

**Alvaro Arzú Irigoyen**  
**President of the Republic of Guatemala**

Alvaro Arzú Irigoyen was born in Guatemala City on March 14, 1946. He completed his studies in law at the University of Rafael Landivar in Guatemala City in 1972.

Mr. Arzú began his career in the public service as director of the Guatemalan Institute of Tourism from 1978 to 1981. In 1982, he won the mayoral election in Guatemala City, but was unable to take office because of a military coup. He later did serve as mayor of Guatemala City from 1986 to 1990. Mr. Arzú also served as Foreign Minister in 1991.

A co-founder of the National Advancement Party (PAN), Mr. Arzú was elected President in January 1996 after two rounds of elections.

Mr. Arzú married Patricia Escobar in 1983. They have seven children.