



OPCW

Executive Council

109th Session
8 – 11 July 2025

EC-109/S/7
8 April 2025
Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**NOMINATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA OF A CANDIDATE
FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

1. At its 108th Session, the Executive Council (the Council) adopted a decision on the “Road Map for the Process of the Appointment of the Next Director-General in 2025” (EC-108/DEC.5, dated 6 March 2025), requesting the Chairperson of the Council to invite, on the Council’s behalf, States Parties to present their nominations of candidates for the position of Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) by no later than 16 May 2025, to enable their consideration by the Council.
2. The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Ghana to the OPCW has submitted to the Technical Secretariat a note verbale informing it of the nomination by the Government of Ghana of H.E. Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia as candidate for the position of Director-General.
3. In accordance with EC-108/DEC.5, the above-mentioned note verbale is herewith conveyed to the members of the Council.

Annex (English only):

Note Verbale No. HAG/OP/CW/1 from the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Ghana to the OPCW Dated 8 April 2025



Annex

**NOTE VERBALE NO. HAG/OP/CW/1 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA TO THE OPCW
DATED 8 APRIL 2025**

*Embassy of the Republic of Ghana
Laan Egon 1400, Eindhoven 55
2515 YD, The Hague
The Netherlands*



*Ref. No. +31 (0)70 - 3392000
Fax No. +31 (0)70 - 3392000*

*Embassy of the Republic of Ghana
The Hague*

HAG/OP/CW/1

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Ghana in The Hague presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and with reference to the letter No. L/PMO-558/25 dated 10th March 2025, has the honour to forward the attached Note Verbale No. CA/CO/OPCW dated 3rd April, 2025 received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana, informing of the nomination by the Government of Ghana of Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia as the candidate for the position of Director General of the Organisation.

Also find attached an endorsement letter from Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana and the Curriculum Vitae of Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia.

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Ghana in The Hague avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the assurances of its highest consideration.

WA

The Hague, 8th April, 2025

**THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)
JOHAN DE WITTLAAN 32 2517 JR
THE HAGUE**





REPUBLIC OF GHANA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

CA/CO/OPCW

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of the Republic of Ghana is presenting Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia as its candidate for election to the position of Director-General of the OPCW.

Ambassador Kotia is a seasoned Ghanaian diplomat with nearly three decades of experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, specializing in multilateral diplomacy, disarmament, and non-proliferation efforts. He has ably represented Ghana as the Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW since June 2021. His familiarity with the OPCW's mandate, governing structures, and operational procedures, paired with a longstanding record of leadership in international diplomacy, positions him exceptionally well to serve as Director-General.

The Government of Ghana underscores that thorough due diligence has been conducted and confirms that no adverse information has been found regarding Ambassador Kotia. His extensive professional experience, impeccable reputation, and demonstrated commitment to upholding the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention assure the Government of Ghana that he will significantly advance the mission and strategic goals of the OPCW.

Attached herewith is a detailed Curriculum Vitae of Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia, as well as an official Letter of Endorsement signed by the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, for the kind consideration of the OPCW.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons the assurances of its highest consideration.



ACCRA, 3RD APRIL, 2025

**THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANISATION
FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS**



MINISTRY
OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

P. O. Box M53 - Accra
Digital Address : GA-057- 0036
Kindly quote this number and date on all correspondence
My Ref. No. CA/CO/OPCW
Your Ref. No. _____
Date, 3rd April, 2025

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE CANDIDATURE OF AMBASSADOR FRANCIS
DANTI KOTIA FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)**

I have the honour to submit, for your esteemed consideration, the candidature of Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia of the Republic of Ghana for the position of Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

2. Ambassador Kotia is an accomplished diplomat with experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, particularly in the domains of disarmament, international security, and chemical weapons non-proliferation. His distinguished diplomatic career, spanning nearly three decades, uniquely positions him as an exceptional candidate to lead this important international organization.

3. Since June 2021, Ambassador Kotia has served as Ghana's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW. In this capacity, he has displayed exemplary leadership and has actively contributed to strengthening international cooperation within the OPCW framework. Notably, from December 2022 to December 2024, he served as the Regional Coordinator of the African States Parties to the OPCW, skillfully guiding the African Group's participation in Executive Council meetings, Conference of States Parties sessions, and the General Committee. His capable leadership was particularly evident during the Review Conference on the Chemical Weapons Convention in May 2023, where he effectively facilitated consensus-building among diverse stakeholders.

4. Prior to his current role, Ambassador Kotia occupied senior diplomatic positions across key diplomatic missions of Ghana, including as Deputy Permanent Representative at Ghana's Mission in Geneva, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission in Paris and Berlin, and Minister-Counsellor in Ottawa. He also led several bureaux at Ghana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Multilateral Relations Bureau, the Passport Office, and served as Deputy Chief of Protocol. Throughout these roles, Ambassador Kotia demonstrated strategic vision, managerial acumen, and diplomatic excellence.

5. Ambassador Kotia possesses excellent academic qualifications to complement his extensive practical experience. He holds a master's degree in international Affairs from the University of Ghana, a master's degree in project management from the University of Quebec, Canada, and a bachelor's degree in social sciences from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. His education provides a firm intellectual foundation in policy formulation, international diplomacy, and strategic management, essential for the role of Director-General of the OPCW.

Tel: +233 (0) 302 738 473
Email: communications@mfa.gov.gh
Website: www.mfa.gov.gh

6. The Government of Ghana firmly believes Ambassador Kotia's proven track record in international diplomacy, strategic leadership, consensus-building, and dedication to the principles of multilateralism and disarmament uniquely qualifies him to effectively lead the OPCW. His appointment would significantly enhance the organisation's continued commitment to eliminating chemical weapons and promoting international peace and security.

7. In view of his distinguished professional achievements and unwavering commitment to global peace and security, I am pleased to extend Ghana's strongest endorsement of Ambassador Kotia's candidature and respectfully request your invaluable support for his election as Director-General of the OPCW.

8. Furthermore, I assure you that the Government of Ghana is not aware of any adverse allegations against Ambassador Kotia, nor is there any indication of security concerns regarding his professional or personal conduct.

9. While looking forward to your favourable response, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel', is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, there are several vertical black lines, possibly a stamp or a mark.

SAMUEL OKUDZETO ABLAKWA (MP)
MINISTER

AMBASSADOR FERNANDO ARIAS
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

CURRICULUM VITAE

FRANCIS DANTI KOTIA

Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Francis Danti Kotia

Date of Birth: 4 April 1967

Place of Birth: Navrongo, Upper East Region, Ghana

Marital Status: Married

Children: Three

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Mr. Francis Danti Kotia is a career diplomat with over 28 years of experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana. He progressed through the ranks from the administrative branch to the top echelons of the Ghana Foreign Service. He was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to the Kingdom of the Netherlands in June 2021 and serves as Ghana's Permanent Representative to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the International Criminal Court (ICC), as well as an Alternate Governor to the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) in Amsterdam.

The **OPCW** is an intergovernmental organisation working towards the elimination of chemical weapons and ensuring compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. The **ICC** is a permanent international tribunal responsible for prosecuting individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. The **CFC** is an intergovernmental financial institution that provides support to commodity-dependent developing countries through various development projects.

Mr. Kotia is committed to strengthening diplomatic ties between Ghana and the Netherlands by fostering new partnerships and expanding existing ones. His deep expertise in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, policy development, and strategic management enables him to effectively represent Ghana's interests on the international stage.

EDUCATION

- **Master's Degree in Project Management** – University of Quebec, Gatineau-Ottawa, Canada (2009-2011)
- **Master's Degree in International Affairs** – University of Ghana, Legon (1997-98)
- **Professional Course for Young Diplomats, Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi, India** (eight weeks -May to July 1997)
- **Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences** – Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi (1991-1994)

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ghana (1997 – Present)

- **June 2021 – Present:** Ambassador of Ghana to the Netherlands, with accreditation to OPCW, ICC, and CFC
- **Nov 2020 – June 2021:** Deputy Permanent Representative, Ghana Permanent Mission, Geneva
- **Feb 2015 – Aug 2018:** Minister/Deputy Head of Mission, Ghana Embassy, Berlin, and Charge d'Affaires i.a.
- **Sept 2014 – Feb 2015:** Minister/Deputy Head of Mission, Ghana Embassy, Paris (Responsible for Economic Affairs and Administration)
- **Feb 2008 – Feb 2012:** Minister-Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission, Ghana Embassy, Ottawa
- **Sept 2000 – Sept 2004:** First Secretary, Ghana Embassy, Tel Aviv (Responsible for Administration, Information, and Culture)

Key Roles within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- **Deputy Chief of Protocol** (May – Sept 2014)
- **Director, Multilateral Relations Bureau** (Sept 2018 – Feb 2019)
- **Director of Passports** (Feb 2019 – Nov 2020)
- **Deputy Director, Passport Office** (Jun 2012 – Feb 2014)
- **Deputy Director, Asia & Pacific Bureau** (Feb – April 2014)
- **Deputy Director, Legal and Consular Bureau** (Mar – Jun 2012)

- Deputy Director, Africa & AU Bureau (Jan 2007 – Feb 2008)
- Assistant Director, Policy Planning & Research Bureau (Sept 1999 – Sept 2000)
- Assistant Director, Finance & Accounts Bureau (Oct 1998 – Sept 1999)
- Assistant Director, Middle East & Asia Bureau (Jan – May 1997)

Key International Roles

- Served as the Regional Coordinator of the African States Parties to the OPCW in The Hague (Dec. 2022 – Dec. 2024). Provided leadership for the African Group in Executive Council (EC), Conference of States Parties sessions (CSP), General Committee meetings, and led the Group's participation in the 'Committee of the Whole' during the Review Conference on the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in May 2023
- Served as Agent of the Republic of Ghana at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the "Climate Justice Case" during the oral submissions made by Ghana in December 2025

SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

- International Contact Group for Guinea-Bissau (ICG-GB), Lisbon, Portugal (Apr 2007)
- Political Consultations between Ghana and Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia (2006 – 2008, 2015 – 2018)
- G20 Africa Development Partnership Conference, Berlin (Jun 2017)
- 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York (Sept 2018)
- Global Compact on Migration Meeting, Marrakech, Morocco (Dec 2018)
- International Peacekeeping Conference, Seoul, South Korea (Dec 2018)
- Signing Ceremony of the Ljubljana – The Hague Convention on International Cooperation and Prosecution of Crimes of Genocide,

Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes, and other international Crimes in The Hague (May 2023)

- **Annual Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the OPCW (2021 – 2024)**
- **Annual Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the ICC (2021 – 2024)**
- **OPCW Executive Council Visit to Abandoned Chemical Weapons Sites, China (2024)**
- **Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies and Weapons of Mass Destruction Held in Berlin (2024)**

KEY SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- **Bilateral & Multilateral Diplomacy** – Expertise in international relations, diplomatic negotiations, and policy development.
- **Protocol & International Affairs** – Extensive experience in diplomatic protocol, multilateral institutions, and international cooperation.
- **Policy Development & Implementation** – Strong ability to initiate and execute policies, particularly in global governance.
- **Strategic Leadership & Management** – Proven track record in diplomatic leadership, mission management, and stakeholder engagement.
- **Cross-Cultural Communication** – Excellent interpersonal skills with deep cultural awareness and sensitivity.
- **Economic & Trade Diplomacy** – Experience in fostering economic partnerships and investment opportunities.

INTERESTS & ACTIVITIES

- Public policy analysis and global governance
- International affairs and Geopolitical developments
- Cultural and diplomatic exchange activities

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST