



University for Peace Universidad para la Paz



John J. Maresca

John J. Maresca is Rector of the University for Peace (UPEACE), a UN mandated institution based in San José, Costa Rica, since 9 August 2007. He was previously the President of the Business Humanitarian Forum, a worldwide non-profit association based in Geneva, Switzerland, which encourages private sector support for humanitarian work. Maresca has been a senior business executive and has led a number of non-profit organizations focused on conflict resolution and research activities. He was a Guest Scholar at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington. During his diplomatic career, Maresca served as the United States representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as a special mediator for conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and Cyprus, and as the chief American negotiator for Military Confidence and Security-Building Measures. He was Deputy Head of the US Delegation that negotiated the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, and was Chairman of the delegation that negotiated the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Joint Declaration of Twenty-Two States, the two documents that formally ended the Cold War and converted the OSCE to a post-Cold War role. Maresca was sent as a Special Envoy to open U.S. relations with the newly independent states from the former Soviet Union and served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense. He has published numerous books, chapters and articles, and has lectured in over 30 countries.