



## Tshilidzi Marwala

Rector of the United Nations University  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

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**Nationality:** South Africa

**Educational Background:**

- PhD: Artificial Intelligence and Engineering, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- Master of Mechanical Engineering: University of Pretoria (South Africa)
- BS: Mechanical Engineering, Case Western Reserve University (USA)

**Professional Background:**

2018–2023: Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Johannesburg (South Africa)  
2013–2017: Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalization, University of Johannesburg (South Africa)  
2009–2013: Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg (South Africa)  
2003–2008: Associate Professor and Full Professor, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)  
2001–2003: Executive Assistant to the Technical Director, South African Breweries

**Biography:**

Prof. Marwala has been a visiting scholar/professor at universities in the USA, the UK, China, and South Africa. He has extensive academic, policy, management, and international experience, and is a co-holder of five patents. His research has been multi-disciplinary, involving the theory and applications of artificial intelligence to engineering, social science, economics, politics, finance, and medicine. He has served on a variety of global and national policymaking bodies, and has worked with such United Nations entities as UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, and WIPO.

Prof. Marwala is, inter alia, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, The World Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Science of South Africa, and the African Academy of Sciences.

Among the awards that Prof. Marwala has received are the Order of Mapungubwe (South Africa's highest honour) and the Academy of South Africa's Science-for-Society Gold Medal. He was named the 2021 IT Personality of the Year by the Institute of IT Professionals South Africa.

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For more information about Prof. Marwala and the United Nations University, visit the UNU website at [www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu).