



# SDG 16 CONFERENCE

## Peace, Justice & Inclusive Societies



### TRANSFORMING GOVERNANCE FOR A MORE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE: SDG 16 AS THE ROADMAP TO RESPOND TO COVID-19 AND BUILD BACK BETTER 28-30 APRIL 2021

Virtual conference  
Co-organized by UN DESA, IDLO and the Government of Italy

#### Parallel Session Speaker Bios

##### Parallel Session 1.2 - Lessons from the response of public institutions to the pandemic



**Mr. Louis Meuleman**

*Vice-Chair, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Visiting Professor, KU Leuven*

Louis Meuleman is member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), visiting professor public governance at Leuven University (Belgium), member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency, and affiliated with the Universities of Massachusetts Boston (USA) and Wageningen (Netherlands).

He has a PhD in public administration, an MSc in environmental biology, and 40 years public administration experience at subnational, national, European and UN level. He is co-founder, researcher, consultant and trainer at Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (PS4SD) (Brussels), and associate senior expert at Berenschot Europe BV.

His often-quoted (520+) PhD dissertation was about '[Public Management and the Metagovernance of Hierarchies, Networks and Markets](#)' (Springer, 2008). His latest book is '[Metagovernance for Sustainability](#)' (Routledge, 2018).

## Parallel Session 2.1 - The role of stakeholder engagement in responding to the pandemic and how to secure engagement in the future



**Ms. Margaret Williams**

*International Development Consultant*

[Margaret](#) is a published international development professional with over ten years of experience in partnerships and relationship-building; policy, programming, and project management; research and writing, and advocacy. Her background includes the Sustainable Development Goals and SDG 16, Peacebuilding and Prevention, Youth Empowerment, Gender Equality, and Geopolitical Analysis. From global to local levels, she has worked with the UN, governments, civil society, foundations, academia, and the private sector. Based in New York, she has lived and worked in Tunisia, Palestine, Cyprus, and Greece, with additional experience in Georgia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, and Uganda. She holds a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University in the U.S.

## Parallel Session 2.2 - Addressing corruption during and after COVID-19



**Mr. Frédéric Boehm**

*Economist/Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*

Frédéric Boehm is an economist with extensive experience in working and researching on corruption, governance, institutional change, and public sector reforms. At the OECD, he focuses on public integrity policies in Latin America, policy capture and applying behavioural insights to integrity policies. Before joining the OECD, Frédéric has worked as an independent consultant for governments and international institutions where he supported anti-corruption reforms in 15 countries in Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia. He gathered experience in conducting evaluations, corruption risk assessments and delivered trainings and workshops. Since 2007, he has been teaching a module on "economics of corruption" (in Spanish) at universities in Colombia, Panama, and Peru. He also worked for the GIZ in an anti-corruption project at headquarters, and as a professor in economics and political science in Colombia. Frédéric has published in books and various academic journals.

### **Parallel Session 3.1 - The gender dimension of the pandemic: lessons learned and implications for the future**



**Mr. Mohammad Naciri**

*Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific and Representative in Thailand*

Mohammad Naciri is the Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific. From 2014 to 2019, he was the Regional Director of UN Women in the Arab States.

Mohammad has extensive experience in the region and in gender and development issues. Prior to joining UN Women, Mohammad was the Deputy Country Director of UNDP in Yemen. He has worked in Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Cambodia, dealing with issues from human trafficking to ethnic cleansing.

A national of Morocco, Mohammad holds a master's degree in Public Administration and International Development from the Harvard University, as well as a master's degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Oxford. He also has a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Arab Academy for Science and Technology in Alexandria-Egypt.

### **Parallel Session 3.3 - Digital governance in a post-pandemic world**



**Ms. Samia Melhem**

*Global Lead, Digital Capabilities, World Bank Group*

Samia Melhem is the Global Lead on Digital Capabilities at the World Bank Group. Her responsibilities include investment operations in digital platforms and services as well as thought leadership on digital development.

She currently leads several digital government operations, leveraging disruptive technologies to improve delivery of public services; in education, health, and social protection. She is also currently leading research on digital resilience and digital responses to COVID-19 for public service delivery.

During her career at the WBG, Samia led projects in East and Central Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa. She led research on Telecoms Policy and Regulation, Digital government, electronic procurement, cloud computing, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Open data, Private Public Partnerships, and gender inclusion; in collaboration with a range of global partners such as UN, ITU, OECD, WEF, as well as Academic think tanks. She holds degrees in Electrical Engineering (BS), Computer Sciences (MS), and Finance (MBA); as well as various accreditations in project management, leadership, and disruptive technologies.

## Parallel Session 1.2 - Lessons from the response of public institutions to the pandemic



**Ms. Sarah Lister**

*Head of Governance, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP*

Sarah Lister is UNDP's Head of Governance and oversees policy and programme support to its governance portfolio globally, which includes electoral cycle support, parliamentary development, anti-corruption, legal identity, youth empowerment and disability inclusion. She has more than 25 years' experience working on democratic governance, including civic engagement, media and communication, social accountability, public administration reform and governance measurement.

From 2015-2019 she was the Director of UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre where she led the team bridging research, policy and practice on governance and peacebuilding in transitional contexts, with a particular focus on SDG16. She worked previously for UNDP, BBC Media Action, the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit in Kabul and the Institute of Development Studies, UK. She has also consulted for multilaterals, bilaterals, think-tanks and NGOs. She has lived and worked in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. Sarah holds a PhD and MSc in Social Policy from the London School of Economics, and a BA in History from Cambridge University, UK.



**Ms. Sabine Kuhlmann**

*Chair of Political Science, Administration and Organization, Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences Universität Potsdam, Germany*

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Sabine Kuhlmann is Professor of Political Science, Public Administration and Organization at University of Potsdam, Germany; Vice President of the IIAS for Western Europe; Vice-Chair of the National Regulatory Control Council of the German Federal Government; and Hedda Andersson Professor at Lund University, Sweden. Her areas of research include comparative public administration, public sector reforms, local government, and crisis management. Her most recent publications are *Multi-level responses to COVID-19: crisis coordination in Germany from an intergovernmental perspective*; *Tracing divergence in crisis governance: responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in France, Germany and Sweden compared* and *Public Administration in Germany*.



**Mr. David Steven**

*Senior Fellow, UN Foundation; and Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University*

David Steven is a senior fellow at the UN Foundation, where he leads a team of partners supporting the UN Secretary-General’s response to the request from member states in the 75th anniversary declaration to prepare “recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges.” He is also developing a program for UNF on the future of multilateralism in the era of COVID-19.

David is a senior fellow at the New York University Center on International Cooperation, where he co-founded the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and was founding director of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, a multi-stakeholder partnership to accelerate action for the 2030 Agenda targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). He led the secretariat for the ministerial Task Force on Justice for All and is an advisor to the Justice Leadership Group. David was a Senior External Adviser to and co-author of the UN/World Bank 2018 flagship report Pathways for Peace and a co-author of the OECD’s States of Fragility Report in 2015. He is a former senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and co-author of The Risk Pivot: Great Powers, International Security, and the Energy Revolution (Brookings Institution Press, 2014).



**Mr. Juan Manuel Roa**

*President, Dyntra, Spain*

Public Innovation consultant, helping Governments, Organizations and Public Administrations to be more transparent and open, directing them towards a clear citizen approach around Open Government Values

Dyntra.org founder and President, with the goal or the Promotion of Transparency in Public and International organizations and in the rest of the civil society as a transforming value of society

Degree in Political Science and Sociology, Master in Public Administration and Management. Political Communication specialized at the Ortega y Gasset Institute and George Washington University.

Lecturer and professor in Master programs and University courses at the University of Granada, the Autonomous University of Madrid, the EuroÁrabe Foundation, the Botín Foundation, the CALRE tables in the Andalusian Parliament, the International University of Andalusia, the University of Panama, and member of different research groups GIGAPP, AECPA and ALICE.

## Parallel Session 2.1 - The role of stakeholder engagement in responding to the pandemic and how to secure engagement in the future



**Ms. Virginia Pardo**

*Director of the Information Society Area, National Agency of E-government and Information and Knowledge Society (AGESIC), Uruguay*

System Engineer, graduated from Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay.

Has vast experience in project management, specifically in the e-government area, IT information and telecommunications.

Currently works as Director of the Information Society Area for the e-government Agency of Uruguay (AGESIC), responsible for carrying out the National Digital Agenda and the Open Government National Action Plan, and initiatives like Unify Portal (gub.uy), Open Government Data, Citizen e-participation and Digital Citizen.

Responsible for the articulation and promotion of Open Government in Uruguay, as the local representative (POC) for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) from 2011, as well as council member and coordinator of the Public Information Access Unit (UAIP) and the Personal Data Control and Regulatory Unit (URCDP) from 2010.



**Ms. Sandra Elena**

*Coordinator of the Open Justice Program, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Argentina*

Ms. Sandra Elena holds political science and law degrees. She has an LLM in International Legal Studies at American University. She is the Coordinator of the Open Justice Program at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina. She is a rule of law, open government and open data expert with extensive experience in Latin America and other regions. Since 1990, she has worked with public institutions towards increasing their transparency and openness. Prior to joining the public sector, she worked for think tanks and civil society organizations in Argentina and the USA. She currently advises governments and judiciaries on open justice. She has recently published “Open Justice: an Innovation-Driven Agenda for Inclusive Societies” and the chapter on Crime and Justice at “The State of Open Data.”



**Ms. Michelle Brown**

*Associate Director of Advocacy, Action Against Hunger*

Michelle Brown is the Associate Director of Advocacy at Action Against Hunger. She leads United Nations-facing advocacy for the Action Against Hunger network, focusing on humanitarian issues, nutrition security and conflict and hunger. Before joining Action Against Hunger, Michelle worked at Refugees International, an advocacy organization focusing on forced displacement, for 15 years. She represented

Refugees International at the UN for 10 years, focusing on humanitarian reform, the protection of civilians, and conflict. Michelle has an MA in International Development Studies from the George Washington University.



**Mr. Mandeep Tiwana**

*Chief Programmes Officer, CIVICUS*

Mandeep Tiwana is the chief programmes officer at CIVICUS, the global civil society alliance. He specialises in legislation relating to the core civil society freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

Since joining CIVICUS in 2008, Mandeep has engaged in efforts to advance civil society participation in decision making and to protect civil society freedoms globally. He has written extensively on the intersection between civil society, development and international affairs in this capacity.

Previously, Mandeep advised the New Delhi Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He has also worked with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and has published a compilation of landmark Indian Supreme Court decisions and National Human Rights Commission guidelines on human rights and policing and has co-authored modules on human rights for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and a citizen's handbook explaining the mandate and practical functioning of human rights commissions in India. Mandeep has also drafted two annual reports for the Punjab State Human Rights Commission and has worked on projects related to good governance and women's empowerment in India.

Mandeep holds BA and LL.B degrees from Panjab University, India and an LL.M in Law in Development from Warwick University, UK.

## **Parallel Session 2.2 - Addressing corruption during and after COVID-19**



**Mr. Jorge Bermúdez Soto**

*Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile*

Mr. Jorge Bermúdez is a lawyer with extensive experience in academia, public and private organizations. He holds a degree in Legal Sciences, a Master in European Community Law, and a Ph.D. in Law from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (1998). He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Giessen (2002-2003) and the University of Heidelberg (2012), both in Germany. He has participated in important forums, seminars, and international conferences, and has published numerous books and articles related to environmental and administrative law.

Since December 17th, 2015, Mr. Bermúdez is the Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile. He currently is the Executive Secretary of OLACEFS and holds the chair of the Working

Group on Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination of OLACEFS, of the Working Group on Public Works, and of the United Nations Board of Auditors.



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**Mr. Juan Pablo Guerrero**

*Network Director*

Juan Pablo Guerrero is the network director of the Global Initiative on Fiscal Transparency since 2014, a multi-stakeholder action network integrated by ministries of finance, civil society organizations and international financial institutions, to advance fiscal transparency, inclusive public participation and accountability in countries and worldwide. He was a founding Commissioner of the Federal Institute for Access to Information & Data Protection in Mexico (2002-2009), where he subsequently was the Secretary General (2013-14). Between 2009 and 2013, he was the manager of the Mentoring Governments Program at the International Budget Partnership (2009-13). Before 2003, he was a university professor at the CIDE (Center for Research & Teaching in Economics) in Mexico (1994-2003) specialized in public administration reform for accountability, anticorruption and fiscal transparency. He started his career as news reporter and correspondent in Washington & Paris, where he studied master and PhD programs in public policy (SAIS-Johns Hopkins University and Sciences-Po). The IMF, the World Bank, the International Budget Partnership, the International Federation of Accountants, the Department of Budget & Management of the Philippines, the Federal Secretary of Budget and Planning of Brazil and the Treasury Secretariat of Mexico are the lead stewards of GIFT, which comprises 53 members in 2020.

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**Mr. Ed Olowo-Okere**

*Director, Governance Global Practice, World Bank*

Ed Olowo-Okere, a Nigerian national with three decades of experience working on governance issues around the world, leads the World Bank's Public Sector and Financial Management team in the Governance Global Practice. This group is focused on helping countries build capable, effective, accountable, transparent, and inclusive institutions that deliver citizen-centric services, facilitate private-sector growth, and improve trust in Government. The group provides expertise on governance issues, ranging from public financial management, domestic resource mobilization, state-owned enterprises reform/ corporate governance, public institutions reform, decentralization/subnational governance to anti-corruption policies, fiduciary assurance, political economy analysis and GovTech (i.e. leveraging technology to modernize the public sector and improve service delivery to citizens and business, and increase efficiency, transparency and accountability).

Mr. Olowo-Okere joined the World Bank in 1998 and has held various positions in operations, including Director of Governance overseeing Africa, MENA and ECA regions, Senior Advisor in the Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions practice group, and Director of the Core

Operational Services Department in the Africa region. Before joining the Bank, Ed held public- and private-sector positions.

He has researched and published in reputable international journals and lectured at undergraduate and graduate levels in Nigeria and New Zealand on accounting and finance.



### **Ms. Angela Me**

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*Chief, Research and Trend Analysis Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*

Angela Me is the Chief of the Research Branch at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime where she oversees global, regional and national research in the areas of drugs and crime. She is responsible for global reference research publications such as the World Drug Report, the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, the Global Study on Homicide, and the World Wildlife Crime Report. While working for the United Nations since 1995, she has supported countries to improve their statistical and analysis systems, and she has authored, contributed and supervised the production of UN analytical reports, international statistical standards, discussion papers, and inter-governmental documents in the areas of drugs, crime, population, gender, disability, and migration. She has served in the Scientific Committee of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights. As an Italian national, Ms. Me holds a Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Padua in Italy.

### **Parallel Session 3.1 - The gender dimension of the pandemic: lessons learned and implications for the future**



### **Ms. Gabriela Ramos**

*Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO*

Gabriela Ramos is the Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, where she oversees the contributions of the institution to build inclusive and peaceful societies. Her agenda includes the achievement of social inclusion and gender equality, advancing youth development; promotion of values through sports; anti-racism and anti-discriminatory agenda and ethics of artificial intelligence. Her appointment at UNESCO allows her to continue supporting an agenda of inclusive growth, and the respect of human rights and human dignity. Prior to this position, Ms. Ramos served as the Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20/G7/APEC in the OECD, contributing to the global agenda as well as leading the OECD's New Approaches to Economic Challenges, Inclusive Growth Initiative, Gender Strategy and the work on well-being and children. In 2019, she launched the Business for Inclusive Growth (B4IG) platform, bringing together 40 major multinational companies committed to reducing inequalities. Previously, she was Director of the OECD Office in Mexico and Latin America and a member of the Mexican foreign service.

In 2013, she was decorated with the Ordre du Merit by the President of France. Her work to promote gender equality earned her the 2017 and 2018 Forbes Excellence award as well as being included as part of Apolitical's 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy in both 2018 and 2019. A Fulbright and Ford McArthur fellow, she is member of the board of the Paris Peace Forum, UNICEF Advisory Board, Steering Group of the International Gender Champions Paris Hub, Multi-Stakeholder Council to the Global Solutions Initiative, Lancet Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People, and Lancet Commission on COVID-19.



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**Ms. Raquel Lagunas**

*Head of Gender Team, UNDP*

Raquel Lagunas is the Head of the UNDP Gender Team, GPN, based in New York. Raquel has more than 20 years of experience working on gender equality in different development settings. Previously Raquel was the Senior Policy Advisor on Gender Mainstreaming for UNDP in New York creating and leading the UNDP Gender Equality Seal. She has also worked as a Gender Regional Advisor for UNDP in Latin America, and prior to that she was a Programme Officer in the UNDP El Salvador Office.

Raquel has advised Governments across the world and large Development Organizations, such as the World Food Programme, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and IUCN. She spent 10 years in Latin America, and co-founded America Latina Genera. Before she led a Master's Degree in the Gender Studies Programme at the Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales (ICEI) and she has also served as a senior researcher for think tanks in Madrid, as teacher of a range of MA programmes, and she has lectured at SIPA/Columbia and Duke University.

Raquel holds an MA in International Studies: Gender and Development, and a second one in Sexual Sciences from Universad de Alcalá, and a BA in Philosophy from Universidad de Salamanca.



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**Ms. Judith Kaulem**

*Executive Director, Poverty Reduction Forum Trust*

Judith Kaulem is a seasoned development and social policy analyst who has more than fifteen years of experience. In her capacity as Executive Director for the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust, Judith has worked extensively in the area of poverty, gender and human development research. Between 2004 and 2006 Judith was responsible for the coordination of the research towards the production of the Zimbabwe Human Development Report on Gender and HIV/AIDS. Judith Holds a Master of Education Degree in Adult Education from the University of Zimbabwe and several professional qualifications relevant for her present role and beyond. She possess key competencies in areas of Organizational strategy development and management, Social and

economic Research Analysis, Project design and management, Leadership skills, Capacity building in policy advocacy, Institutional capacity assessment and development, Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues and negotiating partnerships, Design and implementation of training programmes, Gender analysis and mainstreaming and Participatory methodologies for community development ( PRAs).



**Ms. Sonia Palmieri**

*Policy Fellow (Gender), Australian National University*

Over the last 15 years, Sonia has worked across academic, development and parliamentary institutions, principally with the interest of understanding and improving women’s political leadership and participation. She has held positions with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (in Geneva, Switzerland), the United Nations Development Program (in Hanoi, Vietnam), the United

Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (in New York, USA), and the Australian parliament.

As an independent development practitioner, she has engaged with current and aspiring women in politics in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and - most prominently - the Pacific, and has designed and evaluated development projects for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).



**Mr. Laxman Belbase**

*Co-Director, Global Secretariat, MenEngage Alliance*

Laxman is a gender justice and child rights activists, with over 17 years of experience working with and providing technical support to various Human Right NGO and I/NGOs, UN Agencies and Government in the areas of Gender Equality and Justice, Child Rights, and ‘transforming masculinities and working with boys and men in gender justice’. He is experienced in strategic

planning, programs development and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy in the areas of gender equality, women’s rights & child rights. Prior to MenEngage Alliance, Laxman worked for Save the Children Sweden. Laxman is a founding core-group member of MenEngage Alliance Nepal and served as regional coordinator of MenEngage Alliance South Asia, from 2009 until 2013. Laxman is also a member of the CSO Global Reference Group of the UN Spotlight Initiative to end VAWG and the Leadership Council of the Global Women’s Institute at George Washington University, USA. Laxman is a part-time Professorial Lecturer on “Masculinities in International Affairs” at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University.

### Parallel Session 3.3 - Digital governance in a post-pandemic world



**Mr. Chan Cheow Hoe**

*Government Chief Digital Technology Officer, Smart Nation and Digital Government Office, & Deputy Chief Executive, Government Technology Agency of Singapore*

Mr. Chan Cheow Hoe is the Government Chief Digital Technology Officer (GCDTO) of the Smart Nation and Digital Government Office (SNDGO). He is also concurrently the Deputy Chief Executive of the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech).

As the GCDTO, Cheow Hoe oversees the development of the Government's digital infrastructure and digital technology capability, as well as talent development in information and communication technology and smart systems (ICT&SS). He will also oversee the development of platforms to enable resource sharing and interoperability across Government, so as to drive the development and delivery of innovative government digital services for citizens and businesses.

In his role as Deputy Chief Executive, GovTech, he oversees multi-disciplinary teams that develop and manage key government's digital products such as the National Digital Identity.

Cheow Hoe has more than two decades of extensive experience both in the public and private sectors, with a strong track record in leading digital transformation changes in organisations and the government.

Prior to joining GovTech, Cheow Hoe held senior appointments in international banks and consulting companies in the areas of technology, operations, finance and business.

Cheow Hoe graduated from the National University of Singapore, and obtained his masters from Wharton School.



**Ms. Carol Roach**

*Acting Director, Department of Transformation and Digitization, Office of The Prime Minister, The Bahamas*

Ms. Roach completed her undergraduate studies at the University of The West Indies, Cavehill, Barbados, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Her post graduate studies were completed at Pace University, New York City, USA, where she earned a Master of Science degree in Internet Technology for e-Commerce. She is a Certified Project Management Professional, and has completed formal training for Business Analyst Professional and Scrum Master. Her Public Service career has been in e-Government, ICT



Governance, Policy and Strategy Development, Skills Development, Project Management, Business Analysis, Process Development, and ICT Implementations and Deployments.

**Mr. Alexandre Fernandes Barbosa**

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*Head, Regional Center for Studies on the Development of the Information Society (Cetic.br)*

Head of the Regional Center for Studies on the Development of the Information Society (Cetic.br), linked to the Brazilian Network Information Center (NIC.br). Responsible for research projects to produce ICT-related data for the monitoring of national policies and international goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Coordinates capacity building programs in survey methodologies in Latin America and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. Mr. Barbosa was the Chair of the Expert Group on ICT Households indicators (EGH) from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) from 2012 to 2017, expert at the OECD working party on Measurement and Analysis of the Digital Economy, member of the International Advisory Group of Experts on the Global Kids Online project at UNICEF and LSE, member of the Council Board of The Innovation Center for Brazilian Education (CIEB) and member of the master's program council at Fundação Dom Cabral.

Mr. Barbosa holds a PhD degree in Business Administration from Getulio Vargas Foundation (Brazil), a Master Degree in Business Administration from Bradford University (UK), a MSc Degree in Computer Science from Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil) and a BSc Degree in Electrical Engineering from Catholic University (Brazil). He has also conducted postdoctoral research at HEC Montreal (Canada).



**Mr. Anir Chowdhury**

*Policy Advisor, Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme, Cabinet Division/ICT Division/UNDP Bangladesh*

Anir Chowdhury is the Policy Advisor of the a2i Programme of the ICT Division and the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh supported by the UNDP. In this capacity, he leads the formation of a whole-of-society innovation ecosystem in Bangladesh through massive technology deployment, extensive capacity development, integrated policy formulation, whole-of-government institutional reform, and an Innovation Fund. His work on innovation in public service has developed interesting and replicable models of service delivery decentralization, public-private partnerships, and transformation of a traditional bureaucracy into a forward-looking, citizen-centric service

provider. He is a regular speaker in international conferences on public service innovation and reform, digital financial inclusion, civil registration and digital identity management, SDGs, youth and community empowerment, educational transformation, public-private partnerships, and South-South Cooperation.

He is a member of the Prime Minister's National Digital Task Force, Education Minister's National ICT in Education Task Force, UNESCAP Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), Co-Founder and Board Member of South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) and Co-Founder of South-Asia Civil Registration Network (CR8). He co-founded several software and service companies and non-profit organizations in the US and Bangladesh. Anir graduated magna cum laude in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics from Brown University and did post-graduate work on management, marketing, and education reform in Harvard, Columbia, and Boston Universities.

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**Ms. Nevena Manić**

*Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia*

Nevena Manić is an Advisor at the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, focusing primarily on public administration reform. She is passionate about e-government and digitalisation as the optimal way to improve public services and accelerate development.

Nevena has extensive experience in the private and particularly in the public sector, gained while working at the European Commission, in Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and at the Ministry of Finance on contracting and implementation of EU funds.

Nevena graduated from the Faculty of political science at the University of Belgrade and holds two master degrees – LL.M. from Faculty of Law and Master of Public Administration at the University of Birmingham, attended as the Valedictorian of Chevening, the UK government's scholarship programme.