

SPEAKERS' BIOS

Plenary 2:

SDG 16: Making institutions more effective through enhanced accountability, transparency, inclusion and participation.



**Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
through Effective Delivery of Services,
Innovative Transformation &
Accountable Institutions**



Moderator:

Mr. David Le Blanc, Chief, Sustainable Development Goals Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA

David Le Blanc works in the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government in the UN Secretariat. From 2006 to 2017, he was in the Division for Sustainable Development in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. While at the UN, he has 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. Earlier in his career, he worked at the French National Statistical Institute (INSEE) as Head of the National Housing Survey and Head of Regional Studies in the Rhone-Alpes regional office of INSEE, and at CREST, Paris as a research fellow. He has diplomas from Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique, Paris, and a Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies in Statistics and Stochastic Modeling in Economics and Finance from Paris VII University.

Panellists:

Ms. Sevinj Hasanova, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Ms. Sevinj Hasanova is Deputy Minister of Economy and Industry. Before joining the Ministry Ms. Hasanova worked in the Ministry of Finance and in cooperation with different international organizations. Major fields include strategic development, macroeconomic forecasting, public finance.

Ms. Hasanova graduated from the Azerbaijan State Economic Institute, Faculty of Finance and Credit. She began her career as an economist at the Main Budget Administration of the Ministry of Finance. Between 1993-2006 she worked as an economist, chief economist, chief of department at the Main Budget Administration of the Ministry of Finance and Chief State Treasury of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Ms Hasanova was a member of the Ministry of Macroeconomic Policy Group and participated in projects of international organizations on state investments and programming of development.

Ms. Alia El-Yassir, UN WOMEN Regional Director, Representative to Turkey; Europe and Central Asia Regional Office



Ms. Alia El-Yassir (Canada) has been working with UN Women since 1997. Prior to assuming her role as Regional Director for the Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, she was the Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and UN Women Special Representative in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), managing a complex portfolio of programmes and projects, as well as supporting the UNCT and HCT on establishing coordination mechanisms for tackling gender equality and women's empowerment issues.

She is part of the UNDG roster of gender experts and has supported other UNCTs in this capacity. Before joining UN Women, she briefly worked with UNDP and was engaged in the education field. In addition to volunteering with a number of women's and human rights NGOs, she has worked on educational media for children. Alia El-Yassir graduated from McGill University in Montreal and pursued post-graduate studies in Education and Anthropology, with a specialization on Gender Studies at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Dr. Raed M. BenShams, President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, Bahrain

Dr. Raed M. BenShams is President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences. He is the founding Director General of the Institute of Public Administration in Bahrain (BIPA). Dr. BenShams was decorated with the Medal of Highest Level of Competence by HM the King for his achievements in the public sector. He holds a PhD in management from Bradford University, an MSc from Leeds University and has occupied key Government positions prior to joining BIPA. He was Assistant General Secretary for HR, Finance and Administrative Affairs at the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Director of Statistics at the Central Informatics Organization (CIO). He is a member in key governmental committees and acts advisor to the top leadership. Dr. Raed Ben Shams chairs the Technical Team which reports the Organizing Committee for Appointments of Senior Civil in the government, and chairman of the Steering Committee of the Elite Leadership Development Program.

Ms. Pam Belcher-Taylor, Mayor of Paynesville, Liberia



Mayor Ethel Pam Belcher-Taylor was born in 1963 in the Republic of Liberia where she grew up and completed her primary and secondary education. She continued her education in the United States, earning her college degree in business management, and a professional diploma in cosmetology. Mrs. Taylor returned to school in 2010 and studied Biology and obtained a Career Diploma in Landscape Design. She was appointed Mayor of the City of Paynesville in February 2018. In 1998, Mayor Taylor was hired as the International Coordinator for the Office of the First Lady of the Republic of Liberia, that same year she founded Elijah's Hair Studio in Monrovia, Liberia. She worked with the First Lady and owned and operated the full-service Beauty Salon and Spa for three years before joining the Liberian Diplomatic Corps in 2001 as the Cultural Attache for the Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in Ghana, where she lived for three years before returning to Liberia. In 2006 she worked as the Deputy Project Coordinator for the Africa Aid Program in Monrovia, Liberia providing vocational training to participants with emphasis in cosmetology, tailoring and hygiene, while simultaneously working as a Managing Partner for Kpatawee Fresh Safe Drinking Water Company. In 2014 she became the Managing Partner/CEO for Africa Accommodation Providers where she currently manages industrial hospitality and provides catering services for over 1000 persons. Mayor Taylor has served as President of the Liberian Water Producers Association, Member of the Liberia Copyright Board, Member of the ECOWAS Manufacturers Association and Member of the Order of Eastern Star.