



## Press Release

### ACBF APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**Harare, Zimbabwe, July 6, 2009 (ACBF):** The Executive Board of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) has appointed Dr. Frannie Léautier as the new Executive Secretary. A Tanzanian national, she brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation, having served as Vice President of the World Bank and Head of the World Bank Institute from December 2001 to March 2007. She also served as Chief of Staff to the former President of the World Bank from 2000-2001. Cumulatively, Dr. Léautier served in various capacities at the World Bank from 1992-2007. She joins the ACBF following a two year assignment as Managing Partner at The Fezembat Group, a company focused on risk management and leadership development.

Dr. Léautier holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam (1984); a Master of Science in Transportation from MIT (1986); and a PhD in Infrastructure Systems from MIT (1990). She is also a graduate of the Harvard University Executive Development Program. Dr. Léautier has published a number of articles in top-tier economic journals and magazines; she has also edited three books, including a recent one on Cities in a Globalizing World. She is currently Founding Editor for the Journal of Infrastructure Systems, Advisory Board Member for the MIT Open Course Ware, and Secretary of the Board for the Nelson Mandela Institute for Science and Technology in Africa. Dr. Léautier is a charter member of the Advisory Board for EuropEFE and a founding Board member for the Africa Institute for Governing with Integrity.

Addressing the ACBF Executive Board and staff, Dr. Léautier emphasized that the mission of the Foundation and the critical needs for capacity in Africa remain as important today as they were when the Foundation was created 17 years ago. She outlined six key points which will guide tackling the challenge of capacity development and put the Foundation on a path for sustainable performance: (i) a cadre of professionals who are committed to the challenge of capacity development in Africa; (ii) a strategy that distinguishes ACBF from other players in the field of capacity development; (iii) clear linkage of the needs of the clients to the capabilities of the organization; (iv) the need to be a step ahead in exploring and experimenting with better options to the wide array of problems facing the clients; (v) a track record of results that come from the quality of the portfolio, effectiveness in the use of resources and operations and procedures based on evaluation and learning; and (vi) a conducive and respectable work environment, where staff work with the highest integrity.

ACBF was established in February 1991. It is the outcome of collaboration between African governments and the international donor community. Its mission is to build sustainable human and institutional capacity for sustainable growth, poverty reduction and good governance in Africa.

The Foundation's 47 Full Members comprise 4 international development institutions (the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund) and 43 countries (Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Djibouti, France Gabon, Ghana, Greece, India, Ireland, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Rwanda, Sao Tomé & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The African Union is an Honorary Member.

**For more information, please contact:**

Rutendo Kambarami

Outreach Officer

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

Tel: +263-4-700208/790398/9

Fax: +263-4-702915, 792894

E-mail: [r.kambarami@acbf-pact.org](mailto:r.kambarami@acbf-pact.org)