



H.E. Leonore Gewessler,
Minister of Climate Action, Environment, Energy,
Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria

Leonore Gewessler studied political science with a focus on international development at the University of Vienna. She worked as a head of a district administration in Vienna. From 2008 to 2014 she was the founding director of the Green European Foundation (GEF) in Brussels. From June 2014 to June 2019 Gewessler was the political director of the environmental protection organization Global 2000 (member of Friends of the Earth) in Vienna. Leonore Gewessler ran for the Austrian Greens in the 2019 National Council elections. From October 23, 2019, she was a member of the National Council of the 27th legislative period. Since January 2020, she has been the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria



Mr. LI Yong,
Director General of the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. LI Yong has had an extensive career as a senior economic and financial policy-maker. As Vice-Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China and member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank for a decade, Mr. Li was involved in setting and harmonizing fiscal, monetary and industrial policies, and in supporting sound economic growth in China. He pushed forward financial sector reform, and prompted major financial institutions to establish corporate governance, deal with toxic assets and strengthen risk management.

Mr. Li gave great importance to fiscal and financial measures in favor of agricultural development and SMEs, the cornerstones for creating economic opportunities, reducing poverty and promoting gender equality. He played a key role in China's cooperation with multilateral development organizations, such as the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank.



H.E. Mr. Alejandro Solano,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica to Austria

During his career, Mr. Solano Ortíz has served in various capacities, among them: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (2014-2018); Minister Counsellor and Consul General, Embassy in Belgium (2010-2014); Director General of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2008-2010); Deputy Director of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2007-2008); Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office at Geneva (2001-2006); Charge d'affairs, Embassy in Berne, Switzerland (2003-2004); Desk Officer for Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1999-2001); Officer in the Passport Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1998-1999); Counsellor and Consul, Embassy in Argentina (1994-1998); Assistant and Lawyer in Fallas Solano Law Firm (1986-1994).

Mr. Solano Ortíz graduated from the University of Costa Rica and is an attorney-at-law. He also holds a Master of Science degree in International Affairs as well as in Aeronautical and Space Law. He speaks Spanish, English, French, Italian and Portuguese.



Ms. Alessandra Todde,
Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of
Economic Development, Italy

Alessandra Todde has been the CEO of Olidata. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange since 1999, today, the new mission of Olidata is to become the premiere European listed vehicle entirely dedicated to the Internet of Things Asset Class, focusing the industrial project to consolidate the IoT sector on a European scale.

Alessandra Todde has been Partner in Kaufmann & Partners, an investors and corporate advisory firm headquartered in Madrid focused on Telcos, Networking and Technology. Selectively, K&P provides funding and its support to highly disruptive start-up companies in the Fin-Tech, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Circular Economy market space. In Kaufmann & Partners, Alessandra was leading Funding and Advisory for the innovative start-ups program and the K&P Research Unit.

Founder and CEO of Energeya, leading Energy Trading and Risk Management Software company, acquired by FIS Global (formerly Sungard) in 2015, Alessandra served as VP Energy and Corporate Intelligence Markets EMEA in Expert System, Sr Advisor Energy Markets in FIS Global, Director of Sales South & Eastern Europe in Sungard and Managing Director South Europe in Nexant. (formerly Excelergy).

In December 2018, Alessandra has been awarded among the Italian Inspiring Fifties, a recognition to the most influential Italian women in Technology. In December 2014 Alessandra has been awarded by the Sardinian Delegation of AIDDA (Associazione Imprenditrici e Donne Dirigenti di Azienda) as Entrepreneur of the Year.

Alessandra holds an Italian Laurea (Master Degree) in Computer Science and in Computer Engineering awarded by the University of Pisa.



Ms. Amani Abou-Zeid,
Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy at
the African Union Commission (AUC)

Dr Amani Abou-Zeid is the African Union Commissioner in charge of Infrastructure, Energy, ICT and Tourism since 2017.

She also oversees the work of The African Energy Commission (AFREC), African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), and African Telecommunication Union (ATU). For more than 30 years, Commissioner Abou-Zeid has served in leadership positions in international organisations, such as the African Development Bank, UNDP and USAID, with a focus on infrastructure and energy programmes. Over her career, she has amassed a remarkable mix of strategic and operational professional experience and achievements across Africa, France, UK and Canada and across constituencies with wide array of stakeholders.

She has managed AfDB largest operational portfolio and implemented national and continental multi-sectoral development programmes, including the world's largest solar power plant (Nour). In 2018, Commissioner Abou-Zeid launched the Single African Air Transport Market, delivering on the first flagship project for African Integration under African Union Agenda 2063. She also launched the African digital domain DotAfrica, developed and launched the first Africa Digital Transformation Strategy, the second phase of PIDA programme, founded and chairs the multi stakeholder African Network for Women in Infrastructure (ANWIN) — among many other continental initiatives. She is giving a renewed pulse to African Union Commission (AUC) programmes, focusing on results, embracing top technologies for local solutions and engaging as equal with the major global players in the fields under her purview to ensure effective African presence and expeditious and best quality implementation.

An Egyptian national, Dr Abou-Zeid has a multi-disciplinary academic training: B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from Cairo University; MBA in project management for African Development from the French University for African Development (Université Senghor); Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard School of Government; and Ph.D. in Social and Economic Development from The University of Manchester, UK. She also has a DES in Arts from Université Sorbonne-Paris IV.

Dr Abou-Zeid has received numerous international awards and recognitions for her leadership and excellence: decorated the Wissam Alaouite from HM King Mohamed VI of Morocco, selected three times one of "The Most Influential Women in Africa" and also one of "The Most Reputable Africans", named "Personnalité d'avenir" by Government of France and received the "Outstanding Alumni Award" from the University of Manchester, UK — to name but a few.

Commissioner Abou-Zeid is member of the prestigious Global Leaders Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, of the Stewardship Board for System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Energy, the Global Commission for Energy Efficiency, the High Level Advisory Council of Digital Identification for Development (ID4D), World Bank Group, Federation Internationale de l'Automobile Global High Level Panel for Road Safety.

She co-leads the Steering Committee of Smart Africa and the Africa-EU High Level Task Forces, on Digital Economy, Connectivity and Energy, chairs the Advisory Board of the African Cities Research Centre, the University of Manchester/DFID, and is a Trustee of 5Rights Foundation for children safety online.

Dr. Abou-Zeid sets the example for women in STEM and in leadership and decision making positions and is long recognised as champion of gender equality and women empowerment.

Dr. Abou-Zeid is passionate about classical music, plays piano, is a certified alpinist and competes to top positions in desert car rallies - among other interests and activities.



Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi,
Director General, International Atomic Energy
Agency (IAEA)

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi assumed office on 3 December 2019.

Mr Grossi is a diplomat with over 35 years of experience in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament. In 2013, he was appointed Ambassador of Argentina to Austria and Argentinian Representative to the IAEA and other Vienna-based International Organizations. He presided over the Diplomatic Conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, securing unanimous approval for the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety – a milestone in international efforts in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident. Since 2017, Mr Grossi has been an International Gender Champion, promoting gender balance in the nuclear field.



Ms. Rola Dashti,
Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of
the Economic and Social Commission for Western
Asia (ESCWA)

Ms. Dashti is a leading Kuwaiti economist and long-time champion of women's rights, gender equality and democratic reform. She served as member of the Supreme Planning Council in Kuwait. From 2012 to 2014, she was Minister for Planning and Development and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs. Ms. Dashti played a pivotal role in advocating for a decree to allow Kuwaiti women to vote and run for parliamentary elections. In May 2009, she and three others became the first women to be elected to the Kuwait parliament. She has held key positions in research and development institutions, such as the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and has worked for major national and international financial and development institutions, such as the National Bank of Kuwait and the World Bank. She also managed contracts for the Kuwaiti Emergency and Reconstruction Program during the invasion to-post liberation period.

She is a regular contributor to regional and international policy forums on global governance, economic development and integration, democratization, and women's empowerment in the MENA region.

She has served as chairperson for the Arab Planning Institute, and for the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council for the MENA region. She was a member of the advisory panel for the World Bank on Middle East political and economic transition, of the advisory council for the Arab Human Development Report 2009, of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development in Kuwait, and of the Executive Committee of Young Arab Leaders- Kuwait Chapter. She served on the executive board of the Pan-Arab Women Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Violence against Women, and on the board of the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality (Ra'edat).

She won the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe for 2010 together with Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev. She also received the Clinton Global Citizens Award for 2009, the Vital Voices Global Leadership Award for 2006, and the King Hussein Humanitarian award for 2005. She is listed among the top 150 women leaders by Business Week, among the top 20 businesswomen in the Arab region by the Financial Times, and among the world's 100 most powerful Arabs by Arabian Business. She was featured in The Next Founders: Voices of Democracy in the Middle East as a leader and a champion for women's rights from Kuwait.

Ms. Dashti holds a doctorate degree in population dynamics from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, a master's degree in economics and finance from California State University in Sacramento, and a bachelor of science in agriculture economics from California State University in Chico. She speaks Arabic and English fluently.



Mr. Vladislav Kaim,
Member of the Secretary-General's Youth
Advisory Group on Climate Change

Vladislav was born in 1995 in Chisinau, Moldova. He has completed his bachelor's degree in international economics at Moscow State University of International Relations (MGIMO) in June 2018 and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Economics at Lund University (Sweden). In late 2015, he was awarded as the Best Moldovan Student in Diaspora. He has been involved in youth sustainability work globally and locally (in Moldova, Russia and beyond) for 6 years, culminating with his appointment in 2020 as UN Secretary General's Youth Advisor on Climate Change.



Barbara Frei,
Executive Vice President, Europe Operations and
member of Schneider Electric Executive
Committee

Barbara Frei, born in 1970 in Maennedorf, Switzerland, is Executive Vice President of Europe Operations since 2019. Until end of 2018 she was responsible for the business in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and CEO of Schneider Electric GmbH in Germany. She completed her studies in mechanical engineering at ETH Zurich, followed by a doctorate in 1998. In addition she is holding a MBA degree of IMD Lausanne, Switzerland.



Ms. Irene Giner Reichl,
President of the Global Forum on Sustainable
Energy (GFSE) and president of the Global
Women's Network for the Energy Transition
(GWNET)

Ambassador Irene Giner-Reichl's expertise is economic and social development, women's rights' issues, the environment, energy, and development cooperation. A senior member of the Austrian diplomatic service, she held leadership positions since 1995, including as Director General of Development Cooperation and Austria's Ambassador to the PR of China and Mongolia and currently to Brazil and Suriname.

Irene Giner-Reichl is president of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE; www.gfse.at), founder and vice-president of the Austrian National Committee for UN Women (www.unwomen-nc.at) and co-founder and president of the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET; www.globalwomennet.org). She published numerous articles in scholarly and mainstream publications as well as several books on sustainable development, development cooperation, and relations with Africa. She has lectured at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna for several years on human security and development policy.



Mr. Tareq Emtairah,
Director of the Energy Department (UNIDO)

Mr. Emtairah's work experience spans over 22 years in developed and emerging economies with a progressive focus on sustainable industrial transformation, energy transition, policy advocacy, applied research and capacity development.

Before joining UNIDO, he worked as a senior research fellow at the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) at Lund University, Sweden where he worked with research and analysis on the transition to low carbon economies with a focus on cleaner technologies and cities.

From June 2012 to 11 June 2015, he served as the executive director of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), an inter-governmental technical cooperation center based in Cairo, where he drove for the conceptualization, development and implementation of the programmatic areas of the Center for advancing policies and strategies for sustainable energy in the MENA region.

Mr. Tareq Emtairah is a graduate of Lund University-Sweden, where he received a PhD in Industrial Environmental Economics (2009), and Rutgers University-USA, where he received his BS in Materials Engineering (1990)



Passy Ogolla,
Society for International Development

Ms. Passy Ogolla is currently serving as a Program Manager at the Society for International Development (SID); leading the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Futures (SEF) for Eastern Africa Programme.

She is a member of the official Children and Youth Constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention in Climate Change (YOUNGO), and the Constituency's representative at the UNFCCC Technology Executive Committees (TEC) Taskforce on Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement. Ms. Ogolla is the Regional Focal Point for East and Southern Africa at the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)'s SDG7 Youth Constituency. In 2019 she organized the first Fridays for Future Climate March in Nairobi on 15 March 2019, created an online climate petitions series on Change.org dubbed All in For Climate Action (AifCA), joined global youth in planning for the Global Climate Strike on 20 September 2019 in the run-up to the UN Climate Action Summit which took place on 23rd September 2019 in New York, she also coordinated the planning and convening of the 2019 Kenya Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change (LCOY-Kenya).

Ms. Ogolla mentors younger environmentalists, children and youth in the field of international development, while sharing her perspective on sustainable energy, climate action, and other development related subjects by writing articles and chapters for periodicals, journals and books.

Ms. Ogolla is currently creating a Barbets Duet learning site in her hometown. This project entails planting a fruit forest to increase tree cover in her village, while also mentoring school children and sensitizing the community the importance of sustainable living and environmental restoration and conservation.

Her academic background is in Diplomacy and International Studies.