

## PERSONAL PROFILE

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Name: Petra Denise Sumpff  
Date of birth: 25 June 1976  
Nationality: German

## SUMMARY

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Almost 15 years of professional experience in development cooperation gained at the global level (in Africa, Asia-Pacific, MENA, Europe), with focus on governance, political economy, sustainable development and peacebuilding. Strong communication skills: verbal (e.g. public speaking at conferences, seminars, workshops), non-verbal (e.g. diplomacy and ability to build trust) and written (e.g. speeches, statements, analytical briefs and research papers). Established professional networks in German-speaking countries (e.g. government, academia, think tanks and media) due to substantive collaborations.

## EDUCATION

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- 09/2014– 12/2014 **Columbia University**, New York City (USA)  
*Research Fellow in the Department for Political Science*
- 09/2001– 01/2005 **European Business School (ebs)**, Oestrich-Winkel (D)  
*Doctorate Degree (Dr. rer. pol.) in Behavioural Economics (Grade: summa cum laude)*  
Research interests: Decision-making, perceptual biases and resource-based theory
- 09/1996 – 06/2001 **European Business School (ebs)**, Oestrich-Winkel (D)  
*Master of Business Administration (Praedikatsexamen)*
- 01/1999 – 06/1999 **San Diego State University (SDSU)**, San Diego (CA/USA)
- 09/1998 – 12/1998 **Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (ESC)**, Lille (F)
- 06/1996 **Sankt-Lioba-Gymnasium**, Bad Nauheim (D)  
*Abitur*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Since 1/2018 **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Beirut (Lebanon)**

*Chief of Section (a.i), Economic Development and Globalisation Division*

- Responsible for design, development and implementation of all activities related to economic governance and national development planning work programme (Budget under my responsibility: app. 700,000 USD; as well as management of regular staff and field-based project staff)
- Development and communication of an overall program strategy on (economic) governance and political economy, as well as conducting research to support effective program design and evidence-based policy advice (e.g. on the state of competition legislation)
- Establishing, coordinating and strengthening collaborative partnerships within and beyond the UN-system to ensure representation and participation of UNESCWA at the national, regional and international level: e.g. with donor countries and member countries for fundraising, advisory services, and policy dialogue; with multilateral organisations such as OECD, OSCE and development banks, such as World Bank; with local stakeholders from civil society to academia.

*Main achievement:*

Successful outreach and advocacy on the need to improve economic governance as well as increasing awareness to the enabling role of legislation and regulation for sustainable economic development.

**10/2016 – 12/2017 United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Naqoura (Lebanon)**

*Political Affairs Officer – Office of the Deputy Head of Mission Division for Political and Civil Affairs (temporary mission assignment)*

- Advise the Force Commander and senior UNIFIL personnel on political developments and the political affairs aspects of UNIFIL's activities and UN peacekeeping policy and contribute political aspects to strategic military planning documents (including on Protection of Civilians);
- Report to and communicate with UNHQ (e.g. Security Council) on peace and security issues (e.g. code cables, Secretary-General reports, briefings); as well as prepare thematic material for the Force Commander in support of high-level meetings with Government officials (e.g. Prime Minister, President) and accompany mission leadership to meetings
- Establish and maintain effective liaison between UNIFIL and the parties to the conflict (including government officials, non-state actors, unofficial parties in the mission area, as well as with the diplomatic community, UN organizations and NGOs) as well as maintain liaison with LAF and IDF officers and serve as focal point for planning and coordination activities (including secretariat functions for regular Tripartite meetings between the Israel Defense Forces and the Lebanese Armed Forces);
- Liaise and maintain close working relationships with officials of state institutions, political parties, civil society organizations, donors, media and other organizations;
- Lead the analytical work on political economy, social concerns, conflict early-warning triggers and sustainable development issues relevant to UN peacekeeping and necessary and in support of conflict resolution.

*Main achievement:*

Increased recognition for the link between political and development conditions (economic, social and environmental), as well as their consequences and impact on conflict, migration, peace and security.

**09/2011 – 09/2016 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Beirut (Lebanon)**

*First Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Development and Globalisation Division*

- Actively lead on and contributed to different thematic portfolios:
  - 1) In the Office of the Director: extensive support and guidance on programme planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting (e.g. related to “Partnerships for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region”, MDGs and post-2015 agenda) as well as providing support for structural re-organisation of the division, supporting HR matters, recruitment and staffing decisions; managing, mentoring and evaluating staff;
  - 2) For the Economic Policy Section: conduct policy research, write papers, provide advisory services and organise workshops focussing on national and regional socio-economic challenges affecting the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including human development, poverty reduction, employment, Arab middle class, political economy and the development impact of conflict (e.g. Syria Crisis on MDGs). In addition, substantively support the project “National Agenda on the Future of Syria” in its early phase by drafting a comprehensive needs assessment.
  - 3) Establish and lead (as Chief of Section, a.i.) the ESCWA section dedicated to institution-building, economic governance and national development planning with the main objective to provide support to countries in their efforts to formulate national (sustainable) development plans/strategies reflective of the SDG Framework and to fulfil their commitments under Agenda 2030.
- Manage, supervise and carry out the implementation of the work programme of the Section as well as plan and oversee and coordinate the diverse activities that contribute to achievement of the Agenda 2030 in liaison with other organizations of the United Nations System, donors and agencies

## CURRICULUM VITAE – DR. DENISE SUMPFF

- Responsibility for project management and fundraising (Examples: i) Project on "Strategic Review of Food Security & Nutrition Situation in Lebanon" implemented for WFP (Budget: 60,000 USD); ii) project on "Libya Socioeconomic Dialogue Project: Alternative Paths to Sustainable and Inclusive Development" in cooperation with BMZ and GIZ (Funds raised: 4 mio. USD); iii) respond to requests by Member Countries for technical cooperation on implementation of Agenda 2030, such as reviewing the Government of Lebanon's National Sustainable Development Strategy and mapping it to the SDG framework, advising Saudi Arabia and Jordan, as well as Palestine (Budgets: variable, in-kind)
- Advocacy, liaison and coordination: participation in inter-agency meetings (e.g. UN Country Team, Regional Coordination Mechanism, UNHQ), at conferences (national, regional and international) and in government meetings and serve as active member of the UN's regional Peer Support Group Mechanism that reviews UNDAFs, CCAs and Strategic Frameworks.

### *Main achievement:*

Positioned UNESCWA as a competent partner to provide evidence-based policy advice in the field of economic governance and national development planning. Implemented a regional knowledge exchange platform on competition policy that raised awareness for achievements and challenges of Arab countries with respect to regulatory reform and institution-building.

### **08/2012 – 03/2013 United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), Nairobi (Kenya)/Mogadishu (Somalia)**

#### *Special Assistant (temporary mission assignment)*

- Support the Chief of Staff, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (DSRSG) and the SRSG in all areas of mandate implementation of the Political Mission by providing substantive support to the Political Affairs Unit and others in Nairobi as well as the UNPOS regional offices (Mogadishu, Garowe and Hargeisa).
- Liaise and maintain close working relationships with officials of state institutions, political parties, civil society organizations, donors, media and other organizations;
- Responsibility for the Mission's budgetary status and project committee (including management of trust funds);
- Establish effective donor relationships and resource mobilization activities as well as support the implementation of the Strategic Review (including coordination of the Working Group on Governance) on the UN presence and mandate in Somalia and responsibility for the coordination of the UN-EU Steering Committee Meeting on Crisis Management;

### *Main achievement:*

Contributed towards the transition of the Special Political Mission from Nairobi (Kenya) to Mogadishu (Somalia) to better support the newly established Somali Government.

### **04/2010 – 09/2011 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Beirut (Lebanon)**

#### *Programme Officer – Office of the Executive Secretary*

- Assist with regional and sub-regional policy planning and coordination tasks related to the core functions of the regional commission (ie. socio-economic development), including managing the relationship to other UN entities (e.g. through the Regional Coordination Mechanism) and other relevant organizations such as League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Conference;
- Liaise with UN headquarters, other Regional Commission, other UN and non-UN entities as well as lead in the preparation of input, studies and analytical documents requested by the SG, the DSG, the USG and other senior staff as well the General Assembly, its Committees and intergovernmental bodies;

## CURRICULUM VITAE – DR. DENISE SUMPFF

- Assist the Executive Secretary (USG) of ESCWA and other senior staff with developing policy on and partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, with a particular responsibility for achieving internationally agreed development goals (e.g. MDGs), institutional and human capacity-building;
- Prepare policy advice, (background) research, analytical papers, talking points, speeches/comments, media statements and presentations for the Executive Secretary on diverse political, social and economic topics as well as draft planning documents for discussion and decision of the Executive Secretary;
- Represent ESCWA in inter-departmental processes (e.g. focal point for the Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System, UN-CEB inter-agency clusters) and participate in missions of the Executive Secretary.

### *Main achievement:*

Ensured that views, interests and needs of the Commission's stakeholders (e.g. Member Countries in the MENA region) are included at the intergovernmental level (e.g. UN GA, ECOSOC) to improve accountability and ownership on development concerns.

### **05/2009 – 04/2010 United Nations Economic Department for Economic and Social Affairs, New York (USA)**

#### *Sustainable Development Officer – Division for Sustainable Development*

- Substantive contribution to the implementation of the overall work programme of the Policy Analysis & Networks Branch by working analytical on a broad range of thematic areas: climate change, national sustainable development strategies, SIDS, sustainable consumption and production, etc.
- Conduct research and analysis for concept papers and commentaries, which informed intergovernmental consultations (e.g. drafting the publication "Trends on Sustainable Development" on mining, chemicals and waste management and transport as preparatory document for the 18th Commission for Sustainable Development);
- Initiate outreach and liaison with member countries, civil society and other stakeholders (for example, organizing High-level panel discussions on "Green Growth and Sustainable Development" and "Enhancing Governance on Water Issues" as part of the General Assembly's Second Committee Special Events Series);
- Support to high-level international conferences (including the General Assembly, Commission on Sustainable Development and so on), act as the division focal point for disaster management issues (including follow-up to emerging humanitarian crisis and conduct research on disaster management issues) and provide substantive support to the SIDS unit.

### *Main achievement:*

In view of the upcoming expiry of the MDG framework, involvement in the pre-consultations leading to the formulation of the SDGs. Raise awareness to climate change related impact on SIDS and other vulnerable areas.

### **01/2007 – 05/2009 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok (Thailand)**

#### *Associate Economic Affairs Officer (NCE) – Transport and Tourism Division*

- Develop project profiles, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes and project budgets on regional infrastructure development for MDG achievement and trade/transport facilitation (e.g. managing the implementation of inter-regional development account projects in cooperation with the regional commissions in Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East);
- Conduct research and draft policy papers, draft country case studies and reports (e.g. review of status of "Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the UNESCAP and UNECE regions: Turning landlocked challenges into land-linked opportunities");

- Plan, organise and facilitate inter-governmental meetings and capacity-building workshops (e.g. in Kazakhstan, Iran and Pakistan) as well as field missions (e.g. Mongolia, China);
- Revise analytical tools and design empirical surveys (e.g. “UNESCAP Time/Cost – Distance Methodology”, Delphi survey on dry port development) to assess policy effectiveness;
- Establish and maintain networks for consultative processes with member countries and donors (e.g. ADB, IDB) as well as liaise with stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, civil society), private sector, international organizations (e.g. UNCTAD) and research institutes as well as substantive contribution to the inter-divisional working group contribution on the revision of UNESCAP's overall technical cooperation strategy.

*Main achievement:*

Ensure a comprehensive view on transport-related development issues by linking infrastructure and facilitation concerns and requirements based on national contexts (e.g. landlocked countries vs. SIDS)

**11/2008 – 04/2009 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) – Pacific Operations Centre, Suva (Fiji Islands)**

*Associate Programme Officer (temporary mission assignment)*

- Provide substantive support for policy coordination and evaluation, including review and analysis of emerging sustainable development issues and trends relevant for SIDS countries under consideration of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation.
- Coordinate substantive input on sustainable development issues in the Pacific for thematic reports (e.g. ESCAP Theme Study 2009, report of the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States) and contribute to the Humanitarian Response Coordination mechanism by providing input on the assessment of the socio-economic impact of disaster.
- Contribute to impact evaluations (e.g. research on food security in the Pacific, impact of the tourism industry on economic development), as well as contribute to the Working Group of Pacific Island Developing Countries and liaise with sub-regional organizations (e.g. SOPAC and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)

*Main achievement:*

Ensure the recognition and reflection of sustainable development concerns of SIDS countries in regional programmes of action and at UNHQ level.

**08/2005 – 12/2006 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok (Thailand)**

*Associate Staff Development Officer – Administrative Services Division/HR Management Section*

- Plan, organise, monitor and evaluate on-site and off-site training programmes (e.g. substantive skills training, leadership development programmes, interpersonal skills workshops, teambuilding retreats, knowledge exchanges) for all staff from UN entities located in the regional hub Bangkok;
- Draft policy/analytical papers on learning and development at UNESCAP and other UN agencies in Bangkok by mainstreaming a Human-Rights-based approach in training programmes;
- Develop a coherent learning and development policy for UNESCAP, as well as facilitate workshops and capacity-building programmes

*Main achievement:*

Integrate different capacity-building activities to a coherent staff training programme as well as open a training centre not only for staff from the UN secretariat, but also for colleagues from the funds and programmes.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Since April 2017: Humboldt University, Berlin (D)**

*Guest professor at Albrecht Daniel Thaer Institute (Life sciences), Department of Agricultural Economics, International Trade and Development*

- Course: Institutions and Instruments of Development Cooperation (for Masters degree level)

**February 2008: University of Massachusetts, Amherst (USA)**

*Lecturer at Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) in the Isenberg School of Management*

- Course: The Development of Transport Corridors in Asia (Graduate level)

**09/2001 – 01/2005 European Business School (ebs), Oestrich-Winkel (D)**

*Faculty member (Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin)*

- Course: Strategic Management, decision-making, change management, institutional development

## LANGUAGES

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German: Mother tongue

English and French: Fluent in writing, speaking, and reading (UN proficiency exams completed)

Spanish, Russian, Arabic: Basic knowledge

## OTHER SKILLS

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- Project management certification: PRINCE 2 (26 October 2007)
  - Proficient in MS Office Applications, Databases, Lotus Notes, Visio, Internet, NVivo
- Knowledge of statistic software for quantitative data analysis (SPSS, Stata)

Beirut, 29 November 2018

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

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Mahmalat, M. & D. Sumpff (2018): Economic Governance for Entrepreneurs in the Arab Region Prioritizing Policy Challenges. Download:  
<https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/gouvernance-entrepreneurs-mena-region-english.pdf>

Speelman, P. & D. Sumpff (2018): Improving Arab Regional Development Planning: An Assessment of Good Economic Governance Tools to Support Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy-Making. Download:  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3228521](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3228521)

Sumpff, D., Isaila, V. & K. Najjar (2016): The Impact of the Syria Crisis on Lebanon (p. 269-308) in Kotsireas, Ilias S., Nagurney, Anna, Pardalos, Panos M. (Eds.): Dynamics of Disasters—Key Concepts, Models, Algorithms, and Insights. Springer Publishing

Sumpff, D., Araji, S. & R. Crompton (2016): Governance in the Arab Region: Addressing challenges and envisaging the future. Risk Governance and Control: Financial Markets and Institutions, Vol. 6, No. 3 (special issue)

Sumpff, D. & V. Isaila (2016): Economic Governance Series II – The strength of competition policy and regulation in the Arab Region, available: [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2809569](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2809569)

Sumpff, D. & D. Waked (2015): UNESCWA Economic Governance Series: Competition and Regulation in the Arab Region, available: <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/competition-regulation-arab-region>

(2015): A review on the link between corruption and elements of social justice (ESCWA Working Paper)

(2014): The political economy of the Middle Class in the Arab Region (ESCWA Working Paper)

(2012): Policy paper on "Economic challenges of the Arab Spring" (2012) and drafting paper on "Evaluation of economic and human costs of the sanctions by Arab Countries on Syria" (2012)

(2011): Policy paper and presentation on "The Crises in the Middle East: A time to rethink the international development community's engagement with political parties?" for the Summer Workshop of the Academic Council of the UN System (ACUNS): Peacebuilding & Statebuilding in War-Torn Societies at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, Colorado (USA) in July 2011

(2010): "Trends in Sustainable Development: Chemicals, Mining, Transport and Waste Management". Published by UNDESA, available: [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_publtrends\\_2010\\_topics.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_publtrends_2010_topics.shtml)

(2009) - Paper and presentation on "The role of global public-private partnerships for disaster management in small island developing states in the Pacific." for the Summer Workshop of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) and the American Society of International Law (ASIL) in July 2009 in Edmonton (Canada).

(2009): The development and impact of tourism in the Pacific. Working Paper for UNESCAP's Pacific Operations Centre.

(2009): Transport development in Asia - The UNESCAP Time/Cost-Distance Methodology, Proceedings of the 19th International Conference on Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM for Sustainable Transport and Energy Systems) published in Springer's Lecture Notes in Economics and Mathematical Systems.

(2006): Acquisition integration at Siemens Mobile Phones – Applying a resource-based perspective, in: Capasso, A., Dagnino, G., & A. Lanza (eds.): *Strategic capabilities and knowledge transfer within and between organizations. New perspectives from acquisitions, networks, learning and evolution*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

(2005): Art Experience and Human Resources' Perception. Deutscher Universitätsverlag (DUV): Wiesbaden.

(2003): Post-merger-integration in knowledge-intensive industries. Management Case Study Journal. Vol. 3, No. 2 (see: [http://www.mcsj.unisa.edu.au/current\\_articles.htm#3\\_2](http://www.mcsj.unisa.edu.au/current_articles.htm#3_2)).