



Dr. Mahy Hassan Abdellatif

Former Assistant Foreign Minister for The Americas

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Dr. Mahy Hassan Abdellatif, an Egyptian national, graduated with high honors from the American University in Cairo with a B.A in Political Science in 1984, and from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston, USA, with a Master Degree in International Relations in 1990. She was awarded a scholarship from Bucharest University in Romania to complete her Ph.D in International Relations, in 1995, entitled "The UN and Collective Security in a New World Order". She is married and has two children. She is multilingual and speaks fluent Arabic, English and French as well as intermediate level German.

Dr. Abdellatif has been a skillful and prominent career Diplomat since she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in 1988, and has actively participated in tens of international conferences and meetings where she presented Egypt's position on different multilateral issues. She also participated twice in the International Leadership Program, co-organized by the UN University and the University of Amman 1997 and 1998 once as a member and a second time when she was nominated as a group leader. She participated as well in several ICRC seminars including the ToT Seminar on IHI, Reirut, Lebanon, Spring, 2015, among a selected group from previous seminars.

Dr. Abdellatif has served as Assistant Foreign Minister for the Americas, from November 2019 to November 2020 and from November 2021 to August 2021, where she was responsible for drawing up policies and putting forward recommendations on different and sensitive aspects of Egyptian/ American, Canadian and Latin American relations. During these periods, she had close interactions with the different ambassadors and delegations from the relevant countries, headed the Egyptian delegation during five bilateral political consultations with Colombia, Mexico (twice), Brazil and Canada. She also drafted a strategy for reinforcing relations with Latin American countries that had important impact on Egyptian foreign policies towards these countries, and led to the initiation of direct flights Cairo/Sao Paulo an important step that will help open new commercial, economic and touristic ties not only with Brazil but with Latin America in general as the only such flight.

Serving as Ambassador to Norway and Iceland, from September 2015 to September 2019, she worked on strengthening bilateral political and economic relations as a result of which greater political understanding was achieved, and on the economic level several Norwegian companies are currently working in Egypt, particularly in the field of energy and renewables, including "Scatec Solar" with big investments in the great "Benban Solar Plant".

In her previous position as Deputy Assistant Minister for Human Rights, Humanitarian Affairs and NGOs from 2012 to 2015, she was responsible for the elaboration of Egypt's policies in the field of human rights and was the National focal point for relevant issues and for coordination between the different concerned national authorities. She headed the National Committee for drafting Egypt's reports to Human Rights' treaty bodies, she was as well a senior member of the National Committee which drafted, presented and discussed Egypt's first UPR in the HRC. She carried out several tours to EU countries to discuss the Human Rights' situation in Egypt with senior officials as well as with parliament and party members.

In 2009, Dr. Abdellatif became the Senior External Relations Advisor for UNRWA in Amman, Jordan. Her duties included, inter-alia, developing field donors' relation and fund-raising strategies and facilitating the development of resources' mobilization, advocacy policy, manage and promote relationship with key donors. She successfully implemented and managed fund-raising projects for UNRWA.

Assuming her position as a Senior Diplomat, in 2003, in the Egyptian permanent mission in Geneva, Switzerland, she was responsible for the Human Rights file. She presented a resolution to the Commission on "The protection of Human Rights of Civilians in Armed Conflicts" which was adopted with a vast majority of 51 out of 53 votes. She participated actively in the work of the Commission on Human Rights, including in Working Groups and meetings of different regional groups such as Arab, LMG, OIC, African and NAM. The last years of her post she was actively involved in the negotiation process that led to the adoption of the resolution establishing The Human Rights Council. She was also actively involved, and led the Arab group, in negotiations on several HR resolutions and conventions including the Convention on Enforced Disappearances.

In 1999, Dr. Abdellatif worked as a Political Analyst on Women and Gender Issues in the Conflict Management Center in the then Organization of African Unity, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Her duties included advising the CMC Management on appropriate programs and strategies for the protection of women and children in conflicts. Her major achievement was to help the CMC create a database on Eminent African women who could play a role in peace negotiations missions, and on African women NGOs who could form a partnership with the center on matters concerning women and children in conflict areas, as well as act as focal points for providing and exchanging information with the center. She also participated, in 2001, in the Pan African Forum Conference in Cairo where she presented a study on "The Protection of Children's Human Rights in Armed Conflicts", and she presented other papers in different fora including in the Red Cross' Conference in Addis Ababa on "The protection of Women's Human Rights in armed conflicts".