

Rebeca Grynspan, Ibero-American Secretary-General



Rebeca Grynspan was born in 1955 San José, Costa Rica.

She was unanimously elected as Ibero-American Secretary-General at the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Ciudad de Mexico, on 24th February 2014 and she took office on 1st April 2014 and in 2018 her mandate was renewed for a further four-year term. She has since coordinated the

22 member state Iberoamerican Conference, and led four key summits of Heads of State and Government in Mexico (2014), Colombia (2016), Guatemala (2018) and Andorra (2020-2021).

UNCTAD Secretary General designate since June 2021. In 2010 Rebeca Grynspan was named Under Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

From 2006 to 2010, she was UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms Grynspan served as Vice-President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998. She was also Minister of Housing, Minister Coordinator of Economic and Social Affairs, and Deputy Minister of Finance

In addition, she has been a member of the High-Level Panel on Financing for Development, convened by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2001.

As a renowned advocate of human development, she has helped to focus the world's attention, and also that of Latin America, on critical issues such as the

reduction of inequality and poverty, gender equality, South-South cooperation as driver of development, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among others.

She was also a delegate to the United Nations Commission for the Reconstruction of Haiti, with the Haitian government, the former President of the United States Bill Clinton and other prominent international partners.

In June 2014 she was appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), a leading global organisation at the forefront of development and environmental policy research.

Ms Grynspan is a member of the steering committee of the *UNICEF Scaling Up Nutrition Movement*; member of the Governing Council of the Society for International Development (SID), a global network of professionals at the forefront of development; member of the International Labour Organisation's *Global Commission on the Future of Work*; member of the Advisory Board of the *Expansión International Economic Forum 2021* and in 2021 became a member of the *G20 High Level Independent Panel on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response*.

In addition to her experience as a conference lecturer and advisor to a number of international organisations and institutions, she has been actively involved in key United Nations initiatives, such as the Millennium Project's Task Force on Poverty and Economic Development and the High-level Panel on Financing for Development.

In 2014 and 2015, she was recognized as one of the 50 leading intellectuals of Latin America.

Since 2016 she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Complutense Institute for International Studies (ICEI) of Universidad Complutense, Madrid. In 2017 she received the Forbes Award for Excellence and the Spanish government awarded

her the highest honour awarded to civilian, the the Gran Cruz de la Orden Civil de Alfonso X El Sabio and in 2020 received the Aquí Europa-Vocento award as a Latin American personality for her outstanding contribution to strengthening Europe-Latin America relations.

She was recognized as one of the 100 most powerful women in Central America by Fobes magazine in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

In 2020 she received the Gumersindo de Azcarate Award and the Woman of the Year Award from the Women in a Legal World Association.

In 2021 the President of Argentina named Ms. Grynspan Special International Advisor to the newly created Economic and Social Council of Argentina.

Ms Grynspan holds a degree in Economics by the University of Costa Rica and a MSc in Economics by the University of Sussex. She has been awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the University of Salamanca, the University of Extremadura and the European University of Madrid in recognition of her outstanding professional achievements.