

Demetrius Perricos was born in Piraeus, Greece in December 1935. He received his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Athens in 1964 and joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1972 as a nuclear safeguards inspector. During his 28 year career at the IAEA he influenced the way the nuclear safeguards system was developed to its present state.

He joined the Iraq Action Team upon its establishment in April 1991 as head of operations, leading the first team into Iraq under Security Council Resolution 687.

He was Team Leader of a special group appointed in late 1991 to verify the completeness and correctness of the South African declaration under its comprehensive safeguards agreement and verification of the dismantling of its nuclear weapons programme. He also has been Director of the IAEA Division of Operations dealing with DPRK nuclear issues since 1993.

In 2000, he transferred to the UN in New York City to join Dr. Hans Blix. There he became the Director of Planning and Operations of UNMOVIC. In January 2003 he was appointed Deputy Executive Chairman of the organization. In July 2, 2003, he was appointed Acting Executive Chairman, following the departure of Dr Blix.