

## **Biographie Prof Awa Marie Coll-Seck**

Executive Secretary, Roll Back Malaria Partnership, Former Minister of Health and Prevention, Senegal; Former Director, Policy, Strategy and Research, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Dr Awa Marie Coll-Seck serves as Executive Secretary of the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership. RBM is a global partnership founded in 1998 by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank with the goal of halving the world's malaria burden by 2010.

Prior to this appointment, Awa Marie Coll-Seck was Minister of Health of the Government of the Republic of Senegal, appointed in 2001, following a distinguished international and academic career in public health and medicine.

Prior to this appointment, Awa Marie Coll-Seck served as a Director of the Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. With her skills and experience in policy formulation and scientific research, Awa Marie Coll-Seck led the Department of Policy, Strategy and Research, the largest department within UNAIDS consisting of a diverse group of physicians, nurses, researchers, and other international policy and technical experts. Under her leadership, the department led the foundation for UNAIDS advocacy and developed, published and disseminated an impressive range of policy and "best practice" guidance to assist governments and civil society in mounting their national and community responses to the AIDS epidemic. Awa Marie Coll-Seck subsequently was named Director of the UNAIDS Department of Country and Regional Support, where she coordinated and mobilized the UN system response to the epidemic while supervising UNAIDS staff serving in countries and four regional offices throughout Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Awa Marie Coll-Seck has a long record of outstanding service working on the front lines of public health and development efforts in her country. As Minister of Health, she has initiated a far-reaching reform of the health sector in Senegal and engaged a wide range of government, civil society and private sector partners in the implementation and expansion of public health programmes. She has succeeded in mobilizing political commitment within her country for health as a key to economic and social development and successfully mobilized financial resources both domestically and from bilateral and multilateral international donors. Awa Coll-Seck is the current President of the Assembly of the Ministries of Health of the West African Health Organization (WAHO). She was the chairperson of the Commission B of the last World Health Assembly.

After acquiring a degree in medicine in 1978 from the University of Dakar, Awa Marie Coll-Seck served for more than ten years as a specialist in infectious diseases in leading hospitals in Dakar, Senegal and Lyon, France. In 1989, she was appointed Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the University of Dakar and Chief of Service for Infectious Diseases at the University Hospital in Dakar. She is the author of over 150 scientific publications and communications on diverse subjects including malaria, measles, meningitis, tetanus, typhoid, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and cardio-vascular diseases.

Awa Marie Coll-Seck has been awarded numerous professional and academic honors, including the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite de la République Française, Chevalier des Palmes Académiques Françaises, Officier de l'Ordre du Mérite Sénégalais and Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite du Burkina Faso. She is a member of over 20 professional societies and organizations. She is member of the prestigious Academy of Sciences and Technologies of Senegal.

Awa Marie Coll-Seck was born in 1951 in Dakar, Senegal. In addition to pursuing her distinguished professional and academic career, Awa Marie Coll-Seck is married and the mother of four children.

Awa Marie Coll-Seck speaks three languages - French, English and her native Wolof – and has a working knowledge of Spanish.