

## H.E. DR. PAULETTE A. BETHEL

Her Excellency Dr. Paulette A. Bethel is a global citizen with a wide range of experience as a diplomat and negotiator, having worked extensively with Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at both the national and international levels. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the prestigious University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1980 and obtained her M.A. and B.A. from Howard University and the University of Toronto, respectively. Ambassador Bethel also holds a Certificate in Creative Processes Facilitation.

In 1976, Dr. Bethel lectured in Sociology for the Social Sciences Department at the College of The Bahamas (COB). She was subsequently appointed Chairperson of that Department in 1977 in which capacity she served for one year.

Ambassador Bethel began her career in international affairs in 1980 when she was employed by the United Nations as Assistant Social Affairs Officer in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) in Vienna, Austria. In 1983, after joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she was accredited as Deputy Chief of Mission/Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations. She was subsequently posted to Washington D.C, in 1988, as Deputy Chief of Mission/Minister Counsellor with dual accreditation to the White House and to the Organization of American States (OAS). During this period of time, Dr. Bethel participated in a wide variety of international meetings, serving as Head of Delegation for a number of them, and she was also active on various international Commissions and Committees, including the Consultative Committee of UNIFEM which she chaired in 1994.

After many years in the Foreign Service of her country, Dr. Bethel continued her work in the international arena and took on the post of Director of the Department of Fellowships, in 1994, at the Organization of American States. In this position, she was responsible for overseeing all the administrative and management aspects of the disbursement of funds for a multi-million dollar inter-governmental fellowship and training programme, as well as for the administration of a multi-million dollar private fellowship endowment fund for the nationals of OAS Member States. Dr. Bethel was the first Bahamian to hold a high-level position in the OAS.

Upon relocating to The Bahamas in 1997, Dr. Bethel was employed in the private sector where she first served as Vice-President of Administration and Client Relations for Montaque Securities International, a leading Bahamian international financial and corporate services firm. Beginning in 2000, Dr. Bethel oversaw the Risk Management and Compliance operations for another international financial and corporate services firm, Cardinal International Corporation, where she was responsible for policies and procedures addressing risk management and compliance issues.

In January, 2003, Dr. Bethel was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations. Ambassador Bethel presented her credentials to Secretary General Kofi Annan on March 4, 2003. She is the first female Ambassador of The Bahamas to the United Nations.

Dr. Bethel has one daughter, Avery Bethel.

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