



Albert SASSON

Albert Sasson holds an *Agrégation* (1958) and a Doctorate in Natural Sciences (Microbiology) (1967) from the University of Paris. His research in microbiology has focused on the microflora of arid lands, and on free and symbiotic nitrogen-fixing micro-organisms. Following a career at the Faculty of Science in Rabat (Morocco) from 1954 to 1973, where he was Dean from 1963 to 1969, A. Sasson joined the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1974.

As a member of the Division of Ecological Sciences, he participated in the activities of the Programme on Man and Biosphere (MAB), notably those concerning arid and semi-arid zones, and prepared major state-of-knowledge reports on tropical forest and grazing land ecosystems of the world (Tropical Forest Ecosystems, 1978; Tropical Grazing Land Ecosystems, 1979; Ecosystèmes forestiers tropicaux d'Afrique, 1983).

From 1979 to 1985, he participated, within the Bureau of Studies and Programming of the Directorate of UNESCO, in the elaboration of the biennial programmes and Medium-Term Plan of the Organization in science and technology. From 1985 to 1987, he was Director of the Central Evaluation Unit of the Directorate of UNESCO. In 1988, he was appointed Director of the Bureau of Programme Planning and, in November 1990, Director of the Bureau of Studies, Programming and Evaluation (including the Division of Statistics). On 1 September 1993, he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Director-General. Upon his retirement on 1 April 1996, he was appointed Special Adviser to the Director-General (1996-1999).

Albert Sasson is an Associate Member of the Club of Rome. He has been awarded an Honorary Degree in science by De Montfort University (Leicester, United Kingdom). He is Senior Visiting Professor at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS, Yokohama). Member of the Consultative Committee on Human Rights of the Kingdom of Morocco since its creation in 1990, A. Sasson was appointed by the King of Morocco member of the founding committee of the Academy Hassan II of Science and Technology in 2004.

Since January 2000, Albert Sasson provides senior consulting services, in particular to UNESCO and other United Nations Organizations, to the European Commission (project evaluation and chairperson of the group of experts on international cooperation), as well as to a number of Moroccan institutions. Chairperson of the association BioEurolatina for the promotion of cooperation in biotechnology between Europe and Latin America.