



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, DC

President of the Republic of Congo to speak about regional security issues in Africa

WASHINGTON, July 10, 2014: His Excellency Denis Sassou N’Gusso, President of the Republic of Congo, will speak at a World Affairs Council – Washington, DC event as part of the National Press Club luncheon series on August 1, 2014, about security issues in central Africa.

President Sassou N’Gusso will address the work to resolve ongoing conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and the Great Lakes region. He is the Economic Community of Central African States appointed mediator in the resolution of the conflict in the Central African Republic. President Sassou N’Gusso was Chairperson of the African Union from January 2006 to January 2007. From 1986 to 1987, he led the African Union’s predecessor, the Organization of African Unity.

President Sassou N’Gusso said, “The World Affairs Council - Washington, DC is a respected, neutral, and independent organization that offers an African voice, mine in this instance, an opportunity to communicate with the American public and government, business, civic, education, and press and media representatives on subjects of common interest to global leaders: peace, education and security.”

President Sassou N’Gusso will deliver his remarks ahead of the inaugural U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit to be hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington on August 5-6.

“The World Affairs Council - DC is focused on a new understanding of what can be defined as ‘Global Education’ in contrast to traditional ‘International Education.’ In an emerging new era of history there is a growing need for greater cultural respect, communication and historical understanding among citizens of all nations. Africa is a 21st century global region that is increasingly important to building bridges of understanding, trust, and cooperation between nations in our interconnected world,” said Joseph Duffey, WAC-DC board member.

The luncheon and discussion will begin at 12:30 PM EST at the National Press Club.

“Adding the diverse voices of global leaders to our programs at the National Press Club is a key goal of my presidency,” said Myron Belkind, 2014 President of the NPC. “Having President Denis Sassou N’Gusso of the Republic of Congo speak and take our questions helps fulfill that goal. We are pleased that he could travel to Washington for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit and we look forward to his remarks about the Central African region and the Republic of Congo.”

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Notes to Editors

His Excellency Denis Sassou N’Guesso is President of the Republic of Congo since 1997. He previously served as President from 1979 to 1992. President Sassou N’Guesso was Chairperson of the African Union from January 2006 to January 2007. From 1986 to 1987, he led the African Union’s predecessor, the Organization of African Unity.

Dr. Joseph D. Duffey served as Senior Vice President of Laureate International Universities network, from 1998 to 2013. Prior to Laureate, Dr. Duffey served in the federal government under three presidents as Director of the U.S. Information Agency, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Culture, and is the former President of American University and the University of Massachusetts university network.

Myron Belkind is the 107th president of the National Press Club. He had a four-decade career with the Associated Press as a foreign correspondent as a bureau chief in Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, London, and Tokyo. He also teaches journalism at The George Washington University.

The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC is ‘A leading global education and international affairs organization – where learning happens.’ It is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding awareness among the American public and the international community of geo-political, business, and civil society issues in our inter-connected world.

The National Press Club is a membership organization for journalists and communications professionals. It frequently hosts global leaders in government, politics, business, music, film and sport for public and private events and promotes freedom of the press and First Amendment rights in the U.S. and internationally. It is ‘The world’s leading professional organization for journalists’ and an institution ‘Where News Happens.’