



Dominique Strauss-Kahn

POLITICIAN

Global economic governance is structurally misaligned with the pace of modern capital markets. National governments retain fiscal and monetary levers but have limited control over the cross-border flows that increasingly determine outcomes. When a sovereign debt crisis or currency shock spreads, the institutions designed to respond are slower, more politically constrained, and more contested than most boards assume.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who served as IMF Managing Director during the 2008 global financial crisis and as France's Minister of Economy, Finance and Industry, helps senior organisations understand how international economic decisions are actually made and where the global governance system's fault lines run.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Dominique Strauss-Kahn

- His account of the 2008 global financial crisis comes from inside the institution that managed it – not from research or observation, but from running the IMF through its most consequential period in decades.
- He chaired the multilateral process that produced the IMF's early call for a coordinated global fiscal stimulus. The practical mechanics of that coordination – and its limits – are not recoverable from any published analysis.
- He has developed an analytical framework that maps the structural tensions between national sovereignty, democratic accountability, and deep global economic integration – giving organisations a precise vocabulary for the governance dilemmas that now shape trade strategy, capital allocation, and regulatory planning.
- He has worked on both sides of the government-institution relationship: as a national finance minister who negotiated with international bodies, and as the head of the body those ministers negotiated with. That dual vantage point is genuinely rare.
- Post-IMF, he has advised governments on sovereign debt restructuring, giving him current applied knowledge of how creditors, debtors, and international institutions interact under financial pressure.

Biography highlights

- Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (2007-2011), selected by consensus of the IMF Executive Board with the backing of the European Union, the United States, China, and most of Africa
- Led the IMF's institutional response to the 2008 global financial crisis,

AVAILABLE FOR

- Panel Participation
- Speaking

DOMINIQUE'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Banking & FinTech
- Economic Trends & Global Markets
- Geopolitics
- Scenario Planning & Strategic Foresight

LANGUAGES: English, French

including its influential early call for a coordinated global fiscal stimulus

- French Minister of Economy, Finance and Industry (1997-1999), responsible for national economic policy during France's transition to the euro; also served as Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade (1991-1993)
- Member of the French National Assembly across multiple terms; chaired the parliamentary finance committee (1988-1991)
- Professor of Economics at Sciences Po (Paris Institute of Political Studies) and the University of Paris (Nanterre)
- PhD in economics from the University of Paris (Nanterre); graduate of HEC Paris and Sciences Po

Biography

The international monetary system was not designed for the world it now governs. Capital moves faster than treaties can be renegotiated. Sovereign debt crises spread before early warning systems respond. Dominique Strauss-Kahn served as IMF Managing Director during the 2008 global financial crisis, the sharpest test the institution had faced in decades.

Under his leadership, the IMF moved early to advocate a coordinated global fiscal stimulus, placing the institution at the centre of the crisis response. He led quota reforms that gave emerging economies a larger voice in IMF governance. He also supervised a significant reversal of the institution's longstanding position on capital controls, recognising them as a legitimate tool of macroeconomic management. These were not technical adjustments but substantive shifts in how the world's principal international financial institution understood its own role.

Before the IMF, Strauss-Kahn served as France's Minister of Economy, Finance and Industry, overseeing national economic policy during France's transition to the euro. He also held the portfolio of Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade, and chaired the National Assembly's finance committee across an earlier parliamentary term. Few speakers have held senior responsibility on both sides of the relationship between national governments and international economic institutions.

He has held academic positions at Sciences Po and the University of Paris, and holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Paris. He has developed a publicly presented analytical framework – drawing on the Mundell-Fleming impossible trinity, the Rodrik globalisation trilemma, and the European fiscal-monetary dilemma – that gives organisations a structured way to map the governance tensions that now affect trade, investment, and regulatory strategy.

Key speaking topics

- International economic governance and its limits
- Sovereign debt, financial crisis, and multilateral response
- The international monetary system and its reform
- Global fiscal and monetary policy coordination
- European economic integration
- Geopolitical risk and economic stability
- Emerging economies and the shifting balance of global economic power

Ideal for

- CFOs, treasurers, and investment committees at global organisations

managing currency, sovereign, and systemic risk

- Board-level and C-suite audiences at banks, financial institutions, and multinational corporations
- Government, central bank, and regulatory audiences engaged in international policy
- Economic policy forums, sovereign wealth fund conferences, and global business summits

Audience outcomes

- A clearer understanding of how the IMF and comparable institutions make decisions under pressure, and what those decisions cannot achieve
- Practical insight into the mechanics of sovereign debt negotiation and cross-border financial crisis management
- A framework for mapping structural tensions between national economic policy and global integration, and what those tensions mean for corporate and government strategy
- Context for how international monetary reform debates - over reserve currencies, capital controls, and fiscal coordination - are likely to develop
- A sharper grasp of where global economic governance is most fragile, and why

Dominique Strauss-Kahn's Videos

