



Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez

Ecuador Candidate for the International
Court of Justice 2027-2036

Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez

Candidate of the Republic of Ecuador for election to the International Court of Justice for the term 2027-2036

Current Affiliations

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

Member of the UN International Law Commission.
Special Rapporteur for "General Principles of Law".

Contact Information

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.
Chemin Camille-Vidart 15, 1202, Geneva, Switzerland.



+41 78 336 23 86



mavazquez@cancilleria.gob.ec
marcevzb@gmail.com



@marcevzb



Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez



Statement of H.E. Roberto Kury

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

Republic of Ecuador

I am proud to present the candidature of Ambassador Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez for election as a Judge of the International Court of Justice for the term 2027-2036.

Dr. Vazquez-Bermudez is a widely respected jurist with a distinguished career as a scholar and practitioner of international law for almost four decades. He has made significant contributions to the progressive development and codification of international law through his long-standing and expert work as a member of the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC). He was elected for four consecutive terms (2007-2027) to the Commission, and served as its Chair (2024), Chair of the Drafting Committee (2009), and Chair of several working groups. He is also making a major contribution to the clarification of the sources of international law as the Special Rapporteur for General Principles of Law. He is one of the few Latin-American and Caribbean jurists ever appointed as a Special Rapporteur for a topic in the 77 years of the Commission.



His many years of work in the International Law Commission reflect his deep legal expertise, sound judgment, and ability to analyze the most complex legal issues and to propose good solutions in various areas of international law, which qualifies him to serve in the International Court of Justice with competence, commitment and professionalism.





The extensive career of Dr. Vázquez-Bermúdez includes key roles, such as Legal Adviser/Director General of Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador for several terms, Legal Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the UN in New York, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Representative to the Organization of American States, and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN Office in Geneva. In all these positions he has participated in and presided over many bilateral and multilateral legal negotiations and high-level diplomatic dialogue in regional and international conferences on several of the most pressing global issues for the international community. He also contributed to the Peace Negotiations that resolved the border dispute between Ecuador and Peru, and negotiated the maritime delimitation agreement between Ecuador and Costa Rica. In addition, he has represented Ecuador in contentious and advisory proceedings before the International Court of Justice, and lectured and contributed to panels, and seminars in international law in several prestigious universities, and in regional courses organized by the UN and the OAS.

Dr. Vázquez-Bermúdez is the first Ecuadorian jurist to have been nominated as candidate for the ICJ, given the combination of his outstanding career as a scholar and practitioner of international law, his profound knowledge of world affairs, and his professionalism and integrity. All this makes him an exceptionally well-qualified candidate to serve in the Court with deep legal expertise, impartiality and independence.



I respectfully invite all UN Member States to support this candidature, confident that Dr. Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez will uphold the noble responsibilities of the Court in a spirit of institutional loyalty and contribute to the promotion of peace, justice, and the rule of international law.

Roberto Kury

**Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Human Mobility**



Statement of Dr. Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez



As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the most important guardian of international law. I am deeply honored to be nominated to serve as a judge of the ICJ for the term 2027-2036.



In an increasingly challenging and complex state of the world, the crucial functions of the Court have never been more vital, assisting States to resolve their disputes by peaceful means on the basis of international law, and providing advisory opinions to the organs of the United Nations.

The demands of the international community on the Court are rising, and so are the expectations for its role, thus the importance of electing members of the Court among the most qualified candidates representing the various legal systems of the world.

Over the past four decades, I have devoted my professional life to the development, codification, interpretation, and application of international law – as a scholar, as a legal adviser to my country, as a negotiator and leader in multilateral diplomacy, and as a member and former President of the UN International Law Commission (ILC). My career has been guided by a commitment to strengthening the international legal system and advancing the peaceful settlement of disputes among States and the rule of international law. Should I be elected, I will bring to the Court a combination of academic depth, extensive practical experience in international law, and a multilateral leadership, together with a high degree of competence and professionalism, that aligns with the solemn duties and expectations placed upon the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

Academic Contributions

As a professor and mentor, I have had the privilege of shaping generations of legal practitioners and diplomats. I have lectured at various universities, and participated in academic initiatives to foster dialogue between legal systems and traditions. Through this academic engagement, I have remained steadfastly committed to ensuring that international law is accessible, and responsive to the needs of the international community.



Government Legal Service



I have served on various occasions as the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador. In this capacity, I have been directly involved in advising on the legal positions of my State in a wide range of areas, including international environmental law, international humanitarian law, the law of the sea, human rights, international criminal law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. I

have advised on complex bilateral and multilateral legal issues, including boundary delimitation, judicial cooperation and extradition, treaty interpretation, immigration, diplomatic and consular relations, and compliance with international obligations.

My participation in the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral treaties and other international instruments has been extensive. I have served as Chair or Vice-Chair of negotiating committees and working groups, where I have sought consensus-based outcomes grounded in legal clarity and mutual respect. These experiences have sharpened my understanding of the legal, political, and cultural dimensions that underpin treaty and other instruments negotiations and State consent, and have underscored the importance of impartial judicial resolution when disputes do arise.

Multilateral Legal Diplomacy and Leadership

In my capacity as Legal Adviser to the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations in New York, I had the honor of representing my country in the Sixth Committee (Legal Affairs) and in the negotiation of multilateral treaties and deliberations on matters pertaining to international law, in particular on the work of the UN International Law Commission.

I coordinated the negotiations of UN General Assembly Resolutions, including the first resolution on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts (2001), one of the major contributions of the ILC to international law. This experience gave me great insight into the diverse perspectives and expectations that States bring to international legal processes.

As President of several international legal conferences and forums, I have worked to ensure that all participants are heard and treated with fairness. I believe this ethos of equal respect and open deliberation is essential to the integrity and legitimacy of the international legal system.



Service in the UN International Law Commission



My tenure as a member of the International Law Commission (ILC), and particularly my term as Chair, has been one of the most meaningful chapters in my career.

For almost two decades, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the interests of the international community, contributing to and leading the work on the progressive development of international law and its codification on numerous topics of great importance for all States.

As Chair of the ILC, I sought to foster collegiality, inclusivity, and rigorous legal analysis. I worked to build consensus across legal systems, while upholding the Commission's independent mandate to codify and progressively develop international law. As Special Rapporteur for General Principles of Law, I have led the clarification of this source of international law by the Commission.



My time at the International Law Commission has deepened my appreciation of the International Court of Justice's work and its role as both adjudicator and guidepost for international legal development. It would also be an honor and a privilege to serve the international community as a judge of the Court.

My commitments for the Court

If entrusted with the responsibility of serving as a Judge of the International Court of Justice, I am committed to uphold the highest standards of legal analysis, independence, integrity, impartiality, ethical conduct, and professionalism in the discharge of my duties.



I will decide the cases brought to the Court on the basis of the impartial application of international law, and the sound administration of justice, after having listened attentively and analyzed carefully the arguments of the parties and participants in the proceedings.

It is my commitment to enhance the Court's efficiency, inclusiveness, linguistic diversity, and responsiveness to the legal needs of the international community.

I will bring to the Court my extensive experience and my devotion to international law to contribute to peace, justice and the rule of international law, with judgments and advisory opinions providing authoritative interpretation and application of rules and principles of international law.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez'.

Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez





Curriculum Vitae

MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- Chair of the UN International Law Commission (2024).
- First Vice-Chair of the International Law Commission (2023).
- Special Rapporteur for "General Principles of Law" (since 2018).
- Chair of the Working Group on the Long-Term Program of Work (2023 to 2027), which identifies new topics for the International Law Commission.
- General Rapporteur of the Commission (2015).
- Chair of the Drafting Committee (2009).
- Chair of the Working Groups on the topics:
 - Reservations to treaties.
 - Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts.
 - Provisional application of treaties.
 - Identification of customary international law.
- Member of the Study Group on sea level rise in relation to international law.



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

- Coordinated the preparation of the Written Statement of the Republic of Ecuador to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of States in respect of climate change (request for advisory opinion), 22 March 2024.
- Coordinated the preparation of the Written Comments of the Republic of Ecuador to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in relation to the Written Statements submitted by other participants on the obligations of States in respect of climate change (request for advisory opinion), 15 August 2024.
- Delivered the Oral Statement on behalf of the Republic of Ecuador to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of States in respect of climate change (Request for Advisory Opinion), 4 December 2024.
- Agent of the Republic of Ecuador in the cases before the International Court of Justice.
- Member of the National Group of Ecuador of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), 2013 - 2019.



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **2024 - present** Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
 - Chair of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Executive Committee 2024-2025.
 - Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Human Rights Council with the mandate to negotiate an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (since 2024).
 - Vice-President of the Human Rights Council (2026)



- **2020 - 2024** The Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador
 - Provided legal advice to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, and other authorities.
 - Drafted legal opinions on international law issues relating to the foreign policy of Ecuador and international relations.
 - Coordinated the international judicial cooperation of Ecuador.
- **2014 - 2019** Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the Organization of American States, OAS.
 - Profound practical knowledge of Inter-American Law, and of the Inter-American System and its institutions, including the Inter-American Court and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **2011 - 2013** Legal Adviser of the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador

- Negotiated the maritime delimitation treaty between Ecuador and Costa Rica.
- Provided legal advice on international law issues.
- Acting Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador on various occasions.
- Head of the Delegation of Ecuador to the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, UN, Geneva (2013).
- Head of the Delegation of Ecuador to the VII Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies, Ulan Bator, Mongolia (2013).

- **2006 - 2011** Permanent Delegate of Ecuador to UNESCO

- President of the 3rd Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2011.
- President of the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 2009.
- President of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2009.
- Member of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS).



35th. Session of the General Conference of UNESCO

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE



- **2003 - 2006** The Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador

- Provided legal advice to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other authorities.
- Drafted legal opinions on international law issues relating to the foreign policy of Ecuador and international relations.
- Coordinated the international judicial cooperation of Ecuador.
- Member of the Executive Board of the Common Fund for Commodities, international organization created by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Amsterdam (2003-2005).

- **1998 - 2003** Legal Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations

- Vice-President of the Sixth Committee (Legal Affairs) of the UN General Assembly.
- Vice-President of the Special Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.
- Coordinated the negotiations of various resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, including on Nationality of natural persons in relation to State succession (2000), Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts (2001), and Scope of legal protection under the Convention on Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (2002).
- Head of the Delegation of Ecuador to the 10 sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the International Criminal Court (1998 to 2002).
- Head of the Delegation of Ecuador to the first Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute (2002). Elected Member of the Bureau.
- Head of the Delegation of Ecuador to the Meetings of State Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.
- Negotiated the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **1995 - 1998**

- Participated in the negotiations of the 1998 Peace Agreement that resolved the territorial dispute between Ecuador and Peru.
- Coordinator of the Ecuador-Colombia Vicinity Commission and of the Ecuador-Peru and Ecuador- Chile bilateral relations.

- **1990 - 1994** Embassy of Ecuador in Peru. First Secretary.

- Rapporteur of the III Ministerial Meeting of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS).

- **1986 - 1989** Law of the Sea Department. Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- Head of the Delegation of Ecuador to the VII Session of the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Kingston, Jamaica.
- Developed the foreign policy on the law of the sea.
- Delegate of Ecuador to the Legal Committee of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS).



Sixth Committee (Legal Affairs) of the UN General Assembly



3rd Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

- Lecturer at Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Quito, 2012 and from 2004 to 2005.
- Lecturer at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, 1995-1998.
- Lecturer at Universidad Internacional SEK in Quito, 1998.
- Lecturer at the Ecuadorian Navy and the Diplomatic Academy.
- Panelist on international law topics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (HIE) in Geneva, 2008, 2019, 2024.
- Lecturer in the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo, 2016.
- Lecturer in the Course on International Law of the Organization of American States in Rio de Janeiro, 2017.
- Panelist on "The Counselor in International Law" at the American Society of International Law (ASIL) in Washington, DC, 2018.



ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

- Speaker at the Workshop on General Principles of Law as a Source of International Law, organized by the Berlin Potsdam Research Group "The International Rule of Law - Rise or Decline?" at Humboldt University Berlin, December 12-13, 2019.
- Speaker at the inaugural ceremony of the Ecuadorian Society of International Law, 2022.
- Invited speaker at Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, 2023.
- Speaker at the workshop on general principles of law, organized by the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge, UK, July 5, 2023.
- Speaker at the seminar on general principles of law, organized by the Institute of International Law and the Department of International Law of Foreign Affairs University, Beijing, 28 September 2023.
- Speaker at the seminar on general principles of law, organized by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), New Delhi, 6 April 2023.
- Lecturer at the ILC-International Law Seminar, Geneva, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2025.
- Presentation and discussion on general principles of law as a source of international law, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva, May 2025.
- Speaker at the seminar on general principles of law, organized by the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict and the Institute of European and Comparative Law, held at Magdalen College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, 21 January 2025
- Speaker at the seminar on general principles of law at Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, 31 March 2025.



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

- International Law Commission, First Report on General Principles of Law, Special Rapporteur, (2019), A/CN.4/732.
- International Law Commission, Second Report on General Principles of Law, Special Rapporteur, (2020), A/CN.4/741.
- International Law Commission, Third report on General Principles of Law, Special Rapporteur (2022), A/CN.4/753.
- International Law Commission, Fourth report on General Principles of Law, Special Rapporteur (2025), A/CN.4/785.
- Los Océanos y el Derecho del Mar: Consideraciones para la Agenda del Ecuador, Academia Diplomática del Ecuador, Quito, 2003.
- Las Naciones Unidas y la Represión de la Financiación del Terrorismo, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, 2002.
- General Principles of Law: The First Debate within the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee, 19 Chinese Journal of International Law, 2020.
- International Law Commission's Century of Influence, in 75 Years of the UN International Law Commission in service of Peace, Security, and Humanity, University of Johannesburg and Rashtriya Raksha University, 2024.
- The International Law Commission of the United Nations and its contribution to the international legal system, 51th Course on International Law, Inter-American Juridical Committee, Organization of American States (OAS), forthcoming.
- Treaties and Non-Legally Binding Instruments, in International Law for Diplomats, Ed. M. Oyarzabal, Brill, 2026.
- Treaties and General Principles of International law, in Concise Encyclopedia of the Law of Treaties, Ed. E. Cannizzaro and E. Bjorge, Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming.







Independence, Integrity, Impartiality



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