

Green jobs and skills as drivers of a just transition for youth and women in the Mediterranean region

Speakers and Panelists



H.E. Nasser Kamel

Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

A career diplomat for the Egyptian government, Nasser Kamel held the position of Ambassador of Egypt to the United Kingdom from 2014 to 2018. He was also Ambassador to France in the period 2006-2012, during which he took part in the drafting of the Joint Declaration of the 2008 Paris Summit that marked the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean. Furthermore, between 2012 and 2014, he was Assistant Minister for Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs. From 2004 to 2006, he was the Director of Egypt's Public Information Service. Prior to this position he served in various embassies, including Washington (1984-1988), Lisbon (1990-1994), Tunis (1994-1998), Brussels (1999-2001) and Paris (2001-2004).



H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad

**Minister of Environment Arab Republic of Egypt
COP27 Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy**

Dr. Yasmine Fouad was appointed Minister of Environment of the Arabic Republic of Egypt on 18 June 2018 and COP27 Ministerial Coordinator and Envoy since December 2021 till present. She was previously Assistant Minister of Environment since 2014. Dr. Fouad holds MSc in Environmental Science and PhD in Political. She has more than 24 years' experience in Environment and International cooperation, working in Government, UN organizations, NGOs and Universities. As Minister of Environment, she has successfully changed the environment narrative at the national level. She leads a transformational change in environment sector in Egypt by creating more business oriented enabling environment. She paved the way to the creation of environmental sensitive practices among current and future generations. Dr. Fouad has clear milestones at the international level. She has clear fingerprints in facilitating the

global climate agenda, particularly climate finance. In her capacity as the COP27 Envoy, she has been leading the processes and consultations required for developing the COP27 Presidency Initiatives to be launched during the COP27. She has played a crucial role in advancing the biodiversity Agenda and leading the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in her capacity as the President of the 14th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14) since November 2018 till October 2021. In previous positions and assignments, she had supported 1) the Earth Institute in designing a Centre of Excellence for Adaptation to Climate Change; 2) AMCEN President in leading and managing the two climate change initiatives (African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)); 3) Nile Basin Discourse - a regional NGO - in supporting the impact of climate change on water resources in the Nile Basin. At the Academic level, she has been selected as a lead author to chapter four of the IPCC Special Report on "Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems" in 2017.



Joost Korte

Director-General in DG EMPL, European Commission

Joost Korte was appointed Director-General of Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion on the 16 March 2018. Previously, the Dutch national served as Deputy Director-General in the European Commission's Trade Department, in the Agriculture and Rural Development Department as well as in the Enlargement Department. Furthermore, Mr. Korte spent several years in the Commission's Secretariat General as Director responsible for the relations with the Council of Ministers and gained extensive experience in the Private offices of Sir Leon Brittan, Chris Patten and Danuta Hübner. These professional experiences within the European institutions allowed him to develop a profound understanding of EU decision-making. A lawyer by training, Joost Korte joined the Commission in 1991, following eight years of academic work on European law at the Universities of Utrecht and Edinburgh.



Birgit Pickel

Director General Africa at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ)

More than 20 years of experience in international cooperation, including more than 10 years in management positions. Regional focus on Africa, thematic focus on global health, pandemic preparedness, One Health, gender, biodiversity and nature conservation, and civil society, civic engagement and international volunteering.

Lived and worked in USA, South Africa, Zambia. Professional training: MA in Political Science; postgraduate certificate in Development Studies.

Current position since February 2022: Director-General for Africa at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Previously: Director for Global Health, Pandemic Preparedness and One Health at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and, in that capacity, member of the Boards of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and of the Global Financing Facility, and Chair of the Supervisory Board of the Legacy Landscapes Fund.



Eric Oechslin

Director of the ILO Decent Work Team for North Africa and of the ILO Country Office for Egypt and Eritrea.

Eric Oechslin is a French economist from the Paris II University. He had worked for more than 13 years as Senior Adviser at the International Organization of Employers (IOE). In 2012, he joined the ILO as Senior Specialist for Employers' Activities for North Africa. In April 2019, he was appointed Director of the ILO Decent Work Team for North Africa and of the ILO Country Office for Egypt and Eritrea.

Moderator



Regine Qualmann

Head of Division for North Africa, GIZ

Regine Qualmann is currently Director of the North Africa Division at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Formerly, she served as Country Director for GIZ in Tanzania and held various managing positions in GIZ's Sector Department. Before joining GIZ, she worked as an adviser to the SADC Secretariat in Botswana and was a Research Fellow at the German Development Institute. Ms. Qualmann is an economist with a master's degree from Tübingen and a PhD from the University of Leipzig. Her professional interests are in Private Sector Development, Employment Promotion and achieving a Green Economy, and her geographical focus has been on the African continent.