

Mo Ibrahim Foundation announces the 2021 Ibrahim Leadership Fellows



Dakar and London, 30 June 2021 – The Mo Ibrahim Foundation is pleased to announce the 2021 intake of Ibrahim Leadership Fellows, three emerging African leaders who will participate in one-year mentoring programmes at leading multilateral institutions.

The incoming Fellows are Fatou Wurie (Sierra Leone), who will join the African Development Bank (AfDB); Gaokgakala Sobatha (Botswana), who will join the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); and Richard Adu-Gyamfi (Ghana), who will join the International Trade Centre (ITC).

Fatou, Gaokgakala and Richard make up the tenth cohort of the Ibrahim Leadership Fellows programme, which was established in 2011 by the Foundation to identify and mentor the next generation of outstanding African leaders. During their 12-month programmes, Fellows gain both technical and leadership skills, while contributing directly to research and policy design. A special feature of the programme is the opportunity to benefit from the direct mentorship of the heads of the host organisations.

Since 2012, 28 Fellows (including this year's cohort) from across Africa have participated in the programme. Upon completion of their placements, Fellows become members of the Foundation's Now Generation Network (NGN), a group of over 250 emerging leaders from over 40 countries who are committed to building a better Africa.

Jendayi Frazer, Head of the Ibrahim Leadership Fellowships programme, said: "I offer my warmest congratulations to Fatou, Gaokgakala and Richard, who have been selected from a short-list of exceptional candidates. I look forward to engaging with these bright young minds, and indeed learning from them, over the next year."

Mo Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "Africa's future will be determined by the strength of its leadership. By far the best way to nurture the potential of the next generation of leaders is by providing them with first-hand opportunities to develop their expertise and confidence. I'm delighted to welcome the 2021 Ibrahim Fellows to the Foundation family and I wish them all the best for their placements."

The 2021 Ibrahim Leadership Fellows:

Fatou Wurie (Sierra Leone) joins AfDB. Fatou is a social justice and public policy practitioner, with over ten years' national and international interdisciplinary experience in leading programmes at the nexus of innovation, women's rights and strategic change initiatives.

Gaokgakala Sobatha (Botswana) joins ECA. Gaokgakala is an urban governance and development specialist with fifteen years' experience in the public sector. Her areas of expertise include urban and regional development planning and coordination, social development, environment and climate change.

Richard Adu-Gyamfi (Ghana) joins ITC. Richard is an expert in entrepreneurship and intra-African trade. He is a co-author of the AfroChampions 'AfCFTA Year Zero Report', which highlights the commitment and implementation readiness of African countries towards the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The application process for the 2022 Ibrahim Leadership Fellowships programme will open in August 2021.

For more information about the Ibrahim Leadership Fellowships, or to learn more about activities undertaken by previous Fellows since the completion of their programme, visit:

<https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/fellowships>.

Contact MIF

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Notes to Editors

About the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was established in 2006 with a focus on the critical importance of political leadership and public governance in Africa. By providing tools to support progress in leadership and governance, the Foundation aims to promote meaningful change on the continent.

The Foundation, which is a non-grant making organisation, focusses on defining, assessing and enhancing governance and leadership in Africa through five main initiatives:

- Ibrahim Index of African Governance
- Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership
- Ibrahim Governance Weekend
- Ibrahim Fellowships and Scholarships
- Now Generation Network

Previous Ibrahim Leadership Fellows:

2020

Eliam Kadeweile (Malawi), ECA
Hanan Taifour (Sudan), ITC

2019

Nadia Hamel (Algeria), AfDB
Emmanuella Matore, (Zimbabwe) ECA
Anta Taal (Gambia), ITC

2018

Zukiswa Mqolomba (South Africa), AfDB
Valeria Bempomaah Mensah (Ghana), ECA
Ines Ayari (Tunisia), ITC

2017

Robtel Pailey (Liberia), AfDB
Ndapiwa Segole (Botswana), ECA
Oulimata Fall (Senegal), ITC

2016

Mariam Yinusa (Nigeria), ECA
Diane Sayinzoga (Rwanda), ITC

2015

Malango Mughogho (Malawi), AfDB
Tshepelayi Kabata (Democratic Republic of Congo), ECA
Vivienne Katjuongua (Namibia), ITC

2014

Charlotte Ashamu (Nigeria), AfDB
Carl Manlan (Côte d'Ivoire), ECA
Weyinmi Omamuli (Nigeria), ITC

2013

Joan Stott (South Africa), AfDB
Rebecca Teiko Sabah (Ghana), ECA
Maureen Were (Kenya), World Trade Organization (WTO)

2012

Yvonne Apea Mensah (Ghana), AfDB
Omolade Araba (Nigeria), ECA
Jacqueline Muna Musiitwa (Uganda/Zambia), WTO