

MARITZA CHAN

Maritza Chan-Valverde is a Costa Rican career diplomat, academic and activist. She was appointed Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations on 15 August, 2022. Maritza Chan-Valverde is the first Costa Rican woman to occupy the role since Costa Rica signed the UN Charter in 1945. Prior to her appointment, Maritza Chan served as Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations from March 2020 to August 14, 2022.

Maritza Chan has more than two decades of professional experience at the highest political level. She has represented Costa Rica before the United States and multilateral organizations in both Washington D.C. and New York. She is an expert on international peace and security issues and an advocate for the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. She has been recognized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), as one of the leading agents for change advocating for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in 2014 and 2021. Maritza Chan was Costa Rica's lead negotiator on the Arms Trade Treaty (2010-2015) and is currently Vice-Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition, aiming to establish a new global framework for the lifetime management of ammunition (2022-2023). She has published multiple articles on her negotiating experience in arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament. She has vast connections with international and regional organizations, as well as civil society and academia.

Ambassador Chan served as Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations (2020-2022). In 2018, Maritza Chan returned to Washington D.C. as the Head of the Political Section of the Costa Rican Embassy (2018-2020) after acting as Coordinator of the Organization of the United States in San José, Costa Rica (2015-2017). Maritza Chan served at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York (2010-2015). She also served at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the Organization of American States in Washington D.C (2005-2009), and at the Embassy of Costa Rica to the United States in Washington D.C (2002-2005). Maritza Chan started her career as a Senior Speech-Writer for the President of Costa Rica (1998-2002).