

# Participant Profiles

Class of 2023

LSE **Cities** | Executive MSc in Cities



# EXECUTIVE MSC IN CITIES

For the last decade, LSE Cities has brought together some of the world's leading urban thinkers and practitioners in its annual Urban Age programme in cities across the globe, from Mumbai to Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro and New York. Internationalism is at the core of our research and teaching.

Now in its eighth year, the Executive MSc in Cities will see 12 exceptional professionals from 12 cities convene for five teaching modules to explore how they and their organisations can deliver effective change in their cities.

Representing diverse sectors including government, urban design, planning, social development, infrastructure, law, and architecture, the class of 2023 embodies the necessary sectoral diversity to deal with the cross cutting challenges and opportunities that today's cities are facing.

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Spatial distribution of the class of 2023





# Aline Rahbany

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Aline is the technical director for urban programming at World Vision International, a global non-profit organization that works to improve the wellbeing of children impacted by poverty, violence, conflicts and other crises. In her current role, she is responsible for integrating and operationalising urban programming in the organisation’s strategies at all levels, from local to global, supporting in building organizational capabilities for responding to urban challenges, building, and managing an urban community of practice and representing the organization externally in opportunities for positioning children in the global urban discourse.

Based out of Toronto, Aline holds a global portfolio while in the past she worked in multiple roles within the offices of World Vision in Lebanon and Middle East/Eastern Europe region. She brings over 15 years of experience in the international humanitarian and development field focused mostly on research and learning, strategy development, program innovation and technical support for the NGO’s work in urban contexts, including in fragile cities. She holds a Masters degree in Public Health from the American University of Beirut.

Aline is a passionate public speaker and advocate for inclusive cities and advocating for groups who are “deliberately silenced or preferably unheard”.

*Technical Director, Urban Programming*

*World Vision International*

*Toronto*



# Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo

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Emerging from the ethnolinguistic group of Karay-a, Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo carved a unique path through the governmental ranks, serving across four different administrations in the Philippines. Her tenure included significant roles in the Philippines’ Build Build Build Program and as Undersecretary for the Department of Information and Communications Technology. She left her government role to further her education at the London School of Economics and subsequently founded Build Initiative — a non-profit dedicated to fostering sustainable, inclusive environments where individuals of all abilities and backgrounds can thrive, achieved through persistent advocacy, comprehensive education, strategic collaborations, and transformative actions in both physical and digital landscapes. Her leadership is driven by a profound commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainable development, with a particular focus on addressing the vulnerabilities of her home country to climate change.

*Founder and Chief Future Officer*

*Build Initiative*

*Manila*



# Christopher Bruce

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Christopher has always been captivated by the profound impact that well-designed spaces can have on shaping lives and fostering vibrant communities. As both an Architect and Urban Planner, he has passionately dedicated his journey to transforming this belief into reality. Today, Christopher take immense pride in his role as the co-founder and director of Hiram Consultants Ltd., a pioneering consultancy firm that stands at the forefront of redefining architecture, urban planning, and property development in Jamaica.

Christopher’s transformative journey began at the Russian Peoples Friendship University in Moscow. It was within this global tapestry of cultures that he pursued and successfully obtained his Masters degree in Architecture. These formative years immersed him in a rich mosaic of worldviews, nurturing a profound appreciation for design principles, cultural intricacies, and the dynamics of urban landscapes. Today, this holistic understanding forms the very cornerstone of his professional ventures.

With over a decade of professional experience, Christopher’s narrative traverses a spectrum of roles that have collectively enriched his understanding of the industry. Among these, a particularly influential chapter unfolded within the public sector. Where, he assumed pivotal roles in catalysing major development projects and ambitious redevelopment initiatives. At the Urban Development Corporation, Jamaica’s paramount urban development agency, Christopher exhibited a knack for navigating intricate challenges and steering projects toward fruition.

Christopher has found his zest in life through an array of diverse pursuits. An avid mountain biker, he relishes the thrill of conquering challenging terrains. The call of the deep sea also beckons to Christopher, as he indulges in his passion for fishing, seeking both adventure and serenity in the vast expanse of the ocean. In parallel, Christopher’s culinary curiosity has evolved into a genuine enthusiasm, allowing him to savour and appreciate the artistry that lies in flavours and presentation. These personal passions remind Christopher that, much like in his profession, inspiration can be derived from myriad sources.

*Architect + Urban Planner + Project Manager*

*Hiram Consultants Ltd.*

*Kingston, Jamaica*



## Cyprine Odada

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Cyprine Odada is the Executive Director at Critical Mass Nairobi and a Sustainable Mobility expert at UNHabitat. In her capacity Cyprine provides overall leadership of Critical Mass Nairobi, managing a team of seven programme managers, each undertaking different projects geared towards accelerating the advancement of cycling in Africa. At UNHabitat, Cyprine manages a few projects on active mobility and road safety. Earlier in 2023, Cyprine received a global award as a Remarkable woman in Transport. Cyprine holds a Masters degree in Project Planning and Management (University of Nairobi -Kenya) and a Bachelors degree in Urban and Regional Planning (Maseno University-Kenya).

*Executive Director*

*Critical Mass Nairobi*

*Nairobi*



## Daria Menyushina

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Daria Menyushina is part of the dynamic team at NEOM, Saudi Arabia, undertaking one of the most significant developments in the Middle East. Located in northwest Saudi Arabia, NEOM aims to redefine urbanism and livability by envisioning the future of sustainable and innovative living. In her current role, she is responsible for special projects, supporting senior project leadership, establishing relationships with key stakeholders, and reporting to the Board.

Daria is an architect and project manager with over 12 years of professional experience working with strategic projects in Russia and the Middle East. Throughout her career, she has been involved in various projects developing spatial strategies, public realm and sustainable development guidelines, form-based codes, masterplans, and concept documents. Prior to her current role, Daria worked with urban consultancies such as Strelka KB and Citymakers International in Moscow.

*Senior Manager*

*NEOM*

*Tabuk*



## Imran Zarkoon

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Imran is a dedicated civil servant with a 17-year tenure in the Government of Balochistan, Pakistan, and boasts extensive experience.

He is a proficient specialist and practitioner in public policy, holding a degree from the University of Oxford. His diverse background spans across various roles, ranging from district governments to his leadership as the Director General of the Quetta Development Authority, responsible for the capital city of Balochistan.

Imran's journey has led him to his current role as the Secretary to the Government, contributing to policy decisions at a significant level.

*Secretary*

*Government of  
Balochistan*

*Quetta*



## Lamiaa Mahmoud Samy Sadek Mohamed

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Lamiaa holds a B.S.c degree of Political Sciences from the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo University, and a Masters degree in Political Science from the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Saint Joseph of Beirut (The Arab Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratization). From September 2020, Lamiaa has worked in the Technical Office of the Egyptian Minister of Planning and Economic Development and she currently holds the position of Deputy Manager of the Minister's Technical Office, where she works closely with the Minister and is responsible for managing a team of economists and policy specialists that conduct policy papers, analytical studies and research on the international and local economic and political issues; in order to offer policy recommendations to the Minister.

Lamiaa manages the cooperation portfolio with the Islamic Development Bank and the affiliated agencies, as well as actively assists on the National Structural Reforms Program, the Decent Life Presidential Initiative, the Egypt's Vision 2030 update process, the National Family Planning Programme, in addition to many other ad hoc tasks. Lamiaa participates in the 'National Women Leadership Programme' offered by the European Union and the National Council for Women and conducted by the ITCILO.

*Deputy Manager of  
the Minister's Technical  
Office*

*The Egyptian Ministry of  
Planning and Economic  
Development*

*Cairo*



## Sofia Zarama

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Sofia Zarama Valenzuela is a sustainable mobility consultant. For over 10 years, she has worked as an advisor to public and private institutions in the infrastructure, transportation, and information and communication technology sectors. She held the position of Head of Planning at TRANSMILENIO S.A. in Bogotá, where she led the procurement and operation of 1.485 electric buses, constituting one of the world's largest electric fleets. She also led the structuring of the first cable car and the pilot of the first hydrogen bus for public transport in the city. Furthermore, she secured financing for 61.8 kilometres of BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) lines. Lastly, Sofia has provided training in electromobility to public transport system managers in the Dominican Republic (Intrant) and in Africa (NaMaTa).

Sofia holds academic qualifications in Law from Javeriana University in Bogotá, Economic Analysis of Law and Public Policies from the University of Salamanca, Health Economic Evaluation from the University of Oxford, and Electromobility from the University of Chile.

*Sustainable mobility consultant*

*Zarama Valenzuela y Asociados S.A.S.*

*Bogotá*



## Mohammed Adjei Sowah

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Mohammed is a local economic and urban development consultant with many years of experience in local economic development and local governance systems in Ghana and Africa in general.

He is the Deputy Director of Research at the Office of the President, Ghana charged with responsibility of providing the research needs of government in relation to policy and implementation of government's projects/programmes. Prior to his current engagement, he worked as the Metropolitan Chief Executive of Accra (Mayor of Accra) where he provided executive, political, and administrative leadership for integrated and sustainable development to the city of Accra. As a Mayor of Accra, he once served as the Vice Chair of C40 Climate Leadership Group Steering Committee and Board Member of Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM). His contributions led him to be named by Apolitical in 2019, as one of the "World 100 Most Influential People in Climate Change Policy"

Academically, Sowah holds MSc in Local Economic Development from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, MA in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration and BSc in Public Administration. Sowah has successfully completed the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative from Harvard University.

*Deputy Director of Research*

*Office of the President, Ghana*

*Accra*



## Paulo Tinoco Cabral

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Paulo is a Business and Partnership Development Leader, recognized for driving collaborations and innovating user experiences. Paulo's journey encompasses roles in major companies, where he's nurtured partnerships with transportation, tech, media entities, and governments, yielding gains in engagement and revenue. Paulo's partnership expertise spans transportation, tech, media, and government sectors, resulting in notable gains in user engagement and revenue.

During his tenure at Waze/Google in San Francisco and New York, he spearheaded strategic collaborations that expanded real-time traffic data and enhanced navigation. His knack for leveraging technology for urban mobility and sustainability is evident as Head of Waze for Cities & Waze Carpool Partnerships, U.S. Here, Paulo orchestrated impactful initiatives with municipal organizations, transit agencies, and carpooling services, bolstering the Waze platform's influence.

Paulo's reach extends to global partnerships and integrating Waze into vehicles, enhancing navigation worldwide. With a background spanning growth in Latin America and leadership at Google Brazil, he brings multifaceted insights to the program. Committed volunteer and diversity advocate, Paulo humbly embraces change and strives to make a positive impact.

*Head of Business Development and Partnerships*

*Waze*

*São Paulo*



## Pedro Pablo Jurado

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Pedro is very passionate about transformation and service. An attorney at law and a Kellogg School of Management graduate. With more than 17 years of work experience.

Served as CEO and board member in private capital and public institutions. Sustainable conditions for economic, social and environmental initiatives are crucial for success.

Obtaining best results is matter of self-perseverance and teamwork.

*CEO*

*Golden Gate Consulting*

*Bogota*

LSE Cities is an international centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science that carries out research, conferences, graduate and executive education and outreach activities in London and abroad. Its mission is to study how people and cities interact in a rapidly urbanising world, focusing on how the physical form and design of cities impacts on society, culture and the environment. Extending LSE's century-old commitment to the understanding of urban society, LSE Cities investigates how complex urban systems are responding to the pressures of growth, change and globalisation with new infrastructures of design and governance that both complement and threaten social and environmental equity.

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