



## Katarina Mellström

SECRETARY GENERAL, GLOBAL CHILD FORUM

*"Business has an enormous potential to support and advance children's rights for the betterment of children and society as a whole. We need to create the right tools and incentives for business and the financial sector to act sustainably and responsibly and in a way that focuses on the well-being of children."*

Katarina Mellström is Secretary General for [Global Child Forum](#), a non-profit foundation founded by Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia in 2009. The organization is dedicated to advocating for the protection and promotion of children's rights by developing and implementing solutions that inspire leaders to take specific and measurable actions. To achieve its mission, the foundation works with multiple stakeholders in the private and financial sectors. Global Child Forum, and its partner [Boston Consulting Group](#), also produce the world's most extensive benchmark on companies' impact on children.

Katarina was appointed Interim Secretary General for Global Child Forum on September 1, 2022, and assumed the position permanently on January 1, 2023. As Secretary General, Katarina is leading the organization's continuing evolution of products, tools, and services that support companies to integrate a children's rights perspective and has already begun to drive new impact opportunities for the private sector. To achieve this aim, she has also formed cross-sectorial partnerships that expand the organization's footprint in new and meaningful ways.

Under Katarina's leadership, the organization is also adopting ambitious steps to mitigate the impacts of climate change on children.

Before being named Secretary General, Katarina acquired 25 years of industry leadership and expertise from the IT, security, and telecom sectors, where she served as CEO for companies such as Mandator, Fujitsu och Stanley Security Systems. During this period, she was also named "Sweden's Most Powerful Woman in IT and Telecom" by Veckans Affärer. In her most recent role as Senior Director at the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, she has also been instrumental in promoting a more sustainable and competitive society through academia and was credited for securing 300 million SEK in funding.

Earlier in her career, Katarina spent six years working for various departments of The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while covering multiple Asian markets.

Outside of the foundation, Katarina serves on the boards of directors of the listed Finnish company Martela Oy and the Swedish investor-owned real estate developer Vectura, owned by Patricia Industries, a part of Investor AB and the non-profit organization Swedes Worldwide (Svenskar i Världen). She has also held board-level assignments for NOTE, Proffice, Gunnebo, and Forsen.

Katarina holds a Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics from Stockholm University and studied strategy and leadership at Columbia University.

**GLOBAL CHILD FORUM**

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