

# United Nations

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## Press Release

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Biographical Note

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### NEW PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Alhaji Yusuf Maitama-Sule, the new Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, presented his credentials today to Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

Mr. Maitama-Sule's most recent assignment was as representative of the President of Nigeria to the Lancaster House Talks on Zimbabwe, in London.

Born in 1929, he trained as a teacher and taught in a secondary school from 1948 to 1955, and then worked as a Visiting Teacher until 1958.

In 1954 he was elected to the Federal House of Representatives and in 1955 and 1956 served as his Party's Chief Whip in the House.

In 1958 he became the Kano Native Authority's Chief Information Officer, a post he held until late in 1959, when he was appointed Federal Minister of Mines and Power. He served in this capacity until the military take-over in Nigeria in 1966.

He led the Nigerian delegation to the Addis Ababa Conference of Independent African States in 1960, and proposed the resolution calling for the Casablanca and Monrovia groups to form one African organization, an initiative that culminated in the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

He also was a member of the first Nigerian delegation to the United Nations in 1960.

When Nigeria created states in 1967, he became Commissioner for Local Government, then moved to the Ministry of Forestry, Co-operatives and Community Development and finally to that of Information.

He was President of the Nigerian Arts Council before the Government took it over and renamed it the National Council for Arts and Culture, of which he became Chairman.

In October 1975, Mr. Maitama-Sule became Chief Public Complaints Commissioner, a position he held until his resignation in October 1978.

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