Rebeca Grynspan
Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Rebeca Grynspan, economist and Ex-Vice President of Costa Rica, was named Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in September 2021. She is the first woman to hold this position in the organization’s 60 year history.

Prior to her appointment, she was the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Conference, Under Secretary-General of the UN and Associate Administrator of the UN Development Programme and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

She was elected Vice President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998 and held the positions of Minister of Housing, Minister Coordinator of Economic and Social Affairs and Deputy Finance Minister. A renowned advocate of human development, she has helped to focus the world’s attention on the reduction of inequality and poverty, gender equality and multilateralism. She currently coordinates the Task Team of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance created by the UN Secretary-General and on whose behalf she leads negotiations to reintegrate food and fertilizers from Ukraine and Russia to global markets.