



24-26 April 2018, UN House, Beirut, Lebanon

Brief Biographies of Speakers and Moderators Plenary Sessions

Mr. Hussein Abaza

Mr. Hussein Abaza is currently the Head of the Sustainable Development Unit (Egypt 2030 Vision) at the Ministry of Planning, Follow-up and Administrative Reform of Egypt. Prior to this, he served as a Chief of the Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) and a Chief of the Environment and Economics Unit at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He also worked as a Coordinator of the Committee of International Development Institutions on the Environment (CIDIE) and an Assistant to the Executive Director of the UNEP. Mr. Abaza is the Founder of the Cairo Urban Initiatives Platform. He holds a Master's of Philosophy in Urban Housing Planning from the University of Bradford (1981).

Mr. Rami Ahmad

Mr. Rami Ahmad is currently the Special Envoy on Sustainable Development Goals and a Senior Advisor to the President at the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) where he previously acted as a Director of the Country Programs Department, a Deputy Director/Director of the Country Operations Department for the MENA region, and a Division Chief for Infrastructure and Finance. Mr. Ahmad received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University, as well as another Masters' Degree in Systems Science and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Business Administration from Louisiana State University.

Ms. Haifa Al Mogrin

Ms. Haifa Al Mogrin is currently the Assistant Deputy Minister for Sustainable Development Affairs at the Ministry of Economy and Planning of Saudi Arabia where she previously served as the Head of Sector, Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Al Mogrin also worked as a Programme Analyst and a Programme Associate at the UNDP in KSA and as a Part-time Lecturer at the King Saud University. She received a Bachelor Degree in Economics from King Saud University and a Master's Degree in Economics with Reference to the Middle East from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Mr. Suhaib Yahya Kasim Al-Darzi

Mr. Suhaib Yahya Kasim Al-Darzi is currently the Director of the Civil Engineering Department at Mosul University in Iraq. He is a member of the Supreme Advisory Committee for the Reconstruction of Mosul City. He previously was the Editor in Chief of the Mesopotamia Engineering Magazine issued by the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Mosul, the Registrar of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Mosul, and the Head of the laboratory of material examination there. He was a Member of

the Iraqi Engineers' Syndicate and a Member of the Union of Arab Engineers. He holds a PhD in Bridge and Tunnel Engineering from Tangji University in Shanghai, China and a Master's Degree in Construction Engineering from Mosul University.

Mr. Ahmad Bin Hassan Al-Hammadi (H.E.)

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Bin Hassan Al-Hamadi is currently the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar. He previously served as an Ambassador and a Director of the Legal Affairs Department at the Ministry, and as a General-Secretary for the Committee of Drafting the Permanent Constitution of Qatar. He also was a Deputy Lecturer of Civil Law in Qatar University. Mr. Al-Hamadi holds a PHD in Civil and Criminal Law, a Masters' of Law from Cairo University, a Diploma in Forensic Law from Ain Shams University in Cairo, and a Bachelor of Law from Al Azhar University in Cairo.

Mr. Mohamed Al-Hawri

Mr. Mohammed Al-Hawri is currently the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation for Economic Studies Sector in Yemen. He is also a Professor of Economics at the University of Snaa. He has developed more than 40 research papers on issues in socio-economic development. Mr. Al-Hawri has for long been in charge of economic, political, institutional and administrative reforms in Yemen and has participated in the production of Yemen's development plan in 2006. He holds a Doctorate in Economics from Egyptian Universities.

Mr. Jassim Ali

Mr. Jassim Ali Almamori is currently the Executive Manager of the Board of Directors of the Iraqi Peace Generations Network. He has been a Civil Society Researcher and Activist since 2005. His area of focus is mainly the role of the youth, youth rights, and how to build the youth's capacity in order to achieve peace. Mr. Almamori holds a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from the University of Baghdad.

Ms. Huda Al-Siyabi

Ms. Huda Al-Siyabi is currently the Director of Community-Based Initiatives and the National Focal Point of Physical Activities and the Healthy Cities Programs at the Ministry of Health of Oman. She is also a First Medical Consultant at the Ministry where she previously acted as the Director of the Health Education Department. Ms. Al-Siyabi has lectured on communication and health promoting skills at faculties of medicine and agriculture, among others, of Oman Universities. She is a certified medical educator from the UK, a graduate of the Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, and a Master's Degree recipient in Social Healthcare from Redding University.

Mr. Mahmoud Ataya

Mr. Mahmoud Ataya is a General Director at the Policy and Reform Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister of Palestine. He is also the Lead of the National Team for Development. Mr. Ataya was previously the Director of the Population Policies Department (2005-2008) and the Director of Social Development (2008-2014) at the Ministry of Planning of Palestine. He holds a Master's Degree in Social Studies from Birzeit University, Ramallah.

Mr. Fadi Comair

Mr. Fadi Comair is currently the Director General for Energy and Water at the Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon. He also heads the Med-durable Association and is the Vice President of the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-How in the Water Sector. He was awarded the honor title of Diplomat Water Resources Engineer by the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers and was also recently appointed as a member of the French Academy of Overseas Science. Mr. Comair was previously nominated as a Chairman for the Litani River Authority in Lebanon and then appointed as the General Director of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources at the Ministry of Energy and Water. He holds a PhD in Civil Engineering, Hydraulics and Energy resources.

Mr. Ghassan Dibeh

Mr. Ghassan Dibeh is currently a Professor of Economics and the Chair of the Department of Economics at the Lebanese American University. He is also the editor of the Journal Review of Middle East Economics and Finance published by De Gruyter Press. He previously served as a Senior Economic Advisor at the Ministry of Labor in Lebanon and held consultancy positions in projects related to economic development in the country. Mr. Dibeh holds a Bachelor degree in Physics as well as a Master's Degree and a PhD in Economics from the University of Texas.

Mr. Anas El Hasnaoui

Mr. Anas El Hasnaoui is Regional Expert on Effectiveness Development Cooperation and a Civil Society Activist, currently acting as a Director at the Pole of Economic Promotion of the Hassan II Foundation for Moroccans Residing Abroad, in Morocco. His main arena of focus is Human Rights Issues in the Arab region. He was previously the Mission Chief of the Council of the Moroccan community abroad, and a Chief of the Division on Promotion, Communication and Cooperation at the Investment Department of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Morocco. Mr. El Hasnaoui studied Business Administration and Management at the Higher Institute of Commerce and Administration of Enterprises and Specialized Information Systems at the School of Science and Information in Morocco.

Mr. Kassem El Saddik

Mr. Kassem El Saddik is an Independent Evaluation Professional (policy and program evaluation) and a Vice-Chair at Evalpartners-EvalSDGs in Canada. He is also the Founder and a Board Member of the Lebanese Evaluation Society. He previously acted as a Senior Research Associate at the Regulatory Governance Initiative, a Senior Consultant in Strategy and Performance Management at the Executive Council of the Government of Dubai, an Instructor at Zayed University, and a Lead Consultant at Transformative and Empowering Solutions. Mr. El Saddik received his Master's Degree in Policy Studies from the American University of Beirut and is currently a PhD Candidate in Public Policy at Carleton University.

Mr. Wissam Fattouh

Mr. Wissam Fattouh is currently the Secretary General of the Union of Arab Banks, the region's largest banking consortium. He has excellent knowledge and expertise in Arab and International banking and financial sectors, acquired from over 20 years of experience in this domain. Before his current position, Mr. Fattouh served as the Acting Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Director of Conferences, and Manager of Information Technology at the Union. He also served as a Member of the Advisory

Board of the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists and on the Board of Trustees of the Arab Academy for Banking & Financial Sciences. He is a graduate of the Lebanese American University in Beirut.

Ms. Mona Fawaz

Ms. Mona Fawaz is currently an Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning and the Coordinator of the Graduate Programs in Urban Planning, Policy, and Design at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Her work spans across urban history and historiography, social and spatial justice, informality and the law, property and space, as well as planning practice, theory, and pedagogy. She has authored over forty scholarly articles, book sections, and reports. Ms. Fawaz is also the founder and coordinator of the Social Justice and the City Program at the Issam Fares Institute. She holds a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning and a PhD from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj

Mr. Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj is currently a Senior Coordinator at the Common Space Initiative (CSI) in Lebanon and a co-founder of the Syria Initiative (part of the CSI) working to empower peace activists, mediation, and dialogue. He is also a consultant on urban planning, development and local governance and a lecturer at the American University of Beirut. Mr. Hallaj was previously the CEO of the Syria Trust for Development and has served on the boards of several NGOs and public commissions. Mr. Hallaj is the recipient of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, as a team leader of the Shibam Urban Development Project (GIZ). He obtained a Master's Degree in Architecture from the University of Texas in 1992.

Ms. Kinda Hattar

Ms. Kinda Hattar is currently the Regional Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa Region at Transparency International in Germany. She previously acted as a Project Officer for the Capacity Building of the Ministry of Political Development at the UNDP, a Governance and Public Diplomacy Project Manager at the British Council, and a Programme Coordinator at the National Center for Human Rights, in Jordan. Ms. Hattar received her Master's Degree in Human Rights Law from Nottingham University and his Bachelor Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Yarmouk University.

Mr. Refaat Hijazi

Mr. Refaat Hijazi is currently an Advisor to the Chairperson and the Head of the Human Development Department at the Planning and International Cooperation Commission (PICC), formerly the General State Planning Commission (SPC), in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic. He is also the National Coordinator for the Sustainable Development Evaluation Process. He was previously the General Director of the Human Development Department and the Director of the Macroeconomics Department (Fiscal and Monetary Policies) at the SPC. Mr. Hijazi holds a Bachelor Degree in Economics from Damascus University, a Special Diploma in Population and Development from Egypt and another in Special Diploma in Human Development from Kuwait.

Mr. Hassan Janabi (H.E.)

H.E. Mr. Hassan Janabi is currently the Minister of Water Resources in the Republic of Iraq. He previously acted as Iraq's Ambassador to Japan, the Head of the Human Rights Department in the

Ministry of Water Resources, a Senior Advisor to the water and public works sector in Baghdad, and an Experienced Hydrologist and Water Quality Modeler for the Sydney Catchment Authority in Australia. Dr. Janabi graduated with an Engineering Degree from the University of Baghdad and obtained postgraduate qualifications from the University of Warsaw-Poland and the University of Technology in Sydney.

Mr. Ahmad Kamaly

Mr. Ahmed Kamaly is currently serving as the Advisor to the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform for Planning and Monitoring of Egypt. He is also the Chair of the Economics Department at the American University in Cairo (AUC), the director of the Egyptian National Contact Point (ENCP) associated with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and a research associate with the Economic Research Forum. He was previously the economic advisor of the General Authority of Investment (GAFI) of Egypt as well as a senior advisor of GAFI's Board of Trustees. Mr. Kamaly holds both a Bachelor Degree and a Master's Degree in Economics from AUC and a PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland.

Ms. Isabell Kempf

Ms. Isabell Kempf is the Co-Director of the Poverty-Environment Initiative of the UN Environment in Nairobi. She has more than 20 years of experience working with the UN, including UNESCO, the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean, and the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights. She was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Global Governance Institute of the University College London in 2014. Ms. Kempf has a B.A and an M.A. from Oxford University in Politics, Philosophy and Economics and holds a Ph.D in International Economics and Development from the University Complutense of Madrid. She also has post-graduate degrees in Gender and Public Policy as well as Social Communication.

Mr. Khaled Mahdi (H.E.)

H.E. Mr. Khaled Mahdi is currently the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development of Kuwait (former Ministry of Planning and Development). Prior to this appointment, he was the Assistant Secretary General for the Follow-up and Future Forecasting, besides being the Acting Assistant Secretary General for Planning. He sits on several government boards and higher committees and is a member of a number of development councils and centers, as well as high-level committees. Mr. Mahdi received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Northwestern University and his Master's Degree in the same field from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Ms. Roula Majdalani

Ms. Roula Majdalani is the Director of the UN-ESCWA Sustainable Development Policies Division. She joined ESCWA in 1989 and has served there as a Human Settlements Officer, a First Economic Affairs Officer on water resources, and a Chief of the Technical Cooperation Section. Ms. Majdalani holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Syracuse University and previously worked with Dar Al-Handasah Consultants (London).

Mr. Souheil Marine

Mr. Souheil Marine is a Regional Expert and a consultant in Technology and Development, now based in Lebanon. He holds a PhD in computer science with 30 years of international experience in telecommunication, Internet infrastructure, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development. He implemented projects on Internet and Telephony connectivity and contributed to the UN World Summit on Information Society. Mr. Marine was formerly the Head of the ICT Applications and Cybersecurity Division at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva.

Mr. Nawfal Naciri (MP)

H.E. Mr. Nawfal Naciri is currently a Member of Parliament at the House of Representatives in Morocco. He is in charge of studies at the General Affairs and Governance Ministry. Mr. Nawfal Naciri earned his Doctorate in Science and Technology for the Engineer from Mohamed V University (Rabat) in 2006 and his Polyvalent State Engineering Degree from ENSAM-Morocco (L'École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers) in 2016. His main areas of research include complex systems, artificial intelligence, agent based modeling and simulation, complexity economics, Financial Engineering, Islamic Financial Engineering, and Islamic microfinance.

Mr. Adib Nehmeh

Mr. Adib Nehmeh is an Independent Consultant and an Expert in Poverty and Sustainable Development, currently working as a Senior Policy Advisor at the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND). He has just recently retired from his position as a Regional Advisor on the Agenda 2030 at the UN-ESCWA where he occupied different positions since 2005 (e.g. Regional Advisor on Governance and State Building). Prior to this, Mr. Nehmeh worked with UNDP Lebanon as a Human Development Expert and as a Project Manager for poverty reduction policies with the Ministry of Social Affairs. He holds a DEA in Sociology and a Bachelor Degree in Philosophy and Law and he is a registered lawyer.

Mr. Ziad Obeidat

Mr. Ziad Obeidat is currently serving as the Secretary General a.i. and the General Director of Development Plans and Programs Department at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He has a comprehensive experience with the leading national and international development agencies including The World Bank, USAID, UN Institutions, and the GTZ. He also has a comprehensive experience with the Jordanian Public Sector, as well as non-governmental and civil sectors, with a focus on project and strategic planning, structural adjustment, Monitoring & Evaluation, etc. Mr. Obeidat holds a Masters' Degree in Engineering/Construction Management from The George Washington University.

Mr. Aziz Rabbah (H.E.)

H.E. Mr. Aziz Rabbah is currently the Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development and formerly the Minister of Equipment, Transport and Logistics in Morocco. He held several leadership positions in the Ministries of Economic and General Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Trade and Industry and also served as an Advisor in the offices of several Moroccan Ministers. Mr. Rabbah is an engineer, specialized in new information technologies. He holds a Bachelor in Mathematics from the Mohammed V High School in Kenitra, an Engineering Degree from INSEA, and a Master's Degree in Software Engineering from Laval University.

Mr. Muhammad Saidam

Mr. Muhammad Saidam is currently the Chief Scientist and a Senior Researcher at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in Jordan and is serving in the International Council for Science (ICSU) as a member of the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR). He previously held the positions of a Chief Science Officer for Applied Science and an Executive Director at RSS. Mr. Saidam also worked as a Director of the Environment Monitoring and Research Central Unit and as Programme Manager at the UNDP where he supervised projects on Climate Change, Environment, Poverty, and MDGs. He holds a PhD in Environment and Water Resources Engineering from the Imperial College of Science Technology & Medicine – London.

Ms. Seteney Shami

Ms. Seteney Shami is currently the Director-General of the Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) that is based in Beirut. She has been with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) since 1999, serving as a Director of the InterAsia Program as well as the Middle East and North Africa Program. She has taught at Yarmouk University, UC Berkeley, the University of Chicago, and Stockholm University. Ms. Shami also served on the editorial boards of several publications, including *Central Asian Survey*, *The Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Ethnos*, and *International Migration Review*. She received her Doctorate in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mr. Rami Shamma

Mr. Rami Shamma is currently the Program Manager at the Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA) in Lebanon. He is also a Consultant at Haddad Business and Consultancy SAL. He has previously worked as a Civic Education and Entrepreneurship Teacher at the Besancon School-Baabda and a Project Manager for Fostering Free Enterprise in Youth at DPNA. Mr. Shamma holds a Master's Degree in Computer Engineering from Rafic Hariri University and a Bachelor Degree in Computer and Communication Engineering from the Hariri Canadian University.

Mr. Hassan Yousif

Mr. Hassan Yousif is a Demographer and a Development Economist. He is currently the Advisor to the National Population Council of The Sudan, helping in the coordination and the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in the country. He previously worked in the academia and as an International Civil Servant with the United Nations. His focus was on modeling population, development and environment interactions, the integration of linkages, and the interactions in national development plans and strategies. Mr. Yousif is the Lead Consultant for the Voluntary National Review in The Sudan. He pursued advanced training at the Doctorate and Postdoctoral Level at the University of Pennsylvania and Brown University