

# International Seabed Authority

## Press Release

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Kingston, Jamaica  
24 May – 4 June 2004



## Biographical Note

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### SATYA N. NANDAN

Ambassador Satya N. Nandan, C.F, C.B.E., of Fiji, who is seeking a third term as Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, was elected as the first Secretary-General of the inter-governmental body in March 1996 and re-elected in March 2000.

He served as Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Fiji. He was a representative of his country at the United Nations in New York (1970-1976) and 1993-1995) and was Fiji's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (1976-1980).

Ambassador Nandan served as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea from 1983-1992. He headed the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and was responsible for the secretariat servicing the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the sea.

He was Chairman of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (1993-95) and President of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at its first, second and third sessions. He also served as Chairman of the Multilateral High Level Conference, which negotiated the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (1997-2000).

In 1990, as Under Secretary-Secretary-General and Special Representative for the Law of the Sea, Ambassador Nandan initiated the Secretary-general's informal consultations to address the problems of Part XI of the Convention and subsequently, as delegate of Fiji, was Chairman of the informal group ("the Boat Paper Group") that negotiated the Implementation Agreement adopted by the General Assembly on 28 July

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1994, which resolved those problems and opened the door to universal participation in the Convention.

Ambassador Nandan headed the Fiji delegation to the Seabed Committee (1970-1973) and to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1973-1982). He was among the conference leaders and participated in the negotiations on a number of key issues. As Rapporteur of the Second Committee of the Conference (the traditional law of the sea), he composed the single negotiating text for the Chairman, which became the basic text of the Committee. In 1975, he served as Chairman of the Working Groups on the Exclusive Economic Zone, Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries and the High Seas.

He also co-chaired a private informal (Fiji/UK) group which negotiated the compromise on the critical issue of passage through straits used for international navigation and the regime for archipelagic sea-lanes passage. In 1977, he was appointed chairman of Negotiating Group 4 of the Conference which dealt with the participation of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged States in the exploitation of the living resources of the neighbouring exclusive economic zones. He also chaired an informal group on production policy relating to deep seabed mining.

Ambassador Nandan has participated in numerous international conferences and seminars and has lectured and written extensively on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations and related matters. He is General Editor of the Law of the Sea Commentary series, six volumes, published by the University of Virginia Center for Ocean Law and Policy and Volume Editor for Volumes II, III and VI.

He holds an LL.B degree with honours from the University of London, and honorary doctorates from Newfoundland and the University of the South Pacific. He is a Barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn, England and Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Fiji.

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