

## **Rafael RIVAS POSADA (Colombia)**

**Place and date of birth:** Santafé de Bogotá, 5 April 1932

**Marital status:** Married, two children

**Foreign languages:** English, French

### **University studies:**

Universidad Nacional, Faculty of Law, Santafé de Bogotá, 1950-1954

"Doctorado" in Law and Political Science, 1956, Final dissertation: "General Theory on Legal Transactions", for which he was awarded the Medalla del Mérito Universitario José Félix de Restrepo, 1957

### **Postgraduate studies:**

Université de Paris, Department of Law, Paris , 1956-1958, Civil Law courses (within the Ph.D. curriculum) Scholarship of the French Government

Université de Paris, Institut de droit comparé, Paris, 1956-1958

Institute for Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands, 1961-1963, Masters Degree in Public Administration. Final dissertation: "Regional development corporations: a method for administration"

Princeton University, United States of America, 1965-1968, Ph.D. studies in Political Science. Ph.D. candidate; final dissertation: "The Colombian political party system: models of political competition"; Ford Foundation scholarship

### **Professional background:**

Municipal Judge at Utica (Cundinamarca), 1955-1956

Minister of Public Finance, Bogotá, 1958

Attorney of the Province of Cundinamarca, 1958-1960

Private practice as lawyer - Bogota , 1971-1975

National Coordinator of the UNDP/UNESCO Programme, Bogotá, 1975

Minister of National Education, 1977-1978

General Manager of Empresa Colombiana de Producción y Distribución de Bienes Culturales, Procultura S.A., Bogotá, 1981-1982

Member of the Peace Commission of the Colombian Government, 1982-1985

Assistant Director of the Colombian Liberal Party, 1985-1986

**Academic experience:**

Professor at Escuela Superior de Administración Pública (ESAP), Bogotá, 1963-1965

Professor at Universidad del Valle ( Cali , Colombia ), 1965-1970

Head of the Political Science Department, Universidad del Valle, 1968-1969

Dean of the Department of Economic and Social Science, Universidad del Valle, 1970

Dean of the Department of Arts and Sciences, Universidad de Los Andes (Bogotá), 1970-1971

Professor at Universidad de Los Andes, 1970-1975

Head of University, Universidad de Los Andes , 1982-1985

Director, Center for International Studies, Universidad de Los Andes , 1996-1997

**Diplomatic background:**

Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations, New York, 1975-1977

Vice-President, Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, New York , 1976

Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council. President of the Social Committee and the Economic Committee of the Council

Chairman of the Ad-hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices, United Nations, 1976-1977

President of the Intergovernmental Conference of UNESCO on Cultural Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean , Bogotá, 1978

Chief of the Colombian delegation to the tenth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, devoted to disarmament, New York , 1978

Regional Coordinator of UNESCO for Latin America and the Caribbean , Caracas, Venezuela, 1979-1981

Delegate of Colombia to the World Conference on Culture, organized by UNESCO, Mexico , 1982

Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the study of the human rights situation in Uruguay , 1982-1985

Independent resource person of the Commission on Human Rights for the study of the human rights situation in Paraguay

Colombian Ambassador to Belgium , Luxembourg and the European Communities, Brussels , 1986-1988

Member of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Geneva , 1988-1991

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia at the United Nations Office and other international bodies based in Geneva , 1989-1991

Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the human rights situation in Cuba , 1991-1992

Member of the Consultative Group of International Experts for the International Committee of the Red Cross, 1992-1995

Commissioner member for Panel A on the study of reparations concerning the Gulf War, United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva, 1994-1996

Member of the National Group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of The Hague