



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



PATHFINDERS
INITIATIVE FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
HOSTED BY THE UNU CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Session 1: Global and regional drivers of the polycrises and inequality



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Tarek Masoud is the Ford Foundation Professor of Democracy and Governance at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is the co-Editor of the Journal of Democracy of the National Endowment for Democracy and serves as the Faculty Director of the Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative and the Initiative on Democracy in Hard Places. His research focuses on political development in Arabic-speaking and Muslim-majority countries. He is the author of "Counting Islam: Religion, Class, and Elections in Egypt" (Cambridge University Press, 2014), The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform with Jason Brownlee and Andrew Reynolds (Oxford University Press, 2015), and several articles and book chapters. He is a 2009 Carnegie Scholar, a trustee of the American University in Cairo, and the recipient of grants from the National Science Foundation and the Paul and Daisy Soros foundation, among others. He holds an AB from Brown and a Ph.D. from Yale, both in political science.



Elizabeth Sidiropoulos

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos is the chief executive of the South African Institute of International Affairs. Her areas of expertise lie in South African foreign policy, Africa and external powers, global governance and south-south cooperation. She is the editor-in-chief of the South African Journal of International Affairs, a policy-oriented, peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary forum for discussion on Africa's and South Africa's international affairs. She is a regular commentator in South African and foreign media. She currently serves on the UN's High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs as well as on the Secretariat of the T20 Brazil's International Advisory Council.



Louis Kasekende

Louis Kasekende joined the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI) on April 1, 2021, as the Executive Director. Prior to joining MEFMI, he served as Deputy Governor at the Bank of Uganda for fifteen years, between December 1999 and January 2020. He served as Chief Economist of the AfDB from May 2006 to December 2009. Between 2002 and 2004, he served as Executive Director at the World Bank for Africa Group 1. He has served on various Boards including

AFREXIMBANK and AERC. He holds a PhD and Master of Arts in Econometrics from the University of Manchester and a bachelor's degree in economics from Makerere University. He has authored several articles in academic journals and books.



Marouane El Abassi

Marouane El Abassi holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne. He served as Office Manager of the World Bank in Libya (2012) and was a Senior Adviser at the Arab Institute of Business Managers (IACE). He also worked as an Expert for the Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies and Economic Adviser at the Ministry of Commerce, Tourism, and Handicrafts. An Associate Professor of Economics, he became a full professor at the University of Carthage in 2007. El Abassi served several national and international organizations on business policies and finance. He was appointed Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia in February 2018 and named “Best Central Bank Governor for the Middle East and North Africa” by Global Markets in 2019. He completed his six-year mandate in February 2024. El Abassi has published numerous articles and received honors for his work in economic development and finance.



Rizwan ul Haq

Rizwan ul Haq has been a Research Officer at Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), since 2022. He is part of the OPHI's research and outreach team and works with national governments and international agencies in the development and analysis of multidimensional poverty measures, with a focus on South Asia and the Middle East. He holds a PhD in Demography from the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. He has more than 20 years of experience in the population and development sector focusing primarily on poverty, ageing and health. He has also worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan.