

Dr. Sergio CAMACHO-LARA, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

The Secretary General of the United Nations has appointed Dr. Sergio Camacho-Lara (Mexico) as Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, effective 1 December 2002.

Dr. Camacho obtained his degree in physics from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in 1973. He carried out his graduate studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, from which he obtained a Master of Science degree in Aerospace Science in 1975 and his Ph. D. degree in Aerospace Science in 1978.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Dr. Camacho was a Researcher at the Instituto de Geofísica, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México from 1978 to 1983 where he carried out fundamental research on the interaction of electromagnetic radiation with matter to develop radiation transfer models. His other duties included being a professor at the Facultad de Ciencias, UNAM and establishing a remote sensing laboratory at the Instituto de Geofísica.

Dr. Camacho joined the, at the time, Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations in New York in November 1983. The Division later became the Office for Outer Space Affairs. From 1983 to 1993, he worked in the Space Applications Section of the Office. His duties included the planning and organization of workshops, meetings of experts and training courses in applications of remote sensing, satellite meteorology and satellite communications.

Beginning in October of 1993, when the Office relocated to Vienna, and until October 1999, Dr. Camacho was Chief of the Committee Services and Research Section. During this period he was Secretary for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities.

In October 1999, he was appointed Chief, Space Applications Section and United Nations Expert on Space Applications. In this capacity he was responsible for implementing the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

From July to December 2002 he was Officer-in-Charge of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Dr. Camacho is married and has a son and a daughter.