



Biography

Saadia Beatriz Sánchez Vegas, PhD

Saadia Sánchez Vegas has been appointed as Director and Representative of the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean based in Kingston, Jamaica on 1 September 2020.

She assumed her duties as Officer-in-Charge of the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Havana, as of 1 February 2021.

Previously, she was the Director of the UNESCO Office in Quito and UNESCO Representative for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela from 2014 to August 2020.

Dr Sánchez Vegas is a sociologist graduated from the University of Zulia, Venezuela. She has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University and a Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of California at Berkeley, both in the United States.

She has more than 20 years of experience in management positions and has an extensive and solid career in management, technical cooperation and international relations.

Ms Sánchez Vegas has led issues in Knowledge Management, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Innovation for e-government and digital citizenship, as cross-cutting themes on inclusive and sustainable development in educational, cultural and technological public policies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As Director of the Information and Knowledge Network of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), she headed technical cooperation and integration issues of regional outreach. Among other management positions, she was Director-General of the National Library and the National Network of Public Libraries Autonomous Institute (IABN – Venezuela), as well as Member of the Advisory Committee on Information and Technology of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICIT-Venezuela) and Senior Member of the Board of Directors of the Rómulo Gallegos Centre for Latin American Studies (CEL-ARG-Venezuela). She has worked as a consultant in the public and private sectors on the abovementioned areas of her expertise.

For over 15 years, she was a professor in postgraduate studies at the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV). She has been a keynote speaker and a lecturer on numerous occasions in her country of origin and internationally. She is also the author of specialised publications.

As Director of the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, she has expressed her commitment to provide strategic and operational leadership for the subregional integration and sustainable development of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a UNESCO priority group.

