

**Mahmoud A.T. ELKHAFIF**

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**E-Mail:** [mahmoud.elkhafif@unctad.org](mailto:mahmoud.elkhafif@unctad.org)

**Date of Birth:** April 9, 1957

**Languages** Arabic & English: excellent written and oral; and knowledge of French.

**PRESENT POSITION:** *January 2007–Present*

**Special Coordinator, Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit (APPU)  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),**

Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (DGDS).

*Lead and coordinate UNCTAD work in the occupied Palestinian territory: intergovernmental process, technical cooperation projects and related activities, policy research and reporting. Involved parties include: Palestinian Authority and civil society, member states, concerned functional divisions in UNCTAD, and UN agencies and international organizations.*

**EDUCATION**

- ♦ **PhD**, Economics, 1995. York University. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- ♦ **Master of Science**, Agricultural Economics, 1987. University of Guelph, Ontario.
- ♦ **Master of Arts**, Economics, 1984. McMaster University. Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- ♦ Courses taken towards the designation of **Chartered Accountant**: Finance, Financial & Cost Accounting, Statistics and Computer Sc. 1988. Brock Univ. St. Catharines, Ont., Canada.
- ♦ **B.Sc.** Honours, Agricultural Economics, 1978, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University.

**FIELDS OF INTEREST**

- Policy design and evaluation; and internal technical cooperation projects.
- Sustainable development and Development economics.
- Macroeconomic policies, and economic modelling and forecasting.

**AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

- **Recipient** of the International Development Research Centre's "Young Canadian Researchers Award," 1992.
- McMaster University Graduate Scholarship, 1983-1986.
- J.L. Tennant Graduate Bursary, Dept. of Agric. Economics, University of Guelph, 1982.

**PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL SOCIETIES**

**Research Fellow:** Economic Research Forum (ERF); Cairo.

**President:** United Nations Arabic Book Club in Geneva: 2003-2005 and 2007-2009.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- ♦ **Special Coordinator,**  
UNCTAD, Assistance to the Palestinian People (APPU).

As UNCTAD's Coordinator for the programme on Assistance to the Palestinian People, I take the lead, coordinate and oversee the implementation of UNCTAD work in the occupied Palestinian territory. Specifically my responsibilities include:

- Provide overall management of UNCTDA's programme on Assistance to the Palestinian People.
- Service the inter-governmental process and reporting to member states and the Trade and Development Board (TDB), and providing other substantive servicing to the TDB.
- Formulate, coordinate and implement the secretariat's technical cooperation activities to develop institutional capacities of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and civil society.
- maintain and develop close relations with the PA and civil society, donors, other concerned governments and international organizations.
- Provide input to work of Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch on global economic and development issues, including support to the development and dissemination of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report, and providing contributions to the work programme of other divisions.
- Provide training in the area of macroeconomic, globalization and development.
- Lead the implementation of technical cooperation projects at the national and regional levels.
- Research the Palestinian economy's performance and propose action to improve the economic conditions of the Palestinian people by: (i) elaborating methodological approaches for research and policy proposals for consideration by the international community; (ii) identifying new areas of research in the light of evolving national, regional and international developments, and identifying related national policy options; (iii) preparing substantive background and analytical reports; (iv) developing UNCTAD's capacity to monitor and analyze the Palestinian economy with a view to providing reliable information and advice on its current situation and future prospects.

◆ **Officer-in-Charge - Special Coordinator, January 2007 – March 2009**

**UNCTAD**, Assistance to the Palestinian People, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (DGDS): I was in charge of UNCTAD's work in the occupied Palestinian territory: intergovernmental process, technical cooperation projects and related activities, policy research and reporting. The responsibilities of my post are to:

- Manage UNCTDA's Assistance to the Palestinian People programme, advise senior management on policy and other developments affecting the work-programme, and manage available resources to ensure implementation in accordance with mandate.
- Cooperation and coordination with Governments, international organizations and other institutions involved in providing assistance to the Palestinian people, with the view to enhancing synergies and the impact of international assistance.
- Prepare the annual report to the Trade and Development Board (TDB) on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people, and substantive servicing of the TDB on this item.
- Formulate proposals for, and supervise implementation of, technical cooperation projects in selected areas (trade, regional integration, investment promotion, trade facilitation and socio-economic development strategies) of the Palestinian economy.
- Provide input to work of Macroeconomic and Development Policies Branch on global economic and development issues, including support to the development and dissemination of the TDR; and training activities in member countries.
- Maintain the UNCTAD secretariat's capacity to monitor and analyze the performance of the Palestinian economy with the view to providing reliable information and

recommendations regarding prospects for development of trade, finance and related services and to maintaining the link between analytical and operational aspects work.

- ◆ **First Economic Affairs Officer**, May 2002 – 31 December 2006  
**UNCTAD**, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (DGDS), Assistance to the Palestinian People. The responsibilities of the post were to:
  - Participate in UNCTAD intergovernmental process, and contribute to the preparation of the annual Trade and Development Report (**TDR**) and DGDS work program including **Parag. 166 training** in different UN regional commissions.
  - Coordinate UNCTAD's activities with the Palestinian authority; elaborate proposals for meeting the needs of national counterparts; and prepare and assist in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of technical assistance projects..
  - Undertake action-oriented research of key socio-economic policy trends and issues related to regional integration, including development of quantitative models to assess the impact of alternative policies/conditions; and prepare outline and draft policy proposals for action at the national and regional levels.
  - Assess the performance of the Palestinian economy and its regional linkages through developing/applying economic models; prepare policy/technical reports; and undertake field missions for consultation with government and research institutes.
  - Contribute to the development of UNCTAD secretariat cooperation with other organizations and donors, and represent the secretariat in international fora.
  - *Assume managerial responsibilities* as the officer in charge when necessary; and provide inputs towards the satisfactory completion of administrative tasks required for the smooth implementation of the secretariat's work-program, including the preparation of the work-program/budget (both RB and XB).
  
- ◆ **Senior Country Economist**, June 1998 to – Apr. 2002  
**African Development Bank**, Operations Department, South Region. Senior Country Economist for a number of African countries: Malawi, Angola and Zimbabwe:  
 I was the Economist responsible for the bank's technical support to the Government of Malawi during the preparation of the country **Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)**. This exercise included the impact of foreign, private and public investment on economic growth, **poverty and the social sector**. In addition I've:
  - Designed, monitored and assessed economic reform and structural/sectoral adjustment programs, regional integration initiatives, PRSP, HIPC, and monitored and provided advice on macroeconomic, social & sectoral conditions.
  - Formulated the Bank's strategy of intervention and prepared its Country Strategy Paper; lead the Country Team to ensure a smooth implementation of the work and lending programs; and participated in loan committees and negotiations.
  - Initiated proactive measures to further improve the country portfolio performance, and evaluated/prepared reports on project identification, appraisal and completion.
  - Represented the Bank in international conferences and liaised with other **donors**.
  
- ◆ **Technical Advisor**, Jan. 1997 – Apr. 1998.  
**Federal Government of Canada, Human Resources Development Canada**, Occupational Projections and Macroeconomic Studies.
  - Conducted applied research to provide a better understanding for the recent pattern of occupational employment growth in Canada and the impact of investment in technology on skilled and unskilled employment, using quantitative models.

- Participated in the preparation of the labour supply and demand forecasts.
  - Worked with others to produce publications on occupational employment trends.
- ◆ **Senior Economist**, Sept. 1993 - Aug. 1996.  
**Central Bank of Kuwait**, Economic Research Department.
    - Prepared studies and reports to identify and guide macroeconomic policy formulation including the impact of world energy demand on domestic economy.
    - Supervised and conducted research to serve policy implementation; areas of research include world energy/oil demand and prices, inflation, exchange rates, fiscal policy, interest rates, investment environment in Kuwait and GCC members.
    - Provided professional advice on economic matters relevant to the State of Kuwait, such as: the impact of domestic and international markets conditions on the economy.
    - Developed and evaluated economic models for policy evaluation and forecasting. Maintained external contacts with international organizations.
    - Lead a team to produce a new periodical on “*Economic and Social Indicators in the Kuwaiti Economy*”.
  - ◆ **Economist-Project Leader**, Jun. 1992 - Sep. 1993.  
**Ontario Hydro**, Economics and Forecasts Division, Toronto, Ontario.
    - Developed and managed Ontario Hydro's macroeconomic and demographic models, the main input to the Energy demand forecasts.
    - Monitored provincial, national and international economic, energy and environmental policies.
    - Supervised and coordinated the production of the Quarterly Economic Outlooks, which includes the development and forecast of the financial and energy sectors.
    - Provided advice and guidance in the form of reports, reviews and studies on economic/energy/environmental matters.
  - ◆ **Economic Advisor**, Jul. 1990 - Jun. 1992.  
**Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Energy**, Economics and Forecasts Section.
    - Developed economic/energy/environment models for policy analysis and forecasting.
    - Produced economic and energy forecasts and reports.
    - Advised crown legal counsel in public hearings on energy and environmental matters.
    - Prepared briefing notes and letters for the Deputy Minister and senior management.
    - Completed the following projects:
      - . Ontario Economic Outlook, in Assoc'n with Univ. of Toronto and Project **LINK**.
      - . Impact of gas guzzler tax/sipper rebate on fuel conservation and the environment.
      - . Econometric model: Ontario transport sector, for policy analysis and forecasting.
      - . Estimation of supply curve for potential demand management and energy efficiency.
  - ◆ **Economist**, May 1988 - Jul. 1990  
**Ontario Hydro**, Economics and Forecasts Division.
    - Built, developed and maintained Hydro's energy econometric forecasting models.
    - Produced long-term energy and gas emission forecasts.
    - Conducted studies, analyzed and interpreted data and prepared reports.
    - Consulted with business and government agencies.
  - ◆ **Data Analyst**, 1979 – 1981.  
**Institute of National Planning**, Data-Bank, Computer Department, Cairo, Egypt.

- Participated in the Development of the Institute's socio/economic Data Bank..

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

- ◆ **Lecturer, 1992 & 1993.**  
**Ryerson Polytechnic University, Dept. of Economics**  
 Designed and taught courses in *International Finance*.  
*Topics covered includes:* market for foreign currencies, balance of payments, IS-LM model in an Open Economy under different exchange rate regimes and different assumptions for capital mobility, Mundell-Fleming model, and macroeconomic policies in an open economy.
- ◆ **Lecturer, 1995.**  
**Institute of Banking Studies, Kuwait**  
 Designed and taught a course to professional staff in commercial banks on “*The Use of Economic Indicators in the Banking Sector*”.  
*Topics covered includes:* Major economic indicators (GDP, inflation rates, money supply, unemployment rates, exchange rates, short and long term interest rates, and yield curves) and their use in economic analysis; business cycle, and Economic forecasting.
- ◆ **Lecturer, 1996/97.**  
**Sheridan College, Dept. of Economics.**  
 Designed and taught a course in *International Finance*.  
*Topics covered includes:* market for foreign currencies, financial instruments in international capital market, balance of payments, economic policies in an open economy, and applied case studies in international finance.
- ◆ **Teaching Assistant**
  - **Brock University, Department of Economics, 1987/88.**  
 Assisted with various aspects of teaching courses in Macroeconomics.
  - **University of Guelph, Department of Agricultural Economics, 1986/87.**  
 Assisted with various aspects of teaching courses in Mathematical Economics.
  - **McMaster University, Department of economics, 1983/84 – 198/86.**  
 Assisted with various aspects of teaching courses in Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.
- ◆ **Research Assistant**
  - **McMaster University, Department of Economics, 1983/84.**  
 Participated in a project for forecasting world demand for petrochemical products.

### **TEACHNICAL COOPERATIONS PROJECTS**

Led, designed, managed and/or coordinated the following projects:

- *Promoting Sub-Regional Growth-Oriented Economic and Trade Policies Towards Achieving the MDGs in Arab Countries*; funded by United Nations Development Account – 6<sup>th</sup> tranche.
- *Palestinian Customs Modernization Programme – Phase III*; funded by the European Commission.
- *Technical Assistance for the Establishment of the Palestinian Shippers' Council – PSC*; funded by the European Commission.

- *Integrated Framework for Palestinian Macroeconomic, Trade and Labour Policy*; funded by International Development Research Centre, Canada.
- *Support for Palestinian Small and Medium Enterprises EMPRETEC Palestine - Phase II*; funded by the International Labour organization.
- *Programme to modernize and strengthen institutional and managerial capacities of Palestinian Authority customs administration Phase II: ASYCUDA Pilot Site Implementation*; funded by the European Commission.
- *Institutional Support and Capacity Building for Investment Retention*; funded by Norway.
- *Capacity Building in Debt and Financial Management – DMFAS*; funded by Norway.
- *Republic of Malawi: Institutional Support for Aid-Debt Management and Governance*; funded by the African Development Bank.

### **CONSULTING PROJECTS**

- \* *Evaluating the Economic Cost of Metallic Corrosion in the State of Kuwait.*  
**Client:** Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Econ. Studies Dept. 1995.
- \* *Estimating the impact of value added tax on the restaurant sector in Ontario.*  
**Client:** Econometric Research Limited, Burlington, Ontario, 1993.

### **COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE**

Developed a number of computer based models, and economic/labour/energy databases. In-depth working knowledge of various software packages: E-Views, SHAZAM ... etc.

### **SCHOLARLY AND POLICY CONTRIBUTION**

#### ***INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND TECHNICAL REPORTS***

##### ***Main contributor and supervisor:***

1. Annual UN Trade and Development Board  
"Report on UNCTAD's assistance to the Palestinian people":
  - 56<sup>th</sup> session, Geneva, 14-25 Sept. 2009 (TD/B/56/3)
  - 55<sup>th</sup> session, Geneva, 15-26 Sept. 2008 (TD/B/55/2)
  - 54<sup>th</sup> session, Geneva, 1-11 Oct. 2007 (TD/B/54/3)
  - 53<sup>rd</sup> session, Geneva, 2-10 Oct. 2006 (TD/B/53/2)
  - 52<sup>nd</sup> session, Geneva, 3-14 Oct. 2005 (TD/B/52/2)
  - 51<sup>st</sup> session, Geneva, 4-15 Oct. 2004 (TD/B/51/2)
  - 50<sup>th</sup> session, Geneva, 6-17 Oct. 2003 (TD/B/50/4)
  - 49<sup>th</sup> session, Geneva, 7-18 Oct. 2002 (TD/B/49/9)
2. "Aftercare Strategy for Investors in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", UNCTAD Report (UNCTAD/GDS/APP/2009/1), New York and Geneva, Forthcoming (2009).
3. "Policy Alternatives for Sustained Palestinian Development and State Formation", UNCTAD Report (UNCTAD/GDS/APP/2008/1), New York and Geneva, 2009.
4. "Integrated Simulation Framework for Palestinian Macroeconomic, Trade and Labour Policy", UNCTAD Report (UNCTAD/GDS/APP/2006/2), New York and Geneva, 2006.
5. "The Palestinian war-torn economy: aid, development and state formation", UNCTAD Report (UNCTAD/GDS/APP/2006/1), New York and Geneva, 2006.

6. "Transit trade and maritime transport facilitation for the rehabilitation and development of the Palestinian economy", UNCTAD Technical Report (UNCTAD/GDS/APP/2003/2) Geneva, 2003.
7. "International Support to the Palestinian People, 1999-2000 / 2001-2003: A compendium prepared by UNCTAD secretariat", TD/B/50/CRP.2, Geneva 2003.
8. "Malawi: Institutional Support – Aid and Debt Management". Document approved by the Boards of the African Development Bank on Dec. 2000.
9. "Malawi: Country Strategy Paper 1999-2001". Document submitted to and approved by the Boards of the African Development Bank Group on December 1999.
10. -----, "Information Economy and Employment Trends in the Business Services Industry," Quarterly Macroeconomic & Labour Market Review, Human Resources Development Canada. 1997.
11. Elkhafif, M.A.T, "Inflation in An Oil Economy: the Case of Kuwait." A report prepared for the Economic Research Dept. Central Bank of Kuwait, 1996.
12. -----, "Econometric Model for the Demand for Gasoline Ontario," Ontario Ministry of Energy Report, 1991.
13. -----, "West System Energy Demand," Ontario Hydro, Economics and Forecasts Division, June, 1989.
14. ----- and B. Stipdonke "An Energy Demand Model for 2-Digit Ontario Manufacturing, Volume II - Forecast," Ontario Hydro, Economics and Forecasts Div. Oct. 1988.

#### **BOOKS AND CHAPTERS IN BOOKS**

1. Elkhafif, M.A.T., The Egyptian Economy: A Modeling Approach, Westport CT, and London UK: Praeger publishers. P. 200, Sole Author, 1996.
2. -----, "Energy Pricing Policy and Economic growth in Egypt: Scenario analysis From an Integrated Macroeconometric Model", in Sorkin, Dahel and Sirageldin, eds. Research in Human Capital and Development, Vol. 11B (Models for Economic Policy Evaluation Theory and Practice: An Interbational Experience), PP. 515-556, Greenwich Connecticut, JAI Press Inc. 1997.
3. -----, F. Al-Matrouk, A. Al-Hashem and F.M. Al-Kharafi, "Impact of Metallic Corrosion on the Kuwait Economy: A Case Study", in H.M. Shalaby et al. (editors), Industrial Corrosion and Corrosion Technology, Proceedings of the 2nd Corrosion Conference, October 12-15, 1996, Kuwait: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. 1996.

#### **REFEREED JOURNALS**

1. Elkhafif, M.A.T., "Exchange Rate Policy and Currency Substitution: the Case of Africa's Emerging Economies," African Development Review, Vol. 15, No.1, PP. 1-11, June 2003.
2. Gardner, D.T. And M.A.T. Elkhafif, "Understanding Industrial Energy Use: Structural and Energy Intensity Changes in Ontario Industry," Energy Economics, Vol. 20 (1), PP. 29-41. 1998.
3. Elkhafif, M.A.T., "An Iterative Approach for Weather-Correcting Energy Consumption Data," Energy Economics, Vol. 18, PP. 221-230. July 1996.
4. ----- and A.A. Kubursi, "The Demand for Gasoline: A Two Stage Approach," International Journal of Forecasting, Vol. 9, PP. 457-465. 1993.

5. -----, "Energy Forecasting Models, Simulations and Price Sensitivity: New Formulation," International Journal of Forecasting, Vol. 9, PP. 203-210. 1993.
6. ----- and A.A. Kubursi, "Structural Change and Economic Development of Egypt Between Planning and the Open Door Policy," Industry and Development, No. 33., PP. 1-41. 1993.
7. -----, "Estimating Disaggregated Price Elasticities in Industrial Energy Demand," Energy Journal, Vol. 13, No. 4, PP. 209-217. October 1992.

#### **CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND TASK FORCES**

1. "Palestinian Economy, Policy Framework and Growth Prospects: A Modeling Perspective" presented at the Free University of Brussels conference on "MENA Economies, Past Perspectives and Future Challenges" in June 2005.
2. Member of the African Development Bank Task Force to set the Bank's policy and modality to provide support to regional member countries in the process of preparing of the **Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers**, June 2000.
3. *Moderator and Resource Person*: "African Forum on Poverty Reduction Strategies", sponsored by the African Development Bank, World Bank & IMF, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 5 – 9 June 2000.
4. Elkhafif, M.A.T. "Malawi Country Strategy Paper and the African Development Bank Portfolio." Presented at Malawi National Workshop on ADB Procurement and Disbursement Procedures. Blantyre, Malawi, December 7 – 18, 1998.
5. ----- and others, "Impact of Metallic Corrosion on the Kuwait Economy: A Case Study". Presented at the 2nd Corrosion Conference, Kuwait: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. October 12-15, 1996.
6. -----, "Energy Pricing Policy and Economic growth in Egypt: Scenario analysis From an Integrated Macroeconometric Model." Presented at the International Conference on: Economic Policy Evaluation Models in Theory and Practice. Arab Planning Institute. Tunis, 12-14 June 1995.

#### **WORKING PAPERS**

1. Elkhafif, M.A.T., "Exchange Rate Policy and Currency Substitution: the Case of Africa's Emerging Economies," Economic Research Paper No. 71, African Development Bank, February 2002.
2. -----, "Energy Forecasting Models, Simulations and Price Sensitivity: New Formulation," York University, Department of Economics, 93-4, 1993.
3. -----, M.H. Ghandour and A.A. Kubursi, "Explaining the Hyper-Depreciation of the Lebanese Pound," Program for Quantitative Studies in Economics and Population, Research Report No. 288, McMaster University, Faculty of Social Sciences, November, 1991.
4. ----- and A.A. Kubursi, "Currency Substitution and Exchange Rate Instability: Which Comes First," Program for Quantitative Studies in Economics and Population, Research Rep. No. 227, McMaster Univ., Faculty of Social Sc., May 1991.

**WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS**

1. UNCTAD Training Course on *Key Issues on the International Agenda*, Bahrain, 26-29 October 2008. **Main trainer:** Module 1 - *Trade, finance, macroeconomic management and commodities in a globalizing economy*.
2. UNCTAD Training Course on *Key Issues on the International Agenda* at UN-ESCWA, Beirut-Lebanon, 26-29 June 2006. **Main trainer:** Module 1 - *Trade, financial flows, macroeconomic policies and development in a globalizing economy*
3. “*Workshop on Macroeconomic Management: New Methods and Current Policy Issues*”, African Development Institute & World Bank Institute, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 31 May – June 5, 1999.
4. “*Workshop on Development Financing with Sound Credit Analysis*”, African Development Bank & Japan Development Bank, Cape Town, South Africa, 2 – 6 November, 1998.
5. *African Development Bank Training and Advisory Project: Module II – Mainstreaming Cross-Cutting Issues in Sectoral work and the Project Cycle: an Integrated Approach & Module III – Integrating Cross-Cutting Issues into Programming; Country Strategy Papers*. African Development Bank & Stockholm Environment Institute, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, February/March 1999.

**REFeree ACADEMIC JOURNALS:**

- African Development Review
- Energy Journal
- Energy Economics