

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs

Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University

Jeffrey D. Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is also Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. From 2002 to 2006, he was Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed goals to reduce extreme poverty, disease, and hunger by the year 2015. Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance, a nonprofit organization aimed at ending extreme global poverty.

Professor Sachs is widely considered to be the leading international economic advisor of his generation. For more than 20 years Professor Sachs has been in the forefront of the challenges of economic development, poverty alleviation, and enlightened globalization, promoting policies to help all parts of the world to benefit from expanding economic opportunities and wellbeing. He is also one of the leading voices for combining economic development with environmental sustainability, and as Director of the Earth Institute leads large-scale efforts to promote the mitigation of human-induced climate change.

He is internationally renowned for his work as economic advisor to governments in Latin America, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Asia and Africa, and his work with international agencies on problems of poverty reduction, debt cancellation for the poorest countries, and disease control. He is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and has been an advisor to numerous United Nations agencies. During 2000-2001, he was Chairman of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health of the World Health Organization, and from September 1999 through March 2000 he served as a member of the International Financial Institutions Advisory Commission established by the U.S. Congress.

In April 2004, and again in April 2005, Professor Sachs was named as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine. In February 2002 Nature Magazine stated that Sachs "has revitalized public health thinking since he brought his financial mind to it." In 1993 he was cited in The New York Times Magazine as "probably the most important economist in the world" and called in Time Magazine's 1994 issue on 50 promising young leaders "the world's best-known economist." In 1997, the French magazine Le Nouvel Observateur cited Professor Sachs as one of the world's 50 most important leaders on globalization. His syndicated newspaper column appears in more than 90 countries around the world, and he is a frequent contributor to major publications such as the Financial Times of London, Scientific American and Time magazine. He is author or co-author of more than two hundred scholarly articles, and has written or edited many books, including the New York Times bestseller The End of Poverty (Penguin, 2005).

During 1986-1990, Sachs was an advisor to the President of Bolivia, and in that capacity helped to design and implement a stabilization program that reduced Bolivia's inflation rate from 40,000 percent per year to the current rate of 10 percent per year. Sachs is also one of the architects of Bolivia's debt buyback program of 1988, which was the first case of a debt reduction program in the 1980s, and which successfully cut Bolivia's commercial bank debt by half. The Bolivian buyback became an import milestone in resolving the developing country debt crisis.

During 1988-90, Sachs also advised the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, and Venezuela on various aspects of financial reform.

In 1989, Sachs advised Poland's Solidarity movement on economic reforms, and at the request of the Solidarity leadership, prepared a draft program of radical economic transformation. After August 1989, he advised Poland's first post-communist government on the introduction of radical economic reforms in 1990 and 1991. In January 1999, Sachs received the Commanders Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, a high Polish national honor bestowed by the President of the Republic of Poland.

From the Fall of 1991 through January 1994, Sachs led a team of economic advisors for Russian President Boris Yeltsin on issues of macroeconomic stabilization, privatization, market liberalization, and international financial relations. He founded a non-governmental research unit, the Institute for Economic Analysis, in Moscow.

In 1991, Sachs advised the Slovene Government on the introduction of a new national currency, and in 1992, advised the Estonian government on the introduction of a new national currency. In both cases, the successful monetary reform enabled these countries to end a hyperinflation and reestablish monetary stability. During 1991-93, he also advised the Mongolian Government on macroeconomic reforms and privatization.

In 1990, Sachs met with Pope John Paul II as a member of a group of economists invited to confer with the Pontifical Council on Justice and Peace in advance of the Papal Encyclical Centesimus Annus. They met again in 1999 in Sachs' capacity as the Economic Advisor to the Jubilee 2000 movement.

From 1995 to 2002, Sachs directed Harvard's main economic development centers, first the Harvard Institute for International Development (1995-99) and then the Center for International Development (1999-2002). In that capacity, he oversaw economic advising and development projects in dozens of countries around the world. He conceived and helped to launch the new Masters of Public Administration in International Development (MPA-ID) degree at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

In January 1998, Sachs was the first foreigner in the 43-year history of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party to be asked to deliver a keynote address at the LDP national convention.

During 2000-2001, Sachs was the Director of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health of the World Health Organization. In that capacity he was a leading force in the conceptualization, design, and launch of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. He gave the first address calling for such a "Global Fund" at the International AIDS Conference in Durban in July 2000.

From 2002 to the Present, Professor Sachs has been Special Advisor to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed goals to reduce poverty, hunger, and disease by the year 2015. In that capacity, he has directed the UN Millennium Project, which has provided a roadmap for achieving the MDGs. Many of the core recommendations of the UN Millennium Project were adopted by the world's governments at the UN World Summit in September 2005.

Sachs has directed several large-scale research teams on key issues of globalization and sustainable development. In 1987 and 1988, Sachs directed a large-scale research project at the NBER on the international debt crisis, which is published under Sachs' editorship in a four-volume series, Developing Country Debt and the Economic Performance, University of Chicago Press, 1989. From 1990-92 he directed a project on economic reform in the Soviet Republics and in Eastern Europe for the United Nations University, World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), in Helsinki, Finland. In 1997, he and economist David Bloom led a major study on Asia's economic transformation, published as Emerging Asia: Changes and Challenges, Asian Development Bank, 1997. During 2000-2001 he directed a major research program on global public health and economic development in his capacity as Chairman of the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. During 2002-2005 he directed a comprehensive worldwide study of poverty reduction as Director of the UN Millennium Project.

Sachs' current academic research interests include the links of health and development, economic geography, poverty alleviation, globalization, international financial markets, international macroeconomic policy coordination, emerging markets, economic development and growth, global competitiveness, and macroeconomic policies in developing and developed countries.

Sachs is the recipient of many awards and honors, including membership in the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Society of Fellows, and the Fellows of the World Econometric

Society. He has received honorary degrees from many universities including Whitman College, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Ohio Wesleyan University, Trinity College Dublin, the College of the Atlantic, Southern Methodist University, Simon Fraser University, McGill University, Southern New Hampshire University, St. John's University, Iona College, St. Gallen University in Switzerland, the Lingnan College of Hong Kong, and Varna Economics University in Bulgaria, and an honorary professorship at Universidad del Pacifico in Peru. Distinguished lecture series include the London School of Economics, Oxford University, Tel Aviv, Jakarta, Yale and the BBC Reith Lectures 2007. Sachs was the 2005 recipient of the Sargent Shriver Award for Equal Justice and was awarded the Padma Bhushan, a high civilian honor bestowed by the Indian Government, in 2007. He is a member of the Brookings Panel of Economists and the Board of Advisors of the Chinese Economists Society, among other organizations.

Prior to his arrival at Columbia University in July 2002, Sachs spent over twenty years at Harvard University, most recently as Director of the Center for International Development and Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade.

Sachs was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1954. He received his B.A., summa cum laude, from Harvard College in 1976, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1978 and 1980 respectively. He joined the Harvard faculty as an Assistant Professor in 1980, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1982 and Full Professor in 1983.

Sachs' publications include Economics of Worldwide Stagflation, co-authored with Michael Bruno, published in 1985. His books Global Linkages: Macroeconomic Interdependence and Cooperation in the World Economy, co-authored with Warwick McKibbin, and Peru's Path to Recovery, co-authored with Carlos Paredes, were published by The Brookings Institution in 1991. Sachs' textbook on Macroeconomics in the Global Economy, co-authored with Felipe Larrain, was first published in 1993, and has appeared in German, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese. His account of Poland's reforms, Poland's Jump to the Market Economy, was published in Fall 1993 by MIT Press. In 1994, the two volumes on The Transition in Eastern Europe, co-edited with Olivier Blanchard and Kenneth Froot, were published by the National Bureau of Economic Research and The University of Chicago Press. In 1995, Sachs published, with the BBC, a Russian-language book on Russia and the Market Economy. The John M. Olin Critical Issues Series on The Rule of Law and Economic Reform in Russia, which Sachs co-edited with Katharina Pistor, was published in Spring 1997 by Westview Press. In 2005, Sachs published the The End of Poverty, which has been translated into numerous languages around the world and has been a bestseller in many countries.