

Biography

HÉLIO COSTA, Minister of State for Communications, Brazil

Hélio Costa was born in Barbacena, Minas Gerais, in August, 1939. At a very young age, he started to work as a broadcaster and later in newspapers and television. He has graduated in Journalism and worked also in the fields of Marketing and Translation.

In Washington, DC, he worked for “The Voice of America” as a news writer and translator, attended Maryland University “Arts & Sciences” graduation program and a course of “International Correspondent” at Washington University.

Hélio Costa started the operation of Rede Globo Network of Brazil in the USA. As a result of his leadership Rede Globo has become the biggest foreign TV Broadcaster in the USA. He also helped to create the same structure in London and Paris. As an international reporter Hélio Costa has visited 73 countries and as a war correspondent covered several international conflicts.

In 1986 and 1998, Hélio Costa was elected for the House of Representatives for the state of Minas Gerais. In 2001, he was elected Chairman of the Foreign Relations and National Defense Committee.

With more than 3.5 million votes Hélio Costa took over a seat in the Senate for Minas Gerais, where he was Whip of his political party (PMDB) and government’s party and Chairman of the Education and Communications Committee (2005).

From 2001 to 2005 Senator Hélio Costa was considered as one of the most influential members of the Parliament.

On the 8th of July, 2005, President Lula invited him to assume the Ministry of Communications. Under Costa’s administration, Brazil decided for the adoption of the TV Digital standard, re-built and reinforced the public policies for telecommunications, broadcasting, digital inclusion programs and postal services.

Among other objectives, Costa has created programs towards the installation of fixed and wireless broadband access over the country, including targets to incumbents and mobile operators. Until 2010, all the Brazilian municipalities will have a backhaul facility, at least one complete public tele-center and more than 55 thousand urban public schools will be freely connected to the Internet till 2025.