

# AFSD 2023

## Arab Forum for Sustainable Development Solutions and Action

14-16 March 2023



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Shared Prosperity Dignified Life





## List of Biographies

### Opening session

#### Rola Dashti

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

#### Ahmad Aboul-Gheit

Ahmed Aboul-Gheit was elected Secretary General of the League of Arab States in July 2016. He had earlier served as the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs from 11 July 2004 to 6 March 2011. He began his career as Third Secretary at the Embassy of Egypt in Cyprus. He was subsequently appointed as First Secretary at Egypt's permanent mission 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 mission to the United Nations. He received a Bachelor of Commerce from Ain Shams University (Egypt) in 1964.

#### Waed Badhib

Waed Badhib is the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Yemen. He has held several positions, most notably advisor to the Central Bank of Yemen, Minister of Transport in the Government of National Accord, and Assistant professor of financial and monetary institutions at the University of Aden. He previously had several participations and contributions to the activities of the Youth Student Union at the national, Arab, and international levels. He has also represented Yemen in several Arab



ministerial committees and international seminars in the field of economics and transport. He holds a PhD and a master's degree in Economics.

### **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.

### **Spotlight Segment 1**

#### **Rania Ayman**

Rania Ayman is the Founder and CEO of Entreprenelle, Egypt Ambassador for Women Entrepreneurship Day, Board member at Women Entrepreneurship Network - WEN, Media Ambassador for the Ministry of Information, UN Women Gender innovation Agora member and member of the General Committee for Egyptian Businesswomen at the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce – FEDCOC. Rania founded Entreprenelle in 2015 with a mission of bridging the gender economic gap by educating, training and linking women to economic resources. She helped impact more than 1 million women in business in Egypt and the Middle East. Rania has been chosen to represent Egypt in many international conferences. She is a Beijing +25 Task Force member, and has been awarded Mentor Arabia and MBC Al Amal 2019 Empowering Youth Champion of the year, Best Female Entrepreneur by YE!, Champion of change 2020, and has been featured as one of the most active influential 25 under 25 Entrepreneurs by Startup Scene. She is a Global Institute for Women's Empowerment member and 'Women Take the Lead' - Dedi fellow. She holds an MBA with further studies in Gender.



### **Mohamad Zaid**

Mohamad Zaid is a Goodwill Ambassador for Libya and a passionate young changer about building and shaping communities through innovation and technology. He leads LYBOTICS initiative where they provide STEM education access to over 2000 students in Libya.

### **Marianne Itani**

Marianne Itani is Sustainability Manager at BEESLINE International S.A.L. (2022-Present). Prior to that, she held a number of positions in the same company including environmental coordinator and project manager (2020-2022), project coordinator (2015-2020), copywriter and regulatory affairs assistant manager (2012-2015). She holds a Bachelor degree in Public Health and Development Sciences from the University of Balamand, Lebanon.

## **High-level dialogue: Delivering the SDGs in partnership with the private sector**

### **Amina J. Mohammed**

Amina J. Mohammed is Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (See full bio above).

### **Maisaa Youssef**

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

### **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.



### **Helmy Abouleish**

Helmy Abouleish is the Chief Executive Officer of SEKEM Holding, the Initiative for Sustainable Development in the Egyptian desert, which works holistically in the four pillars of sustainable development: Ecology (biodynamic agriculture and its promotion), Economy of Love (production of phytopharmaceuticals, organic textiles and food), Social Life (sustainable community development) and Cultural Life (individual potential unfolding in Schools, University, Medical center). Helmy is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development. He is also the President of the Biodynamic Federation - Demeter International, in which he has been involved since its founding and contributed to defining the Demeter International Vision Mission Principles Values. He is a counsellor of the World Future Council, a board member of C2C (Cradle to Cradle) and a member of the Schwab Foundation (World Economic Forum).

### **Khaled Mahdi**

Khaled A. Mahdi is the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD) of Kuwait and the Programme Director of the Country Plan Action Program of UNDP in Kuwait. He is a member of several high-level government boards and committees, such as the Public Authority for Industries, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Public Housing Authority, the Economic and Fiscal Reform Committee and the Kuwait Master Plan 2040, among others. Since he assumed his current post, Khaled established four development research centres at GSSCPD: the Kuwait Public Policy Center (KPPC), the National Knowledge Economy Center (NKEC), the National Development Research Center (NDRC) and the National Sustainable Development Observatory (NSDO). In his capacity as Secretary General, Khaled established Kuwait's National Standing Steering Committee for the Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030, in addition to signing several MoUs with local and international organizations to bolster GSSCPD's capacity and to strengthen GSSCPD's bilateral relations with strategic partners. Khaled is a B.Sc. graduate of the University of Toronto and holds a Ph.D. degree from Northwestern University in Chemical Engineering.

### **Kinda Mohamadieh**

Kinda Mohamadieh is senior researcher and legal advisor with the Third World Network office in Geneva. She has 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.



### **Shaden Khallaf**

Shaden Khallaf is Head of Public Policy for North Africa and Sustainability Lead for MENA, Meta.

### **Laila Al Hadhrami**

With a leading experience in Government and Private sector with more than 18 years, Laila is a global advisor in Smart and Sustainable Cities and Digital Transformation. She is also one of the pioneers specialized in Metaverse since 2006. She is one of the leading experts in Smart Cities in Middle East and has been assigned as advisor for different global companies. She has worked with different UN's organizations and worked as a Research fellowship in UNU eGov. She is also the founder of Smart Cities Ambassadors program. She is a global winning award and considered as one of the inspiring and influencing women leaders in Middle East and recently awarded as top 50 inspiring Women in Oman and in Middle East and within the most 20 inspiring personalities in Oman 2021. She is also a global keynote speaker participated in more than 100 conferences; author and traveller.

### **Aya Hrouit**

Program Director at a leading NGO for youth empowerment, Aya brings a wealth of experience and passion to the field. With a Master's degree in Strategic Human Resources Management and certified by Chartered Institution for Personnel and Development, UK, Aya is well-equipped to drive change and impact in the lives of young people. A dedicated advocate for female leadership, and is a member of the Global Shapers community, working to create a better world for all.

## **Plenary Session 1: Data innovation for leaving no one behind**

### **Khalid Abu Khalid**

Khalid Abu Khalid has more than 24 years of work experience in the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics with a master's degree in community and public health from Birzeit University in Palestine. He started his career in the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in charge of health statistics. He held several positions in the Central Bureau of Statistics, including Director for gender Statistics, then Deputy Director General of Social Population Statistics, and in 2016 he was appointed Director General of the Censuses Directorate, and he worked as Deputy Assistant Undersecretary for Statistical Affairs between 2020-2022. Currently he occupies the position of Director General of the Registers and Statistical Monitoring Directorate, including the SDGs profile. He is part of the top management team in the PCBS. Abu Khaled has supervised a large number of quantitative and qualitative household surveys, technically and administratively. He has worked as a national consultant for UNICEF/Palestine Office to supervise and follow up on the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in its fifth and sixth rounds.



### **Dorra Dhraief**

Dorra Dhraief is a general engineer in statistics and an expert in poverty measurement. She is the Head of the Department of Demographic and Social Statistics in Tunisia since 2004. She was responsible for the quarterly employment survey until 2009, and she was also in charge of the national survey on the households' budget, consumption, and standards of living in 2010, 2015 and 2021. Ms. Dhraief is the Director of the forthcoming General Population and Housing Census (2024).

### **Muhammad Imran**

As a senior scientist, Muhammad Imran leads the Crisis Computing team at the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI). His interdisciplinary research focuses on natural language processing, social computing, applied machine learning, human-computer interaction, and stream processing areas. He analyzes social media communications during time-critical situations using big data analysis techniques. He develops novel computational models, techniques, and technologies useful for stakeholders to gain situational awareness and actionable information during sudden onset disasters. Mr. Imran received his PhD in computer science from the University of Trento, Italy, in 2013. He then joined QCRI as a post-doctoral researcher. He holds a Master of Science in Computer Science degree with a distinction from the Capital University of Science and Technology, Islamabad (2007).

### **Husammedine Faroug**

Husammedine Faroug is Senior Manager for Marketing Strategy & Planning at Sudani (one of Sudatel Telecom group). He is passionate with data, data analytics, Business Intelligence & data science. He has more than 15 years of experience within the telecom & ICT domain.

### **Hassan Al Lawati**

Hassan Al Lawati holds more than 20 years of work experience and an MBA from University of Bedfordshire of (UK). He worked previously in Omantel, Shell Oman Marketing Company, and Information Technology Authority. He is currently working as the National Program Head for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies in the Ministry of Transport, communications, and IT. He is working on a mission to establish the artificial intelligence and advanced technologies ecosystem in Oman by preparing the strategy and executive program as a future direction for bridging the cooperation between the government entities, private firms, SMEs, community, and academia in order to enhance the productivity of the economic diversification sectors and their contribution to GDP.

### **Maria-Francesca Spatolisano**

Maria-Francesca Spatolisano is Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of UN DESA since March 2019. She also served in her personal capacity as the Officer-in-Charge



and then as the Acting Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology between February 2021 and July 2022. Ms. Spatolisano has over 30 years of experience in public service including extensive senior leadership in multilateral affairs. She has served as the European Union Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO, Monaco and Andorra. She was a member of the EU Delegation to the United Nations, serving as the Head of its Economic and Trade Section, covering all issues related to trade, development and environmental policies in the Second Committee and ECOSOC; she also represented the EC to the Fifth Committee. Before joining the UN, she was responsible for International Organizations and Development Dialogue with other Donors in the European Commission's Directorate General for Development Cooperation. In this capacity, she has assured the EU presence and developed EU positions on development policy in several international fora including the United Nations, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, OECD, G-7 and the G-20. Ms. Spatolisano holds a Doctorate in Law from Florence University, where she then was an assistant professor in public and constitutional law.

### **Special Session 1: Achieving food security through food systems transformation: priorities and actions**

#### **Nora Ourabah Haddad**

Nora Ourabah Haddad is the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Lebanon and prior to Lebanon was the FAO representative in the Sultanate of Oman. She has extensive experience in policy analysis notably as related to rural and people empowerment, gender equity, producer organizations and cooperatives and partnerships, advocacy and capacity development in the USA, France and at the FAO.

#### **Serge Nakouzi**

Serge Nakouzi is the Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He has over 30 years of experience and expertise in strategic management and promoting global international development programmes, possesses extensive policy and operational experience in international development activities focused on food security, environmental sustainability, peace and human security at the global, regional and country levels.

#### **Reem Nejdawi**

Reem Nejdawi works for the UN-Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) as Chief of Food and Environment Policies and formerly as the Executive Director of ESCWA Technology Centre, in Amman, Jordan. She has 20 years of experience working and writing extensively on issues related to development including on Sustainable Development, Food security, environment, rural development, gender in Arab countries.





### **Rami Zreik**

Rami Zreik is a professor at the American University of Beirut (AUB), the director of the Food Security Program, and the interim director of the Palestine Land Studies Center (PLSC). He has worked and written extensively for more than 30 years focusing on the political ecology of Arab food security and its linkages with the agrarian question and served on many boards and steering committees including the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and the EAT-Lancet commission on sustainable diets. He is also a founding member of the Arab Food Sovereignty Network.

### **Ibrahim El Dukheiry**

Ibrahim El Dukheiry is the President of the General Assembly and Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. Previously, he acted as the Minister of Agriculture and Federal Forestry and Director General of the Agricultural Research Authority. He has more than 20 years of experience as an expert and in leading programmes at the national, regional and international level on agricultural development and food security as well as a professor and a researcher.

### **Nada El-Agizy**

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

### **Said Zarouali**

Saïd Saghîr Zarouali is Head of the Department of Agricultural Programs and Rural Development at the High Commissioner for Planning in the Kingdom of Morocco. In that capacity, he tracks and evaluates agricultural development policies and programmes and conducts studies and surveys related to the agricultural and forestry sectors. He is also the point of contact for many international institutions and a member of many professional bodies and groups of experts in the field of food security.

### **Hasan Ashqar**

Hasan Ashqar is the Director General of Planning and Policies in the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture since 2018. In this capacity, he directs efforts towards developing the Palestinian national agricultural policies and programs to modernize the agrifood system including supporting the resilience of Palestinian farmers and enhancing food security situation at national level. Mr. Ashqar is an agronomist with a long experience in managing both development and humanitarian programs in agriculture.



### **Kamel Abdallah**

Kamel Abdallah is the Managing Director and CEO of Canal Sugar, an agricultural industrial group in Egypt that aims to ensure Egypt self-sufficiency in sugar. He has over 20 years' experience leading large regional Agri-Food companies and specializes in turnaround management and leadership including serving on boards or leading many companies. He has also served as Assistant Vice President of the American University of Beirut; as well as being Professor of Strategy and Finance and being tenured Prof and department chair at accredited business schools in the USA.

### **Fadi Jabr**

Fadi Falah Jabr is the Secretary-General of the Arab Federation for Food Industries and in this capacity endeavors to develop the food industry sector in the Arab region and to help members exchange experiences and knowledge. He also chairs many specialized committees supporting the achievement of the sustainable development goals and to enhance the role of Arab food manufacturers. He holds several certificates and awards from the Arab and international levels.

### **Darine Dogui**

Darine Dogui is the Director of research and comparative tests at the National institute of consumption and Trade Ministry in Tunisia, where she conducts comparative tests in food for quality control and fraud prevention. She is best known for leading the national caravan of education for sustainable consumption in schools. She has over 20 years of experience in the domain and has written extensively on food quality control.

### **Sylvia Lopez-Ekra**

Sylvia Lopez-Ekra is the Deputy Director of the Food Systems Coordination Hub, hosted by FAO on behalf of the UN system. She has over 20 years of experience in development, gender and migration work within the United Nations System. During this period, she was posted as the Chief of Mission and Country Representative for the IOM offices in Ghana, Benin and Togo. She has also served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ghana and Morocco.

## **Special session 2: Moving forward on the learning-to-earning agenda in the Arab region**

### **Ghadi Bou Moussa**

Ghadi Bou Moussa is a reporter and news anchor at MTV Lebanon. He earned his master's degree in journalism from the Lebanese University and is currently working as a content creator at the jusurarabia platform. He previously worked as a reporter for Al-Jadeed TV. Throughout his career, he covered critical events such as the Lebanese revolution in 2019, and the Khashoggi incident in Turkey in 2018. In addition, he published his first book "Ghadi and I" in 2013.



### **Mayada Adil**

Mayada Adil is a Sudanese medical doctor, fashion designer, women’s rights advocate for health equity and a refugee rights activist. Based in France, Mayada has worked on campaigns focused on ending gender-based violence, specifically against female genital mutilation in Sudan and Mali. Mayada was selected by the French Foreign Ministry to represent Sudanese youth at the Paris Conference for Sudan in 2021, where she also addressed the French President Emmanuel Macron and emphasized the important role of the youth in facilitating a democratic transition and enacting political and economic change. Mayada has also represented Sudanese women at the Generation Equality Forum, where she addressed the importance of integrating refugee women in societies and communities across France. Mayada co-founded the LaLoupeCreative artistic platform, which aims to outreach to refugee artists around the world to provide them with an opportunity to participate in a training programme that can help develop their skills and create “art clinics”. She is also recognized as a climate advocate and creative champion of the We!Are campaign by Crtve Development — a pan-African social agency that champions change on the African continent through storytelling and campaigning on key issues, including climate justice, food security, gender equality, health equity, migration, and peace.

### **Sherine Abbas Helmy**

Sherine Hassan Abbas Helmy has 42 years of professional experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Throughout the years, he was appointed as CEO of Pharco Corporation. He graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Alexandria University. He then obtained an MBA from the Arab Academy for Science and Technology (AAST) and the Central Michigan University in 1999. In 2012, he received his Doctor of Business Administration degree from AAST. He also attended Changing the Game: Negotiation & Competitive Decision-Making in November 2021 from Harvard Business School -Boston, USA. He is a Board Member of several universities and business councils.

### **Anthony Fakhoury**

Anthony Fakhoury is a Project and Research Analyst currently working with UNDP's Knowledge Project. With over six years of experience working with UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States, Anthony has conducted extensive economic and statistical research on topics related to knowledge societies, education, technology, and future skills. He plays a key role in spearheading the Regional Skills Initiative, which focuses on providing future-proof job opportunities by upskilling and reskilling citizens in the Arab States region. In addition to his work with the United Nations, Anthony also serves as a university lecturer for undergraduate and graduate economics courses at the Lebanese American University. He holds a BS in Economics and an MA in Applied Economics and has authored several publications.

### **Yaman Alsabek**

Mohamed Yaman Alsabek is the CEO of SANAD Youth for Development Foundation in Syria. He has



worked with many INGOs, UN agencies and private sector institutes on diverse youth projects. Yaman is a member of several youth platforms inside and outside Syria and represents the Syrian Youth at the international conferences and events. He participated as an International Volunteer with FIFA in Qatar2022 Football World Cup. He holds an M.B.A from the Higher Institute of Business Administration.

### **Salim Araji**

Salim Araji is an Economist at the UN-Economic and Social Commission for western Asia (ESCWA). His research agenda at ESCWA is focused on employment creation, skills matching and economic diversification. Mr. Araji is currently leading ESCWA's future of work initiative and the ESCWA skills monitor to see the relation between Arab skills and jobs and the Fourth Industrial Revolution using state of the art Machine learning techniques. He has multiple academic publications on economic growth, macroeconomics and the macroeconomic effect of natural resource revenues. He is an associate research fellow at the Economic Research Forum (ERF). He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin with special interest in macroeconomics, economic development and growth. He also has an MBA in finance and a bachelor's degree in finance.

### **Nina Chami**

Nina Chami heads the Human Resources function for Chevron MENA Business partnership. She has 20 years of experience in a variety of HR roles of increasing responsibilities in and outside of Chevron. She joined Chevron in 2006 and was responsible for all aspects of Chevron's Business Functions in the Middle East. Over the course of her career, she steadily progressed through a series of roles in the area of human resource management. In her 16-year career with Chevron, Nina has led and participated in several HR projects locally, regionally and globally. Nina holds a BS in Sociology of Enterprises and Public Relations (2001) from Saint Joseph University in Lebanon. She also completed a certificate in office management obtained from the American University of Beirut in 2002, a CIPD- UK certificate in Personnel Development in 2010 and obtained her CIPD HR Diploma in 2012 from the United Kingdom. She received her level 5 Human Resources Diploma from the CIPD in 2021.

### **Amira Naji**

Amira Naji is a passionate and driven 21-year-old business student at Tunis Business School, with a deep commitment to social entrepreneurship. As a youth ambassador of Tunisia, she served as an exchange student in the United States, promoting mutual understanding. Her experience led to a keen interest in leadership and entrepreneurship, and she became a national winner in the pre-incubator program Safir at the age of 17. Since then, Amira has been a finalist in several competitions, including the Africa Social Entrepreneurship Concept challenge and Open Startup Tunisia pre-incubator program, and has held key positions at startups like Skipit and phosph'ACT. Amira is also a co-founder at Petzilla UAE, and is currently developing the Zareeya crowdfunding platform in Pakistan for social causes. As a Global Collaboratory



student at Columbia University, Amira is learning about sustainability and plastic pollution, and exploring ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic.

### Special Session 3: The inter-generational effects of violence: the intersection of violence against women and violence against children in the Arab region

#### Ghida Anani

Ghida Anani is the Founder & Director of ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality, a leading CSO in the region advocating for gender equality. Ghida is putting in place the infrastructure for a sustainable system of protection against gender-based violence. She engages stakeholders that others avoid or fight: men, parliamentarians and ministries, and religious leaders. She has led a number of public opinion campaigns, notably the #Undress522 which resulted in a historical parliamentary vote, repealing Article 522 – the infamous “rape-marriage” law - from the Lebanese Penal Code. In 2019, the campaign received the first prize “UN SDG Action Award” for the most impactful campaign globally. As an expert in GBV and Child Protection, Ghida has published a number of studies, articles, training kits and community educational materials on GBV & Child Sexual Abuse in Lebanon and the MENA region. She has also dedicated some of her time teaching at the Faculty of Public Health at the Lebanese University. In 2018, Ghida was listed by the World Bank as one of 10 Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs Making a Difference across MENA and in 2019 she was selected by the UN Solutions Summit as one of the 10 extraordinary solution makers across the globe advancing the SDGs.

#### Najat Maalla M’jid

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

#### Reem Alsalem

Reem Alsalem was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences in July 2021 by the UN Human Rights Council for a three-year tenure. She started her tenure on 1 August 2021. Reem is an independent consultant on gender issues, the rights of refugees and migrants, transitional justice and humanitarian response. She has consulted extensively for the UN such as UN-Women, OHCHR, UNICEF and IOM, as well as for non-governmental organizations, think tanks and academia. Previously, she worked as an international civil servant, serving with the UNHCR in thirteen countries. During her service, she has planned, implemented, and monitored programs that served to protect persons that were survivors of gender-based violence, particularly



women and girls. She has also been a visiting professional with the Prosecutor's Office of the ICC from January to March 2009 and a visiting researcher with the Feinsein International Center of Tufts University in December 2008. Visiting Professional, Investigation Unit of the Prosecutor Office, International Criminal Court, the Hague, the Netherlands, January 2009-March 2009. Reem has a Masters in International Relations from the American University in Cairo, Egypt (2001) and a Masters in Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2003).

### **Alessandra Guedes**

Alessandra Guedes has dedicated 20 years of her professional life to promoting children's and women's rights and health, including working intensively to end violence against children and against women. She joined Innocenti in 2019 to lead the development and implementation of a research programme to address key issues and constraints to achieving gender equity within child protection, with a particular focus on addressing the interlinkages between violence against children and violence against women. Prior to joining UNICEF, Alessandra served as the World Health Organization's Regional Advisor for the Americas on family violence prevention (2009-2019) and as the co-chair of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative's Coordinating Group, a role she continues to occupy. Alessandra holds a Master of Science in Public Health for Developing Countries from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a Master of Arts in Art Therapy from George Washington University.

### **Mohammed Meqdady**

Mohammed Meqdady is currently the Secretary General of the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA). He holds a PHD in Sociology/Organizational Sociology and has over 22 years of experience in formulating and conducting National Policies and Strategies in the field of human and social development and family affairs. In addition to his skills in building constructive relationships with all relevant actors and ministers to ensure full coordination and advocacy for various family protection issues, Mr. Meqdady participated in the elaboration of many National documents in the field of Family and Children: the National Framework for Family Protection from Violence, the National Strategy for Protection from Family Violence, the Matrix of National Priorities for Family Protection, Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection. He held several positions including Advisor to the Arab Women Organization and the League of Arab States, Head of the National Team To protect the family from violence, founder and head of the National Team for Early Childhood Development, member of the Committee for Preparing Economic Modernization Vision and member of the Ministerial Committee for Women's Empowerment, member of the Scientific Committee of the King Abdulaziz Prize for Scientific Research in Childhood and Development Issues in the Arab World, part-time lecturer at the Arab Open University for the year 2016.



### **Raed Ataya**

Raed Ataya is a lawyer and holds a master's degree in child rights and Graduate Studies in International Humanitarian Law from the Lebanese University in Beirut. He has been working at Developmental Action without Borders (NABAA) as a program coordinator since 2005. Before that, he was an instructor at the Islamic university. A human and refugee rights activist, he has participated in numerous local and international conferences in this field. He contributed to numerous reports on the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights in Lebanon, in addition to the special report submitted to the International Committee on the Rights of the Child during the follow-up to the status of children's rights in Lebanon for 2016-2017. Coordinator of the Arab Network for the Rights of the Child "Manara" since 2013 until now; this network is specialized in the field of children's rights in the Arab world. A trainer on human, refugee, women and child rights, advocacy, child led data collection, training of trainer, strategic planning, and PSEA. He conducted studies on causes and issues of Syrian refugees in Jordan, rights of Palestinian refugees and implemented psychosocial support for drug addicts in Saint Joseph University.

### **Meryem Bhija**

Meryem Bhija is a Statistical engineer (INSEA- MOROCCO). Currently, she is Head of the Women and Children Department; Directorate of Planning – High Commission for Planning (HCP). She serves as focal point (representative of the HCP) in the Technical Committee of the National Commission for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and focal point (representative of the HCP) in the Technical Committee of the Ministerial Commission in charge of the Follow-up and Implementation of the Integrated Public Policy for Child Protection. Formerly, she was Head of the Regional Studies and Policies Department; Planning Directorate – HCP. She was in charge of the reporting on SDG 5 of the National Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (Edition 2020, 2021,..).

## **Plenary Session 2: Planning and financing sustainable development in recovery and crises**

### **Rayya Al Haffar Al Hassan**

Rayya Al Haffar Al Hassan is currently the Chairman-General Manager of Bankmed, sal. and board member of Bankmed Switzerland. From January 2019 to January 2020, she served as Minister of Interior and Municipalities - the first female Minister of Interior in the Arab World. Before this post, she was appointed by the Council of Ministers as the Chairman-General Manager of the Tripoli Special Economic Zone. From November 2009 until June 2011, Ms. El-Hassan served as the Minister of Finance. Previously, she was a senior member of the Prime Minister's Cabinet at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Earlier in her career, she was Advisor to the Minister of Economy and Trade, and Program Specialist for the Economic Governance and Pro-Poor portfolio at UNDP Lebanon office. Rayya El-Hassan holds an MBA degree in Finance and Investments from the George Washington University and a Bachelor's degree in



Business Administration from the American University of Beirut. In 2019, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from the Lebanese American University and an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration from the Beirut Arab University. In June 2021, she was awarded the medal of the French Legion of Honor (Grade Chevalier) by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emanuel Macron.

### **Mark Malloch-Brown**

Mark Malloch-Brown is President, Open Society Foundations. He has worked to advance human rights, justice, and development for more than four decades in a variety of roles: with the United Nations, the World Bank, and as a British government minister, as well as with a range of civil society groups and business. At the UN, Malloch-Brown spearheaded the global promotion of the UN Millennium Development Goals as head of the UNDP from 1999 to 2005. He later served as Kofi Annan's chief of staff, and then as UN Deputy Secretary General. Malloch-Brown was knighted for his contribution to international affairs.

### **Said Mohammed Al Saqri**

Said bin Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Saqri is Minister of Economy since August 18, 2020. He held the position of Chairman of the Tender Board since August 2020 and Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman since September 2020. He served as President of the Omani Economic Association. In 1989, he obtained a BA in Economics with a major in Business Administration from the Australian College of New England and a Masters in Financial Economics from Boston University in September 2000. In 2010 he obtained his PhD in Economics on Petroleum Resources, Economic Linkages and Development from the University of Victoria, Australia; He also participated in some international programs such as the Economics and Management Studies Program at Harvard University, June/July 1992, and the American Hubert Humphrey Program 1999-2000 as part of the Fulbright academic program for student exchange. He was the director of councils and committees in the Office of the Advisor to Sultan Qaboos for Economic Planning Affairs (1992-2017), and an economic researcher for three years in the same office. He also worked as a part-time lecturer in several educational institutions (AMIDEAST, Sultan Qaboos University, Arab Open University). In 2016 he chaired the Omani Economic Association, and in 2017 he worked as an economic advisor at the GCC Statistical Center.

### **Hala El-Said**

Hala El Said is Minister of Planning and Economic Development, a prominent Egyptian economist and a renowned academic author. She became the first elected Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in 2011 and Cairo University's Deputy President for Scientific Research and Exterior Relations in 2013. She formerly held the position of Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administration Reform. She has also served as an advisor to the Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), a member of the board





of trustees of the Anti-Money Laundering Unit at the CBE, and a board member of Arab African International Bank. She received her PhD in Economics in 1989 with highest honours from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University.

#### **Mohamad Yousef Elzaidani**

Mohamad Elzaidani is Minister of Planning in Libya. He has a PhD in Strategic Planning from Britain. In 2014, he completed his Masters degree in Health Engineering. Also, he has a MPM degree (2013) from American Academy, and a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering and Construction.

#### **Hiba Ahmed**

Hiba Ahmed was appointed in June 2022 as Director-General for the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), which is the poverty reduction arm of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). A Sudanese citizen, she graduated from the department of economics, the University of Khartoum with an honor degree. She then moved to the United States to complete her post graduate studies at the University of Michigan St, from which she earned both her Master and Ph.D. degrees with distinction. She also earned several post-graduate certificates in economics and sustainable development from Harvard University. She began her career as an economist in the Central Bank of Sudan. She worked for the World Bank, Saudi Aramco Oil Company, United Nations Development Program, United States Agency for International Development, and the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington DC focusing on economic development, policy, and poverty alleviation. She returned to Sudan in 2019, where she held the position of Director-General for the General Authority for Investment and Private Sector Development. In 2020, she was appointed as Minister of Finance and Economic Planning making her the first female Minister of Finance for Sudan. As Minister of Finance, she led international cooperation efforts including the “Friends of Sudan” initiative comprising of more than 40 donors and was responsible for resource mobilization of up to US\$2 billion for the country in 2020. During her tenure, she also led Sudan’s US\$60 billion debt restructuring and was responsible for administering the IMF’s Staff Monitored Program for macroeconomic stabilization.

#### **Mahmoud Mohieldin**

Mahmoud Mohieldin, is an economist with more than 30 years of experience in international finance and development. In February 2022, he was appointed by the Egyptian Government as the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), with aims at enhancing the communication between the Egyptian presidency of COP27 and businesses, the private sector and, international funding institutions working in climate change-related fields. Since February 2020, Mr. Mohieldin has been the United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Development Agenda. He is the former Minister of Investment of Egypt from 2004-2010, and most recently, served as the World Bank Group Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda,



United Nations Relations and Partnerships. His professional experience extends into the academic arena as a Professor of Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University and as a Visiting Professor at several renowned Universities in Egypt, Korea, the UAE, the UK and the USA. Mr. Mohieldin holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom; a Master's in Economics and Social Policy Analysis from the University of York, United Kingdom; a Diploma of Development Economics from the University of Warwick; and a B.Sc. in Economics from Cairo University.

## Spotlight Segment 2:

### Reem El-Mograby

Reem El-Mograby is the Director and Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Institutional Equity at the American University in Cairo. At this position, El-Mograby provides overall leadership in establishing a safe and inclusive environment for the AUC community that is free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. El-Mograby is a certified Title IX Coordinator and Investigator. El-Mograby works closely with students, faculty and staff to coordinate the University's response to reports under applicable policies. She oversees the implementation of prevention initiatives and conducts campus-wide audience-centric training for the AUC community, and support University initiatives such as #AUCSpeakUp, a university-wide initiative to reinforce AUC's legacy of equity, inclusiveness, and a safe campus. Prior to this position, El-Mograby held positions at the Office of Student Conduct, the Office of the Dean of Students, and the Career Center.

### Hala Al-Shooha

Hala Al-Shooha is a dedicated professional working as a Senior Programmes Officer for the Climate Action Programme at Generations for Peace, which aims at empowering youth in climate action advocacy to be activists who lead the change within their communities. Hala holds a Master's degree in Spatial Planning focusing on climate change vulnerability assessments and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Environmental Planning at the University of Waterloo, Canada. Her research examines the geopolitical water situation in Jordan using a nature-based solutions approach. With experience as an Urban Analyst on the Urban Recovery Framework Project with iMMAP and as a Projects Coordinator with the Green Building Council, Hala has a wealth of knowledge in urban environmental planning. She has also actively participated in conferences and regional schools centered around sustainable urban development and civic engagement in combating climate change.

### Hazir Farouk Abdelraheem Elhaj

Hazir Farouk is a university professor, an experienced researcher and independent consultant entirely dedicated to 100% renewable energy. During the past 20 years and through all the positions she worked in - leveraging on her vast academic background and expertise - She developed a comprehensive experience in teaching and research in Science, Technology and Innovation in the context of the



sustainable development. Through her various roles, she has been working with researchers', policy makers, NGOs and private sector businesses and organizations, in supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Seventh Goal which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

#### Special Session 4: More than a buzzword: how sustainable procurement drives sustainable development

##### **Marcus McKay**

Marcus McKay is based in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the UNOPS Head office where he holds the position of Sustainable Procurement Manager and leads the Sustainable Supply Chains team. Marcus joined UNOPS in May 2018. Prior to joining UNOPS, he spent the last 20 years living and working in different locations around the world in the multinational private sector in the area of corporate social responsibility, supply chain sustainability and compliance. At UNOPS, Marcus supports the organization in enhancing its commitment to sustainable impact through its procurement projects. His focus is on sustainable procurement policy development implementation and oversight. As well as the organizations' programmes dedicated to supplier sustainability, diversity and inclusion and supplier capacity development. The Sustainable Supply Chains team is dedicated to enhancing the organizations' commitment to bringing added value to partners, risk management and increased impact to beneficiaries through sustainable, inclusive and resilient development.

##### **Nasser Yassin**

Nasser Yassin is currently the Minister of Environment in Lebanon. Before his appointment, he was a professor of Policy and Planning at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He founded in 2020 & directed the Lebanon Crisis Observatory to track the repercussions of the crises & to provide evidence and systematic analysis of various facets of the crises hitting the country. He co-chaired the AUB4Refugees Initiative that brought together faculty in AUB responding to refugee crises. Between 2014-2020, he was the Director of Research of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs & served as the Institute's Interim Director in 2019-2020. He holds a PhD from University College London (UCL), an MSc from London School of Economics (LSE), and an MSc and BSc from the AUB. His research and practice interests are in development planning and policymaking in fragile and transition states. He researches and works on policy and social innovation especially in areas of refugee, youth & health policies and programs. He is the author of more than 50 internationally published peer-reviewed articles and books. His work on Syrian refugee crisis has been featured in many media channels including Al-Jazeera, BBC, The Economist, New York Times, and Deutsche Welle - among others.

##### **Anne-Claire Howard**

Anne-Claire Howard, a French national, joined UNOPS in 2022 as Director of Procurement. She has 20



years of experience in multi-stakeholder initiatives, sustainability standards, and sustainable supply chains in hard to abate sectors. Prior to joining UNOPS she was the CEO of ResponsibleSteel and Bettercoal. She brings a wealth of experience in raw materials sustainability, good governance and responsible supply chains having held positions with Royal Dutch Shell, Eurasia Group and the International Finance Corporation as well as with Medecins Sans Frontieres. Throughout her career, Anne-Claire has focused on sustainable development, aligning business goals with the SDGs, and good governance. She has successfully delivered projects touching on sustainable supply chain, local economic development, political, social and environmental risk assessment, governance capacity building and non-technical risk management in developing countries.

#### **Jocelyne Jabbour**

Jocelyne Jabbour is a Procurement Specialist with the Governance Global Practice in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region at the World Bank. She has more than ten years' experience in procurement operations and fiduciary work in Fragile Conflict and Violence (FCV) countries. Jocelyne is leading projects to advance Green Public Procurement in the region. She is a member of the MENA Climate Group at the World Bank working on several initiatives. Jocelyne has worked on procurement reforms in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq.

#### **Mario Jales**

Mario Jales is an Economic Affairs Officer at the 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), where he contributes to the enhancement of regional dialogue and knowledge on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region. Previously, Mr. Jales was an economist at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where he managed technical cooperation projects, supported consensus building initiatives, and conducted research and analysis on trade, commodities, sustainable development and climate change. Mr. Jales was project director at the Institute for International Trade Negotiations, fellow at Cornell University, research fellow at the Inter-American Development Bank, and consultant at FAO, OECD and the World Bank. He holds a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Cornell University and master's degrees from Stanford University and Georgetown University. Mr. Jales has published dozens of journal articles, book chapters, policy papers and technical reports.

#### **Vanja Ostojic**

Vanja Ostojic was appointed Chief, ILO Procurement Bureau, with effect from 1 July 2021. He holds a M.Sc. in Development Economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, University in Geneva. He joined the ILO in 2007 as a Senior Procurement Officer. He has previously been Deputy Chief and Principal Procurement specialist from May 2012 to June 2021. His professional career in procurement has spanned some 24 years. He has had extensive procurement experience in the



international and public sector environment, having previously been employed by the International Telecommunication Union. He is a member of the UN High-Level Committee on Management's Procurement Network (HLCM-PN) since 2004 and was elected Chair for 2011/12. He has also been a member of various HLCM PN Working Groups (WG), including the WG on Harmonization and Sustainable Procurement. Between March 2019 and December 2022, he co-chaired the Task Force on the Development of a Joint Approach to Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains. In October 2022, the UN High-Level Committee on Management adopted the Policy Framework to Combat Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains.

## Special Session 5: Role of renewable energy in accelerating recovery in fragile and crisis-affected countries

### Radia Sedaoui

Radia Sedaoui is the Chief of Section in the Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster of the UN Economic Social Commission of West Asia (ESCWA) since 2016. She brings more than 22 years of experience in both private and public sector, in energy, sustainable development and climate change, leadership and development of programs in the field, with track record and proven skills across several areas including negotiation of partnerships, mobilization of resources, international and intergovernmental co-operation and wide network of stakeholders. Ms. Sedaoui has an extensive expertise in energy policy advice, renewable energy and energy efficiency, energy modelling, water-energy-food nexus, economic diversification and climate change policies and technologies, extractive industries, and carbon market developments. She previously served as Head Statistics and Gas Modelling Department at the Intergovernmental Organization of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum and previously held several senior positions in Algeria with "Sonatrach" as Director of Strategy and Corporate, Head Portfolio management and member of the Board of Directors of Sonatrach affiliates in Upstream, Midstream and Trading. Ms. Sedaoui holds a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering, master in petroleum economics and an MBA. She is the President of the "Arab Energy Club" and a member of the International Association for Energy Economics.

### Tehmina Akhtar

Tehmina Akhtar is the Senior Strategic Advisor at UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States since 2021. She is responsible for strategic analysis, policy advisory 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 economic development, governance, environment, climate change, gender equality and social inclusion. Tehmina was previously the Deputy Director of the Local Development Finance Practice at UNCDF, responsible for management of programmes, providing policy and technical advice to governments, and leveraging public and private capital towards SDG positive investments.



Tehmina has also held several positions in UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support in the past, leading global and regional programmes and project portfolios on environment and development issues. Tehmina has worked on regional and multi-country programmes in Arab States, Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Europe & CIS since 1995. Tehmina holds a Masters degrees from Yale University specializing in Environmental Law, Policy and Economics and from New York University in Middle Eastern Studies with a focus on Gender in Development. She also has a BA in International Relations from Mount Holyoke College.

#### **Mark Gibson**

Mark Gibson is the Operational Lead of the Coordination Unit for the Global Platform for Action (GPA) on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings at UNITAR. Mark joined the GPA in August 2018 and has been managing the GPA's work on decarbonising the humanitarian response, including the development of standard lease and power purchase agreements, de-risking solutions for long term agreements and the Decarbonising Humanitarian Energy Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Prior to joining the GPA, Mark spent 18 months with UNHCR Tanzania where, among other things, he developed the Energy and Environmental Strategy for the countries three refugee camps. Before which, Mark spent over 20 years providing private sector support to a broad spectrum of energy and environmental projects in Europe, Africa, North America, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. Mark has a Honors Degree in Environmental Studies and Masters Degrees in Marine Resource Management and Environmental Law.

#### **Hamzeh Yasin**

Hamzeh Yasin is Regional Programme Manager, SIDA.

#### **Talal Barakati**

As an energy engineer, Talal Barakati specializes in renewable energy, energy storage, and electricity generation and distribution infrastructure. He has worked in refugee camps and crisis-affected, rural, and urban areas, where he managed a diverse range of energy projects and negotiated multilateral energy agreements. From the world's first solar-powered refugee camp, Talal brings insight into areas where emergency responses and development efforts meet. He is passionate about bridging the gap between legislators and scientists to accelerate inclusive legislation of emerging technologies.

#### **Hazir Farouk Abdelraheem Elhaj**

Hazir Farouk ElHaj is university professor, an experienced researcher and independent consultant (see full bio above)

#### **Hassan Maaz**

With over three decades of experience in operation and maintenance management, Hassan Maaz is the head of Engineering and maintenance division at Rafik Hariri University Hospital, after being Electrical



and Safety engineer at RHUH since 2005. Hassan earned his degree in Germany, then a Master's degree in Electrotechnics from Le CNAM, and is certified as Facility Management Professional from IFMA. He is also been a technical teacher and instructor in the past years.

## Special Session 6: Health preparedness in the Arab region: SDG target 3.d audit findings and proposed actions

### Jana El Baba

Jana El Baba is a Sustainable Development Officer with the 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster at ESCWA. Prior to that, she held several positions with UNESCO and ESCWA, where she led regional and national programmes and authored UN publications covering a wide range of sustainable development issues. She also contributed to Arab regional preparations for the Rio+20 and Agenda 2030 processes. Jana holds two Master degrees, one in engineering management from the American University of Beirut and a second in sustainable development with a focus on natural resources management from the University of London / School of Oriental and African Studies. She also holds a graduate diploma in Public Policy and Program Evaluation from Carleton University in Ottawa.

### Housseem Eddine Guezzi

Housseem Eddine Guezzi is Rapporteur of the Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, General Secretariat of the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions. He holds a Master's degree in human resources. He is a judge at the Tunisian Court of Accounts and an expert for the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) in reviewing SAI-PMF Review reports.

### Loubna Slaoui

Loubna Slaoui is Magistrate, Supreme Court of Audit, Morocco. She has an Advanced Postgraduate Diploma, specializing in "Public Finance and Taxes" and Higher Diploma in Management from the Higher Institute of Commerce and Contracting. She is a Member of the convening chamber of the Supreme Court of Accounts, representing the third chamber previously and the fifth chamber now (2015-2023).

### Rajaa Mohamed Hassan Syed Ahmed

Rajaa Mohammed is Director of the Performance Review Department at the National Audit Chamber, Sudan. She holds a bachelor of Accounting as well as a Sudanese Fellowship of Certified Public Accountants. She is an INTOSAI Standards Facilitator, and has participated in the Performance Review Manual Training Program, and the systematic review manual training program 2015. She is one of the founders of the performance review department 2016 – 2020, and has more than 8 years in performance review. She is the representative of the Bureau as a focal point for the implementation of the SDGs.

### Ziad El Khatib

Ziad El Khatib is assistant director of studies at the Central Organization for Financial Control, Syrian Arab



Republic since 2019. He has a Masters in control and auditing (2019), a chartered accountant certificate (2015) and a diploma in economics (1998).

#### **Taghreed El Alam**

Taghreed Alam is Director of Public Relations and Training at the Central Organization for Financial Control, Syrian Arab Republic. She has a diploma in economics – business administration (1996) and a Masters degree in control and auditing (2019). She served as a co-audit (2001) and was promoted over 18 years of service.

#### **Arshana Shirsat**

Archana Shirsat is Deputy Director General at INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) based in Oslo, Norway. IDI is an INTOSAI body that works towards effective, accountable and inclusive Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), making a difference in the quality of public sector governance and service delivery for value and benefits of all ([www.idi.no](http://www.idi.no)). Within IDI, she is a part of the management team and heads a department that works towards a vision of professional and relevant SAIs through high quality and high impact audits. One of the key areas of her work includes promoting and supporting SAIs in providing independent, external oversight on the implementation of the SDGs.

#### **Dalia Samhouri**

Dalia Samhouri is Regional Manager, Emergency Preparedness and International Health Regulations, Health Emergency Programme, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Cairo, Egypt, which takes the lead role in the design and implementation of the WHO region-wide health security preparedness and readiness to all hazard emergencies. She is a regionally and globally known expert in the area of public health with an extensive experience at the scientific, policy, and managerial levels. She has been working with WHO for 17 years with a strong focus on global health issues. She has been working closely with the 22 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and collaborating with other UN agencies, international organizations, and regional and global technical and academic institutions.

### **Plenary Session 3: Water security and accelerating action on SDG 6**

#### **Ali Karnib**

Ali Karnib is a professor of engineering at the Lebanese University. He is working in many areas of sustainable development and sustainable water resources management in the Arab region. His experience is a combination of academic credentials and consultancy services with United Nations Organizations. He has published over 60 scientific articles, international working papers, reports and technical manuals. He is member of the Editorial Board of the Water Resources Management Journal (Springer Editions) and member of the international scientific committee of the WORLD CONGRESS OF





EWRA on Water Resources and Environment.

#### **Shahira Wahbi**

Shahira Wahbi, a Sudanese ambassador seconded to the League of Arab States (LAS). She is now the Director of the Housing, Water Resources and Disaster Risk Reduction Department at the LAS in Cairo. She joined the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1988, and the League of Arab States in 2000. She worked as a diplomat in a number of Sudanese Mission abroad and before that she volunteered in the Displaced Persons Program in Sudan and worked as a field researcher at the Institute of African and Asian Studies of the University of Khartoum. Since 2000, She represented and headed delegations of LAS in many regional and international fora and technical teams at the Arab, regional, international levels in economic, social, environmental areas and sustainable development. Now she is in charge of water and food security, and Nexus between them, housing, disaster risk reduction, and the head of the technical secretariat of the Arab ministerial councils in these fields at LAS.

#### **Hani Sewilam**

Hani Sewilam is the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt.

#### **Waed Badhib**

Waed Badhib is the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in Yemen. (See full bio above)

#### **Jihad Almahamid**

Jihad Almahamid holds a Ph.D. in Hydrogeology / Integrated Water Resources Management – Groundwater Mathematical Modeling using GIS and Remote Sensing from Freiberg university/Germany. He has more than 28 years of national, regional and international experience in integrated water resources management with focusing on using technical modern tools to manage water resources in proper way such as water modeling (groundwater and surface water), GIS application and remote sensing.

#### **Waleed Zubari**

Walid Zubari is Professor of Water Resources and the Coordinator of the Water Resources Management Program and the UN Water Learning Center for the Arab Region at the Arabian Gulf University. He serves as member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Water Resources Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain. He has a PhD in mathematical modeling of groundwater systems from Colorado State University in 1990. Teaches graduate course in WRM&P in Arid Regions and Hydrogeology, published more than 150 research papers in peer-reviewed journals, conferences, and seminars, and supervised more than 60 MSc and PhD theses. His research interests include management of the WEF Nexus; water resources governance, planning and management; use of numerical models in the management of groundwater systems; and the impacts of climate change on the water sector. Currently serves as the Vice-President



of the GCC Water Science and Technology Association and the Chairman of its Scientific Committee.

#### **Mohannad Abouelrouse**

Mohannad Hesham Abouelrouse is the Founder and CEO of Life From Water, an international non-profit based in Egypt, Germany and Canada with the mission of delivering sustainable clean water solutions to empower underserved, rural communities in Egypt, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with more than 100 projects implemented through a range of Customized water solutions like water taps connections, Water treatment units, solar powered wells as well as water pans. Mohanad is also the Co-founder and CEO of Water Will startup that innovates sustainable and cost-efficient water solutions for both the rural and large-scale treatment units for the commercial markets through a combination between ceramics and nanotechnology. He earned his bachelor's at the German University in Cairo and his MBA at the Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University.

#### **Maria Selin**

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

#### **Hans Peter van der Woude**

Before being appointed as Ambassador of the Netherlands to Lebanon in 2021, Hans Peter Van der Woude served at the Netherlands' Permanent Representation at the European Union in Brussels, as Civilian Representative in Afghanistan (Uruzgan and Kunduz) and at Embassies in Lebanon and Uganda. He filled various posts within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague.

#### **ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award**

##### **Manar Al-Hashash**

DAC Award Steering Committee Member & Global Council Member at WSA, Kuwait.

##### **Alain Daou**

Alain Daou is an Associate Professor in entrepreneurship and Chair of the Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship Track at the Olayan School of Business and Director of the Nature Conservation Center at the American University of Beirut. Through his research, Alain tries to understand how certain types of enterprises such as social enterprises, not-for-profit and small and medium businesses innovate, scale up and have a positive social, environmental and economic impact on stakeholders and society. In 2020, he was chosen as part of the #thinklist of racialized thinkers in responsible business, by the University of Bath's Centre for Business, Organisation and Society. In 2021 the SME impact initiative at Khaddit



Beirut was recognized as an AACSB International Innovation That Inspires.

## Roundtable on voluntary national reviews

### **Mahmoud Ataya**

Mahmoud Ataya is the Director General at Prime Minister Office in State of Palestine.

### **Khaled Mahdi**

Khaled A. Mahdi is the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD) of Kuwait (see full bio on p.5).

### **Fadi Salti Al-Khalil**

Fadi Salti Al-Khalil is Chairman of the Planning and International Cooperation Commission, Syrian Arab Republic.

### **Youssef Ali Mmadi**

Youssef Ali Mmadi is in-charge of macroeconomic programs, General Planning Commission (Comoros). He has a Master 2 in banking and finance. He participated in the launch seminar of the sustainable development program for developing countries. He is in charge of economic and infrastructure programs, one of the tasks of monitoring the implementation of the Comoros emergency plan and the microeconomic framework and the recovery plan for state companies. He is currently the SDG Voluntary National Review Officer for the year 2023.

### **Faisal Hammad**

Faisal Isa Hammad serves as Assistant Undersecretary for Competitiveness and Economic Indicators at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy Overseeing the development of strategies and methodologies for the follow-up and monitoring of Bahrain's information in international reports and indicators; Prior to joining the Ministry of Finance and National Economics, Dr. Faisal worked at the University of Bahrain since 2011 and progressed in the academic ladder until becoming an Assistant Professor in 2017. He is the first certified trainer AWS Academy in the MENA region, which made the University of Bahrain the first AWS academy in the region. He joined the Prime Minister's Program for the Development of Government Cadres in 2019, working with the National COVID-19 Response Team in the operating room and received the Prince Salman bin Hamad Medal for Medical Merit in 2021. He holds a PhD in Business Administration (Information Systems), University of Nottingham, UK, Master's degree in Information Systems, George Washington University, USA, and Bachelor's degree in Information Systems, University of Bahrain.

### **Yara Sindi**

Yara Sindi is Head of Data and Research Department, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia.



### **Maria-Francesca Spatolisano**

Maria-Francesca Spatolisano is Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of UN DESA (See full bio above).

## **Plenary session 4: Just and inclusive energy transitions (SDG 7)**

### **Rabia Ferroukhi**

Rabia Ferroukhi is an international economic development expert dedicated to sustainable energy and progressive socio-economic development. She is currently the Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre at IRENA where she oversees the Agency's work on knowledge, policy and finance, including: authoritative renewable energy data and information; analysis of best practice in renewable energy policy and finance; quantitative and qualitative analysis of the socio-economics of the energy transition, including jobs, gender, just transition and related development, industrial and labor policy implication; and advice and technical support to countries, tailoring policy design and recommendation to their specific socio-economic conditions. Ms. Ferroukhi holds a Masters in Applied Economics and a Ph.D. in Economics from the American University in Washington DC.

### **Noura bint Turki Al-Saud**

Noura bint Turki Al-Saud is the Founding Partner of AEON strategy, an integrated sustainable development advisory firm that focuses on developing and delivering holistic approaches to development through environmentally and socio-economically conscious approaches. She is also a Co-Founder of AEON COLLECTIVE, a cross disciplinary Waqf (non profit endowment) that advocates sustainable practices for inclusive and equitable development. Her experience spans over 15 years with expertise in energy and climate policy, corporate sustainability as well as social and economic development. She actively leads and direct many projects at Aeon. Her non-profit work focuses on a human centric approach to development, with a specific focus on environmental conservation and cultural preservation. She holds a masters degree in International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) where she took an interdisciplinary approach to development and international cooperation. She focused on Urban & social development, as well as Energy systems, earth sciences and energy and climate policy with an emphasis on the intersection between science, policy and markets. She has previously held the role of assistant director at The King Faisal Center for Research (KFCRIS), a think tank based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where she also headed the Unit on Energy Studies, focusing on the geopolitics of energy and energy markets. She is a Founding Board Member of Albaydah Development Society and an advisory board member of the King Abdullah University for Science and technology's (KAUST) Circular Carbon Initiative. She also served as a member of the IEA's Energy Efficiency Industry Advisory Board.



### **Jamal Saghir**

Jamal Sahir is an economist and expert in infrastructure, energy, agriculture, climate change and economics with over 25 years of experience at the World Bank Group directing various department related to energy and infrastructure, water, transport, agriculture and rural development, environment, and climate change. He is currently Professor of Practice at the Institute for the Study of International Development at McGill University; Distinguished Fellow for Economics and Development, at the Institute of Financial Economics/American University of Beirut; and Senior Fellow at the Payne Institute, Colorado School of Mines. He is also Special Advisor to the Executive Committee of Bollore Transport and Logistics, France, and Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Climate/SDGs Debt Swap Mechanism at UN-ESCWA. He also serves on several corporate Boards worldwide. including CICA S.A, Switzerland; Investment and Capital Bank, Lebanon FFA Private Bank, Dubai; the Global Center on Adaptation, Netherlands, and the Council for Sustainable Development Goals, The World Government Summit, Dubai. Mr. Saghir graduated in Economics from Laval University in Canada. He has contributed to over 60 publications, essays, and books. He is the author of a recent Book (Stories of a World Banker). He has attended management executive programs at the Harvard Business School, Cambridge University, and the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).

### **Ramzi AbouSaid**

Ramzi AbouSaid is a Lebanese researcher and electrical engineer pioneered in renewable energy field since 30 years. In his carrier he put emphasis on optimizing electrical energy generation from various renewable resources. Ramzi has many publications in the field of Solar Photovoltaics, wind, hydroelectric, thermoelectricity, hybrid and Micro Grids. He is currently the Managing Director of ASACO General Trade and Contracting, a local Lebanese company pioneered in Renewable Energy systems with reginal and Global presence. He has also been the President of the Lebanese Solar Energy Society for the years 2012-2016 and currently the Vice president and senior board member.

### **Mustafa Suleiman Abdel Hadi**

Mustafa Suleiman Abdel Hadi is a professor at the University of Wadi Elshatti, Libya specialized in Marine Ecology. He holds a BSc degree in Scientific and Environmental studies, MSc in Environmental Biology and PhD in Marine Ecology from University of Swansea, Wales, UK. He held the position of Libya Global Environmental Facilities (GEF) operational and political focal point and Libya focal point of green climate fund (GCF). Administrative Committee member of Environmental General Authority (EGA) of Libya 2012-2015. Candidate for Minister of Environment in the Libyan Government 2015. In charge of all collaboration between Libyan government and UNDP related to environmental issues. Adviser to the Minster of Environment in 2016-2020 and 2022. Head of President of the General Assembly of the



Southern Experts Foundation involved heavily in the political crisis in Libya since 2011.

#### **Bana Kaloti**

Bana Kaloti has over 20 years of experience in the UN system, governmental and non-governmental sectors in humanitarian and development affairs. Prior to joining UNOPS in 2013 as the Sub-Regional Business Development Advisor in Amman, Ms. Kaloti worked for the Iraq Resident Coordinator, the UN Development Group Iraq Trust Fund-UNDP and the UN Children’s Fund in Palestine. Previously, Ms. Kaloti worked as a Senior Director at the General Directorate for Training and Administrative Development with the Palestinian Authority. She has also worked on technical assistance projects in Palestine, and served as a Board Member for a number of non-governmental organizations. Prior to her appointment as Director for the Middle East Region in 2015, Ms. Kaloti was the Director of the UNOPS Office in Amman.

### **Plenary session 5: Sustainable industrial development and rethinking supply chains (SDG 9)**

#### **Ali Awdeh**

Ali Awdeh is Director of the Research Department at the Union of Arab Banks since 2010. He holds a PhD in Finance from City University in London in 2005 and the title of full professor from the Lebanese University. He is a researcher in Banking, Monetary Policy, Sustainable Finance, and Financing for Development.

#### **Nada Lachaal**

Nada Lachaal is Managing Director of Industrial and Technological Infrastructure at the Ministry of Industry in Tunisia (since 2020). She has more than 20 years of experience in the field of industrial development, technology transfer, innovation, development of value chains and clusters, cooperation projects, etc. Head of the project for the development of the Industrial and innovation strategy for Horizon 2035. General Manager of the Packtec Technical Center (2019).

#### **Neemat Frem**

Neemat G. Frem is a Lebanese politician, businessman, and Member of Parliament. He is the CEO of the multinational company INDEVCO Group and the founder of “Better Lebanon” initiative, a national approach to boost economic, social, and governance reforms. Frem is also the president of the executive board of “Project Watan”, a political movement aiming to build a state of freedom, prosperity, and sovereignty. He is an active member of the Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Parliamentary Commission and served as the Chair of the National Economy, Trade, Industry and Planning Parliamentary Commission in his previous parliamentary tenure. Frem is deeply committed to promoting inter-religious dialogue, has founded, and become a board member of many associations in this field. In 2018, he received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from Holy Spirit University of Kaslik. Frem’s remarkable achievements in politics, business,



and social issues make him an influential figure in Lebanon.

#### **Reem Albaghdadi**

Reem albaghdadi is co-founder and CEO of Rimara Pak, an industrial company established in 2005. She is the chairwoman of the Jordan Forum for Business and Professional Women since 2021. She held several positions including: Jordan Private sector representative at the G20 Summit / Women Empower Alliance; Vice president: Industrial Women Council / Amman Chamber of Industry; Member: Women Economic Empowerment Task Force: 2022, established by The Jordanian Prime Ministry of Jordan; Board Member: Advisory Council for Packing and Packaging Sector / Jordan Chamber of Industry; Member: Sectorial Technical Skills Council for Plastic Industries / Jordan Chamber of Industry. She won the 2018 Inspirational Business Woman, Business Acceleration Program, Derien Institution, Australia –and the Jordanian Women Business Entrepreneur Award: Talal Abu Ghazaleh University Collage for Innovation.

#### **Bernard Ghanem**

Bernard Ghanem is currently a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Deputy Director of the AI Initiative at KAUST. His research interests lie in computer vision and machine learning with emphasis on topics in video understanding, 3D recognition, and theoretical foundations of deep learning. He received his Bachelor's degree from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 2005 and his MS/PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2010. His work has received several awards and honors, including several Best Paper Awards, a Google Faculty Research Award in 2015 (1st in MENA for Machine Perception), and a Abdul Hameed Shoman Arab Researchers Award for Big Data and Machine Learning in 2020. He has co-authored more than 150 papers in his field. He serves as an Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence and has served as Area Chair for the main computer vision and machine learning conferences.

#### **Kaltham Alghanem**

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

#### **Adel Darwish**

Adel Darwish is Director, Regional Office of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for the Arab States, covering 22 Arab countries. He has more than 20 years of experience in the field of ICT and



telecommunications, spanning previous job positions at an incumbent operator, start-up operator, and regulator. In his different roles, Mr. Darwish has been involved with international relations, not only in the ITU, but also in organizations including ICANN, GSMA, the GCC Council, the League of Arab States, Arab Regulatory Network (AREGNET), and SAMENA Council. He is known for his leadership of the GCC Council Roaming Working Group from 2009 to 2020, during which time the group achieved a major reduction in roaming rates in the region. Mr. Darwish was also active in international bilateral projects and negotiations both within the Arab region and beyond. Mr. Darwish, with the experience from both private and public sectors, is committed to strengthening regional ICT evolution as well as further enhancing the role of the ITU at the Arab regional level, coordinating globally with other regions.

### Spotlight Segment 3

#### Ahmed Zaazaa

Ahmed Zaazaa is a lecturer and researcher, focusing on social justice in housing and planning. Zaazaa cofounded two entities; the latest is “10 Tooba: Applied Research on the Built Environment”. Through 10 Tooba, Zaazaa contributed to conducting research and manuals concerning spatial equalities and participatory upgrading fields. Also, he leads participatory projects with deprived and marginalized communities in different informal areas in Cairo. Zaazaa is also the co-founder of “Madd Platform” that works closely with local communities, in participatory research, planning and advocacy.

#### Randa al-Chidiac

Randa Al-Chidiac is currently the Director of the American University in Dubai Library. She is a Committee Member of the MENA Division in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). She was the President of the Lebanese Library Association for two terms. Randa is an official IFLA trainer in the International Advocacy Programme (IAP) which is a program designed to promote and support the role libraries can play in the planning and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. She was a speaker at numerous conferences and hosted webinar sessions and workshops on the SDGs in Libraries. Randa holds an MA degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Wales-Aberystwyth, as well as a BA degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Balamand, Lebanon.

#### Loor Masri

Loor Masri is the Co-Founder of LaCom Magazine for YoungPreneursan Arabic magazine which aims to educate and connect with the younger generation in the business world, and a Junior editor at the Middle East Business Magazine. Loor has always aimed to encourage individuals to thrive in their businesses & pursue their dreams.

### Special session 7: Climate security in Arab States: lessons learned and scaling-up

#### Nuran Atef

Nuran Atef is the Regional Lead for Africa and Middle East at the United Nations Environment Programme





Finance Initiative (UNEP FI). Atef has around 10 years of experience in sustainable finance starting her journey at the Commercial International Bank in Egypt before joining the UNEP FI. Through her professional experience, Atef has been exposed to a spectrum of sustainability efforts ranging from institutional strategy and policy development, to multi-stakeholder engagement through the finance industry, and diverse sectors from the real economy. Atef’s experience entails research, social and environmental risk management, contributing to the development of guidelines and tools, capacity building and awareness raising, all to advocate for sustainable finance business practices that ensure a just transition. Atef graduated from the American University in Cairo (AUC) with a Bachelor Degree in Architectural Engineering, and holds a Master Degree in Sustainable Development also from AUC.

#### **Nada El Agizy**

Nada El Agizy is the Director of Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Department at the League of Arab States (see full bio above).

#### **Amel Azab**

Amel M. Azab, from Egypt, graduated in 1996 from Irrigation and Hydraulics Department, Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University. MSc. holder from same Faculty in Water Resources Management and was awarded her PhD Degree in Surface water quality management from UNESCO-IHE and TU-Delft, the Netherlands in January 2012. Her major research field is surface water quality, wetlands and ecosystems management. She started her career in 1997 as a staff member of Water Resources Research Institute NWRC-MWRI, Egypt; in 2000 she joined the Hydraulics Research Institute, as research assistant and senior technical officer of the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network (NBCBN), since 2009 she joined UNESCOIHE, Delft, the Netherlands as the manager of the NBCBN regional network until 2019. Since 2019 she is the chief of board of trustees and the executive director of NBCBN regional network foundation, which is registered under the Egyptian Government and a member network of CapNet-UNDP. She Joined the Arab Water Council (AWC) in 2018 as an expert in water resources management and in 2021 she became the coordinator of the SDG Climate Facility Project. She has more than 18 years of experience in regional and international cooperation, capacity development and knowledge sharing, coordination and management of several collaborative research and training programs in water related fields.

#### **Dena Assaf**

Dena Assaf is the United Nations Resident Coordinator for the United Arab Emirates and the Deputy Commissioner-General of the United Nations at Expo 2020. She has been with the United Nations for over 20 years in various senior management positions and advisory roles in both UN headquarters, supporting the Arab region, and in country offices. She has worked with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Department of Peace Keeping (UN DPKO), and United Nations Sustainable Development Group



(UNSDG). While with UN Women, Ms. Assaf was the Regional Director for the Arab States, and worked to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Arab region. While with UN Women she spearheaded a new regional strategy to strengthen the economic, political, and social rights of women in the Arab region. Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Assaf was in a leadership role in establishing the national development planning process for Palestine and led Palestine's first several national development plans. She has also held academic positions, as well as advisory roles in civil society. Ms. Assaf is an engineer with degrees in Architecture, Urban Design, and Urban Planning.

#### **Maria Selin**

Maria Selin is head of Regional Development Cooperation for MENA at the Embassy of Sweden in Amman, Jordan (see full bio above).

#### **Nadim Farajalla**

Nadim Farajalla started out his graduate academic studies in irrigation engineering attaining an MS from Utah State University in Logan, Utah, USA and then an MS and a PhD in environmental engineering from the University of Oklahoma, USA. He worked in the private sector first as a senior scientist at Stone Environmental, Inc., Montpelier, Vermont, USA and then at Dar al-Handasah (Shair and partners), Beirut, Lebanon as a Senior Environmental Engineer on projects which focused on water resources and associated infrastructure; environmental impact studies and management plans, hydrological studies and erosion assessment and mitigation. Mr. Farajalla founded and headed the Land, Water and Environment Department at the consulting firm SETS International with projects in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, and Oman. He is the director of the Climate Change and the Environment Program at the American University of Beirut's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs. His research focuses on the impact of climate change on human settlements and activities through extreme events of flooding and droughts; impact of climate change on security; the nexus of water-energy-food and climate change with focus on adaptation and resilience.

#### **Oscar Ekdahl**

Oscar Ekdahl has worked for the World Food Programme (WFP) since 2009 with a focus on resilience, climate change and disaster risk reduction. He has broad experience from multiple countries, including Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen and Iraq. Currently he is based in WFP's Regional Bureau in Cairo where he is the Regional Head for Resilience & Livelihoods and provides strategic leadership and technical assistance to WFP operations and programmes across 15 countries. In 2018, Oscar was based in Dakar, Senegal, as resilience programme support for the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) in the G5 Sahel countries. Oscar also has experience working in WFP HQ in Rome, in the Policy, Planning and Strategy Division, with a focus on corporate policy making, evidence and analysis, coordination of UN climate negotiations and climate finance mechanisms. Before joining WFP, Oscar worked with non-



government and development organizations such as Mercy Corps and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

#### **Paola Pagliani**

Paola has been working UNDP/RBAS since 2018. Before joining the Regional Hub as Regional Programme Coordinator, she was part of the Arab Human Development Report Team. Prior to that, she worked with the Corporate Strategy and Governance Unit of UNDP Executive Office since 2012. Previously, Paola worked at the Human Development report Office, providing advice to country office on their national human development reports and contributing to three global Human Development Reports. She also worked in the UNDP Country Office in Serbia, where she coordinated the policy unit, with a focus on issues related to social inclusion, and area-based development. Paola joined UNDP from the civil society sector, where she managed post conflict and local development projects. She also worked as researcher at the University of Bologna, Italy. She graduated with honors from the University of Bologna in political economy and has post-graduate studies in human rights and humanitarian interventions from the same institution.

#### **Wadid Erian**

Wadid Erian is member of UNISDR Regional-STAG since 2017 and GAR advisory group since 2010. He authored several reports including “White Paper \_ A Regional Climate Security Initiative in the Arab Region”; “Achieving SDGs in Countries Affected By Conflicts.”; the UNDRR GAR Special Report on “Drought Complexity”. He is Founder and General Coordinator of the Arab Geographical Information Room – AGIR-LAS/AWC, and Programme Coordinator of the League of Arab States - Climate Risk Nexus Initiative (LAS-CRNI) since 2015. He held several positions including: Senior Advisor, CCA, and DRR at LAS (2014- 2016), Director of the Land and Water Uses division in the Arab Center for the studies of Drylands and Arid zones – ACSAD/LAS (2002 – 2014); General Coordinator for the Project “Natural Resource Studies for Potential Agriculture Land Use Planning in Sudan” (2006-2019), Lead Author in the IPCC/SREX WGII report (2009 – 2012), and Advisor and author of the World Bank Flagship Report, (2010 – 2012). Senior Advisor at UNDP in the ACRI (2014 – 2015), World Bank consultant (2016 - 2017), UNDESA consultant (2018-2020), and FAO consultant (2018-2020). He has a long list of applied research and studies that covered more than 100 different countries in the world on the topics of “Sustainable Development, Drought, Land degradation, Vegetation Cover, Land use planning, and Natural Resource studies.”

### **Special session 8: Leaving no one behind: mainstreaming ageing in sustainable development**

#### **Sara Salman**

Sara Salman is a public policy specialist, with particular expertise in ageing, migration, and democratic governance in the Arab region. She has extensive experience in institutional strengthening, developing



innovative knowledge products, and managing international projects. Dr. Salman has worked with a number of international organizations including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA). She currently leads UNESCWA's work on ageing and migration in the region. Sara received her PhD degree from American University, Washington D.C. in 2017.

#### **Ismail Lubbad**

Ismail Lubbad has been working in the field of statistics, demography, research and policy analysis for more than 25 years at the United Nations organizations, government, civil society organizations, and academic research centers. He holds a PhD in Demography and a M.Sc. in Applied Statistics from the School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHSS) in Paris and the University of Paris-Est. Mr. Lubbad joined the UN in 1999 and has been working for the Demographic and Social Statistics Section at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) since 2008. During this time, he developed a region-wide programme on population and housing censuses. Throughout his career at the UN system, Mr. Lubbad fostered a cooperation between the UN agencies and other partners active in the Arab region. He has provided technical support to Arab countries in demography and statistics including elaboration, monitoring and reporting related SDGs indicators.

#### **Nabil Kronfol**

Nabil Kronfol is a professor of Health Policy and Management and the Founder and Honorary President of the Lebanese HealthCare Management Association in Lebanon and the co-founder of the Center for studies on Aging (Lebanon). He received the medical degree from AUB in 1969 and did a full residency training in Pediatrics and became a board certified in 1972. He then joined the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston and graduated with a Doctorate in Public Health in Health Services Administration. Mr. Kronfol established the College of Health Sciences in Bahrain, four schools of nursing in the UAE and the Planning Unit at Lebanon's MOH. He also contributed to the establishment of several faculties of Medicine and Public Health in the MENA Region. All through his career, Mr. Kronfol has been an advisor to the Ministries of Health in Lebanon, and many other countries in the Middle East, as well as to international and regional organizations.

#### **Samar Al-Sibai**

She held several leadership positions in the Syrian government, the most recent of which was Director of Social Affairs and Labor in Homs Governorate. She also headed the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs acting as minister. This commission is a body that aims to ameliorate the status of the Syrian family, works for its protection and cohesion, preserves its identity and values, and works to enhance the role of the family in the development process and deepen its role in society through a number of suggestions, studies and researches related to family affairs. She holds a degree in urban engineering.



### **Sawsan Mohammad Sa'ada**

Sawsan Mohammad Sa'ada is the country director of HelpAge International in Jordan which strives to fulfil the rights of older people. Previously, she led programs in CARE and the International Medical Corps (IMC) of economic empowerment, protection and civic participation for fourteen years targeting women, girls, youth and persons with disabilities from Iraqi, Syrian and Palestinian refugee and host communities including work in Gaziantep. As a free-lance trainer, she led on the capacity building for the case managers teams in the UN agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) over the past 5 years on responding to the protection needs of children and women. Added to this, she supported local NGOs and CBOs in building their capacities in case management and management skills. She holds an MA in social work and am an ILO certified facilitator of participatory gender audit (PGA).

### **Imran Riza**

Imran Riza is the current UN Deputy Special Coordinator, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon since the 1st of November 2022. Mr. Riza brings over 35 years of international experience across the United Nations System, mainly in field settings, including through his latest assignment as United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator. Mr. Riza holds a master's degree in Social-Cultural Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from McGill University. He is a national of Pakistan and is fluent in English, French, and Urdu.

### **Said ElBanna**

Said Elbanna is Professor of Strategic Management at Qatar University and Director of Center for Entrepreneurship & Organizational Excellence at Qatar University (QU). He has more than 150 scholarly publications and serves on the editorial board of several international journals. He received 23 regional and international awards, including the best paper awards from several top tier international journals, the Abdul Hameed Shoman Arab Researcher Award and being featured in the Stanford University's list of top 2 per cent scientists in the world (2020 - 2022). He built up a valuable professional competence by conducting more than 100 executive workshops and consultations, and serving as a strategic advisor. More importantly, Mr. Elbanna believes that the genuine mission of educational institutions is to contribute to shaping the future of nations by enabling people to reach and expand their potential and inculcating moral values in them. Toward this mission, he is serving now as the Director of Center for Entrepreneurship & Organizational Excellence at Qatar University.



## Special session 9: Sustainable reconstruction: a framework for accelerating an inclusive and sustainable recovery in the Arab region

### **Nagwa Lachine**

Nagwa Lachine is Programme Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States.

### **Rania Hedeya**

Prior to her current role as a regional representative (a.i.) of UN-HABITAT, Rania Hedeya worked for eight years in programming at UNDP, in the area of decentralisation and local development. Prior to that, she was a Results based Management Officer at UNDP, working on strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation. She serves as a member of board in a number of Urban related bodies, aligning urban initiatives in Egypt to the international principles and dialogues on sustainable urbanisation.

### **Fumiko Fukuoka**

Fumiko Fukuoka is Partnerships and Communications Senior Adviser, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP

### **Renata Rubian**

Renata Rubian is Policy Adviser on Inclusive Growth, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), UNDP

### **Ahmed Riad**

Ahmed Riad is Co-chair of the UAE ARISE network for Disaster Risk Reduction, UAE

### **Raed Jabbar**

Raed Jabbar is Director General of Labour and Vocational training, Ministry of Labour and Social affairs, Iraq

### **Abdi Abdullahi**

Abdi Abdullahi is Director General of Labour and Vocational training, Ministry of Labour and Social affairs, Iraq

### **Naim Hassan**

Naim Hassan is Deputy Director General, Ministry of Transport, Jordan

### **Muhammad Sayed**

Muhammad Sayed is Manager of the Regional and Local Development Division, Ministry of Planning, Iraq

### **Jamal Itani**

Jamal Itani is Mayor of Beirut, Lebanon



### **Gonzalo Pizarro**

Gonzalo Pizarro is Regional Policy Adviser and Team Lead on SDG Integration, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States.

### **Plenary session 6: New inclusive and sustainable pathways for cities (SDG 11)**

#### **Maysoun Ibrahim**

Maysoun Ibrahim is the President of the Palestinian Syndicate for Information Sciences and Technology and a professional in ICT for Development. She is a Board member of the Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence and chairing the council's Incubation Committee and the Innovation Supporters Network; and previously chaired the 2019 national forum on the 4th Industrial Revolution. She is a member of the Senate and Management Board of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Slovenia; the Board of Trustees of Arab American University of Palestine; and acted as a consultant for UN-ESCWA on Smart Sustainable Cities and Smart Digital Solutions for Urban Resilience in the Arab Region. She holds a PhD in Technology for Development with a focus on Smart Sustainable Cities. She is a researcher with a rich track of publications, a judge for numerous national and international competitions, and a reviewer and committees' member of highly recognized research conferences and journals.

#### **Yousef Al-Shawarba**

Prior to assuming his Mayoral post in August 2017, Yousef Al-Shawarbeh was inter alia Minister of Political Development and Parliamentary Affairs (2016). Over 15 years, he held various positions on local government and municipal affairs, legal and legislative field. Between 2013-2016, among other functions, he was the Deputy Mayor of Amman and Vice Chairman of Investment Committee at the Greater Amman Municipality. In 2014, he was a Member of the Decentralization Law Formulation Committee, a Member of Human Rights National Plan Formulation Committee, and a Member of Amman Sister Cities High Committee. Mr. Al-Shawarbeh holds a PhD degree in constitutional law from Al-Neelain University in Sudan. He also holds a bachelor's degree in law from Al-Ahliyya Amman University – Faculty of Law in Jordan.

#### **Fatima Amzil**

Fatima Amzil is Deputy Mayor of Agadir Municipality. She is in charge of social affairs and human development. She previously was Director of the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Competencies of the Ministry of Labour and Professional Insertion Morocco. Member of several associations concerned with women and family affairs and the economic empowerment of women and youth.

#### **Mohammad Khashashneh**

Mohammad Khashashneh has worked as a Director of Hazardous Substances and waste management, Ministry of Environment, Jordan, from 1999 to June 30, 2019. He is presently the Secretary-General at Ministry of Environment, Jordan. He was elected by the Asia and Pacific states group to be a Bureau



Member of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee -INC to end plastic pollution, including the marine environment. and Sustainable Pathways into the Cities (SDG 11).

#### **Moataz Yeken**

Moataz Yeken is an Economic Development expert with more than 24 years of career with prominent national and international organizations. He is currently the Managing Director of “Wabel Consulting” and he is also advising in his personal capacity several international development organizations on topics including Private Sector Development, Urban Economic and Financial Resilience, Public-Private Partnerships and MSMEs. Throughout his career he participated in designing, implementing and evaluating a number of regional and national projects in the domains of integrated economic development, promoting private sector led growth and supporting small and medium enterprises as well as infrastructure development planning.

#### **Rania Hedeya**

Representative (a.i.), Regional Office for Arab States, UN-HABITAT (See full bio above).

#### **Joseph Schechla**

Joseph Schechla coordinates the Geneva- and Cairo-based Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) of Habitat International Coalition (HIC). Joseph is a founder of HLRN, which is the thematic structure of HIC dedicated to creating knowledge, building capacity and supporting the advocacy of HIC Members to uphold and further develop the human rights norms related to habitat: adequate housing, water, livelihood and the associated process human rights in international forums, foremostly the UN Human Rights System. As a UN official, he also has represented Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Palestine and Tunisia, and served as consultant for ILO and UNSMIL. Born in the USA, with an academic background in international relations (foreign policy v. international law) in the US and Germany, Joseph specializes in the Middle East/North Africa region, where he has lived for 25 years.

#### **Abir Saksouk**

Abir Saksouk graduated as an architect in 2005, and later did her masters in Urban Development Planning. She is co-founder of Public Works Studio. Her primary focus includes urbanism and law, property and shared space, and right to the city of marginalized communities. She is active in exploring how local organizing could be employed in actively shaping the future of cities. Abir is also a member of the Legal Agenda and co-founder of Dictaphone Group.

### **Special session 10: Addressing child food poverty in early childhood in the Arab region by mobilizing the food, health, and social protection systems**

#### **Hicham Jadaoun**

Independent Consultant Jadaoun is a trainer, facilitator, researcher, and evaluation expert with extended





professional practice. He is an accredited trainer in mental toughness, social and behavioral change, and social innovation and design thinking. Hisham Holding a master's degree in public health from the American University of Beirut, he has worked with governments, NGOs, and the ICRC across sectors including, leadership, education, gender, economic recovery, social cohesion, governance, and social accountability.

#### **Adele Khodr**

UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Adele Khodr resumed her role as UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa in March 2022. Ms. Khodr has been working with UNICEF since 1990. With over 30 years of service in UNICEF, she brings strong and dynamic leadership skills and strategic management experience combined with a deep understanding of UNICEF's work in both emergency and development contexts across four of UNICEF's seven regions. Her foundation expertise is in child protection.

#### **Abdulahakim Elwaer**

Abdulahakim Elwaer is FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa.

#### **Serge Nakouzi**

Serge Nakouzi is the Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (see full bio above).

#### **Ahmed AL Mandari**

Ahmed Al Mandari is WHO Regional Director for Eastern Mediterranean Region Executive Board at its 143rd session and assumed office on 1 June 2018. A native of Oman, he has made a substantial, positive contribution to the development and modernization of Oman's health system, which has witnessed qualitative improvements in recent years, particularly in areas such as patient safety. Mr. Al Mandhari was Head of Quality Management and Development at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital from 2005.

#### **Christoph Hamelmann**

Christoph Hamelmann was appointed Chef de Cabinet, Regional Director's Office WHO, on 1 April 2021. He was the WHO Representative for the Islamic Republic of Iran from 15 April 2018 to 31 March 2021. Prior to this, he was Head of the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development in Venice, a centre of excellence focusing on determinants of health, health equity, and investment approaches for health and well-being in the context of a people-centered approach to universal health coverage.

#### **Corinne Fleischer**

WFP Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa and Eastern Europe. Ms. Corinne Fleischer, a



national of Switzerland, was appointed as WFP Regional Director for the Middle East and Northern Africa in December 2020. In addition to her role as Regional Director, Ms. Fleischer was appointed as Corporate Response Director for the Ukraine operation in February 2022.

#### **Lara Nasreddine**

Lara Nasreddine holds a Ph.D., LD, and is Professor of Human Nutrition at the American University of Beirut where she is heavily involved in research, teaching, and community service. Ms. Nasreddine's main research interests focus on dietary assessment and the investigation of diet-disease relationships, with a focus on the pediatric population. Her scholarly work includes more than 100 scientific publications in internationally renowned journals. She was recently awarded the designated board professorship at AUB and won the Abdul Hameed Shoman Award for Arab Researchers in 2014. She has worked on numerous occasions as a nutrition consultant for WHO and FAO.

#### **Nuha Salheen**

Nuha Salheen is Director nutrition department, Federal Ministry of Health, Sudan.

#### **Karima Al-Hada'a**

Karima Al-Hada'a is with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariate, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen. She led the development of Yemen's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan and the establishment of Yemen's SUN Networks. She is the Convenor for FSDs in Yemen and led the national food systems dialogues. Currently, she is supporting the national efforts of Enhanced Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Enabling Nexus Mechanisms: Towards Sustainable Food and Nutrition Interventions in Yemen.

#### **Nazia Habib**

Nazia Habib is Associate Professor and Head of Research Centre, Centre for Resilience and Sustainable Development (CRSD), University of Cambridge, UK, which has three critical focuses: sustainable investment, responsible innovation, and good governance.

#### **Atef El-Shitany**

Atef El-Shitany has 30 years of experience in the field of population, reproductive health, and social protection, where he contributed to the drafting and implementation of national population & reproductive health policies and strategies, and implementation of many national programs addressing the development, poverty reduction, and health. He served in Egypt's MOHP as the First Undersecretary of the Ministry of Population and as the Rapporteur at the National Population Council. He is currently working as a consultant in MOSS, developing social protection policies, and designing and operating health conditionality systems with respective agencies. He holds a master's degree in public health.



## Special session 11: Enabling the circular carbon economy: accelerating sustainable industry (cement, steel and chemicals) in the Arab region through deployment, innovation and cooperation

### **Radia Sedaoui**

Ms. Radia Sedaoui is the Chief of Section in the Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster of the UN Economic Social Commission of West Asia (ESCWA) (see full bio p. 19).

### **Mashaal Saud Al Shalan**

As an advocate of sustainable and equitable development, Mashaal co-founded AEON COLLECTIVE, a cross-disciplinary Waqf that produces, curates and disseminates fact-based & culturally informed knowledge around sustainability, actively building capacities for a dynamic “knowledge community” through diverse initiatives. Mashaal also co-founded Aeon Strategy, where she advises on climate change policy, socioeconomic development and sustainability, and works with government entities and the private sector. Over the past nine years, Mashaal has acquired a deep understanding of the dynamics surrounding international climate negotiations and climate related policies and regulations. She has co-authored several papers on climate policies, and continues to engage in global forums for on the topics of climate change, neutrality targets and sustainability.

### **Fadhl Zayed Fadhl Ahmed**

Fadhl Zayed Fadhl Ahmed is Senior Specialist, Ministry of Energy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

### **Mohamed Salaheldin Ahmed**

Mohamed Salaheldin earned his PhD in Industrial Engineering from Production Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering; Alexandria University. He earned his M.Sc. in Industrial and Management Engineering 2008 from Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport, Alexandria, Egypt. He earned his B.Sc. in Electrical Communication and Electro-Physics 1996 from Electrical Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering; Alexandria University. He is certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt and UNIDO qualified Energy Management System Expert. He has joined SIDPEC, a leading petrochemical company in Egypt since 1999 and he is currently the company Quality, Energy & Excellence General Manager. He is responsible for the operation of quality, energy, and Knowledge management systems. He focused on improvement and optimization of all company’s processes regarding. He works as a freelancer consultant and trainer for quality, statistical analysis, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. He also works as a lecturer in Productivity and Quality Institute (PQI), Arab Academy of Science and Technology (AASTMT), and in Faculty of Engineering, Pharos University (PUA). He has written or co-authored research papers and articles on multi-criteria decision making in quality and energy efficiency.



### **Nael Alhosami**

Nael Alhosami is General Manager of the Amman Chamber of Industry – Jordan since 2013 and Secretary General of the Arab Federation of Engineering Industries since 2021. He obtained a PH.D. in business economics from the University of Jordan in the year 2009. Previously, during the period (2008-2012), he was the General Manager and Senior Researcher of Envision Consulting Group/ Jordan where he managed several consulting and research projects, also since the year 1999 he was the General Manager of Specialized Jordanian Cables Manufacturing Company. Furthermore, Mr. Al Husami worked in the field of higher education in Jordan as an assistant professor and lecturer of financing and business economics at the University of Jordan, Petra University, and Hashemite University, also he has several published research. Mr. Al Husami is a Member of several National Boards and Committees. He is a Board Member of Trustees of Jordan University of Science & Technology, a Steering Committee Member of the National Center for Innovation/ The Higher Council for Science & Technology, a Representative of the Industrial Sector at the Public-Private Partnership Committee, a Member of the Local Development Sector Committee/ Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

### **Faisal Al Qurooni**

Faisal Al Qurooni is Senior Specialist, Ministry of Energy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

### **Soufiane Hsina**

Soufiane HSINA has extensive experience in business development, project management, IT, marketing, and customer experience. In January 2015, Soufiane joined Ciments du Maroc, a local subsidiary of Heidelberg Materials Group, as a Business Development Manager. During his tenure, he demonstrated good expertise in defining and achieving development objectives, launching new products, and monitoring key performance indicators. Since 2021, Soufiane has been working as a Project Manager for the Algae microalgae R&D project in Safi. He played a crucial role in finalizing the pilot stage, which included completing the drying process and successfully commercializing the final product. In addition, he has forged numerous partnerships with local and international institutions such as research centers, universities, and cement companies to support algae production. Soufiane holds a master's degree in Marketing and Business Development from ENCG SETTAT and a bachelor's degree in International Trade & Marketing from ESG-CI Paris.

### **Iva Brkic**

Iva is an energy analyst who has been dedicatedly pursuing her career in the energy industry internationally. She has worked for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, PetroChina in Beijing, energy consultancy Westwood Global Energy Group (WGEG) in London. In 2018, Iva joined Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she worked as an energy, trade and sustainable development specialist at the



Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations and World Trade Organization in Geneva. After foreign service, Iva joined the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva to work on sustainable energy portfolio. At UNECE, Iva is leading work on Carbon Neutrality and is working closely with the Member States and policy makers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region.

#### **Rana Ghoniem**

Rana oversees the organization's strategy and programmes in promoting a low carbon infrastructure powering industrialization and supporting the decarbonisation of industry in developing and emerging economies. She has a long-standing experience of 20 years in designing and implementing programmes in the energy sector in Africa and the MENA region. She also coordinates the organization's engagement and partnerships in global energy fora. She also leads on behalf of UNIDO global initiatives such as the Clean Energy Ministerial's Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI).

### **Special session 12: Inclusive climate adaptation and mitigation of human settlements in the Arab region**

#### **Amal Charif**

Amal Charif, Founder and Managing Director of HalTek, has more than 15 years of experience in the graphic design industry. Besides her work as a freelance graphic designer, Charif has devoted much of her time to spreading awareness and advocating for matters related to people with disabilities in Lebanon with a focus on accessibility for all. She was infected with polio at the age of one year and three months. In 2019, Charif founded the HalTek Association with a group of individuals with disabilities. HalTek is an association that works to change stereotypes of people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, to present various models through traditional media and social to spread awareness and advocacy.

#### **Tehmina Akhtar**

Tehmina Akhtar is Senior Strategic Advisor, Regional Bureau for Arab States UNDP, NY Headquarters (See full bio above)

#### **Louay Fallouh**

Louay Fallouh is a Syrian national with healthcare and international development experience. He is also the Disability Inclusion Focal Point for the Resident Coordinator Office in Damascus and worked as a lecturer at Al Rashid University in Daraa, Syria. Louay has worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since October 2014 as a Project Manager in the Disability Inclusion unit based in Damascus, Syria. Before that, he worked as a Specialist Doctor at the Damascus Directorate of Health, Ibn-Alnafis Hospital, in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and as a Consultant for the International Organization of Migration (IOM). Louay earned a PhD in advanced medical science from Chiba University in Japan in 2010. He also holds a Bachelor/Medical Doctor from Damascus University, Medical school. In



addition, he received his Certification of Specialization in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from the Syrian Board of Medical Association in Damascus in 2014.

#### **Ayman Zohri**

Ayman Zohry (Ph.D. University of Sussex) is an Expert on Population and Migration Studies based in Cairo, Egypt. He is the founding president of The Egyptian Society for Migration Studies (EGYMIG). Mr. Zohry is also an Adjunct Professor in the American University in Cairo (AUC) and Cairo University. He is the chair of the Scientific Panel on Migration, Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) and former chair of the first Scientific Panel on International Migration, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) 2011-2014. His current research interests include internal migration and urbanization, labor migration, irregular migration, migration governance, and migration policies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Europe. Mr. Zohry served as a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies, 2005 - 2013. Currently, he serves as a member of the editorial board of the International Migration Review (IMR).

#### **Reham Jammal**

Reham Jammal is an architect, urban planner, and the Mayor's Consultant for Development and International Relations at the Greater Irbid Municipality (GIM) in Jordan. She serves as an urban planner and project manager for various projects in the fields of climate change, energy, and solid waste management in the GIM. In 2021, Ms. Jammal received the "King Abullah II Distinguished Government Employee Award 2021" for her hard work and dedication. Ms. Jammal has several past work experiences with GIM, as the director of the "Planning Department" and the "International Programs and Projects Unit," and has worked on other projects funded by the European Union. She was also the GIM's focal point in relation to several national and international organizations and funding parties.

#### **Malak Aljadaan**

Malak Aljadaan is a proud woman with visual disability, who holds a BA Degree in Applied English and is an active volunteer with a track record of supporting high-impact initiatives on society, particularly for people with disabilities. Malak is coordinator of a program that assists visually impaired students and part of UNICEF Jordan Inclusivity Youth Council. She is passionate about contributing to a better tomorrow for young people with disabilities; envisioning an accessible and inclusive society that improves the quality of life and remove all barriers young people with disabilities are facing.

#### **Sophie Mansour**

Sophie Mansour is an expert Agroforestry and the Sustainable Landscape Management Specialist at LRI. She is leading on the Agroforestry program at the NGO, which pioneered Agroforestry interventions in Lebanon since 2018 and continuously disseminates sustainable agroforestry practices among farmers and local communities. Sophie graduated as an agricultural engineer with two MSc. degrees in sustainable



natural resources management and forestry. She is interested in sustainable landscape management, sustainable agriculture and farming practices, improving agricultural value chains and food security.

### **Maya Nehme**

Maya Nehme is the Director of the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI), a Lebanese NGO that has created a significant positive change in the forestry sector in Lebanon, and has so far planted more than 1.4 million native trees across the country, and helped improve the sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity on more than 3,600ha of land, with a record success rate of 76%. In addition, the NGO works on quarry rehabilitation, studies and projects aimed at Climate Change adaptation, fire prevention, awareness raising, environmental education and public engagement. Ms. Nehme holds a diploma in agricultural engineering from the Lebanese University; a Masters' degree in Plant Protection from AUB-FAS; and a dual-title PhD degree in Entomology and Comparative and International Education from The Pennsylvania State University, USA.