

Virtual EGM on the Implementation Of The Third United Nations Decade For The Eradication Of Poverty (2018-2027)

Bios of Experts

Wednesday, 15 May 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Sabina Alkire



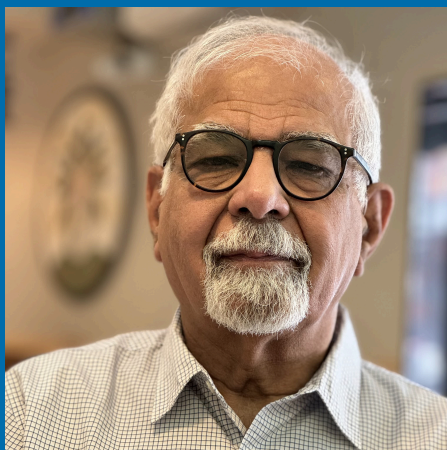
Ms. Sabina Alkire is the Professor of Poverty and Human Development and directs the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford. Previously, she worked at the George Washington University, Harvard University, the Human Security Commission, and the World Bank. She has a DPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford.

Together with Professor James Foster, Sabina developed the Alkire-Foster (AF) method for measuring multidimensional poverty, a flexible technique that can incorporate different dimensions, or aspects of poverty, to create measures tailored to each context. With colleagues at OPHI this has been applied and implemented empirically to produce a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI offers a tool to identify who is poor by considering the range of deprivations they suffer. It is used to report a headline figure of poverty (the MPI), which can be unpacked to provide a detailed information platform for policy design showing how people are poor nationally, and how they are poor by areas, groups, and by each indicator.

Sabina holds a DPhil in Economics, a MSc in Economics for Development and a MPhil in Christian Political Ethics from University of Oxford, a BA in Sociology Cognate and Pre-Medical Studies from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Her research interests cover topics such as multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis, welfare economics, the capability approach, and the measurement of freedoms and human development. Her most recent publications focus on the multidimensional poverty index and its multifaceted aspects.

Mr. Surjit S. Bhalla



Mr. Surjit S. Bhalla is former Executive Director for India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan at the IMF (Nov. 2019-Oct. 2022). He has served as part-time member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council, and has served on several government committees, including Chairperson High Level Advisory Group on Trade (2018-19) and member, RBI Capital Account Convertibility Committees, 1999 and 2006. Surjit has taught at the Delhi School of Economics and served as executive director of the Policy Group in New Delhi, the country's first non-government funded think tank. He has worked as a research economist at the RAND Corporation, the Brookings Institution, and at both the research and treasury departments of the World Bank, and as a consultant to Warburg Pincus.

He has also worked on Wall Street in Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs. He was founder-chairman of Oxus Research & Investments 1997-2016; and was Senior India Analyst for the Observatory Group, NY, April 2015-Sept. 2018. He has also been a Contributing Editor for Indian Express (2010-2019). He is the author of several academic articles, books, and more than 1500 op-eds in national newspapers and magazines. Books: How we Vote, April, 2024, discusses the role of narratives and fake economic commentary in Indian political discourse; Citizen Raj: Indian Elections 1952-2019 analyzed Indian elections since 1952 and accurately forecast the Modi victory in 2019; The New Wealth of Nations (2017), correctly forecast the changing nature of gender equality in the world via educational attainment; Second Among Equals – The Middle Class Kingdoms of India and China (2007) , defined, developed and estimated the role of the middle class in India, China and the world; Devaluing to Prosperity (2012) examined in detail the role of mercantilism (currency undervaluation) in China's miracle growth 1990-2010; Imagine There's no Country (2002), developed and estimated global inequality and poverty trends; Between the Wickets: The Who and Why of the Best in Cricket (1987), developed a model for evaluating performance in sports (cricket).

He holds a PhD and in Economics and MPA from Princeton University, and a BSEE degree from Purdue University.

Ms. Rangita de Silva de Alwis



Prof. Rangita de Silva de Alwis is a globally renowned International women's Human Rights expert. She is faculty at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Visiting Faculty at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

She is also the Distinguished Hillary Rodham Clinton Global Fellow on Gender Equity at Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security and Senior Fellow at the Harvard Law School Center for the Legal Profession. She is a Visiting Fellow both at Mansfield College, Oxford and the Bonavero Institute for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Oxford University (2024).

She serves as a co-chair along with Baroness Helena Kennedy of the Shaws KC, on a High-Level Group of Legal Experts on Gender Persecution. She has served in senior advisory roles at the World Bank, the United Nations, multi laterals, governments and academic and NGO programs around the world on the implementation of human rights treaties.

She was elected to serve as an expert member on the treaty body to the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and serves as the focal point on Women, Peace and Security. Her work on new debates in international women's human rights, comparative legal analysis of gender equality and emerging areas of gender- based violence, including technology- facilitated gender-based violence and critical analysis of Women, Peace and Security have appeared in leading law journals at Yale, Harvard, Columbia, Penn, NYU, Duke, Berkeley, UCLA, Georgetown, Michigan, Oxford and Cambridge.

She has been recognized as a "Woman of Inspiration (2015)" at Harvard law School, where she graduated with a doctorate in law.

Mr. Alberto Minujin



Mr. Alberto Minujin is professor at The New School University, New York. Founder Executive Director of Equity for Children, a non-profit working to improve living conditions for deprived children (www.equityfrochildren.org).

A UNICEF Senior Officer from 1990-2005, Minujin is a mathematician with training in Applied Statistics and Demography. He has authored many books and articles. Minujin was awarded the Bicentennial Medal by the government of Argentina in recognition of his work on behalf of the world's most impoverished children and adolescents.

Ms. Alice A. Oluoko-Odingo



Ms. Alice A. Oluoko-Odingo is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, Population and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi. She is the current Chairperson of the University of Nairobi Gender, Equity, and Inclusion mainstreaming Committee and Member of the University Research Week Committee 2024. She is the Social Research Lead and Gender focal point in PALM TREES (Pan-African and Transdisciplinary Lens on the Margins: Tackling the Risks of Extreme Events) project (EA). Alice is also one of the GEO-7 Experts (Coordinating lead Author on Food systems Chapter) and Vice Presidents and Director of the Academic Council on United Nations System (ACUNS).

She is a Soroptimist International W7 Advisor and the Founding Chairperson of the Centre for Education on Sustainable Development in Africa (CESDA) and Biocarbon Imperatives-Africa. She was a member of Host committee of the recently concluded United Nations Civil Society Summit of the Future (May 9-10, 2024, Nairobi). Alice is also the past National Coordinator of the United Nations University and Partner Universities Programme on Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA)(NGR), Immediate Team Leader on Research on Gender Analysis of the Mara Conservancies, former Gender Focal Point- at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi, where she was involved in convening many Gender for a within IGAD sub-region, a former Board member of the Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID), and Soroptimist International UN Environment Representative.

Mr. Sumanta Kumar Saha



Dr. Sumanta Kumar Saha has been serving at the Bangladesh Bank (the Central Bank of Bangladesh) for the last sixteen years. While he has worked in various supervision departments of the Bangladesh Bank, he spends most of his time in the Financial Stability Department as an analyst. He received the Best Employee Recognition Award from the Bangladesh Bank in 2014.

Dr. Saha is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and completed his PhD in Economics from Ritsumeikan University, Japan. He also completed a Master's in Economics from the same university, financed by the Japanese Government Aid for Human Resource Development (JDS) scholarship. Dr. Saha completed his BBA and MBA in finance from Dhaka University, Bangladesh. Additionally, he received his Certified Digital Finance Practitioner (CDFP) certification from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, USA.

Dr. Saha's current research interest is in financial inclusion and digital finance. In his PhD thesis, he constructed a novel financial inclusion index and analyzed the relationship between financial inclusion and three key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries. His findings suggest that developing countries can rely on financial inclusion initiatives to eradicate poverty and inequality and enhance economic growth. His recent publications also focus on financial inclusion, poverty eradication, and gender inequality issues.