



H.E Prof. Ameenah Gurib

President of Mauritius

Bibi **Ameenah** Firdaus **Gurib-Fakim**, GCSK CSK is a Mauritian biodiversity scientist who has served as the President of Mauritius since 2015. Gurib-Fakim is the first [woman elected President](#) of the country . She also worked at the Mauritius Research Council as Manager for Research (1995–1997)

She worked as Managing Director of CIDP Research & Innovation (formerly Cephyr, Centre for Phytotherapy Research), where she devoted her time to researching the medical and nutritive implications of indigenous plants of Mauritius. Previously, she was a Professor with a personal chair in Organic Chemistry at the University of Mauritius (2001) and where she served successively as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Pro–Vice Chancellor (2004–2010). She also worked at the Mauritius Research Council as Manager for Research (1995–1997). She served as the Chairperson the International Council for Scientific Union – Regional Office for Africa (2011–2014).

Gurib-Fakim has also been the recipient of various international awards including the [L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science](#)(2007), Laureate for the National Economic and Social Council (2007), the CTA / NEPAD / AGRA / RUFORUM for 'African Women in Science' and the [African Union](#) Award for Women in Science. She was also made Commander of the [Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean](#) (CSK) by President Anerood Jugnauth in 2008 for her contribution in the education and the scientific sector. She was awarded the Order of the 'Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques' by the [Government of France](#) in 2009. Upon becoming President, she was automatically elevated to the highest civilian award of [Grand Commander of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean](#)(GSCK). In 2015, she was named the vice-chairman and trustee of the Planet Earth Institute