

Panel one: Unleashing the green energy potential in the Middle East, North, and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

Saturday, December 9th, 2023
10:30 am GST – 11:15 am GST
Public Event
COP28 in Dubai

Speaker bios



Hon. Herbert Krapa
Deputy Minister for Energy, Ghana

Hon. Herbert Krapa is currently Deputy Minister for Energy of Ghana. Prior, he was the Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. He is a governance and legal expert who served as Government Spokesperson on Governance and Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Information until December 2020. The Hon. Deputy Minister is an astute lawyer, called to the Ghana Bar in 2017, with experience in Trade and Investment Law, Commercial Law, Debt Restructuring, among others. He previously worked as a lawyer at Africa Legal Associates, a reputable law firm in Ghana. Hon. Krapa holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Ghana and a Master of Laws Degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK where he specialised in International Finance, Secured Financing, International Commercial

Arbitration and Corporate Crime. He also holds a Master of Science Degree in Development Finance from the University of Ghana Business School and a Certificate in Human Rights Law from Fordham University in New York. He is a lecturer at the University of Ghana School of Law where his research focuses on both legal philosophy and global constitutionalism. Hon. Herbert Krapa is a member of the Ghana Bar Association, the Programme for African Leadership and the Criminal Justice Reform Ghana.



Mai Abdelhalim
President, GE Vernova Africa

Mai Abdelhalim is President, Africa for GE Vernova where she is responsible for coordinating market engagement across GE Vernova's portfolio of technologies and businesses. Prior to this role, Mai served as President, North Africa for GE International Markets, where she led the acceleration of growth initiatives across Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia. She joined GE in 2017 as Government Affairs and Policy Director for Northeast Africa. Before joining GE, Mai worked as Senior Commercial Advisor in the U.S. Department of Commerce Foreign Commercial Service's Office at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, and Economic Assistant to the U.S. Consul General in Alexandria. Prior to her work with the U.S. State

Department, Mai worked as the Head of the Advocacy Unit at the Alexandria Business Association (ABA). Mai brings extensive experience in multinational corporations and government stakeholder relations, driving business value for customers across industries and markets. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Alexandria, Egypt, and an MBA from South Wales University in the UK.



Marco Arcelli

Chief Executive Officer, ACWA Power

Marco Arcelli is the Chief Executive Officer and responsible for overseeing the strategy and operations of ACWA Power's growing global footprint and ensuring its continued growth and success worldwide. He is a seasoned C-level executive with over 20 years of international experience in energy and infrastructure, retail, and digital innovation and has played a crucial role in the strategic positioning and growth of multinational companies. As an energy expert, Marco has held various leadership positions, including CEO Enel Trade, EVP Upstream Gas, CEO of Enel's North American operations, as well as Chairman of EP New Energy. Marco also has in-depth expertise in turn-around and operations, having led two corporate transformations highlighted in case studies by IESE and Harvard Business School. He is also a peer reviewer for the International

Energy Agency. He has also made significant contributions in public affairs and government relations, managing policy negotiations at the country and EU level. He is a dedicated advocate of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues and has served as an Audit and HR Committee member for listed companies in Germany and Russia. An active member of numerous Boards, Marco is also a mentor for organizations supporting women in business and young talents. He holds a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Università degli Studi di Genova, Italy and has completed the Harvard Advanced Management Program.



Ahmed Badr

Director, Project Facilitation & Support, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Ahmed Badr is the Director of the International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) Project Facilitation and Support division (PFS). The division offers member countries dedicated project implementation support. Mr. Badr joined the Agency in April 2020 and brings more than 30 years of international experience in the field of banking and finance. In his role, Mr. Badr is tasked with leading the development of the division by building strong lines of cooperation with development banks and international financial institutions. He also spearheads the Agency's implementation of the Climate Investment Platform, a multi-stakeholder platform established in partnership with SE4All, the UNDP and in coordination with Green Climate Fund, and manages IRENA's ongoing

relationship with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development. Prior to joining IRENA, Mr. Badr held several senior operational positions in the field of climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, water and infrastructure projects in a number of multinational financial institutions, including the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Commission (EuropeAid), and Japan Bank for International Cooperation. Mr. Badr is certified a project infrastructure project manager, with a B.Sc in Civil Engineering and Master's Degree in Infrastructure Economics from the Université de Nantes, France.

Moderator bio



Dr. Racha Helwa

Director, empowerME, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Atlantic Council

Racha Helwa is the Director of the empowerME Initiative at the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. Helwa is a senior economist with twenty-two years of professional experience in economic-and financial-policy analysis and implementation. She has held roles in the private sector, government, and academia in the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Egypt. She specializes in public-policy design and implementation, sustainable development, impact investing, and private-sector development. Helwa holds a PhD in economic policy from the University of Cambridge, an MSc in international political economics from the London School of Economics, and an MSc in banking, finance, and risk management from the University

of Paris. She was formerly an assistant professor of public policy at the American University in Cairo, senior researcher at the University of Cambridge, and senior economist in the Office of Egypt's Minister of Investment. Helwa also has collaborated with various international institutions including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Development Programme, and the US Agency for Development. She is fully fluent in English, French, and Arabic.