



AKBAR KHAN

Akbar Khan is the Director of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division and the Commonwealth Secretary-General's principal legal adviser. He is responsible for managing the Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat that promotes the rule of law in support of the Commonwealth's mandate to enhance democracy, good governance and development in member countries. He is a British Diplomat and a member of the Legal Adviser's Division of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK. During his term at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr Khan will be on a special leave of absence. Prior to joining the Commonwealth Secretariat, he served in substantive positions overseas as Head of the International Law Section, British Embassy, The Hague, (The Netherlands) and in various legal capacities in the United Nations Organisation based in Geneva and the Palestinian Territories. Experienced in conducting multilateral negotiations and discussions before several foras, he is a qualified Barrister-at-Law called to the English Bar by Middle Temple, London and also admitted at the New York Bar as an Attorney-at law. Mr Khan completed his professional training at the London Chambers of Sir Godfrey Le Quesne QC, and subsequently joined the United Nations Organisation followed by the British Diplomatic Service. He studied at the Universities of Cambridge, Reading and at the Rene Cassin International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg and specialised at post-graduate level in Public International law and International Human Rights law. He is a Colombos Public International Law Prize Winner of Middle Temple Inn of Court and in 2011 was awarded the highest status of 'Fellow' by the Sierra Leone Institute of International Law in recognition of his significant contribution to the progressive development of international law. He is also a former ad hoc member of the Bar Council International Relations Committee of England and Wales and an accredited advocacy trainer. He is married with one son.