

Martin Lees

Born in 1941, Martin Lees is a graduate in Mechanical Sciences from Cambridge University with a post-graduate Diploma in European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. After some years as a manager in industry, he joined OECD where he managed programmes on Cooperation in Science and Technology and on Innovation in the Procedures and Structures of Government. In 1972, he was responsible for the design and launching of the “InterFutures Project” on the Future of the Advanced Industrial Societies in Harmony with that of the Developing Countries. He then served at the United Nations in several capacities, including Executive Director of the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. In 1982, he was appointed Assistant Secretary General. During this period he was responsible for the establishment of the InterAction Council of former Heads of State and Government becoming its Executive Director. Since 1983 he has also been responsible for several high level programmes of International Cooperation with China. They include an advisory programme for the leadership, “China and the World in the Nineties”, and the establishment of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, of which he was a member for 15 years. He is a Senior Adviser to the Chinese Government on Climate Change and other issues. From 1991-1996 he developed and implemented programmes of cooperation with the Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union as Director General of the International Committee for Economic Reform and Cooperation. Since 1995, he has been Moderator of the International Advisory Board of the Toyota Motor Corporation. From January 2001 to April 2005 he was Rector of the University for Peace of the United Nations in Costa Rica, guiding its revitalization and launching eight Masters programmes on issues of peace, security and sustainable development. He was elected as Secretary General of the Club of Rome in September 2007 with effect from January 2008.