## Renato Carlos Sersale di Cerisano

## **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary**

## **Biographical Sketch:**

Since January 2006 he was resident Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa and non-resident Ambassador to Botswana, Lesotho,



Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. During this period, the presence of Argentina has been developed and strengthened in all areas of bilateral relations : consultation systems on policies were established at ministerial level , also different agreements have been signed and implemented in the areas of agricultural cooperation , science and technology , sports , arts and culture among others as well as a number of agreements between public institutions and of the civil society (especially human rights NGOs and academic institutions and universities). Foreign trade doubled its volume of exports during this period and investments into both countries were promoted. Technical cooperation was an important component of the bilateral and multilateral relations with the 10 countries and organizations based in this region (SACU , SADC and NEPAD ), which was reflected not only in the areas of training and technology transfer in the framework of South – South policies , but also promoted economic transactions in the longer term . His mandate ended in November 2015.

Between January 2003 and December 2005, he was the Director of International Security, Nuclear and Disarmament Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His office was in charge of monitoring compliance with all international commitments in the area of disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear development for peaceful purposes, space issues and the destruction of chemical and bacteriological weapons as well as landmines. He also represented his country at international multilateral and bilateral fora related to hemispheric security, defense, nuclear power, nuclear regulation and spatial issues.

Between September 2003 and October 2004, he was President of the "Regime of Control for Missile Technology "(MTCR). The MTCR is an informal and voluntary organization of 34 countries that share the goals of non-proliferation of systems sending unmanned weapons of mass destruction and seeks to coordinate national efforts in the field of export licenses aimed at preventing proliferation of these weapons. The President is responsible for all activities of the regime during his tenure. The MTCR was formed in 1987 by Germany, Canada, USA, France, Italy, Japan and the UK.

From May 2001 to January 2003 he was the Director General of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship. Argentina is part - at constitutional level (Article 75, paragraph 22) - of a significant number of binding international agreements. In that context, he was responsible for monitoring commitments taken up to multilateral and regional mechanisms of universal character and to third countries, including the relationships with NGOS.

He was Special Advisor to the Argentine Dialogue (UNDP / UN) from February to May 2002. This project involved the participation of the State, the Catholic Church and the UNDP Resident

Representative in the Republic in a consultation process whose purpose was to reach an agreement at national level in the political, social and economic sectors of health and education. Besides treating political issues, the work of the Bureau of Dialogue - produced concrete tools for the Government, involving annual expenditure of 1.5 % of the public budget for social purposes, administered by representatives of the institutions of civil society together with the government. This process involved a consultation process, conducted in coordination with the Executive Power and with members of Congress, with more than a 1000 (thousand) institutions of civil society.

In 2000 he was in charge of the Secretariat of International Economic Relations of the Province of Buenos Aires. The principal objective during his mandate was to maximize the opportunities offered by the international economic environment to promote investment and cooperation activities that enhanced the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises in the Province of Buenos Aires in order to initiate their exports and / or improve their participation in the external sector. Investment projects, using public and private sources of funding were identified, prepared, approved and implemented. The collaboration with municipal authorities was the main modality to perform those tasks.

During the period 1998-1999 he was the Special Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Assistant Director General for United Nations Affairs. The main focus of his activities was in the reform process of the policies and programs and the structure of the Organization. He also had the role of Director of the UNIDO office in New York with a status of head of mission being responsible for all inter-agency, issues of cooperation with multilateral institutions and relations with governments accredited to the United Nations as well as overseeing the functions of the liaison office in Geneva.

In the 1996/7 biennium he was a Special Advisor to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), James G. Speth, on policy issues related to cooperation for development, institutional and operational matters and to the reform of the United Nations and its impact on the operational activities system. During this period he participated in the preparation of the proposal for UN reform presented by the United Nations Secretary in 1997. At the same time he has participated – in his personal capacity - on numerous panels that have contributed to the preparation of proposals for the reform of the UN, for example, the "Nordic Proposal". Its headquarters was New York.

Prior to being an international UN official, in his capacity as a member of the Permanent Foreign Service of the Argentine Republic, was for almost seven years (1989/1995) the Argentine representative to the United Nations for economic issues of development cooperation, environmental and humanitarian issues and its funds and programs (UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA). He participated in the process of restructuring and financial replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and was elected Chairman of the GEF in 1995.

Vice President of the Executive Board of UNDP / UNFPA during the biennium 1994/5 he was the author and negotiator of UNDP programming arrangements for the period 1996/9. He participated in all the preparatory processes for global United Nations conferences of the 90s. He was the Author and negotiator of numerous resolutions that influenced the reform of the UN in the field of operational activities on the environment and in the field of humanitarian assistance. Delegate to the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly (1989-1995) and to the Security Council (1994 /5). Representative of G77 on issues of cooperation for development and UN

reform. He is an expert in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. New York Headquarters.

Between 1987 and 1989, he was based in Buenos Aires, as technical responsible for the design, preparation and negotiation of the Treaty on the special associative relationship between Italy and Argentina (RAPIA) signed in December 1987 for a total amount of five billion dollars based on funding grants, concessional loans, commercial lending and debt capitalization. The principal objective of the RAPIA was to stimulate investment in the sector of small and medium enterprises in Argentina.

Also, as a member of the Argentinean Foreign Service, since the early 80's he was in Hong Kong as Consul (1981) and in Rome (1982 /6) as the Argentine Permanent Representative Alternate to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). During this period he participated in the negotiation of multilateral legislation on agricultural trade, food security, fisheries and in the project preparation of technical assistance and investment in the agriculture and food sector.

He began his diplomatic career in 1979 and until the end of 1980 he was posted to the Department of Regional Groups at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Buenos Aires, where he participated in the reform process of ALALC (currently ALADI) and assembling integration programs and regional cooperation with countries in South America and Caribbean.

He joined – through public concourse and examinations- the Permanent Corp of the Corp Foreign Service of the Nation in 1979 with the rank of Secretary of Embassy at third level.

Prior to joining in 1977, by public concourse the Permanent Body of Foreign Service of the Nation he worked in the private sector as an economist and financial consultant in public investment projects.

He has teaching experience at university level and has been published in Spanish and English on international issues. He is an economist from the University of Buenos Aires, has a post-graduate at Master Level (MIA) from Columbia University in New York and holds a Doctoral title from the University of Salvador in Buenos Aires.

His working languages include Spanish, English, French and Italian.