

# UN mourns death of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 'a guiding force for good'

The United Nations is mourning the death of former Secretary-General [Kofi Annan](#), who passed away peacefully after a short illness, according to a statement published on his official Twitter account on Saturday. The renowned Ghanaian diplomat was 80 years old.

The current UN chief, [Antonio Guterres](#) hailed him as “a guiding force for good” and a “proud son of Africa who became a global [champion for peace](#) and all humanity.”

“Like so many, I was proud to call Kofi Annan a good friend and mentor. I was deeply honoured by his trust in selecting me to serve as [UN High Commissioner for Refugees](#) under his leadership. He remained someone I could always turn to for counsel and wisdom – and I know I was not alone,” Mr. Guterres said in a statement.

“He provided people everywhere with a space for dialogue, a place for problem-solving and a path to a better world. In these turbulent and trying times, he never stopped working to give life to the values of the United Nations Charter. His legacy will remain a true inspiration for all us.”

Kofi Annan was born in Kamasi, Ghana, on 8 April 1938.

He joined the UN system in 1962 as an administrative and budget officer with the [World Health Organization](#) in Geneva, rising through the ranks to hold senior-level posts in areas such as budget and finance, and peacekeeping.

He served as UN Secretary-General for two consecutive five-year terms, beginning in January 1997.