Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She has devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government and civil society, and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa.

She served as Deputy President of South Africa, Minister of Minerals and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry. She was a Member of Parliament as part of South Africa’s first democratic government.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA.

A long-time champion of women’s rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women’s empowerment and gender equality.

She has completed her Ph.D. on education and technology at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.