

Tshilidzi Marwala

Rector, UNU

Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala is the Rector of the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo, Japan, and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, since March 2023.

Marwala is a scholar and thought leader with multi-disciplinary research interests that include the theory and application of artificial intelligence to engineering, computer science, finance, social science, and medicine. He is committed to leveraging technology and global connectedness towards the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

He was the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Case Western Reserve University and a PhD specializing in AI and Engineering from the University of Cambridge.

He is a member of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the African Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Since August 2023, he has been a member of the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board.

He has published 25+ books on AI, over 500 articles in journals, book chapters and newspapers, and holds five patents.