



The Wilson Center's Africa Program Presents:

A Briefing by The Honorable Djibrill Bassolé: Updates on the Sahel Security Situation and Presidential Elections in Mali

Friday, July 12, 2013

10:00am – 11:30am

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

6th Floor Auditorium

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Djibrill Yipènè Bassolé is Burkina Faso's Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was AU/UN Joint Mediator for Darfur from August 1, 2008 to April 30, 2011. H.E. Bassolé, who was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso from 2007 to 2008, returned to this post in April 2011, at the end of his term in Darfur. From 2000 to 2007, he was Minister of Security and played a key role in expediting the Political Agreement of Ouagadougou, signed in 2007, by the former President of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, and Guillaume Soro, Leader of the "Forces Nouvelles." H.E. Bassolé worked as member of the Mediation Committee for the Touareg conflict in Niger from 1994 to 1995. He was also member of the International Committee in charge of supervising the Togolese elections from 1993 to 1994. The Minister has been awarded several distinctions from Burkina Faso, his native country, as well as from Niger, Senegal, Togo, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, and France. Included among these distinctions are: Commander of the National Order, Officer of the National Order, and the Military Honor Medal; from Senegal, the Officer of the National Order of the Lion; from Niger, the Commander of the Order of Merit; from Gabon, the Commander of the Order of Merit; from Côte d'Ivoire, Officer of the National Order of Merit; and, from France, Officer of the National Order of Merit and the Knight of the Legion of Honor.

Steve McDonald is the Director of the Africa Program and the Project on Leadership and Building State Capacity at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington, DC, which he helped to design, initiate and now manage the Center's leadership capacity building and post-conflict resolution programs in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia. McDonald has focused primarily on democracy and governance, human resource development, conflict resolution and transformation, peace building and policy formulation for Africa over the 42

years he has spent working in and on Africa. McDonald began his career in Africa in 1970 as a Foreign Service Officer with service in Uganda and South Africa, and as Desk Officer for Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe. After leaving the Foreign Service in 1980, McDonald moved to the non-profit sector where he has headed the US-South Africa Leader Development Program and Aspen Institute's Southern Africa Policy Forum and, then, served as Executive Vice President of the African-American Institute. McDonald has done conflict resolution work in Northern Ireland and Brazil, served as a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the U.S., managed the African Program for the National Endowment for Democracy, done consultancies with DFI International, the Center for International Understanding, USAID, and the Goals for Americans Foundation. He has written and published extensively on Africa. McDonald holds a Master's degree in African Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and a Bachelor's in French and Political Science from Southwest Missouri State University.