Prof. Hany Besada is a Deputy Executive Director, Diamond Development Initiative. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Centre on Governance at the University of Ottawa, a Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow with the UN University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa and a Research Professor, Institute of African Studies, Carleton University. Until very recently, he was Regional Advisor, African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Prior to that he was Theme Leader: Governance of Natural Resources at the North-South Institute (NSI) in Ottawa, Canada and Research Specialist on the United Nations High Level Panel Secretariat-Post 2015 Development Agenda, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in New York.

Justine Salam is a PhD candidate at the Global Governance Program at Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo, Ontario. Justine is interested in many aspects of Middle East politics, especially energy governance and security, federalism, and Kurdistan. She worked on the British legacy and the oil question in Iraqi Kurdistan as well as petro-political-partnerships between China and the Middle East. With Dr. Bessma Momani, Justine is currently working on petroleum management in federal states and is also a visiting scholar at the Paris School of International Affairs, Institute of Political Studies in Paris, France.