

ACCELERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICA HEALTH SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

Africa CDC Appoints Benedict Oramah, Christoph Benn, Troy Fitrell, and Pierre Delsaux as Senior Advisors

COMMUNIQUE

Addis Ababa, 6 April 2026

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention is pleased to announce the appointment of Ambassador Troy Fitrell (USA) as Senior Advisor on International Cooperation, Ambassador Pierre Delsaux (Belgium) as Senior Advisor on Strategic Partnership, Dr. Christoph Benn (Germany) as Senior Advisor on Debt Swaps, and Professor Benedict Oramah (Nigeria) as Senior Advisor on Strategic Financing.

Together, they bring exceptional experience and influence across finance, diplomacy, public policy, and health security. Their appointment reflects Africa CDC's commitment to assembling the calibre of leadership required to mobilise capital, shape high-level policy, and forge the strategic partnerships needed to advance the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty agenda with greater speed, credibility, and scale.

"I am delighted to welcome Benedict, Christoph, Troy and Pierre to Africa CDC," said Director General Kaseya. "Their stature, strategic insight and global reach will strengthen our ability to unlock new financing, deepen high-level partnerships and accelerate Africa's path toward stronger health security and sovereignty." Africa CDC warmly welcomes them and looks forward to their contributions in accelerating impact across the continent.



Benedict Oramah
SENIOR ADVISOR, STRATEGIC FINANCING

Former President and Chairman of Afreximbank, Prof. Oramah is one of Africa's most influential development finance leaders. He joined the Bank in 1994, later served as Executive Vice President for Business Development and helped drive its rise as a major platform for trade and strategic finance on the continent. Widely respected across governments, banks and investors, he brings deep expertise in capital mobilisation, institution-building and structured trade finance.



Christoph Benn
SENIOR ADVISOR, DEBT SWAPS

Dr Benn is a globally respected leader in innovative health financing. A founding board member of the Global Fund and its Director of External Relations from 2003 to 2018, he helped oversee replenishment cycles that mobilised more than US\$50 billion. He now leads the JLI Center for Global Health Diplomacy in Geneva and is recognised for pioneering work on debt swaps for health, sustainable financing and high-level health diplomacy.



Troy Fitrell
SENIOR ADVISOR, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Ambassador Fitrell is a career member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service who served as U.S. Ambassador to Guinea and later as Senior Bureau Official for African Affairs. He previously led the Office of West African Affairs and held senior postings including in Ethiopia, Mauritius and Seychelles. He brings first-hand insight into U.S. policy, commercial diplomacy and the relationships that shape African engagement in international development.



Pierre Delsaux
SENIOR ADVISOR, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Pierre Delsaux is a veteran former European Commission leader whose career spanned health, the Single Market, financial services, defense and space. He served as Director-General of HERA after earlier senior roles in DG SANTE, DG DEFIS and internal market portfolios. A lawyer by training and former Legal Secretary at the European Court of Justice, he brings deep regulatory fluency, institutional memory and strong access across the European Union.



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Africa CDC is a continental autonomous health agency of the African Union established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.



Safeguarding Africa's Health

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