

Sundaa Bridgett-Jones is Principal of Nichiyobi Advisory, a practice serving leaders and institutions at the intersection of philanthropy, global development policy, and cross-sector strategy. Over three decades spanning the U.S. government, the United Nations, academia, and senior leadership across international philanthropy, she has engaged the defining tensions of global development, including democratic backsliding, energy poverty, gender equity, and the conditions under which human rights and civil society can take root and endure.

Sundaa was a founding executive of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), a landmark multi-partner philanthropic alliance formed to end energy poverty by accelerating renewable energy transitions across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Launched at COP26 with seven founding partners, GEAPP grew under her leadership into an alliance of 50 partners and aligned more than \$650 million in capital commitments. As Vice President for the Americas and Chief Partnerships Officer, she stewarded organizational development and cultivated philanthropic, public, and private relationships that defined the Alliance's institutional positioning.

Previously, Sundaa spent a decade at The Rockefeller Foundation, ultimately serving as Vice President for Communications, Policy, and Advocacy. There she helped position the Foundation as a trusted convener and moral voice on challenges of the era, leading field-building platforms in community resilience, including the Global Resilience Partnership, and initiatives on gender justice, equity, economic opportunity, and climate diplomacy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public service is the foundation of Sundaa's professional life. She has held senior roles in the U.S. Department of State, the United Nations, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, managing complex international portfolios and contributing to preventive diplomacy and democratic governance across more than 30 countries. Her early career as a Foreign Service Officer in Malawi, South Africa, Kazakhstan, and Iraq gave her a firsthand understanding of what it takes to support civil society, protect democratic space, and strengthen institutions under pressure. At Princeton University, Sundaa served as the inaugural director of the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative, establishing partnerships across the U.S. government to encourage and prepare students for careers in public service.

She is a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow (2008–2009) and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She serves as a Trustee of the University of Pittsburgh, which honored her with its Distinguished Alumni Fellow Award. She has served on the boards and advisory bodies of iMMAP Inc., the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, the Leadership Council on Women in National Security, and the Warner Music Group Blavatnik Family Foundation Social Justice Fund.

Sundaa holds a Master of Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and a certificate in African Studies from Georgetown University.