



Michel Kafando | Class of 1972

Michel Kafando is a Burkinabé diplomat best-known for his effort to implement a proper democratic transition as the transitional president of Burkina Faso after the 2014 uprising. Originally from Ouagadougou, Kafando studied in Senegal, France and Switzerland before returning to the Burkinabé capital where he gained prestige in the diplomatic and multilateral field over the following decades. Kafando served as Vice-President of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1982. From 1982 to 1983 and again from 2014 to 2015, he served as Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, previously Upper Volta, while simultaneously acting as transitional president during the latter period.



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Michel Kafando was President of the Transition and Head of State of Burkina Faso from 2014 to 2015. He oversaw the peaceful restoration of democracy in his country after an uprising in 2014. The transitional government aimed to ensure democratic elections at the end of its term. To prevent a misuse of power, Kafando did not run for elections afterwards.



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Appointed Special Envoy by the UN Secretary General in 2017, Kafando led and coordinated the political efforts of the UN to promote peace and sustainable development in Burundi.

