

Jayantha DHANAPALA

Jayantha Dhanapala is a former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs (1998-2003) and a former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the USA (1995-1997) and to the UN Office in Geneva (1984-1987).

He is currently Chairman of the UN University Council and President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs; a member of the Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and several other advisory boards of international bodies.

Dhanapala has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka and a Master of Arts in International Studies from the American University in Washington D.C., U.S.A. He also studied Chinese at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London and worked as a Diplomat-in-Residence at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California, U.S.A.

As a Sri Lankan diplomat Dhanapala served in London, Beijing, Washington D.C., New Delhi and Geneva and represented Sri Lanka at many international conferences chairing many of them including the historic NPT Review and Extension Conference of 1995. He was Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) from 1987-92.

Dhanapala has received many Sri Lankan and international awards and honorary doctorates, has published four books and several articles in international journals and lectured widely. He speaks Sinhala, English, Chinese and French. He is married and has a daughter and a son.