

Walter Cotte Witingan
Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG)
for COVID19 and Head of Delegation, Permanent Observer of the IFRC to the United Nations in New York
May 2021 – up to date

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Education:

- Diploma Specialization Best Program Design and Peace Practices
- Diploma in Disaster Management and Risk Management
- Professional Level Degree in Health Administration
- University Degree in Technology for Development and Social Management
- Professional Technology Degree in Health, Safety and Fire Engineering
- Other studies on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and extensive training as a member of the Red Cross
- Master in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Help



Institutional and Work Experience:

Commenced work with the Colombian Red Cross in 1970 as a volunteer of the Red Cross School Brigades in Colombia, and since then has served in a range of positions with the Colombian Red Cross including: Services Coordinator and Field Services Instructor, Head of Search and Rescue Team, Member of the Regional Board of Directors, Operations and Relief National Director and from 2009-2013 as Executive Officer (CEO).

Member of the Colombia Calamity Board and of the National Board of Firemen.

Consultant to the United Nations to (UNDRO), INSARAG/USAR and UNDAC.

In 2003 served as IFRC Disaster Manager in Asia-Pacific.

In 2013, appointed IFRC Under Secretary General for the Program Services Division in Geneva. Over the last two and a half years, responsible for managing humanitarian response and risk reduction at a global level as well as leading projects and programs in health, logistics, security, as well as cross-cutting programs, including migration, and nuclear preparedness.

In July 2015, appointed as the IFRC Americas Regional Director.



In the month of October 2020 was designated in Geneva Suiza, as Special Representative of the Secretary General for (SRSG) for COVID-19. As an additional duty, in February 2021, appointed as the Head of Delegation, Permanent Observer of the IFRC to the United Nations in New York.

Has held responsibility and leadership positions in support of the Disaster Management Policy, with special attention to the review of the Principles and Standards for Humanitarian Assistance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, strengthening of the Movement coordination and the Resilient Community Coalition, in conjunction with National Societies.

Over the past 10 years has been deeply involved in the formulation of policies, processes, programs and national and international projects for Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change, Water and Sanitation, Livelihoods and Settlements, Shelter and Income Generation, and has led more than 50 international missions as an expert in global disaster management.