

Session 8: Budget consolidation vs. universal social protection: Who benefits?



Ali Awdeh

Ali Awdeh is the Director of the Research Department at the Union of Arab Banks. He is a senior economist, academic, and researcher specializing in banking, finance, and development issues.



Amel Henider

Amel Henider is an economist at the World Bank Algeria Office specializing in macroeconomics and public finance, has over 15 years of experience in national and international institutions. Since 2021, she has been working for the World Bank, contributing to the macroeconomic analyses of Algeria and co-authoring the "Economic Update of Algeria" and the "Macro Poverty Outlook." She monitors the country's economic situation and participates in dialogue with the Algerian government. Previously, Amel spent ten years at the Algerian Ministry of Finance, where she held various positions of responsibility, including at the Directorate General of Customs and the Directorate of the Budget. She is currently pursuing a second doctorate in financial mathematics at the University of Tamanrasset and holds a PhD in quantitative finance from ENSSEA.



Abir Imneina

Abir Imneina is a Libyan political scientist with almost three decades of academic and public-policy experience. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Lyon 2 (France) in 2008 and has taught in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Libyan universities since 1995.

Beyond academia, Imnina chaired the Libyan Civil Society Commission (2016-2018-) and has directed the Washm Center for Women's Studies since 2019. She has served as a national consultant to UN Women on gender and political participation and led a research team on strategic planning and public-policy formulation in Libyan municipalities for Democracy Reporting. Her recent work includes research on women in trade unions for the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and training municipal councils on gender-responsive governance.

In 2023, she was appointed Dean of the College of International Relations at Belgray University, and in 2025 she joined the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).



Rima Turk

Rima Turk serves as the IMF resident representative in Comoros. She joined the IMF in 2013, working on advanced economies (Sweden and Denmark), emerging markets (Nigeria and Tunisia), and low-income countries (Moldova). She was a lead contributor to the IMF's engagement strategy with fragile states and she reviewed financing arrangements for Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Jordan, Paraguay, Serbia, and Tanzania. Prior to that, she was a tenured finance professor at the Lebanese American University and a regular visiting scholar at the Bank of Finland and the Université de Strasbourg. She has published extensively in top-tier journals on financial stability, economic diversification, migrant integration, corporate financing, and firm investment. Ms. Turk holds a Ph.D. in finance from Cardiff Business School.