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Opening and Closing Remarks

**Sameh Wahba, Global Director for the World Bank’s Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice**. Sameh Wahba is the Global Director for the World Bank’s Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, based in Washington, D.C. The Global Practice, which also covers territorial development, geospatial and results-based-financing issues, has a portfolio of close to $30 billion in commitments in investment projects, program-for-results, and development policy lending, and about 450 staff. Prior to this, Mr. Wahba served as the Director for Urban and Territorial Development, Disaster Risk Management and Resilience at the World Bank Group’s Social, Urban Rural, and Resilience Global Practice, where he oversaw the formulation of the World Bank’s strategy, design, and delivery of all lending, technical assistance, policy advisory activities, and partnerships at the global level. Mr. Wahba holds a Ph.D. and Master’s degree in urban planning from Harvard University, and a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Architectural Engineering from Cairo University.

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**Niels Holm-Nielsen, Practice Manager, GFDRR**. Niels Holm-Nielsen is Practice Manager of GFDRR. A Danish national, Mr. Holms-Nielsen joined the Bank in 2006 as a Junior Professional Officer in the Middle East and North Africa Region. He has since held several positions in Disaster Risk Management in the Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa Regions, including most recently as Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Global Lead for Resilience and Disaster Risk Management. He holds a M.Sc. in Political Science from the University of Aarhus, Denmark.

**Sarah Charles, Assistant to the Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and GFDRR Co-Chair (TBC).** Sarah Charles is the Assistant to the Administrator of USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), the U.S. Government lead for international disaster response. Prior to BHA, Ms. Charles was the Senior Director for Policy and Advocacy for the International Rescue Committee, where she led efforts to reform the humanitarian aid system and promote policies to improve the lives of refugees and other conflict-affected people. She also staffed the National Security Council (NSC) at the White House, first as the Director for Humanitarian Affairs and then as the Director and Acting Senior Director for Strategic Planning. Before the NSC, Ms. Charles covered the Middle East for USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives, the United States government’s primary political transition and post-conflict assistance instrument. Ms. Charles holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Geography from Dartmouth College and a Masters in Public Affairs from Princeton University.

Featured Speakers

**David Malpass, President, World Bank Group.** David Malpass was selected as the 13th President of the World Bank Group by the Bank’s Board of Executive Directors on April 5. His five-year term began on April 9, 2019. Mr. Malpass previously served as Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs for the United States. As Under Secretary, Mr. Malpass represented the United States in international settings, including the G-7 and G-20 Deputy Finance Ministerial, World Bank-IMF Spring and Annual Meetings, and meetings of the Financial Stability Board, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.  In 2018, Mr. Malpass successfully advocated for the capital increase for the IBRD and IFC as part of a larger reform agenda featuring sustainable lending practices, more efficient use of capital, and a focus on improving living standards in poor countries.  He was also instrumental in advancing the Debt Transparency Initiative, adopted by the World Bank and IMF, to increase public disclosure of debt and thereby reduce the frequency and severity of debt crises.  Prior to becoming Under Secretary, Mr. Malpass was an international economist and founder of a macroeconomics research firm based in New York City.  Mr. Malpass served as chief economist of Bear Stearns and conducted financial analyses of countries around the world. Mr. Malpass earned his bachelor’s degree from Colorado College and his MBA from the University of Denver.



**Axel van Trotsenburg, Managing Director of Operations, World Bank**. Axel van Trotsenburg is the World Bank Managing Director of Operations. In this role, which he assumed on October 1, 2019, Mr van Trotsenburg oversees the Bank’s operational program and ensures that the Bank’s delivery model continues to meet the needs of client countries. He also builds support and mobilizes financial resources across the international community for efforts to assist low and middle-income countries. Mr van Trotsenburg brings deep experience in regional operations and finance, drawing on his experience as currently the longest serving Vice President at the Bank, with two tenures in the Finance Complex and two in Operations. A Dutch and Austrian national, he was Acting World Bank CEO from September 2 – 30, 2019 and served as World Bank Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean from February 2019. From 2016 to January 2019, Mr van Trotsenburg served as World Bank Vice President of Development Finance (DFi). Here, he oversaw strategic mobilization of resources, and was responsible for the replenishment and stewardship of the International Development Association (IDA), the largest source of concessional financing for the world's poorest countries. He holds a master’s and a doctorate degree in economics and a master’s degree in international affairs.

**Juergen Voegele, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank.** Juergen Voegele, Ph.D., assumed the position of Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank on April 1, 2020. In this role, he oversees the work of Global Practices and thematic groups that bring together the best expertise from across the World Bank Group and from partners, to help countries tackle their most complex challenges in the area of sustainable development. The practices and groups under his responsibility include Agriculture and Food; Climate Change; Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy; Environmental and Social Framework Implementation Unit; Social Development; Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land; and Water. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Voegele was Global Director of the World Bank's Climate Change Group and Senior Director of the World Bank's Agriculture and Food Global Practice. Dr. Voegele is chair of the CGIAR System Council Board, which oversees agricultural research programs tackling poverty, food and nutrition security, and improved natural resource management around the world. Since 2016, Dr. Voegele has served as co-chair of the Global Future Councils of the World Economic Forum. He is also a member of the EAT Foundation Advisory Board since May 2017.

**Bernice Van Bronkhorst, Global Director, Climate Change, Sustainable Development Practice Group, Climate Change.** Bernice Van Bronkhorst, a Dutch national, joined the Bank in 2005 as an Urban Specialist in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. She has since held various positions, including as Sector/Practice Manager from 2012-2016 for the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change unit in the South Asia Region and, most recently, as Practice Manager for Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management for East and Southern Africa in the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience GP. At present Global Director, Climate Change, she oversees the key strategic priorities and implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan, working closely with Climate Change Management team and staff, other Global Practices, and internal and external clients.

**Anna Wellenstein, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank's Sustainable Development Practice Group.** Anna Wellenstein is the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Bank’s Sustainable Development Practice Group. Ms. Wellenstein is responsible for the World Bank’s agriculture, climate, disaster risk management, environment, land, social, urban, and water portfolios in the region. Prior to this, Ms. Wellenstein was Director for Strategy and Operations of the World Bank’s Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, where she oversaw $25 billion in lending to developing countries in over 200 projects, 325 studies and technical assistance projects. She was a key member of the Global Practice’s senior management team that set strategy for analytics and financing in areas such as disaster risk reduction, urban renovation, and geospatial technology. She also oversaw partnerships with bilateral, United Nations, and regional organizations. Ms. Wellenstein has over 20 years of experience in urban development and infrastructure.

**Louise Cord, Global Director for Social Sustainability and Inclusion, World Bank's Sustainable Development Practice Group (TBC).** Louise Cord is the Global Director for Social Sustainability and Inclusion in the World Bank’s Sustainable Development Practice Group. Prior to this, Ms. Cord was the Country Director for Senegal, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Mauritania, based in Dakar, Senegal. Prior to her appointment as Country Director, she was Practice Manager in the Poverty Global Practice responsible for Latin America and the Caribbean. A U.S. national, she joined the Bank in 1991 as a Young Professional in the Bank’s Young Professional Program. She has since held various positions in the World Bank’s poverty reduction and sustainable development departments, working specifically on inclusive growth, poverty reduction, and rural development. She has worked in Africa, Latin America, and Eastern and Central Europe. Ms. Cord holds a Ph.D. in development economics from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Donor Representatives

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**Kentaro Ogata, Deputy Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Japan.** Kentaro Ogata, Deputy Vice Minister for International Affairs (IDA Deputy), assumed the current position in July 2021 after serving as Director of Planning and Administration (2020) and Director of International Organizations (2018-2020, in charge of the G20 Finance Track under the Japanese presidency) of the International Bureau. Prior to these, he served as Director in Tax Bureau (2014-2017, in charge of international tax policy) and Director for Development Issues in the International Bureau. As Japan’s IDA Deputy, he is taking the lead on development issues at MOF, including the IDA20 replenishment. He worked twice at the IMF (Fiscal Affairs Department) from 2001 to 2005 and from 2010 to 2013 and is an expert on international tax issues. He holds a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from the University of Tokyo (1992) and an MBA from Maryland University (1996).

**Christian DaSilva, Counsellor and Head of Cooperation for Jamaica and The Bahamas, Global Affairs Canada.** Chris was most recently with the South Sudan, Sudan and Eritrea program at Global Affairs Canada which included leading on major education programming in South Sudan, and mapping out a 5-year program strategy for the newly established Canadian bilateral assistance program in Sudan. Chris has been with Global Affairs since 2006, including stops in Tanzania, Southern and Eastern Africa planning and operations, and the World Bank/IMF group in the Department’s Multilateral Division. Chris has also worked in the Philanthropic sector alongside Canada’s former Governor General as Vice President - Education and Partnerships for the Rideau Hall Foundation. Earlier in his career, Chris held positions as a school Principal and Superintendent and holds a PhD in Education from the University of Ottawa.

**Luis Maia, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Barbados, Eastern Caribbean States, OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM**. Luís Maia officially assumed duties as Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS, and CARICOM/CARIFORUM at the beginning of September 2017. Prior to his posting in Barbados he was Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Cape Verde. Luís Maia is a Portuguese national who joined the European Union in 1994 after having worked for the Bank of Portugal for several years. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the Sorbonne University in Paris, and has long standing experience in development policy, development cooperation, international relations and in particular relations with Latin America.

**A person taking a selfie

Description automatically generatedMs. Olivia Forsberg, Programme Manager, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Sweden.** Ms. Forsberg has more than 20 years of experience working with humanitarian and development aid. She is a former advisor and manager of disaster risk reduction and early recovery projects at Swedish government agencies, the UN, and civil society organizations. As a consultant, she has contributed to the advancement of disaster risk reduction and integration of gender transformative approaches. She has also written training materials on these subjects and is a published author for travel security in high risk countries, with special focus on natural hazards. Her expertise is mainly in disaster risk reduction and gender. She is a strong advocate for DRR in schools and using nature based solutions. She is currently managing DRR contributions in Sida’s climate portfolio.

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Description automatically generatedChristiane Amari, Deputy Head of Division Peace and Security; Disaster Risk Management, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).** Christiane Amari is a Senior Policy Advisor for Early Warning, Crisis Prevention and Disaster Risk Management at BMZ. From 2018-2020 she served as Director of the Risk Management Office for German Cooperation in Afghanistan. She has longstanding experience of working on fragile and conflict-affected states with special focus on the Middle East and Afghanistan, including positions in the German Ministry of Defense and in German Parliament. In BMZ, she was previously responsible for managing relations with Regional Development Banks and IFAD.

**Jolanta Kryspin-Watson, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Regional DRM Coordinator for East Asia and the Pacific, World Bank**. Jolanta Kryspin-Watson has about 20 years of experience working on advancing disaster risk reduction around the world, including in Turkey, Albania, Croatia, Romania, Moldova, the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, the Pacific Islands, and Algeria. She has led large-scale reconstruction and disaster mitigation investment projects, analytical work, and knowledge exchange initiatives in areas including seismic retrofitting, emergency preparedness, climate change adaptation, disaster risk financing and insurance, community-driven DRM, catastrophe risk assessment, flood resilience, hazard monitoring, forecasting and early warning, and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. Ms. Kryspin-Watson is a former Fulbright Fellow who holds master’s degrees in Public Administration (MPA) from the State University of New York in Albany and Business Administration (MBA) from University of Warsaw, Poland.

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Description automatically generatedRafeef Abdelrazek, Urban Development Specialist, Urban, Land, and Resilience Global Practice, World Bank Group.** In her current role, Rafeef Abdelrazek provides technical support and program management to the urban, land, local government sectors for the Palestinian territories and cross-support to Indonesia. The focus of her work has been in cross-jurisdictional, integrated planning, sustainable urban growth, infrastructure and service delivery, land administration and management, and municipal finance. She has prepared and led the implementation of multiple projects and analytical work relating to metropolitan planning, urban and rural service delivery, municipal management, and land management. Ms. Abdelrazek has a master’s degree in Building and Urban Design in Development from University College London’s Bartlett-Development Planning Unit, and an undergraduate degree in International Financial Management from Villanova University in the United States.

Partners

**Tatafu Toma Moeaki, Minister of Finance, Tonga.** Mr. Tatafu Moeaki, Member of Parliament, served as Minister for Trade and Economic Development in 2021 prior to assuming his current role. He was also CEO for the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development from 2009-2013, and CEO for the Ministry of Finance and National Planning from 2013-2016. He was also Asian Development Bank Senior Country Officer for Tonga from 2016-2021 and World Bank Liaison Officer from 2016-2018.

**Lamin B. Dibba, Minister of Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources, the Republic of The Gambia**. Mr. Dibba was previously working with the SOS Organization and his last appointment was as the Director of Non – Governmental Organization Affairs Directorate under the Ministry of Interior. He was appointed as the Minister of Environment by the current President in 2017. Since his appointment, Mr. Lamin Dibba has been a staunch climate advocate and has overseen the launching and implementation of the Gambia’s National Climate Change Policy, development of a Longterm Climate Strategy Vision (LTS) and Revision of the Gambia’s globally acknowledged ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Mr. Dibba whilst representing the Gambia has ensured that the country is a frontrunner for the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR).

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**Bubacar Zaidi Jallow, Director, Central Project Coordinating Unit, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR), The Gambia**. Mr. Bubacar Zaidi Jallow is an environmental and climate risk management specialist. He has worked with the National Environment Agency as Programme Officer for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and as a Part time lecturer at the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) for EIA. Mr. Jallow was the Principal Climate Change Officer at the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) from 2013 to 2020 and is currently the Director of the Central Project Coordinating Unit under the MECCNAR where he oversees eight projects.

**Karma Dupchu, Director, National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM), Bhutan.** Mr. Karma Dupchu is the Director of National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology (NHCM) that is responsible for weather, climate, cryosphere, hydrology and water resources in Bhutan. He is the Permanent Representative of Bhutan with WMO. Prior to this position, Mr. Dupchu was the Chief of the Hydrology and Water Resources Services Division, NCHM. During his more than 20 years in the services of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS), he has contributed to institutional restructuring of NMHS and modernization of the hydro-meteorological network and services in Bhutan. One of his most notable contributions in the field of DRM in Bhutan is the installation of the first automatic GLOF Early Warning System along the Punakha-Wangdi valley in Bhutan (2009-2013), followed by the Rainstorm/GLOF Early Warning System in the Mangdechhu and Chamkharchu sub-basins in 2013-2016 as the Project Manager.

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Description automatically generatedAstriana Harjanti, ST., MM., M.Sc., Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Indonesia.** Ms. Astrid is the Member of Central Sulawesi Post-Disaster Task Force in Central Project Management Unit of Central Sulawesi Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project (CSRRP), where in collaboration with the World Bank, the Government of Indonesia has put a tremendous effort in reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing and public facilities affected by the 2018 earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi. Ms. Astrid had been actively involved in the Ministry of Public Works and Housing since 2005 and established herself as one of the key person in the settlement development of the Directorate General of Human Settlements of the ministry. Her expertise, particularly in urban management, plays a pivotal role in project implementation especially during technical assistance, supported by GFDRR, which in turn showed to be beneficial during the construction phase.

**Iuliana Leca, Executive Director, External Funds Department, Bucharest District 6 CityHall, Romania.** Ms. Leca has extensive experience in training (training needs assessment, delivery, evaluation of trainees and training session) and institutional development. She is also fully familiar with strategic planning process in public administration, including through PIDU district 6, INA development strategy, Local Development Strategy of Galati Municipality 2008-2013, Strategic Concept for Bucharest 2035, Development Plan Sustainable Urban Mobility of Hunedoara Municipality (2015-2016) and the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan Câmpia Turzii (2016). She also has over 10 years experience in external funds, including the coordination of the first structural funds trainer of trainers program organized in Romania with a 1 year duration.

**Paul Moldovan, City Manager, Bucharest District 6 CityHall, Romania**. Mr. Moldovan’s previous experience includes serving in organizations such as the Cluj County Council, as a counsellor in the Department of European Integration, where tasks included identifying funding opportunities for both the council and local administration, drafting funding applications and managing projects (mainly from EU Pre-Accession Programmes), and the Ministry of Interior (MAI) as adviser in Public Policy Unit and the Managing Authority for the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity Development (MA OP ACD), where tasks ranged from assisting departments to develop and asses policies in the field of administration (PPU) to drafting and implementing TA projects for MA OP ACD. He is a graduate of the Master's Programme in English - Public Service Management at the Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication of the Babes - Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca (in partnership with Michigan State University) and has a bachelor’s degree in administrative sciences from the same institution.

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**Ayman A. Abu Shaban, GIS Director, Gaza Municipality**. Mr. Ayman A. Abu Shaban is GIS Director for Gaza Municipality. A graduate of Birzeit University, he has been in his current role since 1998. Since 2018, he has concurrently served as coordinator for the Gaza Urban Area for the World Bank’s Integrated Cities and Urban Development (ICUD) Project. Previously, he worked in the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Ramallah.

**Dr. Kandathil Mathew Abraham, Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister of Kerala.** Dr. Kandathil Mathew Abraham is the Chief Principal Secretary to the Honorable Chief Minister of Kerala, Executive Vice Chairperson of the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (KDISC) and the CEO of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). Dr. Abraham is a 1982 Kerala cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and has served as the Chief Secretary of the Government of Kerala (GOK), Secretary of the Department of Finance of GOK, founding Fund Manager of the KIIFB, Additional Chief Secretary of the Higher Education and Social Justice Department of GOK, and Whole Time Member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). IIT Kanpur has conferred upon him the Satyendra K Dubey Memorial Award 2016 for displaying the highest professional integrity and honesty while serving his duty. Dr. Abraham holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Technology Planning from the University of Michigan Urban Technology and Environmental Planning Program and holds a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Certification from the United States.



**Smt. Sarada G Muraleedharan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary of the Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala.** Ms. Sarada is the Additional Chief Secretary of the Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala. With a strong interest and expertise in poverty reduction, social justice and women’s empowerment, Ms. Sarada has worked extensively in the development sector including as Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj where she was responsible for conceptualizing and promoting the Gram Panchayat Development Plans that put a premium on citizen participation through the *gram sabha*; Chief Operating Officer at the National Rural Livelihoods Mission of the Ministry of Rural Development; and head of the *Kudumbashree* Mission under the Government of Kerala, a community-driven poverty reduction and women’s empowerment initiative which has attempted to develop citizen space in local planning and development, and reorient efforts for poverty reduction around a human rights perspective. Ms. Sarada has also served as the Director General of NIFT (the National Institute of Fashion Technology) where she was in charge of restructuring the curriculum and anchoring four strategic projects from sizing to trend research and design incubation.

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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceAntónio Freitas, Vice Minister of Finance, Timor-Leste.** Mr. Freitas previously served as Deputy Permanent Representative to UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand; Director General of Statistics, Ministry of Finance; and President of the Technical Committee of the State Budget Review Team, among other high-level roles in the Government of Timor-Leste. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of Jaya Negara Malang, Indonesia and a Master’s degree of Management and Finance from the same institution.

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**Clarence Samuel, Director, Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Republic of the Marshall Islands.**

Moderator

**Sébastien Méhaignerie, international coach, consultant, and facilitator.** Mr. Méhaignerie is passionate about supporting global organizations, teams, and leaders to be at their best in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world. He has a straightforward and simple approach to coaching and facilitation. He offers practical support, straightforward coaching and feedback that helps leaders and teams navigate their environment, tap their full capability, work better with colleagues, and have a positive impact. With more than 10 years of work experience in learning and developing activities, Mr. Méhaignerie has worked in many projects across public and private sectors. Counting on versatile experience with instructional and curriculum design, he is highly skilled in co-creating and designing face-to-face and digital learning experiences, such as simulations, experiential learning, action learning, and role plays.