

## **Dr. Varsen Aghabekian Shahin**

### **Minister of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates**

#### **Bio:**

- Holds a Ph.D. is in Administrative & Policy Studies-Education from the University of Pittsburgh/USA and a M.Sc. from Indiana University/Purdue University (IUPUI)/ USA
- Worked as an Associate Professor at Al Quds University (1988-1995) and as an Associate Professor (1995-2008). Served as Dean of the Faculty of Health Professions 1995-1998 and Dean of Graduate Studies 1998-2000 at Al Quds University.
- Coordinated the Health Human Resource Unit at the Palestinian Health Council.
- Director of the Palestinian National Plan for Human Resource Development and Education in Health 1999-2000
- Directed the Multisector Review and Strategic plan for East Jerusalem (The Orient House and the EU) 2000-2002
- Director of Research and Planning at the Welfare Association (Al Ta'awon) 2003-2005
- Manager of the Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) project of the Office of the President of Palestine.2006-2009
- Executive Director of Al-Quds Capitol of Arab Culture 2009
- Commissioner General for the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights 2016-2018
- Operations Director and Policy consultant at the Palestinian Negotiations Support Project- Negotiations Support Unit 2010 onwards
- Worked as an Associate professor and head of strategy Dar Al Kalima University-Bethlehem
- Selected member of the committee drafting the strategy on strengthening the Christian Presence in Palestine and is a member of the Presidential Committee for the Restoration of the Church of the Nativity and a member of the Presidential Committee for Churches Affairs.
- Interested in women's and human rights issues and has been a member on the boards of several civil society organizations and universities.

- Author of several articles, studies, manuals and national reports on: Jerusalem, health, women in politics, Christian migration from Palestine, planning in Jerusalem and Armenia presence and contribution in Palestine.