



**SECRETARY-GENERAL-DESIGNATE
OF THE NAIROBI SUMMIT ON A MINE-FREE WORLD**

ESTHER M. TOLLE

Ambassador Ester M. Tolle is a career diplomat, having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya in 1975. Since then, she has served in various capacities both in Kenya and at Kenyan Missions abroad. This has included postings as Head of the International Organizations and Conferences (Multilateral) Division, and the Americas Division at Headquarters.

In 1995, she was appointed Kenya's Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, with accreditation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other International Organizations in Vienna.

Whilst on this posting, Ambassador Tolle was Chairman of the 17th Session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Programme for Development-Related Industrial Property, and President of WIPO's Conference on Certain Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Questions. She was also the Chair and Spokesperson of the African Group in Geneva in 1996.

From 1998-1999, she served as Kenya's Ambassador to Japan, with accreditation to the Republic of Korea. From 1999-2004, she was Kenya's High Commissioner to Zambia, with accreditation to Botswana and Malawi, and Permanent Representative to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Ambassador Tolle has led, or been a member of, high-level Kenyan delegations to various major conferences and summit meetings, including those of the United Nations General Assembly, WIPO, IAEA, UNIDO and COMESA. Ambassador Tolle has also served as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage of Kenya.

On 30 June 2004, she was appointed Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Tolle was born on 10 July 1951 in Mgange Nyika, Kenya. She has three daughters. She graduated with a B.A. Honours degree in French and Linguistics from the University of Nairobi in 1975. In 1978, she received a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from the same university. She also studied French at the University of Lille, France in 1973. She is fluent in the French language.