

Maureen Ahmed

Maureen Ahmed is a senior policy practitioner and former U.S. diplomat with two decades of experience advancing human rights, global health, and accountability initiatives across South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and in multilateral settings. From 2017 to 2025, she served in the U.S. Department of State, most recently as unit chief in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and previously in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, where she oversaw democracy and governance programs across Asia. From 2018 to 2020, she was the PEPFAR country manager for South Africa, directing a \$2.2 billion investment to reduce HIV infection rates. Earlier in her State Department career, she completed political officer assignments in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Croatia, and South Africa, shaping reporting and policy engagement on governance, civil liberties, and labor rights. Prior to government service, she advanced gender equity initiatives at the United Nations and at nongovernmental organizations, including Women Deliver and Parliamentarians for Global Action. Ahmed has been a Presidential Management Fellow, American Council on Germany Young Leader, Pacific Forum Young Leader, security fellow with the Truman National Security Project, Next Gen Fellow with Foreign Policy for America, and Penn Kemble Fellow with the National Endowment for Democracy. She holds an MPA from New York University and a BA from SUNY Stony Brook.