

Biography of Mr. Hennadiy Udovenko, President of the 53rd Session of the General Assembly

Mr. Hennadiy Udovenko is the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, a post he has held since September 1994. Prior to being assigned to this post, he was Ukraine's Ambassador to Poland from 1992 to 1994. He also holds the diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Mr. Udovenko, 66, is a career diplomat who has worked for many years in the service of his country and for the United Nations, both in New York and in Geneva. From 1980 to 1985, he was Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister.

From 1985 to 1992, as the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Mr. Udovenko served in various capacities on several intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations. During July 1985, he served as the President of the United Nations Security Council. He was Vice-President of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly (1991), Chairman of the Special Political Committee of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly (1989) and of the same Committee at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly (1990). He was Chairman of the Second (Economic and Financial Affairs) Committee at the forty-second session of the General Assembly (1987) and of the same Committee at the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly. From 1989 to 1991, Mr. Udovenko chaired the sessions of the Economic and Social Council as its Vice-President.

During his tenure as Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, Mr. Udovenko was also the Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid. In that capacity, his contribution to the eradication of apartheid was internationally recognized. On many occasions, he headed or was a member of the Committee's delegation to various seminars, symposiums and other international forums.

He also participated in many meetings held within the framework of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

As a member of Ukraine's delegation, Mr. Udovenko participated in many General Assembly sessions from 1972 to 1977 and from 1985 to 1991. He has also attended many special sessions. He led his country's delegation to the forty-ninth (1994), fiftieth (1995) and fifty-first (1996) sessions of the General Assembly.

He has been actively involved in several other organs and bodies _ both within and outside the United Nations system _ dealing with political, economic and financial issues, as well as

development, environment and human rights. He has also served as his Government's representative to the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization.

From 1965 to 1971, he served as Administrative Officer, Technical Assistance Recruitment Services, at the United Nations Office in Geneva. From 1977 to 1980, he worked as Director of the Interpretation and Meetings Division, Department of Conference Services, United Nations, New York.

Mr. Udovenko joined his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1959 as First Secretary. From 1959 to 1965, he occupied various positions, including that of Director of the Department of International Economic Organizations and also of the Department of Personnel. He is the author of numerous articles and publications on international issues and on the foreign policy of Ukraine. He was a member of the editorial board of a book entitled Ukraine in International Organizations.

Born in 1931 in the town of Kryvy Rih, Ukraine, Mr. Udovenko graduated from Taras Shevchenko Kyiv University in 1954. After obtaining his degree in international relations, he took a postgraduate course at the Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Economics of Agriculture.

Mr. Udovenko speaks English, Russian, Polish and some French. In 1995, he was awarded the Honorary Award of the President of Ukraine in recognition of his personal contribution to the development of Ukraine's foreign policy.

Mr. Udovenko is married and has a grown-up daughter.