

Lionel Zinsou

Co-chair of SouthBridge, Chairman of the Fondation de l'École Normale Supérieure and of Terra Nova think tank



Co-chair of SouthBridge, a Financial Advisory Service company dedicated to Africa. Chairman of the Fondation de l'École Normale Supérieure and of Terra Nova think tank. He served as Prime Minister of Benin (2015-2016) and as CEO of the Private Equity firm PAI Partners (2009-2015). Prior to PAI, he has been since 1997 General Partner of Rothschild (1997-2008), the investment bank. He was Head of the global Consumer Products Group, and Head of Middle East and Africa.

Lionel Zinsou started his professional career as an assistant lecturer at the University of Paris 13 (1981) and Director for Social Sciences at the Ecole Normale Supérieure from 1983 to 1986. At the same time, he was a member of the Department of Industry Minister's Office, and the Prime Minister's Office. In 1986 and until 1997 he joined Danone where he held various positions as Financial Controller, Corporate Development Director and then CEO of the grocery division.

Lionel Zinsou graduated from Ecole Normale Supérieure, Sciences Po and La Sorbonne in history and economics. He is a former research student of the London School of Economics and a "professeur agrégé de sciences économiques et sociales".

He is a member of the Board of the Institut Pasteur, of the Brookings Global Leadership Council (Washington D. C.) and of the High Level Financial Panel created by the G20 in 2010.