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# Rebeca Grynspan

## Ibero-American Secretary-General

Rebeca Grynspan was elected unanimously as the **Ibero-American Secretary General** on 24 February 2014 at the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Mexico City, which brought together the representatives of the 22 member countries of the Ibero-American Conference. She began her term on 1 April, 2014.

Grynspan was born in San Jose (Costa Rica) on December 14, 1955. She was elected **Vice-President of Costa Rica** from 1994 to 1998. She also served as Housing Minister, Coordinating Minister of Economic and Social Affairs, and Vice-Minister of Finance.

Between 2006 and 2010, she served as **Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the UNDP**. In 2010, she was appointed UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator.

She is a renowned advocate for human development, and has helped focus global and Latin American attention on key issues, including **reducing inequality and poverty, promoting gender equity, and using South-South Cooperation** as a tool for development.

Grynspan has participated, inter alia, in the World Council on Poverty and Sustainable Development at the World Economic Forum. In June 2014, she was appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), one of the most influential organizations in research policy in the world, specializing in linking development and the environment.



*'Young people are the future but they are also a most urgent present. We simply cannot afford to overlook the largest and most educated group in our society'*

Rebeca Grynspan  
Ibero-American Secretary-General

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Vice-President of Costa Rica (1994-1998).
- Appointed UN Under-Secretary-General and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Associate Administrator in 2010 - the first woman to hold this office.
- First female Ibero-American Secretary General.
- Foreign Policy Spain (Esglobal) named her as one of the 50 most influential intellectuals in Latin America; and Forbes magazine chose her as one of the 50 most influential women in Latin America.
- Honorary PhD from Universidad de Extremadura and Universidad Europea in recognition of her professional career.