

## **H.E. Dr. Paulette A. Bethel**

Her Excellency Dr. Paulette A. Bethel is a global citizen with a wide range of experience as an educator, diplomat and negotiator. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the 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 of The Bahamas, she was posted to the Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations in New York as Deputy Chief of Mission/Minister Counsellor and subsequently posted to the Embassy in Washington D.C, in 1988.

After many years in the Foreign Service of her country, Dr. Bethel continued her work in the international arena, taking on the post of Director of the Department of Fellowships, in 1994, at the Organization of American States (OAS), becoming the first Bahamian national to hold a senior-level position in that Organization.

Upon relocating to The Bahamas in 1997, Dr. Bethel was employed in the private sector in the area of international financial and corporate services dealing with risk management and compliance issues.

In 2003, Dr. Bethel was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations and presented her credentials to then 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.