

Nardos Bekele-Thomas

CEO of the African Union Development Agency/NEPAD



Ms. Nardos BEKELE-THOMAS is the CEO of the African Union Development Agency/NEPAD and the first woman to hold the position. She was previously the Senior Director of the Office of the Secretary-General. She also served Resident Coordinator for Nations (UN) in South Africa and as the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Benin. Prior to that she served for over four years in Kenya as Deputy Resident Representative.

She holds a master's degree and a Ph.D. Candidate Certificate in Economic Development, Monetary Economics and Econometrics from New York University (NYU). She is the author of several papers and monographs, and she is fully bilingual in French and English.

Ms BEKELE-THOMAS' interest includes promotion of human development; anchored on the principles of economic, social and political rights for all. She has excelled as a Private Sector Policy Adviser focusing on the promotion of trade and investment in African countries through private/public sector partnerships in the United States. Ms Bekele-Thomas has also served in the technical and advisory capacity in which she helped initiate and conceptualize a pro-poor programme on the Social Dimensions of Development.