John Kufuor
President of Ghana

John Agyekum Kufuor was born on Dec. 8, 1938, in Kumasi. He was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, London, in 1961, and in 1964 received an honours bachelor's degree in economics, philosophy and politics and a master's degree from Oxford University.

Mr. Kufuor has more than 30 years experience in public service. He was appointed chief legal officer and city manager of Kumasi in 1967 and was elected to Ghana's constituent assemblies in 1968–69 and 1979, where he helped write the constitutions of the second and third republics.

Mr. Kufuor is a founding member of three parties, including the New Patriotic Party, of which he is President. He has been elected to Parliament twice and has been the spokesperson for his country at several international meetings over the years. As deputy minister for foreign affairs, he represented Ghana from 1969 through 1971 at the United Nations General Assembly.

In 1998, Mr. Kufuor won his party's nomination to run as President of Ghana. Following successful elections in December 2000, he became President on Jan. 7, 2001.

Mr. Kufuor and his wife, Theresa, have five children.