

## CATHERINE ANN BERTINI



Catherine Bertini is a professor of Public Administration at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is a leader in public sector management, international organizations, humanitarian relief, agricultural development and nutrition policy. Her career spans public service at international, national, state, and local levels and includes university teaching and leadership roles in private and non-profit sectors.

She also served as a Senior Fellow, Agricultural Development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. There, she advised on the development of the foundation's new agriculture portfolio which strives to improve the well being of poor farmers in Africa and South Asia.

Ms. Bertini was the driving force behind reform of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), where she was the Chief Executive for ten years. WFP's institutional changes were cited by the United States government and the thirty-six-government board of WFP as models of UN reform, and have placed the food aid agency in the forefront of international agencies in efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and income. Ms. Bertini was named the 2003 World Food Prize Laureate for her leadership at WFP in ending famine and decreasing hunger.

WFP is credited with assisting hundred of millions of victims of wars and natural disasters throughout the world. In particular, Ms. Bertini was widely praised for her efforts to end famine in North Korea, avert starvation in Afghanistan, ensure food was delivered effectively during crises in Bosnia and Kosovo, quickly reaching Hurricane Mitch flood victims in Central America, and for averting mass starvation in the Horn of Africa.

Ms. Bertini was appointed Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme in 1992 upon the recommendation of President George H. W. Bush and was re-appointed with the support of the administration of President William J. Clinton.

Following her WFP assignment, Ms. Bertini was appointed by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to be Under Secretary General for Management. There, she was responsible

for the UN's human, financial, physical resources and security of staff worldwide. She improved the management of the UN Pension Fund and increased its assets by thirty eight percent in two years; supervised major reform of the security management system; improved procedures for information systems, facilities and human resources policies and initiated stronger financial disclosure; whistle blower protection and internal management reforms.

For four years, Ms. Bertini chaired the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition. She was also the Secretary General's envoy twice: for drought in the Horn of Africa and for humanitarian needs in Gaza and the West Bank. She continues to organize assistance to increase the numbers of girls in school in developing countries.

As Assistant Secretary, Food and Consumer Services at the US Department of Agriculture, she proposed legislation for nationwide implementation of electronic benefit transfer programs for aid delivery; by 2004, all states had converted to this system. She created a food package for poor breastfeeding mothers. Initiation of this package correlates directly with increases in the percentage of poor American women who breastfed their infants. Her team created the first Food Guide Pyramid to educate Americans on healthy diets. At the US Department of Health and Human Services as Acting Assistant Secretary for Family Support, she was responsible for regulations that strengthened education and training support for the poorest American women.

While living in Illinois, Ms. Bertini was appointed by Governor James R. Thompson as a member of the Illinois State Scholarship Commission and later as a commissioner of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Earlier, she had worked in the office of New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller, for the New York State Senate, and for the City of Cortland, New York.

Ms. Bertini returned to the private sector upon her election as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tupperware Brands Corporation in 2005. For ten years, she held public affairs management positions at Container Corporation of America in Chicago.

In the summer of 2005, Ms. Bertini joined the faculty of the Maxwell School. Earlier, she was Policy Maker in Residence at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, and a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

She was appointed by President George W. Bush as a member of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development which advises the United States Agency for International Development. She serves on two university public policy advisory boards, as a juror for the Hilton Foundation Humanitarian Prize, and as a founding board member of the Global Humanitarian Forum based in Switzerland.

Ms. Bertini was decorated by the Republic of Italy with its Order of Merit. The Times of London listed her as one of the world's most powerful women. Ten universities in four countries have awarded her honorary degrees. She is a member of the Trilateral Commission, the Council on Foreign Relations, is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the International Academy of Food Science and

Technology. Ms. Bertini earned a bachelor-of-arts degree from the State University of New York at Albany.