

## Speakers' Bios (In Alphabetical Order)



### Dr. Abla Abdel Latif

Executive Director and Director of Research, ECES

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Dr. Abla Abdel Latif, originally a Professor of Economics at AUC, is currently the Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council for Economic Development; and the Executive Director and Director of Research of The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES).

In 2013, she was honored with membership of the Committee of Fifty, whose mission was to draft Egypt's Constitution following June 30, 2013.

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### Mr. Alaa Hashim

Founder & Executive Partner, Transcendium

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Alaa Hashim is a co-founder and executive partner at Transcendium, a boutique management services firm focused on large-scale business transformations. He is also the chairman of Delicious Inc. and owner of the local coffee shop chain, Cilantro Café. Alaa serves on several boards, including Giza Seeds & Herbs, CACC Cargolinx, and B-Tech. He has a background in mathematics and has previously served in multiple roles in the industry, rising to co-CEO of MAC Carpet. He is also involved in various committees and organizations, including the Industry Committee at the AmCham Egypt, the Egypt-US Business Council, and Educate Me. Alaa teaches Business Planning and Strategy at the American University in Cairo and serves on its Dean's Strategic Advisory Board.

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### Dr. Ali Awni

Professor of Practice and Director Gerhart Center, The American University in Cairo

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- He teaches operations management at the undergraduate and MBA level.
- Prior to joining the AUC, he was:
  - Head of the Qualifying Industrial Zones (QIZ) Unit, at the Ministry of Trade & Industry, Government of Egypt.
  - Partner-in-charge of supply chain consulting services at KPMG Hazem Hassan in Egypt.
- Awni has extensive management consulting, software systems development, and operations research experience in the USA focusing on supply chain management and business logistics improvements.
- Ali Awni holds a Ph.D. in Operations Research from North Carolina State University.

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### H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Former Secretary General of the Arab League

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Chairman of the High-Level Advisory Council of the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilization, and former foreign minister of Egypt, former Permanent Representative of Egypt to the U.N and former Secretary General of the League of Arab States. Moussa was elected chairman of the 50 member Constituent Committee to amend the constitution in 2014. He was chairman and member of the panel of the wise of the African Union, and was elected chairman of the board of trustees of the Nile University, member of the board of trustees of the Egyptian British University as well as member of the board of the Library of Alexandria. Moussa also serves as a member of the boards of the Sulaimania American University in Kurdistan, Iraq, and Nizami Ganjavi international center, in Azerbaijan. He was awarded the Order of the Nile from Egypt, the Order of the Two Niles from the Sudanese Republic, the Supreme Order of the Renaissance from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a high order from the State of Qatar, the rank of Commander First Class of the Royal Order of the Polar Star of Sweden, in addition to orders and decorations from Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Ecuador and Venezuela.

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### Mr. Antonio Villafranca

Director of Studies and Co-Head of the Europe and Global Governance Centre,  
Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

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Lecturer of International Relations at the Bocconi University (Milan). Previously, he was lecturer of European Economic Policies at the Bocconi University and of 'Structure of International Society' at the IULM University. He also served as ISPI Coordinator of Think20 (T20) Italy during the Italian G20 in 2021. He is an economist by training and received his MA from the Catholic University of Milan where he also specialized in Economics and International Relations.

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### Ms. Elena Panova

The UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt

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Elena Panova is currently the UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt. Before joining the UN, she was the Executive Director of a local non-governmental organization, delivering business support services to micro-, small and women entrepreneurs in Bulgaria. She holds a master's degree in international law and foreign trade from the University for National and World Economy and a master's degree in microelectronics from the Technical Chemical University, both in Bulgaria.

She holds a master's degree in international law and foreign trade from the University for National and World Economy and a master's degree in microelectronics from the Technical Chemical University, both in Bulgaria.

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### Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos

Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

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Elizabeth Sidiropoulos is the chief executive of the South African Institute of International Affairs. Her areas of expertise lie in South African foreign policy, Africa and external powers, global governance and south-south cooperation. Her most recent publications include co-edited volumes on Values, Interests and Power: South African Foreign Policy in Uncertain Times (2020), and The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (2021). She is the editor-in-chief of the South African Journal of International Affairs, a policy-oriented, peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary forum for discussion on Africa's and South Africa's international affairs. She is a regular commentator in South African and foreign media. In December 2020 she was appointed to serve on the UN's Second High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs. She is a co-chair of the task force on the SDGs of the Indian Think 20 presidency in 2023.

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### Mr. Mohamed Kassem

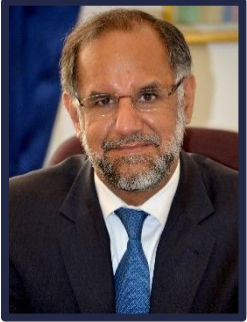
Secretary General, ECES, Chairman, World Trade company (WTC)

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He chairs the boards of directors of several institutions and companies, including the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera), the World Trading Company, and the Egyptian Exporters Association (Expolink). Previously, he held several esteemed positions, including commercial attache at the Ministry of Foreign Trade. He is member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, the Egyptian Businessmen Association (EBA) and the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs.



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### Mr. Navdeep Suri

Former Ambassador of India to Egypt, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

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He has had a 36-year long career in the Indian Foreign Service. He served in India's diplomatic missions in Cairo, Damascus, Washington, Dar es Salaam and London. He was India's Consul General in Johannesburg, High Commissioner to Australia and Ambassador to Egypt and the UAE. He holds a master's degree in economics.

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### Mr. Nicolas J.A. Buchoud

Senior Advisor to the Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

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Senior advisor to the dean and CEO of ADBI in Tokyo, co-chair of the T20 India taskforce on LiFE, Resilience and Values for wellbeing, and former advisor to the President of Paris Ile de France region, deputy chief of staff of a city-mayor in Paris suburban area and an expert on urban finance and infrastructure with the French State Banking institution Caisse des Dépôts.

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### Mr. Omar Mohanna

Chairman, The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES)

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Omar Mohanna is former Chairman of Suez Cement Group of Companies (SCGC), a subsidiary of the German Multinational Group Heidelberg Cement AG.

With over 25 years of commercial and investment banking experience with Egyptian and international financial institutions, he was Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Egypt Arab African Bank (EAAB). He also held the position of Managing Director of Accor Hotels Group in Egypt and has been a member of the Board of Directors of diverse companies.

He is the former President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt (AmCham Egypt) and is Chairman of the Egypt-US Business Council. He is also a member of the Italian Egyptian Business Council, the French Egyptian Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, the Egyptian Businessmen Association and Egypt's International Economic Forum among others.

At the broader community level, he is a Board member of the Association for the Protection of the Environment, and member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations.

As an economist, industrialist and active member of the business community, Mohanna has brought his knowledge and expertise to bear at the policy level in his capacity as Chairman of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES).

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### Mr. Rachid Benjelloun

Chief of Party, USAID Trade Reform and Development in Egypt (TRADE)

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Rachid Benjelloun is currently Chief of Party, USAID Trade Reform and Development in Egypt (TRADE) project, implemented by Palladium International. Previously, he was Deputy Head of Trade and Logistics at Nathan Associates.

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### H.E. Ambassador Ragui El-Etreby

Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral, International and Regional Economic Affairs, Personal Representative of the President to the G20

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He has held several senior positions in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, including being the Deputy Head of Mission in Tokyo and Advisor to the Foreign Minister. He was elected as the Chairman of the Committee on Trade in Financial Services of the World Trade Organization in 2007 and holds a Master's degree in International Political Economy and a BA in Economics.

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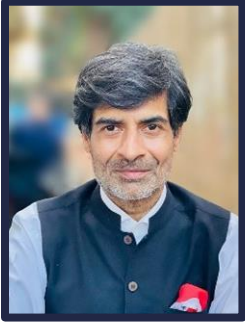
### Ms. Rania Abdel Megied

Director of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt

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Counsellor Rania Abdelmegied is currently Director General of International Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously, she was head of the WTO team in the Mission of Egypt in Geneva. Abdelmegied is a career diplomat with a spectrum of expertise in multilateral economic affairs, including sustainable development, trade, debt, and finance. She earned her B.A. from the University of Alexandria in 1999.

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### Dr. Samir Saran

President, Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

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Samir Saran is currently the President of the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India's premier think tank, headquartered in New Delhi. His research focuses on issues of global governance, climate change and energy policy, technology and media, and India's foreign policy. He holds a PhD from the Global Sustainability Institute, UK.

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### Mr. Sunjoy Joshi

Chairman, Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

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Sunjoy Joshi is currently Chairman of Observer Research Foundation. Previously, he was Managing Director of the Madhya Pradesh Energy Development Agency and served as Chairman of M.P. Windfarms. He was also a Visiting Associate at the International Institute of Strategic Studies, London as well as Distinguished Visitor to the Programme on Energy and Sustainable Development, University of Stanford, USA. He holds a Master's Degree in English Literature from Allahabad University, India, as well as in Development Studies from University of East Anglia, Norwich.



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### Eng. Tarek Tawfik

Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, Vice President,  
Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI)

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Vice Chairman of The Federation of Egyptian Industries.

President of The American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt

Chairman Cairo Poultry Group

Deputy Chairman of The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES).

First Vice President of The Federation of Mediterranean Business Organization  
(BUSINESSMED)

Tawfik is a Board Member of the General Authority for Investments and Free Zones (GAFI), Egypt Sovereign Wealth Fund, Egyptian Countryside Development Company, the Egyptian Food Safety Authority, the Chamber of Food Industries, Agricultural Bank of Egypt, Industrial Modernization Center- Ministry of Foreign Trade & Industry, Egyptian Poultry Federation, The Holding Company for Cotton, Spinning, Weaving & Garment. Tawfik holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering - Cairo University, a master's of engineering from California Polytechnic State University (Pomona), and an MBA degree from San Francisco State University.

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### H.E. Dr. Ziad Bahaaeldin

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Cooperation

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Dr. Ziad Bahaaeldin is a founder and managing partner of Thebes Consultancy, an Egyptian law firm. He is an expert in financial law, investment, company law, governance, compliance, and economic legislation. He serves as a non-executive board member for several companies, including HSBC Bank Egypt and the National Bank of Egypt UK. Previously, he held public positions, including Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Development and Minister of International Cooperation (2013-2014), Member of Parliament (2012), and Chairman of the Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority and the Egyptian General Authority for Investment and Free Zones.