World Bank Group Expert Advisory Council on Citizen Engagement
Member Profiles
As of September 1, 2019

Development Partners

**Flavia Milano:** *Senior Specialist on Operations/Civil Society, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*

In her role at IDB, Flavia Milano advises the Vice President on civil society related matters and leads on issues related to IDB Group-civil society engagement. In that capacity, she oversees the new IDB Group-Civil Society Engagement Strategy toward 2030, which includes a Civil Society Institutional Capacity program for 26 countries. Flavia leads the IDB’s Civil Society Consultative Group platform in the Region and Flavia leads work on new technological tools for development effectiveness as well as regional operations on civil society related topics including Extractive Industries and Climate Change. She also leads technical publication on citizen engagement related matters and provides inputs on country strategies on civil society public consultations. Flavia has over 15 years of relevant, wide-ranging experience in both headquarters and in the field working on projects in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

**Helena Bjuremalm:** *Deputy Head of the Democracy and Human Rights Unit, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)*

Helena Bjuremalm has more than 20 years of experience of democracy and human rights-oriented development cooperation work including tenures in East Africa. She has devoted several years to exploring the critical importance of citizens’ engagement in political and social accountability processes. At SIDA, Helena currently focuses on shrinking and changing democratic spaces and support to political party, parliamentary, and media development. She is a former Senior Advisor on Civil Society Support and Engagement with SIDA’s Civil Society Unit, and a former member of the CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment task team. Prior to joining SIDA, Helena headed the Democracy and Development Team of International IDEA for five years and the section on regional democracy and human rights support at the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi, Kenya for two years.

Foundations

**Emily Martinez:** *Director, Human Rights Initiative, Open Society Foundations (OSF), USA*

Emily Martinez leads a global team of 40 people at OSF, with an annual budget of US$50 million to support civil society to advance human rights. Emily is responsible for working directly with civil society groups to consider their approaches and strategies and other management issues, such as organizational development and health. Emily has worked in private philanthropy for over 20 years. She started her work on human rights agenda in Central and Eastern Europe. In the last decade, she has spent working on a global mandate to build momentum and movements in human rights sector. She has worked closely with donors in both private philanthropy and the public sector.

**Marinke Van Riet:** *Director, Voice, Netherlands*

Marinke Van Riet is a passionate activist who has over 20 years of experience in advocating for social justice in the areas of inclusive economic growth, natural resource governance and sexual health rights mainly in Africa. An anthropologist by training she worked in microfinance for a New York-based organization in amongst others Mali and Niger, in accessibility and mobility for a global transport
network and as a Director for Marie Stopes International in Madagascar and Ghana working on sexual and reproductive health rights and provision. Between 2011 and 2016 Marinke led Publish What You Pay (PWYP) the global coalition campaigning for a transparent and accountable extractive sector and was a civil society board member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. In 2016 she took up the post as Director of Voice an innovative Euro 50 million grant facility to support inclusion and diversity of thus far unheard voices based on the principle Nothing About Us Without Us.

**Government**

**Muhammad Sani Abdullahi:** Commissioner, Planning and Budget Commission, Kaduna State, Nigeria

Muhammad is the Commissioner for Budget and Planning in Kaduna State, Nigeria. In this position, he leads on the State’s broad economic growth and development portfolio and is a member of the State Executive Council. He is responsible for designing the fiscal strategy and coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the state budget. In his role, he initiated the development of Kaduna Citizens Feedback Application and citizens call center to ensure that citizens can directly monitor budget implementation and inform government on their priorities. Muhammad also facilitated budget town halls to collect citizens feedback, while leading civil society consultations, engagement and coordination on all state planning and budget activities. Prior to his appointment, he was a Policy Adviser in the Executive Office of United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in New York and a member of the Secretary General’s core team working on Sustainable Development Goals.

**Lily Fati Soale:** Head of the Social Accountability Unit and Director of Human Resource Management, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana

Lily Fati Soale is a specialist in Urban Governance with over 15 years’ experience in Local Governance and Public Administration. She also coordinates Gender, Child Protection and HIV and AIDS Programs of the Ministry. In 2015, she was appointed the Head of the Social Accountability Unit, with the mandate to provide strategic direction for Social Accountability initiatives of the Local Government Capacity Support and other projects and programs of the Ministry. In that role she has achieved an increase in the interest of citizens engagement with government counterparts using intensive empowerment initiatives for citizens such as training, sharing of information, simplifying technical documents and strengthening collaboration between government, civil society and media.

**Civil Society Organizations**

**Blair Glencorse:** Founder and Executive Director, Accountability Lab, USA

Blair Glencorse is Founder and Executive Director of the Accountability Lab. The makes governance work for people through finding creative approaches to accountability, citizen participation and open government. Blair and his team have done everything from helping to found the first film school in Liberia to monitoring and improving public services in Pakistan to running a global TV show called Integrity Icon to “name and fame” honest government officials. The Accountability Lab recently won the UN’s International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award. Blair also co-founded the first co-working and innovation space in Liberia and both TEDxMonrovia and TEDxBamako. Blair is also an expert on anti-corruption with the World Economic Forum and OECD.

**Mai E'lemat:** Co-founder and Senior Advisor for Strategy and Research at Al Hayat Center for Civil Society Development, Jordan.
Mai E'lemat works in the Middle East in the field of social accountability, women's rights and participation, and countering violent extremism using locally-based approaches in involvement with local stakeholders and engagement of government officials. Ms E'lemat is also working as a consultant with the Jordan government to lead the Open Government Unit at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation since 2018. The Unit aims to improve Jordan Commitment to the Open government partnership initiative (OGP) through the implementation of its OGP national action plan and improve its access and engagement of civil society and other stakeholders in the process. She is also a member of the "Expert Hub on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism" since 2018. The Hub involves representatives of non-profit organizations (NPOs), advocates and independent experts from 16 countries working to combat restrictions on civic freedoms arising from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, counter-terrorism and anti-money laundering rules.

Academia

Paula Chies Schommer: Professor of Public Administration at Santa Catarina State University, Brazil

Paula Chies Schommer is professor of public administration at Santa Catarina State University (Udesc), leading the research group Politeia: Co-production of Public Good – Accountability and Governance. Professor Schommer has been member of the Brazilian Social Management Research Network (RGS), the advisory group of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) Knowledge Platform, and of the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR). At ISTR, she has served as member of conferences committees, the board of directors, the finance committee, and as treasurer. She has been member of the editorial board of several peer reviewed journals; and member of several civil society organizations, public commissions and social projects in Brazil. Professor Schommer holds a PhD in administration from the Getulio Vargas Foundation, master’s in administration at the Federal University of Bahia, and bachelor’s in administration from the University of Caxias do Sul. She is the author, co-author and editor of papers, chapters and books on co-production of public goods and services, accountability, public governance, social management, socio-territorial development, private social investment, and philanthropy.

Prachi Srivastava: Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario (Western University), Canada.

Dr. Prachi Srivastava is tenured Associate Professor specializing in education and international development, University of Western Ontario, Canada. She is also Adjunct Professor, School of International Development, University of Ottawa, Adjunct Professor, Centre for Global Studies, Huron College, and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Education, University of Sussex. She has held visiting appointments at Columbia University, National University of Singapore, and University of Oxford. Dr. Srivastava is recognized for coining the term, ‘low-fee private schooling’, and was one of the first researchers in the field. Her research interests include: private sector engagement in education; global philanthropy and impact investment; private schooling and education privatization; and global education policy and the right to education. She has provided research evidence to the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Education for All, European Commission, Global Affairs Canada, JICA, UNESCO, World Bank, and has been commissioned for research by DFID and the European Commission. She is a signatory of the Abidjan Principles on human rights and private regulation in education. Previously, she served with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and the International
Rescue Committee. She has field experience in India, Sri Lanka, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo. She holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford.