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## **Towards Inclusive Economic Growth in Sudan: Stabilization and Recovery**

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Speaker and Chair Biographies

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**HE Dr Abdalla Hamdok** is Prime Minister of the Republic of Sudan, and head of the country's transitional executive council since August 2019. He has over 30 years' experience in the areas of public sector reform, governance, regional integration and resource management, addressing diverse development challenges in the African policy landscape. Dr Hamdok previously served as Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of the ECA, prior to which, he headed ECA's portfolios of activities on development policy management, NEPAD and regional integration, and governance and public administration. From 2003-2008, he served International IDEA as Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East. He has also held senior positions at the International Labour Organization, African Development Bank and Deloitte & Touche; as well as at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of Sudan (1981-1987).

**Dr Alex Vines OBE** is Research Director for Risk, Ethics and Resilience, and Head of the Africa Programme at Chatham House. Previously, he has held roles at Chatham House as Director for Regional Studies and International Security, and Director for Area Studies and International Law. He chaired the UN Panel of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire from 2005 to 2007, and was also a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group to Ghana in 2016. Alex has also been a UN election officer in Mozambique and Angola, and served as a consultant for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He is a senior lecturer at Coventry University, and works on editorial and advisory boards for several journals. Alex was awarded an OBE in 2008 in recognition of his work including founding and developing the Chatham House Africa Programme.

**Professor Atta El-Battahani** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Khartoum and Senior Adviser to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) in Sudan. He received his PhD from Sussex University and was previously educated at the University of Khartoum. As an academic and a researcher, he has published on Federalism and Economic Development, Economic Liberalization and Institutional Reform, Conflicts in Darfur, and Political Islam. Among his numerous publications is *Nationalism and Peasant Politics in the Nuba Mountain Region of Sudan* (Arabic 2002, English 2009). Professor El-Battahani is Editor-in-Chief of the Sudan Journal of Economic and Social Studies.

**Nicholas Haysom** is the Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary General on Sudan. He was formerly the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia. His previous positions include: Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, SRSG and head of the UN mission in Afghanistan, the Political and Peacekeeping Affairs Director in the Office of the UNSG, and the UN's Director of Constitutional Support in Iraq. Before joining the UN, Mr Haysom worked on peace processes in Africa and Asia, notably on Burundi and Sudan. Haysom served as President Nelson Mandela's legal and constitutional adviser between 1994 and 1999 and was intimately involved in the negotiation of South Africa's first democratic constitution. Prior to this, Mr Haysom worked as a practicing human rights lawyer and a law professor at Witwatersrand University.

**Dr Suliman Baldo** is a Senior Policy Advisor for the Enough Project where he works on humanitarian concerns, economic development, conflict resolution, justice and human rights in Africa. Previously, Suliman was Director of Sudan Democracy First Group, a Sudan-focused think tank aiming to help bring about democratization and peace to the country. In 2013 he worked as the Independent Expert to the UN on human rights issues in Mali, and as an advisor to UN and African Union mediation teams in Darfur. Prior to this Dr Baldo served as Director of the Africa Program at the International Center for Transitional Justice, and as Africa Director at the International Crisis Group. He has also worked for Human Rights Watch and Oxfam America.

**Huda Shafiq** leverages a decade of experience in peacebuilding, women's rights and inclusion in her work for gender equality and social justice. Ms. Shafiq advises the Sudanese government, political parties, opposition groups, and intergovernmental organizations on how to engender peace processes and make them more transparent, accountable, and inclusive. She also works to ensure effective women's political participation— serving as a conduit between women in the grassroots and senior officials. Ms. Shafiq regularly consults with civil society and communities in states across Sudan, to communicate their priorities to policymakers. She is also a Co-Founder of Gesr Center for Development, an initiative that enables active Sudanese youth to lead in social and political development, through mainstreaming the youth agenda in development programs and formal policies, as well as in the areas of human rights, gender equality and democracy.

**Dame Rosalind Marsden** is an Associate Fellow of the Chatham House Africa Programme and expert on Sudan and South Sudan. She is a former British diplomat, who served as Ambassador to Sudan and Afghanistan, Consul-General in Basra, Iraq and Director of Asia/Pacific in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Dame Marsden was also the EU Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan from 2010 until 2013. Rosalind is also a Trustee of Conciliation Resources, a peacebuilding NGO, and an Honorary Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford.

**Abda El-Mahdi** is currently the Managing Director of UNICONS Consultancy Ltd. an independent economic consultancy firm based in Khartoum, Sudan. Prior to establishing UNICONS, Ms. El-Mahdi served in Sudan's government as State Minister of Finance and National Economy and before that at the Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey (ERF) based in Cairo. Before joining ERF, she worked at the International Monetary Fund in Washington. She is an ERF Senior Associate and serves in the Boards of Directors of several institutions including HESPI (The Horn of Africa Economic & Social Policy Institute) and the National Bank of Egypt (Khartoum). Ms. El-Mahdi holds a Master of Science in Economics and Mathematical Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

**Professor Ibrahim Ahmed Onour** is a professor of Financial Econometrics and Quantitative Methods at the School of Management Studies, University of Khartoum. He has taught in several universities including in Canada, the Middle East and Africa, and is one of the leading economics and finance researchers in his field. Professor Onour has published extensively in leading international journals in the areas of financial econometrics, operation research, international finance, capital markets, and energy economics.

**Dr Khalid Eltigani Elnour** is Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Elaph, the leading newspaper specialized in economic affairs and the political economy of development, published in Khartoum since 2004. He also serves as Chairman of Hawadi Media Services & Publishing Co. Ltd. Dr Elnour has over 30 years' experience in journalism, previously serving as Editor and editorial board member of several newspapers in Sudan and abroad, and a correspondent of UPI for the Horn of Africa. He is a regular contributor to global news reports on economic and political issues on Sudan and the region.

**Carolyn Turk** is Country Director for Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan at the World Bank, and is currently based in Addis Ababa. Ms Turk is an economist by background and joined the World Bank in 1998. Since then she has held positions in the East Asia and Pacific region as a senior poverty economist based in Vietnam, and in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region where she managed the Social Development team. Most recently, Ms Turk was Country Manager of Rwanda. Prior to joining the World Bank, Ms Turk worked with the UK Department for International Development. She has authored numerous publications on poverty and inequality, including a book based on research into gender inequality in 20 countries.

**Gabriel Negatu** was the African Development Bank's Director General for Eastern Africa until September 2019. He has more than 25 years of senior level program, project and portfolio management experience, having served as the AfDB's Senior and Principal Program Officer, Chief Program Officer and Sector Director, where he led the Bank's Economic and Financial Governance department. He has been credited with successfully leading the Bank's response to the global financial crisis and spearheading the innovative use of budget support instruments, including in fragile states.

**Dr Adam Elhiraika** is Director of the Macroeconomics and Governance Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). He directly supervises ECA's work on development planning; forecasting and macroeconomic policy analysis; economic governance and public sector management; and finance and private sector development, including research and advocacy work on combating illicit financial flows. The Division leads the substantive preparation of the Commission's flagship publication: *The Economic Report on Africa*. Before joining the UN, Dr Elhiraika served as Assistant and Associate Professor of Economics in several universities and has published extensively in internationally refereed journals, books and monographs. He holds a doctorate from the University of Glasgow.

**Professor Guma Kunda Komey** is an Associate Professor within the Centre for Peace and Development Studies and Faculty of Humanities at the University of Bahri in Khartoum, Sudan. He is a core staff member of the Rift Valley Institute and was previously a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Social Anthropology, as well as a senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology in Germany. Professor Komey is a civic activist and freelance consultant, focusing on land and natural resource governance, peace building and conflict resolution analysis. He is one of the lead contributors to the emerging "alternative policies" for Sudan, particularly on peace and land reform. Professor Komey is author of numerous articles and book chapters on the question of land as source of power, identity and wealth at different levels of social organizations and governance. He is an author of *Land, Governance, Conflict and the Nuba of Sudan* (James Currey London, 2011).

**Ahmed Amin Abdellatif** is the President of CTC Group, a Sudanese private limited group of companies, established in 1956 as The Central Trading Co. Ltd. CTC Group is the leading Sudanese private sector company in the agricultural sector, and CTC Group companies are also market leaders in the fields of Consumer Electronics and ICT. For over twenty years with CTC, including 10 years as Group President, Ahmed Abdellatif has led the transformation of CTC from a classical "family business" with less than 50 employees, into one of the leading multi-sector corporates in East Africa, employing over 1,500 local and expatriate professionals. He is also Founding President of the Sudanese Young Businessmen Association and Founding Member and Vice Chairman of the US Sudan Business Council.

**Ihab Ibrahim Osman** is Chairman of the US-Sudan Business Council, and General Manager of NADEC New Businesses, one of the largest vertically integrated dairy companies in the world. Previously, he was CEO of Sudatel Telecom and has worked for Kuwait Finance House (Bahrain) and Verizon Communications in the US. He serves on a number of corporate and non-profit boards, including the UN Global Compact Business for Peace Steering Committee and the Khartoum Breast Cancer Centre Hospital. Osman holds an MPA from Harvard University, and an MBA from Oxford University.

**Mohamed Ahmed Bushra Badawi**, is a former Assistant Governor of the Central Bank of Sudan. He worked at the central bank from 1981 to 2018, focusing in the fields of banking supervision, foreign exchange policy and currency issuance. Mr Badawi was Assistant Governor for the economic and policy wing for five years from 2013 to 2018. He was also briefly Assistant Governor for administration and services, as well as Acting Assistant Governor for the Governor's office in 2018. He has an economics degree from the University of Khartoum and an MA from University College Dublin.

**Tarneem Saeed** is the CEO of alsoug.com, Sudan's largest online classifieds business, and one of the most visited local internet platforms in the country. By promoting transparency, trust and efficiency of transaction between buyers and sellers, alsoug.com is actively helping to drive more of the Sudanese economy online. Tarneem is also head of strategy at Saeed Industrial & Commercial Group, one of Sudan's most longstanding and reputable industrial conglomerates. Tarneem is an executive director of the US-Sudan Business Council, a private sector not-for-profit organisation working to improve and promote meaningful dialogue and exchange between the private sector and civil society in Sudan and the United States. Her previous professional experience was as a lawyer with the Projects, Energy and Infrastructure Group at Allen & Overy LLP, London.

**Hiba Farid** is the Managing Director of the Center for Development and Public Policy (CDPP). Hiba co-founded CDPP following over thirty years of experience in related fields. In 2009, Hiba founded Leaders of Change consultancy, a financial inclusion firm specialized in public policy, microfinance and entrepreneurship with a partnership with University of Malaya, Malaysia. She is also an executive partner in H&H Consultancy and Management firm. Hiba holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the International Institute of Public Policy and Management, University of Malaya, Malaysia, and a Bachelor's degree in Law from University of Khartoum, Sudan.

**Dr Samah Jamous** is an advocate for peace and the security and inclusion of women, particularly in conflict areas. She has four years' experience as trainer in strategic planning, campaign building, human rights and good governance, as well as peace building at the grassroots level. Samah has worked with many Sudanese youth initiatives and NGOs on socio-political change and developing a national youth agenda with concentration on peace. She also developed and led an important campaign to provide support to IDPs, victims of rape and war crimes. Recently Samah co-founded the 'Women for Peace Initiative', which aims to ensure young community leaders from conflict areas are represented at different levels of policy making moving towards sustainable peace supported by social justice.

**Abbas Ageed Abu-Sakin** is an expert in renewable energies. He has worked on projects in South Darfur including hydroelectric power generation from water tanks, and the construction of drinking water purification plants. Previously he worked as a production engineer at Assad Steel Factory from 2017-2019, prior to which he was at the Sudanese Thermal Generating Company at El Fasher City Power Station. Most recently, Abbas has worked to design a solar power plant using the latest technologies and utilizing renewable resources in Sudan. Abbas holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nyala, and a master's degree in Manufacturing Technology from the University of Kaary. Abbas is also active in Sudanese political, social, and cultural spheres.

**Gwi-Yeop Son** is the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan. She began her career in Haiti, assisting HIV/AIDS patients with the non-governmental organization Death and Dying Institute. She then worked with the Country Women's Association of Nigeria, focusing on microfinance schemes, before becoming Assistant to the Managing Director of Lehman Brothers. In 1994, Ms Son was posted to Somalia as a Programme Officer with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), marking the beginning of an 18-year period with UNDP. After two years in Somalia, Ms Son worked in various other locations including Lao PDR, Timor-Leste during the pre-independence period, and Indonesia during the first democratic elections and Tsunami 2004 period. She was also posted in New York several times as a Programme Adviser on Afghanistan and as UN OCHA's Director of Corporate Programmes.

**Hon Dr Ibrahim Elbadawi** is the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Sudan, having been appointed in September 2019. Before this, he was Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum (ERF). Dr El Badawi served as the director of research at the Dubai Economic Council, which he joined in March 2009, and lead economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989. He has published widely on macroeconomic and development policy, democratic transitions and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions. He was also the thematic leader of the Natural Resource Management and Economic Diversification theme at the ERF for five years and a member of the Advisory Board of the Arab Planning Institute.

**Ahmed Soliman** is a Research Fellow of the Africa Programme at Chatham House, focusing on the Horn of Africa. He works on the politics of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, producing policy relevant research that influences thinking on the region. Ahmed is the author of a number of research publications and comment pieces, and leads on events, publications and briefings on the Horn of Africa at Chatham House. He regularly contributes to media reporting on the region.