

**LAURA A. LISWOOD**

**Secretary General, Council of Women World Leaders  
Former Managing Director, Goldman, Sachs & Co.**

Laura Liswood is a speaker and author, passionate about leadership, public safety and well-being and the value diverse perspectives bring to individuals and society.

She wondered what it would take to have a woman elected president in the United States so she journeyed around the world for 18 months to meet all of the women presidents and prime ministers, the only person ever to do so. Her interviews are chronicled in her book and PBS video documentary, *Women World Leader; 15 Great Politicians Tell Their Stories*. She heard so many similar stories of what it is like to be a women leader, she co-founded the Council of Women World Leaders with President Vigdis Finnbogadottir of Iceland, President Mary Robinson of Ireland. Laura is the Secretary General of the Council.

With her work on leadership and diversity, Laura was named Managing Director, Global Leadership and Diversity for Goldman Sachs & Co. Working on issues of globalization, leadership and workforce diversity; she later became a Senior Advisor to the firm.

Laura's experience includes consulting for the Boston Consulting Group, and CEO/President of the American Society for Training and Development, She was appointed by the US Secretary of Defense for a three year term on the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). After the events of September 11, 2001, Laura spent 10 months in the police academy and became a reserve police officer for the Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department and a mountain bike officer. She retired from Special Operations Division as a sergeant.

Appointed by Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Governor of New Mexico, Laura was Chair of the New Mexico State Personnel Board from 2019-2024. She was also on the WMATA Metro Transit Police Investigations Review Panel as the representative from Maryland from 2020-2024.

She holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.A. from California State University, San Diego. She earned a J.D. degree from the University of California, Davis, School of Law, and is admitted to practice law in California and Massachusetts.

Laura is the author of four books: *The Elephant and the Mouse: Moving beyond the Illusion of Inclusion (Wiley)*, *The Loudest Duck: Moving beyond Diversity (Wiley)*, *Women World Leaders (Harper Collins)* and *Serving Them Right (Harper Business)*.

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