



Luis Mendez
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for South America Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs

Luis Mendez, a native of New York City, assumed his duties as Deputy Assistant Secretary for South America in the Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs on May 22, 2026. He previously led the Office of Andean Affairs in the same Bureau.

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, he was Acting Deputy Chief of Mission (A/DCM) in Honduras before taking on the role of Political and Economic Counselor and A/DCM in Costa Rica. He also served as Director for Africa at the National Security Council and as a Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs. Overseas, Luis has held assignments in Mexico, Senegal, Morocco, and Ghana, while domestically he contributed on the Nigeria desk and in the Department's Operations Center.

Luis dedicated a sabbatical year to mentoring middle and high school students in the Washington metropolitan area. He holds a master's degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and is a proud graduate of Saint Peter's College.