

ROULA MAJDALANI

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WORK EXPERIENCE

January 2022 to Present

Beirut, Lebanon & Cairo, Egypt

**International Center on Agriculture Research in Dry Area (ICARDA)
Consultant – Senior Climate Advisor**

- Provide strategic advice to the Office of the Director General to mainstream Climate Change issues in ICARDA strategies and programs. Prepare concept notes on key milestones and developments in the COP process, and project proposals on enhancing climate resilience in water and food sectors, in MENA region. Guide partnership development and fund raising for ICARDA programs and projects. Develop technical project proposals for establishing subsidiary offices of ICARDA in the MENA region.
- Collaborate with climate change focal points in the different centers under One CGIAR to enhance coherence in the policy domain, global and cross-regional initiatives and resource mobilization to develop climate-smart food systems transformation and innovative evidence-based research programs at scale.

September 2010 to October 2021

Beirut, Lebanon

**ESCWA- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Director, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD)**

- Set strategic directions and priorities for the Program of Work and guide and monitor its implementation: 1. Ensure that programmed activities and outputs maintain high quality standards and produced in a timely manner; 2. Develop evaluation criteria in a result-based framework and ensure optimal allocation of human and financial resources from different funding sources. 3. Ensure policy coherence across sections of the division on water, energy, food, climate change & technology in line with global development agendas.
- Lead ESCWA inter-divisional preparations for global processes (2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda): 1. Develop a strategic vision for positioning ESCWA in the global negotiation process; 2. lead multi-stakeholder consultations and liaise with national governments, civil society, experts, international and regional partners, League of Arab States and UN agencies. 3. Represent ESCWA at High-Level Political Forums (HLPF), the Conference of Parties under the UNFCCC and other global fora; 4. Provide policy advice and capacity building to multi-sectoral and Intergovernmental bodies in negotiating sensitive positions related to water and climate; 5. Facilitate dialogue among partners.
- Develop & implement a partnership & fundraising strategy to leverage and scale-up ESCWA work on integrated natural resources management and climate change: 1. Roll out fundraising and resource mobilization strategy for up-scaling activities and programs in the medium and long-term perspectives. 2. Establish, operationalize and manage the Arab Center on Climate Change Policies mandated through UN Resolution 329(XXX). 3. Collaborate and coordinate on regular basis with donors and partners to ensure continued institutional partnership and the

smooth operation of work. 4. Report to donors on substantive, programmatic and financial performance as appropriate.

- Convene/facilitate ESCWA Intergovernmental committees on Water and Energy and the joint ESCWA-League of Arab States Intergovernmental bodies to guide normative and technical cooperation work and adopt regional positions for negotiations in international fora; contribute to ESCWA Ministerial Sessions and Technical Committees on all issues related to Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and Green Technology.
- Provide technical advice and policy briefs to ESCWA Executive Secretary on issues related to 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, water resources management, climate change, food security systems and transition to sustainable energy and provide technical input to HLPF, the COP process and the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). Act as Officer-In-Charge of ESCWA & participate on behalf of Executive Secretary in senior level meetings and conferences as required.
- Lead Division staff of diverse background & level of expertise, mentor junior staff & guide senior staff, manage staff recruitment, ensure quality & efficiency in performance and build a positive team spirit and a shared vision of the Division harmonized with ESCWA and UN goals and values.
- Ad hoc assignments: Served as Acting Deputy Executive Secretary for Programs Support in an interim period in 2018. Designated by the Executive Secretary to manage the ESCWA Technology Center based in Amman in 2016-2018 to optimize delivery on Technology Transfer for Sustainable Development.

December 2007 to September 2010

ESCWA- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Chief, Technical Cooperation

Beirut, Lebanon

- Plan, manage and monitor implementation of ESCWA wide Technical Cooperation activities;
- Set Strategic directions for Technical Advisory services and capacity building activities to be provided to Member Countries.
- Coordinate with Member Countries on their needs for ESCWA Technical support based on their identified development priorities and their national and sectoral development plans.
- Prepare and defend ESCWA budget at Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) at UN-Headquarters.
- Recruit regional advisors and TC staff. Mentor and supervise staff to implement their work program in line with the Technical Cooperation strategy and the Division's work program.
- Set guidelines to improve planning and implementation of Technical Cooperation activities; lead inter-divisional teams in multi-disciplinary integrated TC missions to member countries;
- Coordinate and monitor timely implementation of projects from different sources of funding and serve as secretary of Project Committee to ensure quality, relevance, multi-disciplinarity and value added of ESCWA projects.
- Report on Technical Cooperation activities to ESCWA Inter-governmental bodies and the Ministerial Sessions, Technical Committees and Inter-Governmental Bodies.

February 2002 to December 2007

ESCWA- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Beirut, Lebanon

First Economic Affairs / Water Resources Management

- Serve (on regular basis) as Officer in Charge/ Water Team: provide guidance to team, monitor progress of work, follow-up on managerial, financial and programmatic matters, and liaise with donors and client groups.
- Establish regional network of Training and Research Institutes on Integrated Water Resources Management (AWARNET)
- Develop capacity building programs for water utilities; train inter-ministerial national teams on negotiations on shared water resources.
- Organize high-level briefings on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and UN inter-agency regional conference on water governance, water demand management and water quality issues.
- Prepare studies on: "Legal & Institutional Reforms in Water Sector", National Strategies on IWRM" and "Privatization in water sector".
- Organize Inter-governmental meetings for Committee on Water; prepare technical reports and follow up with MC on resolutions.
- Develop training and resources material (Training of Trainers manuals) on IWRM for Arab region. Coordinate UNEP/ GIWA project for Jordan River Basin.

January 1989 to February 2002

ESCWA- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Human Settlements officer

Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon

- Follow-up with Member Countries on Istanbul 5 Plan of Action.
- Develop conceptual framework for regional implementation of Habitat global campaigns: "secure tenure & good urban governance".
- Liaise with ministries of housing, municipalities, NGOs, research institutions to develop urban indicators program & set-up "urban observatories".
- Participate in UN inter-agency collaboration on regional agenda to advance affordable housing and sustainable urban development: prepare ESCWA contribution/ Housing and urbanization in Lebanon, conduct and supervise research and organize meetings on urbanization, decentralization & municipal reform, housing policies & finance, youth in urban environment.
- Prepare housing and urbanization chapter to ESCWA Social and Economic survey.
- Prepare ECOSOC report on Palestinian situation in West Bank and Gaza, incl. East Jerusalem & Golan.

August 1993 to June 1994

Johannesburg, Pretoria, South Africa

United Nations Observer Mission, Political Observer/ Team Leader

- Supervise and coordinate activities of international peace monitors deployed them at voting and counting stations.
- Brief in-coming observers (500), prepare information kits and followed up on logistics for their assignment in the field. Monitor negotiations on conflict resolution provide backstopping and

informal support in diffusing tension and conflict prevention; assist local peace committees in developing action plans for empowering local communities and supporting victims of violence, particularly women.

October 1985 to December 1988
Dar Al-Handasah Consultants
Urban Planner

London, United Kingdom

- Participate in multi-disciplinary team on preparation of housing and urban management master plans in the Middle East and North Africa

EDUCATION

January 1995 to December 1995
University College London
Bartlett School of Architecture
Postgraduate research and course work completed in the field of Urban Planning

London, United Kingdom

August 1982 to December 1985
Syracuse University
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Masters of Urban and Regional Planning

New York, USA

October 1978 to June 1981
American University of Beirut
Social & Behavioral Science- Sociology
Bachelor of Arts

Beirut, Lebanon

LANGUAGES

- Full command of English, French, and Arabic.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Center for Strategic and International Studies Member of Advisory Board (2020-to present)
- International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, Member/ Board of Directors (2014-2018);
- Stockholm Industry Water Award (SIWA) panel member; (2006-2010)
- Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS);