

World Food Programme

2026 Executive Board Bureau

List A Convenor

H.E. Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Angola



Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko is an Angolan engineer and agronomist with 35 years of experience in agriculture, rural development, environmental governance, and international cooperation. From 2017 to 2024, she served as African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment. During her tenure, she played a crucial role in advancing continental policies on food security, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

Before her election as AU Commissioner, Ambassador Sacko held senior leadership roles in various intergovernmental and national institutions. From 2000 to 2013, she served as the Secretary-General of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) in Abidjan, where she managed the coffee economy of 25 African producing countries and advocated for the empowerment of smallholder farmers. During her tenure, she established Regional Centers of Excellence in Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda, Cameroon, and Zambia, improving African Coffee quality.

She later served as Special Advisor to the Minister of Environment of Angola and acted as Goodwill Ambassador for the negotiations of the Paris Agreement, participating in both COP21 (Paris, 2015) and COP22 (Marrakesh, 2016). Additionally, she advised the Minister of Agriculture on food and nutrition security and poverty reduction issues and served as the Executive Director of the Fund to Support Agrarian Development (FADA) of Angola in 2016. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with major regional and international institutions, including the African Union (AU), World Trade Organization (WTO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), African Development Bank (AfDB), African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), International Coffee Organization (ICO), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and AUDA-NEPAD.

Ambassador Sacko earned a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science, specializing in Agronomy, with distinction from the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University Nigeria), in 1982, and afterwards she worked in an Angolan cooperative of agriculture production. She also holds post-graduate diplomas in Project Management (1983), International Trade (1989), International Relations (2010), and Peace Keeping (Kofi Annan Institute), as well as a Master's degree in General Management from the British Institute for Management, in 2008.

Her leadership has received widespread recognition. Since 2018 she has been a member of the UN Champions 12.3, and the SUN Movement Lead Group. Ambassador Sacko was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy in Africa in 2019, and has received numerous international awards, including the FARA Leadership Prize in 2023, and the #Lusophony Prize in 2024, and others awarded by the Angolan Government and the Presidency of Mauritania to the AU.

In 2025, she was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Angola to Italy and Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD, and WFP. She is Member of the Boards of CIRAD, ICARDA and Common Fund for Commodities. She is fluent in Portuguese, French, English, Spanish, and Lingala.