

David Symington, Policy Advisor at the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Financial Health

David Symington is a recognized expert in financial inclusion, financial health, digital development, and policy, with 15 years of experience driving impactful global initiatives. As Policy Advisor to Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Financial Health (UNSGSA), David leads advocacy on technology-driven financial services innovations and building financial resilience. He has managed high-level engagements with global financial standard-setting bodies, the G20, and the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII).

A British and Irish national, David has worked extensively across Africa, South Asia, and beyond, supporting inclusive financial services and expanding access to the digital economy. He currently leads UNSGSA engagements in Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Pakistan, and Tanzania.

David holds a master's in International Economics and Development from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, where he was a Fulbright Scholar, and a first-class honours bachelor's in Finance from Queen's University Belfast.