

Diene Keita, United Nations Under Secretary-General and UNFPA Executive Director



Ms. Diene Keita is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Appointed to this position by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in August 2025, she provides overall leadership and strategic direction to the organization in its mission to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Ms. Keita has more than three decades of distinguished service in the international civil service, diplomacy, and government. In July 2025, she served as Acting Executive Director of UNFPA, and from 2020 to 2025 she held the position of United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (Programme). In these roles, she oversaw UNFPA's global programme portfolio.

Ms. Keita previously served as Minister of International Cooperation and African Integration of the Republic of Guinea. In this capacity, she promoted strategic partnerships with bilateral and multilateral partners, mobilized sustainable financing for national development priorities, and fostered strengthened cooperation with African countries on peace, security, trade, and human capital development. Her leadership in government demonstrated her capacity to forge consensus, mobilize resources, and promote integration at the continental level.

Ms. Keita began her United Nations career with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990, serving in progressively senior positions before joining UNFPA. She has represented UNFPA in several countries, including Mauritania, Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nigeria. She has also served as Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, with responsibility for leading inter-agency coordination and crisis response.

Throughout her career, Ms. Keita has been a strong advocate for women and youth. She has championed efforts to advance gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and expand opportunities for young people to contribute to sustainable peace and human development. Her leadership has consistently underscored the importance of rights-based approaches, evidence-driven policy, and partnerships that place people at the centre of development.

In recognition of her service, Ms. Keita has received the distinction of Commander of the National Order in both Benin and Mauritania. She is also the co-author of several publications on sustainable development in Africa.

Ms. Keita holds a Doctorate in Law (*summa cum laude*), a Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (DEA) in International Economics and Development Law, and a Diplôme d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées (DESS) in International Relations, all from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She is fluent in English, French, and Italian. She also speaks Malinke, Bambara, Sousou and basic Fulani.