

## Fernando Henrique Cardoso steps down from The Elders

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#) is stepping down from his front-line role as a member of The Elders, the organisation announced today. In future, the former President of Brazil, 84, will hold the title of honorary (“Emeritus”) Elder.

The Elders wish to pay tribute to Fernando Henrique Cardoso’s committed work for the organisation since it was founded in 2007.

President Cardoso led the first Elders’ delegation to the [Middle East in 2009](#), where he called for meaningful dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. He was passionate about ensuring the voices of ordinary people on both sides were heard, and campaigned strongly for a two-state solution to the conflict.

He was also a driving force behind the “[Elders and Youngers](#)” initiative that brought together young leaders and activists from around the world for the Rio+20 summit in 2012 for a series of dialogues on sustainable development; and he continues to inspire The Elders’ engagement with young people.

[Kofi Annan](#), Chair of The Elders, said:

*“Fernando Henrique has been a key player in The Elders since the very beginning and we are sorry to see him go. His commitment to dialogue, democracy and development will continue to inspire The Elders for many years to come. We will continue to benefit from his wisdom in his new role as an Emeritus Elder.”*

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## About The Elders

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Desmond Tutu](#) is an honorary Elder.

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## Find out more

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to [www.theElders.org](http://www.theElders.org).

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