



The Commonwealth

22nd Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers

Biographies of Speakers and Moderators



The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

Patricia Scotland was born in the Commonwealth of Dominica. She is the tenth of twelve children and grew up in London. She completed her LLB (Hons) at London University at the age of twenty and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple at the age of twenty-one.

Her career has been marked by achieving several extraordinary firsts, not least of which was to be the first woman in the more than 700-year history of the office to serve as Her Majesty's Attorney-General for England and Wales and Northern Ireland. While holding these and other senior ministerial offices she was given responsibility, inter alia, for gender equality, domestic violence, forced marriage, and international child abduction, and from these positions promoted diversity and equality of opportunity, particularly for women and girls.

As the only woman to have been appointed Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, she is placing special emphasis on mobilising the 56 nations of the Commonwealth to tackle climate change - including its disproportionate impact on women - and, through women's enterprise, to build the resilience of smaller or more vulnerable countries. Eliminating domestic violence and violence against women and girls is another area of focus.



Dr. Ezekiel Machogu, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kenya

Dr. Ezekiel Machogu was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Education in 2022. Before his appointment, the seasoned career civil servant and administrator, had served as Member of Parliament for Nyaribari Masaba Constituency between 2017 and 2022.

Since he was appointed the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr Machogu has led a successful turnaround of the fortunes of the hitherto stuttering implementation of the Competency Based Curriculum, a new system being rolled out in phases to replace the 8-4-4.

Dr Machogu is currently in charge of implementing sector-wide reforms recommended by a Presidential Working Party on Education Reforms that was formed by Kenyan President, Dr William Ruto, upon forming his Government in 2022.

Some of the key reforms that Dr Machogu is currently spearheading include the implementation of a new funding model for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

institutions and Universities, drafting new laws to govern the basic and higher education sector, and the writing of a new Sessional Paper to anchor the new education system.

Dr Machogu is a graduate of the University of Nairobi where he studied Political Science (Government and Sociology).

Due to his outstanding contribution to the education sector, Hon Machogu was awarded an honorary doctorate degree of the Taita Taveta University in 2023.

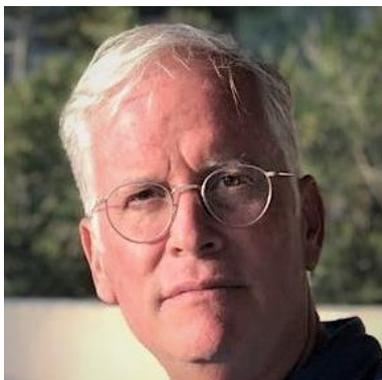


Dr Manos Antoninis, Director, UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring

Dr Manos Antoninis has been the Director of UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report since 2017. He also co-chairs the report team in the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG 4 indicators.

Dr Antoninis was previously responsible for the monitoring section of the report. During his tenure, he coordinated the financing gap estimates for the 2030 education targets, the projections on the achievement of universal primary and secondary education completion, and the World Inequality Database on Education.

He holds a DPhil in Economics for a study of technical education and the labour market in Egypt, which he completed at the Centre for the Study of African Economies of the University of Oxford.



Mr Chris Castle, Director, UNESCO's Division of Peace and Sustainable Development Education Sector

Chris Castle is the Director of the Division of Peace and Sustainable Development Education Sector and the acting Director of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP).

He has more than 30 years of development experience in education and health and has worked at UNESCO since 2004. After holding a position at UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning, he transferred to UNESCO headquarters, where he served as Chief of the Section of Health and Education until November 2022 before taking on his current role.

Mr Castle holds a BS in International Studies and French from The American University and an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics.



Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO, Commonwealth of Learning

Professor Peter Scott is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). His career reflects a deep commitment to open and distance learning, characterised by innovative leadership in various academic and administrative roles. He began his academic career as a researcher and lecturer at the University of Sheffield, UK.

Later, during a 20-year tenure at the Open University, he directed The Knowledge Media Institute, specialising in Artificial Intelligence and Education. In 2015, Professor Scott joined the University of Technology Sydney in Australia as Pro Vice-Chancellor, after which he became the President of Athabasca University, Canada, in 2022.

Across all his roles, he has been a pioneering force in educational change, focusing on new modes of learning and teaching, particularly in the digital realm. His work has significantly contributed to the global transformation of education through technology.



Mr Albert Nsengiyumva, Executive Secretary, Association for the Development of Education in Africa

Mr Albert Nsengiyumva is the Executive Secretary of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). A consummate technocrat and education policy expert, Albert specialises in technical and vocational education and training (TVET). He has extensive experience in information communication technology research, policy development, and implementation in Africa.

He served the government and people of Rwanda for 18 years, where he occupied various cabinet positions, including Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of State for TVET in the Ministry of Education.

Albert has solid grasp of government functionalities and has built a strong reputation around leveraging social capital to mobilise resources that support policy development, advocacy, and implementation. He has helped expand ADEA's network across the world, building new relationships with various partners including multilateral development institutions, regional economic bodies, and philanthropic organisations.



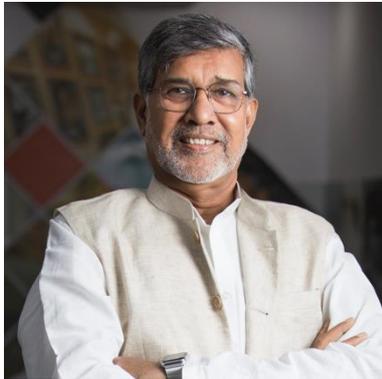
Dr Silvia Montoya, Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Dr Silvia Montoya is the Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and the Chief Statistician of UNESCO, responsible for the official UN repository of statistics in education, science and technology, culture, and communication. She currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Committee of Chief Statisticians of the UN systems (CCS-UN) and as a member of the bureau of the Committee for Coordination of UN Statistical Activities (CCSA).

Since the onset of the Sustainable Development Goals, Dr Montoya has represented UNESCO as the co-leader of monitoring the Goal on Education (SDG4). Prior to her appointment to the UIS in 2015, she worked at the Ministry of Education of Argentina as the Director-General of Assessment and Evaluation of Education Quality and was the first Executive Director of

the *Unidad de Evaluación Integral*, which was created to lead the Educational Quality Agenda.

She holds a master's and PhD in Policy Analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School, and a master's degree in public administration from Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Dr Montoya has taught at the Catholic University of Argentina, and authored many publications on education, vocational training, and labour market issues.



Mr Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate

Mr Kailash Satyarthi, a prominent social reformer and Nobel Peace Laureate, stands out as an exceptional leader and an unwavering advocate for the marginalised and voiceless. He was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for his tireless crusade against the oppression of children and youth and his unwavering commitment to ensuring every child's right to education.

Among his many achievements is his anti-trafficking and anti-slavery grassroots movement Bachpan Bachao Andolan, which has been instrumental in liberating more than 115,000 children from child labour, slavery, trafficking and other forms of exploitation and developed a successful model for their education, rehabilitation and reintegration into society. He is also the founding president of the Global Campaign for Education, an exemplary civil society movement working to end the global education crisis.

Mr Satyarthi has received several prestigious awards including the Parliamentarians for Global Action Defender of Democracy Award (2009-USA); Alfonso Comin International Award (2008-Spain); Robert F Kennedy Human Rights Award (1995- USA); Medal of the Italian Senate (2007-Italy); Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Human Rights Award (1999-Germany); Wockhardt Foundation, Lifetime Achievement Award (2019); Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice (2019); Rotary International Award of Honour (2022-USA); Honorary Doctorate Degree for Social Justice and Education, Amrita University (2022- India) among many other accolades. In 2017, he received the Guinness World Record for Largest Child Safeguarding Lesson.



Dr Luis Benveniste, Global Director for Education, World Bank

Dr Luis Benveniste is the Global Director for Education at the World Bank. Previously, he was the Human Development Regional Director for Latin American and the Caribbean at the World Bank. He was a co-author of the [World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development](#).

Dr Benveniste's research interests focus on education finance, gender, student assessment practices and teacher policies. His publications include "Financing Education at the Bottom of the Pyramid," with Samer al Samarraï, in D. Wagner, N. Castillo & S. Grant Lewis (eds.), *Learning, Marginalization and Improving the Quality of Education in Low-Income Countries* (2022); *Teaching in Cambodia* (2008), with J. Marshall and M. Araujo; "The political structuration of assessment: Negotiating State power and legitimacy," in A.H. Halsey, P. Brown, H. Lauder & J. Dillabough (eds.), *Education: Globalisation and Social Change* (2006) and *All Else Equal* (2003), with M. Carnoy and R. Rothstein, a book on accountability and the organisation of public and private schools in the United States.

Dr Benveniste has worked on a wide variety of World Bank-financed education projects in Africa, East Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. He received a B.A. Magna

Cum Laude in Psychology from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in International Comparative Education from Stanford University.



Mr David Archer, Head of Programmes, ActionAid

David Archer is Head of Programmes with ActionAid, having been Head of Education for many years. David qualified as a trained teacher from Oxford University and in the 1980s he researched adult learning programmes inspired by Paulo Freire across Latin America, developing the Reflect approach in the 1990s that has spread widely and won 5 UN awards.

He is a co-founder of the Global Campaign for Education and Chair of the Board of the Right to Education Initiative. From 2018-2020 he served as chair of the Strategy and Impact Committee of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). In 2022 he was the Stakeholder Convenor for the finance track of the UN Heads of State Transforming Education Summit (TES) and he continues to advance delivery of the TES Finance Call to Action through the finance working group of the SDG4 High Level Steering Committee.



Cheryl de la Rey, Chair of Council, Association of Commonwealth Universities

Professor Cheryl de la Rey has been Vice-Chancellor at the University of Canterbury since 2019. Before moving to New Zealand, Professor De la Rey was Vice-Chancellor and Principal of South Africa's largest research university, the University of Pretoria for nine years. She has 18 years of experience as an executive in higher education.

After an academic career in South Africa's university sector, she took up her first executive role as executive director at the National Research Foundation. She was later appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town and was subsequently the CEO of the Council on Higher Education.

Cheryl serves as Chair of Council for the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the first and oldest international university network, with more than 500 member institutions in over 50 countries. It is the only accredited organisation representing higher education across the Commonwealth. She is also the current Chairperson of Universities New Zealand and a member of the board of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.