

## ANABEL GONZALEZ



Anabel González (born 1963) was appointed Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica in 2010. In this capacity, she serves as the President's principal advisor, negotiator and spokesperson on trade and investment policy issues. She currently acts as Chair of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Trade.

With experience in both the public service and private sector, Minister González has been involved in trade and investment policy matters internationally and domestically for the past twenty years. Prior to her current position, she worked as senior advisor on trade and integration at the Inter-American Development Bank (2009-2010); Director of the WTO Agriculture Division (2006-2009); international consultant (2004-2006); Chief Negotiator of the Central America-United States-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA (2002-2004); Director General of the Costa Rican Investment Board (2001-2002); Vice Minister of Foreign Trade (1998-2001); international consultant (1997-1998); Director of Trade Negotiations and Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Foreign Trade (1991-1997 and 1989 -1990, respectively). Founder and professor of international trade law studies at the University of Costa Rica, she has lectured in over 20 countries and published extensively on trade policy, trade negotiations and investment.

Minister González has a law degree from the University of Costa Rica and a master of laws degree from Georgetown University.

## **ANABEL GONZALEZ**

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*Anabel Gonzalez is a trade policymaker and practitioner with extensive experience at the national and international level in the formulation and advocacy of trade and investment policies, negotiation and implementation of agreements, building of trade-related institutional capacity, enhancing the investment climate, and promoting foreign investment.*

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Minister of Foreign Trade** (May 2010 – Present). Appointed by President Laura Chinchilla to handle the portfolios of international trade and foreign direct investment. Her agenda is currently focused on strengthening Costa Rica's participation in the world economy by consolidating and expanding Costa Rica's platform of trade agreements, including leading congressional approval of pending agreements; optimizing the administration of this platform, with particular emphasis on successful implementation and enforcement; and maximizing the benefits of this platform through pro-active export promotion and investment attraction plans. Minister Gonzalez also plays a lead role in Costa Rica's Competitiveness and Innovation Council. She currently serves as Chair of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Trade.

#### **INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

San Jose, Costa Rica/Washington, D.C.

**Senior International consultant on trade and investment, Integration and Trade Sector** (Jan 2009 – April 2010). Senior international consultant on trade and investment for the Inter American Development Bank (IADB) with lead responsibility in projects related to implementation of trade agreements, regional economic integration, Aid for Trade, and investment issues. She also served as Vicepresident of CINDE (Costa Rica's investment promotion agency).

#### **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

Geneva, Switzerland

**Director, Agriculture and Commodities Division** (Feb 2006 – January 2009). Director responsible for coordinating and supervising the discharge of the Division's responsibilities in the areas of negotiations, administration of existing agreements, dispute settlement and technical assistance. Specific responsibilities included contributing to the Doha Round by providing advice and support to senior management and Member countries in all matters relating to the agriculture negotiations; providing technical and policy advice in the areas of responsibility of the Division; enhancing the provision of technical assistance in the agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary areas with a view on improving the quality, usefulness and opportunity of the assistance provided; managing the Division with emphasis on promoting enhanced performance, raising the "knowledge base" of the Division, fostering teamwork and improving business practices; and acting member of the WTO Appointments and Promotions Board.

## **CONSULTANT**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Consultant on international trade and investment** (Oct 2004 – Jan 2006). Consultant for international organizations, academic institutions, governments and private firms. Main projects included research assignments on the Free Trade Agreement between the Dominican Republic, Central America and the United States (DR-CAFTA) for the IADB and the World Bank; advising governments on trade negotiations; speaking at international conferences on trade policy issues; and advising private firms on WTO negotiations. She also co-founded Por Costa Rica, a non-governmental organization to promote the approval of DR-CAFTA.

## **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Special Ambassador for U.S. Trade Affairs** (Dec 2002 – Sep 2004). Costa Rica's Chief Negotiator for DR-CAFTA. Most important assignments included lead negotiator of the Costa Rican team; coordinator of the information and consultation process with private sector and civil society; lead strategist of the communications and dissemination campaign; and coordinator of actions necessary to implement the agreement.

## **COSTA RICAN INVESTMENT BOARD (CINDE)**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Director General** (May 2001- Dec 2002). Director of Costa Rica's investment promotion agency, a private, non-profit organization. Most important responsibilities included establishing and executing promotion programs for attracting foreign direct investment; developing proposals for improving the investment climate; coordinating the attention of potential and established foreign investors; and developing material and other instruments to promote Costa Rica as an investment site.

## **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Viceminister of Foreign Trade** (May 1998 – Apr 2001). Lead policymaker in the areas of international trade and foreign direct investment. Most important assignments included Chief Negotiator of Costa Rica's free trade agreements with Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic and Panama; coordinator of Costa Rica's position regarding the launching of the Doha Round; Chief Negotiator for Costa Rica at the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations and Chair of the FTAA Negotiating Groups on Investment and on Dispute Settlement; Chair of the Trade and Labor Group at the WTO Seattle Ministerial Meeting; and coordinator of the organizational restructuring of the Ministry. She also served as member of the dispute settlement roster of the Free Trade Agreement between Chile and Mexico and of the Complementary Economic Agreement between Chile and Peru.

## **CONSULTANT**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Consultant on international trade and investment** (Feb 1997 – May 1998).

Consultant for international organizations, academic institutions, governments and private firms. Main projects were concentrated in the areas of market access, foreign direct investment, trade policy and other for institutions such as the IADB, SELA and INCAE; and advising governments and private firms on trade and investment policy issues.

## **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Director General for International Trade Negotiations** (Jan 1991 - Jan 1997). In charge of coordinating and directing Costa Rica's international trade negotiations. Most important assignments included Chief Negotiator for Costa Rica at the FTAA negotiations and Chair of the FTAA Negotiating Group on Investment; coordinator of Costa Rica's positions in the Uruguay Round; Chief Negotiator for the several groups in the Costa Rica-Mexico FTA negotiations; negotiator on the EU's regime for the importation of bananas with the EU and the US; lead advocate for Costa Rica's participation in GATT/WTO dispute settlement procedures, including

presenting cases before the Appellate Body (U.S. restrictions on Costa Rican underwear; European Union restrictions on bananas); and lead negotiator for bilateral investment treaties.

**Assistant to the Minister** (Jun 1989 – Dec 1990). Director of the Office of the Minister and advisor on international trade policy issues.

#### **EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE CORPORATION**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Director of the Legal Department** (Aug 1988 – May 1989). Director of legal affairs.

#### **EDUCATION**

##### **GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER**

Washington, D.C., United States

**Masters in Law Degree** (emphasis on international trade law and policy). Highest academic distinction (1988).

##### **SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**Licenciatura en Derecho**. Graduated with highest honors (1986).

Courses on international negotiations attended at the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Harvard, 1996) and Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (Geneva, 1989).

#### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

##### **UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA**

San Jose, Costa Rica

**School of Law**

**Co-founder and Professor of the International Trade Department** (Feb 1988 – Dec 1994)

**Professor of Contracts Law** (Feb 1988 – Jul 1991)

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Full list of publications is available upon request. Most recent publications include:

***“Preferential trade agreements: implementation matters”*** (coauthor with Jean-Pierre Chauffour and Jean-Christophe Maur), *World Trade Organization* (Geneva, March 2011), [http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/publications\\_e/wtr11\\_forum\\_e/wtr11\\_22mar11\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wtr11_forum_e/wtr11_22mar11_e.htm)

***“La implementación de acuerdos comerciales en América Latina: la experiencia de implementación del CAFTA-RD en Costa Rica”***, *Inter American Development Bank* (Washington, D.C., 2009), <http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=35031774>

***“Revitalizing the US Trade Agenda in Latin America: Building on the FTA Platform”***, *Journal of International Economic Law*, *Oxford Journals* (UK, May 2009); doi: 0.1093/jiel/jgp021, <http://jiel.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/jgp021?ijkey=Sj8WJz3lEXjdiob&keytype=ref>

***“El proceso de negociación de un tratado de libre comercio con Estados Unidos: la experiencia del Tratado de Libre Comercio entre Centroamérica, Estados Unidos y República Dominicana”***, *INTAL* (Buenos Aires, August 2006), [http://www.iadb.org/intal/aplicaciones/uploads/publicaciones/e\\_INTALITD\\_DD\\_42\\_2006\\_Gonzalez.pdf](http://www.iadb.org/intal/aplicaciones/uploads/publicaciones/e_INTALITD_DD_42_2006_Gonzalez.pdf)

***“La solución de controversias en los acuerdos regionales de América Latina con países desarrollados”***, *Comisión Económica para América Latina, Serie Comercio Internacional* 68 (Santiago, April

2006), <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/6/25566/S68CI-L2525e-P.pdf>

*"La aplicación multilateral del CAFTA y sus implicaciones para la profundización del MCCA", Inter-American Development Bank-INTAL (Washington, D.C., November 2005), [www.iadb.org/intal/aplicaciones/uploads/ponencias/Foro\\_REDINT\\_2005\\_1\\_González.pdf](http://www.iadb.org/intal/aplicaciones/uploads/ponencias/Foro_REDINT_2005_1_González.pdf).*

*"La implementación del CAFTA-RD en Costa Rica: identificación de retos y propuestas de acción", World Bank (document for internal discussion) (Washington, D.C., 2005),*

*"Estudios jurídicos sobre el TLC entre República Dominicana, Centroamérica y Estados Unidos", Editor, Asociación para el Estudio Jurídico del TLC (San José, 2005), <http://www.asetlc.org/>*

## **LECTURES AND CONFERENCES**

Speaker at multiple conferences, seminars and events on international trade policy, free trade agreements, international trade negotiations, regional economic integration, DR-CAFTA, Costa Rica-China FTA, EU-Central America FTA, WTO agreements, the Doha Round, agriculture, global value chains, intellectual property, services, investment, subsidies, dispute settlement, and others in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Spain, Singapore, St. Kitts and Nevis, Switzerland and the United States.

## **OTHER**

- Member of the Central American think tank Academia de Centroamérica
- Several national and international recognitions, including "Public Figure of the Year" (El Financiero newspaper - 1998, 2003 -as part of the DR-CAFTA negotiating team- and 2012), "Inspiring Woman of the Year" (Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce -2012), "Lead figure in enhancing competitiveness" (Costa Rican Association of Private Sector Chambers – UCCAEP, 2011 and 2012), and Medal of the Governor General of Canada (2009).

## **LANGUAGES**

Fully bilingual in English and Spanish; good knowledge of French.

## **PERSONAL**

Married to Francisco Chacón; two daughters (Constanza and Anastasia).