

Linking Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development through the Human Security Approach

Ministerial Luncheon at the Africa-Arab Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Organised by the United Nations Human Security Unit and
the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

11 October 2018
13:00-14:30, LAICO Hotel, L'Escale Room
Tunis, Tunisia

Speaker Biographies

H.E. Dr. Riadh Mouakher, *Minister of Environment and Local Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia*

H.E. Dr. Riadh Mouakher is the Minister of the Local Affairs and Environment for the Republic of Tunisia. Dr. Mouakher obtained his doctorate in medicine in 1989 and practiced anesthesiology at several hospitals in Tunisia and France from 1991 to 2011. In 2011, Dr. Mouakher became a founding member of the Afek Tounes political party and was elected to the Tunisian Assembly of the Representatives of the People in October 2014, where he was member of two important commissions: the Committee of Security and Defense and the Committee on Industry, Energy, Preservation of Natural Resources and the Environment. In August 2016, he was appointed Minister of Local Affairs and Environment in the government of Youssef Chahed.

Ms. Mehrnaz Mostafavi, *Chief of the United Nations Human Security Unit (HSU)*

Ms. Mehrnaz Mostafavi is the Chief of the United Nations Human Security Unit (HSU). Since joining the HSU, she has been instrumental in establishing the strategic vision of the HSU and its operational activities in 95 countries, developing the HSU as the center of knowledge on human security, strengthening the policy basis for human security, and expanding the resources of the HSU and the UNTFHS. Prior to joining the HSU, she worked providing policy guidance at the Bureau for Development Policy at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition to her contributions at the United Nations, Ms. Mostafavi has worked in the private sector and academia.

Dr. Fadi Hamdan, *Founder of Centre for Disaster Response*

Dr. Hamdan is an expert in protecting people, assets and the environment against man-made conflicts and natural hazards. He has given more than one hundred workshops on matters related to risk governance and communication, disaster risk management, resilience, sustainable development and protection of investment and development gains. His organization Disaster Risk

Management Centre (DRMC), founded in 2004, strives to provide support to municipalities, cities, governments and private sectors. Dr. Hamdan earned his Ph.D. from Imperial College, London (UK) in 1993. He is a Chartered member of The Institution of Structural Engineers and the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (MRINA-UK).

H.E. Sheikh Saleh Habimana, *Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to Tunisia*

H.E. Sheikh Saleh Habimana is the Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to Tunisia, with residence in Cairo. He was previously a member of the Parliament of Rwanda and was chief of political parties, NGOs, and faith-groups for the Rwanda Governance Board. He served as the Grand Mufti of Rwanda from 2001 to 2011, working to support the wellbeing of the Muslim community in Rwanda and to promote social reconciliation after the 1994 Genocide. As Grand Mufti, Ambassador Habimana was one of the co-heads of the Interfaith Commission for Rwanda. In 2008, he was awarded the Golden Rule Peace Medal for his work in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding.

Dr. Nicholas Novelli, *Yale University Center for Ecosystems in Architecture*

Dr. Novelli joined the Yale University Center for Ecosystems in Architecture in 2018 to direct research into energy, water, reclamation and integration strategies for healthy and sustainable built environments. Additionally, he works in development of next-generation solar and daylighting technologies and has consulted in high-performance and green building design. He earned his Bachelor's in Engineering at Tufts University, and his PhD in Architectural Sciences at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in the United States.

Ms. Kirsi Madi, *Director of UNISDR*

Prior to joining the UNISDR in 2016, Ms. Madi served as the Chief of National Committee Relations at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). She previously served as the UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Central Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEECIS). She also served as the Chief of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat in the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Ms. Madi has over 20 years of experience in the fields of development and humanitarian action from operational, policy and coordination perspectives.