
Arkel Benitez

Secretary-General, Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American countries



Arkel Benitez is the Secretary-General of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American countries, an international organization based in Madrid that brings together 21 Latin American States and the Iberian Peninsula. He is also the Secretary General of the Ibero-American Legal Assistance Network (IberRed) made up of all the Attorney Generals and regional judicial powers.

He is an Attorney and Notary Public by San Carlos University of Guatemala and holds two Masters' degrees in Criminal and Procedural Law by the same university, and in Political Science and Sociology by the Pontifical University of Salamanca. He is currently completing his PhD in Rule of Law and Global Governance at the University of Salamanca.

Throughout his professional career in the field of justice, he served as Legal Adviser in the Attorney-General's Office and subsequently, as Deputy Minister of Support to the Justice Sector and Deputy Minister of Violence and Crime Prevention at the Ministry of the Interior of Guatemala.

Arkel Benitez has also been very active in the field of university teaching, being a Full Professor in different subjects, such as General Theory of the State and Criminal Law at several universities. Furthermore, he has combined his academic work with legal research, taking part in awards and national and international conferences.

He has been decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order of Ibero-American Justice by the Carlos III Foundation of Spain and with the Medal of the College of Notaries of the Canary Islands of that country at its highest Commander level.

His international development has also been very intense as a member of various official delegations at international summits, mainly focused on crime prevention and cooperation against crime.

Currently, he is encouraging the implementation of international cooperation programmes and projects based on South-South cooperation strategies and triangular cooperation to improve justice in Ibero-America. Moreover, from his regional position, he is driving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly, Sustainable Development Goal #16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies and provide access to justice.