

International Seabed Authority

Press Release

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Biographical Note

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DENNIS FRANCIS (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) PRESIDENT OF SEABED ASSEMBLY FOR 2004

Ambassador Dennis Francis, who was elected President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority on Monday 24 May 2004, has been a career diplomat in the service of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for 24 years. Over that time, he served in several divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Division of Science, Technology and International Trade, the Legal Division, the Division of International Economic Relations and the Administration Division, among others.

In 1988, he was posted to the Trinidad and Tobago Consulate-General in Toronto, Canada, as Deputy Consul General in which position his multi-dimensional duties included those of Trade Commissioner. There he acted as Consul General on successive occasions.

In 1996, he returned to Port of Spain and was immediately made Deputy Director of the Division of International Economic Relations. In that capacity, he served as Secretary of the Cabinet-appointed National Negotiating Team on International Economic and Trade Agreements. He also headed several Trinidad and Tobago delegations to meetings and conferences dealing with trade and economic development issues, including the Working Group on Smaller Economies of the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA), the CARICOM Working Group on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Special Committee on Trade Development and External Economic Relations of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

In 1997, Ambassador Francis was invited to assume the Directorship of the newly established Division of European Affairs within the Foreign Ministry. In that role, he formed part of several Trinidad and Tobago delegations to summits and other conferences culminating in the signing of the Cotonou Agreement – a new Development Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union in the year 2000.

He was appointed High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica in 1999 and took up his appointment in March, 2000. Ambassador Francis is also Ambassador-Designate of Trinidad to Tobago to the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti. On 28 June, 2000, he presented his Credentials as the first Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the International Seabed Authority. In 2003 he served as Vice President of the Council of the Seabed Authority and as Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, (GRULAC).

Ambassador Francis currently serves on the Board of the Diplomatic Corps of Jamaica as Vice-Dean.
