

Narinder Kakar
Professor Emeritus
University for Peace

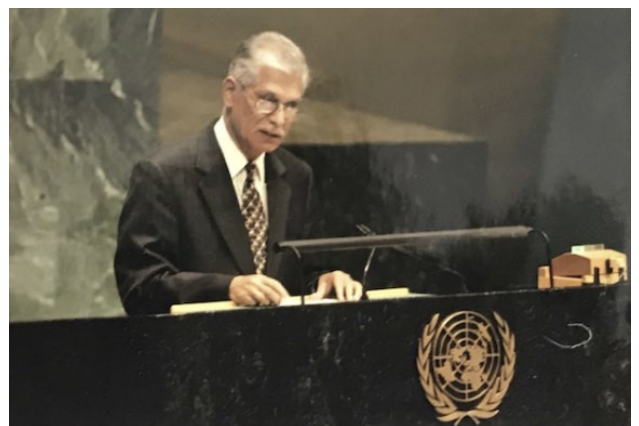
Narinder Kakar has devoted over 50 years of his professional career to programmes related to development activities - more specifically to sustainable development and climate change and to education for peace-building. He has had extensive experience working for the United Nations, having started his career with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 1968 in Yemen. During his long and distinguished career with UNDP, he served in countries like Yemen, Guyana, Turkey, China and the Maldives in addition to serving in senior positions at UNDP headquarters.

Until recently, Prof. Kakar served as the Permanent Observer to the United Nations for the University for Peace (an institution established pursuant to a UN General Assembly decision), which he joined in 2001 following his retirement from UNDP. He also served as the Permanent Observer to the United Nations from July 2007 - October 2015 for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's oldest and largest environmental network, dedicated to the cause of natural resources conservation.

While in the Maldives in the mid-1990s, Prof. Kakar was instrumental in co-sponsoring with the Government of Maldives the meeting of the IPCC in 1997, preparatory to the UNFCCC COP meeting in Kyoto, Japan, which resulted in the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.



With former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



Speaking in UN General Assembly on climate change

Representing IUCN at the United Nations, Prof. Kakar performed admirably, advocating the cause of environmental conservation and sustainable development. He had a prominent role in discussions related to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recognizing his commitment to conservation causes, the American Museum of Natural History featured him prominently in the renovated Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall with an interview on the timeline of the conservation movement started by the 26th President of the United States. Former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton are the two prominent leaders appearing on the same timeline.

Prof. Kakar has served on a number of boards, inter alia, as Chairperson of the UN Joint Appeals Board; Chairperson of the UN Federal Credit Union; as member of the UN Joint Staff Pension Board; and as a member of the Board of Directors of the International School of Beijing. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Elisabeth Haub Foundation, dedicated to promoting the cause of environmental conservation, and is a member of the Jury for the Elisabeth Haub Award for Environmental Law and Diplomacy.

Prof. Kakar is also Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, where he helped develop the course on UN Environmental Diplomacy and Sustainable Development which he taught until about three/four years ago when he undertook the research project for the formulation of the book viz. **FULFILLING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - On a *Quest* for a Sustainable World**, for which he served as the lead co-editor. The book was published recently by the British Publishing house Taylor and Francis Routledge group. Apart from directing this book project, Prof. Kakar published several articles and papers on socio-economic matters and curriculum and training manuals on different aspects of peace education.

In recognition of his distinguished academic service, the University for Peace conferred upon him the title of Professor Emeritus.

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