



**GLOBAL  
COMMISSION ON  
DRUG POLICY**

PO BOX 136 | 1211 Geneva 21 | Switzerland  
+41 22 908 43 75  
info@globalcommissionondrugs.org  
www.globalcommissionondrugs.org

**Latin America Office**  
Rua Conde de Irajá | 370/3º andar  
Botafogo | Rio de Janeiro | RJ | Brazil  
CEP 22271-020  
+55 21 3496 2114

**New report from the Global Commission on Drug Policy**

---

# ADVANCING DRUG POLICY REFORM: A NEW APPROACH TO DECRIMINALIZATION

## **Commissioner Biographies**



---

## Ruth Dreifuss

*Former President of Switzerland and Minister of Home Affairs  
Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy*

Ruth Dreifuss (born in 1940, single) studied in Geneva where she received a degree in economics with special focus on econometrics in 1971. In her varied professional career she served as hotel secretary, editor of the weekly journal *Coopération*, social worker, assistant at the Geneva University. She then worked nine years for the Swiss Agency for Development and Humanitarian Aid (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs) and became in 1981 Secretary of the Swiss Labour Union Federation. In that capacity, she was responsible for sectors including social insurance, labour law, gender equality and relations with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Ruth Dreifuss was elected Federal Councillor (Member of the Swiss government) in 1993 by the Federal Assembly (Parliament), and was re-elected twice. From 1993 to her resignation in 2002 she was Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, the ministry responsible for public health, social insurance, scientific research, higher education, gender equality and culture, so as environment until 1997. During the year 1999, Ruth Dreifuss was President of the Swiss Confederation.

As responsible for public health and social insurance, she implemented a new policy in the fields of drug addiction and prevention of HIV/AIDS. She was also in charge with the introduction of the new law on health insurance, which guaranties a universal coverage for the Swiss population. After her retirement from government, she contributed to the WHO report on intellectual property rights, innovation and public health.

Ruth Dreifuss is Doctor *honoris causa* of the Universities of Haifa, Jerusalem and Fribourg (Switzerland).



---

## **César Gaviria**

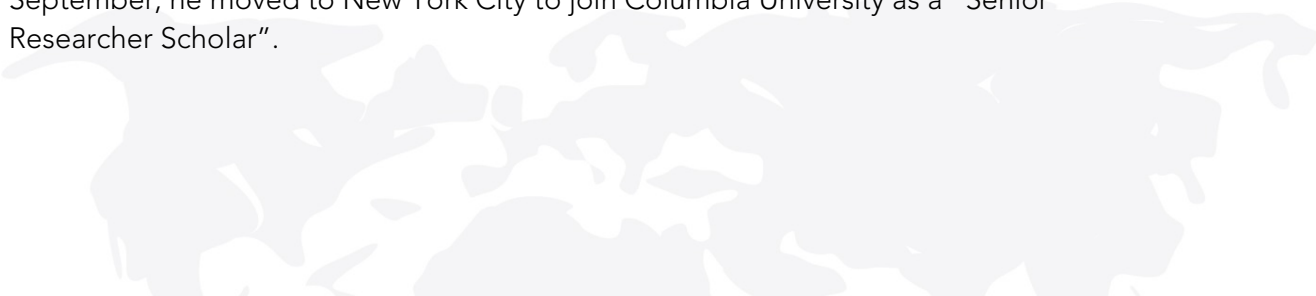
*Former President of Colombia*

Former Colombian President César Gaviria – known in Latin America as a conflict mediator, advocate of democracy, staunch supporter of regional integration and defender of human rights – was first elected OAS Secretary General in 1994 and re-elected for a second term in 1999.

Through his strategy for a “New Vision of the OAS,” César Gaviria fostered profound institutional changes that reinvigorated the inter-American agenda and prepared the Organization to meet the challenges the region faces today. During Gaviria’s tenure, the OAS intensified efforts to improve hemispheric security and combat terrorism, drugs and corruption. It became a key player in the Summit of the Americas process, and now serves as its technical secretariat and institutional memory. The Organization has also advanced the concept of integral solidarity and has reformed its technical cooperation programs.

César Gaviria began his career at age 23, immediately after obtaining his degree in Economics from Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, when he was elected councilman in his hometown of Pereira. In 1974 he was elected to Colombia’s House of Representatives. He rose to the top position in the House in 1983. In 1986 Gaviria became co-chair of the Colombian Liberal Party, a position he held during the successful presidential campaign of the party’s candidate, Virgilio Barco. Mr. Gaviria served in the Barco administration first as Minister of Finance and later as Minister of the Interior. In early 1989, he left the government to manage the presidential campaign of Senator Luis Carlos Galán. Following the brutal murder of Senator Galán by drug traffickers, the Liberal Party chose César Gaviria as its candidate. He was elected President of Colombia in May 1990. During his four-year term (1990-94) he enacted policies to strengthen democracy, promote peace and reintegrate armed rebels into civilian life. In 1991, through a plebiscite and elected constitutional assembly, Colombia drafted a new, more democratic constitution.

An engaging and insightful speaker, Mr Gaviria is in great demand by audiences eager to benefit from his experiences as the key player in the transformation of the OAS and the modernization of Colombia. After finishing his second term as OAS Secretary General in September, he moved to New York City to join Columbia University as a “Senior Researcher Scholar”.



---

---

## **Paul Volcker**

*Former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve and of the Economic Recovery Board, United States*

In the course of his career, Mr. Volcker worked in the United States Federal Government for almost 30 years, culminating in two terms as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from 1979-1987, a critical period in bringing a high level of inflation to an end. In earlier stages of his career, Mr. Volcker served as Undersecretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs during the early 1970's, a period of historic change in international monetary arrangements. He was subsequently President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and in earlier years was an official of The Chase Manhattan Bank.

Mr. Volcker retired as Chairman of Wolfensohn & Co. upon the merger of that firm with Bankers Trust. From 1996-1999, Mr. Volcker headed The Independent Committee of Eminent Persons, formed by Swiss and Jewish organizations to investigate deposit accounts and other assets in Swiss banks of victims of Nazi persecution and to arrange for their disposition. From 2000 – 2005 Mr. Volcker served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the newly formed International Accounting Standards Committee overseeing a renewed effort to develop consistent, high-quality accounting standards acceptable in all countries. Upon leaving public service in 1987, and again in 2003, he headed private, non-partisan Commissions on the Public Service, each recommending a sweeping overhaul of the organization and personnel practices of the United States Federal Government.

In 2004, Mr. Volcker was asked by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to chair the Independent Inquiry into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Program, resulting in identification of substantial corruption and malfeasance. In 2007, Mr. Volcker was asked by the President of the World Bank to chair a panel of experts to review the operations of the Department of Institutional Integrity. That effort has culminated in broad reform of the Bank's anti-corruption effort. In November 2008, President Elect Obama chose Mr. Volcker to head the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

Pursuing his many continuing interests in public policy, Mr. Volcker among his extensive non-profit activities has been former Chairman of the Trilateral Commission and remains Chairman of the Trustees of the Group of 30.

Educated at Princeton, Harvard and the London School of Economics, Mr. Volcker is a recipient of honorary doctorates from each of his "alma maters", as well as a number of other American and foreign universities.

---

---

## **Michel Kazatchkine**

*Professor of medicine, former Executive director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria*

Michel D. Kazatchkine became Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in April 2007. The Global Fund, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is the world's leading multilateral financier of programs for the three diseases and one of the major financiers of health systems strengthening.

Dr Kazatchkine has spent the past 25 years fighting AIDS as a leading physician, researcher, administrator, advocate, policy maker, and diplomat. He attended medical school at Necker-Enfants-Malades in Paris, studied immunology at the Pasteur Institute, and has completed postdoctoral fellowships at St Mary's hospital in London and Harvard Medical School. His involvement with HIV began in 1983, when, as a young clinical immunologist, he treated a French couple who had returned from Africa with unexplained fever and severe immune deficiency. By 1985, he had started a clinic in Paris specializing in AIDS – which now treats over 1,600 people – and later opened the first night clinic for people with HIV in Paris, enabling them to obtain confidential health care outside working hours.

Prior to joining the Global Fund, Dr Kazatchkine was Professor of Immunology at Université René Descartes and Head of the Immunology Unit of the Georges Pompidou Hospital in Paris. He has authored or co-authored of over 500 articles in peer reviewed journals, focusing on auto-immunity, immuno-intervention and pathogenesis of HIV/AIDS.

In addition to his clinical teaching and research activities, Dr. Kazatchkine has played key roles in various organizations, serving as Director of the National Agency for Research on AIDS (ANRS) in France (1998-2005), Chair of the World Health Organization's Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS (2004-2007), member of the WHO's Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on tuberculosis (2004-2007), and French Ambassador on HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases (2005-2007). Dr Kazatchkine's involvement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria began when the organization was established in 2001. He was the first Chair of the Global Fund's Technical Review Panel (2002-2005) and has served as a Board member and Vice-Chair of the Board (2005-2006).



---

## Pavel Bém

*Former Mayor of Prague, member of the Parliament, Czech Republic*

Pavel Bém (Prague, 18 July 1963) is a Czech politician, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic since 2010 and former Mayor of the City of Prague. He is also a Member of The National Drug Commission – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic in Cabinet of Prime Minister.

Bém studied medicine at Charles University in Prague, specializing in psychiatry and subsequently devoting most of his career in medicine to drug abuse prevention and treatment. Since 1998 active as a politician (Civic Democratic Party), started as Mayor of Prague 6 District, followed by two terms of office as Mayor of the City of Prague. His other interests include mountaineering, scuba diving and piano playing.

