



Carlos Pérez del Castillo

Biography

Carlos Pérez del Castillo is since 1 October 2005 an independent international consultant. On 18 October he was appointed as the Chairperson of the WTO Panel established to examine the dispute : European Communities and Certain Member States – Measures Affecting Trade in Large Civil Aircraft (DS 316). He is at present involved in various consultancy and advising assignments with regional and international organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Latin American Association for Integration (ALADI), the Cooperación Andina de Fomento (CAF) ,as well as with the private sector and some universities

In March 2004, he was appointed Special Advisor on International Trade Negotiations to the President of the Republic of Uruguay. He represented the Government at various international, regional and bilateral negotiations and conferences and headed the Uruguayan delegation to UNCTAD XI in Sao Paulo, Brazil in June 2004 with Ministerial rank. In the first semester of 2005, he run, as the candidate for Uruguay, for the post of Director General of WTO, receiving wide support from Members in all regions of the world, and reaching the final round of the selection process

Ambassador Pérez del Castillo was the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO) and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, from March 1998 until February 2004.

During this time he chaired most of the top bodies of the WTO, including the General Council, the Dispute Settlement Body, the Council for Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), the Council for Trade in Goods, the Committee for Regional Trade Agreements and the Working Group for the Accession of Algeria. He was also Vice Chairman of UNCTAD X, spokesman of the G77 and the Latin American and Caribbean Group and Member of the UNCTAD Advisory Body from 2001 to 2004. He also chaired the U.N. Diplomatic Committee in 2001-02.

As Chairman of the WTO General Council from 2003 to 2004 Ambassador Carlos Pérez del Castillo oversaw the preparatory process for the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO. His appointment to Chairman of the General Council for this particularly demanding period reflected the need for experience in multilateral trade negotiations and a first-hand understanding of the importance of the development dimension. His appointment was also recognition of the role he played as Friend of the Chair on Implementation Issues during 2000.

Following the setback at Cancún, Pérez del Castillo led WTO Members in an intensive consultative process to inject new momentum into the Doha Development Agenda. The focus of the WTO's working agenda today, in particular the emphasis on making real and substantive progress on the development related issues which remain at the core of the Doha Round, draws extensively on the efforts of Carlos Pérez del Castillo following the Fifth Ministerial Conference. The successful conclusion of a Framework

Agreement in July 2004, built on his action plan and the widely recognized work he put into establishing a firm basis for renewed progress in the DDA.

Carlos Pérez del Castillo is fluent in three of the official languages of FAO (English, French and Spanish). His wide international experience has equipped him with an understanding of the concerns of FAO Members across the spectrum, and with the necessary profile to pursue dialogue at high political levels.

Before taking up his duties in Geneva, Carlos Pérez del Castillo was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay from 1995 to 1998. For extended periods during these years he also was Acting Foreign Minister, including on several official visits abroad. In both of these capacities he also acted as Uruguay's Chief Negotiator in MERCOSUR as well as the MERCOSUR coordinator and spokesperson in the FTAA negotiations. In this post he founded and co-chaired (together with H.E. Theo Ben Gurirab, former Prime Minister of Namibia) the African-Latin American Institute for strengthening horizontal cooperation between the two regions. He had joint responsibility, with the Director of the Presidential Office of Budget and Planning, for the evaluation, coordination and monitoring of all bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes received by Uruguay. He also directed the programme, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, aimed at strengthening the negotiating capacity of the country in multilateral and other negotiations.

From 1992 to 1995, prior to taking up his Ministerial duties, Carlos Pérez del Castillo was a Senior Partner and Director-General of CPC Consultora Internacional, an economic consultancy firm based in Montevideo. In that capacity he advised Latin-American private sector companies in building their international strategies and counselled the governments of Chile and Costa Rica and international organizations such as OAS, ECLAC, UNCTAD, ALADI, IDB, ILPES and Mercosur. In association with foreign consulting firms from France, Netherlands and the United States, his firm participated successfully in various international tenderings. Special mention should be made of a particularly comprehensive analysis of several Uruguayan agricultural and industrial sectors, and the determination of their international competitiveness.

In 1987 he was elected by the 26 Latin American and Caribbean Member Countries as Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) based in Caracas, Venezuela. During his four-year tenure at SELA Carlos Pérez del Castillo championed further regional integration and played a key role in SELA's proposal for a Latin American and Caribbean solution to the debt problem, endorsed by the region's Ministers of Economy and Finance. During his period at the helm of the organization, he strengthened considerably the regional cooperation and technical assistance activities among its Members. He personally directed the conduct of a survey of all technical assistance programmes received by the Latin American and Caribbean region, classifying that assistance by subject matter and donor. A matrix was also prepared highlighting the areas of competence and comparative advantage of individual Members for technical assistance activities. This exercise led to a significant expansion of horizontal cooperation among Member countries. It also helped to establish partnerships between donor and beneficiary countries and avoided duplication and overlapping in technical assistance activities.

From 1985 to 1987 he held the post of Director-General for Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and was directly involved in the multilateral process, as well as the national preparation, for the successful launching of the Uruguay Round in Punta del Este in 1986. During this period he acted as Uruguay's top negotiator on agriculture. As Chairman of the Temperate Zone Non-Subsidizing Producing Countries in March 1986, Carlos Pérez del Castillo played a significant role in the creation of the Cairns Group later that year.

In 1982 he was appointed Coordinator of the International Economics Programme of the United Nations, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile. He worked very closely with all integration processes in the region. He supervised all the trade-related technical assistance provided by the organization to its Member countries. He lectured in the regular training courses of ILPES for high level officials, on Trade Policy, International Negotiations and Economic Integration.

From 1973 until 1982 he was a Senior Economics Affairs Officer in the Commodities Division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He was appointed Head of the Department of Agricultural Raw Materials and Livestock Sector. He was in charge of several commodity negotiations within the Integrated Programme for Commodities, including the successful negotiation of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, and author of a large number of UNCTAD official documents on commodity issues. During this period he supervised the implementation of various technical assistance programmes in the three developing regions: Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. He visited more than 30 African countries, many of which were least developed, contributing in the search of solutions to concrete problems on commodities such as: cotton, hard fibres, tropical timber, meat, hides and skins and leather and cereals. As part of the UNDP funded technical assistance activities, he was responsible for coordinating the negotiating positions of developing countries exporters prior to international commodity negotiations. As part of such effort he steered the creation of the "Izmir Group" of 26 developing cotton producing countries, who coordinated their position and spoke with a single voice in the negotiations towards an International Cotton Agreement (which finally did not materialize). Likewise, he organized the Group of developing countries producers of Tropical Timber, who also spoke in the negotiations with a single voice, and that was crowned with success. He represented UNCTAD in the agricultural negotiations of the GATT Tokyo Round, as well as in FAO Conferences, Governing Councils and a number of Commodity meetings and at the International Wheat and Sugar Councils.

During 1971 and 1972 Carlos Pérez del Castillo worked in the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre in Geneva on trade promotion activities. He was responsible for implementing trade promotion technical assistance programmes working with Governments in close cooperation with the private sector.

He attended the Lycée Français in Montevideo and subsequently studied in Australia, obtaining his Bachelor degree in Economics with distinction from the Australian National University of Canberra and a Diploma in Agricultural Science from Dookie Agricultural College, Victoria - Australia. Following two years as a Field Officer in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Australian Department of Primary Industries, he served as Economic and Agricultural Advisor at the Embassy of Uruguay in Canberra from 1969 to 1971.

Throughout his career, Carlos Pérez del Castillo, has been the author of a substantial number of publications on a wide range of international economic issues, and has written a large number of articles for both international and regional magazines and newspapers. Among the most recent ones, reference should be made to : "Agricultural Protectionism and Multilateral Trade Negotiations"; "Regional institutions :The need for Reform"; "The Future of International Trade : Liberalization or Protectionism ?"; "The role of ALADI in the regional integration process"; "The emerging New International Framework :Implications for the South"; "The dynamics and dilemmas of regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean"; "The challenges for Latin America". He also contributed with multiple articles to : Capítulos del SELA and several other regional magazines. He is also the author of a considerable number of official documents published by international organizations such as : UNCTAD, ECLAC, ILPES, SELA, OAS, IDB, FAO, ALADI and MERCOSUR.

He is a sought-after speaker at international events. He has delivered hundreds of conferences on international trade issues .Over the past two decades he has lectured on trade policy, agricultural negotiations, international debt, negotiating strategies and integration at several Latin American Universities and he continues to take a keen interest in academic affairs.

In 1990 he was awarded “The Dr. Raul Prebisch Award in Economics” by the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Economists, and he is a Permanent Member of the prestigious Harvard University Trade Group.

Carlos Pérez del Castillo has received the highest decorations from the Governments of Brazil, Chile, France and Venezuela.

Carlos Pérez del Castillo was born in Montevideo, Uruguay on 2 June 1944. He is married to Mariana Philip and has two sons.

Current Address : Bulevar España 2954
Montevideo, URUGUAY
Telephone : 005982-7108291
Mobile : 00598-99-325188
e-mail : cpc@urugi.ch or cpc0206@yahoo.com