

Biography of Ambassador José Luis Cancela

Ambassador José Luis Cancela is serving as Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. In 2018 he was appointed as General Coordinator of the Informal Working Group on MSMES, Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of Algeria to the WTO and during 2020 as Chair of the Council for Trade in Goods.

A career diplomat, fluent in four languages and with a background in Law, Ambassador Cancela joined the Foreign Service in 1988, and has served in Bulgaria, the Kingdom of Belgium, the European Union, and the Kingdom of Spain. His last foreign assignment was as Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations in New York, from 2008 to 2013.

While at headquarters in the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Cancela served in the Direction General for Political Affairs, as Director of International Economic Organisms, as Secretary General of the Ministry and lately as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.