

MALI

His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konaré

President of the Republic of Mali

Alpha Oumar Konaré was born on February 2, 1946. After attending elementary and high school in Mali and Senegal, he graduated in Arts from the École Normale Secondaire in Katibougou in 1964. He completed his studies at the École Nationale Supérieure (history and geography) and at the University of Warsaw in Poland, where he defended a doctoral thesis in 1975, specializing in history and archeology.

Beginning in 1974, he occupied the positions of Research Officer, Institute of Humanities; Division Chief, Historical and Ethnographic Heritage, Ministry of Culture; and Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture (1978). From 1980 to 1989, after resigning from the Mali government, he devoted himself to research at the Centre Pédagogique Supérieur (later known as ISFRA). In 1989, he created a private training centre for formal education.

He was president of several national and international associations, and a consultant to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) and the UN Development Program (UNDP). From 1989 to 1992, he was President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Politically, he assisted in the creation of a democratic movement in 1967 and led a political struggle via the newspaper Les Échos. In 1990, he helped to draft the Call to the People and the Open Letter to the President of the Republic.

In May 1991, he actively contributed to the creation of the ADEMA political party and was elected as its president, since he had been one of the key figures in the revolution that led to the overthrow of the Moussa Traoré regime. ADEMA subsequently won over 60 per cent of the positions in the municipal elections and 60 per cent of the seats in the National Assembly in March 1992.

Alpha Oumar Konaré was elected President of the Republic in the democratic, multiparty elections of April 1992. He was sworn in two months later.