



Dennis McNamara, Humanitarian Adviser

Since July 2007, Dennis McNamara has been Humanitarian Adviser at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva.

Previously, he was Special Adviser to the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Director of the Inter-Agency Division on Displacement in OCHA from 2004. Prior to this he was Inspector General of UNHCR for two years and from June to August 2003 he also acted as UNHCR's Special Envoy to Iraq.

Mr. McNamara was Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (and Deputy Transitional Administrator) in East Timor in 2001/2 and before that he was UN Special Coordinator in OCHA on Internal Displacement.

In June 1999, he was appointed UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Kosovo, heading UNMIK's Humanitarian Component. Mr. McNamara also served as UNHCR's Special Envoy to the former Yugoslavia from April 1999 until July 2000. Previously, he had served as Director of the Human Rights Component of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in 1992-1993.

In UNHCR, he was Director of the agency's Department of International Protection from 1994 to 1999. His years of service with UNHCR also included several assignments in Asia: as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Assistance for Kampuchea, in Bangkok (1990-1992); as Regional Legal Adviser in Hong Kong (1981-1982); and as Deputy Regional Representative in Malaysia (1979-1981).

Among other assignments, Mr. McNamara served as Deputy Director of the Division of Refugee Law and Doctrine (1987-1990); as Chief of UNHCR's South and South-East Asia Section (1982-1986); and as the agency's Assistant Representative in New York and London (1977-1979). From 1986 to 1987, he was visiting fellow at the Centre for International Studies at the London School of Economics.

The author of a number of articles on humanitarian and peacekeeping issues, Mr. McNamara holds an honours degree in law from the University of Auckland.

