



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Session 2: Polycrises and inequality in the Arab region: an unpleasant mix



Luna AbuSwaireh

Luna Abuswaireh is the Director-General of the Center for Arab Unity Studies since 2017, boasts over two decades of experience in managing development programmes in International Organizations and in collaboration with intergovernmental bodies. She previously led the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in Cairo and coordinated climate change portfolios in Bonn and Geneva. She started her career as a Project Officer managing a UNDP project on youth development and participation in the refugee camps in Gaza Strip, Palestine. Additionally, she contributed to the development of international and regional reports and strategies related to climate challenges, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. She initiated numerous development projects, notably establishing the First Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Aqaba in 2013. She holds a master's degree in public and international affairs from Pittsburgh, USA and a Postgraduate Diploma in Feminist Development Economics from the Netherlands.



Eleonora Nillesen

Eleonora Nillesen is a Professor of Public Policy and Development at the School of Business and Economics and UNU-MERIT in Maastricht, the Netherlands. Eleonora is a development economist using field experiments to assess the causal impact of development interventions on topics related to gender, technology, agriculture, labor markets and informal institutions. She conducts large-scale household surveys and behavioral experiments in various countries in Sub-Sahara Africa, MENA and South-East Asia, and has published on these topics in leading economics journals including the American Economic Review, Journal of Public Economics, and Journal of Development Economics and the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization. She has ample experience in conducting primary data in challenging post-conflict environments including Burundi, Liberia, and DR Congo. Eleonora currently leads two large-scale impact evaluations on in Madagascar, Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan respectively and is involved various smaller field experiments in Paraguay, Ethiopia, India and Mexico.



Samah Hamad

Samah Hamad is a leader with 25 years of experience in social and economic development, educational and empowerment programmes. She is currently the Minister of Social Development in the nineteenth Palestinian Government and is known for her analytical skills in education, social development, and entrepreneurship. She holds a doctorate in business administration (DBA) from Northampton University, as well as degrees in professional project management (PMP) and a master's degree in business administration (MBA). She led the implementation of influential programmes at the Paltel Group Foundation, in collaboration with renowned organizations to enhance students' skills and establish innovative education initiatives. And because of her recent academic achievements and her focus on leading human capital skills, she is committed to driving progress and sustainable growth in Palestine.



Ahmed Adam Bakhit

Ahmed Adam Bakhit is the Minister of Social Development of the Sudan. He oversees social safety and security funds as well as laws, policies, and strategies for social protection groups. He is also responsible for the National Population Council, the National Children's Council, the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics and the Violence against Women Unit. He was a founder of the Sudan Justice and Equality Movement as well as the Sudan Revolutionary Front. He holds a bachelor's degree in education, emphasis in physics and chemistry, from Zagazig University, and a postgraduate diploma in development planning and another one in business administration from the University of Khartoum.



Soltan Aljorais

Soltan Aljorais is the Acting Vice Minister and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development for Social Security and Empowerment in Saudi Arabia since 2021. Prior to his appointment at the Ministry, the Deputy Minister held a number of senior management positions with Saudi Authority for Accredited Valuers, finishing his time with the organization as the Secretary General. The Deputy Minister holds a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in computer engineering.