



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

**Capacity Development Workshop on
“The Future of Governance and New Mindsets,
Knowledge, and Competencies fit for the 21st
Century”**

**Within the context of the 8th edition of the
African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes (FAMI)**

9-13 December 2024 | Tangier, Morocco

BIOS OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Adriana Alberti

Dr. Alberti is Chief, Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA. She has thirty years of international knowledge and expertise in governance and public administration. She coordinated and contributed to a number of UN publications, including the UN E-Government Survey. She has led capacity development activities in over 25 countries from around the world, including on innovation in governance and digital government. She coordinated the UN Public Service Forum and Awards programme. As Chief Technical Advisor, she managed an innovation programme in the Middle East, North Africa, and Western Balkans. Prior to joining the UN, she worked at the University of Bologna and taught at several universities. She was Visiting Fellow at Princeton University, the Institute of Advanced Social Studies in Spain, and the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. She was awarded fellowships from the Italian National Research Council, the European University Institute, the Government of Spain for the Salvador de Madariaga Research Grant, and Harvard University. She holds a Ph.D. in Social and Political Sciences from the European University Institute; a master's degree in Political Science magna cum laude from the University of Bologna and an Executive Education certificate from Harvard University.

Ms. Cristina A. Rodriguez-Acosta

Dr. Rodriguez-Acosta is a Senior Interregional Adviser for Public Administration at the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in New York specializing on issues of digital government, innovation, and public policy. Prior to joining UNDESA, Cristina was Assistant Director for Institutional Relations at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy at Florida International University (FIU). She holds a PhD in Public Affairs from Florida International University in Miami, a MA in Latin American Affairs from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and graduated from the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina with a BA in International Relations and a Certificate in Political Science.

Ms. Veronique Verbruggen

Ms. Veronique Verbruggen is an Interregional Advisor on Governance and Institution Building at UNDESA's Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), with over 25 years of experience in governance and conflict matters. She currently supports small island developing states, low income, and land locked developing countries with the implementation of SDG 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals framework, around sound policymaking, policy coherence, strategic foresight, system thinking, anticipatory governance for systemic transformation, change management and public administration reform and on integrated policymaking for climate action. Veronique holds a master's degree in political sociology and Master of Business Administration.

Mr. Armando Guio

Armando Guio Español is a lawyer who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia) in 2014. He holds a Master of Laws (LL.M. '16) from Harvard Law School and a Master of Public Policy (MPP '18) from the University of Oxford. He has served as an affiliated researcher at the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard University. Additionally, he is part of the OECD's Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence and Risks. He has advised public and private entities worldwide on data protection, AI policies, and innovation. He led the design and implementation of Colombia's AI Strategy. As a consultant for CAF - Development Bank of Latin America, he worked with the governments of Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, and Chile on their own digital transformation and AI strategies. He has also advised the World Bank, the University of Oxford, and UNESCO, among other entities, on issues related to AI ethics and governance. Currently, he is the Executive Director of the Global Network of Internet Centers at Harvard University.

Dr. Teferi Hailemichael Hassen

Dr. Hassen is an Assistant Professor and Director of Centre for Sustainable Development at the Ethiopian Civil Service University (ECSU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He served as an Assistant Professor in the fields of Public Administration and Research, Peace and Security, Law and Governance, and Administrative and Constitutional Law at Universities of Wollo and Kotebe in Ethiopia. He is an Individual Council Member of AAPAM, Member of IIAS, and President of Ethiopian Society for Public Administration & Governance. Dr. Hassen holds a Doctor of Public Administration.

Mr. Amson Sibanda

Dr. Amson Sibanda leads and manages the activities undertaken by the Branch that support DESA's operational work aimed at developing capacities of developing countries to translate internationally agreed policy frameworks and programmes at global, regional and country-levels. Prior to his appointment in January 2020, Dr. Sibanda was the Chief of the Social Policy Analysis Section in the Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Dr. Sibanda has published widely on African demography, migration and employment, children's schooling, fertility trends, HIV/AIDS, child marriage, household structure, poverty and inequality.

Mr. Gregory McGann

Mr. Gregory McGann has nearly ten years experience of public policy, economics and software engineering. Prior to joining UN DESA in 2020, he worked for the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Switzerland. He did his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Oxford, where he also worked as a researcher at first the Department of International Development and then the Department of Social Science, and later studied at the University of London. While studying in London, he founded and led a developer community and taught Machine Learning, and currently leads a Machine Learning community of practice in Oxford.

Dr. John-Mary Kauzya

Dr. John-Mary Kauzya, Professor Extraordinary School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University since January 2022, is a celebrated and decorated Ugandan expert in public governance and public administration, who in 2022 retired from the UN after 22 years as Chief of Public Service Innovation Branch advising Governments on governance, Public Administration and Management and championing capacity development for innovation and transformational leadership in public sector institutions. He holds a PhD in Law (Doctorat en Droit) from the University of Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne specialising in public administration and management. In 2014, the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) gave him the O.P DWIVEDI AWARD for Outstanding Contribution to Public Administration and Public Policy in the World. In 2021, the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) was awarded to Dr. Kauzya the Braibant Lecture Award for his contribution to the advancement of the public governance discipline. In December 2022, the Africa Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) awarded Dr. Kauzya with a Gold Medal marking his exceptional achievement that has made “significant contribution to the advancement of excellence in public administration and management in Africa”. He is currently engaged in teaching on the Executive Management Masters Course for Municipal Managers in Africa at the Al Alkhawyn University in Morocco lecturing on transformational leadership, innovation and promotion of professionalism in the public service in Africa’s local governments. At the Uganda Management Institute, before joining the United Nations, he spearheaded capacity development for Uganda’s local governments and designed the decentralization policy of Rwanda and its implementation strategy. He has widely published in various areas of governance and public administration. He is a member of the UNDESA/IASIA International task force on Standards of Excellence on Public Administration Education and Training and a Member of ICAPA (International Committee of Accreditation in Public Administration).

Dr. John Nakabago

Dr. Nakabago has over 40 years of working experience in various capacities in the Public Sector. He currently serves as the Director Finance and Administration/ Secretary to Governing Council at the Uganda Management Institute (UMI), a Uganda Government Management Development Institute (MDI). He has held senior management positions in public sector institutions in Uganda and has been involved in training, research and consultancy in management and governance. He has delivered several papers at international conferences. Dr Nakabago has also worked as Director of the Ministry of Education and Sports, Project Administrator of the Ministry of Local Government, and Principal Accountant of the Coffee Marketing Board in Uganda. Dr. Nakabago possesses a PhD in Business and Economic Sciences from the North West University (South Africa), Master of Business Administration (Makerere University Uganda), and Bachelor's of Commerce (Makerere University Uganda).

Mr. Mahammadali Xudaverdiyev

Mr. Mahammadali Khudaverdiyev was born in Baku on May 20, 1990. Mr. Khudaverdiyev received his bachelor's degree in International Law and International Relations from the Baku State University in 2011. In 2013, he made his master on Civil Law. In 2024, he got next master degree on Artificial Intelligence. He is the graduate of different academic programs held in USA, Republic of Korea, Germany, China, United Arab Emirates, Türkiye. Between 2013-2014 and 2016-2017, he worked in the United Nations Development Program in Baku for different projects. Currently, he works at the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan – "ASAN xidmat". Mahammadali is the author of several articles on public administration, innovative development methods in public service delivery which was published by USA, Italy, Indonesia, Korea, UK, Türkiye mass media organizations. Furthermore, he is the trainer on negotiation skills and techniques, Diplomatic protocol and etiquette, effective public service delivery, future of services. He is fluent in English and Turkish languages.

Mr. Goran Pastrovic

Goran Pastrovic is a Senior Expert in Quality Management at EQUILIBRIUM.INT, with over 15 years of experience in project development, management, coordination and consultancy. He is currently engaged in service and program design, quality and organizational change management, agile management, human-centered design, digital transformation, and the design of innovation portfolios. His work spans the public, civic and private sectors, including the circular economy and he serves as a short and long-term expert for organizations such as SIGMA OECD, UNDP, EU-funded projects and GIZ-funded projects globally.

From 2011 to 2020, Goran was the Programme Manager at ReSPA (Regional School of Public Administration), managing regional activities in digitalization and quality management in public administration and services. He contributed to the initiation, design and implementation of key initiatives such as the ReSPA-SIGMA OECD Public Administration Awards (since 2020), the introduction of rapid innovation labs concept in the W. Balkans in collaboration with U.S./California officials and the establishment of the Regional Quality Management Centre in the Western Balkans.

Goran holds a degree in Agronomy from the Faculty of Agronomy, Belgrade (2002), and completed advanced studies in Sustainable Development in Italy (2002/03). He earned an MBA through the European Union TEMPUS program at the University of Belgrade (2009) and has gained extensive experience in providing technical assistance to central governments to build institutional capacities (certified Coach). In 2024, he completed a Master's in Artificial Intelligence for Public Services (AI4Gov) at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain.

Mr. Deniz Susar

Deniz Susar is a Governance and Public Administration Officer, Digital Government Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government is a Governance and Public Administration Officer at the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of 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 Masters degree on 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. Nagham ElHoussamy

Nagham ElHoussamy is the Associate Director for Research on the Middle East and Africa at the Access to Knowledge for Development Center (A2K4D) at the American University in Cairo's Onsi Sawiris School of Business. Nagham ElHoussamy is working on research on the intersection of knowledge, data, technology, entrepreneurship and development. She manages the MENA Observatory on Responsible AI. She joined the Center in June 2012, serving as the North Africa Hub coordinator for the Open African Innovation Research Partnership (Open AIR). Prior to joining A2K4D, Nagham was an Economic Researcher in the Macro-Fiscal Policy Unit at the Egyptian Ministry of Finance. She interned at the ICT Policies Unit of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia in Beirut. Nagham graduated from The American University in Cairo with an MA in economics in international development and a BA in political science, specializing in international law and International relations, with a minor in economics.