



## Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku

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Chief Emeka Anyaoku was born in Nigeria in 1933, and was educated in Nigeria, Britain and France. He became the Commonwealth's third Secretary-General on July 1, 1990.

One of the Commonwealth's most experienced diplomats, Chief Anyaoku began his career in the international community in 1959, when he joined the Commonwealth Development Corporation. During Canadian Arnold Smith's tenure as Secretary-General (1965-75), Chief Anyaoku was seconded to the Commonwealth Secretariat, where he was promoted to Assistant Director of the International Affairs Division. He quickly climbed the ranks to Director, then Assistant Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, and was eventually elected Deputy Secretary-General (Political) in 1977. He was reelected to this position in 1984.

Chief Anyaoku has made the Commonwealth his career, with the exception of brief interludes when he was drafted into the Nigerian Foreign Service in 1962, and when he returned to Nigeria to serve as his country's Foreign Minister in 1983.

He was elected Commonwealth Secretary-General by Heads of Government at their meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October 1989. In this capacity, Chief Anyaoku has played a key role in the reform of the Commonwealth Secretariat and has accomplished much in the area of conflict resolution in South Africa.

Chief Anyaoku is married to Bunmi Anyaoku and they have a daughter and three sons.