

ROBERT DERWYN WATKINS

Before his recruitment as UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia, Mr. Watkins worked at the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) for 5 years. As Head of the ECHO Regional Office for the Middle East based in Amman, Jordan, Mr. Watkins developed and oversaw the European Commission's humanitarian aid policy for the Middle East region, focusing on the Occupied-Palestinian Territories Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. While serving as Head of the ECHO Regional Office for the Caribbean in Santo Domingo, he oversaw the European Commission's programmes for disaster preparedness and social and economic recovery for Caribbean-basin countries subject to natural and man-made disasters jointly with national Disaster Preparedness and Planning ministries, particularly in Jamaica, Haiti, Barbados, and Belize.

Prior to joining the EC, Mr. Watkins worked for the IFRC-International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Istanbul, Turkey, where he was responsible for the IFRC's response to two major earthquakes in the country, and Baghdad, Iraq, where he oversaw economic recovery projects for the population affected by sanctions. Mr. Watkins also worked at IFRC headquarters in Geneva, the Canadian Red Cross, and the Pan American Health Organisation PAHO. He began his career as a Junior Professional Officer with UNDP serving in both Gabon and Sudan.

50 years old, Canadian and British national, Mr. Watkins holds a Master of Arts in International Development from the Carleton University School of International Affairs Ottawa, Canada and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Toronto. In addition to his native English, Mr. Watkins speaks fluent French, Spanish and Arabic.