

## Webinar 5 on Localization of the SDGs

### Bios of Speakers



**Mr. Muhammadali Khudaverdiyev** is currently Director-General for International Affairs at the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of Azerbaijan (also known as “ASAN” which stands for “Azerbaijan Service and Assessment Network”) whose goal is to make services more easily accessible to citizens using modern technologies. He has worked at the agency since 2021. Previously he worked as a project coordinator at UNPD from 2013-2016. Before he joined ASAN, he worked at Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of the Government of Azerbaijan. Mr. Khudaverdiyev received his bachelor’s degree in International Law and master’s degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI).



**Ms. Kate Bird** is a socio-economist with 30 years of experience leading interdisciplinary and mixed methods research and advisory work. She is the founder and Director of The Development Hub, Professor of Practice with Surrey University's department of Politics and International Relations, ODI Senior Associate and CPAN Associate. Kate has extensive experience researching chronic and intergenerational poverty. Her work takes a gendered perspective and has incorporated research on women’s economic empowerment.

Kate leads The Development Hub’s work on equity, agency and power (decolonising development, women’s agency and male backlash) and economic transformation (poverty dynamics in Madagascar with the Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Madagascar, the Institute of Development Studies and Oxford Policy Management). Kate’s country expertise includes Cambodia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.



**Mr. Deniz Susar** is a Governance and Public Administration Officer in the Digital Government Branch of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government at UNDESA. Deniz’s main work areas include digital government and preparation of the biannual UNDESA flagship publication ‘United Nations E-Government Survey’. As part of his current role, he also supports the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

His main research areas include e-government, open government, citizen engagement, internet governance, artificial intelligence and other frontier technologies and open government data. Deniz holds a master’s degree in

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International Political Economy and Development from Fordham University, New York, United States and a Computer Engineering degree from the Bosphorus University of Istanbul, Turkey.



**Ms. Yu Ping Chan** is the head of Digital Partnerships and Engagement at UNDP. As part of UNDP's Executive Office, Yu Ping helps drive global thought leadership and builds partnerships to support the agency's digital development work. Yu Ping previously headed the Rising Nations Initiative Secretariat at the Global Center for Climate Mobility. She has extensive experience with multilateral diplomacy and the United Nations system, having also previously led the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, as well as the Policy and Regional Support teams in the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Before joining the UN Secretariat, Yu Ping was a diplomat in the Singaporean Foreign Service. Yu Ping has a Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude) from Harvard University, and a Masters of Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.



**Ms. Anna Calvete Moreno** is the Head of Research at United Cities and Local Governments, the largest network of local and regional governments around the world. She is the coordinator of the Global Taskforce's yearly 'Towards the Localization of the SDGs' report and promotes other initiatives for SDG localization. She is currently coordinating the GOLD VII report and process on Economies of Equality and Care and other research-based initiatives, with a focus on transforming research findings into policy and practice.

Anna holds an LLM in European and International Law (Universität Bremen, 2013) and a MSc in Gender, Law and Society (Umeå universitet, 2019). She has 12 years of experience in local governance and public management. She has worked in several public administrations in different countries, and as a private consultant for several local and national governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, with a particular emphasis on improving local governance from an international perspective.



**Ms. Jessica Musila** is an Independent Governance Consultant with over 24 years of inter-disciplinary work experience in the humanitarian, development, and governance sectors. Her expertise cuts across media, politics, water, education, agriculture, gender, public engagement, transparency, and accountability. She has consulted for the Institute of Climate Change and Adaptation at the University of Nairobi, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya, Democracy International, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Transparency

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International Kenya, Integrity Action and GIZ. Jessica has worked in the Kenyan digital space with Twaweza East Africa, mySociety UK, Mzalendo Trust, a Kenyan parliamentary watchdog organization and the Local Development Research Institute. She has also worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Nairobi Regional Office.

Jessica has a B.A. in Communication and Community Development from Daystar University and a Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the University of Erfurt, Germany. Jessica is a member of the Vital Voices and the DAAD- African Good Governance Network (AGGN).