

ELISSAR SARROUH

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Elissar Sarrouh is a seasoned executive leader with over 30 years of experience in international development, global governance, diplomacy and political representation. She brings a wealth of expertise with particular strength in areas of intellectual leadership, consensus around complex policy issues, understanding of global emerging political and economic challenges, and advanced skills in strategic visioning, planning and business modeling. She brings extensive experience in international development, democratic, corporate and local governance, women economic empowerment, sustainable business strategies. Ms. Sarrouh brings demonstrated expertise in conflict and post-conflict development challenges, statebuilding and peacebuilding.

Elissar Sarrouh is a leading voice in international development discourse, Canada's Feminist International Assistance policy dialogue, and the dramatic transition facing international cooperation due to risks of disruptive factors, and opportunities presented by the 2030 agenda and global partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals.

A former United Nations Diplomat and Representative, she is an exceptional convener and negotiator, having worked with highest levels of governments and political delegations, the UN System, donor missions, civil society organizations, think tanks, the private sector and academic institutions in the Middle East and North Africa, Asia, North America and Europe.

A highly analytical decision-maker and strategic thinker and practitioner with extensive experience in building consensus around difficult issues, articulating new strategic visions and introducing ground breaking ideas and initiatives. She brings strong geographical knowledge and in-depth understanding of the history, culture, politics and development challenges of the Middle East, North Africa, and the Arab Gulf States. She held senior leadership positions and diplomatic postings in Egypt, Belgium, Lebanon, New York, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

Elissar Sarrouh is CEO at Expert Consulting on Governance, offering consultancy and advisory services on global governance challenges and reforms, corporate governance, Agenda 2030, foreign policy, peace building and Women empowerment. She is a Professor of Practice at the Institute for the Study of International Development/McGill University, and a Research Collaborator at the Global Governance Lab and the Women Empowerment Lab affiliated with the Institute. In January 2019, she was appointed at the University of Ottawa, as Visiting Professor at the School of Globalization and International Development where she taught Conflict, Peace and Development graduate seminar.

In addition to her executive career, Elissar Sarrouh served and continue to serve on several advisory boards and boards of Directors. She is the former Vice-President of the Canadian Association of International Development Professionals; and a former Vice-President of the Canadian Women Business

Network. She has also served on the Parliamentary Centre Board of Directors and the Institute of Public Administration Canada. She currently serves as a Board Director at the Canadian Association of International Development Professionals. She is a member of numerous professional associations and networks including the Institute of Corporate Directors, International Corporate Governance Network (EU), Corporate Governance Professionals of Canada, and the International Leadership Association (USA).

She has received professional designation and certification from **the Harvard Business School** (Business Sustainable Strategy); **Competent Boards** Certification in the following areas: ESG, Climate, Diversity, SDGs, Human Rights, Supply Chain, anti-Corruption, Cybersecurity, Investment, Tax, Disclosure, Pay, Responsible Data Use, Engagement; **Duke University** (Smart Gender Impact Investment); **SDG Academy** (Governance of Natural Resources); and UNCC (Gender and Environment).

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

**Visiting Professor, School of International Development and Globalization
Ottawa University, Ottawa Canada
January 2019 - Present**

- Lead Graduate Seminars in Conflict, Transitions and Development
- Research and publish on Agenda 2030 in Fragile States.
- Contributes/participates in Conferences and University academic activities.

**Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development
McGill University, Montreal, Canada
(September 2015 - Present)**

An honorary appointment/affiliation. I deliver guest lectures, engage in peer reviews, participate and lead panels on specific policy challenges in international development Conferences.

As a member of ISID Executive Educational Program, and a Senior Researcher/Professor at ISID Women Economic Empowerment and Global Governance Labs, I design and deliver training modules in international development and women economic empowerment.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE AND CAREER

**- Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Expert Consulting on Governance Inc.
October 2015 - Present**

As CEO, I am directly involved in expanding ECG portfolio as well as exploring new business opportunities with various stakeholders in Canada as well as multilateral institutions and business communities.

ECG provides consultancy, advisory, technical assistance and training/capacity development services. Areas of expertise: Agenda 2030/SDGs; Democratic Governance; Corporate Governance; Sustainable Business Strategies; Peacebuilding and Statebuilding; Women Economic Empowerment with focus on Climate and Gender, and Gender Smart Investment. Leadership Development, Management Consulting, Political Consulting, Strategic Planning and Change Management.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNITED NATIONS CAREER

- **Special Advisor, Strategic Initiatives, Democratic Governance Group/UNDP
New York, USA
(September 2012- July 2015)**
- **United Nations Resident Representative/UNDP Resident Representative in United Arab Emirates/Non-Resident UNDP Representative in Qatar and Sultanate of Oman
(June 2010-August 2012)**
- **Representative/Director (Interim), UNIFEM/UN Women, Brussels, Belgium
(October 2009-May 2010)**
- **Senior Advisor, Public Administration and Financial Management,
United Nations Development Programme New York, USA
(January 2007-May 2008)**
- **Deputy Resident Representative and Interim Resident Representative
UNDP, Egypt
(June 2005-December 2006)**
- **Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor, Regional Bureau for Arab States
UNDP, New York, USA
(January 2004-June 2005)**
- **Regional Governance Specialist- UNDP/Sub-Regional Resource Facility (SURF-AS)
Beirut, Lebanon,
(September 2002-December 2003)**

PREVIOUS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN CANADA

- **Director, Middle East Programs, Parliamentary Centre of Canada,**

**Ottawa, Canada
(June 1997-July 2002)**

- **Senior International Development Consultant (2000-2002)**
- **Various Positions with the Public Service of Canada, Ottawa, Canada (1987-1996)**

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy**, Department of Political Science (International Relations and Public Policy), Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. (ABD) (2002)
- **Master of Arts**, Political Science , Department of Political Science (Public Administration and Gender Studies), Carleton University (1995)
- **Bachelor of Arts** (Honours), English Literature, Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon (1979)
- **Diploma** in Human Resources Management, Fanshawe College, London, Canada (1983)

PUBLICATIONS

- Restoring Trust in Government: The Challenge for Multilateral Systems (Conference Presentation)
- Priorities and Sequencing in Rebuilding Civil Administration in Failing and Post-Conflict Countries, Paper Written and Delivered at the State-Building Conference, organized by the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI, Finland), New York, 2007.
- Democratic Governance and Human Development: UNDP Approach to Poverty Reduction: Paper Written and Delivered at the Conference on Governance and The Euro-Mediterranean Space, Barcelona, Spain (2007).
- UNDP Support to Public Administration and Civil Service Reform in the Arab Region. (2003), ESCWA and UNDP Publication.
- Decentralized Democratic Governance in the Arab Region. (2003), UNDP Publication.
- Social Policy in Canada: A Development Model. (2002), ESCWA Publication.
- Good Governance, Poverty Alleviation and Civil Society. (2001), PC and ESCWA Publication.
- Globalization, Parliaments and Civil Society. (2000), World Bank Institute and PC Publication.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- Board Director, The Canadian Association of International Development Practitioners (CAIDP)
- Former Vice-President, The Canadian Association of International Development Practitioners (CAIDP);
- Co-Chair of 2018 and 2019 CAIDP Conferences
- Former Vice-President, Women Business Network, Ottawa
- Former Director, Institute of Public Administration Canada
- CFUW Governance Steering Committee
- Former Member, Advisory Board, American University of Sharja, (UAE) (2012)
- Former Member of the Board and Secretary of The Evian Group “*Economic Order in the Global Era*” (EGAR) – Arab Regional Chapter (Geneva/Egypt) (2005-2008)
- Former Board Director, Parliamentary Centre of Canada (Canada) (2008-2011)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS

- The Canadian Association of International Development Professionals (CAIDP)
- The Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID)
- DEVEX Member
- Development Aid Member
- International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN)
- Governance Professionals of Canada (GPC)
- Competent Boards
- Global Compact Network Canada (GCNC)
- Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD)
- Canadian Evaluation Society
- Institute of Public Administration Canada (IPAC)
- Women Business Network (WBN)
- International Leadership Association
- Canadian International Council
- Canadian Federation of University Women (CFFUW)
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- UN Staff College Alumni - Agenda 2030.
- SDGs Academy Alumni

