

Speakers and Resource Persons' Book

Expert Group Meeting

“Enhancing Innovation to Build Resilient and Responsive Public Administration to Support the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – An SDGs Mid-Term Review Perspective”

The Expert Group Meeting is organized by the Public Service Innovation Branch (PISB), Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

7-8 September 2023

Conference Room B

United Nations Secretariat

New York

Format in person/remote presentations

Opening of the Expert Group Meeting: Welcome and Introduction



Mr. Juwang Zhu is currently Director of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government/DESA.

In that capacity he leads a team in normative, analytical and capacity-building work in promoting inclusive, effective, accountable institutions that are well equipped to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 16. This is the second time Mr. Zhu coordinated the work of the Division - he served as its director in 2014-2015.

Among his various assignments at the UN Secretariat, Mr. Zhu served as Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General/DESA (2008-2013). In that capacity he advised the Under-Secretary-General on a range of policy and management issues. During this period, Mr. Zhu also coordinated the Department's substantive advice to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on development issues and on the restructuring of DESA's capacity building programme.

Mr. Zhu was Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and in that capacity assisted in coordinating support for the Conference. He also contributed to the departmental support for Rio+20 follow-up, including work on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (2013-2014). As Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (Jan 2016- February 2019), Mr. Zhu coordinated the Secretariat support for the High-level Political Forum, the UN Ocean Conference, and the Global Sustainable Transport Conference.

Prior to his reassignment to DESA in 1993, Mr. Zhu had previously worked as a policy analyst in the secretariat of the UN World Food Council and in the UN Office in Geneva. He joined the UN Secretariat in 1985. Born in Shanghai, August 1961, Mr. Zhu graduated from the Shanghai International Studies University in 1982 and did post-graduate studies in Beijing Foreign Studies University. He has an MSC in financial economics from University of London and an MA in international relations from Webster University.



Ms. Elida Reci is the Governance and Public Administration Officer, Public Service Innovation Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

Ms. Reci joined the United Nations in 2005 and since then, she has been contributing to all three pillars of the DPIDG. At early years in the division, she continued her work on transparency, accountability, and participation in public financial management with a focus on Latin America and the Western Balkans, especially on pro-poor budgeting. For over ten years Elida has contributed to research and capacity building efforts on e-government, with enhanced contribution in Sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia as well as publications such as E-government Survey and UN Compendium on Innovative E-Gov Practices. Since 2020 her work is at the intersection of innovation, leadership/institutional framework in public service delivery. Over the years, Elida has served as a team member and contributed to several DPIDG publications. She has provided substantive contribution to several UNDESA publications such as World Economic and Social Survey, Interagency Task Force on Financing for Development, etc.

Mrs. Reci, a seasoned institutional economist joined UNDESA after 18 years of extensive experience in transition economies. A senior economic advisor to the Prime Minister of Albania, a former director at the Albanian Ministry of Finance, a Founder of Albanian Public-Private Finance Institute and the national coordinator of Albanian accession to World Trade Organization, Elida has coordinated a number of inter-ministerial groups and has been advising and working closely with parliaments, governments, civil society and business community in a wide range of development issues such as FDI and trade, banking sector reform, public financial management, SMEs and private sector, with a special focus on policy design and implementation. Ms. Reci had been part of Stability Pact Initiative for Western Balkans (1999-2005) with Economic Table II as regional expert, where she worked with several international organizations such as WB, IMF, UNDP, OECD, EU, EBRD, on post conflict reconstruction and state building.

She has also taught international trade and development economics at Tirana University and has been presenting papers and studies at several international, regional, and national conferences on development issues.

Elida has a BA in Finance from Tirana University, Albania, a MA in International Economics and Finance from Brandeis University, USA and an Executive Program Certificate in Program Management from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA. She is a Fulbright Scholar.

Setting the scene with two keynote presentations : The implementation of SDGs and the critical role of public administration at the time of multiple, intersected crisis: disruption, building back better or PA of the future. What is the role of PA innovation from a mid-term review perspective of the implementation of SDGs?



Ms. Yongyi Min, Chief of SDG Monitoring, Statistical Division, UNDESA

Yongyi Min is the Chief of the Sustainable Development Goal Monitoring Section at the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She is responsible for the programme of the global monitoring of the progress towards the SDGs. She manages and contributes to the work on the development and implementation of the global SDG indicator framework and supports the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. She is the lead author of the annual global *The Sustainable Development Goals Report* and manages other SDGs monitoring outputs at the global level. She has focused her career in the area of development statistics and indicators since 2011.

Between 2012 and 2015, she was responsible for the programme of the global monitoring of the progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. She was one of the lead authors of the MDG Reports from 2013 to 2015. She also worked on environment statistics and contributed to the global gender statistical programme. She holds a Ph.D degree in Statistics from the University of Florida.



Ms. Astra Bonini, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division of Sustainable Development, UNDESA

Ms. Astra Bonini Senior Sustainable Development Officer Division for Sustainable Development Goals United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Astra Bonini is Senior Sustainable Development Officer with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals. She leads policy analysis work to strengthen the science-policy interface for SDG implementation including support for the Global Sustainable Development Report and the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development. Prior to this role, Astra was a senior researcher with the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme and a Research

Scholar with the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. Specific areas of research interest include education and gender equality, the links between inequality and environmental degradation, and food systems transformation. Astra earned her PhD in sociology from the Johns Hopkins University and has a Master of International Affairs Degree from Columbia University as well as a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

Expert Dialogue 1: Political Leadership and Institutional Frameworks of Innovation



Dr. John-Mary Kauzya (Uganda), expert in governance, public administration and management, is currently Professor Extraordinary at the School of Public Leadership Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

He served as an international Civil Servant in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in New York from 1999 to end of January 2022. He was Chief of Public Service Innovation Branch (PSIB). He holds a PhD (Doctorat en droit) from the University of Paris Pantheon Sorbonne specializing in public administration and management. He has advised many governments on governance and public administration and has published widely in this domain. He is widely recognized and decorated by the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, the international Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration and the African Association of Public Administration and Management. Upon retirement from the United Nations Service at the beginning of 2022, he continued his work of supporting capacity development of the public service at national and local levels in Africa.



Mr. Rolf Alter is an experienced economist and Senior Fellow at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin specializing in Executive Education of senior officials from countries around the world. Since 2021, he is a Member of the Bureau of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UNCEPA) which supports the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030. He is currently co-chairing the regional group Europe of the IASIA/UN Task Force on Standards of Excellence in Public Administration Training and Education. He joined the Advisory Board of the Global Risks Report of the World Economic Forum (WEF) nearly a decade ago.

Rolf has worked at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris for more than 25 years. In 2006, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría and became Director of Public Governance in 2009.

Prior to the OECD, Rolf was an economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC. He started his professional career with the German Ministry of Economy in Bonn, Germany.

In 2016, Rolf was distinguished with the O.P. Dwivedi Award by the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) for his outstanding contribution to public administration and policy in the world. Rolf was a researcher at the University of California, Davis and holds a doctorate from the University of Göttingen, Germany. He lives in Paris and Berlin.



Mr. David le Blanc works in the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government in the UN Secretariat, where he leads analytical and policy work on public institutions and public administration in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals. From 2006 to 2017, he was in the Division for Sustainable Development in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. While there, he worked in support of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Rio+20 conference, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Before joining the UN, he worked at the World Bank as Senior Economist in the Urban and Housing

Finance groups (2003-2006). Earlier in his career, he worked at the French National Statistical Institute (INSEE) as Head of Regional Studies in the Rhône-Alpes regional office (1994-97) and Head of the National Housing Survey (1997-2000), and at CREST, Paris as a research fellow (2000-2003).



Ms. Amy Gill, UNDP is the Team Leader on Core Government Functions and Local Governance in the Crisis Bureau at the United Nations Development Programme, with over 20 years' experience in policy development and the design and management of local governance and recovery programmes. She has focused on service delivery, decentralization, federalism and strengthening state-society relations in urban and rural settings. Amy has provided policy and programming advice

to strengthen local governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, and civil society in fragile and crisis settings. She has supported local governance programming in a variety of settings including Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Madagascar, Lebanon, Jordan, Pakistan, Sudan, Indonesia, Philippines, Central African Republic, Yemen, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. She also has been a contributing specialist to different policy fora including the High-Level Political Forum, the Global Refugee Forum and Habitat III among others and is a board member of the Local Public Sector Alliance. She has also taught at the Wagner School in NYU. Prior to joining the United Nations, Amy worked with non-governmental organizations,

DFID, and the EU. Amy holds a Master of Science in Violence, Conflict and Development (hons) from SOAS, University of London.



Ms. Victoria Kim is a Programme Management Officer in the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She manages the UN Public Service Awards Programme and her main work areas include public sector innovation and developing institutional and human resources capacities. Prior to joining the United Nations Secretariat in 2011, Victoria worked for

both private and public sector institutions in California as a management and market research analyst. She holds a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in political science.

Expert Dialogue 2: Regulatory Framework for Innovation



**Professor Allan Rosenbaum, Ph.D. (United States)
Distinguished University Professor
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University, USA**

Professor Rosenbaum is Distinguished University Professor at the 55,000-student Florida International University in Miami, Florida. For many years, he served as Director of the Institute for Public Management & Community Service and the Center for Democracy and Good Governance at FIU, both of which were extensively involved in democratic institution-building projects on the ground in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

He is the Immediate Past President of the 12,000-member American Society for Public Administration in Washington, DC, and the Chairperson of the Accreditation Commission of the International Commission for the Accreditation of Public Administration Education and Training in Brussels Belgium. He is an author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of many books, monographs, and articles on issues of good governance and democracy and is the recipient of various awards from organizations in several parts of the world in

recognition of his work in the building and strengthening of democratic at institutions and the improvement of public administration, education, and training.

Rosenbaum came to FIU as Dean of the School of Public Affairs. Prior to that, he was on the faculties of the Universities of Maryland, Connecticut, and Wisconsin and held a research position in the urban studies center at the University of Chicago. He has worked in senior-level positions in national, state, and local government in the United States and has led or assisted in implementing many international projects for the United Nations, the US Agency for International Development, the World Bank, the Swedish International Development Agency, and various governments around the world.

He is a past President of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration. He has been a visiting Distinguished Professor at universities in Europe and China and currently serves on several journal editorial boards and is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Based on nomination by the Secretary General of the United Nations, and approval by its Economic and Social Council, he was a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration from 2014 to 2018.

Before coming to FIU, Professor Rosenbaum was actively involved in research and consulting activities with national, state, and local governments in the United States in the areas of higher education, employment and training policy, economic development, elementary and secondary education, social welfare, and science and technology policy. More recently, he has written extensively on governance reform, decentralization issues, and legislative relations in several countries around the world. He has authored, co-authored, or co-edited several publications for the United Nations. He can be reached at rosenbau@fiu.edu.



Dr. Najat Zarrouk (Kingdom of Morocco)

Director of Development, Capacity Building, Knowledge Management, and African Local Government Academy (ALGA), United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa), Member of the UN-Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN-CEPA).

Dr. Najat Zarrouk is the Director of Development Branch, and of the African Local Government Academy of the United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLG-Africa) based in Rabat, where she has been working since 2016.

She has 39 years of experience in the public administration at national, regional and global levels. She has held important government position in her country Morocco from 1983 to 2013 including as Governor, Director of Training appointed by His Majesty King MOHAMMED VI. She served

several board and committees, including the member of Board of the Arab Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI) from 2009 to 2012, the Member of UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration for two terms (2010-2017) and started the third term 2021-2025. Since 2018 Dr. Zarrouk serves as Vice-President (elect) of the African Public Service Human Resources Managers Network. Dr. Zarrouk has been elected member of the Board of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration/IASIA 2019-2022 and since 2022 elected President of IASIA.

Dr. Zarrouk has chaired and served in several inter-ministerial committees in charge of devolution, simplification of administrative procedures and moralization of the public service, promotion of investments, promotion of childhood conditions, mainstreaming gender approach, and modernization of human resources management at subnational level.

She is a graduated of the National School for Public Administration of Rabat, holds a MA in International, European and comparative studies from the University of Paris I (Pantheon-Sorbonne) and a PhD in Political Sciences from the University Mohammed V of Rabat

She has received several national, regional, and international recognitions/awards for her outstanding commitment and contribution to the advancement of Public Administration. Dr Zarrouk has authored and published and provided numerous publications and has provided substantive contribution in many conferences on the issues of development, climate change, local government, and devolution to name a few.



**Dr. Alketa Peci,
Professor of Public Administration and Government,
Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration,
Getulio Vargas Foundation.**

Dr. Peci is a Professor of Public Administration and Government at the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, in Rio de Janeiro. Currently, she serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Public Administration (Revista de Administração Pública), which was launched in 1967 and published in three languages. President of the Brazilian Academy of Management (ANPAD). Dr. Peci's research interests relate to the study of bureaucracy and its contemporary transformations. She has done empirical research on autonomous bureaucracies as independent regulatory institutions and audit offices, on bureaucratic representation and its intersections with reputation and administrative burdens and on networks with non-profit and private partners and major bureaucratic reforms. She has published books, several book chapters and numerous articles in international and national journals, such as Regulation & Governance, Governance, Public Management Review, Utilities Policy, Voluntas, International Review of Administrative Sciences, Organization, Public Administration and Development, Revista de Administração Publica and Revista de Administração de Empresas, among others. She received her doctoral degree in administration from the Brazilian School of Public and

Business Administration at the Getulio Vargas Foundation in 2005. From 2018 to 2019, she held a visiting appointment at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Since 2015, she has been a visiting professor of comparative public administration at the University Institute of Lisbon, in Portugal.

Ms. Elizabeth Niland, PISB/DPIDG/UNDESA

Expert Dialogue 3: Leave no one behind – multi-stakeholders’ participation and whole of society approach



Frank V. Zerunyan is a Professor of the Practice of Governance at the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy (USC Price) and Director of Executive Education at USC Price Bedrosian Center on Governance.

Professor Zerunyan oversees USC’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) as the Director and University Liaison for the U.S. Air Force, Army, Naval Reserves ROTC, and Nautical Science Programs.

Professor Zerunyan, trained and practiced as a lawyer, is a four-term Mayor and Councilmember in the City of Rolling Hills Estates, California. He serves on several city, county, and regional policy boards and committees. He was also a gubernatorial appointee under Governor Schwarzenegger, serving 38 million medical consumers on the Medical Board of California.

Professor Zerunyan earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence (Doctor of Laws) degree from Western State University College of Law and his Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University Long Beach. He also completed his advanced legal education in Corporate Taxation at the University of Southern California Law Center (USC Gould). He is a California League of Cities Civic Leadership Institute graduate.



Dr. John-Mary Kauzya (Uganda), expert in governance, public administration and management, is currently Professor Extraordinary at the School of Public Leadership Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

He served as an international Civil Servant in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in New York from 1999 to end of January 2022. He was Chief of Public Service Innovation Branch (PSIB). He holds a PhD (Doctorat en droit) from the University of Paris Pantheon Sorbonne specializing

in public administration and management. He has advised many governments on governance and public administration and has published widely in this domain. He is widely recognized and decorated by the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, the international Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration and the African Association of Public Administration and Management. Upon retirement from the United Nations Service at the beginning of 2022, he continued his work of supporting capacity development of the public service at national and local levels in Africa.



Dr. Nibal Idlebi is the chief of Innovation at the United Nations Economic Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA).

She is a senior policy expert in ICT, information society, knowledge economy and Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for inclusive sustainable development. She has extensive expertise as well in digital transformation policy including e-government, digital Arabic Content, and cyber legislation. Ms. Idlebi leads regional projects and activities on Innovation policy, Entrepreneurship ecosystem, technology for development and digital government. She is a member of several UN Working Groups and steering committees, and she is a Jury Member of several Awards such as L'OREAL-UNESCO Award "For Women in Science" and the World Summit Award. In the last years, she was focusing on Innovation Policy and its impact on social and economic development. In 2019, she led the preparation of the ESCWA study on "Arab Horizon 2030: Innovation Perspectives for achieving SDGs in the Arab Region", and the report "Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities for Arab Youth and Women" and the meetings on "Technological Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Arab region" and on "Intellectual Property Systems in the Arab Region". These activities showed the importance of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for job creation in the Arab region and for boosting economic and social development. Dr. Idlebi is an active member of several UN working groups working and steering committees related to Innovation and Technology for sustainable development. She was also a member of several Arab working groups related to the development of information society, and a jury member in regional and national awards on e-government in the Gulf countries. She is currently a jury member in several innovations, entrepreneurship, and digital content awards. Before joining ESCWA, from 2002 to 2004, she was Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Communications and Technology (MCT) in Syria. During this period, she supervised Information and Communication Technology and International Cooperation activities. She also participated in the formulation of the National ICT Strategy for Social and Economic Development and coordinated the activities of the Strategic ICT Programme for Social and Economic Development implemented in cooperation between UNDP and the Ministry.



Ms. Lize Denner, Associate Programme Management Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Ms. Denner is the Associate Programme Management Officer in the Cluster on Statistics, Information Society & Technology of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA). She is a researcher in the field of technology and innovation for development, currently focusing on the Arab region. Previously she was with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the Economic Commission for Africa.

Ms. Denner is a professional information and knowledge manager and holds a master's degree in Information Science from the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa.



Ms. Adela Pozder-Cengic, is Policy Specialist for Core Government Functions at the UNDP Crisis Bureau, with over 20 years of progressive work experience. Her expertise includes policy and research development, capacity building, knowledge management, design and implementation of complex development interventions across various thematic areas. Adela is experienced in building and leading high-performing teams, managing partnerships, mobilizing resources, and establishing multi-stakeholder collaboration platforms to enhance development outcomes. She has also provided policy advice to public

officials and decision makers. Prior to joining the Crisis Bureau, Adela led the Governance Sector at the UNDP's office in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also provided guidance and support to UNDP offices across the Western Balkans (RBEC), including through the Istanbul Regional Hub. Adela also worked with the United Nations Volunteers program and in the non-profit sector. She holds a master's degree in development cooperation from the University of Pavia, Italy, and a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Expert Dialogue 4: Technology diffusion and technology uptake for innovative response



Dr. Aida Opoku-Mensah (Ghana) is currently the founder and MD of Centric Digital Ltd a private company based in Ghana, which is providing innovative, practical & value-centric services and applications to promote the digital economy of the country.

She previously worked with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as Chief of Staff to the Executive Secretary & Special Advisor on SDGs where she coordinated and provided strategic advice on SDGs activities within the Commission, including the African Union-UN Framework on SDGs & Agenda 2063. Aida supported activities of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa established by ECA and managed the ECA-led Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) Technical Consortium of Stakeholders (IFF Working Group) and worked with organizations such as African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), Mbeki Foundation, TNJA, CoDA and others on the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the High Level Panel on IFFs, which was chaired by former South African President Thabo Mbeki.

In previous roles in the same organization, she was Director, ICT, Science & Technology Division, where she managed ECA's programme on Harnessing Information, Science and Technology for Africa's Development, which included the Knowledge, Library and Information Services programme. As Director of that division, she specifically led and implemented impressive initiatives such as ECA's African Information Society Initiative (AIS) a continental digital agenda supporting African countries to develop and implement national ICT4D policies and strategies.

Aida holds a BA Hons in Linguistics from the University of Ghana; a Diploma in - International Studies from the University of London; a MA in Communication Policy Studies from the City University, London; and a PhD in Political Science and Communications from the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds.

Dr Opoku-Mensah sits on several boards, including the Walker Institute Advisory Board (University of Reading), is a member of the University Advisory Council of the Accra Institute of Technology, and vice-chair of the advisory board of the Lagos-based CSO, Paradigm Initiative. She also on the Advisory Committee of the ATAF African Tax Research Network (ATRN).



Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro is the Chief of the Digital Government Branch of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

In his functions he supports the UN Secretariat and UN Member States, promoting innovation and transformation in digital government, good governance, public administration, and advancing public sector reforms toward more inclusive, effective, accountable, and people-centric public service delivery to achieve sustainable development. Since 2010 he has overseen the flagship publication United Nations E-government Survey and on the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) data collection and data management team.

With more than 30 years of experience in ICT in private and public sector, he was in 2019 named in Apolitical's list of the World's Top 100 most influential people in the digital government.

Before joining the United Nations, from 2000 to 2010, he was the CEO of Formit Servizi SpA, an Italian ICT consulting corporate, specialized in project management, monitoring, and evaluation of ICT strategic programmes and masterplans in public sector. In 2007 he founded and chaired a Private and Public Partnership Research Consortium named CARMA - Consortium for Automation and Risk Management in Agriculture. The Consortium, in partnership with academia and SMEs, was specialized in advanced research on risk management and financing for SMEs' development in e-agriculture. The consortium was co-financed by the European Commission and oversight by the Italian Government of Apulia's region. From 2008 to 2010, he co-chaired, jointly with the Department of Informatics and Automation of the Faculty of Engineering of the Italian University of Roma III, the 1st and the 2nd Edition of the Second Level master's degree in ICT Governance in Public Administration: Development, Management, and Monitoring.

Mr. Aquaro holds a master's degree (Laurea Magistrale) in Electric Engineering from the University of Bari, Italy.



Ms. Maja Handjiska Trendafilova is the Director of ReSPA – the key regional intergovernmental organization supporting public administration reforms in Western Balkans (WB).

Her professional career of two decades, drawing upon regional and international multilateral experience, has chiefly been dedicated to furthering the EU integration and regional cooperation processes in Western Balkans (WB). Heading the Programme Department in Regional Cooperation Council, she has earlier been coordinating the Regional Economic Area and Common Regional Market agendas, as endorsed by WB Prime Ministers. Steering intergovernmental regional platforms in numerous policy areas, she has significantly contributed to: deepening regional cooperation; substantial regional mutual learning, know-how and best practice exchange; enhanced institutional capacities, legislative and policy reforms, as well as several regional multilateral legal instruments, agreements, and protocols. She has over a decade-long experience within the national administration, where she led the programming process for the use of EU and bilateral assistance and coordinated the EU-funded cross-border cooperation programmes; followed by a diplomatic service within the Mission to the EU in Brussels. Further to her political and diplomatic expertise, paired with strong technical and analytical skills, she has also worked on programme development, partnership, and resource mobilization in the area of migration management and counter-trafficking for IOM.

Expert Dialogue 5: Public Financial Management (PFM)



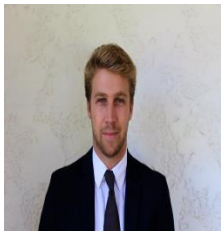
Mr. Rolf Alter is an experienced economist and Senior Fellow at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin specializing in Executive Education of senior officials from countries around the world.

Since 2021, he is a Member of the Bureau of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UNCEPA) which supports the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030. He is currently co-chairing the regional group Europe of the IASIA/UN Task Force on Standards of Excellence in Public Administration Training and Education. He joined the Advisory Board of the Global Risks Report of the World Economic Forum (WEF) nearly a decade ago.

Rolf has worked at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris for more than 25 years. In 2006, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría and became Director of Public Governance in 2009.

Prior to the OECD, Rolf was an economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC. He started his professional career with the German Ministry of Economy in Bonn, Germany.

In 2016, Rolf was distinguished with the O.P. Dwivedi Award by the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) for his outstanding contribution to public administration and policy in the world. Rolf was a researcher at the University of California, Davis and holds a doctorate from the University of Göttingen, Germany. He lives in Paris and Berlin.



Mr. Yanis Kuehn von Burgsdorff is an Economic Affairs Officer with the Office for Financing Sustainable Development, the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs. He is an economist and financial expert with twelve years of working experience in the areas of public finance, energy finance, financial sector development as well as a PhD in lending and financial instruments. He is currently leading UNDESA's global work on National Financing Frameworks (INFFs). Yanis previously worked at the GIZ and the Overseas Development Institute.



Mr. Juraj Nemec, Professor of Public Finance and Public Management, Masaryk University

Juraj Nemec is full-time Professor of Public Finance and Public Management at the Faculty of Economics and Administration at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, and part-time Professor at the Faculty of Economics at Matej Bel University in Banská, Bystrica, Slovakia, with 40 years' experience in teaching at the pre-graduate, graduate and doctoral levels. He was President of the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe from 2016 to 2018. Since 2013, he has been the Vice-President of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration and the project director of the Association's permanent working group. From 2022 he is the member of the Programme and Research Advisory Committee of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences. He served as the regional Vice-President of the International Research Society for Public Management during 2010-2017 and as a member of the Accreditation Committee of the European Association for Public Administration Accreditation until 2015 and is now a Board member of the Association. He was the representative of the Slovak Republic in the Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government connected to the Council of Europe. Mr. Nemec has published over 600 books and scientific articles in this field and filled several academic posts, including the position of Dean of the Faculty of Finance. In 2010, he received the NISPAcee Alena Brunovska Award for his research. In 2016 he received the Donald C. Stone Award honouring a distinguished international scholar for advancing the well-being of IASIA. Mr. Nemec also has extensive advisory and consultancy expertise in various transition countries. In his assignments in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine, he provided activities in the field of public procurement as well as assistance in institution building and development. As a key advisor to the Governments of Slovakia and the Czech Republic, he supported all levels of public administration in the areas of public administration reform, health-care reform and the improvement of public procurement systems, prior to and after their accession to the European Union. In this position, he co-drafted the first public procurement law in Slovakia.



Ms. Katarina Ott, Professor, Faculty of Mathematics and Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb and Senior Research Advisor, Institute of Public Finance, Zagreb

Mrs. Katarina Ott is a Senior Research Advisor at the Institute of Public Finance, Zagreb and Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, teaching public sector economics, fiscal federalism and European Union-induced economic and institutional transformations. She has been researching the relationship between government and the economy, the budget, the public sector and public administration reforms, local finances, the underground economy, European Union integration and in particular

public sector transparency, government accountability and citizen participation. She has headed projects and published articles in the area of public sector economics (particularly on local government budget transparency, public participation in fiscal policy and budget processes, European Union integration, the administrative and compliance costs of taxation and tax administration reforms) and has been engaged in producing citizens' guides to the national and subnational budgets. She has represented the Institute of Public Finance in the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency; has been a member of the Council of the Open Government Partnership for Croatia; a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Civil Society Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation and its representative for Europe; participated in the International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey, etc. She was a member of the Economic Council of the President of Croatia, of Government committees (e.g. for pension reform, for the development of islands) and of management boards of the Croatian Retirement Fund and of the Zagreb University.

Expert Dialogue 6: Public Servants at the heart of building responsive governance through innovation.



Dr. John Nakabago (Uganda) is the President of African Association of Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), this appointment came following the general elections held at the 41st Roundtable Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa in December 2022. 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). Dr. Nakabago has previously held leadership roles including Director - Project Implementation Unit – Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda (1997 to 2006), Project Administrator - Ministry of Local Government (Uganda), 1991-1998, Principal Accountant, Coffee Marketing Board, Head of Management Accounting Division and Chief Accountant - Jubilee Ice Soda Works Limited (1986 to 1990), Head of the Accounts Department and Company secretary Accountant - Uganda Grain Milling Company Limited. 1981 – 1986. Dr. Nakabago holds a PhD in Business and Economic Sciences from the North West University (South Africa), Master of Business Administration and Bachelors of Commerce from Makerere University (Uganda).



Dr. Peci is a Professor of Public Administration and Government at the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, in Rio de Janeiro. Currently, she serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Public Administration (Revista de Administração Pública), which was launched in 1967 and published in three languages. President of the Brazilian Academy of Management (ANPAD). Dr. Peci's research interests

relate to the study of bureaucracy and its contemporary transformations. She has done empirical research on autonomous bureaucracies as independent regulatory institutions and audit offices, on bureaucratic representation and its intersections with reputation and administrative burdens and on networks with non-profit and private partners and major bureaucratic reforms. She has published books, several book chapters and numerous articles in international and national journals, such as Regulation & Governance, Governance, Public Management Review, Utilities Policy, Voluntas, International Review of Administrative Sciences, Organization, Public Administration and Development, Revista de Administração Pública and Revista de Administração de Empresas, among others. She received her doctoral degree in administration from the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration at the Getulio Vargas Foundation in 2005. From 2018 to 2019, she held a visiting appointment at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Since 2015, she has been a visiting professor of comparative public administration at the University Institute of Lisbon, in Portugal.



Dr. John-Mary Kauzya (Uganda), expert in governance, public administration and management, is currently Professor Extraordinary at the School of Public Leadership Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

He served as an international Civil Servant in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in New York from 1999 to end of January 2022. He was Chief of Public Service Innovation Branch (PSIB). He holds a PhD (Doctorat en droit) from the University of Paris Pantheon Sorbonne specializing in public administration and management. He has advised many governments on governance and public administration and has published widely in this domain. He is widely recognized and decorated by the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, the international Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration and the African Association of Public Administration and Management. Upon retirement from the United Nations Service at the beginning of 2022, he continued his work of supporting capacity development of the public service at national and local levels in Africa.

Resource/Supporting Staff:



Ms. Tiblett Kelemwork is a Programme Management Assistant for Public Service Innovation Branch (PSIB), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (UNDESA). Currently she serves as a technical assistance in the conduct of various regular budget and capacity-development activities of the Branch, mainly in organizing workshops, conferences, meetings, and human resource

related activities of the Branch. Ms. Kelemwork has 18 years of experience with the United Nations.

Previously she worked at United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in various offices and assignments, where she had an extensive working experience with UNECA's sub-regional offices and its main stakeholders such as ECOWAS, SADC, EAC. She has administratively contributed to the preparations of several regional forums, such as African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and African Development Forum (ADF)

She received her diploma in Office management from Addis Ababa Commercial College and her BA in Communication and Media from City University of New York. Tiblet is passionate about humanitarian works and nature of arts.



Ms. Nadine Manket is a Programme Management Assistant at the Public Service Innovation Branch (PISB), Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). She joined the United Nations in June 1993 and held several positions in the United Nations Secretariat including 10 years in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, serving under three Secretaries-General (Boutros-Ghali, Kofi Annan and Ban Ki Moon), one year as the Personal Assistant to the President of the General Assembly, over four years as an Associate Public Information Officer in the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit after successfully passing the G to P in Public Information.

At UNDESA Nadine has serviced several United Nations Public Service Awards: Tanzania, Bahrain, New York and South Korea as well as managed several development projects of the branch (Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo, Burundi and Haiti among others) as a Technical Cooperation Assistant.

She earned a master's degree in Langues Etrangères Appliquées (LEA) from the University Michel Montaigne of Bordeaux (France) in English and Spanish with a minor in Business and law as well as an Executive Certificate in Human Resources Management from Baruch College in New York.