



## **H.E Honourable Gertrude Mongella**

Secretary General, Fourth Women World Conference on Women in Beijing and First President of Pan-African Parliament

Hon. Mongella was born on [Ukerewe Island](#) in Tanzania . In 1970, Mongella graduated from the [University of East Africa](#) in [Dar es Salaam](#). For four years she was a tutor at [Dar es Salaam Teachers Training College](#). In 1974 she became curriculum developer for the [Dar es Salaam Institutes of Education](#), which she did until 1978. From 1977 until 1992 President Mongella was a Member of the Central Committee and National Executive Committee of the [CCM](#) party. From 1975 until 1982 she was a member of the Council of the [University of Dar es Salaam](#), Also during this time she was on the Board of Directors for the [Tanzania Rural Development Bank](#). From 1978 to 1982 she was a School Inspector.

In the mid seventies President Mongella was a Member of the [East African Legislative Assembly](#). Throughout the 1980s and for some part of the 1990s Mrs. Mongella was a member of the [Parliament of Tanzania](#). From 1982 until 1988 Mongella was [Minister of State](#) within the [Prime Minister's](#) office, from there she became Minister of Lands, Tourism and Natural Resources a post she held from 1985 to 1987. Finally, from 1987 to 1990 she was a [Minister Without Portfolio](#) within the President's Office.

In 1985 Mongella became Vice-Chairperson to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the [UN](#) Decade for Women. In 1989 Mongella was Tanzanian Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women. From 1990 to 1993 she was a Member of the Trustee to the [United Nations](#) International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

From 1991 to 1992 President Mongella was Tanzanian High Commissioner to India, in 1995 she was [UN Assistant Secretary General](#) and [Secretary General, Fourth World Conference on Women](#) on Women in [Beijing, China](#), from 1996 to 1997 Mrs. Mongella was UN Under-Secretary and Special [Envoy](#) to the [Secretary General of the United Nations](#) on Women's Issues and Development.

In 1996 she was a Member of the Advisory Group to the [Director General UNESCO](#) for the follow-up of the [Beijing](#) Conference in Africa, South of the [Sahara](#). Also in 1996 she was a Member of the Board for the [Agency for Co-Operation and Research in Development](#) in [London](#). In 1996 she was a member of the board for both [The Hunger Project](#) in [New York City](#), and the [UN University](#) in [Tokyo](#), Japan. Also in 1996 she was President of [Advocacy for Women in Africa](#). In 1997 Mongella was Senior Advisor to the Executive Secretary of the [Economic Commission for Africa](#) on Gender Issues.

In 1998 she became a member of the [OAU](#) sitting on the [Women Committee for Peace and Development](#), In 1999 she was a member of the "Council of the Future", UNESCO, [Paris, France](#), in 2000 She was a Member of the Tanzanian Parliament [Ukerewe](#) Constituency. In 2002 she was a member of the [OAU's](#) High Level Advisory Panel of Eminent Persons. In 2002 Mongella was a member of the Regional Reproduction Health Task Force for the [World Health Organization's](#) African Region, she was also leader of the OAU Election Observer Team to the Zimbabwean Presidential Election. 2003 saw her as [Goodwill Ambassador](#) for the World Health Organization's Africa Region. She became a Member and President of the [Pan African Parliament](#) in 2004. In 2005 the [University of Georgia](#) awarded her the Delta Prize for Global Understanding. She was designated Chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the [African Press Organization](#) (APO) in February 2008.