

## Biography of Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka



**Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka** joined UN-HABITAT as Executive Director in September 2000. Today she is the highest ranking African woman in the United Nations system. A Tanzanian national, she holds a Doctorate of Science in Agricultural Economics from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala. During her first two years in office, Mrs Tibaijuka oversaw major reforms that led the UN General Assembly to upgrade the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to a fully-fledged UN programme, now called UN-HABITAT - the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Her appointment as Executive Director was confirmed at the Under-Secretary-General level, and Mrs. Tibaijuka was elected by the General Assembly to her first four-year term in July 2002.

As Executive Director, she participates in all high-level bodies of the UN system. These include the Chief Executive Board of the United Nations, and the Senior Management Board of the Secretary-General, which serves as his cabinet. It is under her tenure that governments overseeing the agency through its Governing Council more than doubled UN-HABITAT's core budget to \$44 million for 2004-2005, granting it authority to spend up to \$50 million should funds become available.

Mrs. Tibaijuka has substantially strengthened UN-HABITAT politically, financially and operationally, greatly increasing its visibility and impact, while streamlining the agency and making it more accountable. She has also strengthened relations with key donors and member states, and has positioned UN HABITAT to play a greater role in international development.

Mrs. Tibaijuka has spearheaded UN-HABITAT's main objective of improving the lives of slum dwellers in line with the Millennium Development Goals. UN HABITAT is responsible for leading the effort on Target 11 of those goals - improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020.

Mrs. Tibaijuka was recently invited to be one of 17 Commissioners on Prime Minister Blair's Commission for Africa. Mrs. Tibaijuka has been awarded a number of Honorary degrees including Honorary Doctorate by the University College, London, and from the Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.

Prior to joining UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Tibaijuka was the Special Coordinator for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked and Small Island Developing Countries at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) responsible for strengthening the capacity of LDCs in trade negotiations with the World Trade Organization.

From 1993 to 1998, when she joined UNCTAD, Mrs. Tibaijuka was Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Dar-es-Salaam. During this period she was also a member of the Tanzanian Government delegation to several United Nations Summits including the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, 1996); the World Food Summit (Rome 1996); the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995) and the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995). At these conferences, Mrs. Tibaijuka was an active member of the Civil Society and NGO Forums. At the World Food Summit in Rome, she was elected Coordinator for Eastern Africa in the Network for Food Security, Trade and Sustainable Development (COASAD). Mrs. Tibaijuka has also been a Board Member of UNESCO's International Scientific Advisory Board since November 1997.

Mrs. Tibaijuka, is a widow and has four children. She is a champion of women's rights who speaks English, Swahili, Haya, Swedish and some French, has published five books and many articles.