

Speaker Biographies



Navid Hanif

Director, Office for Financing for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) United Nations

Navid Hanif is the Director of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). He joined UNDESA in 2001; until 2003, he was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

He later joined the office of the Under-Secretary General for UNDESA and focused on departmental initiatives in various policy areas. He worked as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch in the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support from 2004 to 2009. In 2005, he was sent on a special one-year assignment to work as a Principal Officer in the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General. He worked there as a member of the team for the 2005 World Summit. In 2010, he was appointed as Head of the newly established DESA Strategic Planning Unit. He served as Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (June 2012 – February 2018).

Mr. Hanif holds Masters in International Political Economy from Columbia University, New York and Masters in English Literature from Government College, Lahore.

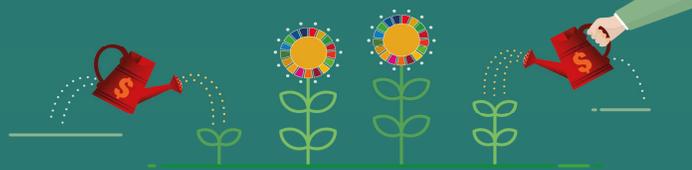


Malak Draz

Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Malak Draz is an investment officer in IFC's Infrastructure and Natural Resources Department. She has over 10 years of international project finance experience. Before joining the investment team, she worked extensively on Public Private Partnership ("PPP") advisory mandates in Africa and the Middle East primarily in the transport, power, and water sectors.

Some of her more prominent projects include the successful closings of the first wastewater and health BOT projects in Egypt, the first Solid Waste PPP in the West Bank as well as the first dry port PPP in Niger. She also led the successful mandate signings in the West Bank and Tunisia in the solar and wastewater sectors respectively. Before joining IFC, Malak has worked in the finance, construction and insurance sectors in Egypt, Spain and Mexico.



Ashish Khanna

Program Leader for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, World Bank

Ashish Khanna leads the sustainable development and infrastructure program of the World Bank in Egypt since 2014. He is responsible for the World Bank's operations in energy, transport, urban, water, social, environment and climate change issues for Egypt. Ashish led the USD 3.15 billion economic reform, competitiveness and energy reform program for Egypt. He is leading the renewable energy program that led to USD 2.5 billion global private investment in Egypt, and the reforms in oil and gas sector that have galvanized USD 20 billion of global private investments in Egypt. He is also leading the work on enabling private investment and commercial financing across infrastructure sectors in Egypt. Prior to his engagement on Egypt, he led the India energy operations of the World Bank from 2008 to 2014. He joined the World Bank in 2005 prior to which he had senior responsibility at KPMG and Arthur Andersen for 7 years on energy and infrastructure sectors.

Ashish is a speaker in multiple international forums and has published various papers in areas of governance reforms, renewable energy, public private partnerships, regulation and political economy of reform. Mr. Khanna holds an undergraduate degree in economics and a master's degree in business administration, with specialization in finance. He also completed his master's in public administration at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government (Edward S. Mason Program), with Lucius N Littauer fellowship for academic excellence and leadership potential.



Noha El-Mikawy

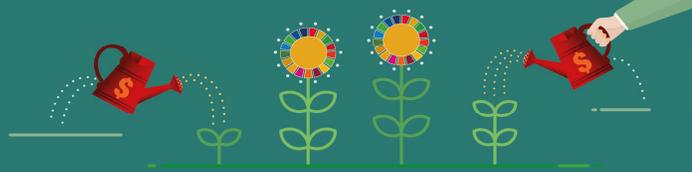
Representative Middle East & North Africa, Ford Foundation

Noha El-Mikawy is Ford's representative for the Middle East and North Africa office in Cairo. She oversees all of the foundation's grant making in the region.

Before joining the foundation in 2012, Noha served as a team leader for democratic governance at the United Nations Development Programme's regional center in the Arab States region and as a global policy adviser connected governance and poverty reduction themes to social and economic rights. She supervised a number of global and regional UNDP initiatives in the areas of nationally owned governance assessments and legal empowerment. She helped produce a number of UNDP knowledge products, including a guide for gender-sensitive measurement of social services.

Previously, Noha led Middle East-focused comparative research on political economy and institutional analysis at the Centre for Development Research at the University of Bonn, in collaboration with the Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran, and Turkey. She began her career lecturing and writing on politics of the Middle East at the American University in Cairo, Free University of Berlin, and Erlangen-Nuremberg University. Noha has written two books on politics of reform in Egypt and edited another on comparative processes of economic reform, participation, and legislation in Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco.

Noha holds both a PhD and a master's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Nedzad Ajanovic

Senior Partnership Specialist, Islamic Development Bank

Nedzad joined IsDB in January 2011. He serves as a partnership, cooperation and resource mobilization focal point for some of the major development partners (e.g. IFIs, MDBs, UN system, and bilateral agencies). He coordinates, helps develop, and monitors the implementation of strategic partnership arrangements (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation, Co-financing Agreements, Joint Action Plans) for the bank.

Previously, Nedzad worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as Field Programme Officer and Operations Officer on emergency, rehabilitation and development projects in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development from 2000 to 2010. From 1999 to 2000, Nedzad worked for CARE International in Myanmar as Natural Resources Coordinator and Project Manager in agro-forestry.

Nedzad holds a BSc. in Environmental Studies from Allegheny College, Pennsylvania, USA and a Master's in Environmental Science from the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Nedzad is a dual national of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Canada. He is married with one child.



Ali Awdeh

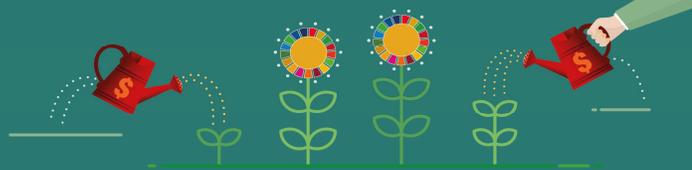
Director Research Department, Union of Arab Banks

Mr. Awdeh is the Head of the Research Department at the Union of Arab Banks, a position he holds since 2010.

He obtained a PhD in Finance from Cass Business School (London) in 2005 and has published 25 papers in various peer reviewed journals on banking, monetary policy, and financing for development.

Mr. Awdeh has thirteen years of academic experience and holds the title of Full Professor of Finance. He started working at the Lebanese University in 2005 and is still teaching there to this day.

He also worked as an expert for UN-ESCWA between 2014 and 2016.



Mr. Khaled Hanafy
Secretary-General, Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce

Dr. Khaled Hanafy is the Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce and Professor of Economics and International Business.

He held several positions in government, academia and the private sector, including as Minister of Supply and Internal Trade in Egypt, Chairman of the Internal Trade Development Authority and Dean of the College of International Transport & Logistics, at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport.

Dr. Hanafy contributed significantly to the development of the Egyptian internal trade, through numerous initiatives. He was awarded twice in recognition of developing a New Food Subsidy System serving more than 70 million Egyptians.

Dr. Hanafy also served as the Chief Editor of the Economic constitution of Egypt and was Chairman and board member of several governmental and private holding companies. He contributed to and managed several projects for the Arab League, World Bank, IMF, WTO, UN, ILO and EU. He was also an Economic Advisor for the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce.

Dr. Hanafy holds a MSc degree in Regional Development and a PhD degree in International Trade, in addition to a number of other diplomas in International Trade, & Business Administration.

Representative (tbc)
League of Arab States