

Sean Cleary

Founder and Executive Vice-Chairman of the FutureWorld Foundation and Chairman of Strategic Concepts (Pty) Ltd



Seán Cleary is Chairman of Strategic Concepts (Pty) Ltd, Managing Director of the Centre for Advanced Governance, Founder and Executive Vice-Chair of the FutureWorld Foundation, Advisory Council member of Climate-KIC and IAS Köszeg; and a Director of Companies.

He studied social sciences and law at the University of South Africa, the University of Cape Town and Pahlavi University in Iran, and has an MBA from Henley Management College in the United Kingdom. He served on the staff of the Commander Maritime Defence in South Africa, before diplomatic service in the Iran, the USA and Namibia. As Chief Director in Namibia he initiated negotiations between all political parties, the release of political prisoners and the adoption of a Bill of Rights, en route to Namibia's independence.

He is a Faculty Member of the Parmenides Foundation and lectures on global corporate strategy at business schools in the USA, Europe and South Africa; on conflict resolution and development economics at U.S and European universities; and on strategy on the National Security Management Course at the South African Defence Staff College. He is Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Global Economic Symposium, a member of the Board of the Salzburg Global Seminar, a Trustee of the South African Foundation for Conciliation, and a Strategic Adviser to the World Economic Forum. He was a member of the Facilitating and Preparatory Committees of the South African Peace Accord and Chairman of the Working Group on the Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Organizations; an EXCO Member of the NEPAD Business Steering Group; and Senior Adviser to the Arab Business Council of the World Economic Forum.

He served on the Boards of LEAD International from 2003-2011, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems from 2008-2014, the Carbon War Room from 2012 to 2014, and thereafter the Rocky Mountain Institute from 2014 to 2016; and chaired the International Advisory Board of Operation Hope from 2007-2016, also serving on the Global Board and Executive Committee from 2013 to 2016. He also served on the Board of Salzburg Global Seminar from 2014 to 2018.