



List of Biographies

List of biographies

Opening session

Rola Dashti

Rola Dashti is the Executive Secretary of ESCWA and is a leading Kuwaiti economist and long-time champion of women's rights and democratic reform. She served as member of the Supreme Planning Council in Kuwait. From 2012 to 2014, she was Minister for Planning and Development and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and played a pivotal role in advocating for a decree to allow Kuwaiti women to vote and run for parliamentary elections. In May 2009, she and three others became the first women to be elected to the Kuwait parliament. Ms. Dashti has held key positions in research and development institutions, such as the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and has worked for major national and international financial and development institutions, such as the National Bank of Kuwait and the World Bank. She is a regular contributor to regional and international policy forums on global governance, economic development and integration, democratization, and women's empowerment. Ms. Dashti won the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe for 2010 together with Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev. She also received the Clinton Global Citizens Award for 2009, the Vital Voices Global Leadership Award for 2006, and the King Hussein Humanitarian award for 2005. She is listed among the top 150 women leaders by Business Week, and among the world's 100 most powerful Arabs by Arabian Business. Ms. Dashti holds a doctorate degree in population dynamics from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, a master's degree in economics and finance from California State University, and a Bachelor of Science in agriculture economics from California State University.

Ahmed Aboul-Gheit

Ahmed Aboul-Gheit was elected Secretary General of the League of Arab States in July 2016. He had earlier served as the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs from 11 July 2004 to 6 March 2011. He began his career as Third Secretary at the Embassy of Egypt in Cyprus. He was subsequently appointed as First Secretary for Egypt's Ambassador to the United Nations, Political Consultant at the Egyptian Embassy in the Soviet Union in 1984, and Ambassador of Egypt to Italy, Macedonia and San Marino. In 1999, he headed Egypt's permanent delegation to the United Nations. He received a Bachelor of Commerce from Ain Shams University (Egypt) in 1964.

Nasser Shraideh

Nasser Shraideh is the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Jordan. He is a seasoned economist with over 30 years of experience in the public sector as well as the fields of international economics and development policy analysis, coupled with knowledge of the United Nations system, multilateral and inter-agency coordination processes. His previous work includes serving as Chairman of the Board for the Jordanian Free Zones Company, Minister of Environment, Chief Commissioner of the Petra Development & Tourism Region Authority and Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in Economics with 'Honors'

from the Yarmouk University. He also has extensive U.S. and Europe based training and has served on several prominent boards.

Amina J. Mohammed

Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and was Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from November 2015 to December 2016, where she steered the country's efforts on climate action, protecting the natural environment and conserving resources for sustainable development. Prior to this, she served as Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning, where she was instrumental in bringing about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Before joining the UN, Ms. Mohammed worked for three successive administrations in Nigeria, serving as Special Advisor on the Millennium Development Goals, providing advice on issues including poverty, public sector reform and sustainable development, and coordinating programmes worth \$1 billion annually for MDG-related interventions. She is also an Adjunct Professor in Development Practice at Columbia University, and served on numerous international advisory boards and panels, including the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the African Women's Millennium Initiative, Girl Effect, 2016 African Union Reform and the ActionAid International Right to Education Project. Ms. Mohammed began her 35-year career in the private sector with architects and engineers responsible for the project management of health, education and public sector buildings.

Plenary session - SDG 4 review

Karma El-Hassan

Karma El-Hassan is Professor of Educational Psychology Measurement and Evaluation at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. She has conducted/supervised research in test development/adaptation, validation, and published in international and regional journals and books in these areas. As Director of OIRA, she engaged in institutional assessment, development of assessment plans, and preparations for accreditation, program and peer review in higher education. Participated in regional, and international conferences on modern assessment in higher education. As a UNESCO Consultant, she prepared several country and regional reports and submitted a regional report on UNESCO's education support strategy for the Middle East (UNESS). She also served on several committees such as the National Task Force for Governance in Higher Education.

Saddam Sayyaleh

Saddam Sayyaleh is the Executive Director of ILearnJo.com and a member of the global leadership council of Generation Unlimited. Saddam, through 'I Learn', creates safe innovative spaces for refugee and at-risk children and youth to build a supportive ecosystem through community participation and civic engagement and skills building opportunities in safe spaces to empower children and enhance the capacity of youth leadership. Saddam is a recipient of the Badir Award for Young Jordanian Social Entrepreneurs and a Global Laureate fellow and member of World Economic Forum global shapers



community and an alumnus at the Swedish Institute and Fellow with UNESCO youth and Member of the global leadership council of Generation Unlimited.

Alexa Joyce

As Digital Transformation & Skills Director, Alexa Joyce works across the Europe, Middle East and Africa region to drive digital transformation of education institutions and digital skills development, from primary through to higher education. Over the last 20 years, she has worked with governments in more than 100 countries across the world in digital transformation. She previously led the global strategy at Microsoft for engaging and supporting education system leaders as they evolve their school systems, and was formerly EMEA Director of Policy, Teaching and Learning, focusing on supporting national device deployments across the region. Prior to Microsoft, she worked with leading international education organizations: European Schoolnet, UNESCO and OECD. She is on the advisory board of the EDUCATE incubator ed-tech startups in the UK.

Nawal Shalaby

Nawal Shalaby is the Director of the Curriculum and Educational Materials Development Center at the Ministry of Education. She is also the former head of the Curriculum Development Research Division. She has worked for more than three decades on many national projects to develop curriculum with international bodies, including the World Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the USAID, the French Cultural Center, the British Council, and the German Cultural Center and UNICEF. She holds a PhD in curriculum and teaching methods, as well as a master's degree in the same specialty.

Hana Omar

Hana Omar is the Director of Community Support at King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre in Saudi Arabia. Her experience includes working as the Head of International Cooperation Unit at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Rome, as well as Second Committee Expert at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations in New York. She holds a Master of Science in Instructional Technology, and a PhD in Education Technology.

Plenary session - SDG 5 review

Rasha Qandeel

Rasha Qandeel is BBC News anchor and senior journalist, presenter of the world's programs this evening, and presenter of special coverage on BBC News Arabic. Rasha has specialized in news, political and military coverage for more than 21 years. Rasha was chosen as a 'Champion of Journalism', an honor from the International Center for Journalists ICFJ and IWMF International in October 2020. She received her MA in Critical War Studies from LSE's School of Economics and Political Science. A pioneer in human rights work and human rights journalism in cooperation with UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF.



Magued Osman

Magued Osman is the CEO of the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera), and Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. He is also the Chairman of Telecom Egypt, a member of the National Council for Women, the Acting Chairman of the Arab Union for Statisticians, and a Board Member of Al-Masry Al-Youm newspaper. He was appointed as Minister of Communications and Information Technology in the post revolution caretaker government. He participated in the formulation of the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy and led the establishment of the Egypt Women Observatory.

Nicole Arian-Markazi

Nicole Arian-Markazi is Head of Customer Success in the Middle East and African Market, Nokia. She has worked for Nokia for over 10 years and is leading the company's UN Women collaboration program since the beginning of 2021. Nicole has an Engineering Diploma in Computer Science and has worked in different fields of the tech sector, mainly focusing on holistic Quality assessment initiatives. She has a diverse background as she was born in Iran, studied, and worked in Germany and currently lives in South Africa. She is passionate about digital inclusion and the impact the telecommunications sector has on society and economies.

Mohamed Naji

Mohamed Naji is a specialist in Blue Economy. He works as a teacher-researcher in the Department of Fisheries at the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine in Rabat. He has supervised dozens of research work and development projects on fisheries in Morocco and in the Arab and African regions. He has a long experience on women's labor in the fisheries sector.

Ohood Enaia

Ohood Enaia is a senior planner working for Ministry of local government in Palestine; she is involved in many national projects with special interest in urban planning and management. Prior to her current position, she worked at Municipal Fund as director of Strategic Planning and Public relations, and the Institutional development and technical assistance department. She also worked as an Architect within the private sector, and as part-time instructor at local universities. Raised in the West Bank, in Nablus where she finished her bachelor's degree, then moved to Ramallah and finished her master's degree on cultural heritage both with honor. She is now involved in reform projects for local government and heads the national team for localizing SDG 11.

High-level dialogue: Ministries of planning and finance in conversation

Mahmoud Mohieldin

Mahmoud Mohieldin is an economist with more than 30 years of experience in international finance and development. He is presently Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Development Agenda. Formerly, he held the position of

Minister of Investment of Egypt from 2004-2010, and most recently, served as the World Bank Group Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda. His roles at the World Bank also included World Bank President's Special Envoy on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Executive Secretary to the Development Committee of the World Bank Group's Board of Governors. Mr. Mohieldin holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Warwick.

Amina J. Mohammed

Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General. *(See full bio on p. 2)*

Mohammad Al Jasser

Mohammad Al Jasser served as an Advisor at the General Secretariat of the Saudi Council of Ministers and Chairman of the General Authority for Competition from 2016 to 2021. He served as the Minister of Economy and Planning, Governor and Board Chairman of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Deputy Minister of Finance, and IMF Executive Director. He was a member of several ministerial councils, boards and committees in Saudi Arabia. He participated in the G20 summits and meetings at the ministerial, governor, and deputy levels. He obtained his PhD in Economics from the University of California

Nasser Shraideh

Nasser Shraideh is the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Jordan. *(See full bio on p. 1)*

Hakim Ben Hammouda

Hakim Ben Hammouda is the former Minister of Economy and Finance in Tunisia. Prior to that, he worked in several positions such as special adviser of the President of the African Development Bank, and Director of the Institute of Training and Technical Cooperation with the World Trade Organization. He has also worked with UNESCAP as the director of the sub regional office in Central Africa, and the director of the trade and regional integration division. He holds a PhD in international economics.

Taif Sami

Taif Sami is the Deputy Minister of Finance in Iraq. Prior to that, she held several positions within the Ministry including Director General of the budget department. She is member of the board of several organizations, including the Arab Mining Company, the Pension Fund, and the Social Protection Fund. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Baghdad and a diploma from the Arab Planning Institute.

Youssef El Khalil

Youssef Khalil is the Minister of Finance of Lebanon. His previous experience includes working as the Executive Director of Banque du Liban's Financial Operations Department. He is also a part-time



lecturer at the American University of Beirut. He holds a PhD in Economics and a master's degree in Economic Development.

Hala El Saeed

Hala El Saeed is Minister of Planning and Economic Development, a prominent Egyptian economist and a renowned academic author. She became the first elected Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in 2011 and Cairo University's Deputy President for Scientific Research and Exterior Relations in 2013. She formerly held the position of Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administration Reform. She has also served as an advisor to the Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), a member of the board of trustees of the Anti-Money Laundering Unit at the CBE, and a board member of Arab African International Bank. She received her PhD in Economics in 1989 with highest honours from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University.

Waed Badhib

Waed Badhib is the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Yemen. He has held several positions, most notably advisor to the Central Bank of Yemen and Minister of Transport in the Government of National Accord, Assistant professor of financial and monetary institutions at the University of Aden. He previously had several participations and contributions to the activities of the Youth Student Union at the national, Arab, and international levels. He has also represented Yemen in several Arab ministerial committees and international seminars in the field of economics and transport. He holds a PhD and a master's degree in Economics.

Special event on the Report Financing Sustainable Development in Egypt

Hania Sholkamy

Hania Sholkamy is an Egyptian anthropologist, currently an associate research professor at the Social Research Centre of the American University in Cairo. Her work has focused on gender, health, and social protection in Egypt. She designed and piloted the cash transfers programs of the Government of Egypt as special advisor to the Minister of Social Solidarity. She has been a visiting fellow and professor at the American University in Beirut, the Arab Gulf University in Bahrain, and Yale University.

Mahmoud Mohieldin

Mahmoud Mohieldin is an Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Development Agenda. **(See full bio on p. 4)**

Navid Hanif

Navid Hanif is the Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). He joined UNDESA in 2001; until 2003, he was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World



Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. He holds a master's degree in international political economy from Columbia University, New York, and a master's degree in English Literature from Government College, Lahore.

Ahmed Kouchouk

Ahmed Kouchouk is Egypt's Vice Minister of Finance for Fiscal Policies and Institutional Reform. He served as the Government's lead negotiator and focal point in discussions with the International Monetary Fund. Mr. Kouchouk supervises and oversees the work of various policy related units and departments at the Ministry of Finance, including the Macro Fiscal unit, the Debt Management unit, the Public Private Partnership unit, the Transparency and Citizen Engagement unit, the Public Financial Management unit, and the Institutional reform unit. He holds a master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and another master's degree in economics.

Sylvain Merlen

Sylvain Merlen is Deputy Resident Representative in Egypt, UNDP. Prior to this, he was the Head of UNDP office in Aden, Yemen (2013-2018), Field Coordination Officer with the United Nations in Nepal (2010-2011), Recovery Advisor with UNDP in Haiti (2010), Strategic Planning Specialist with UNDP Iraq (2006-2009) and Policy Analyst with UNDP Office of Development Studies (ODS) in New York (2003-2005). Sylvain also worked in academia and in the private sector, as advisor on NeOn global renewable energy investments and as Financial Analyst at Commerzbank. He holds a Master Degree in Economics from Princeton University, a Master Degree in Sciences from Ecole Polytechnique in Paris and a Certificate in Language Studies from the American University in Cairo.

Khalid Abu-Ismaïl

Khalid Abu-Ismaïl is the Chief of the Economic Development and Poverty Section at UN ESCWA. His experience outside the United Nations includes teaching at the Faculty of Economics of the Lebanese American University and with the Egyptian Government's Cabinet's Decision Support Center and Office of the Minister for Public Enterprises. He holds a MPhil and a DPhil in Development Economics.

Thematic discussion – Multi-stakeholder efforts for green recovery

Jamal Saghir

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.



Shada El-Sharif

Shada El-Sharif is the Investment Priority Lead at the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) in Jordan. Prior to that, she served as an Advisor to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation on Sectoral Reforms and Climate Change. She was part of the World Bank team that developed Jordan's Green Recovery Plan through the NDC Partnership (NDCP), as well as the advisory team developing Jordan's first Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Assessment on Climate (PEFA Climate). She holds an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School, as well as MEng and BSc degrees in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University.

Khaled Mahdi

Khaled Mahdi is the Secretary General of Kuwait's Supreme Council for Planning and Development, the National Counterpart of UNDP's Country Program in Kuwait, and a member on high-level boards and committees, such as the Public Authority for Industries, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Public Housing Authority, the Government work plan committee, the public private partnership committee, the National Fund for SMEs, the Ease of Doing Business and Competitiveness Committee, and the government universities council. In 2016, he established the Kuwait Public Policy Center and its Nudge Unit, reporting directly to him. He also oversees the three other in-house research centers: The National Knowledge Economy Center, the National Sustainable Development Observatory, and the National Development Research Center. He holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering.

Salim Rouhana

Salim Rouhana is a Program Leader for Sustainable Development sectors covering Mashreq countries. Previously, Salim worked as a Senior Urban Development and Resilience Specialist and Task Team Leader, where he worked primarily on areas related to urban governance, decentralization and local development, low-income housing, and urban resilience in Africa, East Asia and MENA. Prior to joining the World Bank, Salim worked in private and public institutions in Paris, Doha, and Beirut in architecture, urban planning and design, mobility planning, and urban community engagement. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture, a master's degree in political science, a master's degree in urban planning and management, and an Executive MBA.

Noura Mansouri

Noura Mansouri is a Research Fellow at King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (KAPSARC), 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.

Hajar Khamlichi

Hajar Khamlichi is the Executive Director for the Mediterranean Climate House. Hajar has a vital role in civil society development, as she is the President and co-founder of the Mediterranean Youth Climate

Network (MYCN), which featured as one of the 10 success stories of the last ten years in the region by the Union for the Mediterranean. The network presents 22 Mediterranean countries and consists of NGOs and Youth Movements who work in climate action and sustainable development. In addition, she has an extended experience in raising awareness among decision-makers both at local and international levels. She also joined Carbound as the Mediterranean coordinator to monitor and promote cities sustainability.

Rami Ahmad

Rami Ahmad is currently the Special Envoy on Sustainable Development Goals and the IsDB's Sherpa, in addition to his duties as Senior Advisor to the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB), where he previously acted as a Director of the Country Programs Department, a Deputy Director/Director of the Country Operations Department for the MENA region, and a Division Chief for Infrastructure and Finance. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, as well as a Masters' Degree in Systems Science and a PhD in Business Administration from Louisiana State University.

Ahmed Ali Attiga

Ahmed Ali Attiga is the chief executive officer of the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP) and has over 25 years of experience in investment management, development finance, private equity, research, and teaching. He previously worked with the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation as a private sector development specialist and senior advisor to the board of directors. He was responsible for overseeing several investment and advisory services in the Middle East. Previously, he served as an advisor to Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund on privatization and restructuring strategies. He is also a board member of the Emirates Development Bank. He holds a BA in economics, an MS in international economics, and an MBA and a PhD in finance and development.

Thematic discussion – Recovery in the Arab least developed countries

Nasser Yassine

Nasser Yassine the current Lebanese Minister of Environment since September 2021. He is also an Associate Professor of Policy and Planning, and Chairperson of the Health Management and Policy Department at the American University of Beirut. He holds a PhD in Development Planning, and a Masters degree of Development Studies.

Amal Saleh Said

Amal Saleh Said is the acting Minister of Trade and Supply in Sudan.

Waed Badhib

Waed Badhib is the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Yemen. *(See full bio on p.6)*

Abderrahman Deddi

Mohamed Abdel-Rahman El-Deddi is the Deputy Director-General for Development Strategy and Policies at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Promotion of Productive Sectors and is responsible for preparing the strategy for accelerated growth and shared prosperity by 2030 and following up on the sustainable development goals in Mauritania.

Muse Mohamed Osman

Muse Mohamed Osman is the Director Planning at the Ministry of Planning in Somalia.

Khadar Sheikh Mohamed

Khadar Sheikh Mohamed is the Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in Somalia.

Nada Al Dossary

Nada Al Dossary is the Director of the General Department for Media and Strategic Communication of the Saudi Development and Reconstructions Program for Yemen since 2019. She has more than 15 years of experience in forming and executing strategies. She is participated with international organizations in efforts toward sustainable development in Yemen and implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

Abdallah Cheikh Sidia

Abdullah Cheikh Sidia is the Economic Advisor for the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Abdulla Al Musaibeeh

Abdullah Al Musaibeeh is the Regional Manager for Arab Countries at the Kuwait Fund.

Rwodah Al Naimi

Rwodah Al Naimi is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Qatar Fund for Development. She holds a master's degree of public administration and bachelor's degree in international relations and affairs

Ralf Südhoff

Ralf Südhoff is the director of the Centre for Humanitarian Action. He heads the research project on the policy and strategic capacities of German humanitarian actors. Before joining CHA, Ralf was Director of the UN World Food Programme Regional Bureau for the Syria Crisis in Amman. Prior to that, he was Director of the WFP Office in Berlin for Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein for almost 10 years. In addition, Ralf was Head of External Relations of the World Health Organization in Bonn and advisor to Ms. Uschi Eid, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and

Development. Ralf holds a master's degree in International Studies and a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics.

Nina Stuurman

Nina Stuurman has more than 15 years of operational and strategic experience in various complex crises and transitioning contexts in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and South East Asia, including Iraq, Central African Republic and Sri Lanka. Nina has been working at IOM Regional Office in Cairo since 2016 where as the Senior Regional Emergency and Post Crisis Specialist she is providing technical and strategic support to IOM offices on several key emerging topics including climate change, conflict sensitive programming and sustainable solutions.

Samer Abdeljaber

Samer Abdeljaber is the Representative and Country Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Palestine, overseeing the operation which aims to provide food assistance to 426,000 of the most vulnerable non refugees through in-kind and electronic food support and vouchers. Prior to his current role, Mr. Abdeljaber served as Country Director of WFP Libya, Chief of Digital Solutions Delivery based in Rome, acting Deputy Country Director for the WFP Egypt Country Office, and also served as the Regional Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Officer for the WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo. Mr. Samer holds a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Leah Zamore

Leah Zamore is a Program Lead and directs the Humanitarian Crises program at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC). She also co-directs an Experts Group on Global Refugee Policy. Prior to her current position, she taught international human rights law as a visiting professor at Fundação Getúlio Vargas law school in Brazil; served as a special advisor to the federal Government in Brasilia on refugee and humanitarian issues; and worked as a policy adviser to the Deputy High Commissioner of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland. She has a Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School, a Master's degree from Oxford University, and a Bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

Dale Thompson

Dale Thompson is a Consultant in Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus.

Plenary session - SDG 14 review

Laila Iskandar

Laila Iskandar was the Minister of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements in Egypt from July 2014-September 2015 and before that served as Minister of State for Environmental Affairs in the two cabinets following the June 30th Revolution. She was a leading member of civil society both nationally and internationally, working with grass roots communities in informal urban settlements and deprived villages in Upper Egypt as well as being part of global networks addressing issues of Urban Poverty. She was Chairperson of CID Consulting from 1995 – 2013, which was awarded the "Social Entrepreneur of the



Year" award in 2006 at the World Economic Forum by the Schwab Foundation. She served as jury to UNESCO's International Literacy Prize, and UNESCO's Resource Person for the Arab region since 2005.

Majida Maarouf

Majida Maarouf is currently the Director of the National Aquaculture Development Agency (ANDA). She graduated from the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary in 1991 and started her professional career in the fish farming sector by becoming an executive at the carp culture before taking the position of Production Manager. Prior to her current role, she worked at the National Halieutic Research Institute (INRH) within the INCO project on cephalopod fishery in northwest Africa. In 1999, she joined the Marine Fisheries Department at the Directorate for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture and held position as Head of the Department for Planning and Management of Fishery Resources and the Chief of the Division for the Protection of Fishery Resources.

Nedwa Nech

Nedwa Nech graduated with a Master II in Management and a master's degree in communication and in English literature. She has done training on fishing and the coastal environment as well as different areas of social development and speaks Arabic, French, English and Italian. She has coordinated several projects to strengthen artisanal fishing actors in Mauritania and in the sub-region. In addition, she is a member of several boards of directors at national and international level, in charge of gender aspects and the representation of small-scale fishing actors.

Imad Saoud

Imad Saoud has a double masters in Oceanography and in Environmental Physiology. In 1996 he joined the School of Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture at Auburn University to get a PhD in aquatic science with an emphasis on oyster reef ecology. In 2000 he started a postdoc at Auburn University in aquatic animal nutrition and in 2003 he joined the faculty of AUB as an aquatic scientist with an emphasis on aquaculture and water productivity. Imad has worked in the USA, Latin America, West Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He has served on the board of the Asia-Pacific Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society. He is presently the professor of aquatic science and aquaculture at AUB.

Plenary session - SDG 15 review

Mostafa Fouda

Mostafa Fouda is currently the Minister Advisor on Biodiversity. He was a member of Multidisciplinary Panel (MEP) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). He is the chairman of the IUCN National Committee as well as the Chair and Co-chair of several international and regional marine workshops (EBSA, MPAs, EcAP, etc). He is interested in marine ecosystems, wildlife, conservation, marine biodiversity and economics of protected areas. After obtaining his Ph.D., he supervised more than 120 M.Sc. and Ph.D. thesis and published about 200 papers and articles on marine conservation, marine policy, mangroves, coral reefs, marine biodiversity,



fisheries biology and ecology, marine invertebrates, environmental pollution and environmental impact assessment.

Saliha Fortas

Saliha Fortas is a state engineer in agronomy who specializes in forestry. She is currently the director of desertification control, the national focal point of the international convention to combat desertification, the vice-chair of the committee responsible for reviewing the status of desertification control and is the national director of the green dam project at the FAO. She had also been appointed by the Arab League as an expert in combating desertification in Arab countries.

Hassan Al Dashti

Hassan Al Dashti has over 20 years of experience in the field of meteorology. He progressed through many roles such as forecaster in 2002, Head of Climate Section in 2004, Superintendent of Climatology in Meteorological Department of Civil Aviation in 2009. He has participated in local, regional, and international committees, and represented Kuwait in several conferences including those coordinated by the UN. He has 19 research papers published and was the lead meteorological and climatological consultant to 20 national infrastructure projects.

Nizar Hani

Nizar Hani, PhD, is the Director General of Shouf Biosphere Reserve, the largest protected area in Lebanon. His focus is on the forest and landscape restoration programs and all related activities, biomass management, sustainable agriculture, value chains, etc. Nizar was recently recognized by Italy with the Knight of the Order of the Star. He was also awarded the WCPA Kinton Miller Award. Nizar is also a member of the IUCN Green List EAGL group of West Asia.

Maria Selin

Maria Selin has a master's degree in social sciences and a degree in journalism. Most of her career has been dedicated to development and she has held numerous managerial positions at Sida Headquarters and at Swedish Embassies in Africa and Asia. Maria Selin was previously heading the office of Sida's Director General in Stockholm, Sweden, as Chief of Staff. Since September 2021 she is heading the Regional Development Cooperation for MENA at the Embassy of Sweden in Amman, Jordan.

Thematic discussion – Multi-stakeholder efforts driving digital transformation for sustainable recovery

Nermine El Saadany

Nermine El Saadany joined the Internet Society in August 2018 and now serves as Regional Vice President for the Middle East. Her previous experience includes Under-secretary for International Relations at the



Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. She has around 25 years of working experience in the field of Internet policy, research on political economy, international & regional affairs, International Organizations Relations (UN and EU), and ICT diplomacy. She is a seasoned bilateral and multilateral negotiator and a specialist in the design and implementation of information and communications technology (ICTs) development projects and events. She holds a master's in economics from the American University of Cairo and is on the board of Diplo Foundation.

Ishaq Sider

Ishaq Sider has been the Minister of Communications and Information Technology in Palestine since April 2019. He was the Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology and the Dean of Applied Professions College at Palestine Polytechnic University. He is the Head of Hebron Branch at the General Secretary of Engineers Association, a Member of the Central council of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and a Consultant Member at Fateh organization. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Odessa State Academy of Refrigeration (OSAR)-Ocarina.

Jawad Abbassi

Jawad Abbassi leads the GSMA MENA team that is responsible for GSMA work & activities in the MENA region, which spans 25 countries. He oversees the MENA advocacy activities and GSMA programs such as future networks and technology programs. Before joining the GSMA, he managed the Arab Advisors Group, which he had founded in 2001. Prior to that, his career experience included working as a senior telecommunications and technology consultant with the Yankee Group in Boston, USA. He received his BSc in engineering and a scholarship for an MSc in information systems.

Fadi Makki

Fadi Makki heads the first behavioral insights and nudge unit in the Middle East – at the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy where he is also advisor to its Secretary General. He is the founder of Nudge Lebanon. He served as member of the World Economic Forum Council for behavioral sciences between 2016 and 2018 and is currently member of the WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Behavioral Insights for Public Health. He served as Director General of the ministry of economy and trade and Advisor to the Prime Minister in Lebanon. He obtained his PhD from Cambridge University, master's degrees from LSE and Hull, BAs from AUB and the Lebanese University.

Rasha Tantawy

Rasha Tantawy is the board member of the Women Entrepreneurship Network (WEN) and the founder of TIYE angels. Rasha was part of the team that compiled the ICT 2020 strategy for Egypt, and the team that launched the first innovation portal for Egypt in Arabic, egyptinnovate.com. She runs uniquely designed policy hacking workshops where innovative policy solutions to entrepreneurship problems may be developed. Her consultancy work includes developing the MENA innovation index, developing KPIs for Technology Parks and developing innovation diagnostic tools for SMEs in these regions and entrepreneurship policy design. Rasha holds two master's degrees which are Civil Engineering and Management of Technology.



Mohamed Ben Amor

Mohamed Ben Amor holds a Master diploma in International Project Management and a Diploma of Engineer. He has over 25 years of experience, specializing in the use and evolution of information and communication technologies for development, as well as in analytical, policy, management and coordination functions at national, regional and international level. He previously occupied the post of Special Advisor to the Minister of Industry and Technologies, to the Minister of Information and Communication Technologies and to the Minister of Higher Education Scientific Research an ICT.

Round table on voluntary national reviews: Subnational follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and tackling inequality

Kassem El Saddik

Kassem El Saddik is an international expert in program evaluation who believes that evaluation matters for development. With more than 18 years of experience, Kassem has led and provided consulting services to various complex programs throughout North America, the Middle East, Africa, including fragile and conflict-affected environments. In addition to his track-record in national evaluation capacities, Kassem is credited for his deep engagement in civil society. He is EVALSDGs Co-Chair and a founder of the MENA Evaluation Network. He has contributed to various evaluation forums, drafted dozens of policy reviews and co-authored the series of EVALSDGs/IIED policy briefs, including the Evaluation Guidebook.

Akram Khraisat

Akram Khraisat is Director of Amman Urban Observatory and team leader of rehabilitation. He has contributed to spreading the culture of urban indicators through training courses, seminars and workshops for staff, by introducing and computing urban indicators and measurement methodologies, and by advocating the benefits of using indicators in planning for the Greater Amman Municipality. He has held several workshops on collecting and analyzing data and producing the final reports on urban and institutional indicators. He was the recipient of an honor degree from Amman Municipality for "knowledge transfer". He has many certificates in planning and risk management, and holds a Bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Jordan. He is also a team leader of establishing observatories in local cities.

Mona Fayed

Mona E. Fayed is a Professor at the Economics Department of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. She got her Ph.D. in Economics in 2010 and was awarded as best Ph.D. thesis by Cairo University. Mona is currently the Head of Sustainable Development Unit at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development. Also, a member of the Advisory Board of the International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies, published by the Euro-Mediterranean University, as well as a member of the Editorial Associate Board of the Scientific Journal of Faculty of Economics and Political Science. Former Deputy Director of the Center for Economic & Financial Research & Studies at Cairo University and a fellow



at the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Council of Economic and Administrative Sciences, since 2015. She has several published articles in the domain of monetary and institutional economics.

Muhammed Al Sayed

Muhammed Al Sayed is the Director General of the Department of Regional and Local Development at the Ministry of Planning in Iraq. He holds a doctorate and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Baghdad. He has worked in preparing national and local development plans in Iraq and its multiple governorates since 1998. He participated in preparing the national vision of Iraq for the sustainable development 2030 Agenda as well as preparing voluntary reports for Iraq. He is also working on the preparation of strategic studies for sustainable spatial development in Iraq, which is in line with achieving sustainable development goals and the requirements of the economic, social and urban community in Iraq in accordance with planning standards.

Yaqeen Karim Jomaa

Yaqeen Karim Jomaa is the Director of the Planning Directorate in Dhi Qar Governorate, Ministry of Planning, Iraq. She holds a Master of urban and regional planning, worked for 8 years in the field of human development, and participated and prepared the voluntary national review on sustainable development.

Yehia Ibrahim

Yehia Ibrahim was born in Alexandria, Egypt, graduated from the Social Work Department at Istanbul University, and works as responsible for the Social Inclusion Committee and the Gender Equality Committee in the United Cities and Local Governments - Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), as well as the coordinator of the Global Task Force on Migration (GTFM).

Mustafa Khawaja

Mustafa Khawaja has been working in the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. He is a statistician in practice, his focus area is on statistical and SDGs monitoring. His favorite area is the field of Anti-corruption in terms of developing indicators and measurements tools. Mustafa holds a master degree in democracy and human rights studies - Birzeit University

Najat Maalla M'jid

Najat Maalla M'jid 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.

Taher Belhassan

Taher Belhassan is the General Director of the Planning Institute at the Libyan Ministry of Planning and Head of the Libyan Sustainable Development Committee. He was the Chairman of the Libyan Survey

Department and the General Director of Technical Affairs and Project Feasibility at the Ministry of Planning, where he also worked as an advisor to His Excellency the Minister of Planning. He served as the Director of the Ministry of Energy's Planning and Studies Office and the Director of the Ministry of Scientific Research's Projects Department. He holds a master's degree in survey engineering and spatial information systems, and a PhD in Engineering Project Management.

Digital Arabic Content Award

Hoda Baraka

Hoda Baraka is the Advisor of the Minister of ICT for Technology Talents. She was the Former First Deputy Minister of ICT since 2006 till 2013. From 2002 till 2013, she was also the National Director of Egypt's ICT Trust Fund, which is established to promote the use of ICT for Development. Her activities include formulating effective Public Private Partnerships, policies' development and planning of ICT for Development. She has been awarded the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa prize for the use of ICTs in Education, for her contribution in the development and enhancement of education in Egypt using ICT.

Ramy Soliman

Ramy Soliman is the Co-founder and COO of Bonocle Inc, a company aimed at improving the lives of the blind community through technology.

Thematic discussion – Health-oriented regional supply chains to aid recovery and boost preparedness for future shocks

Samer Al-Madhoun

Samer Al-Madhoun is a Supply Chain consultant who is recognized to help companies implement Supply Chain excellence through process reengineering and technology advancement. In the past 25 Years, he successfully completed major supply chain infrastructure projects for erecting factories, airports and transportation hubs in the EMEA region. He led restructuring procurement departments in organizations like QAIA. His current mission is to create a culture for supply chain improvement through educating and consulting with companies to implement sustainability and SC optimization. He is also a board member at the United Nation Global Compact Network in Jordan, a UN entity in charge of promoting the Sustainable Development Goals Worldwide.

Jameel Abulenain

Jameel Abualenain is the General Supervisor of the General Department of Emergency, Disaster and Ambulatory Transport at the Ministry of Health in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Heba Wali

Heba Wali is the CEO of Vacsera in Egypt.

Omar Najim

Omar Najim is the Manager at the Executive Affairs Office at the Department of Health, United Arab Emirates.

Shadi Saleh

Shadi Saleh is Associate Vice President for Health Affairs and the Founding Director of the Global Health Institute (GHI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB). In addition, he is a Professor of Health Systems and Financing at the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB. His areas of expertise are in health care systems and financing, evaluations of innovative health care interventions, and building a business case for quality and health care access and equity. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and commissioned reports.

Nael Al-Husami

Nael Al-Husami is the CEO of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Thematic discussion – Social inclusion through recovery

Hania Sholkamy

Hania Sholkamy is Associate Research Professor at the Social Research Centre of the American University in Cairo. *(See full bio on p. 6)*

Nivine El Kabbag

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 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.

Hussein Al-Sheikh

Hussein Al-Sheikh is the Advisor for Social Affairs of the Minister of Community Development in the United Arab Emirates.

Barq Al Dmour

Barq Al Dmour is the Secretary-General of the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development. His previous positions include Director of the National Aid Fund and Social Development in Karak, Member of the executive council of Karak Governate, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the EU-funded social protection strengthening project, and Chair of the steering committee of the women, security, peace, and

humanity fund (WPHF), in partnership with UN Women. He holds a Masters and a PhD in Political Science.

Abdelouahab Belmadani

Abdelouahab Belmadani is the Director of Planning and Financial Resources at the Ministry of Health. His previous positions include working at the Ministry of Finance as the head of department. He has implemented several sectoral strategies and reform projects at both the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health. He also led the process of developing a national strategy on health financing with the organization of a national conference on health financing in 2019. He holds a master's degree in finance.

Najlaa Al-Sayyad

Najlaa Al-Sayyad is the Director of the Social Welfare Fund and an expert in social protection. She holds a high diploma and a BA in public law from the University of Aden. She is also human rights activist and member of the Social Protection Consultative Committee.

Kaltham Ali Al Ghanim

Kaltham Ali Al Ghanim, director of the Social & Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University from August 2020, director of Center for Humanities and Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar University from September 2014 until May 2018. She has conducted several research projects related to social issues, culture, heritage, and sustainable development. She led several interdisciplinary research projects funded by various national and international institutions. She has relationships with many national, regional, and international institutions as an expert in socio-cultural studies and human development. She contributed to the preparation of many national strategies and plans.

Plenary Session – A special conversation with young people in the Arab region on the United Nations Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda"

Marwa Al Khairo

Marwa Al Khairo is an International Development Consultant and Youth Development Advisor.

Jaafar Abdul Karim

Jaafar Abdul Karim is a Journalist and TV presenter for Deutsche Welle Arabia, where he hosts 'Jaafar Talk'. He studied media informatics at the TU Dresden and completed a directing course at the London Film Academy.



Asma Rouabhia

Asma Rouabhia is the founder of the Elkhadra Sustainable initiative. Asma was part of the technical working group focusing on achieving the SDGs as part of the UN High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021. She is also an alumna of the US MEPI Student Leaders program and won first place in the MEPI Alumni of the Year 2020 award. She led the design and implementation of capacity building programs for policy makers and public sector reform. Asma was a Junior National Consultant to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in the Recovery and Resilience Team. She is a former regional focal point for the Arab States and West Asia with the Major Group for Children and Youth and a coordinator of the Youth Sustainable Energy Hub. She holds a bachelor's in business administration.

Ahmad Bali

Ahmad Bali is a hydrologist with eight years of experience in WASH and the relief context, to meet the global goals, promote development cooperation, and implement Jordan Response Plans (JRP). He holds a certificate in the Management of Development Projects. He undertook many volunteering activities, working on the principles of the United Nations, the SDGs and youth empowerment in the EU and MENA regions.

A'laa Chbaro

A'laa Chbaro is a Community Building Consultant at Berytech, working on UNICEF's GIL Program. She is focusing on making the GIL Innovation Labs, placed in 13 marginalized areas in Lebanon, sustainable, fostering innovation, employability, and entrepreneurial skills. A'laa advocates for policies supporting SMEs & start-ups in the MENA region through active participation with the OECD at the Business Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Board, and MENA-OECD Economic Resilience Task Force. In 2017, she founded WonderEd, an Education startup through which she created a screen-free-play-based methodology to teach coding to 3 years old.

Ismail Farjia

Ismail is a Junior Executive Manager at the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection. He is in charge of the administrative support, production of analytical documents, logistical and financial support for the Mohammed VI Prize for the Climate and Sustainable Development. He is also coordinator of the African Youth Climate Hub in charge of its conceptualization and implementation. Ismail is a former analyst at the Moroccan Center for Strategic Studies and the African Federation for Strategic Studies. Ismail holds an M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy with a concentration in Peace and Conflict Studies from Al Akhawayn University.

Rwan El-Jack

Rwan El-Jack is a university student studying business administration, and a human rights activist in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities. She volunteered in many organizations and initiatives since



2014, during which she gained practical and scientific skills. Her goal is to push the Sudanese society towards education and development projects.

Sarah Al Harthey

Business Development Manager at ACWA Power working on developing renewable energy and sustainable utilities. Sara holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering and a Masters in Renewable Energy Engineering. She is a certified climate reality leader and an advisor on Youth and Climate Change, for the Climate knowledge Report with UNESCO. She was also selected as 2021 Ambassador of Climate Change in KSA for GCYN program organized by Y2Y at the World Bank and a Member of Youth Constituency (YOUNGO) at UNFCCC. She had authored policy opinion papers from youth perspective on areas of climate nexus with topics like youth, energy, gender and technology.

Aya Dagdoug

Aya Dagdoug is a medical student and a founding member of Ruspina Monastir interactive club. She is currently a member at Catalyst Association working on the promotion of youth engagement in civil society and public life. She was chosen as the best national speaker at the Tunisian Universities Debating Championship. Her interest in sustainable development prompted her to become a participant in the Safir Program. She also advocates for medical education as a founding member of OdEx.

Tamara Al Tibi

Tamara Al Tibi is a Palestinian based attorney who practices human rights and humanitarian law. She has devoted her career to gender equality, human rights, and democracy process. In addition, she is a main researcher, author and public policy analyst. In 2018, she earned a bachelor's degree in legal studies from Birzeit University, Palestine. Tamara is an active member in several civil society institutes and networks, locally and regionally, such as the Gender Innovation Agora, the Young Women's Peacebuilding Regional Network, the Arab Women Legal Network, and the Advisory Group for the Palestine National Gender Equality Profile.

Special session 1: UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Aseel Al Mukhaimer

Aseel Al Mukhaimer is the Projects Manager at the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development JOHUD, and a certified social marketer. Holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology and Genetics Engineering, complemented with Master's Degree of Business Administration focused in Management. An experienced humanitarian Officer with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organizations and Jordanian local communities. Skilled in Programs Development, Projects Design and Management, Fundraising and Partnerships Management with various donors and stakeholders, Market Research and Value Chain Analysis particularly agricultural, along with Sustainable development emergency response.

Ibrahim El Dukheri



Ibrahim El Dukheri is the Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD). He joined AOAD in 2017, after serving his country, Sudan, as its Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. AOAD is one of the specialized Arab organizations, functioning under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. As such, its members are all the member states of the Arab League. AOAD has had a positive impact on the development of agriculture in the Arab region, and within each member state.

Nasser Eddin Al Obaid

Nasser Eddin Al Obaid is the Director General of the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD). He holds a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural and Environmental Economy and has been working in ACSAD since 1995 following his position as Director General of the Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of the Syrian Arab Republic. ACSAD's tasks are reflected in facing the challenges which are imposed by arid and semi-arid environments with fragile agricultural systems, by providing applied scientific data and developed techniques in a way that allows a wide-range implementation of the tasks of the agricultural and social development process and optimal use of renewable natural resources in the arid areas.

Maya Nehme

Maya Nehme is the Director of the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative, a Lebanese NGO that works on improving practices in reforestation, forest management, land use planning, quarry restoration, riparian restoration, and wildfire management. She holds a dual title degree in Entomology and Comparative and International Education from Penn State University and has been working in the forestry field in Lebanon with the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative since 2011. Through her work at LRI, she established long term successful partnerships within Lebanon as well as on the international level. LRI is now a member of the IUCN network and the USFS NGO network, accredited by UNEP, an SER partner and a partner on the EU-funded regional HEUREKA project working on disaster management in the middle east region.

Meshal Ibn Abdullah Al Harbi

Meshal Ibn Abdullah Al Harbi is the Director General of Rangeland at the National Center of Vegetation Cover Development and Combating Desertification in the Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia.

Special session 2: Social Expenditure Monitor

Ibrahim El Badawi

Ibrahim El Badawi 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

Nivine El Kabbag is Deputy Minister of Social Solidarity of Egypt. *(See full bio on p. 18)*

Sihem Nemsia

Sihem Nemsia is the Minister of Finance in Tunisia.

Mahar Hammad Johan

Mahar Hammad Johan is the Deputy Minister of Planning in Iraq.

Abdelhakim Shibli

Abdelhakim Shibli is the Secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Finance.

Markus Loewe

Markus Loewe is research team leader at the German Development Institute, Bonn, where he has been working since 1999. He studied development economics and political science in Tübingen, Erlangen and Damascus and got his PhD from Heidelberg University for a thesis on micro-insurance. His research covers social protection, poverty reduction, industrial policies, small and medium enterprise development and the concept of the social contract. His regional focus is the Middle East and North Africa.

Ziad Abdel Samad

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. He 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.

Special session 3: Social norms and gender-based violence

Maysaloun Nassar



Maysaloun Nassar is a French- Lebanese journalist. She worked for multiple Pan-Arab TV channels and production companies in several Arab countries as documentary producer and copywriter/scriptwriter, as well as production manager. In early 2011, she joined France 24 TV station in Paris as news editor. Later, she was commissioned the coverage of political, economic and sports events and dispatched as special envoy in several regions (MENA, Europe, Africa and USA). In October 2014, she started hosting a weekly twelve-minute TV show “The 51% - Hiya Al Hadath” about women rights, empowerment and gender equality. In addition to “Hiya Al Hadath”, she launched in late 2015 “Fi Falak Al Mamnou”, a forty-five bimonthly talk show that tackles social, religious and political taboos. In 2018, she was appointed Head of programs in France Media Monde group (France 24, RFI and MonteCarlo Doualiya). Lately, she added a six-minute weekly show to her portfolio, “You were told – Qalou Lakom”, dedicated to fight stereotypes and misconceptions to help prevent the spread of fake news in societies.

Lina Abou-Habib

Lina Abou-Habib is the Director of the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at AUB, where she teaches gender studies. She is the Chair of Collective for Research and Training for Development and a Board Member for “Gender at Work”, the MENA advisor for the “Urgent Action Fund” and a strategic advisor for the Global Fund for Women and Doria Feminist Fund. She is a member of the editorial Board of Oxfam’s Gender and Development journal. She served previously as the Executive Director of “Women Learning Partnership” and worked with several international and regional organisations.

Insaf Fathallah

Insaf Fathallah, Jurist and holds a master's degree in gender, inspector of colleges and high schools in Civic Education, President of the Tunisian Association of Civic Education. Secretary General of the Tunisian Union of Social Solidarity, Member of the experts committee for the integration of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in national education, President of a committee for the educational reform, Expert at the Arab Institute for Human Rights.

Marwa Sharafeldin

Marwa Sharafeldin is Senior Advisor in Musawah, the Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family. She is also a Visiting Fellow in Harvard Law School's Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World. She has a PhD in Socio-Legal Studies from the Law Faculty in the University of Oxford. She co-founded and served on the Executive and Advisory Boards of several international, regional and Egyptian feminist organizations. Her activist and scholarly work lie in the intersection between feminist activism, Islamic law and women's human rights.

Majd Ghraizi

Majd Ghraizi is Project Coordinator at KAFA (enough) Violence and Exploitation. KAFA is a Lebanese feminist and secular civil society organization with the main objective of eliminating all forms of gender-based violence and exploitation of women and girls since its establishment in 2005. In KAFA, he coordinates the project ‘Men of Women for Gender Equality’ -supported by UN Women-, that aims to promote social norms change for gender equality, with a distinct focus on engaging young men and young



women. He holds a master's degree in Applied Clinical and Adjustment Psychology at the Lebanese University.

Elena Panova

Elena Panova is the UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt. She has more than 22 years of development and management experience, including all aspects of programme management, cross-areas collaboration and resource mobilization, with specific experience in government and private sector financing. At the United Nations, she most recently served as Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan, having held several leadership positions at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including Senior Programme Coordinator overseeing the coordination of all regional UNDP and inter-agency programmes at the UNDP Regional Hub in Istanbul.

Special session 4: Challenges and opportunities for young people in the transition from learning to decent work in the Arab region

Kishore Kumar Singh

Kishore Kumar Singh is the Senior Regional Skills and Employability Specialist ILO's Regional Office for Arab States. Before joining this position, he served as Chief Technical Adviser at ILO in Bangladesh to lead the EU and Canada supported skills and employability programs. He served as International Poverty Reduction Adviser at UNDP, Bangladesh, where he headed the Socio-Economic Fund of Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) project. He also served as Project Director at CARE International and as an advisor at GIZ in India for livelihoods promotion, poverty reduction and inclusion.

Marleen Renders

Marleen Renders is UNICEF's Regional Advisor for Adolescent Development and Young People's Engagement for the Middle East and North Africa Region and serves as co-chair of the UN Arab States Region Issue Based Coalition (IBC) on Adolescents and Youth. She has 20 years of experience covering research, technical leadership and management in international development, peacebuilding and education across Europe, East Africa, and the Middle East. She received her Master's in development studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London (UK) (1999) and her PhD in Political and Social science from Ghent University (Belgium) (2006). Prior to joining UNICEF, she worked in academic research and higher education.

Nader Kabbani

Nader Kabbani is the Founder and CEO of Legacy Social Development Advisory. He is also Senior Fellow and Director of Research with the Middle East Council on Global Affairs. A development researcher and practitioner with over 20 years' experience, he has served in leadership positions with the Brookings Doha Center, the Silatech Foundation, and the Syria Development Research Center at the Syria Trust for Development. He also served on the faculty of the American University of Beirut and the research staff of



the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California State Senate. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Johns Hopkins University.

Lama Al-Natour

Lama Al-Natour is currently the Head of the Development Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Education in Jordan. She has more than twenty 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, in addition to projects and joint financial support programs, as well as colleges and educational institutions in Jordan, Egypt and Australia.

Ghali Jorio

Ghali Jorio is a Moroccan entrepreneur, traveler and social pioneer. He moved to South Africa to study at the Aider Sans Limite Academy. Ghaly is currently the Director of MYSEC, a travel company that innovates in the field of Moroccan tourism. He also serves as Group President for the Moroccan Youth Social Entrepreneur, which aims to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and personal skills for youth.

Samar Thawabteh

Samar Thawabteh is a Member of the Arab Trade Union Confederation's Young Leader Academy in Palestine. She participated in preparing and presenting workshops on women, youth and people with disabilities with many local institutions. She also works for Raya FM radio as a preparer and presenter for news and programs. She holds a BA in Media and Political Science and a master's degree in digital media.

Emmanuelle Roure

Emmanuelle Roure works as "Neighbourhood Team Leader" in the International Affairs Unit of the Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission. The team supports the sectoral cooperation on employment, labour and social policies with the Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood partners at bilateral and regional levels (i.e. Union for the Mediterranean, Eastern Partnership). She has worked in the European Commission for more than 20 years, focusing mainly on external relations. She obtained master's degrees in political sciences and European Law at Sciences-Po Paris and College of Europe.

Special session 5: Role of supreme audit institutions in the recovery and implementation of the SDGs

Karam Karam

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.

Mohamed Abu Zayd

Mohamed Abu Zayd is the Director General of the Central Auditing Organization, Egypt. He is also a member of the monitoring team for the implementation of sustainable development goals, and other committees and associations. He undertook audits and reviews of operations in the Central Administration for Control over the Presidential, Services and Economic Ministries, the Central Administration for the Supervision of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Central Administration for the Supervision of Eastern Delta Governorates, and others. He published many papers, including on a proposed information system to support pricing decisions in light of the environmental requirements of the World Trade Organization - an applied study on the fertilizers sector. He holds a PhD in Environmental Accounting and a PhD in Accounting.

Saleh Mousa Mosleh

Saleh Mousa Mosleh is the Director General of the Department for Control of Social and Cultural Services in the State Audit Administrative Control Bureau in the State of Palestine. He heads the team responsible for reviewing the readiness of the government to implement the sustainable development goals. Prior to joining the State Audit Bureau, he worked as a development specialist at UNRWA. He then held several positions in the Bureau, working as an auditor in 2005 and then heading the internal control unit in 2007. He was also appointed as the acting director general of oversight of the governance and security sector in 2009, and then of the local governance sector in 2010. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting.

Agung Firman Sampurna

Agung Firman Sampurna, CSFA, CFrA, CGCAE, QGIA is the Chairman of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK), a position he assumes since October 2019. Prior to the current role, he served as BPK Board Member from April 2012, overseeing audits of the parliament office and of central government agencies of education, sport, and disaster management, of regional and local governments in the western part of Indonesia, and of the attorney general's office and the central government agencies of politics, law, and national security affairs. He holds a doctoral degree in Public Administration and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Indonesia.

Archana Shirsat

Archana Shirsat is 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), making a difference in the quality of public sector governance and service delivery for value and benefits of all (www.idi.no). Within IDI, she is a part of the management team and heads a department that works towards a vision of professional and relevant SAIs through high quality and high



impact audits. One of the key areas of her work includes promoting and supporting SAls in providing independent, external oversight on the implementation of SDGs.

Osama Al Azzam

Osama Al Azzam is the Director General of the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) in Jordan. He has extensive experience in finance and management reforms including governance, budgeting, costing, accounting, auditing policies and practices, policies and procedures manuals, business process reengineering, impact analysis, and feasibility studies. He also worked on developing costing systems, undertaking capacity building needs assessment, and implementing financial accounting systems as well as financial accounting policies and procedures, and Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP). In addition, he is the former Chairman of Transparency International - Jordan and board member of the International Arab Society of Certified Accountant. He also holds an MBA and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Adel Abdulaziz Al-Sarawi

Adel Abdulaziz Al-Sarawi is Vice President of the State Audit Bureau, and a former member of the Kuwait National Assembly. He served in different parliamentary committees and presented various studies, including on the importance of financial data and the role it plays in supporting decision making for economic regional integration in Arab countries. He assumed various positions before this, including that of Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Assessment of Compensation, of Director of the Financial Affairs Department at the same entity, and of Director of the Independent Budgets Department in the Ministry of Finance. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Kuwait University.

Kinda Hattar

Kinda Hattar works as MENA Regional Advisor at Transparency International (TI), leading on regional advocacy in fighting corruption and establishing principles of integrity and transparency. She joined TI from UNDP, working on Enhancing Capacity of the Ministry for Political Development and Political Parties in Jordan. She also worked with youth, women and people with disabilities as the Governance Project Manager with the British Council. She has also fulfilled the position of Programme Coordinator and Trainer at the National Centre for Human Rights after working as Community Services Officer with Care International. She holds a master's in international human Rights Law and a BA in Communication and Journalism.

Arnaud Peral

Arnaud Peral is the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tunisia. He brings more than 20 years of experience in sustainable development, democratic governance, gender equality, crisis prevention and management, conflict reduction and peacebuilding to his new role. Prior to joining the United Nations, he held managerial positions in the Government of France, including Cooperation Counsellor for Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the French Embassy in Cuba. He holds a master's degree in development and a bachelor's degree in economic policy.

Special session 6: Transboundary climate risks in the Arab region

Tarek Al Khoury

Tarek Al Khoury has over 11 years of experience in the fields of environment, urban planning and resource efficiency, 7 years of them have been in the UN System. In 2014, he joined UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi to support Francophone African countries and Arab States in policies and programmes on housing and slum upgrading. Later on, he was appointed as a Regional Programme Officer for Arab States within the Land and Global Land Tool Network Unit (GLTN). He is currently the Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production with UNEP West Asia Office. He holds a Masters of Environment, Urban and Regional Planning, as well as a specialized master's in project and Program management.

Ali Al-Dousari

Ali Al-Dousari is one of the leading scientists in the science of land degradation (desertification) and rehabilitation methods in the Arab region. He won many prizes for his work, locally and regionally. He acts as Kuwait representation active member within Committee of Science and Technology (CST) in United Nation Committee for Compacting Desertification-UNCCD. He is part of editorial board in local and international Journals (Springer). He led many major projects that make Kuwait as international figure in fields of aeolian studies (mobile sand and dust) in addition land rehabilitation. He established and innovated in 2014 the annual season every springtime (2014-2015-2016) for plantation of native plants with social community participation, which positively enhance the Kuwait image regionally and globally.

Nadim Farajalla

Nadim Farajalla started out his graduate academic studies in irrigation engineering attaining an MS from Utah State University in Logan, Utah, USA and then an MS and a PhD in environmental engineering from the University of Oklahoma, USA. He founded and headed the Land, Water and Environment Department at the consulting firm SETS Sarl with projects in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, and Oman. Currently, he is the director of the Climate Change and the Environment Program at the American University of Beirut's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs. His current research focuses on climate change impact on urban areas; the nexus of water-energy-food and climate change with focus on adaptation and resilience.

Yousif Yousif

Yousif Yousif has more than 10 years of work experience at the Ministry of Environment in Iraq. He handled various development projects focusing on climate change, ecosystem, pollution, and green economy. In 2017, he was appointed as Head of International Relations of the Ministry of Environment which plays a pivotal role among other Ministry Departments and Units and serves also as the frontline of the development partners. His work on different environment issues in Iraq with its multidimensional challenge has gained him a solid experience on key environment issues facing Iraq including

transboundary climate change impacts and its adaptation and mitigation processes. He has a bachelor's degree in Chemistry.

Special session 7: Urban resilience to COVID-19 and climate change

Elie Mansour

Elie holds a master's degree in Civil Engineering – structures and public works, and a master's degree in Urban Planning. Before joining the UN-Habitat Lebanon office in 2014, Elie worked in multi-disciplinary private engineering firms in Lebanon and the Gulf region, working on building's seismic retrofitting and large infrastructural projects. He joined UN-Habitat as a WASH engineer, and then initiated and headed the Urban Planning & Design unit, intending to expand UN-Habitat's operational projects to innovate, work with communities, and achieve strategic resilience objectives. With UN-Habitat, Elie dealt with a multitude of disciplines such as Culture, Energy, Water and Waste, Public Spaces, Climate Change, Shelter, and other innovative urban upgrading initiatives. Recently, Elie has contributed to developing UN-Habitat Lebanon's climate change portfolio, initiated several partnerships with the private sector, and supported mobilizing assistance funding in response to the Beirut Port Explosion – particularly in the shelter, environment, and cultural industries

Riad Meddeb

Riad Meddeb has twenty-five years of experience in sustainable development and economics, focusing on technical cooperation and policy advisory support to governments in Africa, Arab States, and Asia and Caribbean / Pacific regions and is also the Senior Principal Advisor on Small Island Developing States, in the Bureau for Policy and Program Support/Global Policy Network. Prior to joining UNDP, Riad was an Economist at the UN Conference on Trade and Development, working on international trade and foreign direct investment, and at the International Labor Organization on the impact of technology and job generation in developing countries. Over the past years at UNDP, he has worked closely with the Alliance of Small Island States on critical issues related to the implementation of SDGs and SAMOA Pathway in SIDS, including how to capitalize on digital transformation for SIDS.

Raza Siddiqui

Raza Siddiqui is the CEO of Arabian Healthcare Group and Executive Director of RAK Hospital. He worked at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, the flagship hospital of India's Apollo Group of Hospitals, where he successfully launched innovative concepts that brought premium healthcare to the doorstep of the public, and enhanced corporate health and wellness packages, effectively positioning the hospital as the best and most advanced healthcare provider locally and internationally.

Salaheldin Agab Sulfab Ahmed

Salaheldin Agab Sulfab Ahmed is the director of Kassala Gash River Training Unit. His previous work includes Assistant D. E. for Kelli and Assayal pump schemes supervising the implementation of (Alawatep) dam in the south of River Nile State, Resident Eng. Of Wadi-Halfa schemes; Director of Shendi Region and River Nile State, responsible for all irrigation rehabilitation, including agricultural investment



projects; Director of North Al-Jazeera Irrigation. He holds a master's degree in water resources engineering.

Belal Shqarin

Bilal Shqarin started working with the Ministry of Environment in establishing the Environmental Impact Assessment System in 2003. He worked as the national coordinator for the project to integrate economic tools in the implementation of the environmental policy in 2005 and was head of the International, Regional and Local Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Environment in 2006. He also worked as part of the implementation team of the international system for customs management (ASYCUDA) within the border posts in the Ministry of Agriculture 2008. In 2014, he was assigned the position of Assistant Director of Nature Conservation and Head of the Biodiversity Department at the Ministry of Environment. Later, he was appointed as the Assistant Director of Climate Change 2017, and now he is the Director of Climate Change.

Marwa Barakat

Marwa Barakat, researcher and practitioner specialized in urban planning and development. Author of the chapter on Women Inclusion, of the Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in the Arab Cities. She studied Architecture and Urban Planning at Cairo University and Urban Development Planning at UCL London (University College London). Her experience in the field of urban planning and development varied between working in the governmental, private and civil sectors, and she also cooperated with several research institutions, universities and United Nations organizations in Egypt and the Arab region. Her work focuses on various aspects of urban development and touches on issues of social and spatial justice, sustainable development, urban resilience and the environment, in the areas of urban planning, housing, urban land management and city governance.

Special session 8: Advancing zero hunger in the Arab region

Jean-Marc Faurès

Jean-Marc Faurès is the Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt. He is a senior agronomist and water resources management specialist. He has more than 30 years of experience in dealing with issues related to agricultural development in the Near East, Africa and Asia, with special focus on land and water issues, climate change adaptation and rural livelihoods. In 2015, he joined the Team in charge of developing FAO's strategic programme on sustainable agriculture. Since February 2019, he coordinates FAO's technical programme in the Near East and North Africa Region.

Nada El Agizy

Nada El Agizy joined the Arab League in 1992 and has more than 20 years of experience in economic and social development at the regional and international levels. She is currently the Director of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Department at the League of Arab States. In this capacity, her department acts as the technical secretariat for the Arab High-Level Committee for Sustainable Development and is responsible for organizing "The Arab Sustainable Development



Week”. She has a bachelor’s degree in Economics from the American University in Cairo and an MBA from University of Cumbria in the UK.

Abdul Hakim El Waer

Abdul Hakim El Waer is the Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa – FAO. Before joining FAO, he served in several leading positions including the Environmental General Authority of Libya, the African Union and the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. At the African Union (AU), he has supervised and managed the Establishment of several African unique initiatives and institutions. He holds a Ph.D. of Philosophy in Environmental Chemistry from United Kingdom and a Post Graduate Diploma in Organizational Leadership from the United States.

Kate Newton

Kate Newton is the Deputy Regional Director for the Regional Bureau in Cairo of WFP – covering the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. For the past seven years, she worked for the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as a Senior Humanitarian Adviser. Prior to that, she held several positions with WFP in South Sudan, Kenya, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Darfur, and was outposted on various missions, including the Haiti earthquake response. Her most recent WFP role, prior to joining DFID, was as Deputy Country Director in Syria. Kate has a Masters in Humanitarian Assistance from Tufts University and a BA degree in English from Oxford University.

Wadid Erian

Wadid Erian is a professor of soil science at Cairo University, Egypt and a senior advisor for sustainable development for the League of Arab States. He is the founder and General Coordinator of the Arab Geographical Information Room, and Programme Coordinator of the League of Arab States - Climate Risk Nexus Initiative (LAS-CRNI). Has authored and co-authored many applied research studies on topics related to Sustainable Development, Drought, Land degradation, Vegetation Cover, Land use planning and Natural Resource studies including a Special Report on “Drought Complexity”.

Rasha Al-Ardhi

Rasha Al-Ardhi is a medical doctor with a master’s degree in health administration. Rasha have more than 19 years’ experience working in nutrition in humanitarian and development context with UNICEF, Ministries of Health and Red Crescent. Having served in challenging countries as Sudan and Yemen, she managed to have a wealth of diverse experience related to several nutrition Multisectoral programmes to address all forms of malnutrition engaging with different sectors such as health, food and social protection. Her work in such context have allowed her to acquire high competences, commitment, and passion in delivering results for stakeholders.

Saad Al-Maaini

Saad Al-Maaini, a national of Iraq, is currently leading the committee responsible on developing the National Strategy of Food Security of Iraq and updating the strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture. He holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in Agriculture Economics since 1999 and 2007, respectively. His research focused on economics of technological change. In his career, he occupied different administration/research positions including the Director of Training Center, Advisor and Director of Minister Office, Director General of Agricultural Research and as an expert of food security and agriculture integration with Arab organization for agricultural development.

Fatima El Taher

Fatima El Taher earned a PhD in food security and nutrition from Sudan's Academy for Science in 2018 and is serving as the Secretary General of the Food Security Technical Secretariat of Sudan since 2019. She served as the Sudan national convener for Food System dialogues and a member of Global Forum for Advisory Rural services since 2015. She published many technical papers and participated in many studies related to food security and nutrition. She also led the development of food security national policy for Sudan.

Mohamed Ait-Kadi

Mohamed Ait-Kadi is currently President of the General Council of Agricultural Development, a high-level policy think-tank of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery, Rural Development and Forestry in Morocco. He is the President of the Scientific Committee of the Adaptation of African Agriculture to climate change Foundation. He is a member of the Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology and Professor at the Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine. He is also a member of the Academy of Agriculture of France, Oslo International Water Academy and the International Advisory Panel of the Bioeconomy World Summit.

Special session 9: Addressing contemporary data collection methods and resources to enhance data quality

Haidar Fraihat

Haidar Fraihat is the Leader of the Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster. He joined ESCWA in 2011 as the Director of the Information and Communication Technology Division. He was then assigned as Director of the Technology for Development Division in 2014, and Senior Advisor to the Executive Secretary of ESCWA on Technology and Innovation in 2019. He earned a PhD in Management Science and a Master's in Business Administration in Management Information Systems.

Neda Jaafar

Neda Jaafar is the Head of Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit at ESCWA. She has over 25 years of experience in statistical research, capacity building and program development in the United



Nations. She developed the first Dashboard at ESCwa on Arab Development Monitor for Societal Progress. She holds an MSc in Demography and Population Studies.

Mohamed Al Mohannadi

Mohamed Al Mohannadi is the Director of Statistics Department at the Planning and Statistics Authority in the State of Qatar. He previously served as the Director of Population and Social Statistics. He represented the State of Qatar in several statistics committees at the regional and international level. He holds a bachelor's degree in planning geographer, and a higher diploma in Urban Planning.

Nabila Maachou

Nabila Maachou is the Director of Studies at the Algerian Accountability Council. Her previous work experience includes working for 10 years at the Ministry of Interior and Local Universities, as well as working in the field of auditing within the Accounting Council. She holds a master's degree in public law, specializing in the state and public institutions, and is a PhD candidate with her thesis specializing in the state and public institutions.

Nabil BenShams

Nabil BenShams is the Director General of the GCC-STAT in the Sultanate of Oman.

Luay Shabaneh

Luay Shabaneh is the current Arab States Regional Director of UNFPA. He began his professional career at the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) where he served from 1994 to 2005 and was appointed as the second president of PCBS. He served as Chief Statistician of Palestine from 2005 until he began his career with the United Nations in 2009 serving first with the UNDP/UNCT and later with the UNFPA in Iraq. In 2015 he joined the UNFPA Regional Office for Arab States in Cairo as the Regional Adviser for Population Data and Policies in ASRO. He holds a PhD in Applied Social, a Master's Degree in Mathematical Statistics, and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics.

Sawsan Al-Lawatia

Sawsan Al-Lawatia is the Director General of the General Directorate of Information at the National Center for Statistics and Information in Oman.

Dhiaa Khadum

Dhiaa Kadhum is the Chairman of Central Statistics Organization in Iraq. He is a member of the Iraqi Association of Statistic Sciences and is a trained lecturer. He is also a member of the discussion committee of high diploma in the Arabic center of training and statistic research. He holds a PhD in Statistics.

Irena Vojackova-Sollorano

Irena Vojackova-Sollorano is the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Iraq

Special session 10: Technological transformation in the transport sector

Yarob Badr

Yarob Badr earned his PhD in Transport science in 1991 from the National School for Bridges and Roads (ENPC) in Paris, France. After several years of experience in the academic and consultancy fields, he was appointed as Minister of Transport in Syria between 2006 and 2011. Under his mandate the number of traffic fatalities in Syria dropped by 24%. He is currently the Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics in ESCWA. He is coordinating ESCWA activities to formulate a regional strategic vision for the development of future multimodal transport that would improve vital connectivity and regional integration between the Arab countries and with the rest of the world.

Nibal Idlebi

Nibal Idlebi is the Chief of Innovation Section at UN-ESCWA. She is a senior policy expert in digital transformation, innovation and technology for sustainable development and digital and open government. She has long experience on policies and strategies advancing knowledge society, digital government transformation, innovation policies and development of information society. She is currently leading the ESCWA initiative for fostering open innovative government in the Arab region and the ESCWA Award for Digital Arabic Content. She was deputy Minister in the Ministry of Communication and Technology and professor of computer engineering in the Higher Institute of Applied Science and Technology in Syria. She has a computer engineering degree and a Ph.D in Computer Science from France.

Khalid AlHogail

Khalid AlHogail is the CEO of the Saudi Public Transport Company, since 2006. He also holds the positions of President of the International Association of Public Transport and President of the Arab Union of Land Transport. He is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi French Public Transport Company, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Digital Mobility Solutions. He holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

Mahmoud Al-Abdallatt

Mahmoud Al-Abdallatt is the vice president of the international road Transport Union. His previous work experience includes working as the Secretary General of the Arab Union of Land Transport, as well as acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport and advisor to the minister. He also had experiences of working in the aviation field, where he was the director of air transport and head of transport economic studies in Jordan. He holds a PhD and master's degree in aviation management.



Moustafa Shakib

Moustafa Shakib is a strategy and business excellence manager working with Almajdouie logistics company (KSA) with 15 years of experience in strategy, digital transformation, organizational excellence and quality management. He worked 4 years prior the current position as management consultant where he delivered a management consulting services to more than 55 organization in private, government and NPO sectors within middle east. Professional and academic mix is one of the key success factors for his business journey as he enrolled in doctorate of management program and holding a Master degree in quality management.

Rami Karout

Rami Karout is an expert in trade facilitation and cross border solutions at the International Road and Transport Union (IRU) in Geneva, specialized in helping logistics and road transport operators to remove trade barriers between Middle East and GCC countries. He has over 10 years of experience working with international organisations and private sector companies across Europe and the Middle East. After a six year spell in the reinsurance industry, both in Paris and Geneva, Rami spent 4 years in the financial division of Geneva's United Nations office. Since he joined IRU as an advisor for the Middle East, Rami has managed the implementation of the TIR system in many countries with a focus on enriching IRU missions in facilitating trade and unleashing trade potential between regions and allowing transport companies to reduce both their costs and delivery times.

Khaled El Sakty

Khaled El Sakty is an Assistant Professor of Logistics and Supply Chain, and the dean of the college of International Transport and logistics at the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport. He is also the dean of the college of international transport and logistics in Cairo, and the director of FIATA Diploma in Cairo. his expertise is focused on Ports and Terminal Management, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, with his research targeting performance measurement, procurement, inventory control, and supply chain modelling.

Ismail Abdel Ghafar

Ismail Abdel Ghafar took office as the President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport. He is a professor of electrical and computer engineering. He served as the Director & Dean of the Egyptian Military Technical School, 2009- 2011. He is a Member of the board Council of Arab Ministers of Transportation, Member of the Board Council of Arab Ministers of Economics, League of Arab States. He was also selected as A Member of the Board Council of the World Maritime University, as well as the Head of the League of Arab States official Delegation, IMO Council, and the Head of the Technical committee for Developing Maritime Education, IMO.

Special session 11: Integrating nature into private sector investments

Adel Soliman

Adel Abd Allah Soliman Tag El-Din worked as director of the project to strengthen management and financing systems in natural reserves in Egypt from 2013 to 2017. He had succeeded in receiving the 2020 World Energy Prize for the conservation of migratory soaring birds. He had also succeeded in obtaining the 2012 International Equator Prize for the development of local communities and the preservation of the environment. He is also the Founder of the Environment Without Borders Association which aims to preserve the environment and the natural and cultural heritage of Egypt. He had also managed and supervised several environmental projects to preserve biodiversity, such as the Medicinal Plants Conservation Project, the Wetland Conservation Project, the Bio-Safety Project, the Local Community Development Project in St. Catherine, the Development of Visitor Management Programs in Cairo natural parks, and other projects.

Yulia Isaeva

Yulia Isaeva works at the UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States as a Climate Change and Environment Specialist. Her work includes providing technical and advisory support to Arab region countries in areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, nature and green recovery. Her previous experience includes serving for various United Nations agencies and projects in Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East in the area of water resources, capacity building and environmental protection.

Osama Al Nouri

Osama Al Nouri is a project manager at BirdLife International. He is also the regional project manager of the UNDP-supported Migratory Birds Project that operated in 11 countries in the Middle East and Northeast Africa. The objective of the project is mainstream the conservation of migratory soaring birds through its migration routes along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway into the five productive sectors of hunting, energy, agriculture, waste management and tourism. He is also the project manager of Safe Flyways – reducing energy infrastructure related bird mortality in the Mediterranean. He was the co-founder & General Secretary of the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife. He holds an Executive master's in business administration.

Tris Allinson

BirdLife's work on the impact of energy infrastructure on birds is overseen by Tris Allinson, a world expert in the development of spatial planning tools to facilitate responsible energy expansion. Tris works closely with governments, International Financial Institutions and the energy sector to ensure that avian data are effectively integrated within the renewable energy planning process. He frequently contributes to global scientific and policy fora on the topic of biodiversity and energy and is Chair of the Technical Working Group of the Convention of Migratory Species' Energy Task Force and is a founding member of the Coalition Linking Energy And Nature for action (CLEANaction).

Faisal Eissa

Faisal Eissa is the General Director of Lekela Egypt.

André Béchara

André is a passionate nature lover, founder of Great Escape, and SPNL proud partner for 20 years. He has more than 30 years of experience in organizing eco-tourism and nature-based tourism projects in different countries such as Lebanon, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey, Syria, Vietnam, Zanzibar and much more. He is specialized in dynamic corporate team building, rural development and conflict resolution through outdoor and nature-based activities.

Special session 12: The role of media and advertising in promoting women's economic empowerment in the Arab countries

Rasha Qandeel

Rasha is the Bilingual Lead Presenter at BBC News Arabic. *(See full bio on p. 3)*

Carla Sertin

Carla Sertin is a group editor at ITP Media Group, overseeing editorial for 11 business magazines covering verticals across energy, construction, and design in the MENA region. Addressing industry leaders directly, she raises awareness about social and environmental issues in each of the sectors she oversees. She believes that business journalism can have a major social impact. She started her career at Forbes Middle East, and has managed media operations for non-profits across the region. She holds an MA in Magazine, Newspaper, and Online Journalism from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

Dina Matar

Dina Matar is a professor of political communication and Arab media at the School of Oriental and African Studies, which she joined in 2005. Before joining academia, she served as foreign correspondent and editor working in different regions of the world, predominantly focusing on the Arab World. Dina's teaching and research revolves primarily around politics and communication, media and empowerment (particularly with reference to minorities and disenfranchised groups), women and the media, activism and social movements, political cultures, news framing and power as well as diaspora cultures and the media.

Sarah-Jean Cunningham

Sarah-Jean founded MAGENTA with a mission to disrupt the space of behavioural change communication, combining scientific rigour and technological innovation. Her vision is underpinned by over a decade of research and communications experience, working across the Middle East, Asia and Africa. She has advised a diverse range of governments and international organisations on enhancing



their communications interventions in support of broader policy objectives. In addition, she sits on the board of a number of not-for-profits, promoting education for women and freedom of speech. She holds a Masters in Engineering from the University of Cambridge with a scholarship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She is currently a guest lecturer on Strategic Communications at Kings College London, Department of War Studies.

Doha Al Zohairy

Doha Al Zohairy is an Egyptian Media Adviser with 15 years of experience in public communication at the national, regional and international levels. She is currently a presenter at Al Arabiya Al Hadath Pan Arab News Channel, covering Arab and global news, particularly political and social issues. She has moderated several debates and discussions in renowned fora in the Middle East and North Africa, including the World Youth Forum on “Women and the Right to Development”, the Misk Media Forum on “Media Marketing and Advertising” and the Knowledge Summit on “The Egyptian Educational Reform Model”. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English Literature and a master’s degree in TV and Digital Journalism.