

Keynote Speaker **Dr. Rima Khalaf Hunaidi**

Under-Secretary-General
Executive Secretary
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)



Dr. Rima Khalaf Hunaidi held several high-ranking ministerial positions in Jordan, including Minister of Industry and Trade (1993-1995), Minister of Planning (1995-1998), and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning (1999-2000). In her capacity as Deputy Prime Minister and head of the ministerial economic team, Ms. Khalaf promoted economic reform in Jordan while working on promoting social development through building human capital, alleviating poverty and strengthening social safety nets.

Ms. Khalaf held the position of Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 2000-2006. She led important regional initiatives on education, knowledge acquisition and economic growth in the Arab States. She was the founder of the pioneering Arab Human Development Report. The first Report in the series, entitled “Creating Opportunities for Future Generations,” received the 2003 Prince Claus Award. The third Report, entitled “Towards Freedom in the Arab World,” received the King Hussein Leadership Prize in 2005. Ms. Khalaf is a regular contributor to regional and international policy forums concerned with the state of development in the Arab world. She participated in a number of international commissions, chief among them are the High Level Commission on the Modernization of the World Bank Group Governance (2008-2009), and the International Advisory Group for Managing Global Insecurity (2007-2008). Ms. Khalaf also served as the Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund (2006-2007). She was a visiting scholar at Harvard University during the spring semester of 2009-2010.

Ms. Khalaf received the League of Arab States award for “the most Distinguished Arab Woman in the field of International Organizations” in 2005 and an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the American University of Cairo in 2009, in recognition of her “important regional initiatives in education, women’s rights, civic engagement and economic growth.” In December 2009, the Financial Times listed Ms. Khalaf among the top fifty people who shaped the decade.

A citizen of Jordan, Ms. Khalaf holds a BA in Economics from the American University of Beirut, a Master’s in Economics, and a Ph.D in System Science from Portland State University in the United States of America. She is married and has two children.

Message from Dr. Opada Alzohaili



Dear Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of the American Human Rights Council's Board, Staff and Volunteers, I welcome you all to our “Spirit of Humanity” Gala this year. We truly appreciate your friendship and your warm support to AHRC and its mission. Human rights is about us as humans where human dignity comes first. As we are all witnessing how our humanity is being torn by wars, conflict and divide, millions of fellow humans at home and abroad continue to be deprived of the basic human rights that they are entitled to as human beings sharing the same world. Health, education, water and food are few of a long list of challenges that so many continue to face as I write these words. Hate, violence, racism, torture, and terrorism are few of another long list that so many fellow humans currently endure. Amidst all of these challenges, AHRC has risen to the occasion and worked tirelessly to advocate for human rights bringing some light despite the dim darkness.

AHRC continues to successfully investigate, advocate on behalf, and solve different issues at different levels. It has been three years since the inception of AHRC and we are thankful for all efforts from those who joined hands, shoulder to shoulder to advance it. This is the time of the year where we celebrate the culture of human rights and we acknowledge our partners in humanity. Thank you again for attending our 2016 "Spirit of Humanity" Gala. Your presence tonight is truly appreciated. Thank you for being part of our family.

Dr. Opada Alzohali, AHRC President (Photo)