

Regional Webinar in Africa:

Resilience and Recovery from Covid-19 through Sound Policymaking : “Risk management in Africa in response to COVID-19”

16 November 2021

Biography of speakers

Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs



Ms. Spatolisano has 33 years of experience in public service including extensive senior leadership in multilateral affairs. She has served as the European Union Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO, Monaco and Andorra. She was a member of the EU Delegation to the United Nations, serving as the Head of its Economic and Trade Section. She covered all issues related to trade, development and environmental policies in the Second Committee and ECOSOC and was also the EC representative to the Fifth Committee. Since 2017, she has been responsible for International Organizations and Development Dialogue with other Donors in the

Commission’s Directorate General for Development Cooperation. In this capacity, she has assured the EU presence and developed EU positions on development policy in several international fora including the United Nations, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, OECD, G-7 and the G-20. Ms. Spatolisano holds a Doctorate in Law from Florence University.

Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi (South Africa) Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration



Ms. Fraser-Moleketi is the Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and the Chairperson of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). Previously, she served as African Development Bank’s Special Envoy on Gender and UNDP’s Director of the Democratic Governance Group. She was the Minister of Public Service and Administration of South Africa for two consecutive terms. She serves on various boards in academia, government and development organizations on issues related to sustainable development. She was named New African Woman of the Year

in 2016. She is a fellow of the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. She holds an MA in Administration and was conferred a PhD (Honoris Causa) by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Rolf Alter (Germany) Senior Fellow, Hertie School of Governance



Rolf, an experienced economist, is a Senior Fellow of the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. This follows over 25 years at the OECD in Paris. As Director of Public Governance, Rolf and his team supported governments at all levels in improving public sector performance for sustainable development and the competitiveness of their economies. Prior to the OECD, he worked for the IMF in Washington. Since August 2021, Rolf is member of UNCEPA. Rolf studied in Germany and California, US. He has a doctorate degree from the University of Goettingen, Germany.

Raniya Sobir, UNDESA Consultant, Risk Management Framework.



Raniya has more than 15 years of overall experience in the international development field with more than 10 years of experience in delivering high quality research, knowledge products and evaluations that cover a range of themes including sustainability, resilience, and risk management. She has extensive international experience in delivering research that have both global and regional focus. These include field experience in 12 developing countries including in complex humanitarian and development settings including post-disaster, post-conflict and small island developing states settings. She has authored several papers for UNDESA on the SDGs, one assessing public sector capacity gaps to implement the Agenda 2030 covered the review of VNRs of more than 10 African states and a second paper examining the role of MSMEs in achieving the SDGs. Key publications authored on risk management include urban resilience assessment for Sichuan Province, China, a local governance framework to strengthen climate finance utilization and delivery at the local level for UNDP titled 'Delivering Benefits for the Poor'.

John Vandy Rogers, Deputy Director General, National Disasters Management Agency, Office of National Security, Sierra Leone, Government official good practice case, Sierra Leone



Mr. Rogers has been a National focal point for Disaster Risk Management for Sierra Leone between 2015 and 2020 and is currently the Deputy Director General for National Disasters Management Agency in the Office of National Security of Sierra Leone, acting as Government official for good practice case of Sierra Leone.

Babatunde A Ahonsi, UN Sierra Leone, Resident Coordinator



Dr Babatunde A. Ahonsi is the UN Resident Coordinator for Sierra Leone. He has more than 20 years of experience in international development and served as the acting UN Resident Coordinator in China until September 2020. Before this, he served as UNFPA Representative in China from January 2017 to June 2020 while concurrently serving as Country Director for Mongolia. He was UNFPA Representative in Ghana from 2014-2016.

Before joining the UN, Dr Ahonsi was the Population Council's Country Director for Nigeria from 2010 to 2014. He also served as a Trustee of International Women's Health Coalition, New York (2010-2014) and on the inaugural Board of the UN University's International Institute for Global Health, Kuala Lumpur (2008-2014). He was a guest researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden in 2009. From 1997 to 2008, he worked as Senior Program Officer of the Ford Foundation in West Africa.

Dr. Ahonsi is a national of Nigeria and holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Sociology (First Class Honors) from the University of Lagos. He also has a Ph.D. in Population Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.

Sara Hamouda, APRM- South Africa



Sara has eleven years of professional experience in the international cooperation and development field. Currently, she works for the African Union Secretariat for Peer Review Mechanism as an officer in charge of the agenda 2063/SDGs Unit and South-South Cooperation, based in Johannesburg South Africa. She manages continental capacity-building projects and multi-lateral workshops on Agenda 2063 advocacy, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation focusing specially on SDGs 16 and 17. She handles APRM continental work on and UN Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and APRM collaboration with different UN

agencies.

Earlier, she worked at the Cabinet of the Minister of International Cooperation in Egypt as a Senior Economic Researcher in charge of cooperation with the regional financial institutions and China for seven years. She also received a professional traineeship at the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg from 2017 to 2018, of which she provided policy analysis and research regarding the EIB role outside the EU, especially in the southern Mediterranean region as regarding various issues such as migration, donors' relations, and economic resilience.

Ms. Hamouda holds a Master of Arts in International Development from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, a Diploma in Peace promotion and disarmament from the University for Peace and Vienna Centre for Disarmament, and a Bachelor's in Political Sciences from the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo University. She is also an alumnus of the College of Europe in Warsaw. She got two internships at the American Congress in Washington DC in 2007

on the USA political system and foreign policy and at the German Bundestag, in Berlin, in 2013 on education policies and public administration.

In 2019, she was awarded amongst TOP 50 influential women in Egypt for Leadership and Community service under the Auspices of the Prime Minister Cabinet.

Veronique Verbruggen, Senior Interregional Advisor Governance and Public Institutions, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)



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.