



## Professor Bishnodat Persaud

Professor Bishnodat Persaud spent nineteen years in the service of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the last eleven of which (1981-1992) he was Director and Head of the Economic Affairs Division. While at the Secretariat, he served as chief economic adviser to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in a number of high-level international commissions, including the Brandt and South Commissions. In his capacity as Director, he served as Secretary to many Commonwealth Expert groups and the annual Finance Ministers' Meetings and as co-Secretary to the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings.

On leaving the Commonwealth Secretariat in 1992, he took up the position of Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of the West Indies (UWI). He was the founding Director of the University's Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED). On leaving the University in 1996, he was made an Honorary Professor of the University in recognition of his services to UWICED.

In 1997, Professor Persaud served for six months as Chief Technical Coordinator of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM). He is now a Senior Associate of the CRNM.

For six years (1994-2000), he was a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Committee on Development Policy (CDP). During this time he was a member of the sub-committee, which advised on the classification of states as Least Developed. In 1993 he was a member of the Canadian International Development Agency review group on the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. In 1994, the Inter-American Development Bank appointed him joint leader of a team to report on socio-economic problems of Guyana. In 2000, he co-chaired a UN Expert Group on the Vulnerability of Small States.

Professor Persaud has held a number of non-executive Directorships. Some of the Boards are: Commonwealth Equity Fund, Central Bank of Barbados, Iwokrama International Rainforest Programme, UK Federated Superannuation System for Universities, World Aware, Caribbean Mariculture Ltd, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust.

He has published a large number of papers in academic journals and in books on economic issues. He is co-editor of two books: *Developing with Foreign Investment* (1987) and *Economic Policy and the Environment* (1995). He is a regular reviewer of books on economics for the UK ODI's *Development Policy Review*.

He has undertaken many consultancy assignments for Governments and international organisations including the World Bank, IDB, CARICOM, CIDA, UNDP, UN and the Commonwealth Secretariat—and led some of these missions. He has presented papers at a number of major international conferences.

Professor Persaud sat on many Governmental and Inter-Governmental Commissions of Enquiry, including the UK/St Kitts-Nevis Commission on the Anguilla Crisis, the Presidential Commission on the University of Guyana, the Commonwealth Commission on Commonwealth Studies, the Belize Sugar Commission of Enquiry and the UK Government Commission on Wickham's Caye and Anegada in the Br. Virgin islands. He was Chairman of two of these Commissions. In 1998 he was a member of the Advisory Panel to UNDP on that year's Human Development Report.

Professor Persaud holds a Ph.D from the University of Reading, UK. He was born in Guyana and is a citizen of Barbados and Guyana.