

H.E. Philippe Douste-Blazy
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs
France

Born in 1953, Philippe Douste-Blazy has combined a successful career as a doctor with a long-standing service of the Government of France. After graduating in medical studies in Toulouse (south-western France), he worked as a cardiologist and became Professor of Medicine at the Toulouse Sciences University in 1988.

He then was elected to the European Parliament in 1989, the beginning of a very active political engagement. Philippe Douste-Blazy has held a number of major positions inside the French Government: twice Minister for Health (1993-1995, 2004-2005), Minister of Culture (1995-1997) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (2005-2007).

He also held several local and parliamentary mandates. During his term as the leader of French diplomacy, he strongly advocated for the creation of UNITAID and the implementation in France (July 2006) of a solidarity contribution on airline tickets aimed at supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular in the health sector. In March 2007, Philippe Douste-Blazy was elected President of the Executive Board of UNITAID, for a two-year term.