



Biographical Data Note

Dr. Sima Sami Bahous
Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator
and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Dr. Sima Sami Bahous, a national of Jordan, was appointed in February 2012 by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States. In this post, Ms. Bahous leads UNDP's 18 Country Offices in the Arab World in their efforts to address the challenges of poverty reduction, democratic governance, sustainable development, crisis prevention and recovery, and women's empowerment.

In these efforts, Dr. Bahous builds on a solid experience in public service and development cooperation in Jordan and across the Arab Region. From 2008 to 2012, she served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Development Sector at the League of Arab States, leading the work of League's Departments of Social Policies, Health and Humanitarian Assistance, Youth, Women, Children and Family, Population and Migration, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Research Studies. She lead the Social Development Agenda of the Arab League's Economic and Social Development Summits, and the Arab Ministerial Councils of Social Development, Health, and, Youth and Sports.

Prior to this, Dr. Bahous served in two ministerial posts in Jordan: as Adviser to HM King Abdullah, and as President of the Higher Media Council. Other posts included Head of the Media and Information Division at the Royal Hashemite Court, Executive Director of the King Hussein Foundation, and Executive Director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. She taught Development and Communication at Yarmouk University and at Petra University, and served on the Board of Trustees of a number of academic, media and NGO organizations. She also worked in the fields of Development and Communication with a number of UN Organizations in different Arab countries.

Dr. Bahous is deeply committed to promoting sustainable socio-economic development, alleviating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab World. She works passionately towards enhancing gender equality, youth empowerment, quality education and human rights. She is a keen advocate of democratic governance and human development, and is a strong believer in international development cooperation.

Dr. Bahous holds a PhD in Development Communication from Indiana University, United States; a Master of Arts in Literature and Drama from Essex University, United Kingdom; and a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from Jordan University.

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