

Paul Polman



Paul Polman has been CEO of Unilever since January 2009. With operations in nearly 200 countries around the globe and with two a half billion people a day reaching for one of its products, Unilever is one of the world's largest and most geographically diverse consumer goods businesses. Under his leadership it has also been one of the most successful outperforming its markets over the last nine years, adding more than €13 billion in turnover and successfully fulfilling its commitment to deliver long-term, compounding growth.

Most remarkably, Mr Polman has introduced a pioneering growth model in the shape of the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan, with its audacious goal of decoupling growth from environmental impact while increasing the company's positive role in society.

The focus on sustainable growth is reflected across the company's entire value chain – 'from farm to fork' – and is evidenced by the fact that well over half the company's agricultural produce is now sourced from sustainable supplies. Unilever's commitment to socially progressive policies is just as strong. It was the first company for example to produce a human rights report in line with United Nations (UN) reporting principles.

Unilever's multistakeholder model and commitment to long-term growth has earned Mr Polman many plaudits and numerous awards. This includes the Rainforest Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award (2014), the Oslo Business for Peace Award (2015), the United Nations Environment Programme's Champion of the Earth Award (2015), the Concordia Leadership Award (2016) and the Singapore Government Public Service Star (2016). In 2016, he received France's *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur*, in recognition of his efforts during the historic 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris.

Mr Polman takes particular pride from having been invited to serve as a member of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel responsible for formulating the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) – launched in 2015 - and for subsequently being appointed a UN SDG Advocate responsible for promoting the 'Global Goals'.

For all the company's pioneering efforts, Mr Polman is the first to acknowledge that Unilever's biggest contribution comes when it joins forces with others to bring about wider transformational change, as it has done – for example – in tackling illegal deforestation or in mobilising others behind its efforts to drive up sanitation and hygiene standards in some of the most impoverished parts of the world.

This commitment to industry-wide change explains the leadership role he has taken in many of the organisations in the vanguard of this movement, including the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), of which he served as Chairman (until end of 2017).

Mr Polman is also a Board member – among others – of the UN Global Compact, Focusing Capital on the Long Term (FCLT), the B Team, and a co-founder of the Business and Sustainable Development Commission, which aims to inspire business leaders to seize upon sustainable development, mapping the economic prize for companies that align with the SDGs. He also served on the International

Council of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, under former Mexican President Felipe Calderon, whose flagship report 'New Climate Economy' demonstrates that long-term economic growth can be achieved at the same time as reducing the immense risk of climate change.

Since 2010, Mr Polman has been a Non-Executive Director of the Dow-DuPont.

Prior to joining Unilever, he worked for both Nestle and Procter and Gamble, where he spent 26 years. He earned a BBA/BA from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands in 1977, and an MA Economics and MBA finance/international marketing from the University of Cincinnati in 1979. He also holds numerous honorary degrees.

Mr Polman is married with three sons. With his wife Kim, he co-founded the Kilimanjaro Blind Trust, a non-profit charity that works to improve the lives the blind and visually impaired children in east Africa countries through projects aimed at improving their literacy.