



Preparatory Roundtable on Self-reliance

29 November 2022

Profiles of panelists

Opening Statement

Mr. Raouf Mazou

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mr. Raouf Mazou took up his appointment as UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations on 1 February 2020, bringing 28 years of experience with the organization. His various assignments have enabled him to garner expertise in such areas as emergency response, repatriation, and the development of strategies aimed at bridging the gap between relief and development. Mr. Mazou previously served as Director of UNHCR's Africa Bureau in 2019 and as UNHCR Representative in Kenya for over five years. In the four years immediately preceding this assignment, he was a Deputy Director in the Africa Bureau, covering the East and Horn of Africa. Other senior positions he has held at UNHCR include Deputy Director of the Division of Operations Support and Head of the Emergency and Security Service, a role in which he oversaw the organization's global emergency management and staff security interests. Mr. Mazou joined UNHCR in 1991 in the Great Lakes Region and subsequently served in West Africa, supporting the agency's response to the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugee crises. He holds a Bachelor's degree in law from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He is fluent in English and French.

Moderators

Dr. Ruba Jaradat

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Dr. Ruba Jaradat is the ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Arab States, based at the Regional Office in Beirut. Dr. Jaradat had managed economic growth programmes with annual budgets exceeding USD 300 million and led teams of more than 250 multinational staff. Prior to joining the ILO in November 2015, Dr. Jaradat established and managed the Jordan Strategy Forum, the most influential private sector-funded think tank in Jordan. From 2005 to 2008, Dr. Jaradat managed the U.S. Jordan Fiscal Reform and Cash Transfer Program that substantially improved fiscal conditions and business environment in the country. From 2008 to 2013 she managed the

USAID Economic Development Program that created 67,000 sustainable high value jobs. She has also previously worked as an international business development consultant in higher education in the United Kingdom. Since Dr. Jaradat assumed office as Regional Director, the ILO Regional Office for Arab States has seen more than an eightfold increase in its Development Cooperation portfolio budget. Dr. Jaradat has led the development and signing-into-force of six Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs). The DWCPs in Iraq, Kuwait, and Lebanon were the first to be instituted in these countries. Dr. Jaradat was a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Councils from 2018 to 2020. She has served as a member of several councils, including the Jordan Economic and Social Council, the Jordan National Competitiveness and Innovation Council, and the UK Arab Partnership Initiative. Dr. Jaradat holds a Ph.D. in Management and International Development from the UK.

Ms. Kate Wiggans

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW)

Ms. Kate Wiggans is the United Nations Representative in Geneva for Islamic Relief Worldwide. Kate has spent 13 years working in policy, campaigning, communications, and external relations in the humanitarian sector with a focus on disarmament, conflict, refugee protection, shrinking civic space in fragile contexts, and a regional specialism in the Middle East. She currently co-chairs UNHCR's global interfaith taskforce and was instrumental in coordinating the engagement of faith-based organisations (FBO) at the Global Refugee Forum, especially in promoting FBO pledges focused on tackling xenophobia and building inclusive societies. She is a leading member of the team planning the implementation of one of these pledges: the 2022 "Welcoming the Stranger, Shaping the Future" conference of grassroots faith communities in refugee responses, alongside close colleagues from Lutheran World Federation and HIAS. In support of IRW's pioneering humanitarian-development-peace nexus [programming](#), Kate has been active in promoting the importance of working alongside affected communities, including faith communities, in putting the theory into action. She has coordinated events at Geneva Peace Week for the past two years, focusing on foregrounding viewpoints of grassroots endeavors of local faith leaders, women, and youth groups. She is inspired to continue building dialogue by capturing learning and local expertise from different approaches to peacebuilding through a faith-sensitive lens.

Ms. Elham Youssefian

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Ms. Elham Youssefian has been the Inclusive Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor in the International Disability Alliance (IDA) since 2019. Elham is responsible for leading and coordinating the implementation of IDA's strategy to promote and support the effective enforcement of disability-inclusive humanitarian action, response to forced displacement, climate action, and disaster risk reduction. She has led IDA's COVID-19 emergency response in aftermath of the global pandemic announcement. Together with representatives from CBM-global and UNICEF, Elham is co-chairing the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (DRG). Ms. Youssefian's education is in international and human rights law. Before joining IDA, she led diverse

projects on disability rights, protection of refugees, violence against women, and other human rights and humanitarian projects. She is currently based in New York.

Speakers

Ms. Francesca Alberie

Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative

Ms. Francesca Alberie, 30 years old and a DAFI alumnus, is employed as a full-time roving pharmacist for USAID's Supporting an AIDS-Free Era (SAFE) Programme in Zambia. Francesca was only two years old when her family fled their home country and settled in Zambia's Northern Province. Having graduated from high school in 2008, Francesca was not able to begin university until 2016, when she finally received the DAFI scholarship. Prior to that, she had completed a certificate in Pharmacy from 2011 to 2013. Her three years in college were a tumultuous time. While pursuing her degree, Francesca lost both of her parents to illness, got married, and gave birth to a baby boy. "With all that was going on during the three years of my degree programme, I would not have made it without DAFI. It was the extra push I needed. I know how privileged I was to get it, so I could not let it go to waste; I just couldn't. If not for myself, I had to make it count for the person I had deprived of that opportunity. I had so many reasons to give up. At times it got really hard, but I just had to make it, and DAFI gave me the will to keep going. It had to count for something."

Ms. Catherine Ampah-Brient

Government of Ghana

Ms. Catherine Ampah-Brient (Mrs.) is a Nutrition Officer working with the Ghana Health Service. She is the Municipal Director of Health Service for the Komenda Edina Eguafo Abirem Municipal Health Directorate in the Central Region of Ghana. She received her secondary school education at the Mfantseman Girls' Senior Secondary School in the Central Region and earned a Diploma in Community Health from the College of Health and Wellbeing. She has a Professional Certificate in Health Systems management, Leadership and Governance from Pentecost University in the Greater Accra Region. She also has a Master's degree in International Health from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Ms. Ampah-Brient has worked with Ghana Health Service in different capacities and in different districts in Ghana from 2004 to date. She is a preceptor for the University of Allied Health and Sciences School of Public Health and University of Cape Coast School of Medical Sciences in the area of District Health Systems and Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS). She is a Regional Facilitator in the area of Nutrition and is currently part of a team helping Central Region to use micronutrients (KOKO Plus) to improve on complementary feeding outcomes for children under five years of age. She is a Ghanaian, forty (40) years of age, and married with three (3) children. Her ambition is to become a Public Health Professional working in collaboration with multi-nationals, universities, and organizations across Africa and the rest of the world to help solve the many public health challenges confronting societies and ultimately, put smiles on the faces of many.

Mr. Peter Barach

Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative

Mr. Peter Barach is an emerging scholar and young leader with over four years of consistent and dedicated leadership experience ranging from community-based mentorship to international students' leadership. In 2020, Mr. Barach represented South Sudanese refugees in their country's ongoing National Dialogue. The National Dialogue is both a forum and process through which the people of South Sudan gathered to redefine the basis of their unity as it relates to nationhood, redefine citizenship and belonging, restructuring the state, and renegotiating the social contract, and revitalizing their aspirations for development and membership in the community of nations. Since the conclusion of the National Dialogue last year, Mr. Barach has been engaged in further workshops concerning the implementation of recommendations made at the National Dialogue. As an undergraduate student at the university of Nairobi under a DAFI scholarship, Mr. Barach led the vibrant international students' association as its President for nearly two years, and successfully articulated student-related issues through the University of Nairobi Students' Association Magazine. His work was featured on multiple Kenyan media outlets such as K24 and the Daily Nations among others on numerous occasions. Mr. Barach used his leadership influence to help UNHCR and the University of Nairobi reach the historic deal on improving the refugee students' academic lives through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in 2020 that oversaw the tuition fees payment programme for some struggling refugee students within the University. Over the years, his solid leadership qualities have broadened his public speaking, diplomacy, and negotiation skills. Mr. Barach holds a Bachelor of Economics and Statistics and is currently pursuing a Master of Economic Policy Management at the University of Nairobi sponsored by the African Economic Research Consortium. Mr. Barach hopes eventually to use his degree in the practical context of his country of South Sudan by contributing to model evidence-based policies that support development programmes related to democratic governance, poverty eradication, and institutional changes within his country.

Ms. Apajok Biar

The Gender Audit Team

Ms. Apajok Biar was born in a refugee camp in Kenya, and at two years old, she and her family arrived in Australia. She is an inter-cultural social worker and a champion of youth participation and gender equality. She is Chairperson and Co-founder of South Sudan Voices of Salvation and Angaac Women Association, speaking up against all forms of injustice and violations of human rights. Apajok is integral to UNHCR's work, as part of the Gender Audit team to UNHCR working on the Global Compact on Refugees, as well as a member of the Refugee Advisory Committee to UNHCR on refugee resettlement. In 2019-2020, Apajok was the Regional Focal Point for the Asia region to the United Nations' Major Group for Children and Youth on Migration. She is currently on the Board of the Women's Museum of Australia and is a Community Facilitator for the CREATE Foundation, a youth organisation that works with children in the foster care system. Apajok is the newly appointed Chair of the Women, Gender and Diversity Working Group for the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network. On top of that, she is the mother of a beautiful one-year old girl.

Mr. Julien Boucher

French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons

After having completed his studies at the National School of Administration (ENA) at the top of his class, Mr. Julien Boucher launched his career at the *Conseil d'État* (French Council of State) and was then appointed Director General of the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) in April 2019. Upon graduating from ENA in 2002, Mr. Boucher served as *auditeur* (auditor) at the *Conseil d'État*. He then held the title of *maître des requêtes* (master of petitions) from 2005 to 2007, during which time he was a co-leader of the *Conseil d'État's* documentation center. During this time, he was appointed as rapporteur for both the working group on ethics and the commission tasked with drafting the White Paper on Defense and National Security. From 2008 to 2012, he served as a public rapporteur for the Disputes Assembly as well as for the *Conseil d'État's* other legal sections. Starting in 2011, he also acted as councilor for constitutional affairs working alongside the Secretary General of the Government. He then took charge of judicial affairs at the General Secretariat of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and of the Ministry for Territorial Cohesion in 2012. In this context, he took part in the working group tasked with assessing improper administrative appeals against construction permits in 2013.

Ms. Barbara Daetwyler Scheuer
Government of Switzerland

Ms. Barbara Dätwyler Scheuer has more than 25 years of progressive and senior-level experience in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian aid at the headquarters of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC and in different fragile contexts. In August 2021, she started her assignment as Head of Multilateral Division at SDC's Humanitarian Aid Department in Bern. This unit primarily is in charge of Switzerland's relations with, and contributions to UN humanitarian organisations, as well as the Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement. Moreover, it manages and coordinates Switzerland's contribution to disaster risk reduction and the promotion of resilient societies. Before this assignment in Bern, Ms. Barbara Dätwyler Scheuer served as Director of Cooperation at the Swiss Embassies in Sarajevo and Tunis, responsible for steering and implementing the Swiss Cooperation Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Tunisia. Moreover, she headed the Division Europe and Mediterranean Region at SDC in Bern and was responsible for the strategic orientation of Swiss humanitarian aid and development programmes in Europe, the Caucasus, the Middle East, and North Africa. She also worked with UNDP/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People in Gaza and Jerusalem. Barbara Dätwyler Scheuer carries a Master's degree in Islamic Studies and Modern and Contemporary Oriental Philology from the University of Bern.

Dr. Michelle Foster
Melbourne Law School

Dr. Michelle Foster is a Professor and the inaugural Director of the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness at Melbourne Law School. She has published widely in the field of international refugee law, human rights, and statelessness, including *International Refugee Law and Socio-Economic Rights: Refuge from Deprivation* (CUP, 2007), with James C. Hathaway, *The Law of Refugee Status*, Second Edition, (CUP, 2014) and with Héléne Lambert, *International Refugee Law and the Protection*

of *Stateless Persons* (OUP, 2019). Michelle teaches Refugee Law and International Refugee Law at Melbourne Law School, and in 2017 taught in the International Summer School in Forced Migration at Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre. Dr. Foster directs the annual Statelessness Intensive Course at Melbourne Law School.

Ms. Veneranda Ingabire

Republic of Rwanda

Ms. Veneranda Ingabire has been serving as the head of the MINEMA SPIU for the Government of Rwanda since 2016. She holds a Master of Science in Economics with 12 years of experience in project management. She ensures the overall coordination of the Ministry's projects and leads the process of project proposals initiation. She is in charge of refugee management and coordination activities in the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA).

Counselor Mohamed Kandil

Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution

Counselor Mohamed M. Kandil is the Policy Advisor at CCCPA. Prior to joining CCCPA, he served at the Egyptian Embassy in Paris from 2016 to 2021, where he was in charge of regional political affairs, bilateral, cultural and capacity building cooperation issues. He also served at the Egyptian Embassy in Abu Dhabi from 2010 to 2014 and in Kigali from 2005 to 2008. A career diplomat, he joined the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2004. He has served in the Assistant Minister's Office for Multilateral Economic Affairs (2014-2016), where he focused on cooperation with the United Nations' Economic Commissions, G20, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development as well as international efforts towards adopting the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals; the Assistant Minister's Office for European Affairs (2008-2010), where he worked on energy and bilateral affairs with Eastern and Southern European countries; and the office of the Assistant Minister for Arabic Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the League of Arab States (2004-2005). He holds a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Alexandria University (2001), and a diploma from the Egyptian Institute for Diplomatic Studies (2005). He is fluent in Arabic, English, and French.

Dr. Azza Karam

Religions for Peace

Prof. Dr. Azza Karam serves as the Secretary General of Religions for Peace – the largest multi-religious leadership platform in the world with 92 national and six regional Interreligious Councils. For over 50 years, Religions for Peace has been a movement changing the world and challenging the status quo through its members' mutual conviction that religions are more powerful, inspiring, and impactful when they work together. Inter-faith networks and faith actors play a crucial role in addressing the root causes of displacement and promoting peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities. To that end, in 2021, Religions for Peace established, together with UNHCR, the Multi-Religious Council of Leaders to advise the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on promoting and strengthening multi-religious collaboration towards the achievement of the objectives

of the Global Compact on Refugees. Professor Karam also holds a Professorship of Religion and Development at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, in the Netherlands – of which she is a citizen. She served as a Senior Advisor on Culture, at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); as Coordinator/Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development (UN IATF-R&D); and founder of the Multi Faith Advisory Council of the UN IATF-R&D. In those capacities, she coordinated engagement with members of a Global Interfaith Network for Population and Development with over 600 faith-based organizations from all regions of the world, representing all religions and interreligious affiliations. She was the Lead Facilitator of the United Nations' Strategic Learning Exchanges on Religion, Development and Diplomacy, building on a legacy of serving as a trainer cum facilitator of intercultural leadership and management in the Arab region as well as Europe and Central Asia. Her Ph.D. in 1996, focused on Political Islam and became her first book in Arabic (her mother tongue) and in English. She has since published widely, and in several languages, on international political dynamics, including democratization, human rights, peace and security, gender, religious engagement, and sustainable development. She was born in Egypt, and now lives in the United States.

Dr. Najat Maalla M'Jid

United Nations

Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, a medical doctor in paediatrics, has over the last three decades devoted her life to the promotion and protection of children's rights. She was Head of the Paediatric Department and Director of the Hay Hassani Mother-Child hospital in Casablanca. Dr. M'jid was a member of the Moroccan National Council on Human Rights and founder of the non-governmental organisation Bayti, the first programme addressing the situation of children living and working in the streets of Morocco. From 2008 to 2014, she served as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Dr. M'jid also worked as an Expert-Consultant for national and international projects, strategies, and policies relating to child rights' promotion and protection. She has vast experience in the development of national policies on the protection of the child and has worked with several governments and non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations. She also worked as a lecturer in Moroccan and international universities on child rights' protection, promotion, programming, and monitoring, as well as social and development policies. A member of several regional and international non-governmental organisations and networks working for children's rights, Dr. M'jid was also involved in the training of social workers, law enforcement, teachers, judges, and medical staff. Dr. M'jid holds a Doctorate in general medicine from the University of Rabat, a specialization in paediatrics and neonatology from the University of Bordeaux II, and a Master of Human Rights from the Human Rights Institute, Geneva. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honours for her strong commitment to protecting the rights of the child.

Mr. Brian Williams

Peacebuilding Support Office

Mr. Brian Williams has been appointed as the Chief of the Financing for Peacebuilding Branch in the Peacebuilding Support Office, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs since September 2021. The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund is the organization's financial instrument of

first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. Prior to this, he worked in UN HQ and field settings in Europe, Africa, and Asia, as well as with USAID and international NGOs since 1990. Mr. Williams comes with 30 years of experience in international development, peacebuilding, and humanitarian responses. Most recently, he served as the *ad interim* Chief of Policy and Programming in the United Nations Development Coordination Office Headquarters. Prior to this position, he was the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Albania from 2015 to 2020. He served as the Chief of Financing for Peacebuilding Branch, from 2010 to 2015. From 2001 to 2008, he worked on the global HIV crisis, as UNAIDS Coordinator in Myanmar, and in Geneva headquarters. Since 1990, Mr. Williams has lived in and worked on humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda. Before joining the United Nations, he worked with USAID, CARE International, and the International Rescue Committee. Mr. Williams has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Harvard University and a Master of Science from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. He is married and has two children.