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العماد جوزاف عون

Under the high patronage of
the President of the Lebanese Republic
His Excellency General Joseph Aoun



المنتدى العربي للتنمية المستدامة

إعادة الأمل، إعلاء الطموح

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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.

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.

Muhammad Ali Tamim

Muhammad Ali Tamim is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning of the Republic of Iraq since 2022. He previously held several senior positions, including Acting Chairman of the General Authority for the Control of the Allocation of Federal Revenues (2023-2024), Minister of Education (2010-2014), and President of Kirkuk University (2003). Mohammed Ali Tamim has been a member of the Iraqi Council of Representatives for five terms since 2005, and has held numerous positions, including a member of the Council of Ministers' federal budget preparation committees for the years 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, and Chairman of the Parliamentary Finance Committee (2017-2018). He has made numerous contributions to the drafting of the Iraqi Constitution,



including serving as Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional Rewriting Committee (2020-2021). He holds a PhD in International Relations and a BA in Law. He has published approximately 24 research papers in various fields of law, political science, the history of international relations, history and society, and literary publications, in addition to academic research published in international journals.

Ahmed About Gheit

Ahmed About Gheit is the Secretary General of the League of Arab States since July 2016. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt between 2004 and 2011. He previously served as the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, between 1999 to 2004. He served as Egypt's Ambassador to Italy, Macedonia, San Marino and Representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, between 1992 and 1996. He held the post of Chef de Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt twice, between 1996 and 1999, and between 1989 and 1992, and was the Political Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs between 1989 and 1990.

Prior to those duties, About Gheit was Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations, Political Adviser to the Prime Minister of Egypt and Political Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. He was awarded the French Legion d'Honneur, first rank in 2002. He holds a Bachelor's degree in economics from Ain Shams University (1964).

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE EMERGING GEOPOLITICS: LOST AND FOUND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ARAB REGION

Noha El-Mikawy

Noha El-Mikawy is the Dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the American University in Cairo. She is the former regional director of the Ford Foundation, Middle East and North Africa office (2012-2022). Between 2005-2012, Noha served as Team Leader for Governance at the UNDP Regional Center (based in Lebanon then Egypt), where she provided support on governance reform in Egypt, Tunisia, the Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Jordan and Kuwait. Noha also served as policy advisor at the UNDP Oslo Governance Center in Norway, where she supervised UNDP's global project on governance assessments, organized international convenings on legal empowerment of the poor, and edited a UNDP-UN Women guidebook on gender-sensitive service delivery. Before 2005, Noha led comparative research on the political economy of MENA at the Centre for Development Research at the University of Bonn (Germany) and lectured on politics of the Middle East at the American University in Cairo, Free University of Berlin, and Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany). Noha holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles (USA) and has publications by reputable international publishers on institutional reform and governance in MENA.

Karim Haggag

Karim Haggag is a Professor of Practice at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the American University in Cairo, and a non-resident fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He is a career Egyptian diplomat with over 25 years of service in the Egyptian diplomatic service. Throughout his diplomatic career, he has focused on Middle East regional security, arms control and non-proliferation, conflict resolution, and Arab-Israeli diplomacy. From 2011-2013 he was a visiting professor at the Near East and South Asia Center for Strategic Studies National Defense University in Washington DC. Ambassador Haggag is also currently a Senior Advisor at LYNX Strategic Business Advisors, Egypt's leading government relations and public policy consultancy. He is a graduate of The American University in Cairo, and has earned an MA in war studies from King's College in London.

Marwa Fatafta

Marwa Fatafta leads Access Now's policy and advocacy work on digital rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Her work spans a number of issues at the nexus of human rights and technology including content governance and platform accountability, online censorship, digital surveillance, and transnational



repression. She has written extensively on the digital occupation in Palestine and focuses on the role of new technologies in armed conflicts and humanitarian contexts and their impact on historically marginalized and oppressed communities. Ms. Fatafta is a Policy Analyst at Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network, an advisory board member of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, and an advisory committee member for Bread&Net. She was a Fulbright scholar in the US and holds an MA in International Relations from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. She also holds a second MA in Development and Governance from the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Hala Bsaisu Lattouf

Hala Bsaisu Lattouf has over 20 years of experience in the private sector, development and public sector work; she was the Minister of Social Development for several terms; prior to that she was the Office Director for Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. She also worked with UNDP as head of the Poverty and Gender Teams and with the World Bank as a Project Director for a Tourism Project. In addition, she has experience working in Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Egypt and Palestine (West Bank and Gaza). She is currently the Managing Partner for AYA for Consultancy and Development. Hala started her career as FX currently dealer then as an analyst at the Ministry of Finance, working on the 1988 Jordan Debt Restructuring. She also worked at the Arab Bank, Head Office- Jordan as Credit Officer at the International Branches Department. Hala currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Royal Society of Fine Arts, the Baptism Development Foundation (VC) the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies, the Central Bank of Jordan, Jordan Deposits Insurance Cooperation, Jordan Education and Women Empowerment NGO (JEWELS) and the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR). She holds a Master's in Accounting and Finance from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Applied Statistics from the University of Jordan.

Mahmoud Mohieldin

Mahmoud Mohieldin is a distinguished economist with over 30 years of expertise in international finance and development. He is the UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and leads a group of prominent experts appointed by the UN Secretary General to promote solutions for resolving the debt crisis. He has served as the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27. Previously, Mahmoud Mohieldin was an Executive Director at the IMF, held leadership roles at the World Bank and was Egypt's Minister of Investment (2004–2010). He has also held prominent academic positions, including Professor of Economics at Cairo University, and has received honorary doctorates from renowned universities. Mahmoud Mohieldin holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Warwick and has authored several books and numerous articles in leading journals in the fields of economics and development.

Nizar Yaiche

Nizar Yaiche served as the Minister of Finance of Tunisia in 2020. An internationally recognized expert, he holds a distinguished position within the global executive leadership of a preeminent advisory firm, ranking among the largest worldwide. He has cultivated extensive experience collaborating with diverse governments, multilateral institutions, and private-sector entities. Across global and regional contexts, he has spearheaded the execution of over 300 projects spanning economic and social development, innovation, and value creation, delivering impactful outcomes in 50 nations. His expertise is particularly distinguished in the Arab and Muslim regions, underpinned by engagements in 15 countries, with a focus on GCC countries, the Maghreb, and sub-Saharan Africa. During his tenure as Finance Minister and as international expert, he earned acclaim among peers for pioneering transformative digital initiatives, fostering value creation, enhancing governmental and administrative efficiency, and promoting transparency. Academically, Mr. Yaiche pursued advanced mathematical studies in France, graduating from elite international institutions. He graduated as Economic Engineer from École Centrale Paris and Executive Education from Harvard Business School.

MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION – PACT FOR THE FUTURE: GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT

Lina Oueidat

National ICT, Cybersecurity and AI Advisor, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon

Kamal Shehade

Minister of Displacement and Minister of State for Technology Affairs and Artificial Intelligence, Lebanon

Amr Aljowaily

Ambassador Amr Aljowaily is an Egyptian diplomat, academic and writer with 34 years of professional experience. He currently holds the post of Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security. As an international civil servant, he held the post of Strategic Advisor to the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement) in Addis Ababa. As an academic, he was visiting faculty at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Multilateral Diplomacy Program (2014-2024), and Diplo Academy and Foundation (2007 to 2024), and previously at the American University in Cairo including the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, as well as Board Member of the Institute for Diplomatic Studies (1994-1996). As an Egyptian diplomat, his postings included Belgrade, New York, Geneva and Washington, DC. At the Foreign Ministry, he served as Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for United Nations Affairs, member of the Cabinets of the Minister and First Undersecretary and the departments of multilateral political and economic issues. He held leading positions in multilateral negotiations and was member of the Egyptian delegations to several Summits and Ministerial Meetings of the UN, AU, LAS including their specialized agencies, regional commissions, and subsidiary bodies. He was also Coordinator of International Relations at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (2001-2003). As a writer and researcher, he published some of the earliest analytical works in Arabic on ICTs and International Relations and continues to publish in the field of multilateral diplomacy, especially in issues related to international peace and security.

Wala Turki

Wala Turki is the advisor to the Minister of Communication Technologies, in charge of the National Artificial Intelligence strategy and the national Cybersecurity strategy. She is an international consultant and expert in digital transformation, networks, information systems, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence with over 25 years of experience in strategic, tactical, and operational consulting with major international groups, ministries, and small and medium-sized enterprises, and has participated in the preparation and implementation of many national strategies, executive plans, and strategic projects for digital transformation and digital education. She is also a general ICT Engineer certified CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional), ISO27001 Lead Auditor, ISO 27001 Lead Implementer, ITIL Foundation V3, CCNA, Nortel Networks Certified Account Specialist, Trainer for Stonegate products, Stonegate Engineer and architect.

Mounir Tabet

Regional Expert, Lebanon

SPECIAL SESSION 1: WOMEN'S ROLES IN RECOVERY AND POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION

Nadya Khalife

Nadya Khalife is a researcher and writer with extensive experience in the field of gender equality in the Middle East and North Africa region. She has conducted field research in several countries on violence against women, harmful traditional practices, and personal status laws. Her work contributed to the adoption of a domestic violence law in the Kurdistan region of Iraq and was featured in a documentary produced by *The Guardian* and *BBC Arabic* in 2013. She currently serves as the Regional Advisor on Gender Equality at UN ESCWA, where she provides technical support to member states to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Between 2017 and 2022, she provided technical support to the Lebanese government in developing and implementing the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and led UN coordination efforts in this area. She has contributed to two



books: *The Unfinished Revolution: Voices from the Global Fight for Women's Rights* and *Building Resilience on Human Security Risks and Threats*. She holds a master's degree in Gender and Cultural Studies from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Virginia.

Moez Doraid

Dr. Moez Doraid is the Acting Regional Director for the Arab States, UN Women and the Director of Management and Administration at its headquarters. He has held various leadership roles within the UN system for over three decades, working across Arab States, Asia, Africa, and New York. In 2023, he served as Acting UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women's Deputy Executive Director for UN Coordination, Partnerships, Resources, and Sustainability. From 2010 to 2015, he directed UN Women's systemwide and interagency coordination efforts, holding key positions such as Chair of the UN Development Group Task Team for Gender Equality. Earlier, he was Deputy Executive Director at UNIFEM and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Maldives. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the American University in Cairo, a master's in public administration from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Lebanese University.

Hilde Haraldstad

Hilde Haraldstad is a Norwegian diplomat who is currently Norway's Ambassador to Lebanon and Chargé d'Affaires to Syria. Prior to this, she was Norway's Special Representative to the Middle East, and before that to Syria and Iraq, as well as to the D-ISIS Coalition. Her career also includes ambassadorships in Palestine (Representative to the Palestinian Authority 2016–2020) and Sri Lanka (2009–2012), along with leadership positions and other positions in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Service, including Director for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Director General for Peace and Reconciliation. She had also worked in the Norwegian Foreign Ministers Secretariat. She holds a Master's degree in Modern History from the University of Oslo. She is married and has two children.

Loubna Ezzedine

Loubna Ezzedine is a community leader and social and environmental activist, with vast experience in promoting women's roles in public life. She is an active member of her municipality in South Lebanon and serves as president of the women's committee. She is also a certified mediator, working extensively with women and youth on conflict resolution. She serves as a member of national and regional networks including the Insider Mediation Arab States Regional Dialogue and the Women's National Peacebuilding Network (Lebanon). In 2022, she established a capacity development centre to support conflict resolution efforts in her community. She won the 2023 Elite College Influential Woman Award.

Amal Hamidosh

Amal Hamidosh is a feminist activist and researcher specializing in women's issues, youth, and peacebuilding work in Syria. She is a member of the Syrian Women Advisory Board a body part of the UN Special Envoy's efforts for the Syrian-owned and led political process. Hamidosh is currently finalizing her Master's degree in the philosophy of nonviolence. She works on supporting local peacebuilding efforts, promoting gender equality, and enhancing local participation through research and advocacy. She serves as the Executive Director of "Snack Souri," and the founder of the "Media for Women" initiative and contributes to the development of community and media projects that support freedom of expression and strengthen women's roles in society.

Fadia Jouma'a

Fadia Nemeh Jomaa is a journalist, environmental and social activist, and a certified professional mediator. She is a member of the Local Mediators Network in Lebanon, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She also holds a Trainer of Trainers (TOT) certificate in Conflict Management and Prevention. She is deeply committed to gender issues and strives through her work to promote gender justice

and equality. Fadia combines journalism, social work, and environmental activism with her role as a mediator to help build safer, more peaceful, and sustainable communities.

Ahmed Luabei

Ahmed Luaebi is the Director General of the Department of Judicial Relations and the Official Spokesperson for Iraq's Ministry of Justice. He serves as the General Coordinator with all diplomatic institutions and bodies on behalf of the Ministry. Mr. Luaebi is a member of Iraq's Child Welfare Committee and also serves on the Diwani Order Committee No. 14, which addresses issues related to international child abduction. His expertise in legal diplomacy and child protection is further reflected in his role as a member of the Board of Directors of the Arab League University for Legal and Judicial Research. With extensive experience in judicial affairs and international legal cooperation, Mr. Luaebi plays a key role in strengthening Iraq's legal frameworks and institutional partnerships.

Samia Qasem Melhem

Samia Qasem Melhem is a human rights activist and advocate, specializing in women's issues and rights, empowering women and enhancing their role in society through awareness-raising and advocacy. She leads the "Warjin" Foundation for Women and Media, documenting the Yazidi genocide, defending the rights of survivors, and shedding light on the challenges faced by the Yazidi community and other conflict-affected populations. She implements community initiatives aimed at fostering social cohesion and peace building through programs dedicated to women's empowerment, supporting marginalized groups, and promoting dialogue among diverse community components. Additionally, she is deeply engaged in advocating for issues affecting the people of Sinjar, striving to amplify their voices to relevant authorities through governmental visits, participation in official meetings, and organizing peaceful protests to demand their rights and improve their living conditions. She is deeply committed to justice and human rights, which drive her work towards a more just and equitable society.

THEMATIC SESSION – SDG 8 REVIEW

Hanan Nazier

Hanan Nazier is a professor at the Economics Department, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt. She received her Ph.D. in Economics, in November 2009 at Cairo University. Her field of expertise is applied micro-econometrics, on gender and labor issues in Egypt and developing countries in general. She has published her research articles in different international peer-reviewed journals, including Middle East Development Journal, International Journal of Development Issues, and International Journal of Economics and Business Research. She was the Head of the Labour Market Policies Unit at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and International Cooperation. She is also a member of the National wage council.

Khaled Mahmoud Al-Bakkar

Khaled Mahmoud Al-Bakkar is the Minister of Labor in Jordan. He is a distinguished Jordanian public figure and professional. He holds a master's degree in business administration from New York institute of Technology and has built a significant career in both the healthcare and political sectors. Before assuming his current role as the Minister of Labour, Khaled Mahmoud Al-Bakkar served as the General Director of Marca Islamic Hospital, where he demonstrated strong leadership and managerial capabilities. Khaled Mahmoud Al-Bakkar hails from the Governorate of Irbid and has a long-standing commitment to public service. He was elected to the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament in the 18th Parliament. His parliamentary work included membership of the National Guidance and Media Committee. Additionally, he was part of the National Parliamentary Bloc. In his earlier political career, Khaled Mahmoud Al-Bakkar also served in the 15th Lower House of Parliament. Beyond his political career, Khaled Mahmoud Al-Bakkar is deeply involved in civil society. He serves as the President of Waqas Center for Rehabilitation and is an active member of the Jordanian Businessmen Association, where he advocates for economic development and social welfare initiatives. With a strong background in both healthcare



administration and legislative experience, His Excellency Khaled Mahmoud Al Bakkar brings a unique perspective to his role as Minister of Labour. His work continues to focus on enhancing Jordan's labour market, promoting economic resilience, and addressing the needs of workers across the country.

Fayçal Bentaleb

Fayçal Bentaleb is the Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Najwa bint Abdulrahman Al Thani

Najwa bint Abdulrahman Al-Thani – Undersecretary at the Ministry of Labour – State of Qatar.

Najwa bint Abdulrahman Al-Thani is the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Labour in Qatar (appointed December 2024), responsible for strategically enhancing and executing policies, regulations and systems related to Qatar's labour market. She is also the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund, and the General Secretary for the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking. Furthermore, she chairs the National Minimum Wage Commission and sits on the National Workforce Planning Committee and the Board of Directors for Qatar Manpower Solutions Company – Jusour.

Her career spans diverse roles in strategic communications, international relations, and human rights advocacy. Coming from the human rights world, Al-Thani started her career at the National Committee for Human Rights in Qatar (NHRC), where she served as Director for International Cooperation, responsible for monitoring and enhancing Qatar's international human rights commitments. She headed the coordination and cooperation with international and regional mechanisms, ensuring the execution of consistent relevant reporting, and enhancing strategic participation internationally. She then served as the Director of Communications at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SCDL), the organization responsible for Qatar's preparations for the FIFA World Cup 2022. During her tenure, she collaborated with local and international stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and international organizations, ensuring the tournament's objectives aligned with global dialogues and priorities. Before assuming her current position at the Ministry of Labour, Al-Thani held the role of Assistant Undersecretary for Migrant Affairs, where she played a key role in supporting high-level decision-making and facilitating strategic initiatives for the migrant labour sector.

Al-Thani's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Communications from the School of Communications - Northwestern University (NU) with a Certificate of Middle Eastern Studies, a Master of Science (MSc) in Global Governance and Diplomacy from The University of Oxford - Department of International Development (ODID). She currently is a doctoral candidate at Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS), pursuing a PhD in social sciences and humanities.

Inas Dahadha Attari

H.E. DR. ENAS DAHADHA ATTARI, MINISTER OF LABOR, STATE OF PALESTINE

Dr. Dahadha Attari has a strong background in teaching, coaching, curriculum development, and training. She has been a faculty member at Birzeit University in Palestine as a lecturer and then Assistant Professor since 2004, where she has held various positions at the School of Business and Economics. She has also served as a lecturer at York St John University-York Business School in the UK. Dr. Dahadha Attari has been a Master Trainer, coach, curriculum developer with EFE Palestine, provided training and consultancy services in Palestine, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and the United Kingdom. She has presented papers at international conferences on topics such as the Internationalization of Palestinian Companies, Corporate Social Responsibility and Branding strategies. She has conducted research for the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute on "The



Development of the Tourism Sector in East Jerusalem”. Dr. Dahadha Attari is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a member of the Chartered Management Institute. She has been actively engaged in professional associations and memberships, including the International Coach Federation, the Association for Coaching, the British Academy of Management, and the American Marketing Association.

In April 2024, Dr. Dahadha Attari became the Palestinian Minister of Labor. In her capacity as a Minister of Labor, she assumes the position as a Chairwoman of the Boards of Directors of:

Palestinian Fund for Employment; Cooperative Work Agency; Social Security Corporation; Deputy Chairman of National TVET Commission Board of Directors; Member of Al-Istiqlal Development Bank Board of Directors; Member of the of the General Petroleum Corporation Board of Directors; Member of the Economic Committee in Palestine; Member of the Social Committee in Palestine; Member of Permanent Ministerial Economic Development Committee; Member of Permanent Ministerial Social Committee; Member of Permanent Ministerial Reform Committee.

She has BA degree and MBA from Birzeit University, a second MBA from Sussex University, UK and a Ph.D. from York St. John UK.

Ibrahim Saif

Ibrahim Saif is currently an independent consultant based in Amman, Jordan, serving on several boards. He was the Vice President for Manaseer Group until May 2023. Previously, he served as a CEO of the Jordan Strategy Forum. He also served as the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources from March 2015 to June 2017, and the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation from March 2013 until March 2015. Prior to his appointment as a Minister, Ibrahim Saif was a Senior Scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center, and served as a consultant to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international organizations. Ibrahim Saif was also a Former Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, and served as the Secretary General of the Economic and Social Council in Jordan. He has taught at both the University of London and Yale University, where he led courses on the economies of the Middle East.

Maha Al-Rawi

Assistant Professor Dr. Maha Al-Rawi is the Director General of the Human Development Directorate at the Iraqi Ministry of Planning since 2020. She is responsible of policymaking and developing of strategies and plans in the fields of human development and improving human capital for the sectors of education, health, social protection, employment, population policies, and youth and women empowerment. She is a member of many Arab and national councils and committees in the field of sustainable development and population issues. She holds a PhD in Business Administration from the University of Baghdad. During her 30-year career, she worked as an academic at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. She has published many studies and supervised high-graduated students.

Najat Simou

Najat Simou is a Member of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council and the Chairwoman of the Commission for Employment Affairs and Professional Relations, Morocco.

Hind Benammar

Hind Benammar is the Executive Secretary of the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC) since her election in April 2023. Her experience with the Arab Trade Union Confederation, an organization affiliated with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), began in 2011, where she was responsible for coordinating projects between the central trade union federations in the Arab region to promote workers' rights. She contributed to the establishment of Arab trade union networks for youth, women unionists, media professionals, and the legal professions network. She also contributed to the implementation of numerous international



cooperation projects with the European Commission and the International Labor Organization on workers' rights. She also served as Director of the Program for the Advancement of Social Dialogue and Sustainable Development in the Southern Mediterranean in its second edition.

Najoua Zhar

Najoua Zhar is an international expert in sustainable development with over a decade of experience in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She currently serves as an Economic Advisor and Sustainable Development Expert at the Union of Arab Chambers (UAC), where she conducts research, advises on sustainability strategies, and represents the UAC at regional conferences. Additionally, she is a Research Associate at the American University of Beirut in charge of the ESG initiatives. With a PhD in Management and Sustainable Development, Dr. Zhar specializes in integrating sustainability into corporate strategies and policies. She has collaborated with governments, NGOs, and global organizations to drive impactful projects and policies. Passionate about creating resilient futures, she excels in policy development, research, and advocacy for sustainable change across the Arab region and beyond.

Ali Abdullah Al Ibrahim

Ali Abdullah Al Ibrahim is Deputy Director, Regional Corporate Social Responsibility Network, Qatar. University professor, training expert and visiting professor in a number of international and Arab universities (College of Graduate Studies at the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain, Arab Open University in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Qatar University, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, University of Bridgeport, Islamic European University in Turkey, Amman Arab University in Jordan, University of Medical Sciences and Technology in Sudan). He is a training expert in the fields of social responsibility, sustainable development, business ethics and accredited to cooperate with major academic and professional institutions and official bodies in many Arab countries and abroad – an expert trainer and consultant in the field of sustainability reporting according to GRI-ESG standards.

SPECIAL SESSION 2: BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE AS A PATHWAY TO DEVELOPMENT IMPACT IN THE ARAB STATES

Marc Rubin

Marc Rubin is the UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa (MENARO). Prior to his appointment in MENARO in April 2023, Marc Rubin served as the Regional Humanitarian Adviser in the Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. He previously served as the UNICEF Representative in the Republic of Guinea appointed in 2016, and Representative in Burkina Faso with appointment in 2013. From 2009 to 2013, Mr. Rubin served as UNICEF Deputy Representative in Zimbabwe, as Chief of Field Operations and Emergency for UNICEF in Ethiopia from 2003 to 2009, and Emergency Coordinator in Burundi (2001-2002). Prior to joining UNICEF, Mr Rubin has worked with the International NGO Action Contre la Faim between 1992 – 2001 as Country Director in South Sudan and Ethiopia, and Operations officer in Somalia and Rwanda.

Josh Martin

Josh Martin is the applied behavioural scientist for UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, supporting country offices in using research-based insights to improve impact for child rights. Josh has also recently advised Save the Children's internal behavioral science team and works with a number of other NGOs, governments and multilateral organizations through the behavioral science partnership Venn Advisors. Josh has been Executive Director at the applied neuroscience lab Beyond Conflict and Managing Director at ideas42, where he led much of the organization's international work in applying behavioral insights to improve social impact and change governmental policy. Prior to ideas42, Josh was a policy advisor in Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Planning and Development and has held research roles at the World Bank and Princeton University. Josh holds a BA in Economics and Middle East studies from New York University and a Masters from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He speaks fluent Arabic and French



Fadi Makki

Dr. Fadi Makki is the Minister of State for Administrative Reform of Lebanon. He is a behavioural economist who pioneered the application of behavioural economics and “nudge” concepts in the Middle East. He previously served as Partner and Director at Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in Washington, DC, where he co-led the firm’s Behavioral Science Lab. In 2016, he founded and led two of the region’s first behavioural science units: Nudge Lebanon and B4Development, the behavioural insights unit of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. In this role, he integrated behavioural insights into the planning and delivery of the tournament. Dr. Makki has since supported the establishment of over a dozen behavioural science teams globally—across governments, the private sector, NGOs, and international organizations—and has led more than 150 behavioural experiments across a wide range of fields including sports, health, sustainability, education, inclusion, compliance, and the rule of law. In 2021, he was named one of the world’s 50 most influential individuals navigating disruption (Agile 50) by the World Economic Forum and Apolitical. He served as Co-Chair of the World Health Organization’s Technical Advisory Group on Behavioral Insights for Health, and from 2016 to 2018, was a member of the World Economic Forum’s Future Council for Behavioral Science. Dr. Makki has published extensively on behavioural science, economic and trade policy, public sector reform, health, education, and social inclusion. He has held academic positions as a research fellow, adjunct professor, or lecturer at institutions including Cambridge University, Institut Universitaire de Hautes Études Internationales (Geneva), Georgetown University, American University of Beirut (AUB), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Lebanese University, and Université Saint-Joseph (USJ). His earlier professional experience includes leadership roles at Cisco, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Booz & Co., where he guided strategy, restructuring, digital transformation, and change management initiatives for both public and private sector clients across the Middle East. From 2002 to 2005, Dr. Makki served as Director General of Lebanon’s Ministry of Economy and Trade, where he led the country’s WTO accession process and spearheaded several government-wide reform initiatives. He also served as an advisor to Qatar’s Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Trade, and the Qatar National Food Security Program. Prior to that, he held positions at the Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia and the World Trade Organization in Geneva. He holds a PhD from Cambridge University, master’s degrees from the London School of Economics and Hull University, and bachelor’s degrees from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Lebanese University.

Lilian Abou Zeki

Lilian Abou Zeki is a Digital Innovation Specialist at UNDP Lebanon, where she delivers behavioural science-driven development solutions that have transformed gender narratives in media, improved crisis response efficiency, and enhanced digital service delivery. She has led three years of digital behavioural science campaigns that reveal what truly drives the redistribution of gendered home care duties in Lebanon. She has also streamlined post-crisis response data systems and developed digital behavioral insights (BI) tools to support women’s economic empowerment. Previously, she led online supporter engagement campaigns for Amnesty International across the MENA region, building on an early career in tech product management at several pan-Arab startups. She brings deep experience in behavioural insights and UX design to support UNDP’s mission of inclusive and sustainable development. She holds an MA in Business Design, with a focus on applying digital transformation to development challenges.

Dennis Chimanya

Dennis Chimanya has a career focused on Social and Behaviour Change, designing evidence-based behavioural solutions aimed at supporting the delivery of sustainable development. Dennis currently works as Chief of Social and Behaviour Change with UNICEF Sudan, supporting UNICEF’s programmes to implement solutions that ensure communities and individuals have access to basic services and adhere to essential practices that protect children



in the current humanitarian context. Dennis worked in similar roles in other UNICEF programs in Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and Malawi. Out of UNICEF, Dennis worked with the National Health Service in the United Kingdom, and before that with INGOs in roles related to Social and Behaviour Change, Social Marketing, and Public Health. Dennis has a BA from the University of Malawi and holds a Master's in Public Health from the University of Sheffield (United Kingdom).

Ceremony: ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award for Sustainable Development 2024-2025

Tarik Alami

Dr. Tarik Alami is the Director of the Governance and Conflict Prevention Cluster, and Acting Director of the Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA. He leads ESCWA's work on governance, conflict prevention, and institutional development, with a focus on supporting Arab countries in strengthening governance systems and advancing the SDGs. He also oversees efforts in data and digital development, ICT policy, innovation, and statistical capacity building.

Dr Alami is an expert on the political and socio-economic impacts of conflict, national dialogues, governance challenges, displacement, and conflict relapse, including in the context of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He has held various leadership roles at ESCWA, in the Economic Development and Globalization Division and the Economic Analysis Division. He previously served as Assistant to the Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (2022) and as a professor of economics at the American University of Beirut (1996–2004). His academic work has been published in leading journals such as the Journal of Policy Modeling, Journal of Macroeconomics, and the Arab Economic Journal. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Birzeit University, an M.A. from George Mason University, and a Ph.D. in Monetary Economics from the American University in Washington, D.C.

Mirna El Hajj

Dr Mirna El Hajj currently serves as Programme Management Officer in the Statistics, Information Society, and Technology cluster at ESCWA. In this role, she oversees and conducts regional analytical research in digital development, focusing on its alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Since 2020, Mirna has been leading the ESCWA Arab Digital Inclusion Platform (ADIP) Project, aimed at aiding Arab countries' policymakers in enhancing their national policies and guidelines for improved e-Accessibility. The ADIP Project's distinction as a champion at the World Summit of the Information Society Prizes 2022 underscores its impact. Mirna is an integral member of the Arab Digital Agenda (ADA) core team, actively overseeing the implementation of associated activities. With over a decade of lecturing experience at the Lebanese University and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Paris-8, she holds a rich academic background, complemented by numerous published articles in international IT journals.

Zahr Bou-Ghanem

Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem works as a researcher in the Statistics, Information Society, and Technology Cluster at UNESCWA. Her work focus is in the areas of digital technologies for development, technology and innovation for institutional development, open and innovative government, and digital Arabic content. She also worked in the areas of Internet governance and digital development. She holds an MPhil in Land Economy from the University of Cambridge, and MSc and BSc in Agriculture and Crop Production from the American University of Beirut.

ARAB SDG BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE: ADVANCING FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN THE ARAB REGION

Mohammad Ibrahim Fheili

Mohammad Ibrahim Fheili's career reflects a strong commitment to combating information laundering, fostering economic understanding and developing future talents. He currently serves as an Executive in Residence at the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB) at the American University of Beirut (AUB). His career spans roles in academia, banking, and consulting in Lebanon, the United States, and the MENA Region. As a seasoned Risk



Strategist and Political Economist, Mohammad excels in training, lecturing, and contributing insightful writings in banking and economics with a keen focus on monetary policies. His output includes over one hundred articles published in both local and international journals, especially insightful since the onset of Lebanon’s economic crisis, providing daily analysis on evolving economic strategies. Mohammad’s academic prowess is backed by a solid foundation from Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, where he earned his university degrees (post-graduate, graduate and undergraduate).

Nasser Al Kahtani

Nasser Al Kahtani is an experienced professional in development with a distinguished career spanning over three decades. As the Executive Director of the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND), he has overseen the implementation of numerous impactful initiatives, including the establishment of financial Inclusion banks across nine countries and the promotion of global awards for development projects. Al Kahtani, has served on several boards and committees, including those of the AGFUND Financial Inclusion Banks, the Arab Open University, the Arab Council for Childhood Development, the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research, the Arab Network for NGOs, the Global Executive Leadership Initiative hosted by UNOPS, and the Swiss Capacity Building Facility. He has actively participated in regional and international conferences and workshops, sharing his expertise in discussions on various development issues. He is a Member of the High-level Advisory Council of COP16, a council convened to discuss the devastating impacts of land degradation and drought, urging immediate action from governments, businesses, and non-profits. Their recommendations were presented at UNGA79 in New York and COP16 in Riyadh in December 2024, with the goal of halting land degradation. In addition, under the leadership of Al Kahtani, the Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security was launched during COP16, which aims at alleviating the impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought through agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers. Al Kahtani is recognized for his leadership in driving strategic planning and fostering partnerships among stakeholders. He holds a Master’s degree from the University of Miami as well as an Honorary Doctorate from the Open University (United Kingdom).

Sherif Lokman

Sherif Lokman is currently the Sub-Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt for Financial Inclusion and Sustainability since September 2021, taking the responsibility of financial inclusion for individuals and MSMEs, in addition to sustainable development and financial literacy. Sherif Lokman has an extensive experience in the banking sector spanning over 26 years, during which he held leading positions, setting valuable imprints on the banking sector through his accomplishments. Prior to joining CBE, Sherif Lokman was appointed in 2021 as the Deputy CEO in ALEXBANK, in addition to his responsibilities, as the Head of Retail and SMEs division since 2018. Moreover, he was the Head of Retail and Branches Network in 2016, after holding the position of “Head of Branches Network” for 4 years, when he first joined ALEXBANK in 2010. Before joining ALEXBANK, Sherif Lokman joined Barclays Bank Egypt as “Regional Branch Banking Head”, until he became “Head of Branches” in 2009 at Barclays Bank. In March 2006, Lokman joined NSGB as Zone Sales Manager. Sherif Lokman’s career in the banking sector commenced at Misr International Bank (MIBank) soon after graduating from Cairo University – Faculty of Commerce – in 1995. His performance and efficiency qualified him to be appointed in a number of positions in MIBank, reaching the “Head of Business Development and Market Research”.

Maher Mahrouq

Maher H. Mahrouq is the Director General of the Association of Banks in Jordan. Previously, he was Director General of the Jordan Chamber of Industry, Director of Policies and Studies at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan, and General Manager of the SME Centre at the Arab Academy for Banking and Financial Services. Dr. Mahrouq is an economist with over two decades of experience in industrial economics, small firm policy, and economic development. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of



Newcastle upon Tyne (United Kingdom), where he specialized in small-firm financing and policy. Throughout his career, he has worked extensively as a consultant and trainer, advising national, regional and international institutions on economic policy, SME development, and capacity building. He has contributed to policy formulation in finance, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. Additionally, he has served on numerous boards and advisory committees, including in the Personal Data Protection Council, the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the University of Jordan, the Economic Empowerment Team of the Jordan National Commission for Women, the Jordan Postal Saving Fund, the Jordan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund, and the Technical and Vocational Skills Development Commission. In addition, he has a number of published articles in local and international journals.

Fatma Triki

Fatma Triki, with a background in agricultural economics and a postgraduate degree in Agricultural Policy and Agri-Food Strategies, has over twenty years of experience in microfinance and support to entrepreneurship development. Her fields of expertise include strategy and business planning, project management, and socio-economic studies. She is currently the Director of Research and Development at Enda Inter-Arabe, a leading microfinance institution in Tunisia, where she has held several leadership positions. Her work has focused on developing monitoring and evaluation systems, managing institutional partnerships, conducting impact assessments, and leading studies on financial inclusion, gender, employment, and rural and sustainable development.

Heba Hagrass

Heba Hagrass, from Egypt, was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council as the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities from 1 November 2023. She is an advocate, an international disability consultant, and a researcher on the rights of persons with disabilities with an extensive experience in Egypt, the Arab Region, and worldwide. Heba Hagrass is a sociologist with PhD in Disability Studies at the University in Leeds (2010) with a specialization in disability rights and social policies, gender and employment. At the international level, Heba Hagrass was notably a representative of women with disabilities in the International Disability Caucus (IDC) who participated in the drafting of Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on women with disabilities. From 2015 to 2020, Heba Hagrass served as a Member of the House of Parliament of Egypt where she represented persons with disabilities. In this role, she submitted five draft laws relating to the rights of persons with disabilities covering different areas. Prior to becoming a member of parliament, she was the Secretary General of the Egyptian National Council for Disability Affairs. She is a board member of both the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the National Council for Women. She was also a member of the committee drafting the National Human Rights Strategy of Egypt and a founding member of the Inclusive Education Foundation. Between 2017 and 2020, Heba Hagrass served as a member of the Governing Council of the National African Peer Review Mechanism. Further, she is a founding member of the Arab Organization of Disabled People in 1998, where she was active until 2008, including as the head of its Women's Affairs Committee. She was a member of the Arab Forum for Social Sciences and Health from 1997 to 2000. Heba Hagrass has wide experience as a consultant on disability rights and inclusion with numerous international, regional and national organizations, such as UN agencies, the International Disability Alliance, CBM Advisory Group, Disabled People International, Rehabilitation International, Save the Children UK, Plan Egypt, Coptic-Evangelical Organization for social services, Arab Labor Organization, and diverse Egyptian Ministries and others.

Arafo Hassan Barbad

Arafo Hassan Barbad is a driven entrepreneur and sales expert from Djibouti. As the General Secretary of the Network of Ambitious Djiboutian Entrepreneurs (REDA), she fosters collaboration among aspiring business

owners. She holds a Master's in International Business from China (2016), which significantly influenced her entrepreneurial journey. In 2021, she founded Dhaxal Market, an online one-stop shop addressing the daily challenges faced by parents. A single mother of three, Ms. Barbad is passionate about supporting fellow entrepreneurs and participated in the CIME programme for young entrepreneurs in 2023.

Dani Ibrahim

Dani Ibrahim has more than 20 years of experience working in the Middle East and North Africa on sustainable development, financial well-being, and entrepreneurship. Dani is the Founder and General Manager of EA Advisory, a UAE-based management advisory, as well as a Founding Contributor of Fiinafas, an inclusive social and solidarity business focused on financial well-being. He formerly worked with PPI for over eight years designing and delivering programs focused on inclusive finance and micro-entrepreneurship amongst youth and women, covering sectors such as technology, agro-food, and vocational education. Dani also advised the board of KIMS, a microfinance institution based in Somaliland. Prior to that, Dani worked as Relationship Manager for MENA Region with Grameen Jameel Microfinance Limited, managing partnerships with microfinance institutions in 7 countries of the region. Earlier in his career, Dani spent around 8 years working in investment and transaction advisory. Dani is an entrepreneur himself and has been involved in several start-ups in the fields of financial education technology, advisory and retail. Dani has an MA in Business and Enterprise Development from the University of South Wales, in the United Kingdom.

SPECIAL SESSION 3 – A YOUTH LED SESSION: CHILDREN'S VOICES, SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: PROTECTING CHILD RIGHTS IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

Maya Abou Samra

Maya Abou Samra is Child Rights Governance Specialist at Save the Children, Lebanon Country Office.

Yaman Abu Siyam

Yaman Abu Siyam, 17-year-old, from South Lebanon, is passionate in community work. He has led peer-to-peer activities with a focus on right to education, healthcare, and right to participation.

Lara Al Malla

Lara Al Malla, 15-year-old, from Beirut, is a passionate advocate for girls' rights. She has led initiatives and campaigns promoting gender equality. Lara has participated in multiple consultations, including those organized by UN Women, and has successfully delivered a speech on the 100th Anniversary of the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

Shahed Mekhleef

Shahed Mekhleef, 15-year-old, from Beirut, has contributed to national advocacy events focused on child rights and youth empowerment and participated in different initiatives empowering children and youth to speak out against child rights violations and advocate for change.

Ali Al Haddam

Ali Al Haddam, 18-year-old, from North Lebanon, has participated in international events and consultations advocating for children's and youth rights. This includes participation in the Beijing Declaration consultation on girls' rights and International Youth Day campaign.

Sarah Yaseen

Sarah Yaseen, 19-year-old, from Beqaa – Lebanon, has contributed to key campaigns and initiatives, including the Girls' Right to Education campaign, the Beijing Declaration consultation.

Jad Hamid

Jad Hamid, 17-year-old, from South Lebanon, has participated in regional discussions on the Beijing Declaration and contributed to data collection for a child-led report submitted to the UNCRC committee on children's rights



in Lebanon.

MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION – ON THE ROAD TO THE SECOND WORLD SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WSSD2)

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.

Omar Hilale

Omar Hilale is the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, and the co-facilitator of the intergovernmental preparatory process for the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Wafa Bani Mustafa

Wafa Bani Mustafa, Minister of Social Development, and the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Women's Empowerment in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. She previously occupied the position of Minister of State for Legal Affairs (2021-2022). Wafa is a lawyer who holds a Master's degree in Psychological Counselling, and obtained specialized Courses in Women in Public Service from Wellesley College, Boston - USA (2011). Moreover, she obtained the Order of State Centennial. She is a former Member in the Jordanian House of Representatives representing Jerash governorate for three consecutive terms (2010-2020). She is the first Jordanian woman MP to chair a parliamentary bloc. She is a founder of the Jordanian Women Caucus, and the Chairperson of the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence against Women. Wafa is a member of the Constitution Sub-Committee of the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System.

Hind Kabawat

Hind Kabawat is the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Syrian Arab Republic.

Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi

Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi was appointed Minister of Social Development and Family in November 2024. Prior to that, she held the position of Minister of Education and Higher Education from October 2021 until November 2024 and was the President of the National Committee for Education, Culture and Science during that time. Throughout her career spanning over 20 years, she was able to amass several achievements and attain invaluable experience in various fields of education. She joined Qatar Foundation in 2006 and held several leadership positions the most recent position was President of Pre-University Education from 2016 until 2021. She developed various programmes, established specialised schools and centres, served in several national education committees and trustee boards for schools and universities. Earlier in her career, she was a teacher at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education schools. She holds an EMBA from HEC Paris and a bachelor's degree in Arts and Education, majoring in English from Qatar University.

Haneen Sayed

Haneen Sayed is the Minister of Social Affairs, Lebanon.

Naima Ben Yahya

Naima Ben Yahya is the Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and the Family in Morocco. Prior to this, she held several positions, including as a parliamentary adviser on gender and human rights (May 2023-October 2024); a director of the foundation for the promotion of social works for the employees and associates of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (2018-2023); and a member of parliament (2011-2016). She also chaired the first thematic group on equality and equity in the parliament from 2015 to 2016. She oversaw the preparation of national



gender strategies; managed international cooperation projects in the field of gender; and coordinated the preparation of national reports on CEDAW and on follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action, among others. She has several academic research papers and publications. She holds a doctorate in public law and political science, and a master's degree in international relations, diplomatic law and modern negotiation techniques from the University of Hassan II in Casablanca; and a BA in private law from the University of Mohammed V in Rabat.

Ahmed Kouchouk

Ahmed Kouchouk, the Minister of Finance of Egypt, has extensive international and local experience in the areas of economic and financial policies. He has served as Deputy Minister of Finance since March 2016 and has played a key role in the design and implementation of economic and financial policies and reforms. He worked as a senior economist at the World Bank. He has been the “main negotiator” with the International Monetary Fund since 2016. Mr. Kouchouk serves as Egypt’s non-resident executive director at the Asian International Infrastructure Bank Board (AIIB) for 7 years. He leads Egypt’s inter-ministerial task force managing the annual economic dialogue with the European Union. He oversees the process of setting and updating the Macro Fiscal Framework, risk management, and interaction with international institutions, credit rating agencies, investment banks, and investors.

Maher Johan

Maher Johan is the Undersecretary, Ministry of Planning, Iraq.

Hanouf Abdulrahman N. J. Al-Thani

Hanouf Abdulrahman Al-Thani currently serves as the Director of the International Organizations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar. Before her appointment as Director, Hanouf held several managerial positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she began her career in 2011. Prior to entering diplomacy, Hanouf worked at RasGas Ltd. from 2006 as Head of Section in the General Management Group. Hanouf holds a Juris Doctor degree from Hamad Bin Khalifa University and a Master’s degree in Public Policy and International Management from SOAS University of London. She is also a graduate of the Qatar Leadership Center Rising Leaders program and serves as a board member of the HBKU College of Law Alumni. Currently, she is pursuing her Ph.D. in Law, focusing on “The effects of the United Nations conventions on the law reforms in the State of Qatar.”

Jassim Al-Hamrani

Jassim Al-Hamrani is the Director of Strategic Planning and Communication at the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs of the GCC States (GCCLSA). He has more than 17 years of experience in social and market labor policies, international financial markets, and economics. He holds a Master's in Public Administration, in public and social policy from the University of York in the UK.

Heba Hagrass

Heba Hagrass, from Egypt, is the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. *Check her bio above, under the session titled “Arab SDG business roundtable: advancing financial inclusion in the Arab region”.*

Tarek El-Nabulsi

Minister Plenipotentiary Tarek El-Nabulsi is the Director of Development and Social Policies Department at the League of Arab States. His career at the League spans more than 25 years during which he covered a wide portfolio of key issues including terrorism and social development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the rights of people with disability, technical preparations to Arab summits on social development, as well as the coordination with the Arab Social Ministerial Council. He was part of the League’s official delegations to Arab summits and participated in many meetings of the United Nations General Assembly. He participated in the preparation of a number of Arab international reports related to the implementation of the

Millennium Development Goals. He was one of the main authors of the first Arab report on multidimensional poverty, and is a member of the main committee preparing the second report. He has important experiences in various social and development fields, and in Arab international relations and with United Nations agencies. One of his current important files includes the rights of persons with disabilities.

SPECIAL SESSION 4: PROMOTING A HUMAN-CENTRED APPROACH TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIGITALIZATION IN THE ARAB REGION

Aya Jaafar

Aya Jaafar is a Labour Economist at the ILO's Regional Office for Arab States. She joined the ILO in 2011 and has since been involved in various country and regional level projects and activities. She has a solid knowledge of macroeconomic and labour market dynamics in the Arab region and has contributed to collaborative research between the ILO and the wider UN family to support evidence-based policy solutions. Aya's work spans a wide array of critical areas, including conducting and coordinating research and policy analysis on pressing issues such as the future of work. She also provides technical guidance on economic and labour market issues and actively supports capacity-building initiatives for tripartite constituents across the region. Aya holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the American University of Beirut and a Master's degree in Finance and Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Hind Benammar

Hind Benammar is the Executive Secretary of the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC) since her election in April 2023. *Check her bio above under the session titled "Thematic session – SDG 8 review".*

Maher Mahrouq

Maher Mahrouq is the Director General of the Association of Banks in Jordan. *Check his bio above under the session "Arab SDG Business Roundtable".*

Hoda A. Al Khzaimi

Hoda A. Al Khzaimi is a research assistant professor and the Director of Center of Cyber Security in New York University Abu Dhabi. She also heads the Emirates Digital Association for Women. Hoda A. Al Khzaimi has a specific expertise in Cryptology, namely Cryptanalysis, constructing and validating security hardware and software components, and constructing trusted security architectures for different environments and products. She obtained her PhD in Cryptanalysis from Denmark Technical University. Her current research interests include Space, Aerospace, and UAV security, constructing and analyzing cryptographic primitives, validating and investigating links between different cryptanalytic approaches, and utilizing cryptographic primitives in different cybersecurity architectures as in the Internet and Things of big data analysis among others.

Lina Oueidat

Lina Oueidat is an ICT Advisor at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Lebanon. *Check her bio above under the session titled "Ministerial Discussion – Pact for the Future: Global Digital Compact"*

MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION – ON THE ROAD TO THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (FfD4)

Ibrahim Ahmed Elbadawi

Founder and Managing Director, Gulf Economic Policy & Research Center (GER: since February 2025). Managing Director, The Economic Research Forum (since January 2017- August 2019; August 2020- February 2025). Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Republic of Sudan (Sept 2019-July 2020). Appointed by the UN Secretary-General to the High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (in December 2020). Before joining the ERF, Elbadawi was Director at the Economic Policy & Research Center, the Dubai Economic Council (2009-2016); Lead Economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank,



which he joined in 1989; Research Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi, 1993-1998), on external leave from the Bank; and Professor of economics at the University of Gezira in Sudan (1984-1989). He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from North Carolina State and Northwestern universities in the United States. He has published widely on macroeconomics, growth, democratic transitions and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions. His regional specialization covers Africa and the Middle East. He is the co-editor (with Ishac Diwan) of the MENA Growth Commission Report (2022). Embarking on a Path of Renewal: MENA Commission on Stabilization and Growth. Policy Research Report No. 43, Economic Research Forum (ERF) and the Finance for Development Lab (FDL), October. His most recent edited books include: Ibrahim Elbadawi (with Hoda Selim): Understanding and Avoiding the Oil Curse in Resource-rich Arab Economies (Cambridge University Press, 2016); and Ibrahim Elbadawi (with Samir Makdisi). Democratic Transitions in the Arab World. (Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Yassine Jaber

Mr. Yassine Jaber is a graduate of International College (I.C.). Studied Economics and Business Administration at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Present Minister of Finance of Lebanon (12/02/2025). Former Minister of Economy and Trade (1995-1998) and Former Minister of Public Works and Transport (2004-2005). Member of the Lebanese Parliament since 1996-till 21st May 2022, and during this period, held the following positions: President of Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs and Immigrants; Member of Parliamentary Committee for Finance and Budget; Leader of Parliamentary friendship group with United States; Chairman of Parliamentary Friendship committees with United Kingdom, European Union and Japan; Head of Committee for Economic, Financial, Social and Education Affairs in the Euro-Med Parliamentary Assembly representing the Lebanese Parliament; Head of the Lebanese Branch following the Arab Common Market within the Arab Parliamentary Assembly.

Founder and Chairman of Kamel Jaber Cultural and Social Center in Nabatiyeh – South Lebanon. Former member of the steering committee for the Beirut Stock Exchange. Founder and President of the Association for supporting public schools in Nabatiyeh region. Member of the Board of Trustees Association for Higher Education and Scientific Guidance. Former President of AUB Alumni Association (U.K. Branch) (1992-1995). Member of Board of Trustees of American Community School – Beirut from 2004 till to date. Has long-standing business interests in both Lebanon and the United Kingdom.

Abbas Kadhom Obaid

Abbas Kadhom Obaid, a career diplomat, joined to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1995. He studied in the Foreign Service Institute (1995-1996). He assumed his position as Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in August 2023. Prior to his current position, he served as a director of the Organizations and International Conferences Department at MOFA (2021-2023). Previously, he served as the Acting Head of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations Office in Geneva in 2020. 2020 Member of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council. From 2015 – 2019, he served as the Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations Office in Geneva. From 2013 -2015, he served as the Deputy Director of the International Organizations and Conferences Department at MOFA (2002-2003) he worked in Iraqi embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, and Iraq's permanent missions to the UNEP and UN-Habitat. From 2003 to 2006, he served in the Iraqi embassy in Moscow, Russia; from 2006- 2008 he was head of the disarmament section in MOFA-Iraq. Abbas Kadhom Obaid is a recipient of a high diploma from the New Issues in Security Course (NISC) at the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP). He received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. on International Relations and International arrangements from Baghdad University. He joined the United Nations Fellowship for Disarmament in 2000.



Jesús Ignacio Santos Aguado

Ambassador Jesús I. Santos-Aguado, a Career Member of the Spanish Foreign Service, was appointed Ambassador in Lebanon on March 15th 2022. Previously to his current position, he was Ambassador at Large for the COVID-19 International Crisis and Global Health. He served as Ambassador of Spain in Mauritania (2017-2021) as well as in Guinea-Conakry (2007-2011). His overseas assignments as Deputy Head of Mission include the Spanish Embassies in Abidjan, Malabo, Canberra, Beirut and Athens. In Madrid, he was Deputy Director for Horizontal and Multilateral Cooperation (AECID) as well as Deputy Director for EU candidate and EEA countries. He also worked as Adviser in the cabinets of the Secretary of State for International Cooperation as well as in that of the Under-Secretary of the MFA. He hold also the position of Senior Adviser in the MENA General Directorate. Mr. Santos-Aguado earned an MD and PhD degrees in Medicine from the Complutense University in Madrid. Before entering into the Diplomatic School, he worked as a Family doctor in Spain and Equatorial Guinea (with the Spanish Red Cross). In research (Molecular Biology and Immunology), he was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Pennsylvania School of Medicine (1982-84) as well as at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (Harvard Medical School) from 1984 to 1987.

Mahmoud Mohieldin

Mahmoud Mohieldin is the UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *Check his bio above under the High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable development and the emerging geopolitics: Lost and found opportunities for the Arab region.*

Navid Hanif

Navid Hanif is the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). He is also the UN sous Sherpa to the G20 finance and main tracks. He joined UNDESA in 2001. 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 served as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch and later Director in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support and the Director for Financing for Sustainable Development Office. He was the first head of the DESA Strategic Planning Unit established in 2010. He was Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, Vice-Chair of the UN High-Level Committee on Programming (HLCP) and Co-Coordinator of the UN team on repositioning of the UN Development System that led to major reforms in 2018. He has contributed several articles on financing and investing in the SDGs in various journals and reports. He holds MIA, International Political Economy, Columbia University (NY), and M.A., English Literature, Government College University (Lahore).

Dima Al-Khatib

Dima Al-Khatib took up her duties as Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on 1 March 2023. She is a Sustainable Development Professional bringing more than 25 years of leadership and management experience in several duty stations to her role. Prior to joining UNOSSC, Dima Al-Khatib served as the UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Moldova. Prior to that, she held several positions including that of Programme and Policy Coordinator at the UNDP Regional Hub in Amman, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Kuwait, and UNDP Deputy Country Director in Libya. Dima Al-Khatib holds a Diplome d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) in Environmental Health from the Lebanese University and France University of Bordeaux II, and a Bachelor of Science and a Teaching Diploma in Environmental Health from the American University of Beirut.

SPECIAL SESSION 5: RE-IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF WOMEN IN FOOD SYSTEMS: HARNESSING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Khaled El Taweel

Khaled El Taweel brings over twenty years of extensive diversified in Development and International Law, having worked with both the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Currently, as Senior Programme Coordinator at the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, he leads a dedicated team focused on transforming food systems and advancing climate action. Dr. El Taweel has held significant leadership roles, including serving as Chair of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) from 2016 to 2018 and Chair of the Committee on Food Security (CFS) Working Group on Nutrition from 2015 to 2018. He co-led the implementation of the CFS evaluation and was elected Vice President of the Group of G77 and China in Rome in 2017, as well as the president of the UNIDROIT General Assembly in 2016. He holds a PhD in International Law from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and a Master of International Business Administration from ESLSA Business School in Paris. Dr. El Taweel has authored several academic books and articles on international law and development and is a visiting lecturer in International Law at several Universities.

Dina Najjar

Dina Najjar joined ICARDA in 2014 as a social and gender specialist. A socio-cultural anthropologist by training, she focuses on the link between gender equality and policies; agricultural technologies and delivery systems; rural employment and migration; adaption to climate change; and productive assets, including access to land and ownership, in the Middle East and North Africa. Her geographical expertise includes Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Sudan. She has also conducted research in Uzbekistan, Kenya, Ethiopia, and India. Dr. Najjar is fluent in Arabic and proficient in French and Swahili. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Inaya Ezzeddine

Inaya Ezzeddine is a Medical Doctor, Pathologist, and a member of the Lebanese Parliament since 2018. She currently chairs the Women and Children Parliamentary Committee and the SDG 2030 Agenda Parliamentary Commission, and is an active member of the Public Health, Labour, Social Affairs, and Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committees. From 2016 to 2018, she served as the Minister of State for Administrative Reform and has been the National Convener for Food System Transformation in Lebanon since May 2023. Dr. Ezzeddine played a pivotal role in developing Lebanon's anti-corruption strategy and National Digital Transformation Strategy, and she led the efforts aiming at developing the country's Food System Transformation Pathway. A staunch advocate for women's rights, she champions legislative initiatives and reforms aimed at gender equality and empowerment. During the Israeli war on Lebanon, she collaborated with UN Women to design a Scalable Emergency Sustainable Food System in Humanitarian Crisis that supported displaced women and their families in collective shelters in Tyre city of Southern Lebanon. In recognition of her remarkable contributions to public service, President Emmanuel Macron awarded her the Legion of Honor in 2020.

Dunia El Khoury

Dunia El Khoury is a Lebanese leader, Founder and President of the Lebanese NGO Women's Association of Deir El Ahmar (WADA) since 1991, and leader in rural development with 30+ years of experience in directing the programs, initiatives, and operations of WADA in partnership with local, national and international institutions and partners with the purpose of enabling capabilities for rural development in society and empowerment of women amidst the dynamic environmental and economic changes. WADA was awarded the "Dubai International Award for Best practices to Improve the Living Environment" (Cycle 2002) by the United Nations (UN) Habitat and Dubai Municipality, as best practice model at international level.

Naima Abu Yahya

Naima Abu Yahya is a teacher and trainer in sustainable agriculture at the Desert Greening Project in the village of Al-Jawarsa, Balqa Governorate, Jordan, in the valley. Naima's journey in sustainable agriculture began in 2019 when she completed her training and obtained a Permaculture Design Certificate from the Permaculture Research Institute in Australia. Over the past seven years, she has gained valuable experience by transforming her own garden into a sustainable urban agricultural practice and helping other local women to do the same. She has also contributed to spreading knowledge on sustainable agriculture through various organizations, including Muslim Aid Australia, Partners for Good, Permaculture Sustainable Consulting P/L, and Naua.

Samar Ahmed Abu Safia

Samar Ahmed Abu Safia has over seven years of experience in the agricultural sector and gender in Gaza, contributing to agricultural initiatives and research projects. Since 2020, she has been working with the Ministry of Agriculture in Gaza, first managing the Women's Participation and Empowerment program and later becoming the Head of the Modern Agriculture Department. In addition, she has worked with FAO in integrating women farmers within the FAO's Water Banking and Adaptation to Climate Change Project and as technical and field manager of one of the female Farmer Field Schools. During the war, she engaged in voluntary humanitarian work, distributing food baskets and emergency aid, and wrote articles about the food crisis in Gaza. Despite displacement, she initiated the "Green Camps" project, promoting urban agriculture and food sovereignty by helping displaced families grow vegetables around their tents, significantly involving children in the process. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from the Islamic University in Gaza.

Dani Ibrahim

Dani Ibrahim has more than 20 years of experience working in the Middle East and North Africa on sustainable development, financial well-being, and entrepreneurship. Check his bio above under the session titled "Arab SDG business roundtable: Advancing financial inclusion in the Arab region".

THEMATIC SESSION – SDG 5 REVIEW

Salma Nims

Salma Nims is a Gender equality, inclusive development and WPS Expert. She is a Board member, Ahli Microfinance since 2021. She has served as a Senior Social Affairs Officer at UN ESCWA, 2022 – 2024, and as a Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW), 2014 –2022. She holds a PhD. in Development Planning (2004) and an MSc. in Sustainable Development (1998) from University College London. Since 2004, she has provided policy reform advisory and consultancy services to several governments and international organisations. During her tenure as the SG of the JNCW, she led the development and adoption of Jordan's National Action Plan on WPS, which is globally recognized by the UN Secretary General WPS report as a best practice. She led the development of the National Strategy for Women in Jordan 2020-2025, through a broad inclusive approach, in full alignment with the SDG2030. In 2019, she received Said Foundation Outstanding Achievement Prize, for her contribution to inclusive development of the region.

Wafa Bani Mustafa

Wafa Bani Mustafa is the Minister of Social Development in Jordan. *Check her bio above under the session titled "Ministerial Discussion – On the Road to the Second World Summit on Social development (WSSD2)".*

Naima Ben Yahia

Naima Ben Yahia is the Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family in Morocco. *Check her bio above under the session titled "Ministerial Discussion – On the Road to the Second World Summit on Social development*



(WSSD2)”.

Inaya Ezzeddine

Inaya Ezzeddine is a Member of the Parliament of Lebanon and the Chairperson of the Women and Children and the SDG 2030 Agenda Parliamentary Committees. *Check her bio above under “Special Session 5 – The Future of Women in Food Systems: Harnessing Science, Technology and Partnership to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals”.*

Intisar Abdullah Al Wahaibi

Intisar Abdullah Al Wahaibi is the Director General of GCC-Stat. Prior to joining GCC-Stat, she served as the Director General of Development Planning at the Ministry of Economy in the Sultanate of Oman, and worked as a coordinator for economic sectors in the National Risk Management Register. She played a key role in formulating social and economic policies for development, leading the Planning Team responsible for the development of Oman’s Ninth and Tenth Five-Year Development Plans, and the first and second Voluntary National Reports, among others. She also held the position of Vice Chair of Haya Water Company and chaired the company’s executive committee. She worked as a national Project Manager for several projects and cooperation programs between Oman and prestigious international organizations. Her exceptional leadership and contributions have been recognized through numerous awards and certificates of appreciation. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics, a Master’s degree in Strategic Studies for National Security and Defense from Sultan Qaboos University, and a Postgraduate Diploma from the National Defense College.

Marwa Sharafeldin

Marwa Sharafeldin is an Egyptian scholar activist. She has a PhD in Law from the University of Oxford and is the Senior Technical Advisor and MENA Region Expert in Musawah. She recently finished a 3-year fellowship in Harvard Law School. Her work covers the intersection between Islamic law, international human rights law, and feminist activism. She has been published in a number of academic books and media platforms covering those topics. She co-founded and/or served on the Advisory Boards of several feminist organizations worldwide such as Musawah the Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family, the Global Fund for Women, the Young Arab Feminist Network, and the Network for Women’s Rights Organisations in Egypt. She contributed to publications such as the UN’s flagship Progress of the World’s Women Report and the UN’s Gender Justice and Law Arab Region Report. She believes in the power of art for social transformation, and is a story collector, performer and writer.

Manar Zeaier

Manar Zeaier has been acting as a lawyer and legal advisor since 2004, specializing in international human rights law and mechanisms, gender justice, and the rights of marginalized groups. For the past 20 years, she has worked as an independent human rights consultant, collaborating with national, regional, and international organizations across the MENA region. Her consultancy work encompasses drafting legislation, authoring policy briefs and reports, providing training, and developing national strategies and action plans. Her experience includes several years of work on gender justice in the Arab region, with a strong focus on integrating the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda and the gender justice legal framework into policy and practice.

SPECIAL SESSION 6: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE’S LEARNING, SKILLING AND TRANSITION TO DECENT WORK IN THE ARAB STATES

Mhamed Chamseddine Abdelmalek

Mhamed Chamseddine Abdelmalek is a Youth Advisory Group Representative from Algeria. He is a member of the Higher Council for Youth, nominated by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, where he contributes to youth policy development and strategic initiatives. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in control engineering, specializing in robotics, and Industry 4.0. As the president of Wameedh Scientific Club



(University Club), he leads efforts to promote technology, innovation, and education. Additionally, he is a media strategist, graphic designer, and branding expert, helping organizations enhance their digital presence. His work bridges technology, education, and media to drive meaningful impact.

Mbarka Taleb

Mbarka Taleb is an economics expert with extensive experience in planning, programming, and monitoring the implementation of policies, programs, projects, and reforms across various economic and social sectors in Tunisia. She currently holds the position of Director-General of Human Capital Development at the Ministry of Economy and Planning in Tunisia, where she oversees programs and projects in the fields of education, health, social protection, and economic empowerment, with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality. She has contributed to the preparation of national reports and strategic studies, and has participated in the drafting of legislation related to women, youth, and marginalized groups.

Sayed Bou Francis

As an expert in vocational and technical education, Sayed Bou Francis currently serves as the Head of the Vocational Training Department at the Directorate General of Vocational and Technical Education within Lebanon's Ministry of Education and Higher Education. In this role, he leads curriculum development, trainer evaluation, and strategic collaborations with both local and international partners. With a foundational career as a Technical Education Teacher and former Institute Director, Sayed has been instrumental in designing innovative professional training programs, introducing greener and digital tracer studies, and consulting with NGOs to support workforce development initiatives. His work is driven by a commitment to aligning educational outcomes with labor market demands. Sayed holds a Technical Educational License in Electronics and Telecommunications, combining deep technical knowledge with leadership in policy implementation, school management, and industry engagement. Passionate about sustainable education, he is dedicated to preparing students for the future by fostering practical skills and promoting environmental and vocational excellence.

Mantoura Nakad

Mantoura Nakad is a multidisciplinary scholar currently serving as the Assistant Dean for Administration, at the Faculty of Engineering, at the University of Balamand, Lebanon. She is also pursuing her final year of doctoral studies at CNAM Paris, France. Her research focuses on the integration of sustainability into engineering education with a specific emphasis on curriculum development and the training of engineers in sustainable design through a course that was designed and developed by her. Nakad is actively involved in many projects aimed at enhancing sustainability in engineering practices. Additionally, she has contributed to numerous publications and conferences on this subject, particularly in the context of sustainable development, engineering and higher education.

Hasan Jaafar

Hasan Jaafar is the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of YY ReGen, a Lebanon-based startup focused on renewable energy solutions for the agricultural sector. With a background in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in renewable energy, he has extensive experience in sustainable technology and entrepreneurship. Under his leadership, YY ReGen has developed the ReGen-R8 solar PV generator, providing clean energy solutions to farmers. Hasan has been recognized in Forbes Middle East's 30 Under 30 2023 and has participated in several prestigious accelerator programs.

Bassma Abdulkhaleq

My passion for teaching began in childhood when I helped my classmates learn. I hold a Master's degree in Human Resource Management and have extensive experience in this field. I worked as a teacher and participated in youth initiatives to empower young people, and I was a member of the Youth Advisory Group (YAG). I realized my true calling was in Human Resources, supporting youth in acquiring skills for successful



careers. Recently, I launched the "From Bassma to Youth" initiative, aimed at empowering young people in Yemen through language skills and relevant educational courses.

Mohammed Zaid

Mohammed Zaid is a social impact leader passionate about empowering youth through innovation, technology, and STEM education. As the founder and CEO of LYBOTICS, he leads nationwide efforts to provide hands-on robotics programs, reaching over 3,000 students across Libya. His work focuses on fostering leadership, promoting inclusion, and creating opportunities for young people to shape a brighter future.

Carlos Ayzazian

Carlos Ayzazian is a Lebanese social entrepreneur and Curator of the Global Shapers Beirut Hub, an initiative of the World Economic Forum. He is the founder and CEO of Wasted Treasures, a social enterprise converting organic waste into biomass fuels. Selected among the 25 under 25 by The World Around and a recipient of the Young Climate Prize, Carlos also serves on the Energy Committee of Catalyst 2030. He supports circular economy initiatives and focuses on youth-led innovation, green entrepreneurship, and inclusive recovery for climate resilience and sustainable development in Lebanon.

THEMATIC SESSION – SDG 3 REVIEW

Sawsan Abdulrahim

Sawsan Abdulrahim (PhD, MPH) is Professor of Public Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights. In her research, she utilizes mixed methods to illuminate social inequities in health across the life course, with a focus on the wellbeing of refugees and labour migrants in the Arab region. Most recently, she served as PI of community-engaged studies on the wellbeing of Syrian refugee adolescent girls and migrant women care workers in Lebanon. Her research interests include forced migration and health; aging and care; and the impact of structural violence on the health of refugees. She teaches courses on research methods, health promotion theory, social epidemiology, and forced migration.

Arash Rashidian

Professor Arash Rashidian (MD, PhD) is the Director of Science, Information and Dissemination at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Since 2015, he has led the WHO regional agenda on evidence-informed policy making, health information systems, digital health, research promotion and governance and knowledge sharing. His career in health policy research and health system development spans 25 years and several countries. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Rashidian led the research and knowledge management pillar of the WHO response management team in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He is Vice-Chair of WHO's Guideline Review Committee and Executive Editor of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean's flagship publication.

Khuloud Al Mufarjia

Dr. Khuloud Mohsin Ali Al Mufarji, a public health consultant and the Director of Planning at the Ministry of Health, develops and implements national health sector strategic five-year plans aligned with Oman's 2040 strategic goals and international health commitments. She collaborates with diverse stakeholders to enhance healthcare equity, access, and efficiency. Her responsibilities include conducting population health needs assessments, identifying national priorities for health development projects, and overseeing the implementation of the Model of Care reform. Dr. Al Mufarji holds an MSc in Social Marketing from the University of Brighton, a Diploma in Child Health from the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow, and an MD from Sultan Qaboos University. Previously, as Director of Health Education and Communication, she spearheaded national campaigns addressing critical health issues and improving public health policies. Her expertise encompasses strategic planning, health system performance assessment, risk communication, and social marketing. In



addition, Dr. Al Mufarji develops and implements training programs to strengthen the capacity of health planners.

Jilali Charrouk

Mr. Jilali Charrouk, a statistician and economist, has accumulated extensive experience in strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation of social policies within the High Commission for Planning (HCP) in Morocco. Throughout his professional career, Jilali Charrouk has coordinated and contributed to numerous studies on health system financing, gender and health issues, and the monitoring and evaluation of social programs. He has also contributed to the preparation of reports on Morocco's implementation of international commitments, including national reports on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the monitoring of the objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). He is currently responsible for tracking the objectives of the Africa Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their social and health dimensions. His commitment has also extended to local planning, supporting the development of municipal and regional development plans.

Mohannad Al Nsour

Mohannad Al Nsour has been leading the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) since 2009, by providing strategic assistance and operational solutions, and guiding the enrichment of Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) and public health initiatives in the region. Under Dr. Al Nsour's leadership, EMPHNET emerged as a prominent collaborative platform to serve the region and support national efforts to promote public health policies, applied epidemiology, surveillance, International Health Regulations (IHR), resource mobilization, and public health program development among others.

Shereen Hussein

Shereen Hussein is a distinguished academic at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. With over 30 years of expertise in policy and research, she is also the Founding Director of the Middle East and North Africa Research on Healthy Ageing (MENARAH) Network. Ms. Hussein is a key advisor to governments and policymakers in the UK and Europe, specializing in ageing and Long-Term Care systems and policies. As an international expert, she has collaborated with global organizations, including the World Health Organization, UNICEF, ESCWA, and the World Bank. She is a formal advisor to the UK Parliament Health and Social Care Committee. Ms. Hussein's significant role as an expert advisor extends to various governments, including Australia, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Oman, aiding in developing their LTC, ageing, and dementia strategies. Formally trained in statistics and demography, she has been leading large national and international mixed-methods research in the fields of ageing and care. She is particularly interested in the diverse experience of ageing globally and its interactions with other megatrends such as migration, social change, mobility, and climate change. She is an influencing commentator, author, and Editor-in-Chief of Population Health Metrics.

THEMATIC SESSION – SDG 14 REVIEW

Manal Nader

Manal Nader holds a B.Sc. in Fisheries and Wildlife Management - University of Minnesota, an M.Sc. in Aquaculture - University of Stirling, and a PhD in Marine Science and Aquaculture - Hokkaido University. He was instrumental in establishing the Institute of the Environment and the Marine and Coastal Resources Program at the University of Balamand that he is directing, and the curriculum for the B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He manages several projects on sustainable development, and his research focuses on coastal zone management, resource conservation, marine and terrestrial biodiversity, fisheries, artificial reefs, climate change, and wildlife management, for which he has several publications. His activities include sustainable development policies, natural resource management strategies, blue economy, renewable energy, waste and watershed management in addition to extensive experience in coastal and marine



consulting.

Mohammed Alrezaqi

Holds a Bachelor's degree in Marine Science and Fisheries from Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, with 15 years of experience in the Environment Authority in the field of integrated coastal zone management, monitoring and protection of the marine and coastal environment, and implementing marine ecosystem rehabilitation programs such as monitoring and evaluating coral reef ecosystems and their rehabilitation, as well as mangrove rehabilitation and planting programs. He also participates in projects to protect and track endangered marine species such as sea turtles, whales, and dolphins. He works on evaluating development and economic projects on the coastline and analyzing EIAs studies to assess the environmental impact of projects, in addition to participating in studies related to coastal erosion and sea level rise due to climate change and their impact on the coasts of the Sultanate of Oman. He participates in activating and updating environmental laws and regulatory regulations and combating marine pollution. He is the Sultanate of Oman's representative in the Marine Environment Committee of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Lara Samaha

Lara Samaha is a senior biodiversity specialist, with 28 years of experience at the Lebanese Ministry of Environment. She holds a master's degree in biodiversity and has been the Head of Ecosystems Department at the Ministry since 2004 till present, managing biodiversity, protected areas and hunting portfolios. She played a major role in advancing the country's biodiversity-related policies, contributing to the ratification by Lebanon of international biodiversity treaties, and serving as the national focal point for the CBD since 1998, as well as for CMS, AEWA, and the Protocol on "Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean" under the Barcelona Convention. She had a crucial role in the establishment and management of protected areas in Lebanon and contributed to the development of major biodiversity legislation, policies, and strategies, including the Protected Areas Framework Law, hunting regulations, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Lebanon's Marine Protected Areas Strategy.

Ali El-Kekli

Dr. Ali El-Kekli holds a Bachelor's degree in Plant Sciences from Tripoli University, a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from the Libyan Academy, and a PhD in Environmental Sciences and Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso. He acted as Chairman of the General Environment Authority, Director of the Department of Cooperation and Technical Consultations, Director of the Department of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. He acted as national focal point for the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Convention on Biological Diversity. He worked as member of various national committees and the Task Force on SDG13 to prepare Libya's first and second voluntary report on sustainable development. He contributed to scientific national studies and scientific papers. He authored a book on Climate Change and its Effects on the Sustainability of Land Resources and Land Uses in Libya and Proposed Measures to Confront It 2022.

Mohamed Said Abdelwarith Attea

Mohamed Said Abdelwarith Attea is a prominent marine ecologist and General Manager of Biodiversity Economics at the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). As the National Focal Point for the Marine Biological Diversity and Protected Areas Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, he leads efforts in marine conservation and protected area management. A founding member of the North African Sea Turtle Network (NASTNet), he has also contributed to the Arab Federation for Wildlife Protection (AFWP) as Assistant Secretary-General for International Projects and Agreements. His work focuses on biodiversity, nature conservation, and community engagement, establishing him as a key figure in regional and international environmental initiatives.

Mohammad Dawood Al-Ahmad

Mohammad Dawood Al-Ahmad was appointed in March 2024 as the Executive Secretary of the Regional



Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME). Since his appointment, Dr. Al-Ahmad has actively spearheaded the development of ROPME Strategic Directions for the period 2026-2030. In his current role, he leads a distinguished team of experts dedicated to formulating strategic action plans, programs, and projects aimed at strengthening and elevating ROPME's impact in marine conservation and environmental protection at national, regional, and international levels. Alongside his responsibilities at ROPME, Mohammad Dawood Al-Ahmad has also served as Chairman of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fishery Resources in the State of Kuwait since 2021. His extensive leadership experience includes previous roles as Deputy General Director of Kuwait's Environment Public Authority and Chairman of the Kuwait Environmental Protection Society.

Mehdi Aissi

Marine biodiversity and environmental expert with over 14 years of experience in marine ecosystem monitoring, conservation, and management. Specialized in marine and coastal biodiversity, marine protected areas, and climate change impacts on marine environments. Skilled in technical assistance, capacity building, and international policy at the Mediterranean level. Experienced in balancing conservation and sustainable development, with a strong track record across the Mediterranean region, including North Africa and Southern Europe. Proficient in strategic planning, budget management, project development, evaluation, networking, stakeholder consultation, training, policy advocacy, and fundraising. A dynamic team leader, trainer, and presenter with excellent communication, relational, and creative skills. Fluent in Arabic, French, Italian, and English, with a proven ability to manage donor relations and deliver impactful results.

ROUNDTABLE ON VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

Ola Sidani

Ola Sidani is a PhD holder in economics and PMP certified. She worked for more than 10 years with UNDP at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Lebanon, leading on public sector governance reform and the national SDGs portfolio. Her interests cover development, institutional economics and reform strategies, public policy and international cooperation. Working with various research centers, she managed donor-funded projects, bringing about transformative and inclusive policy advice in highly volatile settings. Ola has several publications, including peer-reviewed research. She is alumna of the UN Alliance of Civilizations fellowship program, and half-marathon finisher.

Wafaa Al Mahdawi

Wafaa Al-Mahdawi is a professor of sustainable development at the College of Administration and Economics, Al-Mustansiriya University, and a national expert at the Ministry of Planning in Iraq. She holds advanced degrees in economics with a specialization in sustainable development. She has extensive professional experience, and held numerous positions including: Head of the Expert Team and Member of the Supreme National Committee for Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Planning; Member of the Expert Team for preparing the National Development Plans for Iraq (2010-2014 Plan, 2013-2017 Plan, 2018-2023 Plan, 2024-2028 Plan); Member of the Expert Team for preparing the National Human Development Report for Iraq for the years 2008, 2014, 2025; Member of the Expert Team for preparing the National Voluntary Report for Iraq for the years 2019, 2021, 2025; Member of the Expert Team for preparing the National Employment Policy for Iraq 2010, 2025; Member of the Working Group for preparing the background papers for the Poverty Reduction Strategy in Iraq; Member of the expert team for localizing sustainable development goals from the perspective of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Arab Women Organization - League of Arab States 2013-2018.

Khaled Ismail Mohammed

Khaled Ismail Mohammed is the Director of International Finance and Investment at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Sudan. He has participated in preparing the medium-term fiscal framework, the socio and



macroeconomic indicators, and the finance plans and programs related to sustainable development. He also participated in issuing economic performance annual reports and the preparation of government policies and rules.

Khaled Abu Khaled

Khaled Abu Khaled is Director General, Registers and Statistical Monitoring Directorate at the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). He has more than 25 years of work experience at the PCBS and holds a Master's degree in Public and Community Health. He began his career at the PCBS as Director of the Health Statistics Department. He has held several positions at the PCBS, including Director of Gender Statistics, then Deputy Director General of the General of Population and Social Statistics Directorate. In 2016, he was appointed Director General of the General of Censuses Directorate. During the period between 2020-2022, he worked as Deputy Assistant Undersecretary for Statistical Affairs, and currently holds the position of Director Registers and Statistical Monitoring Directorate, including the SDGs profile. He has technically and administratively supervised a large number of qualitative household surveys. He worked as a consultant for UNICEF/Palestine Office to supervise and follow up on the implementation of the fifth and sixth rounds of the Palestinian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

Mohamed Al-Hawri

Mohamed Al-Hawri is Deputy Minister for Economic Studies and Forecasting, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen. He is also Professor of Economics at Sana'a University. Prior to his current position, he was the advisor for the financial committee in the Parliament; Vice President of the University of Science and Technology; and advisor for the private sector.

Nada El Agizy

Minister Plenipotentiary Nada El Agizy is the Director of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Department at the League of Arab States. She joined the Arab League in 1992 and acquired proficiency in economic and social development at the regional and international levels. Ms. El Agizy has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the American University in Cairo and an MBA from University of Cumbria in the UK where her studies were focused on sustainable management. Before her most recent appointment; Ms. El Agizy was Deputy Chief of Staff and adviser for socio-economic affairs as well as communication to H.E. the Secretary General of the Arab League, she was responsible for setting recommendations and preparation of policy notes on key issues like economic integration, reform and development. In her recent capacity she led a number of initiatives including; End of Hunger in the Arab Region sub-committee, the Multi-stakeholder sub-committee to support the attainment of SDGs in conflict-affected countries in the Arab region, the Regional Initiative on Climate Security, the SDG-Climate Facility Project, DE-Risking Investment Task Force in the Arab Region, the Arab Youth SDGs Platform, Arab League Partners Alliance for Sustainability, also launching the largest regional multi-stakeholder dialogue platform in the Arab region; "The Arab Sustainable Development Week"; bringing together representatives from Arab governments, experts, civil society, private sector, youth, media and philanthropic organizations.

SPECIAL SESSION 7: MIGRATION, EMPLOYMENT AND THE FUTURE OF WORK: CHANGING DYNAMICS IN THE ARAB REGION

Ayman Zohry

Ayman Zohry earned his Ph.D. from the University of Sussex in 2002. He is an Expert on Population and Migration Studies based in Cairo, Egypt and the founding president of The Egyptian Society for Migration Studies (EGYMIG). At present, Ayman Zohry serves as a member of the editorial board of the International Migration Review (IMR). His current research interests include the demography of migration, migration statistics, climate migration, and migrants Rights. Ayman Zohry has more than 35 years of experience in his fields of specialization including



working for Cairo Demographic Center, the American University of Beirut, Danish Institute for International Studies, the American University in Cairo, and Cairo University. Previously, Ayman Zohry was chair of the first Scientific Panel on International Migration, IUSSP, 2011-2014 and in December 2021, Ayman Zohry was appointed as a member of the National Council for Human Rights (Egypt).

El Sayed Torky

El Sayed Torky earned his Ph.D. in Business Law from Cairo University in 2003 and has an extensive academic and professional background in business law and sustainable development. Currently, El Sayed Torky serves as a Senior Advisor and Head of Sustainability and Labor Affairs at the Federation of Egyptian Industries. He also holds several strategic roles, as board member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization; member of the Board of Trustees of the National Institute of Governance and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation; Member of the National Committee for the National Strategy for Social Responsibility, and the Egyptian National Contact Point Committee for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); and board member of two specialized councils in the Ministry of Labour.

Mohammad Al Maaytah

Mohammad Al Maaytah is a seasoned consultant specializing in labour relations, with a focus on migrant workers and refugee relief. Currently, he holds the position of Deputy Executive Secretary of the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC). He has previously served as an external collaborator with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and as the Regional Manager for the Migrant Resource Center of the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC). His work involves planning and implementing projects designed to support migrants in the MENA region and empower refugees and migrant workers through active participation in collective bargaining, social security, and labour committees.

Nader Kabbani

Nader Kabbani holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Johns Hopkins University. He is Senior Fellow and Director of Research with the Middle East Council on Global Affairs and a Research Fellow with the Economic Research Forum. Previously, Nader Kabbani was a Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution and Director of Research with the Brookings Doha Center. A development researcher and practitioner with over 20 years' experience, he was Director of Policy and Research at the Silatech Foundation and was Founding Director of the Syria Development Research Center. 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.

Othman Belbeisi

Othman Belbeisi is the Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) based in Cairo, Egypt. Prior to this appointment, he was serving as the Senior Regional Adviser for Middle East and North Africa within the Executive Office. Throughout his nearly two-decade career with IOM, he has been deployed to various MENA countries on numerous assignments. He also served as emergency coordinator for the Syrian and the Libyan crises. In addition, he serves as Special Coordinator for Syria, leading and coordinating activities undertaken by IOM in Syria and neighboring countries. He has been also serving as the IOM Director General's Special Envoy for Iraq since early 2022. He holds a master's degree in Business Administration.

Noura Sadki

Noura Sadki serves as a Regional Administrator at the municipality and as a member of the Higher Council for Youth (2022–2026). She received her baccalaureate in 2014, a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences in 2017, a Master's degree in Audiovisual Studies in 2019, and a Bachelor's degree in Law in 2023. Ms. Sadki believes in the importance of community and volunteer work, and strives—through her academic and

professional experience—to contribute to the development of the youth sector and the promotion of sustainable development principles.

Nouha Benchikh

Ms. Nouha Benchikh holds a Master's degree in Audit and Management Control and she is a Senior Executive of the Directorate of Employment in the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills in Morocco, where she contributes to the coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of national employment programs, as well as the follow-up of international cooperation projects in the field of employment and skills development. Before that, Ms. Benchikh was the regional employment officer, in charge of monitoring and supporting the implementation of employment programs and initiatives at local levels.

ROUNDTABLE – DOHA PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES 2022-2031

Ziad Abdel Samad

Ziad Abdel Samad is the Executive Director of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND). He is engaged in many global and regional networks focusing on economic and social public policies and targeting regional and global Institutions. He is active in electoral reforms and monitoring at the national and regional levels (Coordinator of the Arab Network for Democratic Elections). Mr. Abdel Samad is an instructor at the Lebanese American University (LAU) and a member of the Order of Engineers and Architects in Lebanon.

Omar Ahmed Mohamed Ali

Omar Ahmed Mohamed Ali is the Minister of Trade and Supplies in Sudan.

Mohamed Al-Hawri

Mohamed Al-Hawri is Deputy Minister of Economic Studies and Forecasting, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen. *Check his short bio above under the session titled "Roundtable on voluntary national reviews."*

Abderrahmane Deddi

Abderrahmane Deddi is Assistant Director-General for Strategies and Development Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance in Mauritania. He is an expert in development planning and public policy, with over 15 years of experience in developing national strategies, monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and coordinating cooperation with technical and financial partners. He contributed to the formulation and implementation of the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP), which serves as the reference framework for the country's development policies.

Hassan Adam Hosow

Hassan Adam Hosow is Chief Economic Advisor to the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia and Executive Director of the National Economic Council. Prior to this, he was the Senior Economic Advisor to the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia from 2019 to 2022. Earlier in his career, Hosow worked in Edmonton, Alberta, where he held senior policy roles within the Government of Alberta. At the Ministry of Energy, he led economic policy related to gas, conventional oil, and oil sands. He later joined the Ministry of Municipal Affairs as the Advisor to the Provincial Assessor/Executive Director, focusing on industrial property assessments. Hosow went to the University of Alberta for his Bachelor of Commerce to William Woods University for his MBA, to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for his Master of Science in Business Value, and to the University of Illinois Springfield for his Doctorate in Public Administration.

Hassan Mohamed Ali

Hassan Mohamed Ali is Director, Department of Regional and International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Somalia

Mohammad Abdul Alim

Abdul Alim is the head of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) sub-programme at the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). Prior to joining the UN, he served at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN in New York, where he handled economic and financial matters, and worked at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Moscow. Alim also gained experience in the multilateral economic affairs wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. He holds a master's degree in Economics from Dhaka University and an MSc in International Economics from the University of Birmingham.

Kinda Mohamadieh

Kinda Mohamadieh is senior researcher and legal advisor with the Third World Network office in Geneva. She has more than 10 years of work experience focused on WTO processes and negotiations, international investment governance and legal accountability of business enterprises. Previously, she worked in the Arab region on economic and social policies and rights. She holds a PhD in international law from the Graduate Institute in Geneva. Her thesis was entitled 'Rethinking Corporate Law: from Enabling to Disciplining the Corporate Externality'. She also has academic degrees in economics, international economic development, and international trade law.

Nader S. Kabbani

Nader Kabbani is a senior fellow and director of research at the Middle East Council on Global Affairs and a research fellow with the Economic Research Forum based in Cairo, Egypt. A development researcher and practitioner with over 20 years' experience, Kabbani previously served as director of research at the Brookings Doha Center and as senior fellow with the Global Economy and Development Program and nonresident senior fellow in the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. Prior to joining Brookings, Kabbani was director of policy and research at the Silatech Foundation and the founding director of the Syrian Development Research Centre at the Syria Trust for Development. During his career, Kabbani has held positions on the faculty of the American University of Beirut and on the research staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California State Senate. Kabbani has also served on the boards of several non-profit organizations and social enterprises. Kabbani has published a diverse set of policy papers, academic articles, and chapters in edited volumes, most recently "Economic Dimensions of the Social Contract and How to Address Them," in The Modern Arab State: A Decade of Uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. He has served as a consultant and led the preparation of reports and studies for various international organizations, including the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and others.

Mustafa Khawaja

Mustafa Khawaja is the head of the Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit in the Statistics and Information Society and Technology Cluster at ESCWA. His work focuses on monitoring the SDGs in the Arab region, supporting member states, and providing capacity building on topics such as SDG indicators, gender statistics, and disability statistics.

Hammou Laamrani

Hammou Laamrani is Economic Affairs Officer in the Climate Change and Natural Resources management Cluster at ESCWA, where he focuses on food systems transformation, circular economy and biodiversity. Previously held positions include: Economic Affairs Officer in ESCWA's National Agenda for the Future of Syria programme (2022, focused on agriculture and livelihoods); Senior Expert, Water-Energy-Food and Climate Nexus at the Centre for International Migration in Eschborn, Germany and Advisor to the Economic Sector at the League of Arab States in Egypt (2018-2021); Advisor on Climate change and water in MENA, GIZ, Egypt (2014- 2017); Senior Programme

Officer at Canada International Development Research Centre, Egypt, with focus on water, rural poverty and environment, agriculture and food Security programmes in MENA (2007-2013); Researcher at International Water Management Institute, Ghana (2005-2007); and Consultant, National Institute for Agronomic Research, Morocco (1998-2004). Hammou holds a PhD in Environment and Community Development from Copenhagen University, Denmark (1999).

SPECIAL SESSION 8: DELIVERING QUALITY, DRIVING EQUITY FROM POLICY TO ACCESS: A REGIONAL VISION FOR MEDICAL PRODUCTS

Houda Langar

Houda Langar is a Pharmacist Biologist and Associate Professor of Clinical Microbiology. She has also a master diploma on biological and medical sciences. She has post-graduate degree diplomas, diploma of advanced studies and masters in biochemistry, haematology, parasitology, and microbiology as well as in the control of medicines. She is currently unit head for access to medicines and health technologies and regional advisor for access to vaccines and other biological products dealing with regulation, R&D, production, safety and supply of medical products in Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the World Health Organization. She was Desk Officer for United Arab Emirates from 2014-2017 and acting WHO Representative in Djibouti in 2014-2015. She worked in different clinical laboratories of teaching hospitals in Tunisia and France from 1993-1996 and in Pasteur Institute of Tunis from 1996-2005 where she occupied the position of head of Tunisian National Control Laboratory of vaccines and other biologicals and was deeply involved in the regulation of all biological products from 1998-2005 prior to join WHO.

Hassan Abdourahman Elmi

Hassan Abdourahman Elmi is a Doctor of Pharmacy with over 15 years of experience in supply chain management in central purchasing of medicines. He is currently the General Director of the Central Purchasing of Medicines and Essential Materials (CAMME), where he has been instrumental in driving many structural reforms. Under his leadership, the CAMME has seen major advances, including the development of the National Pharmaceutical Policy and the development of an optimized National Supply Chain Strategy. These initiatives have enabled the launch of innovative projects such as the Last Mile program, the expansion of the distribution network, and warehouse construction projects to strengthen storage capacities. He has also led the digitalization of management processes by implementing computerized systems like mSupply and SAGE, improving operational efficiency. Prior to his current role, he served as Director of Medicine and as a consultant to numerous international organizations. His expertise covers supply management, quantification of pharmaceutical inputs, and capacity building. His background demonstrates solid experience in drafting procedure manuals and coordinating large-scale projects related to public health. His leadership and strategic vision have been pivotal in strengthening Djibouti's pharmaceutical supply chain, ensuring the availability and accessibility of essential medicines for the population.

Ali Ghamrawy

Ali Ghamrawy serves as the Chairman of the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) since 2024, boasting a remarkable four-decade tenure in the pharmaceutical domain. With a wealth of experience spanning various sectors, including industrial and governmental roles, he has been instrumental in shaping regulatory policies and driving strategic initiatives. His tenure as a former member of the Authority's Board of Directors and investment advisor underscores his strategic vision and industry insight. His consultancy work for pharmaceutical projects, coupled with executive leadership roles in multinational corporations across Egypt, Africa, and the Middle East from 1986 until 2015, highlight his comprehensive understanding of industry dynamics and regulatory complexities. As Chairman of the EDA, he remains committed to advancing pharmaceutical excellence and fostering collaboration, promising to steer Egypt towards new heights of innovation and regulatory efficacy.

Abderrahmane Maaroufi

Abderrahmane Maaroufi is a Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, and Director of Institut Pasteur du Maroc. He is a Medical Doctor and holds a Master degree in public health from the University of Montreal in 1996, where he passed the comprehensive exam of PhD Program in Epidemiology at in 1999. He holds a Master degree in management and administration of health Organizations from the University of Strasbourg in 2020, and a diploma on Health policies and systems analysis from the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerp in 2017. He was the Director of Epidemiology and Disease Control at the Ministry of Health of Morocco from 2013 to 2018, Director of the National School of Public Health from 2005 to 2012, Director of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Medical School of Casablanca from 2005, and the founder and former Director of the Moroccan Field Epidemiology Training Program, with the collaboration of US CDC Atlanta. He is laureate of the "Rising Star Award", delivered by US CDC d'Atlanta and laureate of the scholarship of excellence of the Canadian Francophonie Scholarship Program, delivered by the Government of Canada.

Lara Al-Halabi

Lara Al-Halabi is a student of Public Relations and Corporate Communication at the Lebanese University.

Faten Lemkecher

Faten Lemkecher is a pharmacist. She has been acting as the Head of Procurement at the Central Pharmacy of Tunisia (PCT) since 2011. She has expertise in planning, estimation and execution of national purchases of medicines and other health products in compliance with current technical and administrative regulations; distribution process for medicines for the public and private sectors Private; managing the risk of drug stockouts by implementing alternative solutions and identifying alternative supply sources; national health expenditure on drugs; and pricing mechanism of medicines and other health products. Between 2004 and 2011, she acted as an assistant pharmacist in PCT and was responsible for the planning, estimation and execution of national purchases of vaccines, and other biological products; and for release and distribution in accordance with the technical regulation. She holds a National Diploma in Pharmacy from the Monsatir University in Tunisia and a EMAUD Diploma from the European Market Access University Diploma.

SPECIAL SESSION 9: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – A GENDER SNAPSHOT IN THE ARAB REGION

Nora Isayan

Nora Isayan is a strategic communications professional with over 13 years of experience in communication and media across humanitarian and development sectors. She serves as the Regional Communication Specialist at UN Women's Regional Office for the Arab States in Cairo, where she leads the regional communication team, strategies, and strategic media relations.

Previously, she served as Regional Communication Specialist at the UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States in Amman, Regional Public Information Officer at UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia in Manama, and Communication Analyst at the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator's Office in Amman.

An Armenian born and raised in Jordan, she holds a BA in Business Administration from Yarmouk University of Jordan, and an MA in Communication, Media, and Public Relations from the University of Leicester in the UK.

Moez Doraid

Dr. Moez Doraid is the Acting Regional Director for the Arab States, UN Women and the Director of Management and Administration at its headquarters. *Please check his short bio above under special session 1 "Women's roles in recovery and post-conflict reconstruction".*

Tarik Alami

Tarik Alami is "Governance and Conflict Prevention" Cluster Leader, as well as Acting Director, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA.

Dominique Kanobana

Dominique is a statistics specialist with 16 years of experience. He led the development of 'Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab States: The Gender Snapshot 2024' and contributed to data production that highlights the impact of conflict on women and girls in Gaza through the 'Gender Alerts'. Previously, he served as a Technical Adviser for Gender Statistics at UN Women Rwanda, where he helped produce 18 gender statistics reports. He also played a key role in formulating the Rwanda Country Office's Strategic Notes, developing the UNDP/UNSDCF, CCAs, and various UNCT Joint Programmes, and two Rwanda Voluntary National Review reports. Dominique, a Rwandan national, holds a Master's Degree in Demography from the Institute of National Planning (formerly known as the Cairo Demographic Center) in Egypt.

Mustafa Khawaja

Mustafa Khawaja is the Head of Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit, ESCWA.

Maha Ali

Ms. Maha Ali, currently the Secretary General for the Jordanian National Commission for Women, served as Jordan's Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply twice in 2020-2021 and in 2015-2016. Before that, Ms. Ali served as the Secretary General for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply for five years. She served at the Economic Section at Jordan's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva in 2002. Ms. Ali holds a BSc in Industrial Engineering from University of Jordan, an MBA from the German Jordanian University and a Trade Policy Diploma from the World Trade Organization. Ms. Ali also lectured as a professor of practice at Al-Hussein Technical University (HTU) and the German Jordanian University.

Khaled Abu Khaled

Khaled Abu Khaled is Director General, Registers and Statistical Monitoring Directorate at the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). *Check his bio above under the session titled "Roundtable on voluntary national reviews".*

Aya Matsuura

Aya Matsuura, joined the ILO Regional Office for Arab States and Decent Work Technical Support Team (DWT) in Beirut on 15 March 2024 as the Senior Specialist on Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination. She provides technical support, training and advisory services, focusing on advancing gender equality, women's empowerment and disability inclusion in the world of work, to: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Specific areas of her work include promoting equality and non-discrimination, a world of work free from violence and harassment including gender-based violence and harassment, women's economic and social empowerment, women's entrepreneurship development, decent work and the care economy, decent work for women in the informal economy such as home-based workers and domestic workers, and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Ali Fakih

Ali Fakih is a Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics at the Lebanese American University (LAU). He is a Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum (ERF), IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Analysis of Organizations (CIRANO), and Global Labor Organization (GLO). He earned his PhD in Economics from HEC Montréal (Université de Montréal) in 2011. His research interests span Labor Economics, Development Economics, Gender Economics, Econometrics, Finance-Growth Nexus, Political Transformations, and Middle East and North African (MENA) Economies. His articles have been published in leading international journals, including the Journal of Econometrics, Review of Political Economy, Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics, Defence and Peace Economics, Tourism Economics, Journal of Agricultural Economics, International Journal of Manpower, Journal of Industrial Relations, Social Indicators Research, International Migration, and Social Science Quarterly.

SPECIAL SESSION 10: LOCALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – ACCELERATING PROGRESS AND EVIDENCE-BASED ACTION

Sukaina Abdul Ilah Al-Nasrawi

Sukaina Al-Nasrawi leads the sustainable urban development portfolio at UNESCWA, advancing policies on urban resilience, localizing global goals, and promoting smart, inclusive cities in the Arab region. She also leads regional initiatives empowering local authorities, including the Arab Mayors Academy.

Sukaina Al-Nasrawi has extensive international experience in socio-economic development, gender equality, statistics, and technology within the broader framework of sustainable development. She has a record of publications on sustainable cities, technology for development, and gender equality. She is the author of the book titled “Sustainable Smartness of Cities: A Human-Centric Approach”.

Sukaina Al-Nasrawi has received several awards for her contributions to research and development, including the Best Research Award at the 2015 European Conference on e-Government and the 2016 United Nations Gold Award for advancing gender equality.

Sukaina Al-Nasrawi holds a PhD in Information Technology focused on smart sustainable cities.

Rania Hedeya

Rania Hedeya is the Regional Representative (a.i.) at UN-Habitat’s Regional Office for Arab States. With over 30 years of experience in development, she leads a regional programme advancing sustainable urbanization, urban recovery, and climate resilience across 14 country offices. Rania has driven key partnerships and resource mobilization, reactivating the GCC sub-regional office and strengthening engagement in Libya. Formerly UN-Habitat’s Country Programme Director in Egypt, she supported national urban policy and positioned the agency as a leader on SDG 11. She played a central role in Egypt’s successful bid to host the 12th World Urban Forum, contributing to high-level planning and coordination. Rania also leads regional engagement in global forums, fosters collaboration with member states, and manages operations in conflict-affected areas, ensuring continuity and staff safety. She began her UN career at UNDP, focusing on decentralization, strategic planning, and local development.

Akram Khraisat

Akram Khraisat is the Director of Amman Urban Observatory (AUO) since 2010. He has a B.Sc. degree in industrial engineering from the University of Jordan. Akram conducted training courses, seminars, and workshops to spread the culture of urban indicators by introducing urban and institutional indicators and measurement methodologies and advocating the benefits of using indicators in planning for the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) and Amman’s city. Akram has led several workshops on data collection, analysis, and the preparation of reports on urban and institutional indicators. He received an honorary degree from the Amman Municipality for his contributions to “Knowledge Transfer.”

He holds numerous leadership positions, including Head of the “Standing Committee for Standardization and Metrology for Cities” and Head of the “National Committee for Sustainable Cities,” which focuses on providing technical support for localizing the SDGs. Akram is also a member of various committees within GAM, such as the Head of Amman’s VLR team, Head of GAM’s Data Governance team, and GAM’s representative for Jordan’s VNR. Additionally, he is Head of the “Sustainable Cities and Communities” Committee, a member of the “Technical Committee for Smart Cities,” GAM’s representative on the national team for the New Urban Agenda 2030, and Head of GAM’s Smart Cities Indicators Team. Akram Khraisat is an expert in establishing urban observatories; he is also a quality assurance lead auditor for mechanical testing and calibration. He holds certificates in “planning and risk management”, “Energy Efficient Building Envelope under the framework of a systemic approach to sustainable urbanization and resource efficiency”, “construct KPI’S for population opportunity polices”, “an advanced GIS applications and spatial analysis”, “Project Management professionals PMP”.



Mohamed Ali Habouha

Mohamed Ali Habouha is the Governor of Berkane Province. He holds double bachelor's degrees in management, public policy, and political science from the University of Ottawa, and an MBA in Strategic Management and Economic Intelligence from the Paris School of Economic Warfare. Since his appointment, Habouha has transformed Berkane into a leading smart city, gaining international recognition. Notably, Berkane won the Seoul Smart City Prize in 2022 for the "E-Moulouya" project, which uses AIoT to monitor wildlife in the Moulouya River ecosystem. Habouha has developed advanced digital infrastructure, including the Majal Complex for Territorial Intelligence, supporting young innovators, and integrating AI, IoT, and data analytics into urban governance. He has also championed smart waste collection, electric vehicle charging stations, and Morocco's first smart parking facility with AI-powered license plate recognition. His contributions to sustainable development at the local level are significant, positioning Berkane as a model of innovation and digital transformation.

Ahmed K. Abulaban

Ahmed K. Abulaban has served as the City Director of Ramallah since 2006, leading one of the most progressive municipalities in Palestine and the region. His professional journey in local governance began in 1999 as the Administrative Director of Ramallah Municipality, following earlier experience as Executive Director of Sirreyet Ramallah, a prominent youth and community organization.

Ahmed holds a High Diploma in Public Affairs and Human Resources Management from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, USA, and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Birzeit University, Palestine.

Renowned for his leadership in municipal innovation and city resilience, Ahmed has been instrumental in transforming Ramallah into a model of sustainable urban governance under prolonged crisis conditions. His expertise spans city management, crisis and project management, sustainable development, and resilience planning.

Ahmed is an active contributor to several leading international urban networks, including Metropolis, UCLG, ICMA, MCR2030, and the Responsible Leaders Network. He participated in the inaugural cohort of the Arab Mayors Academy, organized by UN-Habitat, UN ESCWA, and UCLG MEWA.

A dedicated public servant and social advocate, Ahmed has consistently amplified Palestinian municipal experiences on global platforms. His well-rounded expertise in resilience-building, governance reform, and international collaboration continues to shape dialogue and practice in urban development worldwide.

Aya Nawwar

Aya Nawwar is a development professional with 15 years of experience in sustainable development, international cooperation, and policy coordination. She currently serves as the Deputy Head of the Sustainable Development Unit at Egypt's Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, in her capacity she attributes to advancing Egypt's Vision 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Africa's Agenda 2063. Throughout her career, Aya has contributed to a wide range of initiatives related to SDG localization, financing for development, and strategic policy alignment. She has represented Egypt in numerous high-level international and regional forums. Aya holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Cairo University, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Governance and Anti-Corruption. She is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), and has received extensive training in leadership, climate change, and public sector innovation from prestigious institutions.

Nagwa Lachine

Nagwa Lachine is a Programme Officer at the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States, where she leads regional work on SDG Localization, the New Urban Agenda, and Urban Health. She brings a multidisciplinary approach to sustainable urban development, drawing from her background in programme management, and



strategic communications. Nagwa holds an advanced degree in global diplomacy and began her career working with international media before transitioning to development. At UN-Habitat, she plays a key role in supporting Arab countries to align urban strategies with global sustainability agendas, advocating for inclusive, resilient, and health-responsive urban policies. Her work focuses on strengthening partnerships, capacity-building, and policy innovation across diverse urban contexts in the region.

Tehmina Akhtar

Tehmina Akhtar is the Senior Strategic Advisor at UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States responsible for thought leadership, strategic analysis, policy advice and programme oversight. She has worked in international development for over 25 years and served in senior management and policy roles. Tehmina's expertise spans environment, natural resource management, climate change, economic development, social inclusion, and gender equality. Tehmina was previously the Deputy Director of the Local Development Finance Practice at UNCDF, developing policy and programmes for leveraging public and private finance towards SDG positive investments. Tehmina has held several positions in UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, leading global and regional programmes on environment and development issues. She has worked on global and regional programmes in the Arab states, Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Europe & CIS. Tehmina holds a Masters degree from Yale University specializing in Environmental Law, Policy and Economics, a Masters degree from New York University in Middle Eastern Studies and a BA from Mount Holyoke College in International Relations.