

Her Excellency María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

President of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly (2018-2019)

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defense and Cultural and Natural Heritage for the Government of Ecuador. She was the first female ambassador and permanent representative of Ecuador to the United Nations offices in New York and Geneva. Recently, she was President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly — the fourth woman and the first from Latin America and the Caribbean to preside over this body. She serves as Member and Executive Director of Global Women Leaders for Change and Inclusion, GWLvoices; member of the Board of Trustees of the International Crisis Group; Member of the High-Level Advisory Council for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and is involved with several other groups. In 2019, BBC recognised Espinosa as one of the world's 100 most inspiring and influential women.



Martin Chungong

Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Martin Chungong is the first African and first non-European to be elected IPU Secretary General in 2014. He was re-elected to a third term of office, which began in July 2022. Chungong sits on the Board of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health, and he was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as one of the global leaders committed to fighting malnutrition through the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. He also is a member of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up, as well as a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on 21st Century Global Health Threats. In 2020, he was elected Chair of the Global Board of the International Gender Champions.



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Stephen Twigg

Secretary-General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Stephen Twigg was appointed as the 8th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and took up this position from 1 August 2020. The CPA is one of the oldest established organizations in the Commonwealth, founded in 1911, and is a membership association and the parliamentary wing of the Commonwealth. The CPA brings together Commonwealth Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, who are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by the pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

