

Elayne G. Whyte

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With a Master's degree in International Policy Studies, I have over 25 years of experience promoting sustainable human development, democratic governance and the rule of law through public policy and legislation at the national, regional and global levels. I have designed, negotiated and implemented public policy, promoted and negotiated national legislation and international treaties, undertaken institutional reforms, served as researcher and professor, and have ample experience in assessing state compliance with international obligations in the fields of human rights, sustainable development, security and regional integration.

Education

- HARVARD UNIVERSITY** **Cambridge, Massachusetts**
Advanced Leadership Initiative Program (January-December 2022)
- MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES** **Monterey, California**
Master of Arts in International Policy Analysis (1991 – 1993). Fulbright Scholar
- UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE CENTROAMÉRICA** **San Jose, Costa Rica**
Licenciatura *Summa Cum Laude* in International Relations (1982 – 1991)

Experience

- JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY** **Washington, D.C.**
School of Advanced International Studies –SAIS-
Professor of Practice (June 2023-)
 - Areas of teaching: global negotiations, international protection of human rights, international law of the use of force
- HARVARD UNIVERSITY** **Cambridge, Massachusetts**
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
Fellow, Weatherhead Scholars Program (Jan 2023 -)
 - Research: New challenges of international negotiations in the 21st century for global commons, global public goods, existential risks and other problems of humanity.
- Advanced Leadership Initiative**
2022 Cohort Fellow (Jan-Dec 2022)
 - Interdisciplinary academic work focused on leadership development and analysis, systems thinking applied to complex problems, advanced negotiations, communication and narrative, social impact and strategizing. Thematic areas: climate change, technology and human rights, inequality and racism, ESG, innovation and comparative analysis of global negotiations: climate change, SDGs, nuclear weapons, pandemics.
- UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE, United Nations -mandated** **San Jose, Costa Rica**
Adjunct Professor (Jul 2021-the present)
 - International Law Department. Professor of International Law of Armed Conflict; Diplomacy and International Law and emerging trends in human rights protection.
- MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP** **San Jose, Geneva**
Career diplomat (May 1998- the present) on sabbatical leave May 2021-the present
- Advisor, Strategic Foresight to the Minister and Vice-ministers** (Mar 2020-May 2021)
 - Started the new institutional process of strategic foresight in foreign policy, conducted analyses on emerging global trends and studies on foresight of foreign policy options in a changing world system.
- Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations and other international Organizations** (2014 - 2020) **Geneva, Switzerland**
 - Led global negotiations aimed at filling legal, cooperation or protection gaps in the international system. Served as President of the United Nations Conference that achieved the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear

weapons, 2017. Led the creation of a global cooperation framework at the World Health Organization (WHO) to tackle the neglected problem of snakebite envenoming, 2018. Served under different leadership positions at Conferences of States parties and other subsidiary bodies of security and disarmament-treaty regimes.

- Negotiated multiple resolutions at the Human Rights Council on country and thematic human rights situations. Co-chaired a negotiation process to improve the functioning of the Human Rights Treaty body system, 2015-2019.
- Represented and articulated national positions, negotiated and promoted agreements at international organizations and treaty-based regimes in the field of disarmament, labor, health, telecommunications, human mobility, refugees, intellectual property, risk management, sustainable development and human rights. Designed methodologies and systems' approach to state compliance with international obligations (human rights, labor, environment and security standards).

Ambassador, Chief of Staff of the Minister (2008-2010)

San Jose, Costa Rica

- Coordinated the intra and inter-institutional communications of the Ministry, oversaw the functioning of the foreign service apparatus and articulated the internal policy making processes of the Ministry.
- Provided support and coordination in highly sensitive crisis management and performed negotiations and communication processes of diplomatic discretion entrusted by the Minister.
- Served as Ambassador, Representative of Costa Rica before the Executive Committee of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (2000-2002)

San Jose, Costa Rica

- In conjunction with the Minister, designed, formulated, executed and evaluated Costa Rica's foreign policy and led the work of the diplomatic network of the country in four continents.
- Led political and diplomatic processes of bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations, especially in the fields of regional integration, migration, human rights, human-centered and democratic approaches to security, racial discrimination, maritime delimitation, disarmament and disaster risk management. Participated in the resolve of highly complex crises and national cabinet meetings. Co-chaired the negotiation of the Convention on the Suppression of Illicit Maritime and Air Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area.
- Achieved an institutional reform for the modernization of the diplomatic service.

Policy Advisor to the Minister (1998-2000)

San Jose, Costa Rica

- Responsible for the design of the institutional reform process of the Ministry, coordinated relations with the Legislative Assembly and the process of ratification of international treaties.
- Performed policy analysis, provided technical advice for decision making in foreign policy and assisted the Minister in preparing and conducting international meetings and negotiations.

MESOAMERICA PROJECT, INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

San Salvador, El Salvador

Executive Director (2010-2014)

- Led the multi-stakeholder coordination, liaised between 10 governments, international financial institutions, project-implementation units and existing regional integration forums to further the implementation of regional portfolio of development and integration projects.
- Achieved an institutional building process for the secretariat applying up-to-date information technologies and strategic planning; created the On-Line Secretariat platform with integrated workspaces for the governments, organizations and implementation units.
- Modernized monitoring methodologies and oversaw the implementation of the regional portfolio in health, telecommunications, energy, transportation and connectivity, risk management, environment.

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT (2003-2008)

San Jose, Washington D.C., San Salvador

- Developed technical studies and proposals for regional and international organizations on topics related to the institutional and policy framework of Central American regional integration, people of African Descent and regional security for the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Union-General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA-PAIRCA), Regional Council of Ministers for Women Issues; University for Peace, among others.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF COSTA RICA

San Jose, Costa Rica

Legislative Advisor (1994 -1998)

- Analyzed, drafted and negotiated proposed legislation such as the Law against sexual harassment in the workplace and academia (enacted in 1994), and the new legislation for budget and public finance oversight.
- Provided technical support for oversight in public expenditure and foreign policy, organized committee hearings, recruited policy experts to analyze proposed legislation and oversaw staff.

Academic experience

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA

Heredia, Costa Rica

Professor and Researcher (1995 – 2008 part-time)

- Taught courses on International Relations theories, Foreign Policy, and conducted empirical research on foreign policy and Central American integration and development.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS (CONARE)

San Jose, Costa Rica

Lead Researcher and Coordinator (2003-2008 part-time)

- Led the research teams and wrote the chapters on democratic governance in Costa Rica for the XVII, XIX and X annual Reports on the State of the Nation in Sustainable Human Development; and wrote research analyses on foreign policy and regional integration.

UNITED NATIONS MANDATED UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE

San Jose, Costa Rica

Regional Academic Coordinator (2003-2004 part-time)

- Coordinated the project “new approaches to security in Central America”, conducted training and research on security to multi-sectorial groups, recruited and supervised academic personnel, and edited publications.

VISITING SCHOLAR

San Jose, Monterey, Washington D.C.

- **Executive in Residence.** Geneva Center for Security Policy, Geneva, Switzerland. (May-Dec 2021)
- **Senior Diplomat in Residence** James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies (CNS), Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Monterey, California (July-September, 2018).
- **Visiting Researcher. Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, FLACSO.** San Jose, Costa Rica (2006-2007).
- **Congressional Fellow.** United States Congress, Congressman Vern Ellers’s Office-Center for Democracy. Washington, D.C. (1996).

Languages

- Spanish (mother tongue), English (fluent) French (proficient)

Affiliations

- Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Monterey, California, Advisory Board, 2021-the present.
- James Martin Center on Non Proliferation Studies, International Advisory Board. Monterey, California, 2020-the present.
- Advisory Council. Central American Report on Sustainable Human Development. San Jose, 2012-the present

Honors and Awards

- Sean McBride Peace Prize 2020. International Peace Bureau, Geneva-New York, August 2022.
- 2021 Peace Prize. Finish Christian Peace Association (*Suomen kristillinen rauhanliike*), for the significance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) for the global peace and sustainable development, and the leadership and instrumental role that Ambassador Whyte played in the negotiations leading to the TPNW.
- Visionary Leaders Award 2018. Physicians for Social Responsibility. Washington, D.C., October, 2018, for successfully chairing the 2017 negotiations of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Doctor in Humane Letters (*Honoris Causa*), May 2018. Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California. For contribution to peace and global governance for successfully chairing the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons that negotiated and adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7, 2017.
- 2018 Person of the Year Award. Arms Control Association, April 2018 (awarded to the President and the delegations of Austria, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Ireland and Nigeria) for the successful negotiations of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Limon Roots Award, as a distinguished representative of the Afro-Costa Rican community in promoting global disarmament and peace, August 2017.
- Medal of Diplomatic Merit Dr. José Gustavo Guerrero, Silver Category. Awarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, July 2014, for service as Executive Director of the Mesoamerica Project.

- Order of San Carlos Diplomatic distinction, Gran Cruz degree, awarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, for the promotion of cooperation and understanding between Colombia and Costa Rica, Bogota, Colombia, 2001.