Rafael Pardo Rueda was born in Bogotá in 1953. Pardo is an economist who graduated from Universidad de los Andes (Colombia). He attended studies on Urban and Regional Planning at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague (Netherlands) and International Relations at Harvard University (United States).

He began his career as a researcher and director of the Universidad de los Andes Interdisciplinary Center for Development Studies.

In 1986, he became a part of President Virgilio Barco's administration as Director of the National Rehabilitation Plan (PNR, for the Spanish original). This program sought to bring the state's presence to the municipalities most affected by violence. In 1988, he was appointed as the Presidential Advisor for Peace, leading the negotiation, disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion processes for rebel groups, such as the 19th of April Movement (M-19, for the Spanish original), Quintín Lame, Workers Revolutionary Party (PRT, for the Spanish original) and the Popular Liberation Army (EPL, for the Spanish original). These peace negotiations were the only successful negotiations in the 20th century in Colombia.

In 1990, Pardo was appointed as National Security Advisor and, one year later, President César Gaviria appointed him as the first civilian Minister of Defense. Pardo formed the *Bloque de Búsqueda* (Search Bloc), which removed mafia leaders, such as Pablo Escobar.

He was advisor to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Pardo was Director of Noticias de R.C.N. and the news program CM&.

In 2002, he was elected Senator of the Republic.

He was also Director of the Colombian Liberal Party, presidential candidate, Minister of Labor and Interim Mayor of Bogotá.

From November 2015 to August 2018, Pardo was Senior Presidential Advisor for the Post-conflict Era, in charge of preparing and implementing the Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, for the Spanish original).

Participation on boards of directors:

ECOPETROL 1988-1991

Caja Agraria 1988-1991

Hospital Militar Central de Colombia 1991 -1994

SENA 2011-2014

UGPP 2011 -2014

EMCALI 2014-2015

As Interim Mayor, 2013, Pardo presides the Assemblies of Empresa de Energía de Bogotá and Empresa de Teléfonos de Bogotá

Banco Agrario de Colombia 2018-2019

COLPENSIONES 2018-2019

Organización Pajonales S.A.S. 2019 to date