

RICARDO MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ (Colombian; b. 1962)

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz is co-founder and Executive Director of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). His previous experience encompasses responsibility in a diverse range of capacities at the interface of international trade and sustainable development. These include: General Director and co-founder, Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (1994-1996, Quito); Chargé d'Affaires, Counselor and First Secretary, Colombian Mission to the International Organisations in Geneva (1990-1994); Principal Advisor, Colombian Minister of Economic Development (1988-1990, Bogotá); Consultant to UNDTCP (1998 Bangkok); and Chief of Administration, Office of the President of Colombia (1987-1998 Bogotá). Mr Meléndez-Ortiz was a negotiator and delegate for Colombia in the Uruguay Round, the UNCED process, UNCTAD VIII, the Climate Change Convention, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol and bilateral trade and investment-related negotiation processes. He also acted as Spokesperson for the G-77 in several fora and as served as Chair of the UN Standing Committees on Commodities and on Trade Preferences.

Mr Meléndez-Ortiz has sat on a number of boards, panels and commissions, and worked as a consultant to several international and non-governmental organisations, development co-operation agencies and various governments. He has been a member of the Inter-American Commission on Biodiversity; the AVINA Foundation Grant Review Panel on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development; WWF's Expert Panel on Trade and Sustainable Development; the UN Secretary General Millennium Project Task Force on Trade; the WTO's Director General NGO Advisory Group; the Steering Committee of UK DfID's Project on Global Trade and Finance Architecture; and the Board of Intellectual Property Watch. Mr Meléndez-Ortiz was also listed in the Roster of Dispute Settlement Experts of the GATT (1993-1997); a founding Advisor to the Center for International Sustainable Development Law, McGill University (Canada); Chairman of the Group on Environment Trade and Investment of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Commission on Economic, Environment and Social Policy; and an advisor to the World Bank/WWF's Trade and Poverty Programme.

Mr. Meléndez-Ortiz has edited and published several books on international trade and sustainable development in English, French and Spanish; and is since 1997 the publisher of the international periodical "BRIDGES" and its sister publications. His education on administration and management, economics and social studies was at Harvard University and Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá. He lives in Switzerland with his wife and two daughters.