

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is the director general of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). She is an economist and international development expert with over 30 years of experience working in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America. She served twice as Nigeria's finance minister (2003-06 and 2011-15) and briefly acted as foreign minister in 2006, the first woman to hold both positions. She distinguished herself by carrying out major reforms which improved the effectiveness of these two ministries and the functioning of the government machinery, enhancing transparency of government accounts and strengthening institutions against corruption.

She served two tenures at the World Bank, first as a development economist and vice president and corporate secretary of the World Bank Group and later as managing director of operations. In the latter position she was responsible for managing an \$81 billion operational portfolio in Africa, South Asia, Europe and Central Asia. She also led several World Bank projects to assist poor countries during the global financial crisis of 2007–08 and the world food-price crisis of 2008–09.

She currently chairs the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate with Lord Nicholas Stern and Paul Polman; the Nelson Mandela Institution, an umbrella body for the African Institutes of Science and Technology; and the African University of Science and Technology in Abuja. She is a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and serves on the advisory boards of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Harvard University (International Advisory Board), Oxford University Martin School Advisory Council and many more.

In October 2019 she was appointed to the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) for the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa.

In the past she has chaired the board of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; African Risk Capacity, a specialised agency of the African Union; and the World Bank Development Committee. She co-chaired the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation with UK Secretary Justine Greening. She served as senior advisor at Lazard and sat on the boards of various entities, including Standard Chartered PLC, Twitter Inc and the Rockefeller Foundation. She also served on the advisory board of the ONE Campaign, the Clinton Global Initiative, the Global Development Network and the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government. She was appointed as an AU Covid-19 Special Envoy and WHO Covid-19 Special Envoy.

She is the founder of Nigeria's first ever indigenous opinion-research organization, NOI-Polls. She also founded the Center for the Study of Economies of Africa (C-SEA), a development research think tank based in Abuja, Nigeria. She is a distinguished visiting fellow at the Center for Global Development and the Brookings Institution.

She is the recipient of many awards and honours from international organisations, national governments, charities and universities around the world. In 2019, she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

She is the author of numerous articles and several books. Her recent work includes *Women and Leadership: Real Lives, Real Lessons*, co-authored with Julia Gillard (2020), *Finding A Vaccine is Only the First Step* (2020), *Mobilizing Finance for Education in the Commonwealth* (2019), and *Fighting Corruption is Dangerous: The Story Behind the Headlines* (2018).

Dr Okonjo-Iweala graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Economics from Harvard University (1976) and earned a PhD in Regional Economics and Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1981).