

IS THE DECADE OF ACTION TO DELIVER THE SDGs IN JEOPARDY?

PERSPECTIVES ON ACHIEVING THE SDGs IN ISDB MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Date: 26 August 2021 | Time: 8:00 AM-9:30 AM EST (3:00pm to 4:30pm KSA Time)

Venue: Zoom

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic disrupted implementation towards many of the SDGs and, in some cases, turned back years of progress. The Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021 suggests that COVID-19 could lead to a lost decade for development. The crisis has touched all segments of the population, all sectors of the economy, and all regions of the world. In parallel, the pandemic has brought a lot of opportunities. More than ever, the SDGs can serve as a compass to build a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable world. The pandemic has exposed harsh and profound inequalities in our societies and offers an opportunity to focus on those who are left behind. In parallel, digital technologies have gained momentum during the crisis and offer a pathway for a swift and resilient recovery.

Given this background, and the importance that the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) gives to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a side event will be organized by the IsDB SDGs Community of Practice at the IsDB Annual Meeting 2021 in order to study existing trends on SDGs progress, discuss challenges and opportunities that this Decade of Action is expected to experience, and brainstorm on suggested ways and means to remedy the situation in terms of meeting the objectives of Agenda 2030 with minimal setbacks.

KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- What's the current outlook on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? Before the pandemic, we were already not on track, how further away from the achievement of the goals are we because of the effects of the pandemic?
- Which of the SDGs have been impacted the most because of the pandemic? What types of bold actions are needed in order to put these back on track?
- What should the MDBs be focusing on in order to make the most impact towards achieving the severely affected SDGs? Can we talk about the same focus areas as those before the pandemic, or do we need a shift in focus?
- What types of concrete actions should be taken to reduce the financing gap for the SDGs? What can be done to accelerate the engagement of the private sector?
- What does development cooperation to achieve the SDGs look like after the pandemic? Do we go back to business-as-usual on this front?

AGENDA

- Opening Remarks by Dr. Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on SDGs and Senior Advisor to the President, Islamic Development Bank
- Welcoming Remarks by H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, IsDB President (5 minutes)
- Keynote Message by H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations (UN) Deputy Secretary-General and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group (5 minutes)

- Interventions and discussion with speakers (50 minutes)
 - Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University
 - Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund and Former UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - Dr. Obid Khakimov, Center for Economic Research and Reforms, Office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
 - Dr. Ir. Arifin Rudiyanto, Deputy Minister for Maritime and Natural Resources Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning, the Republic of Indonesia
 - Mr. Ahmed M. Saeed, Vice President, Operations (East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific), Asian Development Bank
 - Ms. Jana El Baba, Sustainable Development Officer, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
 - Dr. Kevin P. Gallagher, Director, Global Development Policy Center, Boston University
 - Dr. Mansur Muhtar, Vice President, Country Operations, Islamic Development Bank
- Q&A Session with Participants (30 minutes)

SPEAKERS



Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser was elected by the Board of Governors of the Bank in early July 2021 to lead the Bank Group for the next five years. Dr. Al Jasser served as an Advisor at the General Secretariat of the Saudi Council of Ministers and Chairman of the General Authority for Competition from 2016 to 2021. Dr. Al Jasser also served as the Minister of Economy and Planning and Governor and Board Chairman of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA)—the Saudi Central Bank. In addition, he was a member of several Ministerial councils, boards and committees, including the Council for Economic Affairs and Development, the Supreme Council for Civil Defense, the Board of Directors of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, the Board of Directors of the Public Investment Fund, the Higher Committee for Hajj (Pilgrimage) Affairs and the Ministerial Environmental Committee, among others. He also held positions as Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Saudi Telecom Co. (STC), Chairman of the Board of the Arab Investment Company and Chairman of the Council of Islamic Financial Services Bboard.

Dr. Al Jasser also served as the Alternate Governor of Saudi Arabia in various international institutions including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). He also served as the Chairman of the GCC Monetary Council and member of the governing body of the Basel Committee on Banking and Supervision. Dr. Al Jasser obtained his M.A. (1981) and PhD (1986) in Economics from the University of California. Earlier, he earned his B.A. in Economics with honors from San Diego State University in 1979.



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General at the United Nations (UN) and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group. Ms. Mohammed first joined the United Nations in 2012 as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the responsibility for post-2015 development planning. She led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Prior to her role at the UN, Ms. Mohammed served as the Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria where she steered the country's efforts on climate action and efforts to protect the natural environment.



Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin is currently the Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and is the former UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Development Agenda. Previously, he was the former Minister of Investment of Egypt from 2004-2010, and most recently, served as the World Bank Group Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations and Partnerships. His roles at the World Bank also included, among others, Managing Director, responsible for Human Development, Sustainable Development, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Finance and Private Sector Development and the World Bank Institute; World Bank President's Special Envoy on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Post-2015 Development Agenda (later, the Sustainable Development Goals) and Financing for Development. Dr. Mohieldin also served on several Boards of Directors in the Central Bank of Egypt and the corporate sector. He was a member of the Commission on Growth and Development and selected as a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum in 2005. His professional experience extends into the academic arena as a Professor of Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University and as a visiting Professor at several renowned Universities in Egypt, Korea, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the USA.



Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs is a University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he directed the Earth Institute from 2002 until 2016. He is also President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and a commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development. He has been advisor to three United Nations Secretaries-General, and currently serves as an SDG Advocate under Secretary General António Guterres. He spent over twenty years as a professor at Harvard University, where he received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. He has authored numerous bestseller books. His most recent book is *The Ages of Globalization: Geography, Technology, and Institutions* (2020). Sachs was twice named as one of Time magazine's 100 most influential world leaders and was ranked by *The Economist* among the top three most influential living economists.



Dr. Obid Khakimov is the Director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR) under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In addition, since October 2019, Dr. Khakimov is the Deputy Adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the development of the economic sectors, implementation of investment and foreign trade policy. Previously, Dr. Khakimov worked as the head of the sector for Protection of Citizens' Rights, Control and Coordination of Work with Appeals from the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Between 2012 and 2016, Dr. Khakimov was the First Deputy Rector of the Academy of State Governance. Prior to this, he worked as the Deputy Rector on Financial Affairs of the Westminster International University in Tashkent. He also worked as a lecturer at the same University. Dr. Khakimov is a graduate of the Middle Tennessee State University and Vanderbilt University in the USA, and a graduate of Tashkent Financial Institute in Uzbekistan.



Dr. Ir. Arifin Rudiyanto is currently a Deputy Minister for Maritime and Natural Resources Affairs at the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) of the Republic of Indonesia. He has been in this role since 2017. He is also in charge as Chair of Implementing Committee in National Coordination Team of Sustainable Development Goals in Indonesia. Previously, he was a Deputy Minister for Regional Development from 2016. Dr. Arifin is one of Indonesia's experts in Maritime Affairs and Natural Resource Management. He received his Bachelor's degree in agriculture from Bogor Agricultural University in 1984, Masters Degree in Tropical Coastal Management from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne at the United Kingdom in 1993 and his Doctoral Degree in Maritime Policy from University of Wollongong in 2002.



Mr. Ahmed M. Saeed is the Vice President of Operations for East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific at the Asian Development Bank. Mr. Saeed joined ADB in 2019 and has significant prior leadership experience in both government and the private sector. Between 2004 and 2008, Mr. Saeed served in senior roles at the US Treasury. He was an advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury (2004-05) and the later Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for the Middle East and Africa, with responsibility for US economic diplomacy and financial engagement across 68 countries (2005-08). Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Saeed spent close to eight years as Managing Director and head of JPMorgan's coverage for finance ministries, central banks and sovereign wealth funds across the Middle East and North Africa.



Dr. Mansur Muhtar is the Vice President of Country Operations at the IsDB. Mr. Muhtar previously served as Executive Director on the Board of the World Bank Group (2011-2014) as well as Co-Chair of the UN Inter-Governmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance (2013-2014). He has served as Minister of Finance for the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the National Economic Management team (2008-2010), as Executive Director, African Development Bank (2007-2008) and as Director-General of Nigeria's Debt Management Office (2003-2007). Earlier in his career, he was Senior Lecturer and Head of the Economics department at Bayero University in Nigeria and served for a decade in various positions at the World Bank headquarters.



Dr. Kevin Gallagher is a Professor of Global Development Policy at Boston University's Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, where he directs the Boston University Global Development Policy Center. He also serves on the United Nations' Committee for Development Policy and co-chairs the T20 Task Force on International Financial Architecture for Stability and Development at the G20. He previously served on the investment sub-committee of the Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy at the US Department of State and on the National Advisory Committee at the Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Gallagher is the author or co-author of six books and has been a visiting or adjunct professor at the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University; El Colegio de Mexico in Mexico; Tsinghua University in China, and the Center for State and Society in Argentina.



Ms. Jana El Baba is a Sustainable Development Officer with the 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination Cluster at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Prior to that, she held several positions with UNESCO and ESCWA, where she led regional and national programmes and authored UN publications covering a wide range of sustainable development issues. She also contributed to Arab regional preparations for the Rio+20 and post-2015 processes. Jana holds two Master degrees, one in engineering management from the American University of Beirut and a second in sustainable development with a focus on natural resources management from the University of London / School of Oriental and African Studies. She also holds a graduate diploma in Public Policy and Program Evaluation from Carleton University in Ottawa.



Dr. Rami Ahmad (*moderator*) is currently the **IsDB Group Special Envoy on Sustainable Development Goals** in addition to his duties as Senior Advisor to the President of the IsDB as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD)—an entity under the IsDB Group. Since joining IsDB in 1993, Dr. Ahmad has been involved in policy dialogue, partnership strategies, country programming, project implementation and portfolio management in most of the 57 member countries. He worked on numerous public and private sector projects in the infrastructure and human development areas. He spearheaded the introduction of several strategic initiatives, such as the Member Country Partnership Strategies (MCPS), and the Reverse Linkage initiative. Dr. Ahmad holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical & Computer Engineering, a Master's degree in Systems Science, a PhD in Business Administration from Louisiana State University, and a Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.