

## **H.E. Mr Bassam Said FREIHA**

Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, and  
Permanent Delegate to UNESCO (since 24 January 1992).

- **Short biography:**

Born in Lebanon in 1939, Ambassador Freiha is a national of Belize. In 1960, he graduated from the American University of Beirut with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Sciences. Several years later, he became Managing Director of Dar Assayad Sal & International, a Lebanese company founded by his father. It is one of the largest and most successful publishing groups in the Middle East and has offices in Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jeddah, Kuwait, London, Paris, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Dubai.

In the course of his diplomatic career, Ambassador Freiha has been closely associated with efforts to bring peace to Lebanon and to the Middle East; in 1978, he was appointed by the Lebanese President as Special Envoy with full cabinet status to keep regular contacts with top officials in the Arab world in general and in the countries of the Gulf in particular.

He is the holder of many honors and awards, including recognitions from the governments of Morocco, Lebanon, Zaire, Jordan, Spain, Malta, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and France.