

José María Figueres Olsen
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

José María Figueres was born on Dec. 24, 1954, in Costa Rica. He earned an engineering degree from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point and a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Law and Government at Harvard University.

Mr. Figueres began a career in the public service in 1987 as vice-president of the Costa Rican Railway Institute. In 1988, he became Minister of Foreign Trade, then Minister of Agriculture.

A member of the Partido de Liberación Nacional, Mr. Figueres was elected President in February 1994.

Mr. Figueres is married to Josette Altman Borbon. They have two children.