

# MIREYA MARITZA PEÑA GUZMÁN

## J.D., M.A., LL.M., Ph.D.

Spanish : Mother tongue



English : Fluent



French : Fluent



Portuguese : Fluent



### Education

2006 | Ph.D | Sorbonne-Nouvelle Université (Paris III)

**Ph.D in Public Law** | **Doctorat en Droit Public**  
*Summa Cum Laude (equivalent)* | mention: « *Très honorable avec Félicitations* »  
Paris, France  
URL : <https://www.theses.fr/2006PA030091>

2003 | LL.M | St Thomas University

**LL.M in Intercultural Human Rights**  
School of Law  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
Miami, Florida, United States of America  
URL : <https://www.stu.edu/law/human-rights/students-alumni/>

2002 | D.E.A | École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS)

**M.A in Comparative Law** | **Diplôme d'études approfondies**  
**"La persona en el derecho"** | **« La Personne dans le Droit »**  
Paris, France

2001 | D.E.A. | Sorbonne-Nouvelle Université (Paris III)

**M.A. equivalent** | **Diplôme d'études approfondies**  
**in Latin American Studies** | **« Étude des Sociétés Latino-américaines »**  
Institute of Latin American Studies (IHEAL) | Institut des Hautes Études de l'Amérique Latine (IHEAL)  
*Cum Laude (equivalent)* | Mention: « *Assez Bien* »  
Paris, France

2000 | J.D. | Universidad Nacional de Colombia

**Law degree –Juris Doctor equivalent** | **Diploma de Abogado**  
*Highest score obtained on final Dissertation* | *Calificación máxima obtenida en la tesis de graduación*  
Bogota, Colombia

## Professional Experience

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Dec. 2020	Present	<b>Senior Human Rights Advisor to the UN Resident Coordinator in the Dominican Republic</b> United Nations System in the Dominican Republic <i>Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</i>
Jan. 2017	Dec. 2020	<b>Human Rights Section Chief at UNIOGBIS and OHCHR Representative in Guinea-Bissau</b> United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) <i>Bissau, Guinea-Bissau</i>
Sept. 2016	Jan. 2017	<b>Legal Officer/Judicial Affairs Officer</b> former Department of Peacekeeping Operations Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service, Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity <i>Brindisi, Italy</i>
Jun. 2014	Sept. 2016	<b>Rule of Law Advisor, Head of the Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Unit</b> (On secondment) Rule of Law and Security Institutions Service United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) <i>Bissau, Guinea-Bissau</i>
Jun. 2011	Jun. 2014	<b>Legal Officer/Judicial Affairs Officer</b> former Department of Peacekeeping Operations Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service, Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity, <i>Brindisi, Italy</i>  Provided initial start-up and successive strategic planning and substantive capacity on the Rule of Law and justice sector in countries in Central, Western and Eastern Africa and the Middle East. Main deployments to United Nations peace operations:  <b>Central African Republic   March to June 2014:</b> Deployed to the Justice and Human Rights Section of BINUCA for the transition of a Political mission to a peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA).  <b>Mali   April to Dec. 2013:</b> Deployed to the Justice and Corrections Section of MINUSMA for the start-up of the peace operation and thereafter to provide initial substantive capability.  <b>Syrian Arab Republic   May to Aug. 2012:</b> Deployed to the Rule of Law and Human Rights Section in UNSMIS for the start-up of the Special Envoy Mission, and the implementation of the justice and Rule of Law aspects of the mandate of the peace operation.  <b>South Sudan   July to Dec. 2011:</b> Deployed to the Rule of Law Section of UNMISS for the start-up of the peace operation, and thereafter, the implementation of the justice and Rule of Law aspects of the mandate of UNMISS.
Apr. 2010	Jun. 2011	<b>Human Rights Officer</b> Special Procedures Division Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) <i>Geneva, Switzerland</i>  Worked mainly with the <i>UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers</i> and provided additional technical advice and substantive support for the field visits to Ecuador and Brazil of the <i>UN Special Rapporteurs on contemporary forms of slavery and cultural rights</i> ,

respectively. Also supported the *UN Special Rapporteurs on summary executions*, in the elaboration of a follow-up report to a mission to Afghanistan.

Jan.  
2009

Mar.  
2010

**Human Rights Officer**

Special Procedures Division, Groups-in-Focus  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
*Geneva, Switzerland*

Worked mainly with the *UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants*, including for fact-finding visits to Romania and the United Kingdom, and the elaboration of reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. Provided additional technical advice and coordination support to the *UN Special Rapporteurs on the rights of indigenous peoples, on minority issues and on violence against women, its causes, and consequences*.

Mar.  
2008

Nov.  
2008

**Human Rights Officer**

Human Rights Council Branch  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
*Geneva, Switzerland*

Worked mainly with the *UN Human Rights Council* and its subsidiary bodies, including the *Universal Periodic Review Working Group*, the *Social Forum*, the *Advisory Committee to the Human Rights Council* and its *Working Group on the Right to Food*, and other bodies, including some with representation at the Ambassadorial level.

Mar.  
2007

Feb.  
2008

**Human Rights Officer**

Research and Right to Development Branch,  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
*Geneva, Switzerland*

Worked mainly with the Indigenous and Minorities Unit in the reform to the Geneva-based United Nations machinery on the rights of indigenous peoples at the former Research and Right to Development Branch.

Sept.  
2006

Mar.  
2007

**Researcher and lecturer on international and Inter-American human rights law**

Institute for Human Rights  
Åbo Akademi University  
*Turku/Åbo, Finland*

Nov.  
2004

Jun.  
2006

**Human Rights Officer**

United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (former UNMEE)  
*Adigrat, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Eritrea*

Oct.  
2003

Oct.  
2004

**Professor and Training facilitator**

Pontifical Xaverian University of Colombia, National University of Colombia,  
and Podion Corporation  
*Bogota, Colombia*

Main assignments:

**Oct.2003 to Oct.2004:** Capacity building facilitator on the Rule of Law and Human Rights, Corporación Podion (International NGO); Institute for Human Rights and Law School at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.

**July to October 2004:** Professor of Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, Public Policies and Constitutional studies at the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, the Law School and other graduate schools at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.  
**March to June 2004:** Professor of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of students of the graduate school of political science at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.  
**Feb. to July 2004:** Professor of Human Rights and Public Policies at the Faculty of Law, Political and Social Sciences of the National University of Colombia.

Jan. 2000	Jun. 2000	<p><b>Private practice lawyer</b> Self-employed <i>Bogota, Colombia</i></p>
Aug. 1997	Jul. 1998	<p><b>Civil Servant</b> Direction of Prevention of Crime and Extra-judicial Mechanisms former Ministry of Justice and Law <i>Bogota, Colombia</i></p>

## Publications

[ in English ]

2016	<p><b>“ICC Recognizes Sexual Violence in Conflict as a War Crime and as a Crime Against Humanity”</b> WINews. A Publication of the Women’s Interest Network of the American Bar Association (ABA), Section of International Law” <i>United States of America</i></p>
2009	<p><b>“The U.N. Human Rights Council”</b> The International Lawyer, American Bar Association (ABA), Section of International Law” <i>United States of America</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Contribution to a compiled article on human rights for the special edition entitled “2008 Year Under Review”.</p>
2005	<p><b>“Legal Pluralism as an approach to indigenous and Tribal Peoples’ Rights”</b> 2003 Yearbook Human Rights in Development. <i>Nordic Human Rights Publications</i></p>
1996	<p><b>“The emerging system of International Protection of Indigenous Peoples’ Rights”</b> <i>Saint Thomas Law Review - Saint Thomas University   Vol. 9</i> <i>Miami, Florida, United States of America</i></p>

[ in Spanish ]

Dec 2018 Jan 2019	<p><b><u>“La Declaración Universal y la naturaleza evolutiva y multifacética de los Derechos Humanos”</u></b> [The Universal Declaration and the Evolving and Multifaceted Nature of Human Rights] Revista del Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos   No. 68 <i>Costa Rica</i></p>
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Article selected for the Special Edition of the Review to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal and American Declarations on Human Rights.

- 2008 **"Derechos Humanos y Políticas Públicas"**  
[Human Rights and Public Policies]  
Revista Aportes Andinos No. 21  
Programa Andino de Derechos Humanos  
Universidad Andina  
*Simón Bolívar, Ecuador*
- 2007 **"Los Desafíos del Reconocimiento del Derecho Indígena. Estudio del caso Colombiano"**  
[The challenges of recognizing indigenous law. Study of the Colombian case]  
Boletín de Antropología | No. 38  
Universidad de Antioquia  
*Colombia*
- 1999 **"El Sida a las puertas del siglo XXI. Una paradoja de género"**  
[AIDS at the beginning of the XXI Century. A paradox of gender]  
Nueva Sociedad, Revista Latinoamericana de Ciencia Política | No. 159  
*Caracas, Venezuela*
- 1999 International Award on the best Latin-American essays on political issues
- 1998 **"Algunos aspectos de la cuestión indígena desde una perspectiva internacional"**  
[Indigenous issues from an International perspective]  
Nueva Sociedad, Revista latinoamericana de Ciencia Política | No. 153  
*Caracas, Venezuela*
- 1998 International Award on the best Latin-American essays on political issues
- 1996 **"No es sólo cuestión femenina. Propuesta para el Debate en torno al Acoso Sexual en los Lugares de Trabajo"**  
[It isn't just a female's matter. Addressing sexual harassment at the workplace]  
Actualidad Laboral, Revista Latinoamericana de Derecho Laboral, Legis S.A. | No. 75  
*Bogotá, Colombia*
- 1995 **"Ética y Biodiversidad"**  
[Ethics and Biodiversity]  
Pensamiento Jurídico, Revista de Teoría | No. 3  
Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Law School  
*Bogotá, Colombia*

## Publications direction and/or supervision

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[ in English ]

*Sample of publications elaborated under my direction while working with UNIOGBIS:*

- [Public report on the right to Health in Guinea-Bissau](#), UNIOGBIS and OHCHR, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, April 2017. Available at: <https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/en/human-rights-reports>
- [Report on the Human Right to participate in Political and Public Affairs in Guinea-Bissau](#), January 2018 to July 2019, UNIOGBIS, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 2019. Available at: <https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/en/human-rights-reports>

[ in Spanish ]

*Sample of publications elaborated under my direction while working with the RCO/Dominican Republic:*

- “Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible: No dejar a nadie atrás. Recomendaciones y observaciones de los mecanismos internacionales de derechos humanos a la República Dominicana sobre las personas LGBTIQ+ (2008-2022)”, [The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Leaving no one behind. Recommendations from International Human Rights mechanisms to the Dominican Republic on LGBTIQ+ persons], United Nations Free and Equal Campaign, 2022. Available at: <https://dominicanrepublic.un.org/es/219180-recomendaciones-y-observaciones-de-los-mecanismos-internacionales-de-derechos-humanos-la> and <https://dominicanrepublic.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Guia%202030%20-%20LGBTIQ-interactivo%202.pdf>

[ in Portuguese ]

*Sample of publications elaborated under my direction while working with UNIOGBIS:*

### ***ON JUSTICE, ILLICIT TRADE AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME***

- “Reflexões sobre a Criminalidade Ambiental na Guiné-Bissau” [Reflections on Environmental Criminality in Guinea-Bissau], UNIOGBIS, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 2016. Available at: [https://issuu.com/uniogbis/docs/full\\_criminalidade\\_ambiental\\_gb09ma\\_a19067c3a80b73](https://issuu.com/uniogbis/docs/full_criminalidade_ambiental_gb09ma_a19067c3a80b73)
- “Princípios que regem a Administração da justiça pelos Tribunais Militares” [International principles governing the administration of justice by military tribunals], UNIOGBIS, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 2015. Available at: [https://issuu.com/uniogbis/docs/principios\\_internacionais\\_justica\\_m](https://issuu.com/uniogbis/docs/principios_internacionais_justica_m)

### ***ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND A DIMENSION ON CORRUPTION***

- “Relatorio sobre o direito a saúde na Guiné-Bissau”, [Public report on the right to Health in Guinea-Bissau], UNIOGBIS & OHCHR, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, April 2017. Available at: [https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/report\\_on\\_the\\_right\\_to\\_health\\_-\\_guineabissau\\_portuguese\\_0.pdf](https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/report_on_the_right_to_health_-_guineabissau_portuguese_0.pdf)
- “Direitos Humanos e Eleições”, [Human Rights and Elections], UNIOGBIS and OHCHR, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 2019. Available at: <https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/pt/publica%C3%A7%C3%B5es-dos-direitos-humanos-0>
- “Relatorio sobre o direito humano de participar nos assuntos políticos e públicos na Guiné-Bissau”, [Report on the Human Right to participate in Political and Public Affairs in Guinea-Bissau], January 2018 to July 2019, UNIOGBIS,

Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 2019. Available at:

[https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/binder1\\_final\\_relatorio\\_direitos\\_humanos\\_15\\_nov2019.pdf](https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/binder1_final_relatorio_direitos_humanos_15_nov2019.pdf)

#### ON EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE

- “Referencial sobre Educação para a Cidadania, os Direitos Humanos e a Paz na Guiné-Bissau”, [Theoretical and Practical Framework on Education for Citizenship, Human Rights and Peace in Guinea-Bissau], UNIOGBIS and OHCHR, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 2019. Available at: <https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/pt/publica%C3%A7%C3%B5es-dos-direitos-humanos-0>
- “Álbum Seriado para o Ensino da Declaração Universal dos Direitos Humanos na Guiné-Bissau” [Serial Photo Album for the teaching of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Guinea-Bissau], UNIOGBIS and OHCHR, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 2019. Available at: <https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/pt/publica%C3%A7%C3%B5es-dos-direitos-humanos-0>
- “Guia teórico-prático sobre Educação para a Cidadania, os Direitos Humanos e a Paz no ensino primário na Guiné-Bissau”, [Theoretical and Practical Guide on Education for citizenship, human rights and peace for primary education in Guinea-Bissau] UNIOGBIS and OHCHR, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, 2019. Available at: <https://uniogbis.unmissions.org/pt/publica%C3%A7%C3%B5es-dos-direitos-humanos-0>

## Honors y distinctions

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### International Awards

1999 | **International award for best Latin-American essays on AIDS/Policy/Culture**  
Political essays’ competition organized by the Latin-American journal “Nueva Sociedad”  
*Caracas, Venezuela*

1998 | **International award for best Latin-American essays on indigenous peoples and democracy**  
Political essays’ competition organized by the Latin-American journal “Nueva Sociedad”  
*Caracas, Venezuela*

### Authorization by Presidential Decree to accept an international invitation

1999 | As a civil servant in 1999, I was authorized, through Decree 289 of 17 February 1999, to accept an invitation to participate in a **Dialogue Seminar on the Conflicts of Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland and Colombia** organized by the Government of Norway from 28th February to 4th March, prior to the **International Students Festival** in Trondheim from 5th to 15th March, organized by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (ISFIT-199) in February 1999.  
*Norway*

### Presentations at International Meetings

2017 | **Speaker on “the impact of Corruption in Human Rights”**  
International Seminar on Corruption and the fragility of Political and Judicial Institutions  
*Bissau, Guinea-Bissau*

2003 | **Panelist on “Terrorism and Fundamental Standards of Humanity”**  
Institute for Human Rights  
Åbo Akademi University (ÅAU)  
*Turku, Finland*

- 2000 | **Speaker on the 50<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Americanists**  
*Warsaw, Poland*
- 1999 | **Speaker on the Dialogue Seminar on the Conflicts of Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland and Colombia**  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
*Trondheim, Norway*
- 1996 | **Panelist on the Academic Conference on the First Americans and Indigenous Peoples around the World “The Sacred and the Profane”**  
St. Thomas University, School of Law  
*Miami, Florida, United States of America*
- International scholarships and/or research grants
- 2004 | **Scholarship to participate at the 2004 Fourth Andean Region Course on Human Rights for Law Professors and Professionals of NGOs**  
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Andean Commission of Jurist  
*Ica, Peru*
- 2003 | **Scholarship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland to participate in the 2003 Advance Course on the International Protection of Human Rights**  
Institute of Human Rights of the Åbo Akademi University  
*Turku, Finland*
- 2003 | **Research Grant**  
Institute of Human Rights  
Åbo Akademi University  
*Turku, Finland*
- 2002 | **Scholarship to cover tuition of the 2002-2003 LL.M. Programme in Intercultural Human Rights**  
Saint Thomas University  
*Miami, Florida, United States of America*
- 1996 | **Scholarship to participate in the 1996 Summer Session on International Law**  
The Hague Academy of International Law  
*The Hague, The Netherlands*
- 1994 | **Research Grant on criminalistics to undertake a study on “the impact of racial discrimination among inmates at the Quibdó Prison of Colombia”**  
Law School, National University of Colombia  
*Colombia*
- 1993 | **Research Grant on criminalistics to undertake a study on “the effectiveness of deprivation of liberty to re-socialize prisoners in Colombia”**  
Law School, National University of Colombia  
*Colombia*



### Leadership and managerial skills

- 2021. [Emergency Team Leadership Programme](#), United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), 15-22 October 2021.
- 2018. [Senior Executive Fellow Programme](#), Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States, 3-29 June 2018.
- 2017. [Effective Change Leadership](#), United Nations System Staff College, Geneva, Switzerland, 28-29 June 2017.
- 2016. [Leadership, Women and the UN](#), United Nations System Staff College, Turin, Italy, 15-19 February 2016.
- 2015. [Women and Power, Executive Program](#), Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States, 3 - 8 May 2015.
- 2012. [United Nations management development programme](#), United Nations Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) –[Part 2](#), Geneva, Switzerland, 16-19 June 2012.
- 2012. [United Nations results-based budgeting session](#), UNGSC, Brindisi, Italy, 28 March, 2012.
- 2012. [United Nations management development programme](#), United Nations Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM), - [Part 1](#), Geneva, Switzerland, 12-16 March 2012.
- 2012. [Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action](#), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University, Harnosand/Sweden.
- 2012. [Management of Humanitarian Assistance](#), Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency and Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University, Harnosand, Sweden.
- 1994. [Political Image Management](#), Pontifical Xaverian University, Bogotá, Colombia.

### Negotiation, mediation, dialogue processes and mentorship

- 2013. [United Nations Training on Mentoring and Advising on Rule of Law and Security Institutions](#), Brindisi, Italy.
- 2012. [International Negotiations: Practical Skills and Techniques](#), UNITAR (online)
- 2012. [Political Affairs Course on facilitation of dialogue processes and mediation efforts](#), United Nations Department of Political Affairs, Sweden.

## Strategic planning and other personnel-related skills

- 2019. [Training on applying design thinking in implementing the 2030 Agenda](#), United Nations System Staff College, Bonn, 25-28 June 2019.
- 2016. [Measurement for Effective Results-based Management](#), United Nations System Staff College, (online).
- 2016. [Global Focal Point Workshop “Collaborative arrangements for mission mandated activities”](#), UNDP and UN Peacekeeping, Entebbe, Uganda, 29-30 September 2016.
- 2012. [United Nations competency-based interviewing and selection workshop](#), United Nations Global Service Center, Brindisi, Italy, 30-31 January 2012.

## Human Rights (monitoring, programming and ESCER)

- 2009. [Training on Human Rights monitoring and fact-finding skills](#), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, July 2009.
- 2007. [Health and Human Rights Training](#), World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 19 Nov. 2007.
- 2006. [Course on the Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University, Turku/Åbo, Finland, Nov. 2006.
- 2004. [National Chair on Human Rights and Public Policies](#), Colombian Ombudsman, Bogota, Colombia.
- 2004. [Fourth Andean Region course on Human Rights for Law Professors and professionals of NGOs](#), Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Comisión Andina de Juristas, Ica, Peru.
- 2003. [Advance course on the International Protection of Human Rights](#), Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University, Turku/Åbo, Finland. (Participant and panelist)
- 1998. [UNESCO Chair on Human Rights, Peace and Democracy](#), UNESCO – National University of Colombia, Bogota, Colombia.
- 1996. [Seminar on Globalization and alternatives to development](#). International Cooperation in the perspective of the non-aligned countries, FESCOL, ICFES and Colciencias, Bogota, Colombia.

## Target Groups

- 2022. [UN Regional Workshop on Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Safety of Journalists for Latin America and The Caribbean](#), Punta del Este, Uruguay, UNESCO, 2-4 May 2022.
- 2021. [Training on addressing Racial Discrimination and Strengthening the Protection of Minorities, Indigenous Peoples and other Population Groups in UN Programming Processes](#), United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 4-28 October 2021.

- 1993. [First International Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the resocialization of defendants](#), Catholic University of Colombia, Bogota, Colombia.

### International Law

- 2015. [Course on International Public Law](#), The Hague Academy of International Law, the Hague, The Netherlands.
- 1996. [Session on “International Law at the Turn of the Century”](#), Institute of International Public Law and International Relations of Thessalonica, Greece.
- 1996. [Summer session on Public International Law](#), The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague, The Netherlands.
- 1995. [Session on “International Justice”](#), Institute of International Public Law and International Relations of Thessalonica, Greece.