

Ambassador Colin Granderson

In December 2000, the United Nations Secretary-General turned to a Caribbean diplomat to lead one of the most sensitive human rights investigations of the era: the International Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations in Ivory Coast. It was one appointment among dozens across a career that has placed the Trinidad and Tobago-born Ambassador, Colin Terrence Granderson at the centre of the Caribbean's engagement with the world for nearly five decades.

A graduate of universities in France, Ghana and The UWI, St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago, Granderson's path to diplomacy began in the classroom, teaching French literature and English in Bouaké, Ivory Coast, before joining Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of External Affairs in 1977. He rose steadily through the country's foreign service, serving as First Secretary in London, Counsellor at the United Nations (UN) in New York, during Trinidad and Tobago's 1985 to 1986 term on the Security Council, and eventually Ambassador-at-Large in 1993.

The years 1993 to 2000, marked another defining chapter for Ambassador Granderson when he served as Executive Director of the OAS/UN International Civilian Mission in Haiti. There he led a human rights observation mission of up to 250 international observers and 100 local staff, one of the largest such operations the hemisphere had seen. He went on to head election observation missions across Haiti, Suriname, and Guyana, and served on the UN's Brahimi Panel reviewing the future of global peace operations.

For almost twenty years, from 2002 to 2022, Ambassador Granderson served as Assistant Secretary-General for Foreign and Community Relations at the CARICOM Secretariat, shaping the region's collective voice on the world stage. Today, he remains active as Special Adviser on Haiti to the CARICOM Secretary-General and Political Adviser to the CARICOM Eminent Persons Group on Haiti.

For his contributions to global diplomacy and ensuring that the Caribbean is represented in important multilateral engagements, Ambassador Granderson has been honoured with Trinidad and Tobago's Chaconia Medal Silver and Chile's Order of Bernardo O'Higgins.