



List of Biographies

Opening Session (click name for bio)

Faisal F. Al-Ibrahim

Ahmed Aboul-Gheit

Rola Dashti

Amina J. Mohammed

Mohammed Hussein Bahr AlUloom

Plenary Session - SDG 1 Review

Ibrahim Elbadawi

Mr. Ibrahim Elbadawi is the Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum and a Professor Emeritus at the University of Khartoum. Between September 2019 and July 2020, he was the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in Sudan. Prior to that, he was Director at the Economic Policy and Research Center, lead economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, and Professor of Economics at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He has edited books and special editions of referred journals and published over 90 articles on macroeconomics, growth and development policy, democratic transitions, and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions.

Nivine El Kabbag

H.E. Ms. Nivine El-Kabbag has over 25 years of experience in the field of international cooperation, strategic management, institutional development, and social policies. She is the current Deputy of the Minister of Social Solidarity of Egypt. Prior to that, she worked with UNICEF for over 10 years. She is also the founder and former chairperson of the first Egyptian Research and Evaluation Network. She holds a Master's in International Political Economy and International Relations.

Rana Jawad

Ms. Rana Jawad is an associate professor in social policy at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom, and founder of the MENA Social Policy Network. Her academic career has been devoted to the study of social policy and social



welfare outcomes in the MENA region, focusing in particular on the institutional and political configuration of welfare systems. She is the author of a range of academic and policy reports, and currently manages a major GCRF-AHRC grant exploring the linkages between social protection and conflict prevention in Arab countries of the Southern Mediterranean region.

Touhami Abdelkhalek

Mr. Abdelkhalek is a Professor of Higher Education at the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA) in Rabat, Morocco. He has worked extensively as a consultant for several national and international organizations including ONDH, the World Bank, UNDP, and UNICEF across several countries in Africa and the Middle East. Mr. Abdelkhalek is currently working on the quantitative, statistical, and econometric aspects of development issues. In July 2017, he was decorated in the name of His Majesty the King the Order of Knight.

Ziad Abdel Samad

Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad has been Executive Director of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) since 1999. ANND brings together 30 NGOs and nine national networks from 10 Arab countries to promote the role of civil society and effective socio-economic reforms in the region. Mr. Abdel Samad is also President of the Euro-Mediterranean NGO Platform, and is involved with research institutions and active in electoral reforms and monitoring at the national and regional levels.

Plenary Session - SDG 2 Review

Ismahane El Ouafi

Ms. Ismahane Elouafi is the Chief Scientist at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. From 2012 until her current appointment, she was Director-General at the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture based in the United Arab Emirates. She is a strong advocate for diversifying into neglected and underutilized crops and rethinking food systems as a whole. She is also internationally known for her work on promoting the use of non-fresh water in agriculture and the empowerment of women in science. She holds a PhD in Genetics from the University of Cordoba.

Linda Shaker Barbari

Ms. Linda Shaker Barbari is an expert in public health and community nutrition, with over 18 years of experience in Lebanon and the Middle East. She earned her PhD from the University of Dundee, with a focus on public health nutrition policy and on infant and young child feeding in emergencies. She has worked with international organizations, United Nations agencies, and academic institutions through her engagement in community nutrition



programme planning, development, monitoring, and evaluation. She is currently an independent consultant with the Emergency Nutrition Network, UNICEF and WHO.

Maryam Aleisa

Ms. Maryam Aleisa is the founder of Refood, a Kuwaiti non-profit dedicated to saving food from being categorized as 'waste' and channelling it to local underprivileged families. Refood is changing the way Kuwait deals with food waste in a sustainable model designed to engage the entire community through volunteering opportunities. Using her MBA from IESE University in Barcelona, Ms. Aleisa has dedicated herself to solving one of the most prominent environmental problems in Kuwait.

Said Al-Masri

H.E. Mr. Said Al-Masri is the former Minister of Agriculture of Jordan and is currently working on introducing phyto-desalination projects that produce freshwater, animal feed, fish and fresh vegetables by using the latest environmentally friendly technologies that coincide with Jordan's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He is also a board member of the Princess Alia Foundation for animal livelihood and welfare.

Wafaa El Dikah Hamzeh

H.E. Ms. Wafaa El Dikah Hamzeh is an agriculture and rural development specialist. She is the current Senior Adviser for international cooperation and policy development at the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture. Between 2004 and 2005, she was appointed Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, becoming the first female minister of Lebanon. She has also worked as independent consultant in rural and sustainable development with UN-Women and the League of Arab States, and served as Regional Adviser for Gender Equality at ESCWA. She holds an MSc in Crop Production and Rural Development from the American University of Beirut.

Plenary Session - SDG 3 Review

Ahmed Al-Mandhari

Mr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari is the Regional Director of the WHO Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He is a specialist in family and community medicine. He is a Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine alumnus, with a PhD in Quality Management in Health Care. He was Head of Quality Management and Development at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital from 2005 to 2006, and was later appointed Director-General in 2013 then Director-General of the Quality Assurance Centre at the Ministry of Health of Oman.

Ahmed Al-Saidi



H.E. Mr. Ahmed Al-Saidi is the current Minister of Health of Oman. In 2020, he was elected as the First Vice-Chair of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization. He is also Chairman of the Supreme Council of Arab Board for Medical Specialties.

Fadi Jardali

Mr. Fadi Jardali is the Director of the Knowledge to Policy Center at American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh

Ambassador Haifa Abu Ghazaleh is the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of Social Sector at the League of Arab States. For over 30 years, she has been heavily involved and active at the global, regional and national levels in the areas of policy and legislative reform, gender mainstreaming, strategic planning, human rights, peace and security, media and communication, and early warning. She holds two PhDs in Education and Psychology, has published extensively, won multiple awards, and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

Kamel Mohanna

Mr. Kamel Mohanna is the President of Amel Association International and the General Coordinator of the Lebanese and Arab NGOs Networks. He is a paediatrician, a professor at the Lebanese University, and the NGOs representative to the Lebanon High Council of Health. Prior to that, as an international health and humanitarian expert, he contributed to several international processes with WHO, and participated actively in the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit. He obtained his Diploma in Paediatrics from the University of Grenoble, France.

Maha El Rabbat

H.E. Ms. Maha El Rabbat was appointed as the WHO Director-General's Special Envoy on COVID-19 for the Eastern Mediterranean Region in March 2020. Prior to that, she occupied various positions, including Minister of Health and Population of Egypt, Professor of Public Health at Cairo University, and Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Health Policy Forum. She has over 30 years of experience in strategic leadership, policy, academic, advocacy, and operational expertise, having worked closely with national, regional, and international organizations.

Plenary Session - SDG 5 Review

Jennifer Suleiman

Ms. Jennifer Suleiman was appointed Corporate Sustainability (CS) Officer at Zain Group in May 2018. She is currently leading and overseeing the CS strategy and supporting Zain Group's eight operations under their CS activities. Her goal is to ensure that the company has a sound social contract to actively address its various socioeconomic and



environmental impacts.

Khaled Mahdi

Mr. Khaled Mahdi is the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the Programme Director of the UNDP Country Plan Action Programme in Kuwait. He serves on several high-level government boards, and heads the National Committee for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He currently chairs the region's first construction waste recycling plant (BOT) with the Government of Kuwait. He holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Northwestern University and has won multiple awards.

Lina Abou Habib

Ms. Lina Abou-Habib is the Interim Director of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at the American University of Beirut, where she also teaches undergraduate and graduate gender courses. She has worked extensively with several international and regional organizations in designing and managing programmes in the Middle East and North Africa region on issues related to gender and citizenship, economy, trade and leadership. She was a PhD candidate at the Auckland University of Technology.

Magued Osman

Mr. Maged Osman is a senior representative and former Minister in the Government of Egypt. He is currently heading the Women's Observatory of Egypt. He is a statistician, and his NGO has been engaged in key national gender-related research undertaken in Egypt in recent years.

Martine Najem

Ms. Martine Najem is a public health and development professional with over 20 years of experience in strategic planning, programme management and coordination, capacity development and training, policy change, advocacy, and communication. She has a track record in building strong partnerships with the public and private sector, the United Nations, and civil society in Lebanon and the Arab region. She was appointed as a member of the National Commission for Lebanese Women and elected to its executive board in 2017, and then reappointed for a new three-year mandate in 2020. She holds a Master's in Public Health.

Plenary Session - SDG 8 Review

Abdullah Abuthnain



H.E. Mr. Abdullah Abuthnain is the Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Social Development for Labour in Saudi Arabia. He has previously served as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning and Information Development and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Inspection and Labour Environment Development. He chairs the Executive Wage Protection Board and has a critical role in encouraging the entry of Saudi women into the labour market and improving the working conditions of migrants, in line with Saudi Vision 2030. He has held numerous teaching positions in the Institute of Public Administration and Old Dominion University in the United States. Mr. Abuthnain is also a member of the boards of directors of multiple investment companies in Saudi Arabia.

Fayez Ali Al-Mutairi

Mr. Fayez Ali Al-Mutairi has served as the Director General of the Arab Labor Organization since 2015, where he has worked to expand cooperation between the different elements of production in the Arab region in order to increase job opportunities and fight unemployment. His work has focused on activating Arab cooperation in labour and sustainable development and keeping pace with technological development and its impact on the labour market, the green economy and vocational training.

Christeen Haddadin

Ms. Christeen Haddadin is the Managing Director of SEAF Jordan Growth and Impact Fund. She has 20 years of experience in financial consulting, corporate finance, and wealth management. Prior to joining the Fund, she headed Jordan's Investbank's investment banking arm and the wealth management department. She started her career in audit in Ernst and Young in Jordan and Dubai, and held several positions at local Jordanian investment banks. She has extensive experience in financial consulting and structuring and marketing of investment instruments.

Naima Hammami

Ms. Naima Hammami is a retired high school teacher and has been a union leader in the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT) since the 1980s. She has been a champion of women rights and ran for seats in the executive bureau of UGTT in 2002, 2006, 2011 and 2017, when she won, becoming the first woman elected to fill this position in 68 years and the second woman to participate in the leadership of UGTT in the country's history. Ms. Hammami currently serves as the Assistant Secretary General for Arab and Foreign Relations and Immigration for the new bureau of UGTT.

Raghda El-Ebrashi

Ms. Raghda El-Ebrashi is an Associate Professor of Strategic Management and Head of the Management and Organization Department at the German University in Cairo. She is also the founder and Chairwoman of the



Alashanek ya Balady Association, one of the largest NGOs in Egypt, and leads international and local consulting assignments focused on value chain development in the food and agriculture sectors. Ms. El Ebrashi has also published seminal articles in top international academic journals.

Plenary Session - SDG 10 Review

Ali Hameed Mukhlif Al Douleimy

H.E. Mr. Ali Hameed Mukhlif Al Douleimy is the current Minister of Education of Iraq. Prior to that, he took part in multiple committees and workshops related to the educational processes with the Council of Advisors in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministries. He holds a Master's in Strategic Studies.

Ishac Diwan

Mr. Ishac Diwan is a Professor of Economics at Paris Sciences et Lettres, where he holds the chair of the Economy of the Arab World. He currently teaches at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. He has also held teaching positions at Columbia University School for International Public Affairs and at Harvard Kennedy School. His recent co-authored books include *A Political Economy of the Middle East* (Westview Press, 2015); and *Crony Capitalism in the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Jahda Abou Khalil

General Director of the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) and the National Association for the Rights of Disabled Persons in Lebanon. She is an activist in the local, regional and international Disability Rights Movement and a researcher on issues related to women, disability and the media. Among her publications, *Women Who Crossed the Barriers* includes 21 biographies of women challenging disabilities in seven Arab countries.

Lala Arabian

Executive Manager at Insan Association and representative of the Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants. She is a lawyer in Lebanon who has been working for two decades to defend human rights in general and the rights of refugees and migrants in particular in the Arab region.

Lama Al-Natour

Ms. Lama Al-Natour is the Director of the Development Coordination Unit at The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Education. She has over 20 years of experience in program and project management, grant and contract



management, financing, training and evaluation, and operational management, with a large number of governmental and international institutions, ministries, and international organizations such as USAID, MCC, IOM, and CDC.

Mohamed Elagati

Mr. Mohamed Elagati is a researcher and Director of the Arab Forum for Alternatives. He has conducted extensive research on civil society, social movements, and political reform in the Arab region, and prepared analytical papers on public policy. He has also published his works in books, periodicals and newspapers, and presented papers at various conferences. Mr. Elagati has extensive experience in working with and managing civil society organizations, project coordination, events, workshops, and research teams. He holds a Master's in Political Development from Cairo University.

Plenary Session - SDG 12 Review

Maha Al-Ma'ayta

Ms. Maha Al-Ma'ayta has worked for 18 years in the environmental field. She is an expert in strategic planning and environmental policymaking and the national point for UNDP and the League of Arab States for environmental affairs and SwitchMed. She is currently leading the Jordanian national team to prepare the first national document for Jordan, entitled "Jordan Environment 2030". She holds a BA in Chemical Engineering and international certificates in leadership excellence from the European Foundation for Quality Management.

Moez El Shohdi

Mr. Moez El Shohdi has over 40 years of experience in hotel management and business, and 16 years in humanitarian professional voluntary work. He is the president of multiple companies and the founder and current CEO of Food Banking Regional Network. Since 2011, he has successfully founded and developed 39 food banks in 37 countries in the Arab region to serve needy people and ensure food waste reduction. He holds a PhD in Business and Hotel Management.

Samira Al- Kandari

Ms. Samira Al-Kandari is the Deputy Director General for Environmental Control Affairs at the Environment Public Authority of Kuwait and an expert in coordination with global organizations on sustainable development issues. She participated in the development of environment strategies in Kuwait. She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from Kuwait University and has published several scientific studies.



Sumaya Yusuf Hasan

Ms. Sumaya Yusuf Hasan is the Founder and Coordinator of the Professional Certificate of Waste Management Programme. Throughout her career, she has contributed to many regional environmental projects, and has published scientific papers and book chapters on waste management, waste-to-energy technologies, bioenergy, public awareness, and socioeconomic analysis. She holds a PhD in Engineering from the University of Warwick.

Zaid Al-Shabanat

Mr. Zaid Al-Shabanat is the Director General of the Prices and Subsidies Department at the Saudi Grains Organization since 2017. He is also the Director of the National Program to Reduce Food Loss and Waste, one of the main initiatives of the National Transformation Program. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economy.

Plenary Session - SDG 13 Review

Ahmed Abu Thaher

Mr. Ahmed Abu Thaher is the current Director-General for Projects and International Relations at the Environment Quality Authority of the State of Palestine. He is also a member of the National Team of Disaster Risk Management, the National Focal Point for the UFM Environment Expert Group, a member of the PA-EU Joint Committee, and the National Focal Point for the Water and Environment Support Programme. He holds a Master's in Sanitary Engineering.

Ahmed Al Qabani

Mr. Ahmed Al Qabani is the current head of the Climate Change Practice at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). Since joining the Bank in 2012, he led and participated in the implementation of infrastructure projects in many IsDB member countries, and was part of its efforts to enhance the sustainability of its projects through his work in the Infrastructure Department. Prior to joining IsDB, he worked in environmental and climate change consulting, and in research in Egypt and the United Kingdom. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

Jamal Saghir

Mr. Jamal Saghir is an expert in international finance and economic development. He has over 25 years of experience at the World Bank Group, and currently serves as a senior advisor and board member of the Global Center on Adaptation based in the Netherlands. He is also a Professor of Practice at McGill University, a Senior Fellow at the Colorado School of Mines, and a Distinguished Fellow for Economics and Development at the American University of Beirut. He also sits on the Advisory Committee of the Climate/SDGs Debt Swap Mechanism at ESCWA, and on



several corporate boards.

Noura Mansouri

Ms. Noura Mansouri is a Research Fellow at King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre, a Research Affiliate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an Expert at the World Energy Council. She is currently the Co-chair of Task Force 2 on Climate Change, Sustainable Energy, and Environment under Think 20. She holds a PhD in Sustainability and Energy Transitions and has won multiple awards.

Yasmine Fouad

H.E. Ms. Yasmine Fouad was appointed Minister of Environment of Egypt in June 2018. Prior to that, she was Assistant Minister of Environment since 2014. She has over 20 years of experience working in environment and international cooperation, in Government, and with United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia. She holds a PhD in Political Science, with a focus on Euro Mediterranean Studies.

Plenary Session - SDG 16 Review

Daoud Deek

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Social Development of the State of Palestine, Head of the National Team for Poverty Combating and Head of the EU-PNA Sub-committee on Social Affairs and Health. He holds a master's degree in democracy and human rights.

Kinda Mohamadieh

Ms. Kinda Mohamadieh is a legal advisor and senior researcher with the Third World Network in Geneva. Her previous roles include serving as a senior researcher with the intergovernmental organization the South Centre in Geneva, and working with the Arab NGO Network for Development in Beirut. She holds an LL.M. in International Economic Law from the University of Lausanne and a Master's in Public Affairs from UCLA. She is currently a PhD candidate at the international law department of the Graduate Institute in Geneva.

Lamia Moubayed Bissat

Ms. Lamia Moubayed Bissat has over 20 years of multidisciplinary experience within national and international institutions in sustainable development and quality of government. In January 2018, she was nominated by the United Nations Secretary-General to serve on the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration.

Mohamad Mefteh

Mr. Mohamed Mefteh is a general practitioner. He is the Director-General of the Governance Unit at the Ministry of



Health, an expert at the UNDP regional office and a specialist in issues of good governance and fight against corruption. He holds a Master's degree in public law from the Faculty of Law in Sousse, and a Master's degree in research in Public Law from the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at El-Manar University. He is preparing a doctoral thesis in public law on "The effectiveness of the legal health system in Tunisia; Fighting corruption in the health sector" at the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences at the University of Carthage.

Omar Mashaqbeh

Mr. Omar Mashaqbeh is the Director-General of the National Aid Fund of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He is an expert specializing in designing and building targeting systems for support and anti-poverty programs and the development of public policies for social safety nets. He is also a member of the Ministerial Committee on Social Safety Net of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Head of the Karama Axis Team/National Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS).

Yousra Sidani

Ms. Yousra Sidani is an Elected Member and a Certified Public Accountant at Beirut Municipality in Lebanon.

Plenary Session - SDG 17 (data) Review

Ayman Zohri

Mr. Ayman Zohry is an expert on Population and Migration Studies and Founding President of the Egyptian Society for Migration Studies. He is an Adjunct Professor at the American University in Cairo. His current research interests include internal migration and urbanization, labor migration, irregular migration, migration governance, and migration policies in the MENA region and Europe. Mr. Zohry currently serves as a member of the editorial board of the International Migration Review. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Sussex.

Liu Zhenmin

Mr. Liu Zhenmin was appointed as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in July 2017. Prior to his appointment, he was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva. He brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional, and global issues. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues. He holds a Master of Laws from the Law School of Peking University.

Ola Awad



Ms. Ola Awad has over 20 years of experience working on the modernization of statistics, sustainable development, gender equality, the Palestinian economy, good governance, management, and communication. She has been the President of PCBS since 2009. She is also the Co-Chair for the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She holds a Doctorate of Business Administration from the University of Liverpool.

Siham Zarrari

Head of the Division of Household Surveys at the High Commission for Planning. The main tasks of this Division include designing, collecting, using, analyzing and publishing the results of socio-economic surveys carried out among households, with the exception of employment surveys, designing and tracking the main sample, designing research samples for households, monitoring and analyzing social indicators, conducting social studies and designing and updating classifications used in household surveys, with the exception of classifications of activities and economic goods.

Youssif Al Riami

Mr. Youssif Al Riami is the current Director-General of Economic Statistic at the National Centre for Statistics and Information in Oman, where he was previously Director-General of Population and Social Statistics. He holds a Master's in Operation Research and Applied Statistics from the University of Cardiff.

Ziad Abdallah

Mr. Ziad Abdallah holds a PhD in Information Technology from the Higher Institute of Statistics and Information Systems (ENSAI) in France. He is a statistician and an expert in censuses and big data. Mr. Abdallah is currently Head of the IT department at the Central Administration of Statistics in Lebanon. He is also a lecturer in the information, business administration, and health and technology faculties at the Lebanese University and at the Higher Institute of Management (ENA) in Lebanon.

Plenary Session – Financing for Development

Dalia Grybauskaitė

H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė served as the first woman president of Lithuania from 2009 to 2019, and is the only president in the country's post-Soviet history to have served two consecutive terms. In 2005, she was elected Commissioner of the Year as a European Union Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budgets, and served as Minister of Finance between 2001 and 2004. Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she was Director of the Economic Relations Department, responsible for economic diplomacy and development assistance, and was also



was Chief Negotiator for her country's Free Trade Agreement with the European Union.

Mahmoud Mohieldin

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin is an economist with over 30 years of experience in international finance and development. He is currently Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund. Since February 2020, he has been the United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda. Mr. Mohieldin is also a Professor of Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University, and has authored numerous publications in the fields of economics, finance, and development. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

Sabine Oueiss

Ms. Sabine Oueiss has been a columnist and business editor at Annahar Newspaper for over 25 years. Her other roles include working as a communication and PR consultant for leading Lebanon-based companies and banks, teaching at several media institutions, including the Annahar Academy, and hosting talk shows. She is the author of several books on the dynamics of the local banking and industrial sector, and a contributor to the Arabic edition of global media outlets, including Independent Arabia.

Saleh Kharabsheh

H.E. Mr. Saleh Kharabsheh joined the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan in 2005 as a Director of Projects Department, where he is currently the Secretary-General. He is also the former Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan. He holds a PhD in Engineering from the University of Florida.

Sergiy Kyslytsya

H.E. Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations. Over the course of his career, he has held multiple positions in the diplomatic sphere, including Deputy Foreign Minister, Chair of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, and Vice-Chair of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe. He holds a Master's in International Law.

Plenary Session - SDG 17 (technology) Review

Imad Sabouni

H.E. Mr. Imad Sabouni is Head of the Syrian Planning and International Cooperation Commission, with the rank of Minister. Between 2008 and 2014, he was appointed as the Minister of Telecommunications and Technology in the Syrian Arab Republic. He is also a member and former chairman of the Syrian Computer Society. He holds a PhD



from the Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble.

Mohamed Muse Hassan

Mr. Mohamed Muse Hassan is a certified entrepreneurship and business management trainer with over 10 years of experience in the education sector. He currently leads innovation and entrepreneurship programs at SIMAD University in Somalia, where he is the Founding Director of the Institute of Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship. He is also a Mentor for Ashinaga Africa Initiative Young Leaders for Africa in Tokyo; and the Innovation Manager for Kakehashi Africa, an association of more than 1,200 African scholars who studied in Japan. He holds a MBA from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan.

Saeed Ali

Mr. Saeed Ali is the Head of Technical Support section in the Information Technology Department at the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre in the United Arab Emirates.

Sana Ghenima

Ms. Sana Ghenima is the Chief Executive Officer at SANABIL MED in Tunisia.

High-level Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

Adnan Al Amine

Mr. Adnan El Amine is the co-founder of the Lebanese Association for Educational Studies, and the Arab Educational Information Network (Shamaa). He was a Professor of Education at the Lebanese University and lecturer at the American University of Beirut. He also worked with UNESCO as a consultant on higher education. He has published multiple books and articles throughout his career, and holds a PhD in Sociology of Education from Sorbonne University.

Amina J. Mohammed

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General, ([click here for bio](#))

Hania Sholkamy

Ms. Hania Sholkamy is an Egyptian anthropologist and an associate research professor at the Social Research Centre of the American University in Cairo. Her research interests and publications are mainly in the fields of poverty, health, particularly reproductive health, gender, population, and qualitative methods. She holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, the University of London.



Hiba Ghandour

Ms. Hiba Ghandour is a Research Fellow in the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Her main research interests are coronary artery bypass grafting, bioengineering of the total artificial heart, and increasing access to quality, timely and affordable cardiac surgery. With over 15 medical student mentees, she hopes to generate traction and interest in quality medical research in the Arab region, to elevate the level of medical services in the long run.

Ibrahim Al Zu'bi

Mr. Ibrahim Al Zu'bi is the current Chief Sustainability Officer at Majid Al Futtaim-Holding, where he oversees the group-wide sustainability strategy of Majid Al Futtaim. He is currently Vice-Chair of the Corporate Advisory Board of the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC), and a member of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Future Council on Net-Zero Transition, and Circular Economy Council. He is also a Senior Associate at Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and the Vice-Chair of the United Nations Global Compact Network in the United Arab Emirates.

Maisaa Youssef

Ms. Maisaa Youssef is the Sustainable Development Officer at ESCWA, working on the 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination. She is the lead author of the Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020. Her previous assignments included work on social exclusion, strategic planning and partnerships. She holds a PhD in English and Film Studies, with a focus on political theory and human rights.

Mohamed Al Maitami

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al Maitami is a Professor and the Former Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Yemen.

Rola Dashti

Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, UN ESCWA ([click here for bio](#))

Zahra Langhi

Ms. Zahra' Langhi is the co-founder and CEO of the Libyan Women's Platform for Peace, a socio-political movement focused on peacebuilding, inclusivity, and gender equality. She is also a member of the Legal Committee at the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and a former United Nations diplomat. She is a strategist, peace activist, gender expert, academic and researcher. Her research focuses on gender, mediation, peacebuilding, State-building, conflict



resolution, reconciliation and religion.

Special Event – Arab Food Systems Regional Dialogue

David Nabarro

Mr. David Nabarro is the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. He also serves as Senior United Nations System Coordinator for Avian and Pandemic Influenza. Prior to that, he was the Coordinator of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. He also served at the WHO headquarters as the Director of the Department for Health Action in Crisis and Director of the WHO Roll Back Malaria Department. He holds a Master's in Reproductive Endocrinology and Public Health.

Dy Ould Zein

Minister of Rural Development in Mauritania and President of the General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. He holds a Master's degree in Financial Management from the National School of Administration in Paris.

Fatima Eltahir Alhassan

Ms. Fatima El Tahir currently holds the position of Food Security Technical Secretariat, and has over 10 years of experience in the fields of food and nutrition, micronutrients and malnutrition, climate change analysis, vulnerability, and resilience. She has worked in coordination with the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, technical organizations, government institutions, and local communities. She holds a Master's in Agricultural Economics and is pursuing her PhD at the Sudan Science Academy.

Ibrahim El Dukhairi

H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Adam Ahmed El-Dukheri is the current Director-General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. His previous positions include Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Director-General of the Agricultural Research Corporation, and Minister of Agriculture and Forests of the Sudan. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the Technical University of Munich.

Jihad Abdullah Alfathel

Member of the Shura Council of Bahrain by royal order since 2012. She is the Chairwoman of the Services Committee of the Shura Council since 2014, and the Vice President of the Executive Office of the Parliamentary Network for Food Security in Africa and the Arab World since October 2019. She holds a postgraduate diploma in academic practice development from the University of Bahrain in collaboration with York St John University in Britain and a



PhD in Media, Journalism from the University of Bedfordshire in UK.

Martin Frick

Mr. Martin Frick is the Deputy of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Food System Summit 2021. Prior to that, he served as Senior Director of UN Climate Change, where he oversaw the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the secretariat's climate action work. As Programme Director for former Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Foundation, he developed the founding narrative of climate justice. He previously served as Director for Climate Change at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He was also the German representative for human rights and humanitarian affairs at the United Nations General Assembly and served as the European Union's lead negotiator in the establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council. He holds a PhD in Law from Regensburg University.

Nawal Al Hamed

Ms. Nawal Al Hamad was appointed Deputy Director General at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition in May 2015. She heads the Community Nutrition Sector, which aims to develop and improve the health and nutrition status of the population by implementing WHO recommendations and developing applicable national intervention programmes. In August 2018, she was appointed as a member of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group Subgroup on Policy Actions.

Rami Zurayk

Mr. Rami Zurayk is a professor at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut. Between 2015 and 2019, he was a member of the Steering Committee of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security, and a commissioner on the EAT-Lancet Commission on Healthy Diets From Sustainable Food Systems. He is a founding member of the Arab Food Sovereignty Network, and has written extensively on the Arab region. He holds a PhD in Soil Science from Oxford University.

Rola Dashti

Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, UN ESCWA ([click here for bio](#)).

Tareq Hassan

Mr. Tareq Hassan is the current Head of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network. He has previously worked as an advisor for multiple NGOs in the Arab region on sustainable development policy and development projects. In December 2020, he was appointed by Climate Action Network International as their Relations and



Communication Manager for the Arab region. He holds an MSc in Management of Sustainable Development Goals from LUMSA University.

Special Event – Youth Roundtable

Hatim Aznag

Mr. Hatim Aznag is the focal point for the MENA region at the United Nations Core Group on Children and Youth, based in Morocco. He participated in the Children's Parliament, gained experience through training, in the UN International Model for Youth, and in the Commission on the Status of Women, in addition to his participation in the UPR process. He has also participated in the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development. Mr. Aznag holds numerous training and appreciation certificates in the field of human rights and sustainable development, and has experience in youth empowerment, decision-making and advocacy.

Saddam Sayyalah

Mr. Saddam Sayyalah is the CEO and founder of the "I Learn" initiative. He is a Jordanian social entrepreneur and a board member of the Generation Without Borders Foundation (UNICEF). He is also a recipient of the Badir Prize for Young Jordanian Entrepreneurs, a member of the Global Influencers Community of the World Economic Forum, a graduate from the Swedish Institute in the Young Leadership Program, and a fellow with UNESCO Youth.

Wissem Sghaier

Mr. Wissem Sghaier is a political activist and expert on youth issues and movements at the National Observatory of Youth, based in Tunisia. He oversees relations with youth associations and organizations. Mr. Sghaier is a senior professor who specializes in postgraduate studies in childhood. He is also an activist with several responsibilities in the General Union of Tunisian Students, a member in charge of the media of the Tunisian Association for Resistance to Torture, and a spokesman for the 2015 youth campaign "Manish Msemah".

Yara Abu El Wafa

Ms. Yara Abu El Wafa is a global health professional with experience in delivering and managing healthcare projects with a focus on improving healthcare services. She is currently a healthcare technical advisor in Mott Macdonald focusing on using frontier technologies to redesign health systems. She is also a founding member of Health 2.0 Egypt, an organization focused on supporting youth entrepreneurs in Digital Health. Ms. Abu El Wafa holds a master's in Health Services and Prevention from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and a master's in Public Health from the University of Sheffield, UK.

Strengthening Regional Collaboration in the Arab States



Mounir Tabet

Mr. Mounir Tabet is the UN ESCWA Deputy Executive Secretary, and representing the Joint Secretariat of the Arab States Regional Collaboration Platform ([Click here for bio](#)).

Special Session 1 – Sustainable Development in Fragility and Conflict

Ahmed Mahmoud

Mr. Ahmed Mahmoud is a columnist and advisor to the Chairman of Al-Ahram Press Establishment. He has participated in numerous conferences worldwide in the areas of democracy, combating gender-based violence, and women's empowerment. Throughout his career, he has published articles, reports and interviews on issues such as development, freedom of opinion, the rule of law, heritage, culture, public policy, governance and anti-corruption.

Fuad Albassam

Mr. Fuad Albassam is the current Assistant-Director General of the Department of Public Sector Operations at the OPEC Fund for International Development. He has over 35 years of experience in development financing. He is also an active figure in the coordination group of the Arab Development Institutions. He holds a Master's in Engineering Management from George Washington University.

Khalid Batal Najim Abdullah

H.E. Dr. Khalid Batal Najim Abdullah is the current Minister of Planning in Iraq.

Mohamed Hassan Katna

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hassan Katna is the current Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of the Syrian Arab Republic. He is an expert in the agricultural sector and rural and community development. His previous positions include Director of Statistics and Planning, Director of Planning and International Cooperation, and Director of the Agricultural Production Support Fund.

Najat Rochdi

Ms. Najat Rochdi is the current United Nations Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon. She has over 20 years of experience in development, humanitarian assistance, and international coordination in conflict and post-conflict areas. Prior to this, she served as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator with the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic. She holds a doctorate in applied maths from



the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics in Morocco.

Waed Abdullah BaDheb

H.E. Ms. Waed Abdullah BaDheb is the current Minister of Planning and Cooperation in Yemen.

Special Session 2 – Auditing the SDGs

Abdelhakim Ben Lazreg

Mr. Abdelhakim Ben Lazreg is a senior manager at INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI). He is responsible for capacity development initiatives conducted by IDI in cooperation with the ARABOSAI region, including the SDG 3.d audit initiative.

Archana Shirsat

Ms. Archana Shirsat is the Deputy Director General at INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) based in Oslo, Norway. IDI is an INTOSAI body that works towards effective, accountable and inclusive supreme audit institutions (SAIs). She and her teamwork with a number of stakeholders to create awareness and strengthen independent, external oversight by SAIs over the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Karam Karam

Mr. Karam Karam is the Regional Advisor on governance, peacebuilding and transition at ESCWA. Prior to that, he was Head of Research at the Common Space Initiative for Shared Knowledge and Consensus Building (CSI-UNDP). He was also an associate professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the Lebanese University and worked as Programme Director at the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. He has served in multiple reform committees and is a founding member of several human rights organizations. Mr. Karam holds a PhD in Political Science from the Institute of Political Sciences (IEP), Aix-en-Provence, France.

Karima El Korri

Ms. Karima El Korri has worked in development for over 20 years, and is currently heading the 2030 Agenda Unit at ESCWA. She previously managed the population and development portfolio at ESCWA, with a focus on international migration, population ageing, and youth empowerment. Prior to joining ESCWA in 2012, she served as a project coordinator at UNDP, focusing on regional programming in governance, parliamentary strengthening, participation, and women's empowerment.

Majdoleen Sammour



Ms. Majdoleen Ahmad Sammour is the Head of the Performance Audit Division at the State Audit Administrative Control Bureau in State of Palestine (SAACB). She is a mentor in the SDG 3.d audit Initiative conducted by INTOSAI Development Initiative in cooperation with the ARABOSAI region. She joined SAACB in November 2009 and in 2014 began working in the performance audit field. Ms. Majdoleen holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and has received several professional trainings in performance auditing throughout her career.

Mohamed Ben Hamdan Ben Saeed Ben Hamad Al Jabiri

Mr. Mohamed Ben Hamdan Ben Saeed Ben Hamad Al Jabiri has worked in the Oman State Audit Institution since 2006 as an expert auditor in the technical office of the Institution's deputy director. He is a member of the Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Committee of the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI). His current work consists of reviewing monitoring reports and studies prepared by monitoring units at the State Audit Institution. Mr. Al Jabiri holds a master's degree in accounting from Central Queensland University in Australia.

Mohamed Abdul Mohsen Hanine

Mr. Mohamed Abdul Mohsen Hanine is the Director of the Fourth Chamber of the Moroccan Court of Accounts, where he has worked since 1999. He is the rapporteur for monitoring the country's readiness in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Hanine is an environmental science and natural resource management engineer and holds a master's degree in administration and a master's degree in environmental law.

Nejib Gtari

Mr. Nejib Gtari is the first president of the Tunisian Court of Audit, the Secretary-General of the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and the Head of the Financial Judicial Council of the Supreme Judicial Council in Tunisia. He held several positions at the Court of Audit since he joined it in 1988, and has contributed to auditing and judicial work, including investigation, monitoring, mentoring and ensuring quality within the various committees and formations of the Court. He also participated in training and mentoring judges from the Court and senior executives in the Tunisian administration in several fields, namely public procurement.

Saad Bourkadi

Mr. Saad Bourkadi works at the Prime Minister's Office and is responsible for tracking the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Morocco.

Special Session 3 – Mental Health



Ahmed Al-Mandhari

Mr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari is the Regional Director of the WHO Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He is a specialist in family and community medicine. He is a Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine alumnus, with a PhD in Quality Management in Health Care. He was Head of Quality Management and Development at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital from 2005 to 2006, and was later appointed Director-General in 2013 then Director-General of the Quality Assurance Centre at the Ministry of Health of Oman.

Najat Maalla M'jid

Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid, MD was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children since May 2019. She is an award-winning pediatrician and a high-level global independent advocate and activist against child abuse. She has devoted 30 years of her life to the promotion and protection of children's rights in all settings. She has received numerous honors and awards for her dedication to protecting children. She has a Doctorate in General Medicine from the University of Rabat.

Rabih El Chammay

Mr. Rabih El Chammay is the founder and current head of the National Mental Health Programme at the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon. He is overseeing the implementation of the first National Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy (2015-2020), aimed at reforming the mental health system in Lebanon towards community-based mental health services in line with human rights. He has been working in public mental health, refugee mental health, and health system strengthening for over 14 years, in collaboration with various agencies including WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, IMC, and multiple non-governmental organizations.

Shekhar Saxena

Mr. Shekhar Saxena is a Professor of the Practice of Global Mental Health at the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. A psychiatrist by training, he was Director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at WHO. During his leadership, the WHO Mental Health Action Plan was adopted by the World Health Assembly, thus including health and wellbeing in the United Nations SDGs. He has contributed as an editor to the Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health and Sustainable Development in 2018. His current work includes assessing and advising on the impact of COVID-19 on mental health.

Ted Chaiban

Mr. Ted Chaiban has been in charge of emergency programmes since assuming his post in as UNICEF Director for the MENA region in October 2019. He has worked as a UNICEF representative in African and Asian countries, where he acted as Regional Emergency Advisor for the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, and as Deputy Chief



of Operations for the Operation Lifeline Sudan consortium based in Nairobi. Prior to joining UNICEF, he was Country Representative for Catholic Relief Services in Haiti, Kenya, Uganda and the Sudan. Mr. Chaiban has a Masters in Development and Arab Studies from Georgetown University, United States of America.

Special Session 4 - Localization and Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

Ahmad Awad

Mr. Ahmad Awad has dedicated most of his professional life to the promotion of socioeconomic human rights. He is the founder and director of the Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies, based in Amman. He has worked as a coordinator for several civil rights networks and coalitions related to the defense of human rights at the local level. In 2018, he was honored by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as an exceptional defender of human rights. In November 2020, Mr. Awad was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Watch Coalition.

Buthainah Mahmood Abbas

Ms. Buthainah Mahmood Abbas is the Head of the Hawa Relief and Development Organization, President of the Sustainable Development Network, a member of the Women's Advisory Group (WAG) on Reconciliation and Politics in Iraq, and a member of the Crisis Management Chamber from a gender perspective in Iraq. She has worked with women in displacement camps, and was one of the first to work with returning women in Diyala after liberation from Islamic State. She contributed to the localization of Resolution 1325 at the local level by drafting a plan to implement it in Diyala Governorate, which was approved by the local government and circulated to government departments. She holds a PhD in Educational philosophy, and has published two books and several scientific papers.

Carmela Godeau

Ms. Carmela Godeau is the Regional Director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the Middle East and North Africa, based in Cairo. Prior to that appointment, she was the Regional Director for West and Central Africa, the Regional Programme Development Officer/Deputy Regional Representative in Rome, and Chief of Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. She started her career with IOM in Cairo in 1994 as Chief of Mission. Between 1989 and 1992, she served with UNRWA in the Gaza Strip. Ms. Godeau holds a Master's Degree in Oriental Languages from Instituto Universitario Orientale in Naples, Italy.

Hossam Zaki

Ambassador Hossam Zaki is the current Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and Chief of Staff.



He assumed office in July 2016 and was previously Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs. Between 2012 and 2015, he was Ambassador of Egypt to Brazil. From 2007 to 2012, he assumed the post of Senior Middle East Advisor for the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. Mr. Zaki has broad knowledge of Egyptian foreign policy issues, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict, Palestinian reconciliation, Arab issues, and Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Karam Karam

Mr. Karam Karam is the Regional Advisor on governance, peacebuilding and transition at ESCWA. Prior to that, he was Head of Research at the Common Space Initiative for Shared Knowledge and Consensus Building (CSI-UNDP). He was also an associate professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the Lebanese University and worked as Programme Director at the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. He has served in multiple reform committees and is a founding member of several human rights organizations. Mr. Karam holds a PhD in Political Science from the Institute of Political Sciences (IEP), Aix-en-Provence, France.

Ola Sidani

Ms. Ola Sidani is a sustainable development and public policy expert. She has worked for over 10 years at the UNDP project of the Prime Minister's office in Lebanon. She leads the national SDGs portfolio and represents the Presidency of the Council of Ministers at the National Committee for SDGs. In 2018, she was a member of the official Lebanese delegation to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Ms. Sidani represents Lebanon at United Nations forums and is a guest speaker at various regional and global conferences.

Tahir Abu El Hassan

Mr. Tahir Abu El Hassan is the Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Planning in Libya.

Special Session 5 – Migration Governance in the Arab Region

Amira Ahmed

Ms. Amira Ahmed teaches courses on Social Anthropology and Community Development at the American University in Cairo. She held positions at Clark and Northeastern University in the US, AUC in Egypt, and Roehampton and the University of East London. She also worked as a practitioner with several organizations including IOM, and IFRC. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of East London, where she focused on the nexus between migration & gender and the vulnerabilities of women domestic workers in Egypt.

Ayman Zohri

Mr. Ayman Zohry is an expert on Population and Migration Studies and Founding President of the Egyptian Society



for Migration Studies. He is an Adjunct Professor at the American University in Cairo. His current research interests include internal migration and urbanization, labor migration, irregular migration, migration governance, and migration policies in the MENA region and Europe. Mr. Zohry currently serves as a member of the editorial board of the International Migration Review. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Sussex.

Enas Fergany

Mr. Enas El Fergany is the current Director of the Refugees, Expatriates and Migration Affairs Department at the League of Arab States. Her work involves communicating with Arab Expatriates and coordinating with Ministries and bodies concerned with Migration in Arab Member states. She has contributed to establishing a number of policy mechanisms to facilitate LAS work in Migration and Displacement.

Ibrahim Aqel

Mr. Ibrahim Aqel is the current Director-General of the Institute for Family Health at the King Hussein Foundation. He is a regional expert on issues of social protection, population and development, public health, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence. He previously served as an Assistant Professor at Petra University and vice dean of International Programs and Projects at Luminus Technical University. He also worked as a consultant to many international organizations such as UNFPA, ILO, IOM, Health Finance, and HFG.

Jonathan Prentice

Since joining the UN in 1994, Mr. Jonathan Prentice has worked in varied positions in Baghdad, Dili, Geneva, Jakarta, New York, and Phnom Penh. Between 2010 and 2016, he worked for the International Crisis Group as Director of Policy and overseeing the London office. In 2017 and 2018, he was Chief of Office for the Secretary-General's Special Representative for International Migration, and since January 2019, Prentice has been responsible for setting up and heading the Secretariat for the new United Nations Network on Migration.

Kareem Alnouri

Mr. Kareem Alnouri has been Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Displacement and Migration in Iraq since September 2020. He holds a master's degree in Political Sciences from Baghdad University.

Nourhan AbdelAziz

Ms. Nourhan Abdel Aziz is the North Africa Advocacy Advisor at Save the Children International where she is leading the Migration and Displacement portfolio. For over 7 years, she worked as a Researcher at the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, where she led various research projects on migrants and refugees in the MENA region. Ms. Abdel Aziz has an LL.M in international and Comparative Law, as well as an MA in Migration and



Refugee studies.

Othman Belbeisi

Mr. Othman Belbeisi joined the International Office for Migration in 2003. He has served as IOM Senior Crisis Coordinator and was appointed numerous assignments within the MENA region. His experience afforded him opportunities in research and contribution to migration policies. These include publications relating to socio-economic indicators for vulnerable populations in Lebanon and the policy framework for the protection of foreign workers in the Arab region. He has also published a study focusing on the needs and status of Lebanese returnees who fled the crisis in Syria.

Sara Al Khatib

Ms. Sara Al-Khatib currently works on labor migration at the Solidarity Center in the Middle East. She works with partners across the region, including trade unions, national and international NGOs, migrant workers communities, and national and regional networks. The aim is to improve the work conditions for migrant workers through advocacy, capacity building, awareness-raising, and building the workers' collective power and agency. El Khatib is also a member of the Cross Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants (CCRM).

Sara Salman

Ms. Sara Salman is a public policy specialist with expertise in population affairs, parliamentary development, and democratic governance in the Arab region. She is the current Regional Advisor on Population Affairs at UN-ESCWA, where she manages the migration and population portfolios. Dr. Salman has extensive experience in institutional strengthening, developing public policies, and managing international projects. She has worked with a number of international organizations including the World Bank and UNDP. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from American University, Washington, D.C.

Special Session 6 - Catalyzing Private Sector Engagement

Ahmed Riad

Mr. Ahmad Riad is a regional and global thought leader on business resilience, disaster risk reduction, and business continuity. He is currently the managing director of multi-award winning firm Estmrya Consulting. For over 16 years, he has helped Governments, communities, and companies plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters. He is a board member of the UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Resilient Societies (ARISE), and a contributing author to the United Nations Disaster Resilience Scorecard for the Owners and Operators of Industrial and Commercial Buildings. Since 2015, Mr. Riad has been a committee member of the DRI International Glossary for Resiliency.



Amanda Kelleher

Ms. Amanda Kelleher is part of the Senior Management team at Luminus Education, with a primary focus on the design and development of solutions to meet both market and donor requirements. With a background of more than 38 years in education, she has considerable experience in human capital development, including at City & Guilds International, Dubai Aluminium, and Dubai University that covered the design and implementation of large-scale technical and vocational programmes.

Maissa Abou Adal

Ms. Maissa Abou Adal is a member of the Board of Directors and Internal Audit Committee and Chief Sustainability Officer of HOLDAL SAL, a third-generation family business in Lebanon working in retail, distribution, manufacturing, and supply chain. She is passionate about change management, sustainability, and social impact. She graduated from the Advanced Management Programme of the University of Navarra and is the co-author of Recettes de Vie, a social project that helps the women and children of Lebanon.

Nadia Al Saeed

Since 2008, Ms. Nadia Al Saeed has been Chief Executive Officer of Bank al Etihad. Her experience and track record of financial success has positioned Bank al Etihad as one of the most progressive banks in Jordan. Prior to this, she was Strategy Advisor at McKinsey & Co, working on developing new growth strategies. She is also Chairwoman of Endeavor Jordan, and is on the advisory board of Women in Business Arabia. For eight consecutive years, she has been selected as one of the "Most Powerful Arab Businesswomen" (2014-2021) by Forbes Middle East. Ms. Al Saeed holds an MBA from the American University of Cairo.

Nagla Kinawi

Ms. Nagla Kinawi is the current Human Resources Director of Vodafone Egypt. She has over 20 years of human resources and organizational development experience. She previously worked as the Vice President of Human Resources and Internal Communication at Schneider Electric, and as the General Manager of Human Resources for the National Bank of Egypt. She also has 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, where she held several human resources management and business leadership roles. Ms. Kinawi holds a Master's in Business Administration from the American University in Cairo.

Sami Mahroum

Mr. Sami Mahroum is a Professor of Innovation Strategy at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, and Senior Lecturer and Director at INSEAD. He leads a policy platform dedicated to the study of



innovation and business. In 2018, he supported the establishment of the Knowledge Center Data and Society in Brussels, designed and oversaw the setting up of the Dubai Future Labs, and led the project for the creation of a European artificial intelligence think tank in Brussels. Mr. Mahroum is the author of several Harvard Business Press case studies on entrepreneurship and holds a PhD in Business and Social Studies from the German Armed Forces University in Hamburg.

Special Session 7 - SDG-Climate Security Nexus in Arab countries

Ahmad Yusuf Ahmad

Mr. Ahmed Yusuf Ahmad has over eight years of experience in public administration, environmental governance, and climate change adaptation. He is currently Director-General of the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change under the Office of the Prime Minister of Somalia. He has accomplished numerous key milestones, including the development of key national policies and regulations, and the initiation of several environment and climate programmes. He also serves as Dean of the School of Social Science at East Africa University, and holds an MA in Public Administration.

Dustin S. Schinn

Mr. Dustin S. Schinn is a Climate Change Specialist at the UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States based in Amman, supporting countries with the development and implementation of climate security finance. He first joined UNDP as a technical specialist responsible for the design and quality assurance of a \$300 million climate change adaptation portfolio in Africa. He has held positions at various organizations, including the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations. He holds a Master's in Environmental Management from Yale University.

Heba Al-Hariry

Ms. Heba Al-Hariry has over 15 years of experience working on projects in Canada and the MENA region. Her fields of expertise include hydrogeology, integrated water resources management, remote sensing, climate change, business development, and project management. She is currently the Deputy Technical Director at the Arab Water Council (AWC), and co-chairs the UNDRR Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Group (GEWE) on behalf of AWC with UN-Women. She is also the main coordinator for the AWC Network of Arab Women in Water. She holds a Master's in Environmental Engineering.

Khaled Abdel Shafi



Mr. Khaled Abdel Shafi is the current Director of the UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States in Amman. Prior to that, he served in different senior positions at UNDP Headquarters in New York, and headed the UNDP Gaza Office between 1995 and 2008. He has played a leading role in the United Nations reconstruction and recovery efforts in the Gaza Strip. Mr. Abdel Shafi is an economist by training, and served as a member of governing boards of multiple civil society organizations in the State of Palestine.

Mohammad Khashashneh

Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh worked as the Director of Hazardous Substances and waste management in the Ministry of Environment in Jordan between 1999 and 2019, where he is currently the Acting Secretary-General. He holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the Azerbaijan State Petroleum Academy.

Nada El Agizy

Ms. Nada El Agizy is the Director of the Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Department at the League of Arab States, with over 20 years of experience in economic and social development. She is a member of a group of regional and international task forces, and has contributed to the preparation of Arab development summits. She also represents the League of Arab States in forums on sustainable development. She has an MBA in Sustainable Management from the University of Cumbria.

Nuran Atef

Ms. Nuran Atef is the Project Coordinator for the SDG-Climate Facility Project at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI). She has over seven years of sustainable banking experience at the Commercial International Bank in Egypt, where she worked prior to joining UNEP FI. Her experience includes social and environmental risk management, capacity-building, and strategy development. She holds a Master's in Sustainable Development from the American University in Cairo.

Sujala Pant

Ms. Sujala Pant is an international development professional based in Amman. She has over 15 years of experience working on sustainable development, governance, and climate finance. Prior to joining the UNDP Regional Hub, she served with the Green Climate Fund, where she supported countries in Europe and the Arab region to access climate finance more effectively. Before that, she had a number of assignments with UNDP, including in her role as Governance and Climate Finance Advisor, and as Special Assistant to the UNDP Head of Governance. She has an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics.

Tarek El-Sammam



Mr. Tarek A. El-Samman is a professor of Water Resources Management at the Channel Maintenance Research Institute in Egypt, which he directed between 2009 and 2019. For over 35 years, he has been active in the area of water resources management for sustainable development, and in the field of design, operation and maintenance of open channels. He has a PhD in Civil Engineering, Irrigation and Hydraulic Department from Ain Shams University, and has published extensively in scientific journals over the years.

Yasmine Mostafa

Ms. Yasmine Mostafa is an urban planner with an MSc in Urban Development Planning from University College London. She worked as a programme officer with UN-Habitat Egypt Office between 2012 and 2019 on several projects, focusing on strategic urban planning, urban design, and supporting evidence-based local decisions through urban observatories. She joined UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States in 2019 as the regional Knowledge Management and Reporting Officer and focal point for climate action, urban resilience, and urban basic services.

Zahi Chahine

Mr. Zahi Chahine is the Head of the Disaster Risk Management Unit at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Lebanon, where he oversees the development of disaster risk reduction strategies that will feed into national action plans. He is also the National Technical Focal Point for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, tasked with overseeing the implementation and reporting of the Sendai goals and targets. He holds a Master's in Law and a Master's in Business.

Special Session 8 - Open Science

Essam Khamis Al Hanash

Mr. Essam Khamis Al Hanash assumed the role of Vice Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt from December 2015 to June 2018. He is currently an Advisor to the President of Alexandria University for International Ranking and Scientific Research, and an Emeritus Professor of Electrochemistry and Corrosion and Protection of Metals. He is also the founder and editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Applied Chemistry, and has been granted multiple regional and international awards.

Ghaith Fariz

Mr. Ghaith Fariz is the Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, based in Cairo. He is a strategic planner and policy expert, with international experience in the Arab world and Asia. He has authored, co-authored, and directed several landmark regional and international reports on a diverse set of development issues



in the Arab Region, and has also established expertise in socioeconomic/population-environment dynamics and gaming and simulation. He holds a PhD in Planning from the University of Michigan.

Layla Al-Musawi

Ms. Layla Al-Musawi is Programme Manager for Publicizing and Dissemination of Science and Technology within the Scientific Culture Directorate at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. The programme advocates scientific literacy and culture, and engages society in STEM issues. She earned a PhD in Biological Sciences from the Albert-Lüdwig University of Freiburg in Germany.

Mohyee Eldin Touq

Mr. Mohyee Eldin Touq holds a PhD in Educational Psychology, and has authored and co-authored several books. He has occupied many academic positions, including as a professor in various universities across the Arab world and abroad, and has served as president of a private university in Jordan. He was also the Jordanian Ambassador to several European countries, and served as a minister on three separate occasions, the last of which was minister of Higher Education of Jordan.

Neemat Frem

Mr. Neemat G. Frem is a Lebanese politician and businessman. He is a former member of the Lebanese Parliament, and served as Chair of the National Economy, Trade, Industry and Planning Parliamentary Commission. He is also the Chief Executive of the multinational company INDEVCO Group, founder and president of Phoenix Machinery, and former president of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists.

Special Session 9 - COVID-19 and the Impact on the Environment

Abdulqader Alkharraz

Mr. Abdulqader Alkharraz is a university professor. His research focuses on environment impact assessment and climate change. He is also the former Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority in Yemen. He holds a PhD in Dynamism of Environment and Communities.

Adel Khalifa Al Zayani

H.E. Dr. Adel Khalifa Al Zayani is Head of the Human and Environment Affairs Sector in Riyadh. He has over 35 years of experience in environmental planning, management and awareness, integrated coastal zone management, marine biology and ecology, and desertification, amongst other fields. He holds a PhD in Marine Conservation from the University of Southampton.



Aseel Al-Mkhaimer

Ms. Aseel Al-Mkhaimer is Project Manager at the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development. She is an experienced humanitarian officer with a history of working with non-profit organizations and Jordanian communities. Her latest project yielded a first of its kind electronic smart solution: a mobile application that facilitates information on the trade of endangered species in Jordan. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology and Genetics Engineering, and is currently completing a Master's in Business Administration.

Hichem Chenaker

Mr. Hichem Chenaker is an assistant professor at the University of Science and Technology in Algeria, and a research member of the Laboratory of Water, Environment, and Renewable Energies. He holds a PhD in Environmental Chemistry, with a focus on the effects of climate change on water resources in northern Algeria. He is an environmental activist and current president of CEDAR, an association working for environmental protection. He is also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Mr. Chenaker has participated in international conferences, published articles in international journals, and won multiple awards.

Nezha Majjad

Ms. Nezha Mejjad holds a PhD in Geochemistry and Environment from the Faculté des Sciences Ben M'sik, where she is currently pursuing her postdoctoral research. In 2020, she conducted a short-term research project within Deep Blue at the Institute of Marine Sciences in Bologna, Italy, on the impact of deep mining activities on the marine environment. She has published extensively in her field, and has earned scholarships to participate in scientific conferences and training worldwide. In recognition of her excellent research and achievement, she received a prize for the best doctoral dissertation in 2018.

Special Session 10 - Accelerating Gender Justice in the Arab region

Fadia Kiwan

Ms. Fadia Kiwan is the Director-General of the Arab Women Organization. She is also chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Social Research Programme. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Sorbonne in Paris, and has published many research papers in the fields of civil society, good governance, good governance of political parties, women's issues, and political systems from a comparative perspective.

Fatima Barkan



Ms. Fatima Barkan is a Director of Women's Affairs at the Ministry for Solidarity, Social Development, Equality and Family in Morocco.

Luay Shabaneh

Mr. Luay Shabaneh is the Arab States Regional Director of the United Nations Population Fund. Over the last 20 years, he has held a number of high-profile national and international public service positions, within the United Nations, in Government, and in the multilateral arena. He has worked in the areas of official statistics, population census, population and development, monitoring and evaluation, programme management, and advocacy. He holds a PhD in Applied Social Statistics from Lancaster University.

Mehrinaz El Awady

Ms. Mehri naz El Awady is a Director-Cluster Leader of Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Shamsa Saleh

H.E. Ms. Shamsa Saleh is the Secretary-General at the UAE Gender Balance Council in the United Arab Emirates.

Suzanne Mikhail

Ms. Susanne Mikhail is the Regional Director at the UN Women Regional Office for Arab States.

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Asad Yusuf

Mr. Asad Yusuf currently serves as National Recovery and Resilience Coordinator at the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development. He is leading the Somalia Crisis Recovery Project, the largest government-executed project in Somalia, which aims to increase the country's resilience and move it away from humanitarian-focused support towards more development-focused support. He also served as Programme Manager for the Somalia National Development Plan 2020-2024, the first interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (iPRSP) for Somalia.

Elke Löbel

Ms. Elke Löbel was appointed Commissioner for Refugee Policy at the German Federal Ministry of Economic



Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in September 2015. Between 2011 and 2015, she was the head of the BMZ Middle East division. Prior to that, she worked as the country officer for Nepal and Sri Lanka, and as a senior policy officer in the budget division and in the division dealing with civil society support. Ms. Löbel studied International Cooperation with Developing Countries at RWTH Aachen University.

Khaled Abdel Shafi

Mr. Khaled Abdel Shafi is the current Director of the UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States in Amman. Prior to that, he served in different senior positions at UNDP Headquarters in New York, and headed the UNDP Gaza Office between 1995 and 2008. He has played a leading role in the United Nations reconstruction and recovery efforts in the Gaza Strip. Mr. Abdel Shafi is an economist by training, and served as a member of governing boards of multiple civil society organizations in the State of Palestine.

Kristina Mejo

Ms. Kristina Mejo is the Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer and Deputy Regional Director for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Middle East and North Africa, based in Cairo. Her portfolio covers migration policy, the United Nations reform, and supporting IOM missions and presence in the MENA region. She has worked for over 16 years with IOM, serving in multiple countries including Bangladesh, Belgium, Burundi, Colombia and Thailand. She has a Master's in International Relations from the University of Kent.

Lamis Al Iryani

Ms. Lamis Al-Iryani is the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit Head at the Yemen Social Fund for Development (SFD). She joined SFD in 1998, and has since led its major programme evaluations, monitoring activities, and strategic planning processes. She is also responsible for liaising with SFD stakeholders and donors. Ms. Al-Iryani has a Master's in Public Administration and International Development, and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Policy and Programme Evaluation.

Shaden Khallaf

Ms. Shaden Khallaf is an international expert in humanitarian and development affairs, and an advocate for human dignity and women's empowerment. With two decades of expertise in strategic planning, multi-stakeholder coordination, refugee women and child protection, public affairs, post-conflict reconciliation, private-sector partnerships and peacebuilding. She currently serves as the Senior Policy Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa at UNHCR, where she leads regional partnership policy analysis and design.

Yasmin Kayali



Ms. Yasmin Kayali is the co-founder, board member and CCO for *Basmeh and Zeitooneh*, a grassroots organization founded in 2012 to service Syrian refugees and their host communities in Lebanon. Today, they are active in Kurdistan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, and registered in the United Kingdom, the United States and Switzerland. Ms. Kayali's mission is to build the capacity of vulnerable individuals, and empower women and young people to become independent and self-sufficient. She was awarded the 2020 Honoree by the Women Refugee Commission.