

Mr. Abaracon is the Founding President of the International Leadership Forum of the Americas (*ILFA*). He graduated in Law from his native country Uruguay and grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during his father's tenure at the United Nations World Health Organization. Mr Abaracon, further obtained advanced degrees from France's Université de la Sorbonne and Harvard's University Kennedy School of Government. He is currently member of Harvard Council for International Development. During the early 90's he was part of the World Economic Forum's "*Leaders for Tomorrow Initiative*". He has been visiting lecturer at the "Instituto de Estudos Internacionais da Fundação Getulio Vargas", the Center for Latin American Studies at Columbia University, and Mexico's Tecnológico de Monterrey. He is fluent in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Between the years of 1986 and 1988, Mr. Abaracon worked for the UUNN and the International Court of Arbitration in Paris, France. In 1988 the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Mr. Enrique V. Iglesias appointed him Special Advisor inviting him to join the Bank President's office in Washington DC. From an early stage in his career he had the distinct opportunity to be directly engaged with several of the President's most forward-looking initiatives. During the early 90's he was an active asset to the institution contributing to the success of some undertakings that marked a new era for the IDB Group as the leading regional development and international financial institution. Mr. Abaracon held key responsibilities with the Board of the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) and the Private Investment Committee for the IDB-IIC Group, and particularly the creation of the Bank's Private Sector Project Finance Department.

Empowered by his thriving interest to innovative and a far-reaching vision, Mr Abaracon spearheaded distinct independent initiatives within the international development arena, even during his years at the IDB. In 1994, he became the youngest member ever elected to the Governing Council of the Society for International Development (SID) based in Rome, Italy and present in more than 60 countries. Soon after, the SID's Council appointed him as Chairman of the Program and Finance Committee. This appointment was his first grounding test conducting a series of institutional reforms that allowed the SID to regain its international recognition as a leading international development think-tank worldwide. Likewise, in 1995, Mr. Abaracon launched and co-chaired with then-president Fernando Henrique Cardoso the "Parliamentarians and Civil Society of the Americas" in Brasilia, Brazil. Then by 1996, Mr. Abaracon was elected Chairman of SID's XXII World Conference, "*Economic Globalization: Opening Space for Civil Society*", held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain in May of 1997. Due to his commitment to the betterment of less advantage communities in a rapidly integrated world, he was subsequently honored by their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain in recognition of his political leadership and civic achievements. Also in 1997, Mr. Abaracon chair and launched the "*First Emerging Leaders of the Western Hemisphere Conference*", which convened emerging leaders from across all countries in the Americas to initiate an unprecedented dialogue between the heads of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, the IDB, and international think tanks to reassess a decade of reforms and begin to envision the "*Post Washington Consensus*" era. During his following years at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Abaracon built on this experience by taking steps and founded the International Leadership Forum of the Americas as a modern instrument intended to engage new political and business, civil society and intellectual leadership and prepare the leaders of the future in the Americas. Today, the Forum unites hundreds of leaders from diverse sectors throughout the continent and Europe. As Founding-President of the Forum, Mr. Abaracon has different programs underway, such as the "Americas Agenda 2020" (AA 2020), towards a common vision, engaging three generations of the most prestigious leaders, brought together under "The Contract of Generations" an unprecedented intergenerational initiative entirely devoted to make the AA 2020 a reality. Additionally, a series of awards were created acknowledging excellence in political leadership and contemporary humanism among emerging leaders. As an independent venture, Mr. Abaracon created the Governance in the Knowledge Economy Initiative as a Washington D.C.-based initiative operating in different countries in the LAC region. As an inter-institutional development group endeavor the GKE works in direct partnership with the business and academic communities, to support national and sub-national governments in their efforts to further institutionalize new curricular, industry-level, and public reforms towards improved productivity that is consistent with a global knowledge economy.

