



Carlos Lopes | Class of 1982

Carlos Lopes, a leading figure in international development, has held key roles in the United Nations (UN) and African institutions, including Head of Policy for the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Executive Director of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and UN System Staff College, Political Director for Secretary General and alumnus Kofi Annan, ending his UN career as Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. He was one of the authors of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and a key contributor for the launch of the African Continental Free-Trade Area. Renowned for his dedication to Africa's transformation, he is a champion of economic and social progress through his vast participation in global policy initiatives.



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Serving as the African Union High Representative for African partnerships with Europe (2012–2016), Carlos Lopes helped redefine Africa's international relations, emphasising self-reliant development and proposing a new approach to Africa-Europe partnerships.



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Carlos Lopes and Forest Whitaker, actor and producer, appointed in 2014 as an Advocate for Children Affected by War with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.



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In 2008, as Executive Director of the UNITAR, Carlos Lopes welcomed Ban Ki-moon when he visited the International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL), serving as a hub for capacity-building and knowledge-sharing to support local actors in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

