

Catarina de Albuquerque

Doctor of Laws

Catarina de Albuquerque is a world-renowned international human rights lawyer and advocate. She earned her law degree from the University of Lisbon and completed the master's program in international relations-international law branch at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

Throughout her career, Albuquerque has focused her efforts behind issues surrounding health and human rights worldwide. From 2004 to 2008 she presided over United Nations negotiations in regards to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, resulting in an agreement allowing individuals to present complaints before the U.N. against their own governments for alleged violations of socio-economic rights.

Albuquerque also served as the first U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, holding the position until 2014. She currently serves as the vice chair of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), a global partnership of more than 90 developing countries' governments, donors, civil society organizations and others working toward universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

She has presented several times at the UNC Gillings School of Public Health, has participated in Carolina's Water and Health conferences in 2010, 2011 and 2012. In 2013, she delivered UNC-Chapel Hill's Health and Human Rights Lecture. Albuquerque has received many international and Portuguese national awards, including the Jean Pictet Prize in International Humanitarian Law, the Portuguese Parliament's Human Rights Golden Medal, and the President of Portugal's Condecoration with the Order of Merit.