

Baroness Lynda Chalker of Wallasey

Founder and Chairman of Africa Matters Ltd



Lynda Chalker founded Africa Matters Limited (AML), a pan African group of advisers, in 1997. They seek to take investment into African businesses and keep them viable. With her considerable experience of African cultures and relationships, and of the numerous business and development issues crucial to Africa. She supports the work of AML by providing leadership and political insights on how companies can implement strategies to ensure not just that they are having a positive impact in the communities in which they operate, but also that responsible practice has a beneficial impact on a company's bottom line.

Parliament

Lynda has been a member of the Lower and Upper Houses of the UK Parliament for over forty years, and she was one of only four Ministers who served continuously throughout the Thatcher and Major Governments and was made a Life Peer in 1992.

Lynda Chalker was a British Member of Parliament (for Wallasey in North West England) from 1974 to 1992; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Security 1979-82; Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Transport 1982-83 and Minister of State there from 1983 to 1986. She was Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office from 1986 until 1997 working on Europe until 1989 and throughout on Africa and the Commonwealth. In 1987 she was made a Privy Counsellor. Lynda was also the International Development Minister for the UK from 1989 until 1997.

Business and Industry

Lady Chalker first served as a Unilever Advisory Director (1998 – 2004) and then as the first woman Non-Executive Board Director of both Unilever NV and plc from 2004 to 2007.

Lynda has been a Non-Executive Director for a number of major companies, including Capital Shopping Centres Ltd (1997-2000), Freeplay Energy Plc (1997-2006), Ashanti Goldfields Co. Ltd (2000-2004).

Lynda has been on the Board of Group 5 (Pty) Ltd in South Africa since 2001. She advises Lafarge International, and the MerchantBridge Group, and for some 10 years she advised the World Bank on African and political issues.

Her Board appointments have always covered business in Africa, governance matters and corporate social investment. She is a member of the Transparency International Advisory Council in the UK, and has worked on Codes of Business Principles for a number of Boards.

Investments and Development in Africa

Lynda is the co-coordinator of the Honorary International Investor Council, first for President Obasanjo, then President Yar 'Adua and now for President Goodluck of Nigeria, and a member of both the Tanzanian and Ugandan Investment Round Tables.

Public/Private Partnerships and Not for Profit bodies

Lynda is a founding Executive Trustee of the Global Leadership Foundation (GLF) set up by past President F W De Klerk, and of the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) and served as a Trustee of the Nelson Mandela Legacy Trust (NMLT) from its inception. She was also Chairman of Pasco Risk Management.

The Chalker Foundation for Africa was established by Lynda Chalker in response to the need to develop and support medical knowledge and training on the African continent.

For eight years Lady Chalker was Chairman of the Board of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and for many years a Vice President of the Liverpool School for Tropical Medicine. She was a Governor of The Ditchley Foundation for International Affairs from 1998 until 2007. Lynda was Chairman of the Board of the Medicines for Malaria Venture MMV from 2006 to 2011.

Baroness Chalker is Vice-President of WaterAid and Honorary Vice President of British Red Cross. She is a Trustee of the African Medical and Research Foundation, University of Cape Town Trust and Hives Save Lives (Africa). Additionally, Lynda is Patron of Afrikids, a Ghanaian Children's charity based in Bolgatanga, Upper East Ghana. She is also a Vice Patron of Smile Support and Care and Vice Patron of Kampala Music School.

Lynda was appointed an Advisor to the Global Business Schools Network and the African Association of Business Schools in 2009.

In June 2014, Lynda was awarded an Honorary Citizenship from President Guebuza for services to Mozambique.

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