

Frances A. Colón, Ph.D.

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Senior level executive with eleven years of experience developing environmental, science, technology, and innovation policies; leading diverse teams; and operationalizing successful initiatives. Track record of negotiating complex agreements globally, identifying opportunities for partnerships, and communicating effectively across disciplines and sectors.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State *April 2012 – January 2017*

U.S. Department of State, Office of the Science and Technology Adviser

- Seeded ten new public-private partnerships as lead for the U.S. Government's re-engagement strategy with Cuba on science and technology.
- Influenced new policies on two emerging technologies by hosting experts and developing briefs to connect science and technology innovation to foreign policy priorities.
- Created first strategy for global advancement of women and girls in STEM including internal diversity policy and partnerships with tech sector to build capacity of girls in Africa and South America.
- Nominated first cohort with gender parity in the twelve-year history of a fellowship by updating selection process as chair of the committee.
- Doubled the size of the Adviser's team (from five to ten) by building a cohesive, visible, and coveted unit to work in, during a year-long transition period.
- Negotiated 52% increase in operational funds by demonstrating the value of science and technology experts within the diplomatic apparatus.

Science, Environment and Technology Policy Adviser

September 2008 - April 2012

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs

- Designed regional initiatives for reducing emissions from deforestation in the Andean Amazon and monitoring Andean glacier retreat as lead for climate change programs for President Obama's Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (\$15 million).
- Influenced leadership to make science and environment operational pillars for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 in a bureau strategy that had exclusively focused on security and economic incentives for over fifteen years.
- Negotiated hard-fought interagency agreement to provide oversight for environmental trade capacity-building activities in free-trade agreement countries by creating and chairing a technical working group.
- Opened doors to new student exchanges, joint technology accelerator projects and emergency management cooperation with Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Brazil through the negotiation of science and technology cooperation agreements.
- Secured alignment of a traditionally opposing member country in advance of the 16th Conference of the Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through a carefully planned visit to the country and strategic meetings on the ground in advance.

AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow

September 2006 - August 2008

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans, Environment and International Scientific Affairs

- Trained over 300 teachers in the Middle East and North Africa as manager of a foreign assistance program (\$400,000) for Muslim world outreach through K-12 math and

science education partnerships.

- Negotiated the successful relocation and reorganization of the multilateral Inter-American Institute for Global Change as chair of the conference of the parties (19 countries).

EDUCATION

Executive Education Leadership Program	2013
Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Boston, MA	
Ph.D. Neuroscience	2004
Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts	
B.S. Biology	1997
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico	

SELECTED AWARDS

Cnet - 20 Most Influential Latinos in Technology 2016	2016
Hispanic Heritage Foundation <i>Inspire Award</i> (for work on STEM programs)	2015
Huffington Post 40 Under 40: Latinos in Foreign Policy	2015
Meritorious Honor Award (for work on multilateral science issues)	2011
Superior Honor Award (for work on Latin America climate change policy)	2009
Meritorious Honor Award (for work on renewable energy)	2008
Meritorious Honor Award (for collaborations with Muslim world)	2007

SELECTED APPOINTMENTS

External Reviewer, AAAS analysis of global science policy	2017
FDD National Security Fellow	2016
Forty Women to Watch Over 40	2016
Member U.S. National Commission for UNESCO	2016 - 2017
Austrian Leadership Program	2016
Grupo Guayacán, Executive Board	2016 -
U.S. - China Young Leaders Forum Delegate	2015 - 2016
Google Science Fair Judge	2015 - 2016
Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar	2014
U.S. - Japan Leadership Program Fellow	2014 - 2015

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Ramón Areces Foundation, Science Diplomacy Conference, Spain	2017
University of Pennsylvania, Research Symposium Keynote, USA	2017
Harvard University, Science and Innovation Diplomacy Conference, USA	2017
Tufts University Diplomacy Conference, USA	2017
Fulbright Emerging Leaders Series, USA	2016
Tribeca Film Festival, Disruptive Innovation Awards, USA	2015
Council on Foreign Relations, USA	2015
Latinas Think Big Innovation Summit, Google Headquarters, USA	2014
Communicating Science for Decision-Makers, Helsinki University, Finland	2014
Keynote First Regional Energy Conference for Central America, El Salvador	2014
Distinctive Voices Series, National Academy of Sciences, USA	2013
RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Science Diplomacy Keynote, Japan	2013
INTEL Leadership Conference Keynote, USA	2013