

Graça Machel



Mrs. Graça Machel is a renowned international advocate for women and children's rights and has been a social and political activist over many decades.

- Graça Machel was the first **Minister of Education and Culture** of independent Mozambique (1975-1989) and she led an inclusive movement to establish a national system of education which increased the primary school enrolment from 40 per cent of children in 1975 to over 90 per cent of boys and 75 per cent of girls by 1989.
- She is one of the founders of the **Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE)**, an advocacy network which has been a reference in the promotion of girls' education and empowerment in Africa.
- In 1994, the Secretary General of the United Nations appointed her as an independent expert to carry out an assessment of the impact of armed conflict on children. Her groundbreaking report was presented in 1996 and established a comprehensive global agenda for the protection of children's rights in conflict situations.
- She was chair of the **GAVI Alliance** for almost a decade
- She served as an Eminent Person of the **African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of NEPAD**

- Graça Machel is the Founder and President of the **Foundation for Community Development** (FDC) in Mozambique, a grant making organization, a builder of civil society and a promoter of development based on communities. FDC advocates for a conducive environment for women's and children's development and protection
- She was the Chairperson of the **National Organization of Children of Mozambique**, the largest children's organisation in Mozambique, for two decades
- Graça Machel was also the **President of the National Commission of UNESCO in Mozambique** for three decades
- She recently founded the **Institute for Child Development** (Zizile IDC) to focus on Early Childhood Development
- She is a co-founder of the **Mandela Institute for Development Studies** (MINDS)
- She is Founder of the **Graça Machel Trust** (GMT), an organisation that promotes the rights of women and children on the continent, as well as good governance and democracy.
- She is Co-Convenor of the **High Level Panel on Education**. The panel was initiated by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) to bring education to the fore of the global political agenda. The panel works together with GCE and a group of influential, international figures to boost efforts to achieve Education for All.

Graça Machel serves in various capacities in several organizations: the Elders, the Africa Progress Panel, the High Level Task Force on Innovative International Finance for Health Systems, the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Advocates and the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda among others. She is also:

- an Eminent Person of the **GAVI Alliance** and the **UN Foundation**
- Chair of the Leadership Council for the **Campaign to End Paediatric HIV/AIDS** (CEPA)
- Chair of the Board of the **African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes** (ACCORD)
- Chancellor of the **University of Cape Town**

Over the years, Mrs. Machel has gained international recognition for her myriad achievements. Her many awards include the Laureate of Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger from the Hunger Project in 1992, the Nansen Medal in recognition of her contribution to the welfare of refugee children in 1995, the Global Citizen Award of the New England Circle in 1997, the Inter Press Service's (IPS) International Achievement Award for her work on behalf of children internationally, the Africare Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award and the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe.