

Biographies: Moderators/Speakers/Panelists for all Sessions

Mr. Chadi Abdallah:

Mr. Chadi Abdallah is a Researcher and Geologist, holds a PhD in GIS and RS of natural resources, a Post-doc in Radar Interferometry and is an adjunct professor with the University of Missouri Columbia-USA. He is also a Researcher at the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research, Remote Sensing Center. Mr. Abdallah is Principle Investigator on several projects on natural disasters, water information management, modeling and decision-making; assessment, monitoring and management of natural resources and sustainable development. He is a member of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit / Presidency of Councils, and Chair of the Arab DRR Science and Technology Advisory Group. He has authored/co-authored over 80 scientific papers in international journals and conferences.

Ms. Hazar Belli Abdelkefi:

Ms. Hazar Belli Abdelkefi has been Deputy Director at the Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment, Tunisia since 1999. She has been the National Project Coordinator of the Disaster Risk Reduction portfolio since 2011 and the Bio-risk management portfolio since 2000, as well as the National Focal Point for the Sendai Framework. During the last decade, Ms. Abdelkefi has been involved in several working groups and programs at national, regional and international level. She is a founding member and President of the Tunisian Association for Biosafety and Environment Education (ATB2E). Ms. Abdelkefi holds a master's degree in biotechnology and immunology from the Faculty of Pharmacy in Tunisia.

Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad

Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad has been Executive Director of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) since 1999. ANND is a regional network based in Beirut which brings together 30 NGOs and 9 national networks from 10 Arab countries, active in the protection of social and economic rights (www.annd.org). ANND is active in electoral reforms and monitoring at the national and regional levels, through the Arab Network for democratic Elections (ANDE; www.arabnde.org) and is an active member of several global networks (CSO reflection Group on Sustainable Development, Social Watch, CIVICUS, APRN, CPDE). Mr. Abdel Samad serves as a part-time Instructor at the Lebanese American University (LAU) and has been a member of the Syndicate of Engineers in Beirut since 1986.

Ms. Limiaa Abdelghafar Khalfalla

Ms. Limiaa Abdelghafar Khalfalla is currently Secretary-General of the National Population Council, Khartoum, Sudan. She has over 20 Years' experience working in development planning and gender-related issues. Ms. Khalfalla was a Programme Coordinator in Women and Development with the Red Crescent Society before joining Khartoum State as a National Manager for the UNFPA-Woman National Training Centre, Khartoum, Sudan. Since October 2015, she has been Chair of the Regional Taskforce for ICPD-SDGs based indicators. Ms. Khalfalla holds a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy (University of Nottingham, UK), an MSc in Gender and Development (Ahfad University for Women, Sudan) and a BSc in Economics and Social Studies (Khartoum University, Sudan).

Mr. Simon Abi Ramia

Mr. Simon Abi Ramia has been a Lebanese parliamentarian since 2009. He chairs parliamentary committees on “Youth and Sports” and the Parliamentary Friendship Group between Lebanon and France. Mr. Abi Rami holds a master’s degree in Management from the “Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne” University and a Degree in Optometry from the “École Supérieure d’Optométrie” in Paris.

Ms. Rasha Abouelazm

Ms. Rasha Abouelazm is Regional Programme Manager *a.i.*, leading the Men and Women for Gender Equality Programme, which aims at addressing the root causes of gender inequality with a strong focus on engaging boys and men in gender equality. She is an economist with an MSc Degree in Development and Planning from University College, London. Ms. Abouelazm’s professional experience consists of 22 years in the field of development, primarily focusing on gender equality and women’s empowerment, in addition to governance, civil society, youth, policy dialogue, partnerships, contributions to UN strategies, joint UN programming, and leading on the design and implementation of prominent advocacy campaigns in Egypt and the region. Prior to joining UN Women, she assumed management roles at UNDP, UNESCO, the Dutch bilateral cooperation and the Ministry of Environment in Egypt.

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul-Gheit

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

H.E. Ms. Reem Abu Hassan

Ms. Reem Abu Hassan is Honorary President, Society for Protecting Family Violence Victims, Former Minister of Social Development, Jordan.

Mr. Khaled Abu Ismail

Mr. Khalid Abu Ismail is Chief of the Economic Development and Poverty Section at UN-ESCWA. He holds a PhD in Development Economics from the New School for Social Research and a M. Phil. in Development Planning from the University of Dundee. He has authored/coauthored many publications, research papers and UN flagship publications on Poverty, Inequality and Human Development in Arab States and is Policy Affiliate at the Economic Research Forum.

Ms. Luna Abuswaireh

Ms. Luna Abuswaireh is Director General of the Center for Arab Unity Studies. She has over 20 years’ professional experience in development work, program management and international organizations. Ms. Abuswaireh served previously as Director of the UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States in Cairo, as Climate Change Coordinator in Bonn, as Director of Risk Reduction Programs at the UN

Secretariat in Geneva, and as UNDP Project Coordinator for the Development and Participation of Youth in Refugee Camps in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. She holds an MA in Public and International Affairs and a Postgraduate Diploma in Development Economics.

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Adam

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Adam holds BA in Information and Journalism and an MA in Diplomacy and International Affairs. He has wide experience cooperating with international agencies, foreign voluntary organizations, humanitarian partners and CSOs. He also has institutional experience managing governmental institutions and NGOs. Mr. Adam manages international humanitarian assistance in emergencies, coordinates between humanitarian and development partners, and facilitates/follows up on bilateral and multilateral technical agreements. In addition, he held the positions of General Registrar of NGOs and Director General of the Joint Procedures Centre at the Humanitarian Affairs Ministry and headed the OIC Offices in Somalia and Kenya.

Mr. Emad Adly

Mr. Emad Adly is an Environmental Specialist, with over 35 years of experience working with international and UN agencies, governments, CSOs, media, academia and others, and 40 years of professional experience and practice in fostering regional and international partnerships and stakeholders' engagement in sustainable development. He coordinates the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED); which leads the Arab CSOs Stakeholder Group on DRR. Mr. Adly's continuous efforts to mainstream DRR in National Strategies for Sustainable Development in the region are acknowledged. He is also a member of the International Board of the Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR).

H.E. Mr. Mr. Tariq Al-Ansari

H.E. Mr. Tariq Al-Ansari is a career diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar (MOFA). He is currently Director of the International Technical Cooperation Department at the Ministry. As an expert in International Peace and Security, Sustainable Development, Counter Terrorism and technical and administrative matters, Mr. Al-Ansari actively participates in several international meetings, technical and administrative committees at MOFA and was recently appointed as chair of Qatar's Task Force for International Technical Cooperation within national task forces aiming at effective implementation of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the United Nation's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Ms. Safiya Al Bahlani

Ms. Safiya Al Bahlani is an Omani artist, creative designer, and inspirational and motivational speaker. She is a young woman with a physical disability, who has found her passion and path through arts, advocating for people with special needs and motivating others to overcome challenges in life. Ms. Al Bahlani has held four solo and six collaborative exhibitions. She has had the opportunity to be part of two Ted X Talks as well as SAM Global. Currently, Ms. Al Bahlani runs an art studio and gallery where she teaches art classes and conducts workshops, as well as creating and designing her own line of arts.

Ms. Sabah Bint Mohammed Al Bahlani

Ms. Sabah Bint Mohammed Al Bahlani is a member of the State Council of Oman and CEO of the Association for Early Intervention for Children with Disability. She served as an expert on Health Promotion in the Ministry of Health from 2010-2012. She joined UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office as Communication for Development Specialist for two years from 2007. Prior to joining UNICEF, Ms. Al Bahlani worked as a Director of Health Education and Information at the Ministry of Health, Oman (1987 to 2007). She has worked closely with the Ministry of Information in developing health awareness programs in TV, Radio and newspapers. She also coordinated health education activities in Oman with other ministries by unifying health, social and environmental messages, and production and distribution of material. Ms. Al Bahlani is active in advocacy and communications on these issues.

Ms. Heba Al Hariry

Ms. Heba Al Hariry is a civil engineer, with an MSc in environmental engineering. She has a broad range of international experience in business development and project management. Ms. Al Hariry's areas of expertise include hydrogeology, integrated water resources management, remote sensing and climate change. Between 2005 to 2010, she worked as a Hydrogeologist and a Business Development Manager for Schlumberger Water Services (Canada). Since 2011, Ms. Al Hariry has been with AWC, where she has served as a Regional Project Coordinator. Currently, she is the Deputy Technical Director and the Coordinator of the Network of Arab Women in Water (NAWW).

H.E. Ms. Ebtihag Abdulkder Ahmed Alkamal

H.E. Ms. Ebtihag Abdulkder Ahmed Alkamal has been Minister of Social Affairs and Labor since April 2017. Prior to that, she served as Vice-President of the Supreme National Anti-Corruption Commission. Previously, Ms. Alkamal served as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Technical Education. She has also held a number of positions within the World Health Organization, Ministry of Public Health and Population, as well as served as an expert in the National Commission for Women. Ms. Alkamal holds a master's degree in Pharmacology from the University of Sana'a, Yemen.

Ms. Rouba Arja

Ms. Rouba Arja is a Social Affairs Officer with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Her work focuses on gender and development issues in the Arab region including mainstreaming gender equality in policies and public institutions. Ms. Arja previously served as a Population Affairs Officer and has led the preparation of reports and the implementation of projects on population and social inclusion policies. Prior to joining ESCWA, she worked as Programme Manager with the European Union Delegation to Lebanon and served as Project Manager with UNDP. Ms. Arja holds a PhD in Management and a master's degree in development economics from the University of Montpellier -France.

Mr. Muhannad Al Azzeh

Mr. Muhannad Al Azzeh is Secretary General of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan. He is a former Senator in the Jordanian Senate and was Chairperson of the Legal Committee which drafted Law 20 on the Rights of persons with disabilities. Mr. Al Azzeh is an internationally recognized expert on human rights and the rights of persons with disabilities. He holds

a PhD in criminal law and bioethics and a higher Diploma in good governance, public policy and anti-corruption from the International Institute for Social Study (The Hague, Netherlands).

H.E. Mr. Noori Al-Dulaimi

H.E. Mr. Noori Al-Dulaimi is currently the Minister of Planning in Iraq. Between 2016 and 2018, he was the Assistant Governor for Planning in al-Anbar governorate. Between 2006 and 2009, Mr. Al-Dulaimi was the Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee in al-Anbar governorate council. He was a member of the Faculty of Agriculture at al-Anbar University between 2001 and 2009 and has extensive experience in the agricultural production sector. Mr. Al-Dulaimi is also a civil society activist and has founded numerous developmental, humanitarian, and human rights organizations. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the World Islamic Sciences University in Jordan, and a BA in Agricultural Sciences from Baghdad University.

H.E. Mr. Ahmad bin Hassan Al Hammadi

Mr. Ahmed Bin Hassan Al Hammadi is the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the State of Qatar. He previously served as Ambassador and Director of the Department of Legal Affairs at the Ministry, and as Secretary General of the Drafting Committee for the Permanent Constitution, Qatar. He was also a lecturer in civil law at Qatar University. Mr. Al Hammadi holds a PhD in civil and criminal law, a master's degree in law from Cairo University, a diploma in judicial law from Ain Shams University in Cairo and a bachelor's degree in law from Al-Azhar University in Cairo.

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al-Maitami

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al-Maitami has been the Minister of Industry and Trade in Yemen since 2014. He holds PhD in Economics on “Area of Concentration: Economic Development in the Third World” from the Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Science, Moscow (1986), an MSc in Economics and Industrial Planning from Moscow University (1982) and a BSc in Economics from Kuban University, Russia (1979). Mr. Al-Maitami is Vice-chancellor of the International University of Technology Twintech and Professor of Economics at Sana’a University.

Ms. Samaher Al Shelali

Ms. Al Shelali is a Partnership and International Collaboration Specialist at the Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Ahmed Al Qabany

Mr. Ahmed Al Qabany is an engineer by training and he is currently the Manager of the Climate Change Division in the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). Since joining the Bank in 2012, Mr. Al Qabany has led and participated in the implementation of Infrastructure projects in over 15 countries. During that period, he was also part of IsDB’s efforts to enhance sustainability of its infrastructure projects through his work in the Infrastructure Department. Prior to joining the IsDB, Mr. Al Qabany worked in Environmental and Climate Change consulting, as well as research in Egypt and the UK. He holds an

MSc. in Engineering from the American University in Cairo and a PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK

Mr. Qusai Al Shatti

Mr. Qusai Al Shatti is a regular speaker, strategic expert and active player in the WSIS and IGF processes both at the global and at the regional levels; with experience in Government (as former Director General of Kuwait Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT)), the Business Sector, and Civil Society (as former Vice Chair of the Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS)). He is also an active player in the UN-ESCWA WSIS related initiatives (as the first Chair of the Arab Internet Governance Forum's first Arab Multistakeholder Advisory Group (AMAG) for two annual rounds of the AIGF and the co-chair of the Technical Cooperation Working Group (TCWG) of the ESCWA/LAS AIGF2020 initiative).

Ms. Intissar Alwahaibi

Ms. Intissar Al-Wahaibi is the Director General of the Directorate of Development Planning at the Supreme Planning Council of the Sultanate of Oman since 2013. Prior to that, she served as director of Modeling Department at the Ministry of National Economy. Ms. Al-Wahaibi worked as an expert in partnership with international institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other international consulting companies. She holds a master's degree in Strategic Studies in National Security and Defense from the National Defense College in cooperation with Sultan Qaboos University (2017) and a Bachelor of Economics from Sultan Qaboos University (1999).

Ms. Monia Ammar

Ms. Monia Ammar is a Tunisian judge holding a law degree from the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences in Tunisia (1987). In 2014, she was appointed Regional Coordinator (MENA) of International Humanitarian Law at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Cairo. In 2007, she was elected as Chair of the Commission of Arab Independent Experts in the League of Arab States. Ms. Ammar is a specialist in human rights and international humanitarian law, a trainer in Human rights, Women's Rights, International Humanitarian Law, and strategic planning based on the human rights approach.

Mr. Foued Aouni

Mr. Foued Aouni is a Tunisian expert on youth issues. He was the Executive Director of the National Survey on Youth in 2018 after supervising national surveys and opinion polls on youth issues for several years. Mr. Foued has held several decision-making positions in the Administration and he is a member of several national and international committees. He has a postgraduate degree in cultural science and is preparing his PhD on sociology and international youth policies.

Mr. Ali Awdeh

Mr. Ali Awdeh is a Consultant and has been Head of the Economic research at the Union of Arab Banks since 2010. He holds a PhD in Finance from Cass Business School, London and has been a university professor since 2005, where he teaches advanced banking and finance courses. He is a published author

in many reviewed journals on subjects such as Banking, Monetary Policy, and Financing for Development.

Mr. Hamza Ould Bakar

Mr. Hamza Ould Bakar is a computer science engineer at the General Direction of Local Authorities at the Mauritanian Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization. He helps strengthen the decentralization process, the role of the public in monitoring the sustainable development goals and supports driving the change by implementing innovative tools at both levels of the administration (central and local). Prior to his current position, he worked several years as an IT Manager for a telecom operator in Gibraltar and in the multimedia sector in Munich, Germany. He obtained his engineering degree in IT from the University of Kassel, Germany. After gaining practical expertise in the international development sector, he obtained a master's degree in sustainable development cooperation.

Mr. Khalid Benhassan

Since 2013, Mr. Khalid Benhassan has been Director of the Mohamed VI National Center for people with disabilities. In 2012, he was the Secretary General of the Center and worked for UNFPA from 2008 to 2012 as a Programme Analyst for youth and from 2002 to 2008 as a Technical Adviser and Programme Coordinator at the regional level (Marrakech and Beni Mellal). Mr. Benhassan has worked at the Ministry of Health at different levels of responsibility ending as Ministry Delegate at the prefecture of Fès. He holds PhD in Medicine and master's degree in public health.

Mr. Lotfi Ben Said

Mr. Lotfi Ben Said has been Director General of Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment, Tunisia, since 2016. He was Director of the Directorate for Process Monitoring and Tool Development in the Directorate General for Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Tunisia (2010-2016). Prior to this, he was responsible for the Directorate General for Sustainable Development at the same Ministry. Mr. Ben Said holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering and a master's degree in Applied Mathematics both from Ohio University, USA. He is a published author on topics related to chemical engineering and its correlation with environmental issues.

Ms. Nathalie Milbach Bouché

Ms. Nathalie Milbach Bouché is a Development Economist with over 20 years of experience in policy advice and research on pro-poor and inclusive development issues. Since 2013, she has been leading the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)'s advisory work on poverty and inclusive growth as well as SDG mainstreaming in the Arab States. Prior to this, Ms. Bouche was leading UNDP's Poverty Practice in West and Central Africa. During these assignments, she notably worked on HIV/AIDs-responsive social protection and resilience responses to crises (Sahel, Syria). From 2006 to 2009, as an Economist for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangladesh, Ms. Bouche assisted the Government with the elaboration of the National Food Policy Plan of Action and supported research on food security, including safety nets. From 2001 to 2005, she worked as policy specialist for UNDP Sub-regional Facility for Asia-Pacific, focusing on pro-poor macro-economic policies in China and transition economies. Ms. Bouche holds a PhD in Development Economics and a master's degree in project analysis from the University of Auvergne, France.

Mr. Abdelaziz Bousalah

Mr. Abdelaziz Bousalah is a Project Manager working on entrepreneurial projects in Tunisian marginalized regions. He is also a member of the advisory group 'Réseau EuroMed France'. Mr. Bousalah holds a master's degree in management and strategy from the University of Carthage (Tunisia) and a specialized master's degree in European economic integration and business from the College of Europe (Belgium).

Ms. Irum Bukhari

Ms. Irum Bukhari is the founding Secretary of the Women Development Department, Government of Punjab, the most populous province in Pakistan. Her career spans more than 27 years. Ms. Bukhari has the honour of being the only female officer of Pakistan to have commanded a para-military force. As Secretary of the Women Development Department, she is credited with the introduction of innovative public service delivery models including the Punjab Daycare Fund, which recognizes the role of the State in helping establish high-quality childcare facilities, and the establishment of the Women's Hostels Authority to increase working women's access to safe residence facilities when they work away from home.

Ms. Yllka Gerdovci Cancel

Ms. Yllka Gerdovci Cancel joined the UN Women Regional Office for Arab States in August 2017 in her capacity as the Regional Programme and Policy Specialist on Women's Economic Empowerment. From 2013 to 2016, Ms. Gerdovci Cancel headed the Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development Portfolio in UNDP. Prior to this, she managed UNDP's economic empowerment flagship programme, the Active Labour Market Programmes for Youth (2008-2012). Between 2000 and 2007, Ms. Gerdovci Cancel was part of UN-Habitat, UNDP and UNHCR programme teams working on good governance and economic revitalization. She holds a master's degree in Applied Labour Economics for Development, University of Torino, Italy.

Mr. Pedro Conceição

Mr. Pedro Conceição is the Director of the Human Development Report Office and lead author of the Human Development Report. Prior to this, he served as Director of Strategic Policy, at the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, and Chief Economist and Head of the Strategic Advisory Unit at the Regional Bureau for Africa. Mr. Conceição holds a degree in Physics and in Economics from the Technical University of Lisbon and a PhD in Public Policy from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin, USA with a Fulbright scholarship.

Ms. Rola Dashti

Ms. Rola Dashti is the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (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, Ms. Dashti 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.

Ms. Hania Sabbidin-Dimassi

Ms. Hania Sabbidin-Dimassi, a member of ESCWA's Unit on 2030 Agenda, is involved in research activities and technical support relevant to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region, including Voluntary National Reviews and stakeholder engagement. The larger part of her years of experience was focused on technology-related themes such as ICT for development, entrepreneurship ecosystems, innovation policy, building the information society, and promoting digital Arabic content. She has a degree in Computer and Communications Engineering and a master's degree in Engineering Management.

H.E. Djamel Eddine Djaballah

H.E. Djamel Eddine Djaballah is Ambassador Plenipotentiary for the Government of Algeria. He serves as Director of the Environment, Housing and Water Resources Division of the League of Arab States. In this capacity, Mr. Djaballah also serves on the Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, the Arab Council of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology and Climate and its associated Arab Permanent Committee for Meteorology, and the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing and Reconstruction.

Ms. Hager Ebaid

Ms. Hager Ebaid is an agriculture engineering student from Qena in upper Egypt who has worked with various NGOs. She is a local focal point for YPEER Egypt in Qena, certified GBV trainer from YPEER Egypt and UNFPA. Ms. Ebaid represented YPEER Egypt and UNFPA in the Youth forum in the Arab Region in Morocco 2018. She also works on other developmental topics as Ms. Hagur is a trainer in EYouth on entrepreneurship and a facilitator in Etjah on supporting school students in scholarships.

Ms. Nada El Agizy

Ms. Nada Al Ajizi is a Minister Plenipotentiary of the League of Arab States and Director of the Department for Sustainable Development and International Cooperation. She joined the League of Arab States in 1992 and has more than 20 years of experience in economic and social development at the regional and international levels. She holds a BA in Economics from the American University in Cairo and an MBA from the University of Cumbria in the United Kingdom in Sustainable Management. She was appointed as Vice-President of the Office of the Secretary-General and served as Economic and Social Affairs Adviser to the Secretary-General, where she was responsible for formulating recommendations and policies on economic integration, reform and development issues. She has also headed the Press and Information Department of the Office of the Secretary-General since 2012, overseeing all the Secretary-General's public information activities. Ms. Al Agizy is a member of a group of regional and international working groups and contributed to the preparation of all the Arab summits of development: economic and social, and represents the League of Arab States in international and regional forums related to the topics of sustainable development. She launched an initiative "The Arab Week for Sustainable Development" as the largest regional dialogue platform in the Arab region, with more than 1,000 participants annually from representatives of Arab countries, experts, civil society, the private sector, youth, parliamentarians, media organizations and social giving institutions.

Ms. Mehrinaz El Awady

Ms. Mehrinaz El Awady is the Director of the ESCWA Centre for Women in Beirut. She has a long record in development organization and management at the grassroots and the policy levels. Prior to her career as an International Civil Servant, she worked for Save the Children, where she conducted research, situation analysis and proposal development on gender related and human rights issues in the Arab world. Ms. El Awady holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Cairo University, a master's degree in international development from the American University in Cairo, and a PhD in Politics and International Studies from the University of Leeds, UK.

Mr. Ibrahim Elbadawi

Mr. Ibrahim Elbadawi is the Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum. His areas of research include Macroeconomic Policy, Foreign Exchange Rate Policy and Labor Market. He received his PhD in Statistics and Economics from North Carolina State University, USA in 1983.

Ms. Samia El Baouchi

Ms. Samia El Baouchi has 30 years' experience in community and collective work. She is President of the "Women of My Country for Development and Tourism Association", which enjoys UNFCCC observer status, and is a member of the Arab Network on Climate Action board, and the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights executive bureau. A youth integration and gender policies expert, USAID named her one of the 50 most influential women in Morocco, where she serves on committees promoting gender equality and combating violence against women. Ms. El Baouchi participated in COP22 and played a leading role coordinating civil society representatives' efforts at COP23.

Ms. Laetitia El Haddad

Ms. Laetitia El Haddad is a young Lebanese activist and journalist, who advocates for youth and women's empowerment. As part of UNESCO's project on Network of Mediterranean Youth (NETMED) with EU funding, she has recently developed and hosted a radio show about the SDGs, which has allowed her to raise awareness about the issues young people of the region face today, as well as engage in policymaking processes. Ms. El Haddad holds a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and Communication, and has recently obtained her master's degree in Political Science and International Relations.

H.E. Ms. Hala El Saeed

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

Mr. Mohamad Mohsen El Sayyed

Mr. Mohamad Mohsen El Sayyed is the Director General of Regional and Local Development Department including the Sustainable Development Division at the Ministry of Planning in Iraq. He holds a Ph.D. in urban planning and reconstruction (2011), a master's degree in urban and regional planning (2003) and a master's degree in engineering (1993) from Baghdad University. He participated in the preparation of sustainable plans for cities and villages in Iraq. He was a member of committees responsible for the preparation of national and local development plans and supervising the preparation of sustainable spatial and urban development policies. He works within the National Commission for Sustainable Development, which oversees the achievement of sustainable development goals by 2030 and with the team preparing Iraq's vision for sustainable development. He is currently among the team preparing the Iraq's Voluntary National Review which will be presented in New York in July 2019 at the 2019 HLPF.

Mr. Ghaith H. Fariz

Mr. Ghaith H. Fariz is the Director of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States; Cluster Office for Egypt and Sudan and UNESCO Representative to Egypt. He is a strategic planner with extended international experience in the Arab and Asia regions in providing policy advice; planning; programming; and managing large portfolios in the fields of "knowledge societies/economies", education, cultural development, and socioeconomic development in general. He is also an expert in change management and in piloting UN reform. Mr. Ghaith Fariz has a Ph D in Planning from the University of Michigan, USA, specializing in socioeconomic development, socioeconomic-environment dynamics, and gaming & simulation.

Ms. Heba Hagrass

Ms. Heba Hagrass has been a member of the Egyptian parliament since 2015. She is also a member at the National Council for Women, and the head of the Committee for Women with Disabilities. Ms. Hagrass is a member of the Egyptian National Council for Disability Affairs, and its former Secretary General. She has a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy, from Leeds University (England), an MA, in Gender and Disability Studies, and a BA, in Business Administration, from the American University in Cairo.

Mr. Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj

Mr. Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj is a Consultant on Urban Planning, Development and Local Governance. He is co-coordinator of the Syria Project at the Common Space Initiative in Beirut, where he is engaged in facilitating various dialogue and research projects for peace building and recovery planning in Syria. Formerly, he was the CEO of the Syria Trust for Development, and served on the boards of several NGO's, and public commissions. His professional and research work relates to institutional, financial and political frameworks to the production of built environment. In 2007, Mr. Hallaj was the recipient of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture as team leader of the Shibam Urban Development Project (GIZ). He subsequently served on the master jury and the steering committee of the Award.

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 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 her bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Yarmouk University.

Ms. Saras Jagwanth

Ms. Saras Jagwanth is an inter-regional adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). She was previously adviser in the Division for the Advancement of Women (now UN Women) and the Division for Inclusive Social Development. For the past 15 years Ms. Jagwanth has advised Member States on their obligations to implement treaties and international agreements in a range of areas, including the sustainable development goals through the voluntary national reviews. Prior to joining the United Nations, she was an Associate Professor at the faculty of law, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Ms. Rana Jawad

Ms. Rana Jawad is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Social Policy at the University of Bath. She is founder and convener of the MENA Social Policy Network. Ms. Jawad has extensive research expertise on social policy issues in the MENA region focusing on the institutional and political analysis of social policy provision. In addition, Ms. Jawad has an interest in social care, social safety nets and the role of religious welfare organizations.

Mr. Karam Karam

Mr. Karam Karam is a Regional Advisor on governance, peacebuilding and transition for the Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Division (ECRI) at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Before joining ESCWA, he worked as Head of Research at the Common Space Initiative (CSI-UNDP). Mr. Karam was an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the Lebanese University. He also worked as Program Director at the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. Mr. Karam has published several articles and books on social movement, political transformation and reforms in Arab countries.

Mr. Mohamed Khalil

Mr. Mohamed Khalil is currently the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Egypt in Rabat. Before joining the Egyptian Embassy in August 2016, he was the Head of Environment and Sustainable Development Affairs in the Department of Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt (2014-2016). Mr. Khalil was one of the main negotiators of the Group of 77 in China, particularly in the negotiations related to: RIO+20 Conference, establishing the High-level Political Forum, and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. He was an active member of the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which developed the SDGs. Mr. Khalil also participated in the consultations leading to the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He obtained an MA in International Law and International Organisations from the University of Paris-Sud (2002) and another MA in European Studies from the University of Malta (2008).

Ms. Frida Khan

Ms. Frida Khan has over twenty years' experience with the Government of Pakistan, ILO, UNDP and UN Women on issues of skills development, employment, governance, and gender equality, in Pakistan, Jordan and Hong Kong. She is currently working as Senior Specialist, Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination, for ILO, Regional Office for the Arab States. Ms. Khan's publications include gendered analyses of skills development systems in Pakistan, the gender pay gap in the garments sector in Pakistan, and the impact of inheritance laws on rural women in seven Muslim majority countries in Asia and Africa. She holds an MSc in Development Planning and Administration from University College London.

Mr. Mustafa Khawaja

Mr. Mustafa Khawaja (Palestine) works in the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, as General Director of Registers and Statistical Monitoring. He leads the statistical efforts on national monitoring process of SDGs, focusing on developing indicators, measurements and assessments including training and analysis.

H.E. Mr. Richard Kouyoumjian

H.E. Mr. Richard Kouyoumjian has been the Minister of Social Affairs, for Lebanon, since the beginning of 2019. He has been the official Spokesperson for the Party Electoral Campaign. Prior to that, Mr. Kouyoumjian was a candidate for the parliamentary elections in Beirut 1 District- the Catholic Armenian seat for 2009, 2013 and 2014. He served as the Press and Communications Director for the Lebanese Forces Political Council and as the General Director of the House of Future. Mr. Kouyoumjian was also the Director of the Educational Branch within the Social Solidarity Foundation. He has

participated in multiple TV, radio and newspaper interviews and has written many political, intellectual, and historical articles. Mr. Kouyoumjian holds a postgraduate certificate in International Politics from the Institute of World Politics, Washington DC, and another postgraduate certificate in Advanced Education in General Dentistry from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. He also holds a Doctorate of Dental Surgery from Saint Joseph University, Beirut.

Ms. Eileen Kuttab

Ms. Eileen Kuttab is an academic, a feminist and a unionist leader. She was Associate Professor in Sociology and a Founding Director of the Institute of Women Studies at Birzeit University from 1998-2008. She served another term of directorship from 2014- 2016. Ms. Kuttab's research interests and publications have mainly focused on issues relating to feminism and nationalism; social movements with a focus on the Palestinian women's movement. She is a founding member of the Arab Council for Social Sciences (ACSS) based in Beirut. As a woman activist, she has served on different boards of women's grassroots organizations, development and research institutions, as well as human rights organizations.

H. E. Mr. Abdullah Lamlas

H.E. Mr. Abdullah Lamlas is the Minister of Education in Yemen. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Moscow University (2002) and a master's degree in International Relations from Kiev University of Ukraine. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Minister of Education and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for the Training and Rehabilitation Sector. He is a member of the National Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of National Dialogue Outputs and a member of the Committee for the Determination of the Number of Federal Territories in the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference.

Mr. Peter Lundberg

Mr. Peter Lundberg is Regional Head for Development Cooperation in Middle East and North Africa at the Embassy of Sweden in Amman. Under the regional strategy for cooperation with the Middle East and North Africa, Sweden acts as a bridge builder and contributes to regional cooperation and regional networks. Mr. Lundberg is also an experienced Humanitarian Coordinator, including work as the UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria, and has held other senior posts with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Ms. Roula Majdalani

Ms. Roula Majdalani is currently the Director of Sustainable Development Policies Division at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). She joined ESCWA in 1989 and has worked there as Human Settlements Officer, Senior Water Affairs Officer, as well as Head of Technical Cooperation. Ms. Majdalani hold a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Syracuse University and previously worked with Dar Al Handasah Consulting (London).

Mr. Paul Makdissi

Mr. Paul Makdissi has been Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa, Canada since 2007. Previously he has held positions at the Université de Sherbrooke and at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. His main areas of research are socioeconomic health inequality, income distribution and fiscal policy.

Mr. Mohammad Makki Kalaaji

Mr. Mohammad Makki Kalaaji is a 22-year-old Syrian living in Baalbeck, Lebanon. He is currently pursuing his undergraduate studies in Law at the Islamic University of Lebanon. He participated in several community projects and he also attended the “Participatory Action Research - PAR” Project implemented by Masar Association and UNICEF in 2017, where he planned and implemented, along with his peers, an advocacy campaign that addressed the problem of youth unemployment.

Ms. Atidel Mejbri

Ms. Mejbri is the Media Center Manager in CAWTAR, Tunis.

H.E. Mr. Tarek Mitri

Mr. Tarek Mitri has been the Director of AUB’s Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs since 2014 and is a former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Libya. Mr. Mitri has also been a Minister in four Lebanese governments: Information, Environment, Administrative Development, and Culture; and Acting Foreign Minister. He is also a member of the Strategic Board of Lebanon’s Université Saint-Joseph; the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Palestine Studies; and a member of the Board of Directors of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies. He has lectured in several universities in Lebanon, Europe, and North America.

Ms. Mami Mizutori

Ms. Mami Mizutori has over 25 years of experience in international affairs and security and a combination of management and leadership expertise. She was appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction on 1 March 2018. Prior to that, the SRSG had been the Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. Before joining the Institute, she served for 27 years in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Mizutori graduated in law from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, and obtained a diploma in international studies from the Diplomatic School of Spain.

Ms. Fatima Ahmed Modawi

Ms. Fatima Ahmed Modawi, a Sudanese national, has a BSc in Economic (1993) and a PHD in Economic and Development (University of Khartoum, 2016). She has worked as a member of Council on the Society Development 2001, Deputy Director of the Coordination Center for Poverty Alleviation Projects (2002) and as National Director of the project for the empowerment of women and gender integration, Ministry of Social Security and Development (2002-2008). Ms. Modawi has more than twenty-two years’ experience teaching economics and its various specialties. She has authored many publications and scientific papers and Ms. Modawi is currently working as Under Secretary of the Ministry of Security and Social Development.

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed

Ms. 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.

Mr. Sujit Mohanty

Mr. Sujit Mohanty has over 18 years of experience in Disaster Risk Reduction, humanitarian coordination, development and climate change. Before assuming his position as Chief of UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States in 2017, he was the UNISDR Regional Platform Coordinator for Asia-Pacific for six years. Mr. Mohanty also worked for five years at UNISDR in Geneva where he co-authored the Global Assessment Report 2011 and led the design and implementation of 'Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor'. Prior to that, Mr. Mohanty worked with UNOCHA in Sri Lanka as Chief Technical Advisor and with UNDP in India as Risk Information Systems Manager. He holds dual masters' degrees in Business Administration and Computer Science.

Mr. Jonathan D. Moyer

Mr. Jonathan D. Moyer is Assistant Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies and Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures, home of the International Futures (IFs) integrated assessment platform. His work is focused on three core areas related to long-term policy analysis and forecasting: strategic planning, data and tool creation, and the study of state fragility. Mr. Moyer is involved in projects that include trends reports, scenario analyses, training sessions and IFs development. He also oversees the creation of new data and tools that allow for better long-term analysis in international relations. Mr. Moyer also researches the impact of developmental imbalances on state failure and fragility.

Ms. Najla Ali Murad

Ms. Najla Ali Murad is the Director General of the Poverty Reduction Strategy at the Ministry of Planning (MoP) and the Executive Director of the Social Fund for Development in Iraq, in cooperation with the World Bank Group. She has held various positions at the MoP and the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). Ms. Murad notably served as Head of the Living Conditions Directorate and

participated in various CSO surveys. She is a member of the National Committee for Sustainable Development and of the High Committee for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Ms. Murad has been representing Iraq in various international conferences on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. She also represented the MoP in economic and technical cooperation committees with neighboring countries. Ms. Murad participated in special committees to develop the Iraqi Social Protection System through applying available and new tools/mechanisms for targeting the poor who are currently covered by the SPN and she has contributed to the reform of the Iraq Public Distribution System (PDS) – Ration Card.

Ms. Rana Musleh

Ms. Rana Musleh is Head of the Gender and Social Studies Department at the Social Security Corporation, Jordan. Ms. Musleh has 16 years' work experience in insurance and international relations and international cooperation. Her areas of expertise are gender, social protection, informal economy, and women's rights and equality. Ms. Musleh has extensive expertise in gender audits in social security schemes and gender mainstreaming. She is certified as TOT and gender audit expert. Ms. Musleh holds a Bachelor's degree in Modern languages (double major Italian –English) from the University of Jordan.

Mr. Mohammad Naciri

Mr. Mohammad Naciri is Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific. From 2015 to 2018, he was the Regional Director of UN Women in the Arab States. From 2012 to 2015, Mr. Naciri was the Deputy Regional Director for UN Women in the Arab States. He has extensive experience in the region and in gender and development issues. Prior to joining UN Women, Mr. Naciri was the Deputy Country Director of UNDP in Yemen, where he supported the country in the formulation of its Gender Strategy and the Gender Responsive Budgeting process. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration and International Development from Harvard University, as well as a master's degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Oxford. He also holds a master's degree in Business Administration from the Arab Academy for Science and Technology in Alexandria-Egypt.

Mr. Adib Nehme

Mr. Adib Nehme is an Independent Consultant and an Expert in Economic 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 ESCWA where he occupied different positions since 2005 (e.g. Regional Advisor on Governance and State Building). Prior to this, Mr. Nehme 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's degree in Philosophy and Law and is a registered lawyer.

Mr. Ziad Obeidat

Mr. Ziad Obeidat is currently the Director General at the Ministry of Labour, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He has a comprehensive experience with 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.

Ms. Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya

Ms. Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya is a strategic thinker with over twenty-five years' experience in international development and leadership. She is currently the Regional Women's Political Participation Policy Adviser for the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States. Previously, Ms. Oluoch-Olunya was the Deputy Regional Director for two UN Women Regional Offices in Africa. Her career has exposed her to both development and conflict contexts in Darfur, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and South Africa. Ms. Oluoch-Olunya is devoted to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, particularly as a champion for women's and girls' empowerment and women with disabilities. In her current role she focuses on advancing women's full engagement in decision-making processes.

Mr. Magued Osman

Mr. Magued Osman is the Founder and CEO of the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research "Baseera" and Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. An expert in social statistics and public opinion research, he conducted the first president approval ratings and exit polls in Egypt. He contributed to Vision for Egypt 2030, the national strategy for population, and is the lead author of the Egyptian Human Development Report. Mr. Osman is a member of the National Council for Women and Vice Chairman of the Arab Union for Statisticians. He was Chairman of the Egyptian Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center from 2005-2011 when he was appointed as Minister Communications and Information Technology.

Ms. Leila Ould Ali

Ms. Leila Ould Ali is a member of the Parliament in Tunisia.

Mr. Luca Pellerano

Mr. Luca Pellerano is a development economist with comprehensive experience in social protection systems reform. He is currently a senior social protection specialist for the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the Arab States region. Until recently, Mr. Pellerano worked as advisor on social security for ILO in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. He has provided technical assistance on the design, implementation and evaluation of contributory and non-contributory social protection systems and programmes in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, including on issues of institutional coordination, social protection financing, social health protection, pension reform and the extension of social security to the informal economy. Mr. Pellerano has been coordinating the TRANSFORM Capacity Development initiative in Africa and has made several academic contributions in the field of social protection. Prior to joining ILO, he was leading the Poverty and Social Protection team at Oxford Policy Management (OPM) and a Research Economist at the Centre for Evaluation of Development Policies (EDePo) at the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) in London. He holds a PhD in Economics and Applied Quantitative Methods from the University of Genoa and an MSc in Economics from University College London.

Mr. Mohamed Odeh Qasrawi

Mr. Mohamed Odeh Qasrawi contributed to the launch of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Development Program in Palestine, in collaboration with UN agencies and the Office of the President of the State of Palestine in 2015. He is the designated national focal point for the implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 and the Arab Strategy for DRR 2018-2030. Mr. Qasrawi participates in Arab and international DRR initiatives and currently heads the National DRM Center (since 2017), leading national and local DRM efforts under the Prime Minister's political will. He has wide experience in capacity assessment, public policies and development of strategies and plans.

Mr. Hazim Rahahleh

Mr. Hazim Rahahleh has been the Director General of Social Security Corporation in Jordan since October 2018. Mr. Rahahleh is a Policy Economist with experience in government and semi-public agencies in Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. His areas of expertise focus mainly on social insurances and protection policies, labor market policies, fiscal reforms including recent involvement in competitiveness analysis and formulating private sector development policies. Mr. Rahahleh has also extensive expertise in designing and reforming social insurances and protection schemes. He holds a PhD in Economics from Darmstadt University of Technology/ Germany (2005).

Mr. Oussama Safa

Mr. Oussama Safa is Chief of the Social Justice Section at ESCWA where he works on issues of inequality, social justice, participation and civic engagement in the Arab region. His current work includes tracking structural socioeconomic changes in the region focusing mainly on issues of inequality and justice the ability of civil society to participate in shaping public policies. Holder of graduate degrees in international development, peacebuilding and international politics from the American University in Washington, DC and a BA in political science from the American University of Beirut, Mr. Safa was General Director of the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, a Beirut-based think-tank working on public policies and development in Lebanon and the Middle East and North Africa Region.

H.E. Ms. Violette Khairallah Safadi

H.E. Ms. Violette Khairallah Safadi is currently the Minister of State for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth. Prior to this, she was the Executive Director of the Safadi Group Holdings, President of the Safadi Cultural Foundation and Vice-President of Safadi Foundation. Ms. Safadi holds an undergraduate degree in International Business Management, an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership and is pursuing a master's degree in International Affairs & Diplomacy. She is a member of The National Commission of Lebanese Women (NCLW), a member of the Board of Trustees, Notre Dame University-Louaize; Vice President of the Autism Awareness Association, Lebanon; and member of the Leadership Board of Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard Kennedy School.

Mr. Zaghoul Samhan

Mr. Zaghoul Samhan is Director-General of Policies & Planning at the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) in Palestine. He holds a master's degree in Water and Environmental Engineering from IHE DELFT Institute, the Netherlands and a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Birzeit University, Palestine. Mr. Samhan is Chairman of the National Sustainable Development Goals Working Group and a member of a large number of national task forces and committees, the most important of which

are the National Team to Follow up on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the National Strategic Results Framework Group, the National Solid Waste Management Group, the Higher Organizing Committee and the Joint Commission for Environment and Development in the Arab World. Mr. Samhan is currently managing SWITCH MED's Sustainable Production and Consumption Project in Palestine and represents the State of Palestine in the Roundtable on Sustainable Production and Consumption in the Arab Region.

Mr. Ayman Sawalha

Mr. Ayman Sawalha has been Program Advisor to the Minister of Social Development, Palestine since 2013. From 2016 to February 2019, he also served as acting Executive Manager of the World Bank-funded Social Protection Enhancement Project. Mr. Sawalha has supported the development of the ministry's programs on poverty and food insecurity and assisted with policy, strategy formulation and budget processes, as well as contributing to various policy papers. From 2009 to 2012, he was the General Director of the Minister's Office. Prior to this, he held various positions at the Ministry of Social Affairs as General Director of Planning and Development (from 2005 to 2011) and Director of the Statistics and Information department (from 2000 to 2005). Mr. Sawalha has a master's degree in Community & Public Health from the University of Beir Zeit-Ramallah (Palestine) and a B.A of Public Health (Epidemiology & Vital Statistics) from Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) - Irbid (Jordan).

Mr. Ayman Shasly

Mr. Ayman Shasly is the Chair of the Arab Group of Climate Change Negotiators, mandated under the League of Arab States Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), a senior UNFCCC and IPCC Negotiator for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a Board Member of the Green Climate Fund, and a member of the Standing Committee on Finance. He is an International Policies Consultant with the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has more than 25 years of experience in the private sector, mainly in energy supply, investment, and portfolio management.

Ms. Sherine Shawky

Ms. Sherine Shawky has been a Research Professor at the American University in Cairo since 2003. She holds a Doctorate in Public Health (Egypt), an MPH in both Epidemiology and Statistics from Belgium. Previously, she was an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah. She is working with the Ministry of Planning on updating the health dimension in Egypt Vision 2030 and has written several documents in relation to MDG6, ICPD. She was the reader and editor of the health chapters in the Arab Human Development Reports 2009 and 2016.

Ms. Archana Shirsat

Ms. Archana Shirsat is Deputy Director General at the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) based in Oslo, Norway. IDI is an INTOSAI body that supports Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), mainly in developing countries, in enhancing capacity and performance thereby contributing to effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. She heads a department and works together with an international team in supporting SAIs in enhancing professionalism and relevance. Auditing SDGs initiative is integrated in the relevant SAIs workstream and connected with other support initiatives on innovation,

data analytics and high-quality audits and facilitation of audit impact. Ms. Shirsat started her career in public sector audit as an Indian Audit and Accounts Service officer in 1995. She has held various management positions in the SAI of India.

Ms. Hania Sholkamy

Ms. Hania Sholkamy is an Egyptian anthropologist with a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, University of London. She obtained her BA and MA from the American University in Cairo (AUC). Ms. Sholkamy is currently Associate Research Professor at the Social Research Center of AUC and is also affiliated with the University's Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program. Prior to her current position she was Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology at AUC, has been a Research Associate at the International Population Council and was the Ioma Evans Pritchard Junior Research Fellow at St. Anne's College, Oxford University. Her research interests and publications are mainly in the field of health, particularly reproductive health, gender, population and qualitative methods. She has co-edited two volumes, one titled Categories and Contexts: Anthropological and Historical Studies in Critical Demography (OUP) with S. Szreter and A. Dharmalingam and another entitled Health and Identity in Egypt (AUC press) with F. Ghanam. She is currently regional coordinator of the "Pathways to Women's Empowerment Research Consortium" in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex, UK.

Mr. Olof Skoog

H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog is a Swedish diplomat. He has been Director-General for Political Affairs and has represented Sweden at the United Nations, at the European Union, and at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). He has been Swedish Ambassador to Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama. He also served as Executive Assistant to Dr. Hans Blix in the UN verification of WMD in Iraq. Ambassador Skoog was most recently posted as the EU Ambassador to Indonesia and Brunei, also representing the EU to ASEAN. Prior to this, he served as the first Permanent Chair of the EU Political and Security Committee, coordinating the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy and establishing close partnerships with the UN and the AU. Ambassador Skoog serves as the Chairman of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. Mounir Tabet

Mr. Mounir Tabet of Canada is the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Mr. Tabet has extensive experience in development and political affairs with the UN. He has interests in issues of public policy, globalization and international trade, macro-economics, competitiveness, management, leadership and knowledge management. As a Country Director for the UNDP in Iraq, he led a team that focused primarily on the stabilization of recently liberated areas, security sector reform, community reconciliation, anti-corruption and sustainable development including livelihoods, job creation as well as the 2030 Agenda. Mr. Tabet served as Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System and Resident Representative of UNDP in Tunisia, as well as various positions with the UN in Egypt, New York and Saudi Arabia. He holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University where he was an Edward S. Mason fellow at the Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Abdelkhalek Touhami

Mr. Abdelkhalek Touhami (PhD) is Professor of Higher Education at the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA) in Rabat, Morocco. He has worked extensively as a consultant for several national and international organizations (ONDH, World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF...) in Morocco, several other Arab countries and in many parts of French-speaking Africa. Mr. Touhami is currently working on the quantitative, statistical (survey) and econometric aspects of development issues (poverty, inequality, public policy impact assessment and economic modeling). In 2005, he authored the chapter, "Poverty in Morocco" in the Cinquantenaire Report on "50 years of Human Development in Morocco". In July 2017, Mr. Abdelkhalek was decorated in the name of His Majesty the King the Order of Knight.

Mr. Greg Vines:

Mr. Greg Vines is Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO). His focus has been labour relations, organization and workplace change, governance, and human resource management. Mr. Vines has served as Minister (Labour) with the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN and President of the Governing Body of the ILO. He was spokesperson for the 42 ILO member states from the Asia and Pacific and represented Australia at the G20, and other multilateral forums on labour and employment. Mr. Vines has also held leadership positions with Australian trade unions. He is admitted to practice law and has studied law, management and labour relations in Australia and the USA.

Ms. Nabila Youssef

Ms. Nabila Youssef is a facilitator and educational advocate. She has been involved in the educational process in Egypt since 1994. Ms. Youssef has taken several training courses, focusing on adult and women's education, using modern technology methodologies in literacy and spreading the culture of knowledge.

Ms. Manar Zgheir

Ms. Manar Zgheir is a young learner from Yemen.