

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa joins with people around the world and the nation of Ghana in mourning the death of the former General Secretary of the United Nations and Chairperson of the Elders, Kofi Annan. A true advocate for world peace, diplomacy and human rights has fallen. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife and children.

As Methodists, we recognise in Kofi Annan an African leader of great worth who sought what we as a church also envision: A Christ healed Africa for the healing of nations.

Kofi Annan steadfastly steered the United Nations through a turbulent and critical time and played a vital role in many key events of the 1990s and 2000s. His time at the United Nations was at the height of the HIV and AIDS crisis, violent conflicts both in Africa and elsewhere in the world including the Rwandan genocide and the terrorist attacks in the United States of America. A passionate advocate of human rights, and a strong believer in the universal values of equality, tolerance and human dignity, Kofi Annan played a pivotal role in the creation of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

With wisdom and foresight, he advocated for a more independent United Nations and for gender equality stating that it is more than a goal in itself but rather a *precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance*. His legacy also includes initiating the Millennium Development Goals which have been succeeded by the Sustainable Development Goals and the “Global Compact” which has become the world’s biggest initiative for promoting corporate social responsibility.

Kofi Annan’s unflappable persona demonstrated in his calm management of complex crisis situations will be sorely missed.

We honour the legacy of this son of the soil and mourn his loss alongside his family and all the people of Africa. May African leaders arise and take over the leadership roles left vacant by such progressive stalwarts as Kofi Annan.