

Kofi Annan

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Kofi Annan was born in Kumasi, Ghana, on April 8, 1938. He studied at the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi and in 1961 completed undergraduate work in economics at Macalester College in Minnesota.

From 1961 to 1962, Mr. Annan studied economics at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva. As a 1971-72 Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he received a master of science degree in management.

Mr. Annan's career-long service with the United Nations began in 1962 when he was hired for the World Health Organization in Geneva. In 1987, he was named assistant secretary-general for human resources management and security co-ordinator for the UN system. From 1990 to 1992, Mr. Annan was assistant secretary-general for program planning, budget and finance, and controller.

Mr. Annan became Secretary-General of the United Nations on Jan. 2, 1997 — the first to be elected from the ranks of UN staff. The General Assembly appointed Mr. Annan by acclamation to a second five-year term ending Dec. 31, 2006.

Mr. Annan is married to Nane Annan, a lawyer and artist. They have three children.