

Samuel A. Worthington

As an executive, diplomat, and spokesperson, Sam Worthington has shaped the impact of U.S.-based international NGOs on global development and humanitarian action. A recognized leader in global civil society, he brings decades of experience as a CEO, board member, strategic advisor, mentor, and humanitarian expert. He currently serves as a Senior Fellow at Forus, a Paris-based network representing 26,000 civil society organizations worldwide. His book, *Prisoners of Hope: Global Action and the Evolving Role of U.S. NGOs*, will be published in early 2025.

From 2006 to 2022, Sam was President & CEO of InterAction, the leading convener of the U.S. international NGO sector. He brought together senior stakeholders from governments, UN and multilateral agencies, the private sector, and global civil society to shape policy and action on U.S. foreign assistance, humanitarian response, and global development. As a Principal on the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), he collaborated with UN leaders to strengthen the global humanitarian system and advance humanitarian diplomacy.

He founded NGO Futures, a program that helps CEOs navigate sector-wide transformations through retreats, seminars, and workshops. In 2015, he was a resident policy fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, focusing on the evolution of international NGOs.

Previously, Sam served as President & CEO of Plan International USA (1994–2006) and held executive leadership roles within Plan International, a \$1 billion global NGO dedicated to advancing girls' rights.

Beyond his role at Forus, he chairs the Advisory Council of the UN Association-National Capital Area and serves on the boards of Church World Service and Brown University's Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has served as Vice Chair of the Van Leer Foundation, which funds programs promoting early childhood development and social cohesion. His board experience includes the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, CIVICUS, the Global Executive Leadership Initiative, InterAction, Plan International USA, Religions for Peace, and the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, among others.

Sam holds an MA with distinction from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and a BA from the University of Vermont, reflecting a lifelong commitment to advancing human well-being and rights. He lives in Bethesda with his wife, Renée.