

***Michael Zammit Cutajar***  
***Ambassador for Climate Change, Malta***

***Biographical note***

A citizen of Malta, born in 1940, Michael Zammit Cutajar devoted most of his career to work in and around the United Nations on international cooperation for development and environment. Between 1967 and 1990, based in Geneva, Switzerland, he worked on the staffs of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme. In 1991, he was assigned to set up the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and headed it until his retirement early in 2002, holding the rank of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. He led the move of that secretariat from Geneva to Bonn, Germany, in 1996.

Since retiring from the service of the United Nations, Mr. Zammit Cutajar has continued to participate in the international dialogue among governments - and between them and the business community - on climate change and the “carbon market”. As Chairperson of its independent advisory group, he helped launch the World Bank’s Community Development Carbon Fund, which promotes investment in emission-saving development projects in poor communities in developing countries (2003-2007). He is currently a member of the High-Level Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change convened by the President of the European Commission.

Mr. Zammit Cutajar advises the Government of Malta pro bono on international environmental issues, representing it as ambassador in international negotiations on climate change. In this capacity, he chaired the Ad Hoc Working Group on further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (2006). He is now part of the leadership team for the negotiation of a new multilateral accord on climate change; this negotiation was mandated in December 2007 under the “Bali Action Plan” and should be completed in 2009. It will be conducted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC, of which Mr. Zammit Cutajar has been elected as Vice-Chair for 2008 on the understanding that he will be the Chair in 2009.

In the 2007 Republic Day honours list, Mr. Zammit Cutajar was appointed Member of the National Order of Merit of Malta.

In his early and middle career, Mr. Zammit Cutajar worked with non-governmental organizations: Overseas Development Institute, London, UK (1965-67) and International Foundation for Development Alternatives, Nyon, Switzerland (1978-81). His first job was with the Uganda Development Corporation in Kampala (1963-65). He was schooled in Malta at St. Edward’s College and obtained a degree in economics from the University of London (1962).

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