



22 Apr
2025

Head of UNSOS shares career tips with UN staff

Mogadishu - Head of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), and Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, engaged with the UN staff in Mogadishu on Tuesday, sharing valuable insights for career success.



With over 30 years of experience in diplomacy, development, and humanitarian assistance, Ms. Kacyira answered questions about her career journey across various sectors, during a one-hour a Masterclass session with the UN staff.

“Make today count in whatever you are doing,” she advised. “I know uncertainties make us anxious, but your actions today will influence where you will be in the future.” She emphasised that character, attitude, and performance are key factors for opening doors to opportunities.

The Masterclass theme for this session was 'Civil Service – A Journey of Dedication, Growth, and Global Impact'. Ms Kacyira underscored the importance of humility and collaboration in career growth.

Reflecting on her commitment to public service and empowerment, she shared her journey from humble beginnings in Rwanda, where she was born and raised, before moving to Uganda during the Rwandan genocide.



Her first-hand experience of conflict deepened her understanding of the importance of peace and stability for development, instilling values of hard work and humility early on.

Ms Kacyira described how her work as a veterinary officer with farmers in Rwanda led her to political career as a member of parliament. She served as the Mayor of Kigali, earning recognition for transforming the city into Africa's cleanest. Later, she became Rwanda's Ambassador before joining the UN, first as the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and, subsequently, as ASG and Head of UNSOS in Somalia.



"I never initially sought an international position," she said. "I focused on making a difference in people's lives, which opened opportunities for me. The results matter. Investing in your present and strive for excellence."

She encouraged national staff to prioritise community service and emphasized the importance of collaboration. "Remember, you can only accomplish so much alone. Go out, network, and build common understanding and vision so that together you can rise," she added.

Participants found the event enlightening, expressing that they learned significantly from ASG Kacyira's personal experiences and inspiring career.



Mohamed, President of the UNSOS and UNTMIS National Staff Union, reflected, "The objective of this Masterclass is to advise, listen and learn from experts about how they managed and resolved issues. We have learned a lot from the ASG's journey and dedication."

Ruweyda, an Administration Assistant at the UNSOS Legal Office, found the masterclass inspiring and highlighted the importance of humility in making a difference within the UN.

"The masterclass has been very insightful, inspiring and empowering and has provided a valuable opportunity to connect directly with UN's senior leadership, while reflecting on unique challenges.



I learned the importance of authenticity and resilience in building an impactful career,” said Ruweyda.

This was the third masterclass organised by the UN in Somalia, designed to help local staff learn from the experiences of senior UN personnel and make informed career decisions.

ASG Kacyira holds a master’s degree in veterinary science from James Cook University in Australia and a bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine from Makerere University in Uganda. She was appointed as ASG and Head of UNSOS on 23 February 2023, by UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres.

