

## AMBASSADOR BIOGRAPHIES

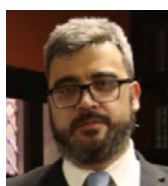


**HE MR. ARIEL LORENZO RODRIGUEZ**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

Mr Ariel Lorenzo was appointed Ambassador of Cuba in Australia in 2019. He was born in Toronto, Canada, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finances from the University of Havana, Cuba, with Postgraduate

courses in Diplomatic Attaché from Raúl Roa Garcia Higher Institute of International Relations and Public Administration from the Higher School of the State and Government Officials Cuba.

His professional experience includes but is not limited to General Assistant for Foreign Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cuba, Third Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in China, Second Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Pakistan, First Secretary and Senior Specialist in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Consul General of Cuba in Shanghai, China, and Counselor, Deputy Director in the Asia and Oceania Division also at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cuba.



**HE MR. RONALD RECINOS**  
AMBASSADOR OF GUATEMALA

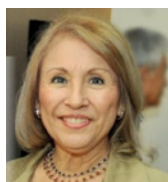
Mr Ronald Recinos was appointed Ambassador of Guatemala to Australia in 2020.

Prior to taking up his position as Ambassador, Mr Recinos was the President of the Board of Directors of the Quetzal Port Company in

Guatemala and the legal adviser to the President of the Republic of Guatemala.

Mr Recinos has a Master's degree in Commercial and Competition Law and a Postgraduate Certificate in Law with emphasis in Contracts in the New Economy.

Mr Recinos is a lawyer and notary with more than 19 years of experience between practice and teaching. As a legal practitioner, he has worked in both the public and private sector representing local and multinational companies. He is also the founding partner of Recinos and Associates, Lawyers and Notaries, in the city of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

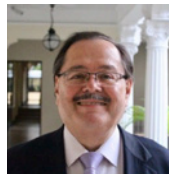


**HE MRS. ITZEL PATIÑO DE VILLARREAL**  
AMBASSADOR OF PANAMA

Ms Itzel Patiño De Villarreal was appointed Ambassador of Panama to Australia in 2021. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Panama, and a Master of Arts specializing in International Relations from the University of New York.

She was previously the Chief of Minister's Office/ Private Secretary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Secretary General to the Minister, Minister Counselor in the Embassy of Panama in Colombia and Bolivia, Second Counselor in the Embassy of Panama in Paraguay, Third Secretary and Vice Consul in New York.

She was also the Adviser to the Directorate General for Foreign Policy, Head of the Asia-Pacific, Africa and Middle East Department and Directorate General for Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Head of the Scholarship and International Academic Mobility Department.



**HE MR. ARMANDO VARGAS-ARAYA**  
AMBASSADOR OF COSTA RICA

Mr Armando Vargas-Araya was appointed Ambassador of Costa Rica to Australia in 2019. A writer and historian, Sr. Vargas Araya is the author of 31 books on different aspects of communications and culture.

He received the Gold Medal of the National History Prize and is a member of five national or foreign learned academies. The first Communications Minister in the Government of the Republic, he has served as Ambassador on Special Missions to Argentina, El Salvador and Cuba; five Latin American and European countries have decorated him. A founding member of the Costa Rican College of Journalists, to which Presidency he was elected, he has been a director, correspondent or manager of information media and news agencies in four countries of the Americas.

He has been a university professor and guest speaker at professional events and academic centres in some twenty countries of the Americas, Asia and Europe. With a considerable international career in the private sector as a strategist on communications and IT, he has been a vice-president or director in satellite communications corporations both in the UK and US. He's a founding member and the first chairman of the Infocommunication and Technology Chamber.



**HE MR. WERNER MATIAS ROMERO**  
AMBASSADOR OF EL SALVADOR

Mr Werner Matias Romero was appointed Ambassador of El Salvador to Australia in 2021. He has extensive executive experience in the diplomatic and economic sectors. Before arriving in Canberra, he served as Deputy Ambassador of El Salvador in Washington, D.C.

Mr Romero was previously appointed Ambassador of El Salvador to Israel concurrent to South Africa, Ambassador to the United Kingdom concurrent to Ireland, and served as a Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the International Maritime Organization, the International Coffee Organization, and the International Sugar Organization.

He has a comprehensive economic and international perspective, having served as Director-General for Foreign Policy at the Foreign Affairs Ministry of El Salvador.

Mr Romero has vast experience in negotiations, having worked and advocated for implementing the Free Trade Agreement between Central America, the Dominican Republic and the U.S. (DR-CAFTA) in the U.S. Congress.