

**CAROLINA SCHMIDT ZALDIVAR**  
**MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**CHILE**



Bachelor of Business from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. In the first government of President Sebastián Piñera (2010 – 2014), she was Minister Director of the National Service for Women and Minister of Education.

In August 2018, she assumed as Minister of the Environment of the Second Government of President Sebastián Piñera with a clear stamp: the only way to achieve sustainable development is by considering the care and respect for the environment. Her message is crosscutting: climate action and economic development do not run on parallel lanes; on the contrary, the Minister states that the only way to achieve true sustainable development is the care of the environment; to achieve this, adaptation and mitigation to climate change are key.

When she took office as Minister, she had to live through one of the greatest environmental crises in the country, the crisis that affected the communes of Quintero and Puchuncaví. It was her priority to make of the process of elaboration of the Plan of Prevention and Atmospheric Decontamination for the communes of Concón, Quintero and Puchuncaví, a broad participatory process. The presentation of this Plan was made in December 2018, which contemplates the control and reduction of emissions to companies in the area, with a permanent oversight of the Superintendence of the Environment, the redesign of the monitoring network and the management of critical episodes throughout the year, among other measures.

One of her priorities is the incorporation of a gender perspective in public policies on environmental matters. In this context, she has promoted this initiative at the regional level, at the last Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and globally, at COP24 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

She considers of great relevance the multilateral instances to solve global environmental problems; this is how in Poland, at the COP24, in an unprecedented way for a national secretary of state, Minister Schmidt took over as leader of the global carbon market negotiations. Her commitment is such that she presented Chile as the host country of the COP25, "*This represents a huge challenge, which we assume as a historical milestone that will allow us to continue advancing as a country in sustainable development and in our commitment to the environment*".

Within the priorities of her administration, she works intensely in the elaboration of the Framework Law on Climate Change; the implementation of the Waste Management, Extended Responsibility of the Producer and Promotion of Recycling Law; the modernization of the Environmental Assessment System of Projects and the approval of the Project of Law that creates the Service of Biodiversity and Protected Areas; and of the Project of Law on Environmental Crimes that seeks to prevent serious damages to the natural patrimony.

She hopes, through her convener seal, to ensure that these state issues achieve progress independent of the administration in turn, in order to promote climate action as a pillar within State policy.