

Sergio Bitar is a Chilean politician and engineer. Bitar is a member and non-resident senior fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue, where Bitar directs the Global Trends & Future Scenarios Project; vice president of the Board of Advisers of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) in Stockholm; president of the Consejo Chileno de Prospectiva y Estrategia in Chile, and president of the Corporación Museo del Salitre, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Northern Chile.

Bitar has also received numerous awards, including the national honor of "Engineer of the Year" by the Chilean College of Engineers Guild Association in 2016, the gold medal of the Institute of Engineers in 2017, and the O'Donnell Democracy Leadership Award in 2017.

He served as Minister of Mining under President Salvador Allende in 1973. After the military coup in 9/11/1973 he was detained, imprisoned in Dawson Island's concentration camp, and then forced into exile, until 1984. He lived in the United States and Venezuela.

He was a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard Institute for International Development from 1974 to 1976, a Visiting Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution's Latin American Program from 1982 to 1983.

After his return to Chile, he was elected president of the Party for Democracy in three occasions (1992-1994, 1997-2000, and 2006-2008) and elected Senator, from 1994 to 2002. He served as Minister of Education under President Ricardo Lagos and Minister of Public Works under President Michelle Bachelet.

He has been a member of the University of Chile Higher Council (2014-18), and member of the board of the Universidad Católica de Temuco, Universidad Mayor y Universidad de Santiago.

He has published extensively on topics related to democracy, global trends, and strategic foresight. Among his recent books:

- El Futuro del Trabajo en America Latina ¿Cómo impactará la digitalización y qué hacer? Inter-American Dialogue, Washington, 2019.
- Tras la Huella de un Inmigrante Sirio en Chile. La Vida de Nazmi Bitar, Equipo Gráfico Impresores, Santiago, 2019.
- Democratic Transitions: Conversations with Political Leaders, with Abraham Lowenthal, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015; also published in Spanish, French, Dutch, Arabic and Burmese, 2016; Russian (2018), Portuguese, Vietnamese (2019).
- How and Why Latin America must think about the Future, Inter-American Dialogue, 2016.
- Tendencias Globales y el Futuro de America Latina, CEPAL, 2016.
- El Gobierno de Allende, Pehuén, 4rd edition, 2017.
- Chile, Bolivia, Peru. Un Futuro Común, Aguilar, 2011.
- Prisoner of Pinochet, University of Wisconsin University Press, 2018.
- Dawson Isla 10, 14 edition, Pehuén, 2018; Italian edition, Teti Editore, 2015; French edition, Tiresias, 2017.
- Chile Mas Allá del Bicentenario, Planeta, 2009.

Bitar holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Chile. He studied Economics at the Centre d'Études des Programmes Economiques (Diplome, France), and holds a Master degree in Public Administration MPA (Harvard University).