

Speakers

Press conference, Monday 23 November 2009, 15:00 GMT

Mo Ibrahim is a Sudanese-born British international communications expert. He is the founder of Celtel International and one of Africa's most successful business leaders. Celtel International has brought the benefits of mobile communications to millions of people across the African continent. The company operates in 15 African countries, covering more than a third of the continent's population.

In 2006, Dr. Ibrahim launched the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, an African initiative to recognize achievement in African leadership and stimulate debate on good governance across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. The Foundation publishes the Ibrahim Index of African Governance in collaboration with a network of African researchers and academics. The Foundation also created the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, the largest annually awarded prize in the world.

Dr. Ibrahim has received a number of awards in recognition of his work as an academic, businessman and philanthropist, including the GSM Association Chairman's Award (2007), the telecommunication industry's highest accolade, and the BNP Paribas Prize for Philanthropy (2008). In 2008, Dr. Ibrahim was listed by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Elizabeth Mataka, a social worker by training, has been working in the field of HIV for the past 19 years. She has been involved in many different aspects of responding to the AIDS epidemic, including programmes on HIV prevention, clinical treatment for opportunistic infections, care and support at community and national levels. She has experience working in Government, the private sector and with non-governmental organizations. Ms. Mataka is currently the Executive Director of the Zambia National AIDS Network (ZNaN) and represents civil society on national policy-making bodies such as the National AIDS Council. She is also a member of the Global Task force on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV.

Sigrun Møgedal has been the Norwegian HIV/AIDS Ambassador since 2005, working within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr Møgedal trained as a medical doctor. She has been engaged in the global health and HIV/AIDS fields for many years, in both a professional and diplomatic capacity. Her main areas of professional involvement have included development and international health policy, human resources for health, health systems development and reform, and HIV/AIDS policy and strategy development.

She is currently the Chair of the Board of the Global Health Workforce Alliance and she has served as a member on the Board of the Global Fund to Fight against Aids, TB and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, and UNITAID. From 2000-2001 she was State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for international development. She has also served as the Senior Executive Adviser for Global Initiatives at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, as a Senior Policy Adviser to the Executive Director of UNAIDS, and has held various posts in health-care organizations, including serving in Nepal for a number of years.

Rodrigo Garay is the Executive Director of AIDS Accountability International. He was formerly the Chief Executive of the International AIDS Society. From 2006-2008, he was also Executive Director of the World Infectious Disease Foundation, based at the Karolinska Institute, an organization that

supports the development of drugs, vaccines and control strategies for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Rodrigo Garay is Chairman of the non-profit organization Internationell Kompetens (IK). IK's aim is to increase the competitiveness of the private sector in Sweden by adopting and promoting diversity within the work force.

Rodrigo Garay was born in Chile and has worked and lived in Sweden for a number of years, as well as in other countries.

Per Strand, PhD, is a Political Scientist at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He is the Project Manager of the AIDS and Democratic Governance Project at the Democracy in Africa Research Unit at the UCT and has specialized in research on AIDS, democracy and governance in sub-Saharan Africa for the last six years. As AAI Scientific Director, he leads the AAI Rating Centre in South Africa and is responsible for the overall development of AAI's scientific programme and Accountability Scorecards.