultural adaptability. Having lived, studied or worked in around ten countries and in several languages, I have acquired an ability exceptional professional adaptability.

I practice a participatory and collaborative leadership style, favoring social relationships, coaching, emotional intelligence and teamwork. My strategic orientation allowed me to grow my team at ECCAS from 6 to 41 people in four years. This strengthened team exceeded expectations, significantly improving the department's performance and productivity. In four years, we have made up for a lack of productivity observed over the last forty years. African Union reports indicated that ECCAS was sorely lacking before 2019 in community policies and strategies in the field of social affairs; since my arrival, we have produced more than ten, all in the process of being operationalized, and established the Central African Health Organization, an essential pillar of global public health management and are building the very first agency humanitarian architecture of the region, while Central Africa has been home to the continent's largest humanitarian cases for three decades.

Expertise

I have demonstrated strong managerial skills, facilitating decision-making by Member States and making informed and effective decisions. I have led multi-sectoral working groups, specialized technical committees and international, continental, regional and national forums. My experience at the Voice of America also accustomed me to public speaking. I have successfully evolved from peace and security (AU) to governance issues (APRM), including the management of structural social vulnerabilities. I was able to use my acquired skills and transfer them effectively to my new responsibilities.

I pride myself on promoting learning and organizational development to meet future needs. I encourage staff to engage in research, publication and professional development. Through my leadership, we have produced strategies and policies in all sectors under my supervision, thereby improving regional integration and response to public health challenges.

In conclusion,

My experience and skills demonstrate my ability to lead a complex department and meet the demands of the position of African Union Commissioner. My career testifies to my ability to provide strategic solutions, strengthen institutional capacities and promote peace, security and sustainable development in Africa.

◀ *A Snapshot of her achievements at a similar position:*

An atypical background, which allows her to use great listening skills, originality and innovation, has allowed me to stand out in all the sectors in which I have evolved, notably through the following achievements :

- 1. Revitalized sub-regional health and disease surveillance collaboration across eleven states, an unprecedented initiative, an area that was completely underinvested.
- 2. Reestablished trust between ECCAS and the partner community, leading to an exponential increase in support in this sector.
- 3. Gave a regional dimension to the concept of “human security” by developing a framework document made up of values and principles, and by creating solid synergies with the different community development sectors.
- 4. Mobilized resources for the launch of regional and national projects worth millions of US dollars, including:
 - A World Bank program for disease surveillance in Central Africa.
 - A World Bank project for the empowerment of women and girls (SWEDD).
 - A volunteering project for young people and weavers from ECCAS with UNDP.
 - A project on labor migration (with the AU, GiZ, ILO, ECA).
 - ****Manage**** the establishment of an ECCAS humanitarian agency and a regional Humanitarian Fund.
- 5. Launched and institutionalized the Central African Forum on Education, Training, Science, Technology and Innovation (FACESTI) in Lubumbashi.
- 6. Created and Institutionalized an African mediation forum (the AU Annual Retreat of Special Envoys) and professionalized the practice of mediation at the AU.
- 7. Contributed to the establishment of the continental mediation architecture and its sub-regional dismemberment, as well as to the formalization of the inclusion of women in peace processes through the creation of FemWise-Africa, adopted by a decision of the Conference of Heads of State and Government, and its extension to ECOWAS and ECCAS.

- 8.** Launched the inter-CER collaboration platform (2023);
- 9.** Co-led assessments of governance and health resilience in 40 African countries in the face of COVID-19. (2020);
- 10.** Led the AU Report on Women and Children in Armed Conflict, leading to the creation of the Pan-African Network of Women Mediators (2017) and the position of AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and security;
- 11.** Contribute to the AU Gender Declaration (2004);
- 12.** Lead the drafting of AU reports on election-related conflicts, impunity, justice, national reconciliation, women and children in armed conflict, management of unconstitutional changes of government, and Culture of Peace (2010-2017)

Declaration of Intent :

Excellencies,

Distinguishes Member States of the African Union,

In a few months, in 2025, you will be called upon to elect the members of the next African Union Commission, who will be mandated to implement the continental integration and development project, as defined in the second ten-year plan. of Agenda 2063.

Determined to make my contribution to contribute to the advent of the Africa we want, and convinced of the expertise that I have in the areas of continental and regional integration, the management of files linked to health, humanitarian and security cooperation, at the international, continental and sub-regional level, I have the distinct honor to present my candidacy for the position of African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union, supported by **His Excellency President Felix TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.**

In the position of Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union, I embody the ideal: I am a pure product of the African Union (AU) where I have held multiple functions both at the Commission and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); to currently head a similar position, Commissioner for Gender Promotion, Human and Social Development, at the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States; and at the national level, for having been in charge of the political management of an AU file at the Presidency of the Republic of the DRC.

Perfectly familiar with the mysteries of the Commission and the various dynamics, political and administrative requirements of the AU since its transformation in 2002 to the present day, I will be immediately operational to translate the Department's responsibilities into practice and adapt the programs to current challenges. Likewise, I will work to realize the principle of complementarity and subsidiarity with all partners for the implementation of a common social agenda according to the leitmotif "the strength of union for Agenda 2063 !".

Thus, under the authority of the President of the Commission, ***I pledge,***

to do everything possible to ensure that every African becomes more autonomous, resilient and an agent of positive transformation for their environment through a program aimed at:

I. launching an emergency plan for the effective implementation of Union policies and texts in the areas which require it: adopt a policy and an action plan relating to the “One Health” principle; the full operationalization of institutions and commitments related to public health; give priority to humanitarian actions and the operationalization of the agency created for this purpose; strengthen the implementation of social protection measures; take concrete measures to operationalize the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children and exalt shared values;

II. consolidating achievements: perfect the most significant achievements so that they are more harmoniously implemented in all sub-regional blocks; effectively support the eight regional economic communities (RECs) and ensure the sharing of good practices;

III. adopting an African measurement tool for human development by region to support and evaluate the impact of actions and projects undertaken in the service of human capital, by involving the relevant AU Departments as well as sectoral partners.

More specifically, in sectoral areas deemed urgent:

a. On strengthening the ownership of Agenda 2063 by the RECs: improving the implementation of Agenda 2063 by the RECs; initiate a platform for political dialogue with my colleagues from the RECs on the state of play at the regional level and the challenges as perceived by them; dialogue on their appropriation of Agenda 2063 and identify the respective sectoral emergencies to ensure better AU-REC collaboration and better formulation of joint projects and mobilization of adequate resources.

b. On humanitarian action, refugees and displaced persons: clarify the question of sharing roles with the RECs also having regional humanitarian agencies and jointly adopt an integrated continental approach for the rapid rise of the AU Humanitarian Agency and its deployment on the ground to help prevent, manage and structure humanitarian assistance of all kinds before, during and after humanitarian crises.

c. On health and the emergency of nutrition: in close collaboration with Africa CDC, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, AMA adopt a more robust approach on the intersectionality of health and environmental and animal issues (the One Principle Health) to further protect the health of Africans, collectively address cross-border health crises and reinforce the achievements made in the field of health policy building on the existing structures of the AU (AWA, Pharmaceuticals, vaccines) in the CER; strengthen measures to guarantee affordable, accessible care services and improve the situation of beneficiaries and caregivers; provide the continent with a health policy that integrates the priorities and specificities of the regions particularly linked to the eradication of malaria, the prevention and treatment of cancer and eradicate the scourge of maternal and infant mortality.

d. On shared values and Culture: promoting an Africa that protects and defends the fundamental values of the continent through practice for a Union of equality and justice; strengthen the structuring, production and interface between African cultural industries and political and financial institutions for better promotion of identity, languages and culture. Finalize the launch of the Great African Museum.

e. On childhood: revitalize policies and mechanisms to protect children against all kinds of violence, including in countries in conflict, cases of early marriage, child labor and trafficking.

f. On migration: engage in dynamic advocacy for the universal ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the free movement of People, right of residence for the implementation of asylum procedures; strengthen efforts related to labor migration governance and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (in Africa and beyond).

g. On employment: help States, businesses and individuals to develop more and better skills, and work to achieve the objectives of the continental policy on decent employment;

h. On partnership and resource mobilization: promote the Department's staff, ensure capacity building and create conditions conducive to their full development to enable them to better serve the Union; and establish a multidimensional platform for dialogue between the Department and various partners for a common implementation of the aspirations of Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda relating to human and social development.

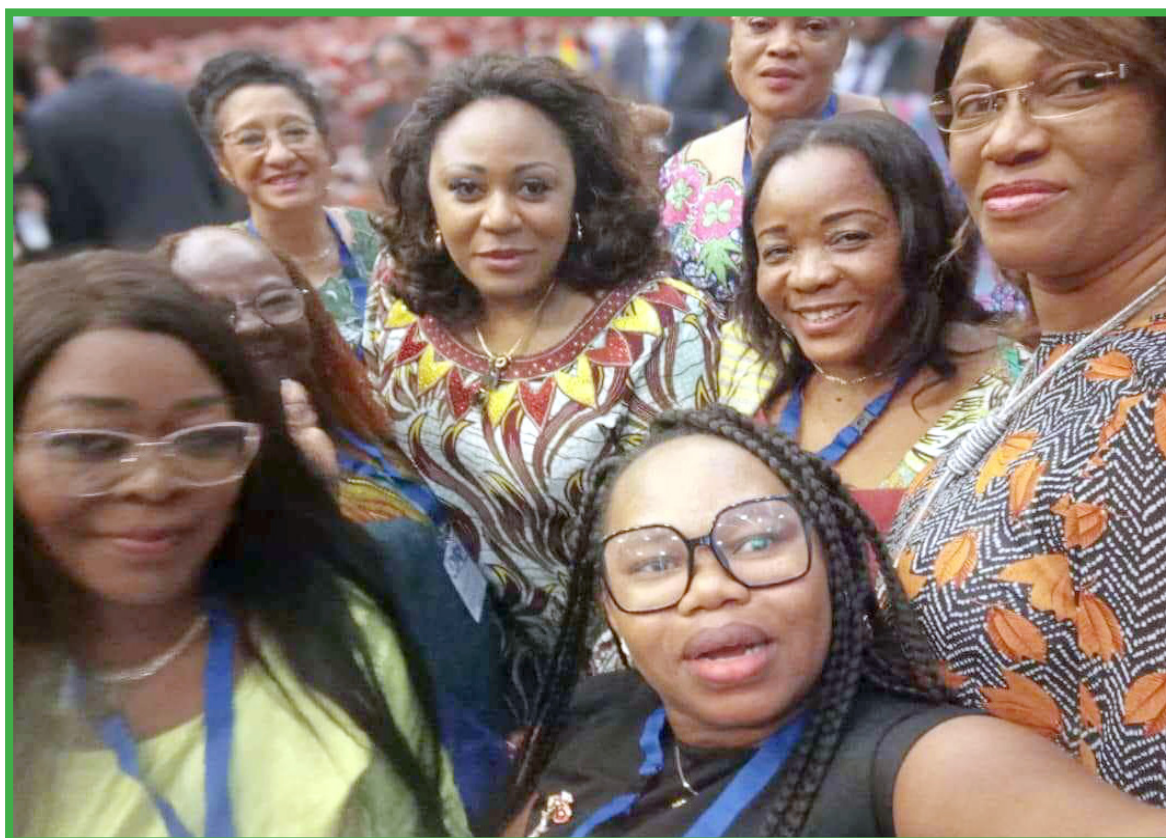
While thanking **His Excellency Mr. Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO**, as well as the Government of my country for the renewed confidence in my modest person, I reiterate my determination to work to preserve this trust, which will be manifested through my commitment to promoting cooperation between Member States and to defend the well-being of all Africans, which remains unshakable.

If I have the privilege of assuming this responsibility, I pledge to devote myself wholeheartedly to promoting the collective interests of our continent.

Please accept, Distinguished Member States, the assurance of my deep respect.

Kapinga Yvette NGANDU





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***ASANTE SANA !
JE VOUS REMERCIE !
THANK YOU !
MUCHAS GRACIAS !
OBRIGADA !
SHUKRAN !***

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