

# ESCWA vs UNRWA Leadership Names, Nationalities, and Terms of Service

| ESCWA – Executive Secretaries | Nationality | Term         | UNRWA – Commissioners-General | Nationality    | Term         |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Mohammad Said Al-Attar        | Yemen       | 1974–1985    | John Davis                    | United States  | 1959–1963    |
| Mohammad Said Al-Nabulsi      | Jordan      | 1985–1988    | Laurence Michelmore           | United States  | 1964–1971    |
| Tayseer Abdel Jaber           | Jordan      | 1989–1993    | John Rennie                   | United Kingdom | 1971–1977    |
| Sabah Eddin Shukri Bakjaji    | Syria       | 1993–1995    | Thomas McElhiney              | United States  | 1977–1979    |
| Hazem El-Beblawi              | Egypt       | 1995–2000    | Olof Rydbeck                  | Sweden         | 1979–1985    |
| Mervat Tallawy                | Egypt       | 2000–2007    | Giorgio Giacomelli            | Italy          | 1985–1991    |
| Bader Al-Dafa                 | Qatar       | 2007–2010    | Müller Türkmen                | Turkey         | 1991–1996    |
| Rima Khalaf                   | Jordan      | 2010–2017    | Peter Hansen                  | Denmark        | 1996–2005    |
| Mohamed Ali Alhakim           | Iraq        | 2017–2018    | Karen Koning AbuZayd          | United States  | 2005–2010    |
| Rola Dashti                   | Kuwait      | 2019–present | Filippo Grandi                | Italy          | 2010–2014    |
|                               |             |              | Pierre Krähenbühl             | Switzerland    | 2014–2019    |
|                               |             |              | Philippe Lazzarini            | Switzerland    | 2020–present |

ESCWA Executive Secretaries have consistently been appointed from Arab States of the region served. By contrast, UNRWA Commissioners-General have been appointed exclusively from outside the refugee and host-country context.