

LISE KINGO

Major Career Roles

CEO & Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)
EVP, Corporate Relations, Novo Nordisk A/S
Senior Vice President, Business Support, Novo Holding A/S
Director of Environmental Affairs, Novozymes A/S

Other Career Highlights

Board Director, Sanofi SA
Board Director, Covestro AG
Board Director, Danone SA
Board Director, Allianz Trade
Strategic Adviser on Sustainable Business, Allianz SE
Board member, Aker Horizons ASA
Deputy Chair, GN Store Nord A/S
Chair, Steno Diabetes Centre A/S
Board member, PRI - UN Principles for Responsible Investment
Chair, The Danish Council for Corporate Social Responsibility
Professor, Sustainability & Innovation, Vrije Universiteit

Lise Kingo was CEO and Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, expanding its footprint to over 12,000 companies, establishing regional hubs across Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, and accelerating alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Lise revitalised the organisation, steering it from financial deficit to profitability in just three years and increasing revenue by over 60%. Under her leadership, landmark initiatives such as the 1.5°C Climate Initiative and the Sustainable Oceans Program were launched, guiding Fortune 500 companies to set Paris-aligned targets.

She currently serves as an Independent Director on the boards of Danone SA and Sanofi SA. She is an Independent Director at Allianz Trade and a Strategic Adviser on sustainable business to Allianz SE. She was previously Deputy Chair at GN Store Nord A.S, a Non-Executive Director at Aker Horizons SA and Grieg Star Shipping AS, and served on the board of Covestro AG.

Before her UN tenure, Lise spent 26 years at Novo Nordisk, where she advanced from Director of Environmental Affairs to Executive Vice President & Chief of Staff. She crafted the company's sustainability agenda, introduced the "Changing Diabetes" initiative, and positioned the business as a benchmark in ESG integration. She advised the Novo Nordisk Foundation's Advisory Board for Humanitarian and Development Aid.

Her earlier career included leadership roles in environmental affairs, internal audit, communications, and stakeholder relations.

She brings deep cross-sector expertise in:

• Corporate sustainability strategy – designing and scaling ESG frameworks across multinationals and multilateral coalitions

• Global governance & board leadership – strengthening oversight at multinational life-science, materials, and consumer-health companies

• Public-private partnerships & multilateral engagement – spearheading business-United Nations collaboration on SDGs, anti-corruption, labour, and human rights

• Stakeholder relations & ethical stewardship – integrating human-rights, environmental, and development priorities in global business strategy

Educated in Religious Studies and Ancient Greek Culture (Aarhus, Copenhagen Business School), and with an MSc in Responsibility & Business Practice (University of Bath), Lise blends cross-cultural intellect with strategic pragmatism. She is lauded for her ability to mobilise CEOs, governments, and NGOs behind shared principles and transformative purpose.