



H.E. Francisca Elizabeth Méndez Escobar
Permanent Representative of Mexico to UNOG

Ambassador Méndez was born in Mexico City. She entered the Diplomatic Service of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991. She graduated as a BSc in Political Sciences and Public Administration and a MSc in Latin American Studies from the Mexican National Autonomous University (UNAM). She obtained her second MSc in Law and Economics from the Milan State University in Italy. She has diplomas in international politics, public diplomacy and Arab studies, the latter with professors from the University of Oxford.

Prior to her appointment to Geneva, H.E. Mrs. Méndez had been serving as Ambassador of Mexico to the United Arab Emirates, from January 2017 to January 2022, also covering Iraq.

In the Mexican Foreign Service Headquarters, Ambassador Méndez worked in the Department of Political Affairs and the Caribbean, in the Directorate for United Nations and in the Directorate for Global Affairs.

She was a Deputy Counselor in the Consulates in Milan and Barcelona. In the latter, she spent a year and a half in charge of the Consulate. Following these postings, Ambassador Méndez was Deputy Head of Mission in Romania, Costa Rica and Spain where she ended her assignment as Chargé affairs for eight months. As part of her international assignments, she acted as Deputy Head of Mission for European Union, Kingdom of Belgium and Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg.

Previous postings were in Mexico City as Director General for Regional American Organizations. In this position, Ambassador Méndez was National Coordinator in the Pacific Alliance, at the Ibero-American Summit and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. Ambassador Méndez also was a Special Advisor to the Deputy Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean on education and private sector

Throughout her career Ambassador Méndez has represented Mexico in over forty meetings in multilateral and regional forums, where she is known for her negotiation and consensus building skills. In the Embassies and Consulates where she was posted, she significantly promoted economic and cultural cooperation.

She was a speaker in various conferences on Mexican foreign policy and has published numerous articles on the Mexican and European Union partnership as well as on sustainable development. She was the editor of a book titled "The Embassy of Mexico in Costa Rica: testimony of a solid and constructive partnership". Lastly, Ambassador Méndez is the author of "The links between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean: A historical perspective of the regional integration". Her mother tongue is Spanish and she speaks English, French and Italian.

Ambassador Méndez is married to Jan-Jilles van der Hoeven and has two children.