

## BIOGRAPHY: CHARAF AHMIMED



Mr Charaf Ahmimed was appointed by Director-General of UNESCO, Madame Azoulay, UNESCO's G20 Sherpa in November 2023. Mr Ahmimed accompany and advise the Director-General in her engagement with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Head of States/Governments of the G20. He provides strategic vision and steers UNESCO's contribution to G20 Task Forces and Working Groups. He represents UNESCO in the political tracks and contribute to the Sherpas and Leaders meetings.

Mr Charaf Ahmimed is Senior Advisor to the Director-General of UNESCO since February 2020. He advises the Director-General on policies, political issues and strategies, including Priority Africa and Gender Equality. He also provides advice to the Director-General on her engagement with Governing bodies and Member States. He contributed to UNESCO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed to drafting of the Organization's strategies and policies.

In 2018, Mr Ahmimed was appointed to the Office of the Director-General of UNESCO to coordinate the Strategic Transformation process of the Organisation, a major reform of UNESCO's programmes, operations, communications, partnerships and field network. He assisted the Deputy Director-General, Mr Qu, in the design, implementation, reporting and evaluation of the reform. Between 2011 and 2018, he was responsible for the social and human sciences programme of UNESCO, based in Southeast Asia (Jakarta Office), Central America (San Jose Office) and Southern Africa (Harare Office). Mr Ahmimed managed joint UN initiatives on disability rights (Zimbabwe and Indonesia), and gender equality (Costa Rica). In 2018, he was awarded the UN Resident Coordination Recognition Award for his contribution to the UN system.

A Canadian public servant, Mr Ahmimed was, prior to joining UNESCO, a Senior Programme Officer with Canada's International Development Research Centre (2005-2010). He managed the Middle East Good Governance Fund, and the Peace, Conflict and Development Programme. He contributed to policy dialogue, research and development, and advised various departments of the Government of Canada, including Privy Council Office and Global Affairs Canada, on political development in the Middle East and North Africa region. He supported new generation of young Middle Eastern scholars and regional research centres on peace, conflict and development.

Mr Ahmimed has also worked at IMPACT (former Partnership Africa Canada), United Nations Development Programme, and Council of Europe. He collaborated with international organisations such as Crisis Group and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Mr Ahmimed published field research and peer-reviewed articles including: Intercultural dialogue: A tool for young people to address exclusion in southern Africa (*Journal of Intercultural Communication*, vol. 50, 2019); Changing realities. A youth perspective from Southern Africa (*UNESCO*, 2019); Youth political participation in Costa Rica (*Critica y Emancipación*, vol.3, 2015); Role of media in the promotion of sustainable development and culture of peace (*UNESCO*, 2015); and Public policies and social inclusion in South-East Asia (*Trinity College/Melbourne University/UNESCO*, 2014).

Mr Ahmimed is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Sociology of the University of Cape Town. He is writing his thesis on the social reintegration of migrants' returnees. He obtained a Master's in International Relations (Laval University, Canada), and a B.A. in Communication and Politics (University of Montreal, Canada).

Mr Ahmimed worked in Canada, France, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Costa Rica and Zimbabwe and has travelled on official missions to over 80 countries. He speaks fluently French, English, Arabic and Spanish.