

UNAMA

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Strategic Communication and Spokespersons Unit, Kabul, Afghanistan

Biography

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STAFFAN DE MISTURA SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Staffan de Mistura as his Special Representative for Afghanistan in January 2010. Before taking up his current position in Kabul on 13 March 2010, Mr de Mistura served as the Deputy Executive Director at the World Food Programme in Rome.

SRSR de Mistura previously served in Iraq as the Secretary-General's Special Representative. Under his leadership, his team of 1,000 staff helped oversee successful elections, as well as reconstruction, development and humanitarian assistance.

Mr de Mistura began his career in the UN in 1971 as a WFP project officer in Sudan. Over the years he led food aid and relief operations also in Ethiopia, the Balkans and Rwanda. As an emergency relief officer in Chad in 1973, he organized the first-ever UN airdrop operation. He served in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 14 years until returning to WFP in 1987 as Director of Operations in Sudan. He also served as Director of Fundraising and External Relations of the UN Office of the Coordinator for Afghanistan (1989-1991), and has held a variety of posts with UNICEF including Director of the Division of Public Affairs.

During his 38-year career in the UN, Mr de Mistura's posts also included Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon and Director of the UN Information Centre in Rome. He also served in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, Somalia and Albania.

A dual citizen of Italy and Sweden, Mr de Mistura was born in Stockholm in 1947. He is a graduate of the University of Rome with a degree in Political Science and Development Economics. He is married with two daughters.

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United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
Kabul, Afghanistan**

Tel: 079 000 6121; +39 083 124 6121

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