He was a member of the Peruvian delegation to the first session of the General Assembly in 1946 and of the delegations to the twenty-fifth through the thirtieth sessions. In 1971, he was appointed Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations, and headed his country's delegations to all sessions of the Assembly through 1975. In 1973 and 1974, he was his country's representative on the Security Council and served as President of the Council at the time of the events in Cyprus in July 1974. On 18 September 1975, he was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, a post he held until December 1977.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar next served as Ambassador of Peru to Venezuela, following which, on 27 February 1979, he was appointed as United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs. From April 1981, while still serving as Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar served as Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan. In that capacity, he visited Pakistan and Afghanistan in April and August 1981 in order to continue the consultations which the Secretary-General had undertaken personally.

He resigned as Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs on 31 May 1981, but remained as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Afghanistan. After leaving the United Nations, he returned to the Ministry of External Relations of Peru.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar voluntarily left government service on 7 October 1981.

He is a former Professor of Diplomatic Law at the Academia Diplomatica del Peru and Professor of International Relations at the Academia de Guerra Aéreo del Peru, and is author of Manual de Derecho Diplomatico (Manual of International Law (1954)).

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has received doctorate degrees honoris causa from the University of Nice, France, in June 1983; and from the Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland, from Charles University, Prague, and from Sofia University, all in February 1984.

He was born in Lima on 19 January 1920, and was graduated from the Law Faculty of the Catholic University, Lima, in 1943. Mr. Perez de Cuellar is married to the former Marcela