

Bernardino León Gross

Director General of the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy



Bernardino León is the Director General of the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy. In this role, he works with the Board of Trustees to consolidate the status of the Academy as a global thought leader in diplomatic studies. As the head of the Academy's international faculty, he works to ensure the highest standards of diplomatic education in nurturing the next generation of Emirati diplomats.

León is a veteran diplomat with a career spanning over 27 years. He has served as the UN Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya, where he brokered the Libyan Political Agreement and the Presidential Council that put an end to the civil war. Previously he was the European Union SR to the Southern Mediterranean, Secretary General at Spanish prime minister Office and Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs. His career has focused on mediation and negotiations, covering also intercultural dialogue, security, energy and migration. He founded with Edward Said and Daniel Barenboim the Barenboim-Said Foundation. He has worked in different Human Rights initiatives, particularly in the Arab world.

León has worked extensively in the Middle East, playing a key role in the EU "peace team" delegation that followed the Oslo process. Following the events of the Arab Spring, he mediated crucial talks in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia. He was posted in Algeria during the internal conflict in the early nineties.

Bernardino León holds a diploma in International Relations from the University of Barcelona and a degree in Law from the University of Malaga, Spain, and followed post graduate courses at London King's College and Sorbonne University.