

ECOSOC Chamber
Wednesday 22 May 2019, 10:00 – 12:15pm

Session V
**Getting the regional architecture right:
A Round-Table on the way forward**

Participants

Presenter



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General
of the United Nations

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed 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. Prior to this, she served as Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning .

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.

Moderator



H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki
CEO of the New Partnership
for Africa's Development,

Dr Mayaki has been the Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since 2009. From 2004-09, he served as executive director of Rural Hub, a Dakar-based platform supporting rural development in West and Central Africa.

Former Prime Minister of Niger from 1997 to 2000, Dr Mayaki is committed to promoting social dialogue. In 2000, he created the first National Social Dialogue Commission of Niger. He also started a think tank for public policy debate on health and education issues. From 1996-97, he was appointed Minister in

former Prime Minister of Niger and former member of the Independent Team of Advisors to the ECOSOC Dialogue

charge of African Integration and Co-operation and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Mayaki also has long experience in teaching. In the 1980s, he worked as a professor of public administration in Niger and Venezuela. From 2000 to 2004, Dr Mayaki was a guest professor at the University of Paris XI, where he lectured on international relations. He holds a master's degree from the National School of Public Administration (Enap) in Quebec, Canada and a PhD in administrative science from the University of Paris I in France. In his most recent book, "Africa's Critical Choice," he calls for a pan-African roadmap and offers a guide for future generations to address the crucial changes Africa is facing.

Panellists



H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen
Permanent Representative of
Bangladesh to the United
Nations

Prior to his appointment as permanent representative, he had been Bangladesh's Ambassador to Japan since August 2012. Before that, he had served since August 2008 as his country's Ambassador to Italy and Permanent Representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

From 2006 to 2008, he was Director-General for Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for matters related to South Asia, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the United Nations.

He was Deputy Commissioner at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India, from 2004 to 2006, having been Director of Poverty Alleviation at SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 2001 to 2004.

From 1998 to 2001, he was Director in charge of the Foreign Ministry's United Nations Wing and Foreign Secretary's Office in Dhaka.

He holds a master's degree in international relations from Tufts University (United States), and a bachelor's degree in economics from Dhaka University (Bangladesh).



Ms. Alicia Bárcena Ibarra
Executive Secretary, ECLAC

Prior to her appointment as Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Bárcena Ibarra served as the Chef de Cabinet to the former Secretary-General before serving as the Under-Secretary-General for Management.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Bárcena Ibarra served as Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC and as Chief of the Environment and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC. She previously served as Coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as Adviser to the Latin

and Coordinator for the
Regional Economic
Commissions

American and Caribbean Sustainable Development Programme in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

She took part in the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. She was Principal Officer in charge of various topics related to Agenda 21 and was also the Founding Director of the Earth Council in Costa Rica.

Previously, she served in the Government of Mexico as the first Vice-Minister of Ecology and as Director-General of the National Institute of Fisheries.

In the academic arena, Ms. Bárcena Ibarra was the Director of the South-East Regional Centre of the *Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bióticos* in Yucatán. She has published articles on sustainable development, namely on financing, public policies, environment and public participation.

Ms. Bárcena Ibarra holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University.



Mr. Jens Wandel
Special Adviser to Secretary-
General on Reforms

In his role as the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Reforms, Mr. Wandel heads the transition team to ensure overall coordination of the three reform streams (sustainable development, peace and security, and management).

Mr. Wandel has had many years of distinguished service within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He served as Assistant Administrator (Assistant Secretary-General), Director of the Bureau of Management from 2012 to 2017. Mr. Wandel has also served in several management functions focusing on change initiatives, including as Director of the Centre for Business Solutions, as Management Adviser and Project Director for the Work Improvement Tools Project and as a country-level coordinator of UNDP's New Horizon 2001 change management exercise.

Mr. Wandel has also held various leadership positions at the country level, including as United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Turkmenistan; UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Kyrgyzstan; and UNDP Assistant Resident Representative, Viet Nam.

Mr. Wandel holds a Master of Arts equivalent in political science (development and public management) from the University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Born in 1962, he is married and has three children.



Mr. Mourad Wahba
Assistant Administrator
and Director of the
Regional Bureau for Arab
States, UNDP

As of May, 2019 Mr. Mourad Wahba (Egypt) is Acting Associate Administrator of UNDP. He also serves as the UNDP Regional Director for Arab States.

Mr. Wahba has had many years of distinguished service at the United Nations and UNDP. Most recently, he served as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Haiti. Prior to this, he served as Deputy Director and Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Regional Bureau of Arab States, UNDP, in New York (2013-2015); Director, Security Office, UNDP Bureau of Management, New York (2009-2013); UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative (2006-2009) in Morocco; Director, United Nations Affairs, UNDP New York (2001-2006); and Deputy Resident Representative in Guyana (1999-2001).

Mr. Wahba began his career with the United Nations in 1993, as a Senior Officer in the Office of the Secretary-General.

Before joining the UN, Mourad was an Associate Professor of Economics at the American University in Cairo, and a Visiting Lecturer on International Political Economy at the Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt (1987-1993).

Discussant



Mr. Pieter Leenknecht
Head of Unit, Belgian
Development Cooperation
and Humanitarian Aid

Pieter Leenknecht is the head of the UN System Unit at the Belgian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid administration within the Belgian Foreign Ministry. He represents Belgium in the Utstein Group of like-minded donors to the multilateral development system, and currently runs the Belgian chairmanship of the group (2019) on a daily basis. He was also part of the team behind the Belgian ECOSOC OAS chairmanship in 2018.

In a previous position he was the national focal point to the UN for the Belgian 2017 National Voluntary Review on Sustainable Development which was presented in New York last July, and operated as one of the two penholders of the actual report; he was a member of the 'Friends of the Sherpa' group around HM Queen Mathilde of the Belgians in her capacity as a global SDG Advocate, and a member of various working groups under the Belgian Inter-ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development. He is a career diplomat with previous postings in Kabul, Geneva and Nairobi and studied law (LL.M., Harvard; College of Europe, Bruges; KU Leuven), art history (KU Leuven; Universidad Complutense de Madrid), international relations (KU Leuven) and leadership in international security (Geneva Center for Security Policy).