

Statement from The Family of H. E. John William Ashe

Dobbs Ferry, NY: June 24, 2016

Dr Anilla Cherian and their sons, mourn the loss of the late, Ambassador John William Ashe, our beloved husband and father who passed away on June 22, in our home in Dobbs Ferry, Westchester, NY.

Proud of his humble beginnings in Antigua and Barbuda- a small Caribbean country- he gained the respect and confidence of many at the highest levels in the diplomatic world through his intellect and long-standing commitment to global sustainable development. The first in his family to get a college education, he earned a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

His local and global community of friends will always remember him as a devoted father, a loving husband, and a loyal friend. His steadfast volunteering to the causes of local homelessness and hunger, and his STEM tutoring of children in need in his community lend credence to his belief that the *“local is global”*.

Ambassador Ashe was a source of love and inspiration to us, and we will forever miss his gentle nature, calm spirit and infectious smile.

Ambassador Ashe and his family had been dealing with an inordinate level of stress over the past eight months, relating to the unproven allegations leveled against him and the home detention imposed on him by court proceedings. Sadly, now his legal efforts to clear his name have been tragically cut short.

Ambassador Ashe’s wife was devastated to find him collapsed at home on June 22, 2016. His wife and younger son had **previously found him collapsed and unresponsive** first on April 25th, and again on April 28th. Both times, he was taken by **ambulance to the hospital and received emergency medical treatment**. On June 22nd, it appears that a third episode of collapse, tragically, led to his untimely death.

At the time of his passing, he was under the care of a neurologist who was evaluating the cause of the earlier episodes. He was awaiting **the results of an MRI**, and was scheduled for an **Electroencephalogram (EEG) for sleep deprivation on June 25th**.

Ambassador Ashe’s teenage sons and wife who struggle to deal with the tragic loss of their father and husband are incredibly proud of his indelible legacy of global leadership on sustainable development. His family is humbled to share that despite the legal ordeal he endured, he managed to **complete a draft of an upcoming book on sustainable development**, which

hopefully will be **published posthumously**. Despite his considerable work in the public domain, at the core, he remained a private person, and his family and friends mourn their loss privately.

Ambassador John William Ashe, PhD, CMG (BIO)

A 27 year veteran diplomat, Ambassador Ashe began his diplomatic career as a Science Attache of Antigua and Barbuda, his understanding of the UN system and his passion for solutions to global sustainable development problems, quickly moved him into leadership roles within the United Nations multilateral processes. He has served in a leadership position in more than 40 committees and organizations.

Ambassador Ashe was one of the original drafters of the first UN resolution calling for the historic 1992 Earth Summit, where the current United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was open for signature, and at which historic global agreement on sustainable development and environmental issues was first reached.

His deep knowledge, and demonstrated commitment towards addressing the wider global challenges of climate change has been publically recognized at the highest global levels.

In an August 28, 2002 article, “*UN Diplomat Seeks Miracle: Bring Together Rich and Poor*”, the New York Times referenced Ambassador Ashe as “*one of the most influential diplomats*” at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

As one of the world’s leading global sustainable negotiators, Ambassador Ashe has worked tirelessly on a vast array of sustainable development challenges facing the vast majority of developing states, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for over two decades.

He led and played vital roles in a wide range of international negotiations on sustainable development and climate change, including the Outcome Agreement of the 2002 Johannesburg Program of Implementation on Sustainable Development. He chaired several aspects of global negotiations within the UN system, including as the first Chair of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol and Chair of the Climate Convention’s Subsidiary Body on Implementation. He also played a leading role as Co-Chair of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and its historic global agreement, “The Future We Want.”

As the 68th President of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Ashe’s work was seminal in preparing the United Nations for reform, the introduction of the new High Level Political Forum, and the preliminary work in reaching consensus on global agreements on Financing for Development as well as the recent 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. For the last 20 years,

Ambassador Ashe made critical and unprecedented contributions to global development and to almost every major multilateral process and agreement within the UN system.