



Prize Laureates

October 2007, President Joaquim Alberto Chissano

Joaquim Alberto Chissano served as Head of State of Mozambique from November 1986 to February 2005. He was elected President in October 1994 and then again in December 1999 announcing that he would step down from office in 2004, without seeking the third term the constitution allowed.

President Chissano received the inaugural Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership for his achievements in bringing peace, reconciliation, stable democracy and economic progress to his country following the 16-year civil war which lasted until 1992. It also recognises the major contribution he has made outside his country's borders. This included serving as Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (2003-2005) and as the United Nations Special Envoy to Northern Uganda (2005-). He is currently chair of the Joaquim Chissano Foundation and the Forum of Former African Heads of State and Government.

"...it is in his role in leading Mozambique from conflict to peace and democracy that President Chissano has made his most outstanding contribution. It is a measure of the change that has taken place that national and regional elections have been contested in a generally peaceful manner by both sides in the bitter civil war. This remarkable reconciliation between opponents provides a shining example to the rest of the world, and is testament to both his strength of character and his leadership."

- Excerpt from the citation of the Prize Committee