

Santiago Villalpando

(Registrar of the International Court of Justice since 1 August 2026)

Santiago Villalpando was elected Registrar of the International Court of Justice in 2026 for a term of seven years. He has 30 years of professional experience in public international law, both in the United Nations system and in academia.

Mr Villalpando was previously Legal Adviser and Director of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs at UNESCO (2019-2026). He also served as Chief of the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (2013-2018) and Registrar of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in New York (2010-2011), and worked at the Codification Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (2006-2010, 2011-2013), the International Court of Justice (2002-2006) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (1996). In addition, he was Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School, appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (2015-2018). He has participated in legal teams representing governments in international judicial proceedings and served as an adviser for international organizations.

Mr Villalpando has taught at numerous universities in the United States, Europe and Latin America, including the University of Geneva (1996-2001), Leiden University (2005-2006), New York University (2008-2014), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (2019-2021) and the Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University (2021), and has delivered seminars as part of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law (2014-2018) and at The Hague Academy of International Law (2024). Mr Villalpando has published several books, including *L'émergence de la communauté internationale dans la responsabilité des États* (which was awarded the 2004 Suzanne Bastid Prize of the French Society for International Law) and *The Oxford Handbook of United Nations Treaties* (co-edited with S. Chesterman, D. Malone and A. Ivanovic). His other publications in collective volumes and law journals cover topics such as international responsibility, the law of international organizations, international law-making, international adjudication, the law of treaties, international administrative law and international criminal law. He was the Senior Editor of the International Court of Justice Section of the *Leiden Journal of International Law* (2004-2013) and has served on the editorial boards of various international law journals, including the *International Organizations Law Review* (2025-present). He is a titular member of the Institut de Droit International.

A national of Argentina and Spain, Mr Villalpando holds a PhD in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (2003), as well as an MA in International Studies (international law) from the same institute (1997) and a *Laurea in Giurisprudenza* from the Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli (1994). He speaks fluent Spanish, French, English and Italian.

Education

PhD (*summa cum laude*), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, Switzerland), MA in International Studies (international law), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, Switzerland), *Laurea in Giurisprudenza (summa cum laude)*, Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli (Rome, Italy)

Publications

Books

The Oxford Handbook of United Nations Treaties (with S. Chesterman, D. Malone and A. Ivanovic), Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2019; *Handbook on the Internal Justice System at the United Nations* (with H. Buss, T. Fitschen, T. Laker and C. Rohde), Turin, United Nations System Staff College, 2014; *L'émergence de la communauté internationale dans la responsabilité des États* (Suzanne Bastid Prize), Paris-Geneva, PUF-IUHEI, 2005; *Réparer les crimes de l'histoire? Réponses du droit et de la justice* (with L. Boisson de Chazournes and J.-F. Quéguiner), Brussels, Bruylant-Université de Bruxelles, 2004.

Articles

"How Do Nations Unite within the United Nations? Coalitions and Divides in International Law-Making", in *Italian Yearbook of International Law*, Vol. 34, 2025, pp. 3-20; "Avant-propos", in *Société française pour le droit international. Art et droit international. Colloque de Nice*, Paris, Pedone, 2025 (in publication); "The Negotiation of Multilateral Treaties", in M. Oyarzábal (ed.), *International Law for Diplomats*, Oxford, Oxford University Press (in publication); "Articles 23 and 24", in T. Scovazzi and P. Vigni (eds.), *The 2001 Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention. A Commentary*, Oxford, Oxford University Press (in publication); "Les dépositaires des traités cinquante ans après la Convention de Vienne", in F. Coulée (ed.), *Droit des traités. Pratique et mutations* (in publication); "L'esprit olympique peut-il servir de modèle à la communauté internationale?", in *Société française pour le droit international. Sport et droit international. Colloque de Nanterre*, Paris, Pedone, 2025, pp. 155-164; "Droits erga omnes?", in J. Viñuales et al. (eds.), *The International Legal Order in the XXIst Century. Essays in Honour of Professor Marcelo Gustavo Kohen*, Leiden/Boston, Brill/Nijhoff, 2023, pp. 386-404; "Les 'parties prenantes' à la production du droit international multilatéral: quelques leçons de la pratique de l'UNESCO", in *Société française pour le droit international. Le droit international multilatéral. Colloque de Perpignan*, Paris, Pedone, 2023, pp. 113-130; "Protecting Community Interests: Solidarity Measures within the State Responsibility Regime?", in *EJIL Talk!* (www.ejiltalk.org), 2021; "Making the Treaty" (with C. I. Fuentes), in D. B. Hollis (ed.), *The Oxford Guide to Treaties*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2020, pp. 201-228; "La protection internationale des cultures insulaires" (with R. Lucas), in J.-L. Iten (ed.), *Îles et droit*

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