



NOELEEN HEYZER

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL (2007-2015)

United Nations

Dr Noeleen Heyzer, Social Scientist, was an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (2007-2015).

She was the first woman to serve as the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific since its founding in 1947. Under her leadership, the Commission focused on regional co-operation for shared prosperity, social equality, and sustainable development. She was the first Executive Director from outside North America to lead the UN Development Fund for Women, and was widely recognized for her role in the landmark Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. She was also the UNSG's Special Adviser for Timor-Leste, working to support peace-building, state-building, and sustainable development. Currently, she is a member of the UN Secretary General's High Level Advisory Board on Mediation.

A former trustee of the National University of Singapore (NUS), Noeleen is on the Governing Board of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and co-chairs the Advisory Board of NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. She is also a member of the Kofi Annan Global Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age. She holds BA Upper Honours and MSc Singapore University, and PhD from Cambridge University.

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