

***Facilitated Online Training Course***  
***on***  
***“Changing Mindsets and Strengthening Governance Capacities for Policy Coherence for a Holistic Implementation of Agenda 2030 in the Arab region”***  
**26/28 January and 2/4 February 2021 (EST)**

**Bio of Speakers**

**SPEAKERS**

**Bryonie Guthrie (Switzerland)**

*Content and Partnerships Lead, Strategic Intelligence, World Economic Forum*



Bryonie Guthrie is on the Strategic Intelligence team at the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on content and partnerships for the platform and, specifically, engaging the public sector and international organizations in relation to the platform. Prior to joining the Forum, Bryonie worked in the private equity field in Hong Kong, following completion of her diplomatic posting to the South African Consulate in Hong Kong. Bryonie has nearly a decade of experience working with the public sector and governments, especially in the developing world. Bryonie studied her undergraduate degree in South Africa, at the University of Pretoria, and completed her Master’s degree

in Asian and International Relations at City University, Hong Kong.

**David Alzate (United States)**

*Senior Policy Associate, Morocco Employment Lab, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Global*



David Alzate is a Senior Policy Associate at J-PAL, where he works on the Political Economy and Governance sector and manages the sector’s Governance Initiative (GI). He also supports J-PAL Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to joining J-PAL in 2018, he worked as a summer intern with guide (the Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development, and Evaluation) in Nairobi, Kenya, assisting in field research for digital financial inclusion and road safety projects. He has also interned at The Inter-American Dialogue and worked as a research assistant at Georgetown University’s Mortara Center Global Governance Lab. David holds a bachelor’s degree in

International Political Economy and a certificate in International Development from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, where he graduated magna cum laude. Born and raised in Quito, Ecuador, he is a native Spanish speaker and proficient in French.

**Diana Alarcón González (Mexico)**

*Chief Advisor and International Affairs Coordinator, Mexico City Government*



PhD in Economics from the University of California, Riverside. Academic at different universities in Mexico and the United States, with extensive experience in international organizations, mainly within the United Nations (UN). Dr. Alarcon recently served as Head of the Policy and Development Analysis Unit at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). From this position, she led the editorial team of the *World Economic and Social Survey*, the world's largest publication on development data. In the United Nations Secretariat, she played a leading role in the preparation of analytical contributions to the intergovernmental processes that defined the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Dr. Alarcon played an important role in the coordination of technical assistance provided by the United Nations for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); she was co-chairman of the United Nations commission that prepared the meta-data for the MDGs, and in 2008 she co-directed the creation and annual publication of the report on compliance with MDG-8 in relation to international cooperation for development. She worked for 10 years at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as well as in the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). Dr. Alarcon received PhD in Economics from the University of California, Riverside. Academic at different universities in Mexico and the United States, with extensive experience in international organizations, mainly within the United Nations (UN).

### **Georges Lobo (Belgium)**

*Programme Manager for EU Policies, Directorate General for Informatics, European Commission*



Georges Lobo holds PhD in Particle Physics from the University of Paris-Sud (Orsay, France). He has been active in research in Particle and Nuclear physics for about 10 years before working in ICT. He started working at the Commission almost 20 years ago as a researcher and have been in charge of IT in a number of commission services as Informatics Resource Manager. Since 2012 he is working as Programme Manager in digital technologies working on a number of topics such as Internet of Things, Network Technologies, Connected Automated Driving and Smart Cities, and has joined the Interoperability unit in 2017 where he is currently in charge among other things of Innovative Public Services and Interoperability Academy.

### **Hana Lakhdar Ghazal (Morocco)**

*Deputy Director, Morocco Employment Lab, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Middle East and North America*



Hana is J-PAL's Morocco Employment Lab Deputy Director, where she works on running the Lab operations. Over the last 14 years, she has developed good knowledge of public policy implementation and expertise in strategy, organization and transformation. Hana started her career in 2006 in international development. She moved to Morocco in 2010 and has been working since as a public servant and then as a consultant for the public sector, including for international institutions such as The World Bank. Among the major projects she worked on is the elaboration of the National Youth Strategy, the development of a sustainable city near the Casablanca metropolis and the elaboration of Casablanca-Settat development strategy. She also worked during the last 3 years with AfDB on setting up a delivery unit for the Head of Government Office in Morocco and with MCA-Morocco on supporting the Secondary Education Project in Morocco. Hana holds an MSc. in Management from ESCP Europe and a Master in Morocco History from Université Paris 1-Panthéon La Sorbonne, where she is currently a PhD student. She is a native French and Arabic speaker, and fluent in Spanish.

## Jesper Christiansen (Denmark)

*Co-founder and Director, States of Change*



Jesper is currently Co-founder and Director of States of Change - a non-profit global public innovation learning collective dedicated to supporting governments, public organisations and institutions to reinvent themselves, dramatically accelerate the embedding of innovation mindsets, habits and behaviours to drive culture change and ultimately deliver better outcomes in relation to the problems we are facing. Jesper has a long track-record of working with ambitious governments, public organisations and international institutions - in all parts of the world - to deliver better outcomes and systems transformation. Within States of Change, Jesper has been leading multiple strategic partnerships - including the governments of Canada, Colombia, UAE and Australia and international institutions such as UNDP, NATO and the EU Commission. His past work places includes - among others - UK innovation foundation Nesta, Danish government innovation unit MindLab, Australian public design outfit Thinkplace and Canadian social innovation unit InWithForward (CAN), Lab de la Ciudad (MEX), Kennisland (NED), and ThinkPlace (AUS). Jesper holds a PhD degree in public innovation from the Department of Anthropology & Ethnography at Aarhus University. He also has a Master's degree in Anthropology from Aarhus University and an additional degree in journalism from the Danish School of Journalism.

## Louis Meuleman (Belgium)

*Coordinator, Environmental Implementation Review, European Commission, Visiting Professor at KU Leuven, Senior Fellow at University of Massachusetts and Research Associate at Wageningen University*



Louis Meuleman works at the European Commission in Brussels as coordinator of the Environmental Implementation Review and of the greening of the European Union's economic and social governance. He is visiting professor at the Public Governance Institute of the University of Leuven, in Belgium, senior fellow at the Center for Governance and Sustainability of the University of Massachusetts, in Boston, United States of America, research associate at the University of Wageningen, in the Netherlands, and member of the editorial board of Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal. He is a member of the International Association for Impact Assessment, the European Sustainable Development Network and the Netherlands Association for Public Management. He has 35 years of public sector management experience, handling subnational, national, regional and international issues, mainly in the fields of the environment and sustainable development, as project, programme and line manager. As director of the TransGov project of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam, Germany, from 2010 to 2011, he produced the report entitled Transgovernance: the Quest for Sustainability Governance and was editor of Transgovernance: Advancing Sustainability Governance (2013). Mr. Meuleman has authored a number of publications, including his PhD dissertation, Public Management and the Metagovernance of Hierarchies, Networks and Markets (2008). He was co-editor of Environmental Governance in Europe (2003). He has published books, book chapters and articles on environmental policy, interactive policymaking, meta-governance, governance of long-term decision-making, cultural diversity and sustainability governance. He has a PhD in public administration and an MSc in environmental biology.

### **Marja Innanen (Finland)**

*Chief Specialist (Sustainable Development) in the Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Secretary General for the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, Finnish Prime Minister's Office*



Marja Innanen is a Chief Specialist (Sustainable Development) in the Prime Minister's Office. She also works as Deputy Secretary General for the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, which is led by the Prime Minister. Marja Innanen and the general secretariat for Sustainable development work for to engage the whole of Society and the whole of the Government in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She has been involved in all the latest phases during implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Finland, eg. the Government's implementation plans (2017, 2020), the National Voluntary Report of Finland (HLPF 2016, 2020), the follow up and monitoring system, the state budgeting process of the 2030 Agenda, the National SD Strategy, and the evaluation process. Before working in the Prime Minister's office for the past three years, she worked for over 18 years with various environmental and sustainability topics in the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, WWF Finland, Finnish Environment Institute and a private environmental consultant agency.

### **Rolf Alter (Germany)**

*Senior Fellow, Hertie School of Governance*



Dr. Rolf Alter is an experienced economist and Senior Fellow at the Hertie School. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the World Economic Forum Global Risk Report. He spent over 25 years at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris. In 2006, he was appointed Chief of Staff to the OECD Secretary-General, and in 2009 he became Director of Public Governance. Alter built a team of over 200 staff to support governments in improving their public sector performance for inclusive growth and economic competitiveness. He previously also worked for the IMF in Washington, DC, and for the German Ministry of Economy in Bonn. For the last several years, he has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Risks Report of the World Economic Forum. Dr. Alter's interests include institutional and regulatory reform, productivity, innovation, results-oriented budgeting, transparency, leadership and integrity. He holds a doctorate from the University of Göttingen. In 2013, he received a doctorate h.c. from the National University of Hungary and in 2016 was awarded the O.P. Dwivedi Award by the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration for his outstanding contribution to public administration and policy.

### **Sherman Tan (Singapore)**

*Desk Officer, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, International Organisations Directorate, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



Sherman oversees climate change and sustainable development issues within the International Organisations Directorate at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sherman's work involves coordinating Singapore's SDG-related efforts, and monitoring our implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change, in consultation with other agencies. He also oversees discussions on macroeconomic and development issues under the UN General Assembly Second Committee in New York. Sherman has represented Singapore at international climate change negotiations and has spoken on Singapore's sustainable development efforts at the UN and other relevant international platforms. He holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours (Highest Distinction) in Political Science from the National University of Singapore. He also attended the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

### **Thurid Hustedt (Germany)**

*Professor of Public Administration and Management, Hertie School*



Thurid Hustedt is Professor of Public Administration and Public Management at the Hertie School, the University of Governance in Berlin. Her research explores policy advisory systems' role in governance and policymaking, the relationship between politics and administration, and government coordination often from a comparative perspective. She has widely published in international journals among others in Public Administration and Journal of European Public Policy. Thurid has extensive experience in executive education teaching audiences from a variety of national, cultural and professional backgrounds. She is the co-editor of *dms – der moderne staat* (with Sylvia Veit), the leading German-speaking journal in public administration and public policy. Before joining the Hertie School, she was a Visiting Professor at Freie Universität Berlin and a postdoctoral researcher at Potsdam University with research visits at the University of Bergen (Norway) and the University of Toronto (Canada). Thurid holds a PhD and a Diploma in Public Administration from Potsdam University.

## **MODERATORS**

### **Adriana Alberti (Italy)**

*Chief, Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)*



Dr. Adriana 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.

### **Aslam Alam (Bangladesh)**

*Chairman and Executive Director, Bangladesh Institute for Information literacy and Sustainable Development (BIILSD)*



Dr. Alam had been a career civil servant with the Bangladesh Administrative Service. He has recently retired as a Senior Secretary to the Government. He has been a catalyst in the public service capacity development for SDGs as Rectors of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) and Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy. He has been a Vice President of the Bangladesh Society for Training and Development (BSTD) for over a decade. He has significantly contributed to the development policy making in his role as the Secretary, Financial Institutions Division (FID) of the Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh and the Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) as well as the Director General of the Department of Land Records and Surveys and the Director General-3 at the Prime Minister's Office. He also worked on lien with the UNDP/UNOPS for four years as the Senior Program Manager of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP). Dr. Alam has been a catalyst in the digitalization of special libraries at the governmental level. He is playing a pioneering role in the information literacy movement in Bangladesh as well as awareness making for the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution. Dr. Alam obtained his PhD in Social Science and Policy (Environmental Policy) from the University of New South Wales at Sydney, Australia. Prior to doing PhD, he did an MA in International Relations with specialization in international economic cooperation at the International University of Japan (IUJ).

### **Karam Karam (Lebanon)**

*Chief of Governance and State-Building Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)*



Karam Karam is Regional Advisor on governance, peacebuilding and transitions at United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). Before joining ESCWA, He worked as Head of Research at the Common Space Initiative (CSI-UNDP). He supervised national and regional research and mapping related to the national dialogues and reform processes in the MENA region. He also supported and facilitated a number of national dialogue processes. Mr. Karam was an associate professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the Lebanese University. He also worked as Program Director at the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. He has published a number of articles and books on social movement, political transformation and reforms in the Arab countries. Karam Karam holds a PhD in Political Science and Master's degree in Comparative Political Sciences from the Institute of Political Sciences (IEP), Aix-en-Provence, France. He has served in many reform committees, mainly as an active member of the "Special Committee for Decentralization Reform" in Lebanon and founding member of: "Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections", "Legal Agenda", and "Common Space Initiative".



### **Veronique Verbruggen (France)**

*Senior Interregional Advisor Governance and Public Institutions, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*



Veronique Verbruggen is Senior Interregional Advisor for Governance and Institution Building and supports the UN member states (in particular LICs, SIDS and Land locked developing countries) with the implementation of SDG 16 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals framework, more in particular in the area of institutional and policy coherence and public sector reform. She was deployed as Senior Political Affairs Officer at UNSOM (Somalia) on matters of stabilization, community recovery, local governance and service delivery and peacebuilding matters. She worked for 13 years as Senior Governance and Conflict Advisor in Kenya, Russia/ North Caucasus, Ukraine, the Western Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey and Indonesia on behalf of the British Department for International Development (DFID). As Public Sector Governance Reform specialist to the European Commission's DG for Enlargement she led a public sector reform strategy in partnership with OECD that was implemented in collaboration with North Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Turkey and Kosovo. As Chief Program and Knowledge Management at the UNDP- hosted Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, she shaped and implemented roadmaps to give people operating in the informal economy access to justice, strengthen labor and business rights and strengthen secure tenure of land. Before that, she worked for many years as an Advisor to the European Commission's DG on Employment and Social Affairs. Veronique Verbruggen holds a Master's degree in Political Sociology and an MBA.

### **Youness Abouyoub (Lebanon)**

*Chief of Governance and State-Building Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)*



Dr. Youness Abouyoub is the Chief of Governance and State-Building Section at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). He is in charge of a diverse portfolio of programmes on governance and institutional development that provides member States with substantive analysis, policy advice, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge sharing on a host of governance and institutional matters, including political reform and transition, crisis and conflict management, and damage and loss assessment. This holistic approach stresses the importance of laying the foundations for accountable, responsive and inclusive governance institutions, as well as crisis management and post-conflict institutional rehabilitation. These programmes also focus on consensus-building and national dialogue efforts, and international and regional governance cooperation. Dr. Youness Abouyoub, leads the publication of the Arab Governance Report and the work of ESCWA on governance and conflict prevention, which is linked to efforts to help member States to develop transparent, accountable, inclusive and effective public sector institutions and, in so doing, to improve core Government services. It shares best practices, particularly with crisis-hit and post-conflict countries, and LDCs, and runs innovative technical cooperation projects designed to bolster the capacity of Governments to respond to emerging crises.