



AFSD  **2024**
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Forum arabe pour le développement durable
 Agir en faveur de la durabilité et de la paix

المنتدى العربي للتنمية المستدامة

العمل من أجل الاستدامة والسلام

بيروت، 7-5 آذار/مارس 2024 – Beirut, 5-7 March 2024

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Opening session

Rola Dashti

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

Najib Mikati

Najib A. Mikati, is a member of the Lebanese Parliament representing the district of Tripoli, North Lebanon. He began his political career in 1998 as the Minister of Public Works and Transport, and remained in post until 2004, under three consecutive cabinets. In 2000, he was elected for the first time as a Member of Parliament representing Tripoli. In 2005, he became Prime Minister of Lebanon and during his mandate, he steered the country towards what was qualified as notable democratic elections. In 2009, and again in 2018, he was re-elected as a Member of Parliament representing Tripoli till 2022. He was re-appointed as Prime Minister in 13-6-2011, resigned on 23-3-2013, and acted as caretaker until 15-2-2014. Mr. Mikati is the co-founder of M1 Group, a family-owned holding with interests in various sectors such as telecom, real estate, aircraft financing, fashion and energy. Mr. Mikati is active in various think tanks and international organizations. He is a senior member of the Dean's International Council at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago, as well as a member of the International Advisory Council of the 'International Crisis Group'. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees at the American University of Beirut, and the founder of Middle East Prospects Forum and Al Wassatia Forum, two think-tanks promoting centrism in Lebanon and the Middle East. Born in 1955, Mr. Mikati graduated from the American University of Beirut with a MBA; he also followed advanced management programs



at INSEAD, and Harvard University. A philanthropist, he is engaged in a number of social activities, spanning Lebanese and international medical, academic, and charitable associations and organizations which he founded with his family.

Said Al Saqri

Said Mohammed Al-Saqri has been appointed as the Minister of Economy in the Sultanate of Oman in the 18th of August 2020. He served as an economic adviser at the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (“GCC-Stat”), and before that worked as an economist at the Office of the Advisor to H.M. the Sultan for Economic Planning Affairs. He worked as a Part-time lecturer at Sultan Qaboos University AMIDEAST, College of Banking and Financial Studies and Arab Open University. Among many other activities, he was the elected president of Oman Economic Association (NGO). His main research interest is in the relationship between natural resources and development. Mr. Al-Saqri was awarded a PhD in economics from the Center for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University in Australia in 2010 and a master’s degree in science and financial economics from Boston University in the United States in September 2000.

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.

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh

A passionate, humanitarian driven, motivator leader and a champion for women gender equality, keen advocate for Human rights, peace & security, youth empowerment, as well as poverty alleviation & inclusive governance, Ms. Abu Ghazaleh is the Assistant Secretary General, Head of the Social Affairs



Sector at the League of Arab States since 2018. She was previously appointed as the Assistant Secretary General, Head of the Media and Communication at the League of Arab State from 2013-2018. She is a laureate of numerous prestigious international and regional leadership awards, who published over 100 papers, publications, and journal articles based on her knowledge and expertise. Ms. Abu Ghazaleh was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 following her nomination selection for the '1000 women for Noble Peace Prize 2005'. In 2007, she was appointed as a Special Envoy for the League of Arab States Secretary-General to the Civil Society, and from 2007- 2013 she was Jordan's Representative to the Arab Women Organization Arab Women Organization (AWO), as well as Senator to the Jordanian Upper House of Parliament from 2007- 2011. By His Majesty King Abdullah II royal decree, she was appointed as a Minister of Tourism and Antiquities in 2011. During the period of 2007 – 2010, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah II appointed Ms. Abu Ghazaleh as a Secretary-General at the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA). She conducted pioneering work for more than 12 years while being the Regional Director of UN Women (previously known as UNIFEM) - Arab States Regional Office. She holds two PhDs in Education & Psychology, an MA in Educational Counseling and a BA in Psychology and Sociology. She is fluent in Arabic and English.

High-level dialogue: A more equal and sustainable world? chasing the promise of digital technologies

Paula Narváez

Paula Narváez was elected as the seventy-ninth President of the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2023. Ms. Narváez is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York. She assumed her duties as Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations on 08 June 2022. Before this latest appointment, Ms. Narváez was the Officer-in-Charge at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Guatemala, from February to May 2022. She also served as Socio-Political Adviser at the UN-Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, from October 2021 to February 2022, and Regional Adviser for Governance and Political Participation in the same office, from 2018 to 2020. Between 2016 and 2018, Ms. Narváez was Minister Secretary General of Government, and she served as a Presidential Adviser from 2014 to 2016. From 2012 until 2014, she was a Latin America and Caribbean Section Program Specialist at UN-Women, based in New York. Following the eruption of the Chaitén Volcano in Chile in May 2008, Ms. Narváez served as the delegate of then-President Michelle Bachelet to the Chaitén Volcano Emergency, from 2008 to 2009. She has also held a number of other Government positions. Ms. Narváez earned a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University in the United States; a master's degree in economics and regional management from the Universidad Austral de Chile; and a degree in psychology from the Universidad Nacional Andrés Bello, also in Chile.



Guy Ryder

Guy Ryder currently serves as the Under-Secretary-General for Policy in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General. Prior to this appointment, he held the position of Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for two consecutive terms, from 2012 to 2022. He first joined the ILO in 1998 as Director of the Bureau for Workers' Activities and from 1999, served as Director of the Office of the Director-General. Mr. Ryder started his professional career in 1981 as an assistant at the International Department of the Trades Union Congress in London. From 1985, he held the position of Secretary of the Industry Trade Section of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FIET) in Geneva. In 1988, he became Assistant Director and – from 1993 – Director of the Geneva office of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). In 2002, he was appointed General Secretary of the ICFTU and was elected as the first General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) when it was created in 2006. He returned to the ILO in 2010 as Executive Director, responsible for international labour standards and fundamental principles and rights at work. Mr. Ryder studied Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge and Latin American Studies at the University of Liverpool. He speaks English, French and Spanish.

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.

Abdulrahman Al Mutairi

Abdulrahman Al Mutairi is currently Vice Governor of the Digital Government Authority in Saudi Arabia. For the last three years, he held the same position within Yesser – eGovernment program. He led the creation of DGA with a powerful mandate to empower the Saudi digital government, and oversaw the development of a five-year plan to empower and establish a solid and robust digital government practices nationwide. Mr. Almutairi is a significant contributor in creating the National Transformation Program and Vision 2030, working in different Vision2030 priorities agenda with leading government agencies. He held the Deputy Minister of Social development position and helped restructure four main goals for social development goals related to vision2030. His extensive experience in ecosystem design and implementation had helped major sector transformation and reform endeavors. He holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Ahmad Marafi

Ahmad Marafi is a distinguished entrepreneur, currently the Co-Founder and CEO of CODED, the Middle East's leading Coding Academy. He holds a Computer Engineering degree from Colorado State University, underpinning his diverse professional endeavors. Mr. Marafi's industry expertise spans the Telecomm and Oil & Gas sectors, with roles at Zain, Schlumberger, and Kuwait Oil Company. As a serial



entrepreneur, he co-founded two e-commerce startups. He also co-founded Barmej.com, the region's inaugural Arabic coding learning platform. His commitment to public service is evident through his consultancy for Kuwait's Ministry of Youth and Give.org.kw. Mr. Marafi contributes as an American University of Kuwait's Industry Advisory Board member. He is a respected figure in the startup landscape, judging prestigious competitions like the MIT Mobile App Launchpad and Microsoft Imagine Cup. Forbes Middle East recognized him as one of Kuwait's top entrepreneurs, underscoring his impact on tech entrepreneurship.

Mohamad Najem

Mohamad Najem is the executive director of the Beirut-based digital rights organization SMEX — the Middle East and North Africa's leading digital rights organization. His work includes local and regional advocacy campaigns, research on freedom of expression, privacy, and data protection. He organizes the yearly event "Bread & Net", the first unconference in the MENA region that tackles topics related to technology and human rights. He graduated from Stanford Draper Hills Summer Fellows Program in 2019 and in January 2021, he was featured in TIME magazine as one of the top activists in the Arab region.

Hoda Alkhzaimi

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

Plenary Session 1: Reforming public institutions for peace building and inclusive societies (SDG 16)

Lamia Moubayed Bissat

Lamia Moubayed Bissat is a development specialist with more than twenty years of experience in policy planning and design, implementing development cooperation programs, managing institutions, mobilizing resources, and advising senior decision makers. Her experience spans senior positions in Government, international organizations, and the private sector, working for and with the IMF, the World Bank and UN agencies, and advising on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development as vice chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (2018-2021 and 2022-2025). She currently leads a center of excellence in governance and public financial management (PFM), advises Prime Ministers and Ministers of Finance and serves on boards of regional organizations. Her various roles presented her the opportunity to witness, act on and publish about major development issues in countries of the Middle East and North



Africa, particularly on topics including governance and institutional reform, public budgets, public procurement, gender, and sustainability. A fervent supporter of South-South cooperation, Ms. Moubayed contributed to creating six institutes of public finance and the foundation of two knowledge networks in the Middle East and North Africa region. In 2016, she was elected to the Board of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration. Fluent in four languages, Ms. Moubayed holds a master's degree in development economics, and certifications in Strategic Management, Policy Planning and Leadership. She was awarded the prestigious French distinctions of "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" (2015) and "l'Ordre National du Mérite" (2004).

Mohamed Alhawri

Mohamed Alhawri is Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen

Tarek Ladeb

Tarek Ladeb is the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and the Vice President of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC). Before this latest appointment, Mr. Ladeb was Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations in New York from August 2019 to September 2020, having previously served as Director of the Arab and Islamic Organizations in his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2015 to 2019. He was Ambassador of Tunisia to Oman from 2011 to 2015, Charge d'affaires in the Embassy of Tunisia in Egypt from 2010 to 2011, Coordinator of Arab and African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2007 to 2010, and Charge d'affaires of Tunisia in Iraq from 2002 to 2007. He also served as Deputy Head of Mission for his country's embassies in Damascus, from 1998 to 2000, and Jordan, from 1994 to 1998. Mr. Ladeb holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a bachelor's degree in translation. He completed his post-graduate studies in diplomacy and international relations at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Tunis. Mr. Ladeb speaks Arabic, English, French and Russian.

Mervat Rishmawi

Mervat Rishmawi is an independent human rights consultant, with over 35 years of experience in the Arab region, including with UN bodies, civil society organizations (CSOs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). She has about 12 years of experience at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, where she acted as Legal Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa. She carries out policy-oriented research and analysis, with particular interest in women's rights and gender equality, including the Women Peace and Security Agenda (WPS Agenda), economic and social rights, and the Sustainable Development Agenda. She authored handbooks, manuals, and research papers on various human rights areas. She teaches and lectures on human rights, including in Arab countries. She has specialized expertise in the human rights system and standards of the League of Arab States, and holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law. Ms. Rishmawi is a fellow at the Human Rights Center at the University of Essex, and the Human Rights Law Center at the University of Nottingham, UK.



Fadi Salem

Fadi Salem is the Director of Policy Research Department at the MBR School of Government. He is also the founding Editor-in-Chief of The Policy Review journal and a Senior Research Fellow in Technology Policy and AI Governance. Earlier, he was an Associate of the Harvard Kennedy School; and a Fellow with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Mr. Salem holds a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Oxford, and an MSc in Management from the London School of Economics. He is an international authority in digital governance and AI/data policy domains, and was selected among the 100 Most Influential People in Digital Government worldwide (Apolitical). He serves as a member of global governance boards, including the AI Ethics Advisory Board (Dubai Digital), the AI for Gov SIG with the Digital Government Society where he also acts as Chair, the Global Council on SDG 16, and the ISO Expert Group on Governance of AI.

Kinda Hattar

Kinda Hattar has been working with Transparency International (TI) since 2012 as a Regional Advisor for MENA, under which she leads on establishing, nurturing, and shaping TI's presence and regional advocacy, cross-regional and intra-regional collaboration, by identifying, assessing, and developing relations with government and states institutions, civil society, regional and international partners, and the private sector. She joined TI from UNDP working on Enhancing Capacity of the Ministry for Political Development and Political Parties in Jordan. She also worked with youth, women, and people with disabilities as the Governance Manager with British Council. She has also fulfilled the position of Programme Coordinator at the National Centre for Human Rights in Jordan after working as Community Services Officer with Care International. Ms. Hattar holds a Masters in International Human Rights Law from Nottingham University - UK and BA in Communication and Journalism from Yarmouk University - Jordan.

Special session 1: Adopting a sectoral anti-corruption approach as key accelerator to promote accountable and inclusive institutions

Younes Abouyoub

Younes Abouyoub is the Chief of the Governance and State-Building Team at ESCWA.

Afrah Saleh

Afrah Saleh is the Chairperson of the Supreme National Authority on Combating Corruption in Yemen.

Haytham Yassine

Haytham A. Yassine is a Senior Anti-Corruption and Anti Money Laundering Specialist at the UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States. He provides technical assistance for countries in the region on the UN Convention against Corruption implementation and review mechanism, including the development of capacities of national Anti-Corruption Agencies. His work also includes deploying UNDP's Sectoral Corruption Risk Management methodology in the Arab region within several sectors, as well as participation in capacity development on Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery. Mr. Yassine is an expert in countering white collar crimes with focus on corruption, money laundering and terrorism



financing, with regional and international experience in investigations, risk assessment, compliance, policy drafting, capacity building and training. With 25 years of experience, Mr. Yassine is one of the founders of Lebanese Financial Intelligence Unit where he assumed the position of deputy director. He previously served in several positions at the Central Bank of Lebanon. He actively participated in regional working groups and led regional teams, providing technical assistance and capacity building for several countries in the MENA region. Mr. Yassine had several publications in his domain of expertise and lectured at universities for graduate and undergraduate levels. He holds a B.S. in Business studies, MBA and Ph.D. in Banking and Finance, and is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist.

Kinda Hattar

Kinda Hattar is Middle East and North Africa Regional Advisor for Transparency International (See full bio above).

Cendrella Abou Fayad

Cendrella Abou Fayad is a professor of management and currently serves as the Chair of the Management Department at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business at the Lebanese University (LU). Additionally, she is member of the LU Doctoral School and Fouad Chehab College of Command and Staff. She has published several papers focusing on women in business and presented others at numerous conferences in Europe and Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Apart from her academic endeavors, Ms. Abou Fayad has worked as a consultant for private companies. She has conducted training sessions at the Ministry of Administrative Development Labor and Social Affairs as part of the Qatar National Development Strategy (2011–2016). She has also collaborated with the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD) – Lebanon, as a senior education specialist for the Support to Reaching All Children with Education 2 program (S2R2). At the Lebanese University, she is an expert participating in the team for the Strategic Planning project (2024–2028) and the Implementation of UNDP’s Supply Chain Risk Management initiative (SCRM).

Special Session 2: The nexus between the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region

Rania Tarazi

Rania Tarazi is the Leader of the Gender Team at the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States, Amman Hub.

Heba Zayyan

Heba Zayyan is the Regional Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action Advisor a.i. at UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States. She had previously served as UN Women Head of Gaza Sub-Office and Lead of UN Women’s Palestine national portfolio on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action. Her experience covers countries in and outside the region including Jordan, Turkey, Moldova and Egypt and focused on operationalizing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and designing refugee, humanitarian and peacebuilding programming and responses in crisis settings.



Fadia Kiwan

Fadia Kiwan, currently Director General of AWO, has a long career of teaching and research in the fields of political science, comparative politics, political culture and socialization, civil society, regulating political parties and electoral systems in a comparative perspective. Since Beijing 1995, she has been frequently consulted by UN Agencies and international organizations in fields related to education and higher education, legislation, women affairs and public policies. Ms. Kiwan was commissioned to prepare studies, researches and reports on the local, regional and international levels. She is a Member of many high level expert groups commissioned by UNESCO for rethinking education in the 21st century and elaborating public policies to guarantee social inclusion. She also served as member of the United Nations University from 2007 to 2013; as Advisor of the Minister of education 1990-1992, and the Minister of culture and higher education 1992-1997; and as representative of the President of the Republic in the CPF, the highest unit of coordination of the francophone international agencies 2013- 2017. Ms. Kiwan is very active in civil society initiatives and movements and an advocate for the rule of rights and the defense of human rights and women rights in particular. She is co-editor of the “politics of social inclusion”, UNESCO/Crop, 2018.

Amal Hamad

Amal Hamad was appointed as the Minister of Women's Affairs on 15 April, 2019. She is a feminist politician, and holds a PhD in philosophy, specializing in "Educational Psychology". Ms. Hamad has held many important positions including: since 2007 she was the head of the General Union of Palestinian Women in the Southern Governorates. She is also a member of the General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Women at the national level. She was a member of the Central Committee of Fatah Movement also a member of the Revolutionary Council, and served as General Director of Women and Children in the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Magda El-Sanousi

Magda El-Sanousi has 20 years of experience in gender, development, humanitarian and peace-making processes with international organizations and UN agencies including areas of research, assessment, training, facilitation and program development. Visionary translating the desired changes to strategies, objectives and activities, with solid experience in program management, formulation, implementation monitoring, evaluation and learning from good practices. Specialist in the MENA region context and issues pertaining poverty, human rights, conflict and post conflict situations. Expert in women's empowerment and gender issues, UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in research, policy formulation, negotiation, mediation and assessments. Worked with national and international partners in Sudan, Yemen, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Libya, and Tunisia in addition to governments, regional organizations including League of Arab States (LAS) and the African Union. Ms. El-Sanousi holds an M.A in Gender and Development and an M.A in Rural Development, both from Sussex University, UK.



Buthaina Al-Mahdawi

Buthaina Almahdawi, a highly accomplished feminist activist and academic professional, has over two decades in non-governmental organizations. As the head and founder of Hawa'a Organization for Relief and Development and the SDGs Network 2030, Ms. Almahdawi is also an active member of the Women's Alliance for Development and Climate Justice. A committed member of Women Advisory Group for Reconciliation and Politics who advises the UN representative on women and peace issues, actively contributes to crisis management for women related issues in Iraq and plays a pivotal role in the localization of Resolution 1325. Serving on the administrative board of the "Iraqi Network for Resolution 1325," Ms. Almahdawi has been a key member of impactful initiatives, including the "Peaceful Coexistence in Iraq" team sponsored by UNDP in 2016, the "Aswat Alnisaa" team sponsored by Internews and Taqadom organization in 2017, and the "Women's Advisory Group" sponsored by UNAMI from 2018 to 2026.

Marc Rubin

Marc Rubin is currently the Deputy Regional Director in the UNICEF Regional Office based in Amman, Jordan and covering the Middle East and North Africa where he was appointed in April 2023. He came from Bangkok where he was a Regional Adviser in the Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific (2019-2023). Accredited in 2016 as the UNICEF Representative, he was based in Conakry and was responsible for the Cooperation between UNICEF and the Republic of Guinea. He previously served in Burkina Faso where he was appointed as UNICEF Representative in 2013. Mr Rubin was the UNICEF Deputy Representative in Zimbabwe (2009-2013). He came from Ethiopia where he was the Chief of Field Operations for UNICEF (2007-2009). His other roles at UNICEF have included Head, Disaster Management in Ethiopia and Field Coordinator in Burundi (2001-2006). Prior to joining UNICEF, Mr Rubin has worked with Action Contre la Faim (ACF) from 1992 to 2001 as a Country Director in Ethiopia and in South Sudan and Operations Manager in Rwanda in 1994 and Somalia in 1992. He holds Master's Degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and the Friedman School of Nutrition and Policy at Tufts University, Boston USA.

Special Session 3: ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award for Sustainable Development 2023–2024

Mirna El Hajj Barbar

Mirna El Hajj currently serves as Programme Management Officer in the Statistics, Information Society, and Technology cluster at ESCWA. In this role, she oversees and conducts regional analytical research in digital development, focusing on its alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Since 2020, she has been leading the ESCWA Arab Digital Inclusion Platform (ADIP) Project, aimed at aiding Arab countries' policymakers in enhancing their national policies and guidelines for improved e-Accessibility. The ADIP Project's distinction as a champion at the World Summit of the Information Society Prizes 2022 underscores its impact. She is an integral member of the Arab Digital Agenda (ADA) core team, actively overseeing the



implementation of associated activities. With over a decade of lecturing experience at the Lebanese University and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Paris-8, she holds a rich academic background, complemented by numerous published articles in international IT journals.

Ziad Al-Makary

Ziad Al-Makary holds a postgraduate degree in architecture from the University of Balamand – the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts (ALBA), and from the Paris-Belleville University of Architecture (ENSAPB) – specializing in Islamic and Mediterranean architecture. He is an architect specializing in Lebanese architecture and cultural heritage preservation and restoration, and currently a full-time professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture at the Lebanese University. Mr. Al-Makary is the founder and CEO of ARCA – Architecture & Design, a pioneer in architecture and design, which has implemented several projects in Lebanon, Qatar, Morocco, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and Mozambique. He also has many research papers aimed at preserving historical and archaeological sites, including a study he conducted by UNESCO on the urban organization of the city of Tripoli and El Mina (1995), and a comprehensive study for the preservation of the archaeological valley of Qadisha. He is now working as a consultant for several initiatives related to the reconstruction of demolished and damaged buildings from the Beirut explosion on August 4, 2020. He has a special passion for Lebanese architecture as he is always working on renovating and rehabilitating old Lebanese homes. He is active in many local and national youth initiatives.

Nibal Idelbi

Nibal Idelbi is the Acting Director of the Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster at UN-ESCWA. She is a senior expert on technology and innovation policy, knowledge society, digital and open government and STI for sustainable development. She occupied several positions at ESCWA during the last 18 years and led many regional initiatives for boosting the appropriate use of technology and innovation for accelerating the implementation of SDGs in the Arab region. Ms. Idelbi is an active member in several international and regional working groups and is a jury member of regional and international awards on innovation, entrepreneurship, digital content and e-Government. Before joining ESCWA, she was deputy Minister in the Ministry of Communication and Technology, and a professor of computer engineering in the Higher Institute of Applied Science and Technology in Syria. She also has experience in the private sector as she was Research Engineer in the firm Telmat in France for more than three years. Ms. Idelbi has an engineering degree and a Ph.D. in computer science from France.

Arab SDG Business Roundtable: Partnerships for accelerating the SDGs

Guy Ryder

Guy Ryder is the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Policy (See full bio above).

Yasser Akkaoui

Yasser Akkaoui is the founder of Capital Concept, a research and consulting firm, that advises corporations and investors to become sustainable business ventures. Through Capital Concept SAL,



Akkaoui has become one of the reference names in Environment, Social and Governance research and consulting. He chaired the committee of Human Rights Watch in Lebanon until 2022, which he joined in 2010. Since 2011, he is a founding member of the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. He is the publisher of Executive Magazine since 2001, and is a part-time Business Ethics instructor at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

Said Al Saqri

Said Mohammed Al Saqri is the minister of economy of Oman (See full bio above).

Mona Fayed

Mona Fayed is the Assistant Minister for Sustainable Development Affairs in the Ministry of Planning & Economic Development in Egypt.

Rana AlDababneh

Rana AlDababneh has more than 22 years of professional experience specializing in developing strategic plans, marketing, product development, project management, public relations, corporate communication, and sustainable social responsibility. She is the Corporate Communication and Sustainability Chief Officer at Orange Jordan since 2021, leading and managing the institution's image and implementing pioneering sustainable projects such as Community Digital Centres, Startup Accelerators, Fabrication & Innovation Labs and Coding Academies. She is also the Chief Climate Officer, managing a unique and a transversal environment sustainability programme throughout the organization. Ms. AlDababneh holds a BSc in Industrial Engineering, with a minor in Management, from the University of Jordan, alongside many certificates, such as Board of Directors Certification Programme (IFC and JIoD), Executive Marketing Programme (INSEAD) and Project Management Professional (PMI). In addition, she is a Member of Orange Jordan Executive Committee, Member of the Board of Directors of the Jordan News Agency (Petra), Member of Economic and Social Council of Jordan (ESC), Board Member of Digiskills, Member of the University of Jordan faculty of engineering council and Member of Yarmouk University faculty of engineering council.

Zakaria Al Haj Hammoud

Zakaria Al Haj Hammoud has been the Senior Advisor at the Union of Arab Banks since 2010. He earned his doctorate in media history from the University of Charles de Gaulle III, Lille, France. Mr. Hammoud contributed to Lebanese newspapers An-Nahar and Al-Mustaqbal. He also lectured at the Faculty of Information and Documentation at the Lebanese University. He has overseen the publication of several books and guides by the Union of Arab Banks. These include the quarterly Arab banking bulletin, the daily electronic newsletter, as well as the Guide to Arab Banks and Financial Institutions and the Guide to Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions.

Najoua Zhar

Najoua Zhar is an Economic Advisor and Sustainable Development Expert with over 14 years of experience in driving sustainable practices across various sectors. Her expertise lies in bridging the gap



between economic development and environmental protection, with a particular focus on the Arab region. With a PhD in Management and Sustainable Development, she has extensive training and certifications in green economy, gender and environment, sustainable food systems, and digital transformation for sustainable development. Proficient in conducting research, analysing data and developing strategies for achieving sustainability goals, she has implemented sustainable development strategies in various organizations, including in the education, technology, and consulting sectors. Ms. Zhar currently advises the Union of Arab Banks on sustainable development issues and has previously held roles such as SDGs Project Manager (volunteering), SDG 4 Coordinator at UNESCO, and Sustainable Development and Green IT Expert. She has authored numerous studies and articles on topics such as Arab food security, green economy, and the role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs. She presented her research at international conferences and actively engages in knowledge sharing and capacity building initiatives.

Maissa Abou Adal Ghanem

Maissa Abou Adal Ghanem, a dynamic enabler in HOLDAL Group's third generation, brings an impact-driven entrepreneurial spirit shaped by roles at multinational companies, like Sears, L'Oréal and Kenzo Parfums (LVMH). As Chief Sustainability Officer, she catalyses transformative change, challenging norms and reshaping SDG and ESG standards. Passionate about change management, sustainability and exponential impact, Ms. Abou Adal Ghanem engages in diverse roles from board memberships to advisory roles. Committed to global citizenship, she promotes an inclusive, forward-looking future for Lebanon, especially for the next generation, through collaborative leadership and innovation.

Anita Lebiar

Anita Lebiar is the Regional Head for the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. Along leading on private-public partnerships, Ms. Lebiar oversees the operationalization of UN Global Compact's strategy to advance corporate sustainability and the 2030 Agenda in the regions. With a robust academic background including an MBA and an MA in International Affairs and Diplomacy, she brings over 15 years of high-performing international experience across the UN, INGOs and the private sector. An expert in advising boards and directors on agile business solutions, change management and strategy development, she has a proven track record in leading multimillion-budget development projects in the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe. She is adept at mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing sustainability initiatives in alignment with the 2030 Agenda. She has also worked extensively on business and human rights and projects advancing economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) in the MENA region.

Alexandra Tarazi

Alexandra Tarazi is a Senior Regional Programmes Manager at the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative calling on companies to align strategies and operations



with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption and to advance UN goals. She leads on the adaptation of global programming on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) related topics targeting the private sector into a regional experience for the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions. She brings over 13 years of international experience in corporate sustainability, including on project management in complex projects with multiple stakeholders and extensive knowledge in business development, governance, operations excellence and strategy design. She holds a Master's in Human Rights from the University of York (UK) and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Nottingham (UK), with an emphasis on corporate sustainability.

Plenary session 2: Looking ahead to the Summit of the Future: perspectives from the Arab region

Guy Ryder

Guy Ryder is the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Policy (See full bio above).

Kairat Sarybay

Kairat Sarybay is the Secretary General of The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

Felipe Paullier

Felipe Paullier was appointed as Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations for Youth Affairs in October 2023. He is currently the Director General of the National Youth Institute of Uruguay, a position he has held since 2020. He previously served in various political management positions, including as Deputy Mayor in the Municipality of the CH jurisdiction of Montevideo (2015-2020) and Alternate Counsellor in the Montevideo Departmental Legislative Court (2010-2015). He also served as a Clinical Doctor and Paediatric Resident Physician at Pereira Rossell Paediatric Hospital (2017-2020), a Medical Intern in the Administración Nacional de Servicios de Salud del Estado (2015-2016) and as a Research Assistant in the Clinical Research Organization, BdBeq CRO (2012-2014). Paullier is a medical doctor specialized in paediatrics. He graduated from the School of Medicine of the Universidad de la Republica Oriental de Uruguay and is currently completing a Master in Business Administration at the Universidad Católica de Uruguay. He is fluent in English and Spanish.

Diana Moukalled

Diana Moukalled is a Co-founder and Managing Editor of Daraj. She is considered a prominent voice for the defense of human and women's rights, with extensive experience in both traditional and digital media. Ms. Moukalled is one of the leading female war correspondents in the Arab world. Her trips to conflict zones took her since the early nineties to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen, in addition to many other destinations she covered for "Through the Naked Eye", a series she produced and directed for Future TV. Her areas of expertise include documentary filmmaking, news writing and reporting, editing and TV production.

Jamal El Saghir



Jamal El 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 Bolloré 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).

Diala Chehade

Diala Chehade is a Lebanese lawyer and human rights defender with over 18 years of experience in legal counselling and litigation, including four years at the International Criminal Court of The Hague. She has designed, conducted and/or participated in dozens of legal outreach events in Europe, Africa and the MENA region. As of 2014, she has been managing a law firm in Beirut with focus on cases of public interest such as corruption, torture, racism, extrajudicial killing, arbitrary detention, freedom of expression amongst other. She has been a frequent guest legal expert on pan-Arab media outlets.

Marwa Fatafta

Marwa Fatafta leads Access Now's policy and advocacy work on digital rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Her work spans a number of issues at the nexus of human rights and technology including content governance and platform accountability, online censorship, digital surveillance, and transnational repression. She has written extensively on the digital occupation in Palestine and focuses on the role of new technologies in armed conflicts and humanitarian contexts and their impact on historically marginalized and oppressed communities. Ms. Fatafta is a Policy Analyst at Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network, an advisory board member of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, and an advisory committee member for Bread&Net. She was a Fulbright scholar in the US and holds an MA in International Relations from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. She also holds a second MA in Development and Governance from the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Shereen Hussein

Shereen Hussein is a distinguished academic at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). With over 30 years of expertise in policy and research, she is also the Founding Director of the



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

Plenary session 3: Eradicating poverty in times of crisis (SDG 1)

Sobhiyah Najjar

Sobhiyah Najjar is a Lebanese Journalist specialized in social economics and public policy, a news reporter, a news anchor, a media trainer and a film producer. She has 15 years of experience in media, news, covering elections, communications industries and social media strategy. She has implemented and supervised news, film and television production, covering political, social, environmental and humanitarian topics to tackle public policy issues that affect the lives of the most vulnerable groups in society. Previous assignments have included active roles in covering the news in the Middle East, filming and production in Lebanon with LBCI and internationally with BBC and AlJazeera O2, and working around the world (Jordan, Qatar, United Kingdom, Denmark, France, North Africa and France). These assignments have allowed her to contribute to a diverse range of innovative projects and compile a broad network of contacts across the globe. She holds a Master's degree in Management and Economics (2006) from University of Perpignan Via Domitia in France.

Rachid Kadida

Rachid Kadida is the director of social development department in the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Inclusion and Family of Morocco.

Barq Al-Dmour

Barq Dmour has been serving as the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Social Protection in Jordan since January 2020. He holds a PhD in Political Science. He has over 20 years of extensive experience in Social Protection, Youth and Democracy. Mr. Al-Dmour's expertise includes but is not limited to strategic planning, programme development, policy analysis, social protection reform and youth development. He has played a vital role heading the Social Services Pillar within the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS). He served as the Acting Director for the National Aid Fund (NAF) from August 2021 October 2022 in addition to heading the Social Assistance Pillar within the NSPS.



Nizar El-Mohsni

Nizar El-Mohsni is the General Director of Common Services at the Ministry of Social Affairs in Tunisia.

Touhami Abdelkhalek

Touhami Abdelkhalek has been a full professor at the FGSES of UM6P since September 2021. He is also Director of the Master's program in Quantitative Economics and the Ph.D. program in Economics. He was a full professor at the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA) for more than 30 years. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Economics at the Université de Montréal in Canada. He has a double specialization in Development and Growth and in Econometrics. He is a research associate at several institutes and research centers around the world. Mr. Abdelkhalek has been published in several international scientific journals such as Applied Economic, the Review of Economics and Statistics and the Annals of Economics and Statistics. He has served on the editorial boards of three international economic journals. His research focuses on applied econometrics, modeling and impact analysis of economic policies and statistical analysis of poverty.

Samir Makdisi

Samir Makdisi is Professor Emeritus of Economics; Founding Director of the Institute of Financial Economics, and Distinguished Senior Fellow, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Relations at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He is a former Minister of Economy and Trade, Republic of Lebanon, 1992; Deputy President of AUB, 1992-1998; elected chair of the Board of Trustees, Economic Research Forum (Cairo), 1993-2001, and a Board member, 2012-2022, and has served as advisor to national governments and to various regional and international economic and financial organizations. Recipient of several honors including the AUB medal (1998), he is widely published in academic journals and books in the areas financial policies, civil conflicts and democratic transitions, among others, with special reference to the Arab World. He is the author of The Lessons of Lebanon, the Economics of War and Development (2004); the co-editor (with Ibrahim Elbadawi) of Democracy in the Arab World: Explaining the Deficit (2011) and Democratic Transitions in the Arab World (2017); and the co-editor (with Raimundo Soto), of The Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings, towards reconstruction, democracy and Peace (2023). He received his Ph.D in Economics from Columbia University , New York.

Special session 4: Collaborative futures: strategic foresight for sustainable development in a world of crisis

Abdelmenam Mohamed

As a Regional Coordinator for UNEP's West Asia Office, Abdelmenam Mohamed has over 15 years of experience in catalyzing Science for Environmental Policy to promote environmental sustainability and support well-informed decision making at national and regional levels. Mr. Abdelmenam manages the delivery of other key UNEP products and services, which include producing the first ever Environment Outlook for the GCC countries and providing web-based tools and technologies to support sharing of



environmental data and information from national to global levels. Mr. Abdelmenam holds a doctorate degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Lüneburg in Germany as well as a Master of Engineering in Environmental Protection with special focus on renewable energies from the Nürtingen-Geislingen University of Applied Science, and a BSc in Environmental Studies from the University of Sebha in Libya.

Mounir Tabet

Mounir Tabet took up his official functions as Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on 7 September 2018. Prior to that, Mr. Tabet served as the UNDP Country Director for Iraq (2016-2018), where he oversaw the programme on stabilization and transition. From 2013 to 2016, he served as the United Nations and UNDP Resident Coordinator in Tunisia, providing various services to the transition, including electoral support, constitution-making, parliamentary effectiveness and anti-corruption. From 2007 to 2013, he was the Country Director of UNDP Egypt, where he led United Nations support to development efforts. From 2004 to 2007, he was the Senior Programme Advisor for the Regional Bureau for Arab States at UNDP in New York. Between 1989 and 2003, he served in a variety of country and headquarter positions with UNDP. Prior to joining UNDP, he worked with the North-South Institute, the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, and the University of Ottawa. Mr. Tabet completed an MA in Public Administration at Harvard University. He also holds an MA in Economics from the University of Ottawa.

Paula Narváez

Paula Narváez is the President of the ECOSOC (see full bio above).

Steven Kenney

Steven Kenney is the founder and principal of Foresight Vector LLC, an advisory firm he created to help organizations develop the strategies they need to achieve their greatest success. He is also the director of the Strategic Foresight Initiative at The Middle East Institute (MEI), a leading Washington DC-based think tank, and MEI's representative in the Global Futures Society, a consortium established in 2023 by the Dubai Future Foundation. Mr. Kenney is widely recognized for his expertise and his 30 years' experience in the methods of strategic foresight and their application. He has advised a wide variety of government, corporate, and non-profit sector organizations on how to create their future. His work includes advisory engagements for top executives in Fortune 500 and other leading corporations. He has also designed and led engagements for top leaders in dozens of U.S. and other nations' government agencies. Prior to founding Foresight Vector, he was a Vice President at Monitor 360 and a Partner in Toffler Associates, the firm founded by world-renowned futurist Alvin Toffler.

Layla Al-Musawi

Layla Al-Musawi is the program manager for Publicizing and Dissemination of Science and Technology, within the Scientific Culture Directorate at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. Ms. Al-Musawi has also served as the Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor to the Director General of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), and was the team leader of the Kuwait Food Security



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and Investment Strategy, developed by ICBA for the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA). Prior to that, she served as the Scientific Consultant and Program Manager to the Regional Organization to Protect the Marine Environment (ROPME) in Kuwait. She was also extensively involved in the Kuwait Environmental Rehabilitation Program (KERP) to remediate war related damages, funded by the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC). Ms. Al-Musawi was the lead author for realigning Kuwait's National Strategy and Action Plan (NAP) with the 10-Year Strategy of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Moutaz Al Riyami

Moutaz Al Riyami is currently the Executive Director for Gas at PDO in Oman. Prior to this he worked at Shell in The Hague as a member of the Group Strategy Business Environment leadership team (more commonly known as Shell's Scenario Team) and was responsible for managing the Energy Transition Programme. He has worked on numerous strategic foresight projects, including the development of planning scenarios for Oman's Vision2040. He was also a member of the Expert Advisory Group for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent supporting their Vision2030 project. He is a former Judge of the Next Generation Foresight Practitioners Awards. Mr. Al Riyami studied engineering and holds a degree in mechanical engineering.

Nourhan Badr El-Din

Nourhan Badr El-Din is a multipotentialite-young futurist. Currently, she is a senior youth foresight fellow within UNICEF Innocenti - Youth Engagement and Strategy Department. She served as a representative of MENA Region during the 2022 UNICEF fellowship programme, where she contributed to "our future pledge" Youth Foresight Playbook. As a youth fellow, she facilitated the inclusion of youth voices within the UNICEF Global Outlook reports. Additionally, she is supporting foresight capacity building by working with a new cohort of fellows and foresight experts to establish and promote foresight projects within UNICEF national offices. She has also worked within the UNDP accelerator labs, to address frontier development challenges of Energy and Agriculture in Egypt and as part of the global team for the "Future of Green Transition" project in Uzbekistan. With over five years of experience in the business world, Ms. Badr El-Din has gained expertise in various areas such as marketing, HR, and software business analysis. Beyond the business world, she is also a journalist, a former cross-cultural dialogue facilitator, and a peace building advocate in global initiatives.

Special session 5: Transforming education: greening solutions and inclusiveness

Elie Mekhael

Elie Mekhael holds a PhD in Health and Life Sciences from Paris VI University, France, and currently serves as a Professor at the Lebanese University, specializing in Education for Sustainable Development and Citizenship Education. From 2002 to 2012, he held the position of General Secretary of the Higher Council for Children in Lebanon. He possesses extensive expertise in various domains, and has contributed significantly to the Lebanese National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development. He has also



worked on issues related to child labor and climate change. Furthermore, Mr. Mekhael has been involved in projects addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on family dynamics. In his academic and policy-related roles, he supervises the School Wellbeing Framework at CERD and serves as a curriculum development expert for the S2R2 Program since 2021. He has played a pivotal role as a lead expert for the Arab League in developing the Arab Child framework for the period 2015-2030.

Maysoun Chehab

Maysoun Chehab currently serves as a Regional Education Coordinator at the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in the Arab States. With over 20 years of experience in the development field, Ms. Chehab possesses a wealth of expertise in program conceptualization, development, monitoring, and evaluation. Her extensive tenure has endowed her with a deep understanding of the needs, available resources, potential modes of intervention, policy dialogues, partners, and prospective funders within development institutions. She has played a pivotal role in shaping policies and programs across numerous countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, the Gulf region, and Yemen. Throughout her career, she has forged strong and constructive partnerships with governmental organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral development partners, including UN agencies and international organizations. Driven by her vision, Ms. Chehab is committed to fostering inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education systems that propel communities towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

Karma El-Hassan

Karma Al Hassan has a wealth of experience in educational psychology measurement and evaluation. She is a professor in this field at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon, and a former Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment at the University (until 1 January 2021). With a strong background in teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, alongside extensive training and research in her area of specialization, Ms. El Hassan is well-versed in educational psychology, measurement, and evaluation, with her works published in esteemed international and regional journals and books. She has actively participated and presented at numerous conferences on topics such as modern assessment practices, aligning assessment with instruction, assessment in higher education, and criteria for educational quality, among other. Her contributions extend beyond academia, as she has served as a UNESCO Consultant since 2007, preparing several country and regional reports, and having played a pivotal role in education reform committees in Lebanon and in other Arab countries.

Dakmara Ana Georgescu

Dakmara-Ana Georgescu joined UNESCO in 2003 and the UNESCO Office in Beirut in 2012 as Education Programme Specialist. Currently, she oversees the Office's Programmes for Learning/Curriculum and Teachers, while also contributing to various Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and Greening Education initiatives. She graduated from the History and Philosophy School of Bucharest University in 1982, majoring in Philosophy. In 2017, she obtained her Doctoral Degree in Philosophy. Her professional journey began as a secondary school teacher, and from 1990 to 2002, she served as a senior researcher



in the Curriculum Department of the Romanian Institute for Educational Sciences. From December 1997 to December 2000, Mrs. Georgescu held the position of Advisor to the Minister, overseeing the K-12 education reform within the Romanian Ministry of National Education. Her extensive body of work encompasses publications on philosophy teaching, educational reform policies, curriculum development, as well as intercultural and political education.

Ghinwa Itani-Malas

Ghinwa Itani-Malas currently serves as a Senior Education Specialist at the UNICEF Lebanon country office, bringing with her 24 years of extensive experience in the field of education both in Lebanon and the wider region. Over the past 7 years, Ms. Itani-Malas has been deeply engaged in UNICEF's mission, focusing on the development and implementation of high-quality formal and non-formal education initiatives. Collaborating closely with the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), the Center of Educational Research and Development (CERD), as well as local and international development partners and stakeholders, her efforts have been instrumental in addressing the complex challenges facing Lebanon's education sector amid multiple crises. She holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership and possesses various certifications in professional development, training, and accreditation within the realm of international education. She firmly believes that education reform efforts in Lebanon represent the most influential pathway for fostering inclusive, gender-responsive, and high-quality formal and non-formal education opportunities for children, youth, teachers, and school leadership alike.

Cezar Mahmoud

In the heart of the Shouf region, Cezar Mahmoud's journey unfolds with a steadfast commitment to sustainability and rural development. Fueled by a profound belief in the transformative potential of sustainable tourism, he channels his efforts towards empowering local communities and youth, thereby creating valuable job opportunities. The Shouf region, renowned for its abundant natural beauty and cultural heritage, serves as the backdrop for his endeavors. Through a strategic fusion of environmental preservation and community engagement, Mr. Mahmoud strives to achieve a harmonious equilibrium. Armed with a Master's Degree in NGO Management, alongside qualifications in Marketing and Communication, he embodies a multifaceted approach to his work. In 2017, buoyed by a vibrant team spirit, he founded Cezar's Projects for Sustainable Tourism. His initiatives offer guests authentic experiences, inviting them to immerse themselves in the captivating beauty and rich culture of the Shouf region. Simultaneously, Mr. Mahmoud actively involves the local community, fostering its participation to ensure sustainable rural development, all while safeguarding the region's cultural and natural heritage.

Special session 6: The Second Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report

Tarek El Nabulsi

Tarek El Nabulsi is the minister plenipotentiary of League of Arab States.

Khalid Abu-Ismaïl

Khalid Abu-Ismaïl is Chief of Development Challenges and Poverty Section at ESCWA.



Fekadu Terefe

Fekadu Terefe is an economist and development planner, with more than 25 years of experience in policy and programme support on poverty reduction and sustainable human development related issues. He is currently working as Programme Specialist (Inclusive Growth) in UNDP Regional Hub in Amman, providing policy and programmatic support in areas of inclusive growth, in the Arab region. Previously, he served as policy specialist (inclusive growth and human development), actively supporting national SDG mainstreaming efforts, including SDG awareness and policy dialogue, integration of poverty and environmental sustainability into national development plans, as well as institutional capacity development. From 2007 to 2014, he worked as an advisor on Millennium Development Goals (MDG), gender and civil society engagement, contributing to the design of programs, including UN joint programmes, and management of projects. While working as MDGs/Gender/CSOs advisor, he also served as Officer-in-Charge for Strategic Advisory Unit, managing the day-to-day activities of the team. He has also been engaged in the preparation of National Human Development reports and MDG reports. Before joining UNDP, he worked as food security programme/policy officer for ActionAid and as field project officer with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation on the demobilization and reintegration of demobilized soldiers and combatants. He has extensive experience in working with the public sector on development planning and budgeting. He has an MSc in International Economic policy and analysis (with distinction), an MSc in Development Planning and Management, and a BSc in Agricultural Economics.

Corinne Mitchell

Corinne Mitchell is the Executive Director at OPHI, where she has worked since 2015. She manages the day-to-day affairs of the organization, as well as identifying and implementing its strategic plans. She also works with national governments and international agencies in the development and analysis of multidimensional poverty measures, with a focus on Africa and the Middle East. She provides strategic leadership to the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN). She holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Oxford, and a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies from Washington University in St. Louis.

Ashraf El Araby

Ashraf El Araby is the President of the Institute of National Planning, a Former Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, a Former Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform in Egypt (2012- 2017), a Former Advisor to the Arab Planning Institute (2017-2022), and a Former Board Member of the Central Bank of Egypt (2019-2023). He is also a Board Member of the Egyptian Financial Regularity Authority, and a Member of the Coordinating Council for Monetary and Fiscal Policies. Moreover, Mr. El Araby is also the Secretary General of the Arab Society for Economic Research, a Member of the Board of Trustees of King Salman International University, a Member of Egypt's Scientific Institute, and a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. He received his PhD degree in



Economics from Kansas State University- USA in 2004, and is nationally and internationally recognized in the fields of planning and development, macro-economic issues and policies, economics of education and labour markets.

Luigi Peter Ragno

With over 18 years of experience spanning four continents, Luigi Peter Ragno is a senior expert in Public Policy, Poverty, Social Protection, Partnerships, Public Finance, and Research. Mr. Ragno is fluent in English, Spanish, and Italian and has 17 peer-reviewed publications. As a socio-economist, he currently spearheads Egypt's Social Policy Section at UNICEF. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Manchester. He has contributed to various research publications, including an edited book, book chapters, journal articles, and peer-reviewed working papers. His work focuses on social and economic issues such as social protection and poverty, health and child wellbeing. His expertise encompasses social protection, public policy safety nets, food security (access), livelihoods, cash programming, refugees and IDPs, M&E, poverty reduction, and program management. He is interested in bridging research and policy to inform management decisions and advocate for evidence-based policy change.

Plenary session 4: Food system transformations in a polycrisis environment (SDG 2)

Luna Abu Swaireh

Luna Abuswaireh is the Director-General of the Center for Arab Unity Studies since May 2017. Her professional experience extends to more than twenty years in managing development Programmes in international organizations and in collaboration with intergovernmental bodies. Before joining the Center, she held the position of Head of the Regional Office for Arab States of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in Cairo. She also served as Climate Change Coordinator in Bonn, as Director of Risk Reduction Programmes at the United Nations Secretariat in Geneva, as Director of UNV Programmes in the Balkans and South Asia, and as Coordinator of the UNDP Project for Youth Development and Participation in Refugee Camps in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. Ms. Abuswaireh Contributed to numerous international and regional United Nations reports and the preparation of Arab strategies on climate, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, and oversaw the launch and management of development initiatives and projects, and the organization of country, regional and international conferences, training courses and workshops, the most important of which was the establishment of the Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held for the first time in Aqaba in 2013. She holds a master's degree in public and international affairs from the United States of America and a postgraduate diploma in development economics from the Netherlands.

David Nabarro

David Nabarro is the Strategic Director of 4SD Foundation, Geneva; a Professor of Global Health at Imperial College, London; and the Special Envoy on Covid-19 for the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO). He previously served as Senior UN System Coordinator for Avian and Pandemic Influenza (2005-2014), Coordinator of the UN system's High Level Task Force on the Food Security Crisis



(2009-2014), and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and Coordinator of the Scale up Nutrition Movement (2010-2014). In his early career he worked on child health and nutrition programmes in Iraq, South Asia and East Africa; taught at the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine. He served as Chief Health and Population Adviser to the British Government's Overseas Development Administration and as Director for Human Development in the UK Department for International Development (DFID). He received the World Food Prize in 2018 and was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG) in the 2023 UK New Year Honours for services to global health.

Ibrahim Dukheiri

Ibrahim Dukheiri is the Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. He obtained a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the Technical University of Munich, Germany, in 1997. He also obtained a master's degree in agricultural economics from Washington State University – Belman in the United States in 1987. Mr. Dukheiri worked as a federal minister of agriculture and forests in the Republic of Sudan during the period 2015-2017. As Director General of the Agricultural Research Authority (2012-2015), he chaired many scientific committees and advisory teams.

Ahmad Nasser AlBakri

Ahmed Nasser al Bakri is Undersecretary for Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Oman. He has a Ph.D. in Crop Physiology from the University of Nottingham, UK in 2001. He began his professional career as an Assistant Researcher in 1991, subsequently occupied the position of Director General of Agriculture and Livestock Research in 2006, and then was promoted to the present position in 2013. Mr. AlBakri held a number of important positions at the international and national levels. He has a wide range of experience in the development and execution of agricultural projects and the agricultural research strategy in Oman to raise the productive efficiency of the agricultural sector and ensure the maximum positive impact of the sector in the process of economic diversification in the country.

Mariam Al Jaajaa

Mariam Al Jaajaa is the General Manager of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Development from the University of Leeds, a Postgraduate Diploma in Economics, and a Master's in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies - University of London. Ms. Al-Jaajaa has published papers on the topics of food security, agriculture, environment, and land tenure and coordinated the international civil society delegation in various platforms on various issues such as food security and environmental protection in situations of wars and occupation.

Fadhel Kaboub

Fadhel Kaboub is an associate professor of economics at Denison University (on leave), and the president of the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity. He is also a member of the Independent Expert Group



on Just Transition and Development, and serves as senior advisor with Power Shift Africa.

Maria Selin

Maria Selin heads the Regional Development Cooperation for MENA at the Embassy of Sweden in Amman, Jordan since September 2021. She 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. She was previously heading the office of Sida's Director General in Stockholm, Sweden, as Chief of Staff.

Special session 7: The United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment UNFSS+2 outcomes in the Arab region: action plan for resilient food systems transformation

David Nabarro

David Nabarro is Strategic Director of 4SD Foundation (See full bio above).

Sylvia Ekra

Sylvia Ekra, is the Deputy Director of the Food Systems Coordination Hub, hosted by FAO on behalf of the UN system. She brings 20 years of experience in development, gender and migration work to the United Nations System. Ms. Ekra first joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at its Headquarters in Geneva in 2002, as a project officer working on an initiative striving to mobilize the African diaspora to benefit African development and prosperity. She later led the organization's gender coordination work for many years, during which she steered the agency's efforts on gender mainstreaming and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2014, she was posted in Accra as the Chief of Mission and Country Representative for the IOM offices in Ghana, Benin and Togo. She also served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim in Ghana, from December 2018 to May 2020. She was later on appointed UN Resident Coordinator in Morocco by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, a role she occupied from August 2020 to July 2022. Ms. Ekra is a binational of Cote d'Ivoire and France and a lawyer by training, and holds a master's degree in International Administration, with honours, from the Panthéon-Sorbonne University in Paris, France.

Michelle Seck

Michelle Seck is a UN Food Systems Specialist.

Theresa Wong

Theresa Wong is a Natural Resources Officer at the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa.

Reem Nejdawi

Reem Nejdawi is Chief of Food and Environment Policies at ESCWA and formerly 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.

Inaya Ezzeddine

Inaya EZZEDDINE is a Medical Doctor, Pathologist, and Member of the Lebanese Parliament since 2018. She chairs the Women and Children Parliamentary Committee, SDG 2030 Agenda Parliamentary Commission, and holds positions in the Public Health, Labour, Social Affairs, and Foreign Affairs Committees. Former Minister of State for Administrative Reform (2016–2018) and recently appointed National Convener for food systems in Lebanon, Dr. Ezzeddine spearheaded the development of an anti-corruption strategy and digital transformation. A strong advocate for women's protection and empowerment, she drives legislative initiatives for gender equality. Recognized for her achievements, President Emmanuel Macron awarded her the Legion of Honor in 2020.

Fayez Al-Moukdad

Fayez Al-Moukdad is a National Food Systems Convener for the Syrian Arab Republic.

Ehab Badawy

Ehab Badawy is the Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security in Egypt and a National Food Systems Convener.

Hasan Ashqar

Hasan Ashqar is an agronomist, specialized in agricultural development and policies, with long experience in managing both development and humanitarian programs in agriculture. Since July 2018, he has been working as a Director General of Planning and Policies in the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. He was responsible to direct the efforts on developing the Palestinian national agricultural policies and programs towards developing the sector and modernizing the agrifood system, while supporting the resilience of the Palestinian farmers and enhancing the national food security situation.

Ahmed Al-Badeery

Ahmed Al-Badeery is Assistant General Manager of the Horticulture Department. He has a Ph.D. in Soil and Water Resources Sciences/Soil, is a Physics Scientific researcher, and the director of Al-Madayn Research station. He is a member of several committees working on water and agriculture policies. He worked with International Organizations including the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), American and Central American Organization. He is the coordinator of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in the field of agricultural policies and the Head of the Food Systems Dialogue Team in the United Nations.

Said Saghir Zarouali

Said Saghir Zarouali is the Head of Agricultural Programmes and Rural Development Division, High Commission for Planning, Rabat, 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.



Ibrahim Dukheiri

Ibrahim Dukheiri is the Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (See full bio above).

Naser Edin Obeid

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

Razan Zuayter

Razan Zuayter is the founding partner of Sanabel Landscape Architecture. She has extensive experience in various fields of agriculture, management, landscape design, site execution, planning, and supervision. Ms. Zuayter is a senior consultant in Jordan and the region, with a focus on agriculture, food security, eco-landscaping and xeriscaping. Her concern for the environment and food security led her to establish the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and co-found the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS). She is a co-chair of the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty and a member of the League of Arab Committee on Combating Hunger in the Arab World. She is the previous co-chair of the Conflict and Fragility Working Group affiliated with the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness and the Civil Society Mechanism working group on protracted crises affiliated the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Ms. Zuayter is also the former Regional Coordinator of the IUCN. She has worked relentlessly to bring the issue of food security, particularly in the context of conflict, war and occupation, to the agenda of major policy platforms. She is the initiator of the Million Tree Campaign in Palestine that have resulted in the planting of over 2.9 million trees since the year 2001.

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 the enhancement of the role of Arab food manufacturers. He holds several certificates and awards from Arab and international levels.



Special session 8: Overview of the international human rights mechanism's contribution to the implementation of SDG 16

Jessy Chahine

Jessy Chahine is an expert in the field of human rights and media. She holds an MA degree in communication from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a bachelor's degree in political studies and public administration from the American University of Beirut. Ms. Chahine has extensive media and public outreach experience and currently holds the position of public information officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, covering the MENA region. In her previous incarnation, she acted as a spokeswoman for the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria from May 2015 until the end of 2016. Prior to that, she worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross as an Arabic spokesperson. She also worked as a journalist for the Beirut-based English-language newspaper The Daily Star.

Kinga Janki

Kinga Janki is a Human Rights Officer at the UN Human Rights Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa.

Ansam Al-Abayechi

Ansam Al-Abayechi is a Regional Gender Advisor at the Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She holds a Master's degree in International Development Policy. She has diversified experience working for the public sector as well as international organizations. She worked for ten years in governmental offices during which she established the first NGOs registration directorate in the Iraqi Ministry of Planning. During the last two decades, Ms. Abayechi worked in various international organizations focusing on human rights, including UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank. Her expertise mainly focusses on gender mainstreaming in public policies and national action plans, women empowerment strategies, combating violence against women strategies, and women's role in peacebuilding in the Arab region. She took the lead on designing, planning and implementing different capacity building programs for many stakeholders, especially government employees, on gender equality and combating gender-based violence.

Maan Salman

Maan Salman is a Human Rights Officer and Regional Anti-Racial Discrimination against Africans and people of African Descent Advisor at the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for the Middle East, and North Africa, based in Beirut – Lebanon. He holds a master's degree in criminology and international criminal justice. Before joining the Office of the Commissioner, Mr. Salman worked for 20 years as a police officer for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and for the Quebec Provincial Police. In addition, he is a certified Polygraph



examiner and criminal profiler. Mr. Salman also worked for 18 years for International Tribunals and United Nations fact finding missions investigating criminal cases and war crimes.

Lyn Eid

Lyn Eid is a Human Rights Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Treaty Body capacity building programme. She has 20 years of professional experience in human rights and sustainable development in the Middle East and North Africa region, including 12 years of experience within the United Nations System. Ms. Eid is currently based in Beirut and she covers the MENA region. She holds a Regional Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democracy in the MENA region from the University of Saint Joseph, Beirut. Her research focused on Minorities' Rights in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations: Iraq and Syria as case studies. She has as well a "Maîtrise" in Laboratory Sciences from the Lebanese University of Public Health (section II). Ms. Eid is also a Certified Facilitator for Participatory Gender Audit (PGA) by ITCILO.

Jad Hajj Chehade

Jad Hajj Chehade is a Lebanese junior lawyer specialized in planification and public administration. He works as an Associate Human Rights Officer in the Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Middle East and North Africa, where he contributes to the work of the Office in monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in the region, making recommendations regarding it, and providing advice, technical support, advocacy activities and training programmes, focusing in particular on the contribution of youth to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Special session 9: Empowering communities: building resilience through early warning systems in the Arab region

Saira Ahmed

Saira Ahmed is a Risk Knowledge Programme Officer at the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States.

Chadi Abdallah

Chadi Abdallah is the Director CNRS, Lebanon.

Khader Mohamed Nur

Khader Mohamed Nur is the Director of SODMA, Somalia.

Ahmad Raad

Ahmad Raad is an ITU expert in Telecom regulation authority, Lebanon.

Abdelrahman Zawawy

Abdelrahman Zawawy works in the Lebanese Meteorological Department.

Mohamed Kanj

Mohamed Kanj works in the Lebanese Meteorological Department.

Kassem Chalaan

Kassem Chalaan is from the Lebanese Red Cross Society.

Plenary session 5: Building climate resilience in a polycrisis environment (SDG 13)

Nadim Farajallah

Nadim Farajallah founded and directed the Climate Change and the Environment Program at the American University of Beirut's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, prior to taking the inaugural position of Chief Sustainability Officer at the Lebanese American University. He has an MS degree in irrigation engineering and an MS and a PhD in environmental engineering. Mr. Farajallah worked in the private sector first as a senior scientist and as a Senior Environmental Engineer on projects which focused on environmental impact studies and management plans, hydrological studies and erosion assessment and mitigation. His research focuses on the implementation of the sustainable development goals within an academic framework especially in academic settings. He also continues to work on the impact of climate change on human settlements and activities; impact of climate change on security; the nexus of water-energy-food and climate change with focus on adaptation and resilience.

Razan Al Mubarak

Razan Al Mubarak is a distinguished environmental leader with two decades of environmental and nature conservation leadership. She is currently serving as the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28 and the President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). She is the first president from West Asia and only the second woman to lead IUCN in history.

Zaghloul Samhan

He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, water and environment concentration, from Birzeit University, and a master's degree in hydroinformatics from the UNESCO IHE Institute in the Netherlands. Since 1999, he has been working at the Environmental Quality Authority in Palestine as Director General of Environmental Policy and Planning. He leads the cross-sectoral environmental planning process in Palestine. He is a member of the national strategic planning team, a member of the national population team and the national team to localize and follow up on sustainable development goals. He leads the specialized working group on environmental goals. He is also a member of the Supreme Organization and Planning Council and the Board of Directors of the Standards and Metrology Foundation. He also represents Palestine in the Technical Committee for the Environment in the League of Arab States. He is considered one of the environmental experts in Palestine and the Arab region. He has many working papers, and has contributed to the production of many documents at the national level. He also participated in many international and regional conferences related to the environmental dimension and climate change.

Abdullah Bin Ali Al Amri

Abdullah Ali Al Amri holds a master's degree in engineering geology & hydrogeology and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering. His professional expertise covers project engineering & management, geology, water supply, environmental engineering, and wastewater treatment, in addition to



parliamentary action and local community management. Mr. Al-Amri has academic experience and research work in civil and environmental engineering, water and wastewater treatment and reuse.

Asma Rouabhia

Asma Rouabhia is dedicated to advancing just, inclusive, and sustainable energy transitions. She has a diverse commitment to youth leadership development, women's empowerment, and the well-being of marginalized communities. She served as Regional Advisor for Youth Engagement, Policy & Advocacy and before that as Girl Up MENA Regional Manager at the United Nations Foundation in Washington DC. She is a Global Focal Point for the SDG 7 Youth Constituency, a member of the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group with UNDESA, and a member of IRENA Global Council. She is also the founder of El Khadra Sustainable: A Better Tunisia For All. Ms. Rouabhia delivered the Keynote Youth Statement at the ministerial opening of HLPF 2023.

Amgad Elmahdi

Amgad Elmahdi, Regional Manager for MENA at the Green Climate Fund-GCF, brings over 25 years of hydrology expertise across operational, research, and academic sectors. Previously, as GCF's Global Water Sector Lead for the last two years, he crafted the water investment strategy. Before joining GCF, Mr. Elmahdi directed R4D business portfolios for MENA at the International Water Management Institute-IWMI. Earlier roles include Head of Water Resources at Australia's Bureau of Meteorology, establishing the Water Assessment and Accounting Information Program. He chairs the Water Security Bureau at IWRA and serves on steering committees for ICID, Water and Climate Coalition-WCC, Water and Finance Coalition-WFC, and Water Integrity Network-WIN.

Special session 10: Climate-resilient water solutions for communities hosting displaced people

Carol Chouchani Cherfane

Carol Chouchani Cherfane directs the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies and leads the Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster at ESCWA. She has over 25 years of experience supporting regional initiatives, inter-governmental processes and inter-agency partnerships on water, energy, food security and the environment under a changing climate in the Arab and Mediterranean regions. This includes coordinating the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) since 2011. Prior to joining ESCWA, she worked at the Harvard Institute for International Development and the World Bank. She completed her graduate degree and doctoral studies at the Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy (Boston) and undergraduate degree from Georgetown University (Washington, DC) in international environment and resource policy, development economics, and law and development.

Taina Christiansen

Taina Christiansen is the Head of Country Programme of UN-Habitat in Lebanon. Prior to assuming



this role in September 2019, Ms. Christiansen worked at UN-Habitat’s Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya serving first as the Executive Director’s Special Assistant, and later as a Public Information Officer in the External Relations Division. She leads a team of 40 staff based in Beirut, overseeing the implementation of a country programme that continues to respond to multiple urban crises facing the country. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Christiansen served in two United Nations peacekeeping missions from 2013 to 2017, in Mali (MINUSMA) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) where she worked as a Conduct and Discipline Officer, engaging in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and general misconduct by UN personnel. From 2009-2013, she worked with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) in Geneva, on addressing HIV in security and humanitarian situations and on national strategic planning on HIV and with the International Trade Centre in Geneva, on human resources policies. Ms. Christiansen holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Politics from Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts (USA), and a Master of Arts in International Peace Studies with a specialisation in conflict mediation from the United Nations University for Peace, Costa Rica.

Sara Al Haleeq

Sara Alhaleeq is the Head of the Adaptation Division in the Climate Change Directorate of Jordan, bringing with her eight years of experience as a Climate Change expert and developing country negotiator. Ms. Alhaleeq has played a pivotal role in delivering Jordan's commitments for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She has actively participated in the development and updating process of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and serves as a key team member in the National Adaptation Plan process. In these roles, she has been responsible for ensuring climate change adaptation is effectively mainstreamed and engaging relevant stakeholders to build capacity and involve them in the development of climate change initiatives in Jordan.

Salem Darwich

Salem Darwich is a professor at the Faculty of Agriculture, Lebanese University. He heads the Department of Agro-economics and is a member of the higher committee of research and development at the Lebanese University. He is a specialist in issues related to the economics of agricultural, rural, and agro-food development and has over 25 years of experience in consultancies and working in supporting development projects in close coordination with local and international development bodies and NGOs. The main focus of the consultancies includes socio-economic studies in the field of agriculture, climate change, water management, and needs assessment, specifically those of marginalized groups. His research counts more than 20 articles published in leading journals and books. Mr. Darwich holds a PhD in Agricultural economics from ENSAM (École Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie de Montpellier, today entitled l’Institut Agro Montpellier).

Anjam Sabir

Anjam Sabir brings over eight years of expertise in humanitarian INGOs, specializing in WASH



responses in Iraq. A key contributor to WASH cluster since 2021, he facilitated the transition to government-led sector coordination from UN-led cluster coordination. As the National WASH Transition Coordinator at Mercy Corps, Mr. Sabir leads efforts to empower the Iraqi government in coordinating WASH sectors, focusing on climate change-related water scarcity and drought. His commitment extends to participation in the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development event in Beirut, reflecting his dedication to sustainable solutions and regional collaboration in addressing water challenges. Mr. Sabra's leadership underscores his significant contributions to the sector's evolution and resilience in Iraq.

Lea Mascaro

Léa Mascaro is the Consortium Coordinator for the Hawkamaa-EU project in Lebanon, a nationwide EU-funded consortium comprising 11 NGOs, academia, think tanks, and civil society actors, and led by the NGO ACTED. She primarily focuses on issues related to sustainable and equitable water services, displacement, integrated resource planning and management, participatory approaches, and governance. Previously, she has worked on multi-sectoral responses in development and complex emergency contexts, including Syria, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Niger, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. She holds a master's degree in international cooperation and development from Sciences Po Aix-en-Provence, and a master's degree in international and European Studies from Sciences Po Strasbourg.

George Saade

George Saade is the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) and Environmental Engineer at UN-Habitat Lebanon with over five years' experience in the WaSH field. He is currently involved in many WaSH and renewable energy projects which aim at supporting vulnerable communities by integrating climate change adaptation measures and innovative sustainable solutions in water, sanitation, renewable energy, development and reconstruction sectors to overcome persistent challenges. Mr. Saade holds a master's degree in civil engineering with over eight years of professional experience, while gaining his experience in the WaSH field by going through extensive trainings, practices and challenging projects. His expertise includes strategic planning, technical analysis, and project management.

Mohammad Amara

Mohamed Amara is a Water and Environment Engineer at UN-Habitat Jordan with a master's degree in civil engineering and over nine years of experience. He specializes in WASH, Shelter, and Climate Change projects with INGOs and UN agencies. He has extensive experience in schools' rehabilitation, IDP/ITS camps, water/sanitation networks, irrigation systems, wastewater treatment plant improvement, rainwater harvesting systems, greywater treatment and reuse systems, and hygiene promotion. Mr. Amara's previous roles include Water and Sanitation Engineer at ACTED, Senior Implementation Engineer at NRC, WASH project Coordinator at IRD/Blumont, and WASH project coordinator at World Vision, where he also served as the head of project. He has also worked in



refugee camps in both Jordan and North Syria.

Sara Hess

Sara Hess is an Associate Economic Affairs Officer with ESCWA in Beirut where she works in the Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, primarily on issues related to climate, peace, and security, water, and climate finance. Previously, she was with the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico City. Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Hess was a private sector development consultant at the World Bank and researcher at Harvard Business School. She holds a master's in urban and regional planning from MIT and a bachelor's in economics from Wellesley College.

Special session 11: Data in conflict and humanitarian settings in the Arab Region

Ismail Lubbad

Ismail Lubbad is a demographer/statistician who has been working in the field of statistics, policy analysis and research for more than 28 years in the United Nations institutions, government institutions, civil society organizations, and academia. He holds a Ph.D. in Demography and social sciences from the School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris and a master's degree in applied Statistics from the University of Paris-Est. Mr. Lubbad joined the United Nations in 1999 and has been working since 2008 in the Department of Statistics in ESCWA in the field of demographic and social statistics. Currently, he serves as Officer in Charge of Demographic and Social Statistics and provides technical assistance to countries in related demographic and social statistical areas, including, elaboration, monitoring, and reporting related to sustainable development indicators.

Nibal Idlebi

Nibal Idlebi is the Acting Director for the Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster at ESCWA.

Safa Mautee

Safa Mautee is Head of Central Statistical Organization in Yemen.

Ali Mohammad Abbas Ahmed

Ali Mohamed Abbas Ahmed is the Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics in Sudan.

Khalid Abu Khalid

Khaled Abu Khalid has 25 years of experience in statistical work with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. During 1999-2004, he was Director of the Health Statistics Department at the Bureau, and then Director of the Social Statistics Department during 2005-2015. In 2016, he was appointed as Director-General of the General Department of Censuses for two years. He is currently the Director-General of the General Directorate of Administrative Records and Statistical Monitoring, and manages the sustainable development portfolio within the Bureau. He contributed to numerous publications and statistical reports issued by the Bureau, and has also served as an adviser to several local research institutions on issues such as family health studies and surveys, gender, and disability, and as a multi-indicator cluster survey adviser to UNICEF/Palestine Office. Mr. Abu Khalid is a member of several of



Palestine's national technical committees on sustainable development and gender goals. He holds a master's degree in public and community health.

Magued Osman

Magued Osman is a Professor of Statistics at Cairo University and the CEO of the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera). He is also the Chairman of Telecom Egypt, member of the National Council for Woman, and the Vice Chairman of the Arab Union for Statisticians. Mr. Osman acted as the Chairman of the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers' Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) from January 2005 to February 2011 when he was appointed Minister of Communications and Information Technology in the post revolution caretaker government. He provided short-term consultancies to several regional and international organizations including The European Union, UN ESCWA, UN HABITAT, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, and WORLD BANK. He led several national surveys activities in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and UAE and designed and supervised many public opinion polls. He earned his Ph. D. and M.S. in biostatistics from Case University (USA).

Emad ElHajj Chehade

Emad ElHajj Chehade is the Head of Buildings Directorate and the Acting Director of Sidon Port, Lebanon.

Special session 12: Reform priorities of the multilateral system from a civil society perspective

Sally Abi Khalil

Sally Abi Khalil is a humanitarian and development practitioner with twenty years of experience in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Egypt, and the Syrian Arab Republic. She is currently Middle East and North Africa Director of Oxfam International and has served as chair of the Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum. As the first Lebanese woman to run a major international NGO within the Syria Response in Lebanon, she has led humanitarian response programming, programmes supporting youth and women with social innovation and social entrepreneurship initiatives, promoted the right to decent work, worked for the establishment of civil society networks, and promoted feminist approaches towards leadership and collective action. Ms. Abi Khalil career has followed the trajectory of civil unrest in the Arab region where she played various roles in shaping civil society development and organizational leadership. She began her career at UNDP in Lebanon and went on to co-direct the Tharwa Project, an independent initiative launched in the Syrian Arab Republic to foster new avenues for communication and activism in the Arab region. Following the Cedar Revolution of 2005, Ms. Abi Khalil joined the National Democracy Institute (NDI), where she managed Citizen Lebanon, a nationwide civic education and advocacy program. During the Arab Spring, she worked on the Maghreb Youth Political Party Leadership Programme in Tunisia and the region, and then went on to lead NDI's Syria country programme focusing on youth political leadership development and political party



development.

Mohamad Said Saadi

Mohamad Saadi is an economist and an independent consultant. He has worked as a Thesis Director at the Graduate Institute of Commerce and Business Administration of Casablanca (ISCAE) from 2011 to 2015. He was an expert and Member of the Gender and Development Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and Secretary of State for Social Protection, Family and Childhood. His research topics cover rethinking development models and developmental states, the impact of the neoliberal and global crisis on Arab countries, industrialization and industrial policies.

Madani Abbas Madani

Madani Madani was the Minister of Trade and Industry in the transitional government in Sudan. He graduated from the University of Khartoum, Faculty of Economics, in 1999. He is politically active in Sudan and held the position of Executive Director of NIDAA Organization from 2005 to 2019. Mr. Madani has published many studies on sustainable development, the Istanbul principles, the conflict in Sudan, and the empowerment of civil society in Sudan.

Ziad Abdel Samad

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

Closing

Said Al Saqri

Said Mohammed Al Saqri is the minister of economy of Oman (See full bio above).

Mounir Tabet

Mounir Tabet is the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCWA (See full bio above).