



SDG 16 CONFERENCE

Peace, Justice & Inclusive Societies



Advancing Peace, Justice and Institutions for Sustainable Development

Monday, 12 May 2025

United Nations Headquarters, New York

SPEAKER BIO



Ms. Manal Benani, Sustainable Cooperation for Peace & Security (SCPS) / Africa Europe Foundation

Dr. Manal Benani is an Algerian medical doctor with a dual degree in diplomacy from the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies. She is a prominent advocate for youth engagement in peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

As co-founder of Sustainable Cooperation for Peace & Security (SCPS), an Italian civil society organization, Dr. Benani focuses on implementing the UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (Youth, Peace and Security) and 1325 (Women, Peace and Security). SCPS aims to foster inclusive societies through peacebuilding initiatives and sustainable development goals. SCPS is also a the Italian member of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS).

Within SCPS, Dr. Benani contributes to advancing youth and women's participation in peace and security processes. SCPS is currently co-leading the Italian Youth Peace and Security coalition and engaging with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop Italy's first Youth, Peace and Security National Action Plan

In her role as Youth and Culture Manager at the Africa-Europe Foundation, Dr. Benani champions youth empowerment and intercultural dialogue between the two continents. Her work involves facilitating youth engagement in policy discussions and cultural exchanges .

Dr. Benani's commitment to youth advocacy is further evidenced by her participation in the Young Mediterranean Voices program, where she progressed from a trainer of debate and public speaking skills to organizing national debate competitions. She has also collaborated with organizations such as SEforALL, the Union for the Mediterranean, and the Anna Lindh Foundation to amplify youth voices in regional and international forums .

Her multifaceted work underscores a dedication to fostering peace and security through youth engagement, with a particular focus on inclusive dialogue and policy influence.



Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

