HE Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland was born in Oslo in 1939. A medical doctor with Master of Public Health from Harvard University, she was a physician and scientist in the Norwegian public health system for ten years.

She was appointed Minister of the Environment in 1974. Dr Brundtland was Prime Minister of Norway from 1981 to 1996. She was Secretary General of the World Health Organization from July 1998 to July 2003. In 2007 she was appointed Special Envoy for Climate Change by the UN Secretary General. In 1983 she chaired the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), which published its report *Our Common Future* in 1987.