

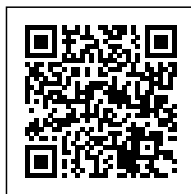
GATES FOUNDATION'S, RUTH ATHERTON JOINS THE COMMONS PROJECT FOUNDATION

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The Commons Project Foundation appointed **Ruth Atherton** (pictured), former deputy general counsel at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to the executive team as chief legal officer. The group is headquartered in Switzerland and launched in 2019 with support from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Atherton joined the Gates Foundation in 2012 as an associate general counsel and stepped up to deputy general counsel in 2016. She took the legal lead for the foundation's COVID-19 response team, advised its global health and gender equality divisions and oversaw legal support for the Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute.

Prior to joining the Gates Foundation, Atherton was with Sanofi Pharmaceuticals as a corporate counsel and a senior patent counsel at Genzyme Biotechnology company. Earlier in her career, Atherton was a scientific advisor at Pennie & Edmonds law studio. She later moved to

Fitzpatrick Cella Harper & Scinto as a litigation associate & scientific advisor.

Along with her new role at The Commons Project Foundation, Atherton is also a member of the board of directors and corporate secretary at BIO Ventures for Global Health.