



Graduated with honors from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), married and mother of a son and a daughter, in her more than 30 years of career, Professor Dr. Celeste Saulo combined her calling for science and teaching with university management and the connection of scientific research with the needs of the society. Her leadership is empathetic and motivating, she works tenaciously, with a great public service vocation, and she is passionate about meteorology and addressing the global challenges associated with climate change. She is the first woman to become the director of the National Meteorological Service of Argentina (SMN) and 1st Vice-President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Argentine Candidate to
Secretary-General of
World Meteorological Organization

Celeste Saulo

A black and white portrait of Celeste Saulo, a woman with shoulder-length blonde hair, smiling slightly. She is wearing a dark top and a light-colored striped jacket. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene. On the left side of the image, there are three blue diagonal stripes.

Celeste Saulo

As director of the SMN, she sought to modernize all the substantive processes of the institution, working collaboratively and inclusively, with a strong inter-institutional focus. Today, the Argentinean SMN is the regional leader in the field of numerical forecasting and in the provision of climate services. During her administration, she has strengthened the area of innovation in forecasting and services, which has allowed the development of multiple tools applied to the generation of forecasts at all scales. The creation of an innovative area for the articulation with society - conformed by social science professionals - allowed the SMN to reach decision-makers more effectively and to co-design with them a new early warning system. Her tireless work to improve working conditions, promoting a culture where people are valued, respecting differences and with a gender perspective, make the SMN a highly esteemed place by its more than 1,000 employees. During her administration, an organizational structure was consolidated which enhanced leadership roles and new vacancies were opened in order to incorporate personnel with the highest academic qualifications. To meet the growing demand for the provision of services, she managed strategic projects that were eligible for external funding. Part of the substantive progress made by the SMN in the last eight years has been achieved with resources provided by other ministries, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Union and, more recently, the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Her sense of duty towards the global community started with the collaboration in WMO scientific programs more than 15 years ago. She also promoted the participation of Argentinean experts in different international groups and strengthened the Regional Training Centre, which today provides more effective assistance to all Hispanic countries. In particular, she has promoted the collaboration among junior researchers, creating and maintaining, at the SMN, the administrative office of Young Earth System Scientists, which provides support to this vibrant community of new generations of scientists. These actions gave her a leadership with international projection that led her to chair the Research Board simultaneously with the 1st Vice-Presidency of the WMO.

The results achieved at the head of the SMN would not have been possible without her background in academic management and her active participation in the university co-government, where she acquired tools for leadership, conflict management and consensus building. She was elected by peers and students to serve as Director of the Department of Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences of the UBA for two consecutive terms. From there, she generated a scholarship program for the training of meteorologists, which has been successful for 12 uninterrupted years.

In every leadership position, she has had the great satisfaction of receiving the recognition of her colleagues, which has been manifested through the request for her continuity at the head of these offices or with proposals to assume new roles of high responsibility. Therefore, she feels deeply honored that Argentina is proposing her candidacy to the WMO General Secretariat.

Academic background and professional career

Prof. Celeste Saulo obtained her Bachelor's degree in Meteorological Sciences from the UBA in 1987. Later on, in 1996, she obtained her Ph.D. from the UBA in the area of Atmospheric Sciences. In 1988, she began her teaching career at the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences of the UBA, where she first served as Assistant Professor and then obtained, by competitive examination, the positions, with academic tenure, of Full-time Professor in 2006 and Associated Full-time Professor in 2017. Since 2002, she began her career as researcher of the National Council for Science and Technology (CONICET) as member of the Research Center for the Sea and the Atmosphere (CIMA). She has held visiting scientist positions at the University of Utah, USA, at the Climate Diagnostic Center from NOAA, USA, at the Weather and Climate Research Center (CPTEC), Brazil, at the Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil and at the Laboratory of Dynamic Meteorology of the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, France.

2014 to present: Director of the Argentinean National Meteorological Service.
2019 to present: 1st Vice-president of the WMO.
2014 to present: Permanent Representative for Argentina with the WMO.
2015 to present: Member of the WMO Executive Council (RA III).
2006 to present: Full-time Associated Professor with tenure at UBA (on leave).