

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PROFILE

AMB (DR.) AMINA C. MOHAMED, EGH, CBS, CAV
Cabinet Secretary

Ambassador (Dr.) Amina Mohamed is an accomplished international civil servant and diplomat who has served in various high-level international, regional and national portfolios over the past three decades. She is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and has also previously served as Minister for Education, Science and Technology. She is the current Minister for Sports, Culture and Heritage. Kenya is a sports powerhouse and the leading Olympic medal winner in Africa. It is also recognized as the Cradle of Mankind and of civilization owing to the rich and diverse archaeological and paleontological finds in numerous sites found within the Great Rift Valley, illustrating the place of Africa in writing the history of mankind.

Minister Mohamed recorded the following achievements in her present docket:

1. Revitalized Kenya's global war against doping. She served on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Foundation Board and led Africa's contributions in re-writing the WADA Statutes.
2. Set up sports merchandising value-chains to commercialize Kenya's sporting identity by unlocking small, medium and micro enterprises to manufacture sports apparel and associated goods to protect small businesses from the dire economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Established Kenya's first Presidential Archives and Libraries to preserve Presidential Papers and core decisions of the Presidency since independence.
4. Expanded the Kenya National Archives and Documentation Services to reinforce the preservation of national records.
5. Led the development of the online exhibition of Kenya's culture and intangible heritage 'Utamaduni Wetu: Meet the People of Kenya' Uniting 28 museums, sites and monuments. This project was the result of a year-long large scale-digitization project which, for the first time in Kenya's history, enabled audiences to access the collections of the National Museums of Kenya online showing the past and present stories of Kenya's communities.
6. Invigorated the Institute of Primate Research into a leading Bio-Medical research facility engaged in Kenya's efforts to contain the coronavirus disease and develop a vaccine.

7. Operationalized public-private and social sector coordination structures to formulate COVID-19 and post-COVID emergency, resilience and transformative policies to sustain and revitalize Culture and Creative Industries.
8. Successfully led Kenya's efforts to return the World Rally championships (WRC) Safari Rally back to the WRC-FIA circuit after an 18-year break.
9. Negotiated with international Agencies causing the repatriation of indigenous Kenyan artefacts such as the *Vigango of the Mijikenda* which were repatriated by Denver University to Kenya in 2019.
10. Successfully chaired the World Athletics U-20 Championships Steering Committee.
11. Lobbied World Athletics to hold the inaugural Gold leg of the World Continental Tour in Nairobi for the first time in Africa.
12. Conceptualized and supervised the implementation of a COVID-19 stimulus programme for the creatives sector to cushion 20,000 artists and 80,000 households from the economic and social effects of COVID-19.
13. Accelerated the roll-out of the Creative Community Education Programme across the country to educate and disseminate the World Health Organisation and Ministry of Health COVID-19 safety guidelines.
14. Conceptualized and supervised the implementation of the Sports Stimulus Programme designed to cushion 2000 athletes and 8000 households from the economic and social effects of COVID-19.
15. Commissioned the development of the Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund Operation Manual to guide application, assessment, disbursement and evaluation of resources from the Fund.
16. Chaired the first online Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting
17. Guided the preparation and technical conceptualization of the Seventh International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (**MINEPS-VII**).

She previously served as the Minister for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation and the first woman Minister in this docket since independence. While at the Ministry of Education, she was responsible for 17 million students at different levels across the education continuum, 23000 Primary, 8000 Secondary schools, 73 Universities and over 1000 Technical, Vocational Education Training Institutes managing 27% of the Government's Total Budget. She is credited with trailblazing accomplishments including:

1. Delivering 100% transition from primary to secondary education, placing Kenya on the global map as being the first and only African country to do so.
2. Formulating, launching and operationalizing, for the first time in Kenya; the Sector Policy for Learners and Trainers with Disabilities; Competency Based Curriculum Policy; Disaster Preparedness Policy and Mentorship Policy.
3. Negotiating 18,000 Government Scholarships from the World Bank for secondary school students to support full transition from primary to secondary education.
4. Achieving 30% improvement in numeracy and literacy under the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Programme.

5. Creating a Community of Practice (COP) for African Ministers of Education to exchange best practice to improve education delivery in Africa.
6. Leading the Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) and raised \$300 million to support STEM in Africa.
7. Championed the restructuring of Technical and Vocational Training institutes to serve the needs of the Kenyan economy in light of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. She co-designed the GOK/Mastercard Foundation Young Kenya World Programme aimed at training and transitioning 5 million young Kenyans into dignified and fulfilling work by the year 2022.

Amb. Mohamed also served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade and was the first woman to hold this position in Kenya. During this period, she raised Kenya's international foreign profile leading to the highest increment of Foreign Direct Investment to the country by 400%. She focused on trade and pan-African diplomacy bringing:

- (a) The 10th World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference (WTO MC-10) which was the first WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Africa. She was the first woman to chair a WTO Ministerial Conference. As the first African to chair the WTO's highest forum, she played a crucial role in galvanizing consensus on key decisions such as the elimination of export subsidies in agriculture. This was the first fulfilment of a UN Sustainable Development Goal, under SDG2 - Zero Hunger.
- (b) The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) to Africa for the first time. She was the first woman to co-chair TICAD bringing 32 Heads of State and Government and 18,000 accredited participants to Nairobi. During this Conference, Japan pledged USD 30 Billion towards infrastructure and people empowerment in Africa and USD 10 Billion infrastructure development under Public Private Partnerships. Seventy-Three Memoranda of Understanding worth USD 30 Billion were also signed to boost trade between Japan and Africa.
- (c) The 14th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD-14) round of negotiations to Nairobi. During the duration of this conference, USD 30 Million was spent by the attendees in the country. She is the current President of UNCTAD-14.

Before her appointment as Foreign Minister, she held the post of United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). During her tenure, she played an instrumental role in reforming and positioning UNEP as a global environmental organization.

She also served as the First female President of the United Nations Conference on Transnational Crime in 2011 for a period of two years.

Prior to this, she worked as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs where she played a key role in writing and leading the process that led to the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. She was particularly instrumental in achieving consensus within the religious and civil society fora on areas that were seen majorly as controversial.

In 2002 to 2006, she was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and WTO in Geneva, Switzerland.

During this time, she served as the:

- (i) First female Chairperson of the Governing Council of the World Trade Organisation. Notable during her term was the accession of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO.
- (ii) First woman to Chair the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO in 2004,
- (iii) The first woman to Chair the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in 2002.
- (iv) First woman to Chair the African Group at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- (v) Spokesperson for the African Group at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations in Geneva
- (vi) First woman to Coordinate the African Group at the United Nations Human Rights Commission including the Historic Conference Against Racism
- (vii) President of the Conference on Disarmament in 2002

Ambassador Amina Mohamed is the current co-Chair of the Commonwealth High Level Platform for Girls' Education together with the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary. The aim of the Platform is to work with Governments across the Commonwealth to put 130 million out of schoolgirls back in school.

She is also a Member of several Executive Boards and Committees including the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Red Cross, Commonwealth of Learning, Life and Peace Institute International Advisory Council, Sweden, World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Arctic, and Strathmore Law School Advisory Board.

In 2017, she was appointed a member of the Advisory Committee to the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Minister Mohamed has covered over 100 Global Summit and Conferences as Head or Deputy Head of Delegation. She has also been recognised nationally and internationally and received numerous Awards notably:

- (i) Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart (EGH), Highest National Award by the Head of State, Republic of Kenya
- (ii) Chief of the Burning Spear (CBS), Republic of Kenya
- (iii) Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun conferred by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan. Highest honour given to a non-Japanese

- (iv) Nilen Award which is the highest State Commendation in The Republic of The Sudan
- (v) Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella della solidarieta Italiana (CAV), from the President of Italy
- (vi) United Nations Development Programme, Champion
- (vii) The Prestigious Adebisi Babatunde Thomas Entrepreneurship Institute Excellence in Diplomacy Award
- (viii) Women of Excellence Award to recognise, honour and appreciate women of Africa and the Diaspora who have significantly contributed to the struggle for political, social, and economic independence at various levels of Excellence.
- (ix) Avance Media 100 Most Influential African Women, 2019