



**The Pacific
Alliance**

Juan Gabriel Valdés
Ambassador of Chile to the United States

Juan Gabriel Valdés was Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations; Ambassador of Chile to Spain and Argentina. He also served as Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations and Chief of the United Nations Mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH.

Mr. Valdés holds an M.A. in Latin American Studies at the University of Essex, England, and a PhD in Political Science from Princeton University, and has been a research fellow at Princeton University and at Notre Dame Kellogg Institute of International Relations. He has also taught Latin American International Relations at the University of La Sorbonne in Paris, France. In 2008, he organized under the auspices of the Presidency of Chile a Public Foundation dedicated to the promotion of Chile in the world, “Imagen de Chile” Since 2010 he has been a consultant for the Economic Commission for Latin America, (CEPAL) of the United Nations and of CAF, Development Bank for Latin America. Mr. Valdés is a member of the board of the Global Leadership Foundation and of the Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR) at Columbia University.

Juan Gabriel Valdés was born in Santiago, Chile in June 1947. He is married to Antonia Echenique Celis and has four children and six grandchildren.

Gabriel Valdés has been Ambassador to the United States since May 2014. From 2012 until 2014, he served as the coordinator of the Latin American Council on Foreign Relations (RIAL), a private foundation which on the auspices of CEPAL and CAF reunites academics and practitioners of the region for the study of Latin American foreign relations and the issuing of related proposals and recommendations.

From December 2007 until 2011, Ambassador Valdés served as the Executive Director of the Fundación Imagen de Chile, a public foundation coordinating public and private institutions in the promotion of Chile’s public diplomacy.

In September of 2008, President Michelle Bachelet, as President of UNASUR, appointed Ambassador Valdés as her personal representative and chairman of the team of mediators the South American nations sent to assist the parties in the Bolivian conflict threatening Bolivian democracy.

From 2006 to 2007, Ambassador Valdés was a consultant on governance issues in Latin America for the United Nations Development Program. He also assisted the Club de Madrid an association of former Heads of States and Governments in its programs of support of Haiti.

Between July 2004 and July 2006, he served as the United Nations Secretary General’s Special Representative and Chief of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Valdés served as Chile's ambassador to Argentina for a period of one year from 2003 to 2004. From 2000 to 2003 he served as Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, a period in which Chile was an elected member of the Security Council.

While he was the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, Ambassador Valdés served concurrently as ambassador from Chile to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ambassador Valdés served as Chile's Minister of Foreign Affairs under President Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle's administration (1999-2000) and subsequently as a member of the government of Chile's Council of Foreign Policy.

Previously, from 1996 to 1999, he was chief trade negotiator for the Chilean government. In this position he was responsible for Chile's international economic relations and as part of Chile's efforts to open external trade with the world market, conducted the negotiating teams in the trade negotiations with members of NAFTA, Canada, the European Union, Mexico, Peru and Colombia.

From 1994 to 1996, Ambassador Valdés was Director of International Relations for the Chilean Ministry of Finances and coordinated technical teams that succeeded in the first seven rounds between Chile and countries of the Treaty of Free Trade in the Americas (NAFTA).

In 1990, President Patricio Aylwin appointed him Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, where he served until 1994.

Juan Gabriel Valdés holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Princeton University and is author of diverse academic publications in the fields of political science and international relations.

He authored a book entitled Pinochet's Economists: the Chicago School in Chile, which was published by Cambridge University Press. He has also published diverse studies on relations between Chile, Latin America and the United States. He studied Law at the Catholic University of Chile and earned a Masters degree in Political Sciences and Latin American Studies from the University of Essex in Great Britain.

His academic career began as a researcher at the Institute of Political Sciences of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. After obtaining his doctorate at the University of Princeton, he became a research assistant of former Chilean Ambassador to Washington Orlando Letelier at the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) in Washington DC. While in exile in Mexico during Chile's dictatorship, he conducted research and later became Director of Political Studies at the Latin American Institute of Transnational Studies (ILET), as well as professor of international relationships in the Center of Investigations of the Economic Development (CIDE).

Juan Gabriel Valdés has been a visiting researcher at the Center of Latin American Studies of the University of Princeton and at Norte Dame's the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. He was also a consultant for the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Program of International Relations in Latin America (RIAL).