CURRICULUM VITAE: ROELF MEYER

Roelof Petrus (Roelf) Meyer was born on 16 July 1947 in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. He matriculated in 1964 and completed his BComm (1968) and LLB (1971) degrees at the University of the Free State. He practised as a lawyer in Pretoria and Johannesburg before entering politics as a Member of Parliament in 1979. He resigned from active politics after 21 years at the end of January 2000. During this period he served as Deputy Minister of Law and Order and as Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development (1968-1991), and subsequently as Minister of Defence and as Minister of Constitutional Affairs (1991-1996).

As chief negotiator for the National Party (NP) government, Roelf Meyer was intimately involved in the negotiations on the settlement of the South African conflict. It this capacity he negotiated the end of apartheid together with Cyril Ramaphosa, who was chief negotiator for the African National Congress (ANC). These negotiations resulted in the first democratic elections in South Africa at the end of April 1994. After the elections Meyer continued in the portfolio of Constitutional Affairs in the cabinet of former President Nelson Mandela.

Meyer is currently a businessperson and acts as a consultant on peace processes. In this capacity he became involved in various countries around the globe - Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Burundi, Kosovo and Bolivia - as well as in the Basque Region and the Middle East. He serves on the Strategy Committee of the Project on Justice in Times of Transition in New York and held the Tip O'Neill Chair in peace studies at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, in 2001.