SPEAKERS GUIDE

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Part I: Private Sector Development in the MENA Region

DEBORA REVOLTELLA  
DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ECONOMIST, ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, EIB

Debora Revoltella is the Director of the Economics Department of the European Investment Bank since April 2011. The department comprises 30 economists and provides impact-driven economic analysis to support operations, the global positioning as well as the policy and strategy definition of the bank. Main publications of the department include the Annual Report on Investment and Investment Finance in Europe, regular Economic Notes on structural issues concerning the European economy and publications on the state of the banking sector of the different regions of operations of the EIB (CESEE, ENCA, North African Countries, ACP, etc.). The Economic Department is also in charge of the EIB Report on Results – which assesses the development impact of projects financed by the EIB under various mandates.

Debora holds a degree in Economics and a Master in Economics from Bocconi University as well as a PhD in Economics from the University of Ancona in Italy. After the experience as an adjunct Professor in Macroeconomics at Bocconi University, Debora joined the research department of Banca Commerciale Italiana, a leading Italian Bank. In 2001, she joined UniCredit as the Chief Economist for Central and Eastern Europe. She managed a team of 40 economists in charge of supporting the institution in its regional growth strategy.

Debora is member of the Steering Committee of the Vienna Initiative, an alternate member of the Board of the Joint Vienna Institute and a member of the Scientific Committee of SUERF.

TAREK HASSAN AMER  
GOVERNOR, CENTRAL BANK OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Mr. Tarek Hassan Nour El Din Amer has been Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) since November 27, 2015. Mr. Amer joined the CBE with 27 years of banking experience covering a wide array of regions, including the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Turkey, the Gulf, and Asia. In Egypt he held senior executive positions, leading the corporate finance and investment banking business for Citibank and Bank of America for MENA and the Gulf. In addition, he managed corporate and correspondent banking areas in 15 markets. Mr. Amer served as Chairman of the Board of National Bank of Egypt. Mr. Amer served as Deputy Chairman of Arab International Bank. Mr. Amer serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of Central Bank of Egypt. He serves as a Director for National Bank of Egypt (UK) Limited. He served as a Deputy Chairman of Egyptian Banking Institute.
SERGEI GURIEV
INCOMING CHIEF ECONOMIST, EBRD

Sergei Guriev is a Professor of Economics, Sciences Po, Paris and Incoming EBRD Chief Economist. He is a Research Fellow at the Center for Economic Policy Research (London), Co-Editor of the Economics of Transition and the President-Elect of the Society for the Institutional and Organizational Economics. He is also a member of the Scientific Council of the BRUEGEL think tank (Brussels), of the Advisory Council of the Peterson Institute on International Economics (Washington, DC), of the Academic Advisory Board, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University, and also was a Board Member of Sberbank from 2008-14. In 1999-2013, he was on the faculty of the New Economic School in Moscow, in 2004-13 a tenured faculty member and Rector of the New Economic School.


KAUSHIK BASU
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF ECONOMIST, WB

Kaushik Basu is Senior Vice President (Development Economics) and Chief Economist of the World Bank. Prior to this, he served as Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India and is currently on leave from Cornell University where he is Professor of Economics and the C. Marks Professor of International Studies.

Basu is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and has received India’s Padma Bhushan award, the inaugural Professor A.L. Nagar Fellow award, as well as the National Mahalanobis Memorial award. Basu’s contributions span development and welfare economics, industrial organization, and game theory.

In addition to Cornell, he has taught at the Delhi School of Economics, Harvard, Princeton and MIT. He has published widely, including more than 160 papers in refereed journals and scholarly volumes, and has contributed articles to many widely read magazines and newspapers. He has written several books including ‘Beyond the Invisible Hand: Groundwork for a New Economics’ (Princeton University Press and Penguin); and ‘An Economist in the Real World: the Art of Policymaking in India’ (MIT Press).

Basu holds a PhD in economics from the London School of Economics. He is the second World Bank Chief Economist from a developing country and the first from India.
AHMED GALAL
MANAGING DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM

Ahmed Galal is currently Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and the President and Chairman of the Board of Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts des Sciences Économiques (FEMISE). He is a member of the Board of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and the MENA Health Policy Forum.

Mr. Galal was Egypt’s Finance Minister between July 2013 and February 2014. Previously, he worked for the World Bank for 18 years where he conducted research and provided policy advice to governments in several regions. While on leave from the Bank (2000-2006), he was the Executive Director and Director of Research of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES).

Galal authored or co-authored more than dozen books, including Welfare Consequences of Selling Public Enterprises and The Road Not Traveled: Education Reform in the Middle East and North Africa. He also authored several journal articles and book chapters.

In 2004, he was awarded the prestigious regional prize for Economic and Social Sciences by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. Galal holds a PhD in economics from Boston University.

Part II: Future Steps in the Arab Republic of Egypt and in the MENA Region

SAHAR NASR
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Her Excellency Dr. Sahar Nasr was sworn in as the Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation on September 19, 2015.

Dr. Nasr earned her Professorship from the Supreme Council of Universities. She is a Professor of Economics at the American University in Cairo and a Lecturer at several Egyptian and foreign universities. Throughout her academic career, she published over 60 research papers, technical reports and books in the fields of international finance, economic development, private sector and SME development, financial reform, the labor market, women empowerment, and economic legislation. Some of these studies and research papers have contributed to drafting and structuring economic policies in various developing countries and emerging markets, including Egypt.

Since assuming her role as Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Nasr has made several strides in restructuring and reforming the Ministry. Furthermore, Dr. Nasr has focused on strengthening Egypt’s ties with its existing international partners, as well as exploring new opportunities for cooperation, all
through the establishment of mutually-beneficial partnerships. Dr. Nasr also serves as Governor of Egypt to several institutions such as The World Bank, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Dr. Nasr has been a member of the Economic Development Council of the Presidential Office Her Excellency was granted the 2015 prize of the most influential woman in the Arab economic sector. Dr. Nasr has extensive experience in negotiating and securing international grants and loans, especially within her role as Lead Economist at the World Bank.

Dr. Nasr’s career heavily involved designing and supervising numerous reform and finance programs in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe.

PHILIP TER WOORT
DIRECTOR, HEAD OF EGYPT, EBRD

Philip ter Woort was appointed in April 2013 as EBRD’s first Country Director for Egypt responsible for establishing EBRD’s resident office in Egypt. From 2009 to 2013, he was the Head of the Resident Office of the EBRD in Mongolia. During his tenure in Mongolia, EBRD became the leading financier of the Mongolian private sector both in volume and number of transactions. In Mongolia, Philip also served as a non-executive board director for Mongolian Mining Corporation, the first indigenous Mongolian company listed on a main board of an international stock exchange (Hong Kong).

Prior to his tenure with EBRD, Philip worked in Moscow as country manager for Russia for the Dutch cooperative bank Rabobank. He came to Russia in 1998 when he joined ABN AMRO Russia’s operation based in Moscow. Philip started his career with ING Bank Amsterdam in 1990 during which tenure he occupied several positions in export & project finance and in specialised commodity finance.

He is a Dutch national and a graduate from the University of Amsterdam.

MARION HOENICKE
HEAD OF SMEs FINANCE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, EIB

Marion Hoenicke has been with the European Investment Bank (EIB) since 1997 where she currently heads the Neighboring Countries – Banks Division, focusing on lending to SMEs and mid-caps. Marion is responsible for EIB’s activities in the Eastern Neighborhood (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine) and Southern Neighborhood (Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia) Regions. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Green for Growth Fund. She previously worked for six years in the private sector, including Siemens and Bouygues, in Germany and France.
ASAD ALAM
COUNTRY DIRECTOR DJIBOUTI, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN AND ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, WB

Mr. Asad Alam is the new Country Director for Egypt, Yemen and Djibouti from July 1, 2015, based in Cairo. In this position, he will lead the development and implementation of the World Bank Group’s country partnership frameworks for these countries.

Prior to taking up this post, Mr. Alam has served as Country Director for Southern Africa covering South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland and earlier as Country Director for the South Caucasus covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

An economist by training, Mr. Alam joined the World Bank as a Young Professional in 1993. He has worked in different regions of the world including Africa, Central Asia, East Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. He has wide ranging experience of working on development issues of productivity, growth, job creation, poverty reduction, inequality, trade, and fiscal. He has written on various subjects and his most recent books include: Making it Happen: Selected Case Studies of Institutional Reforms in South Africa (2015, forthcoming), Fighting Corruption in Public Services: Chronicling Georgia’s Reforms (2012), Unleashing Prosperity: Productivity Growth in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union (2008) and Growth, Poverty and Inequality in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union (2005).

Mr. Alam is an Indian national and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University, USA, and a B.Sc. in Economics from The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK.
Moderators

JONATHAN CHARLES
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, EBRD

Jonathan Charles is the Managing Director of Communications at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and is a member of the Bank’s Executive Committee. He is responsible for the Bank’s internal and external image and messages.

Jonathan came to the EBRD in 2011 after a long and distinguished career at the BBC, winning several awards for his journalism. As a BBC presenter and foreign correspondent, he appeared on BBC1 and BBC World News television, as well as the BBC’s main radio channels.

His specialist areas include economics, Russia, the EU and international diplomacy; he has a keen interest in issues surrounding the single currency. He established television operations for the BBC in Brussels and Frankfurt, and operated in many conflict zones throughout the world. He holds an MA (Oxon) and BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oriel College, Oxford University.

PHILLIP JEREMY HAY
COMMUNICATIONS ADVISER, WB

Phillip Jeremy Hay is Communications Adviser for the World Bank’s Chief Economist, Kaushik Basu, and his Development Economics team.

A New Zealand national, Mr. Hay is a former Communications Manager for the World Bank’s Africa Region (2015-2011) and Communications Adviser for the Human Development Network. (2011-2004). A former BBC Special Correspondent and US Correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Hay is an accomplished blogger and frequent chair and moderator of global development conferences.

Prior to joining the Bank, he was a widely-published writer and commentator on disarmament and development and other leading issues in international relations.