



## International Women Leaders' Conference

# The Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals Agenda:

Ensuring the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in the next framework

November 3-8, 2013  
Haifa, Israel

# *Report*

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem

The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center, (MCTC) Haifa

In cooperation with

UNDP and UN WOMEN



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The Golda Meir Mount Carmel  
International Training Center (MCTC)  
is grateful for the cooperation of  
MASHAV, UNDP and UN WOMEN  
in the 2013 International Women Leaders' Conference,  
as well as  
HAIGUD, Society for the Transfer of Technology.

*The ideas and opinions expressed in the presentations are those of the participants and do not reflect the views of UNDP, UN WOMEN, MASHAV and MCTC, except in those cases where the presentations were given by representatives of UN WOMEN and UNDP; presentations by UN WOMEN and UNDP representatives reflect the corporate view of the organizations.*

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**Ms. Randi Davis**, Director, a.i. - UNDP/Gender Team, **UNDP**

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## *Greetings*

**from the President of the State of Israel  
On the occasion of the International Conference on  
The Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals Agenda:  
Ensuring the Centrality of Gender Equality and Women's  
Empowerment in the Next Framework**

Haifa – November 3-8, 2013

### *, Dear Conference Participants*

It is a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to the International Conference on the Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, held by MASHAV in cooperation with UN WOMEN and UNDP in Haifa.

Women are playing central roles in today's vital global decision-making processes that affect wide-ranging fields, in an effort to improve our quality of life and prospects for the future. Though much remains to be done, our society has made great strides in our effort to empower women to assume the mantle of leadership and aim for *Tikkun Olam* – making the world a better place.

In the words of my teacher and mentor David Ben-Gurion: "Genuine international partnership is impossible as long as there is such a huge gap in the standard of living, health and education of different peoples." It is in this spirit that this conference strives towards achieving these millennium goals – alleviating world poverty, gender equality and women's empowerment, finding cures for diseases, providing food security, to name a few. The conference will, I am sure, provide a unique platform to discuss these crucial subjects and help shape the path for a bright collective tomorrow, with members of this distinguished audience as key players in this global effort.

I wish you all a fruitful conference and an enjoyable stay in Israel to our guests from abroad.

*Shimon Peres*





# Conference Overview

**The Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals Agenda: Ensuring the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in the next framework** was the title of the twenty eighth biennial International Conference held within the framework of activities of **MASHAV-Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation** - and the **Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC)**, in partnership with **UN WOMEN** and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**. The Conference began in Haifa on November 3, 2013, concluding in Jerusalem on November 8, 2013.

## *Background*

As the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, a number of processes are under way among Member States, the UN system, academia, policymakers and civil society to reflect on the post-2015 development framework. Related to these reflections is work towards the development of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which were called for by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. Thus, as MASHAV/MCTC, UNDP and UN WOMEN share the objective of seeing gender equality and women's empowerment integrated in the post-2015 framework and the SDGs, MASHAV/MCTC's 28<sup>th</sup> International Women Leaders' Conference was very timely. In 2014, multiple government and non-governmental consultative processes initiated to provide recommendations on the vision and shape of the post-2015 development framework and the SDGs will continue to take place, including activities related to the acceleration of progress in meeting the MDGs, as will the 2014 Review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The Conference **objectives** were therefore to:

- ◆ Discuss progress achieved and remaining gaps in the implementation of the MDGs from a gender perspective; highlight lessons learned and best practices in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment that should inform the next development framework;
- ◆ Explore strategies and entry points to advocate for the integration of a gender equality perspective in the post-2015 development framework and the SDGs;
- ◆ Identify priority areas that contribute to the empowerment of women and girls and the enjoyment of their rights, and that should be included in the next development framework, including financing for gender equality;
- ◆ Examine and undertake a critical analysis of the role played by women leaders in decision-making at all levels, recommending strategies and options for shaping the future of democratic societies;
- ◆ Explore and identify ways to recognize and reinforce the economic empowerment of women as a key element of sustainable development;

One official delegate could be invited to the Conference from each country, however some countries asked to send observers as well and, in addition, eleven UN specialized organizations and international NGOs were represented. In all, fifty five participants from twenty nine countries were present during the proceedings. The delegates included several government ministers, parliamentarians, academics, members of the judiciary, diplomats, and high-ranking officials in UN specialized organizations and international NGOs.

Events began with a visit to **the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology**, Coler-California Visitors' Center, where **Dr. Yasha (Jacob) Grobman, Assistant Professor, Chair of the Center of Architectural Research and Development in**

**Architecture and Design - Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning**, spoke on “**Sustainability in Architectural Design**”.

The **Opening Ceremony at the Krieger Auditorium** marked the official start of the proceedings, moderated by **Ms. Mazal Renford, Director of the Golda Meir Center and Conference Organizer**, who also introduced each delegate individually.

**Ambassador Daniel Carmon, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel and Head of MASHAV**, explained that MASHAV has emphasized the importance of creating effective Partnerships for Development by engaging in active Development Diplomacy and shaping policy at the multilateral level and that the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center’s approach to advancing the status of women and girls lies in training towards empowerment, economic independence and gender equality.

Amb. Carmon also read a warm message of welcome to the delegates from the **President of the State of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres**, in which the President declared that women are playing central roles in today’s vital global decision-making processes to improve the quality of our life and our future. Our society has empowered women to assume leadership and aim for “Tikkun Olam” – making the world a better place.

Greeting the guests on behalf of the Government of Israel, **Hon. Limor Livnat, Minister of Culture and Sport**, stated that “it is our obligation to empower and develop female leadership.... This law we just enacted - is it a bridge for her? Or a wall?”

**Mr. Yona Yahav, Mayor of Haifa**, took pleasure in greeting the guests and introducing them to Haifa, his “beautiful city of coexistence”, where Jews, Christians and Muslims live and work in harmony.

Representatives of both cooperating bodies followed; **Ms. Kristin Hetle, Director of Strategic Partnerships, UN WOMEN**, speaking about gender equality, said that: “one day soon, in this century for sure, we will reach the tipping point”, while her colleague, **Ms. Randi Davis, Director, a.i. -UNDP/Gender Team**, declared that this conference “is the first global event on post-2015, and a powerful outcome document is expected”.

Ms. Mazal Renford introduced **Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA**. In Dr. Osotimehin’s eloquent speech he emphasized that we can only succeed by empowering women and girls to make choices about their own lives, ensuring the transformation of individual lives, strengthen families and communities, and ensure equitable, sustainable development for all. “Young people are the custodians of the future. Tomorrow is today aged 10, and it’s a girl. Change her life, change the world.”

The opening session, on **Looking from a gender perspective at the progress achieved and the gaps still remaining in the implementation of the MDGs**, was chaired by **H.E. Mrs. Roman Tesfaye, First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**.

Presentations were given by **Dr. Patricia Bullrich, National Deputy in Argentina and Dr. Sergei Zelenev, Executive Director, International Council on Social Welfare, (ICSW)**. **Dr. Zelenev** outlined what has been achieved and what still remains to be achieved. The MDGs have focused on development efforts and set global and national priorities, especially in reducing poverty and raising access to primary education, but such progress has been uneven and the challenge is in growing global inequality. **Dr. Bullrich** spoke of the need to reduce the lack of symmetry between men and women. Symmetry is directionally proportional to social conditions and thus, the higher the vulnerability of women, the greater the lack of symmetry.

**Plenary Session II, Integrating a gender equality perspective into the post-2015 development and the SDGs: Exploring strategies and entry points, was chaired by Hon. Ms. Rovana Plumb, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Romania. Speakers were Ms. Tracy Gough, Gender Policy Advisor and post-2015 Focal Point, UNDP and Dr. Eburn A. Jusu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Sierra Leone.**

In **Ms. Gough's** presentation she outlined the process of the post- 2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, explaining how the UN system supports UN states and stakeholders in this endeavor. **Dr. Eburn Jusu** described the great effort by the government in her country to improve a situation caused by an 11-year civil war, one of the main reasons for which was the inequality in society.

**The empowerment of women and girls and the enjoyment of their rights within the next development framework: priority areas for the post-2015 development agenda** was the issue of **Plenary Session III**, chaired by **Hon. Ms. Loujaya Kouza, Minister for Religion, Youth & Community Development, Papua New Guinea**. Other presentations in this Panel, which was divided into two stages, were given by **Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General for UN HABITAT, Ms. Christine Musisi, Regional Director for Eastern & South Africa, UN WOMEN, and Ms. Menissa Rambally, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, St. Lucia. Hon. Prof. Amsatou Sow Sidibe, Ministre conseillère Présidentielle, Senegal, Ms. Ingrid Cumming, Director and CED, Kart Koort Wiern, Australia and Dr. Esohe Aghatisé, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Italy/Nigeria. Dr. Kacyira** made it clear in her presentation that for development, safety and security in cities and places where people live have first to be achieved. **Ms. Musisi** said that placing gender equality and women's empowerment at the center is not a favor to women but it is their right, the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. **Ms. Rambally** spoke of the challenges facing the Caribbean, post-2015, to convince society that women can become true partners and leaders.

After enthusiastic discussion on the points which were raised from the first three presentations, **Prof. Sow Sidibe** spoke about prioritizing the political aspects of empowerment in order to be proactive and to achieve a good output from Post-2015. **Ms. Cumming's** presentation centered on the teaching, mentoring and nurturing of young people and how crucial this is, as the legacy we leave our future generations will be their reality. The closing speaker in Panel III was **Dr. Aghatisé**,

who spoke of the many influencing factors which contribute to denying women their rights - cultural, economic and social - poverty, lack of social structures, gender, racial and ethnic violence. The panel closed with further discussion on the topics raised.

**Plenary Session IV, on Putting gender equality and women's rights at the center of sustainable development** opened the second full day of the Conference. **Chair of the Session was Hon. Ms. Mayi Antillón Guerrero, Minister of Economy, Industry and Commerce, Costa Rica.** Panelists were **Ms. Lopa Banerjee, Chief of Civil Society Section, UN WOMEN, Ms. Valentina Leskaj, MP, Chair of Parliamentary Committee for Education and Media and Former Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Albania, Ms. Sara Greenblatt, Chief of the Organized Crime & Illicit Trafficking Branch of UNODC, and Ms. Millie Odhiambo, Member of Parliament at MBITA District, Kenya.** **Ms. Banerjee** declared that the successes and shortcomings of the MDGs need to be assessed and their acceleration focused on ensuring that women's rights and empowerment are central. She stated that *"We are at a unique moment to shape women's development for the next generation."* **Ms. Leskaj** spoke about the national strategy for gender equality in Albania. She addressed the need for holistic and practical processes to change the roles women have and enable them to try to achieve better education and long-term employment.

Speaking on **Trafficking in / smuggling of women and development**, **Ms. Greenblatt** of UNODC explained how various social and cultural factors make women and girls vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, especially in the context of an increasing feminization of migration. She pointed out the severe consequences of human trafficking on development, as the crime, in addition to having a serious impact on trafficked individuals, also has wider economic, social and cultural impact and implications. **Ms. Greenblatt** also presented possible measures to reduce vulnerability and increase development that ranged from awareness raising to improve criminal justice responses to human trafficking and related crimes. **Ms. Odhiambo** then stressed that women should recommit and push to reach higher levels and remember the milestones that they have already successfully attained. Drawing the panel to a close, the Chair, **Minister Antillón Guerrero from Costa Rica**, gave a concluding speech illustrating how a platform had been created in her country to promote the inclusion of women in the economic sector.

**Plenary Session V** considered **Ensuring the means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda.** In the chair was **Ms. Glenda Roxana Soto Rubio, National Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic, Ecuador** and presentations were given by **Hon. Ms. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Minister of Justice, Samoa** and **Attorney Sonia Elizabeth Cortez, Attorney General, El Salvador.** **Minister Mata'afa's** speech focused on two issues - women's leadership and violence against women; the former is our voice, without which we cannot articulate the situations we find ourselves in. **Attorney General Cortez** said *"We have to go to wherever the most vulnerable and the poorest women are – not out of pity but because they should be entitled to realize their own human rights – to live without violence."*

The last session of presentations and discussions, **Plenary Session VI**, was dominated by speakers representing the range of international organizations, as it

dealt with **Strengthening global partnerships and accountability to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda.** Chairperson was **Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, UN Under-Secretary-General, Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNON** and panel presenters were **Ms. Kristin Hetle, Director of Strategic Partnerships, UN WOMEN, Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, Chief, Executive Board and External Relations Branch, IERD, UNFPA, Ms. Cosima Schenk, President, International Council of Women (ICW), Ms. Kathy Kaaf, Immediate Past President, Soroptimist International of Europe, Germany and Dr. Malinka Koparanova, Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point, UNECE.** Ms. Hetle, of UN WOMEN explained that the private sector, corporations and the whole business community are also needed in order to move forward, in addition to governments, NGOs and international organizations. Dr. Ojiambo, UNFPA, opened her speech by giving an account of her personal story as a tribute to the Women's Movement. In her plea to reach out to young women and bring them to work with, and to contribute to, the post-2015 agenda, she further stressed that our approach in everything we do should always be based on human rights. ICW President, Ms. Schenk, pointed out that only if women are leaders, is accountability possible. Only then will they be considered important contributors in key decision-making. In the meantime women victims of extreme poverty are everywhere in developed and developing countries. Ms. Kaaf described the overarching programmes of Soroptimist International, Europe, which educate women to lead, encouraging strategic partnerships with other organizations, facilitating women's social and economic development and helping women at the grass roots to acquire the skills and confidence needed for public speaking and communication skills. Dr. Koparanova of UNECE made the point that without partnership we cannot move ahead, as the solution can only be found through partnership and teamwork.

At this point, the Plenary divided into four working groups to define the top three Gender Equality Priorities for the Post-2015 Agenda and to identify the necessary strategies for advancing those priorities with their governments, in order to take forward to the post-2015 negotiations.

The reports of the four groups formed the basis of **Plenary Session VII**, which was chaired by **Hon. Ms. Fiamé Naomi Mata'afa, Minister of Justice, Samoa.**

This was followed by the final **Plenary Session**, jointly chaired by **Mr. Ilan Fluss, Director, Policy Planning & External Relations Department, MASHAV, and Ms. Mazal Renford, MCTC Director.** **Conclusions and Recommendations** for changes and additions to the draft **Haifa Declaration** were collated and a final draft document was subsequently drawn up for consideration by the delegates before presenting it to the dignitaries in Jerusalem the following day.

On leaving Haifa, the participants were received at **Haifa City Hall**, by the **Deputy Mayor, Ms. Hedva Almog, Ms. Hanna Schroedek, Advisor on the Status of Women and the Secretary General of the City of Haifa, Ms. Bracha Sela**, before leaving the city for Emek Hefer. At Emek Hefer, a study visit was made to the **Regional Council Visitors' Center and Bio-Gas facilities to observe sustainable development projects.** This was followed by lunch in Tel Aviv as guests

of **Ms. Gila Oshrat, President, Council of Women's Organizations in Israel**, where the delegates had the opportunity to meet with representatives of Women's Organizations in Israel.

The group continued to Jerusalem to a **Reception** at the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** hosted by **Ambassador Daniel Carmon**, with the participation of **Ms. Aviva Raz Shechter, Deputy Director General, Middle East and Peace Process Division, MASHAV**, who gave a talk on the geo-political situation in the region.

On the last day of the Conference, the participants were welcomed to the **Knesset** (Israeli Parliament) by **M.K. Ms. Orly Levy-Abekasis**, and then **Deputy Speaker, Ms. Pnina Tamano-Shata**, both members of the Parliamentary Committee on the Status of Women.

After visits to a number of holy and historical sites in the Old City of Jerusalem, the Conference drew to a close with a **Farewell Dinner** at **Ramat Rachel Hotel**, hosted by **Ms. Vered Swid, Director General of the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women at the Prime Minister's Office**.



# *from the Conference Opening*



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1. **Hon. Limor Livnat, Govr. of Israel**  
**Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA**  
**Mr. Yona Yahav, Mayor of Haifa**
2. **Ambassador Daniel Carmon, MASHAV**
3. **Mr. Ilan Fluss, MASHAV**
4. **Ms. Kristin Hetle, UN WOMEN**
5. **Ms. Randy Davis, UNDP**
6. **Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin**
7. **Ambassador Daniel Carmon**  
**Mr. Yona Yahav**  
**Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin**  
**Ms. Mazal Renford, MCTC**



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# Official Opening

**Ambassador Daniel Carmon**

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel  
and Head of MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development  
Cooperation, Israel

**Hon. Limor Livnat**

Minister of Culture and Sport, **Israel**

Keynote Address

**Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin**

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director  
United Nations Population Fund, **UNFPA**

**Hon. Yona Yahav**

Mayor of Haifa, **Israel**

Greetings on behalf of **UN WOMEN**

**Ms. Kristin Hetle**

Director of Strategic Partnerships, **UN WOMEN**

Greetings on behalf of **UNDP**

**Ms. Randi Davis**

Director a.i, **UNDP** Gender Team

**The Opening Ceremony at the Krieger Auditorium** marked the official start of the proceedings, moderated by **Ms. Mazal Renford, Director of the Golda Meir Center and Conference Organizer**, who also introduced each delegate individually.

**Ambassador Daniel Carmon, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel and Head of MASHAV**, gave a short speech and also read a warm message of welcome to the delegates from the **President of the State of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres**.

**Hon. Limor Livnat, Minister of Culture and Sport of Israel**, greeted the guests on behalf of the Government of Israel and **Mr. Yona Yahav, Mayor of Haifa**, took pleasure in welcoming the guests and introducing them to Haifa, his “beautiful city of coexistence”, where Jews, Christians and Muslims live and work in harmony.

Representatives of both cooperating bodies followed; **Ms. Kristin Hetle, Director of Strategic Partnerships, UN WOMEN**, speaking about gender equality, said that: “MCTC has a proud history of bringing together women from all over the world, and already in 1961 had put women’s role in development on the agenda. Today in 2013, we are still debating women and development, not asking if women have a role, but discussing how fully to ensure the centrality of gender equality in the next development framework.

The next development agenda must fundamentally address the underlying causes of gender discrimination and inequality, therefore UN WOMEN is calling for a standalone goal and a development agenda that makes a real difference in the lives of women and girls.

It has been said that gender equality is the unfinished agenda of the 20th century and that all over the world people are working hard to make progress for women. Coming together and working together, as we are doing over the next few days is bringing the agenda forward and one day we will reach the tipping point. “

**Ms. Randi Davis, Director a.i, UNDP Gender Team**, emphasized that “This (conference) is absolutely timely and critical; today the evidence is undeniable - empowering women and girls brings a range of benefits for them, their families and their nations. Nonetheless, the progress is slow and extremely uneven, so it is important that we mobilize to ensure that the development goals adapted will have a gender dimension in them.”

“I’m sure that we will conclude our deliberation with a visionary and inspiring outcome document. We need to take this statement back to our domestic constituents and mobilize our governments, who will then be negotiating in the intergovernmental process. They need to speak up for the rights of women and girls around the world.”

Ms. Mazal Renford introduced **Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA**.

## **Ambassador Daniel Carmon**

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel  
and Head of MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International  
Development Cooperation

The State of Israel is only a little more than six decades old. Motivated by the goal of sharing with the developing world the experience, know-how and technologies which provided the basis for our own rapid development, Israel, through MASHAV, has been conducting for more than five decades, since 1958 to be exact, programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern and Central Europe, as well as the Middle East. We have become first-hand practitioners in International Development Cooperation, a real "living laboratory".

In light of the work now being undertaken globally towards the post-2015 agenda, and the utmost importance of gender equality and women's empowerment, MASHAV, together with its first affiliate center, The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center, takes great pleasure in cooperating with two UN specialized agencies, UNDP and UN WOMEN, hosting here in Israel, in the beautiful city of Haifa, such a distinguished group of women in top leadership roles, from so many countries and international organizations. I welcome you all, esteemed leaders from around the world, representing your respective countries, and the International Community. Let me also pay tribute to the Executive Director of UNFPA who is honoring us with his presence, and will later address us, as the keynote speaker for this event.

Based on the wealth of knowledge and experience represented here, this conference will undertake a critical analysis of the role played by women leaders in the process towards ensuring the centrality of gender equality within the new post-2015 agenda, as well as sustainable development goals.

It is impossible to talk about sustainable development without taking into consideration gender equality. In order to make a genuine change, we need to awaken both our global conscience and national commitment, and remember that the possibility of achieving this change lies within our capacity as leaders. This is one of the main reasons for convening this conference.

MASHAV is proud of the achievements of The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center. Established in 1961 to train women leaders and to address the connection between gender, poverty reduction and sustainable development; the Center's approach to advancing the status of women and girls lies in training towards empowerment, economic independence and gender equality, following principles which echo the Millennium Development Goals. Many of the Center's former participants hold today high leadership positions throughout the world.

MCTC has been a world pioneer in promoting, amongst others, gender issues, as essential for development. UNDP encourages, amongst others, the protection

of human rights, capacity development and the empowerment of women. UN WOMEN works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men. UNFPA is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity, "Because everyone counts."

It is an honor to join hands with such important organizations for this 28th International Women Leaders' Conference, as we, at MASHAV, have always emphasized the importance of creating effective Partnerships for Development. We have enhanced this commitment in the last few years, engaging in active Development Diplomacy, thus contributing to shaping policy at the multilateral level.

Let me just say there can be no better international partners, not a better place to discuss "ensuring the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in the next development framework" than right here, within these walls.

And while in the presence of such distinguished guests and wonderful audience, allow me to say a few words to the woman behind this conference, and behind the wonderful work of MCTC, throughout the years.

Mazal, you are a true leader in the field, a real mentor for us all. With your dedication and endless energy, you strive tirelessly for social equity and the empowerment of women.

Through your aspiration for excellence, high professionalism, and warm personality, you have established deep personal relationships with colleagues from all over the world, extending your hand in partnership for the betterment of women around the globe, including in our own region.

You have touched each and every one of the thousands of professionals who arrived in Israel seeking for ways to better their own realities. You have given them tools, opportunities, and above all, you have given them hope. You have inspired us all, dearest Mazal, for which we are all grateful. Thank you!!


Ladies and gentlemen, it is this hope for a better future that keeps us all searching for new fields of cooperation, to fulfill the ever present and urgent goal of achieving sustainable development and equality for all.

I hope this conference will resonate as a milestone on the path to the Sustainable Development Goals and as a steppingstone towards gender equality and women's empowerment. I wish all of you a very warm welcome to our country and a fruitful week ahead, with much success and enjoyment along the way.

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# H.E. Limor Livnat

Minister of Culture and Sport, Israel



On behalf of the government of the State of Israel I would like to say to all of you: Welcome to Israel! It is fitting to open this conference here, in the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center, as it was established by Golda Meir, our first and only woman Prime Minister of Israel (so far!), in 1961, as the first training institution in the world dealing with gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of development. I am always delighted to meet such diverse groups of women from around the world, from different cultures, speaking different languages and of different faiths. Women from such distinct and unique backgrounds – yet I am always thrilled to discover how much we women have in common. We will most likely not agree on everything, but we are all here because we want to work for equal opportunity, and support the struggle for gender equality.

The feminist revolution is a success story. Yes, we haven't reached its final chapter, but are in the very midst of it. The feminist revolution is one of the deepest and most significant revolutions history has witnessed, one that touches every part of our lives - from politics to the kitchen, from the textile industry to academia. I believe that to complete this revolution, we need women leaders. Therefore, it is our obligation to empower and develop female leadership.

As women leaders, we have an obligation to promote women, to strengthen and cultivate women's networking, and women's solidarity. This responsibility ties me to women politicians from other political parties - politicians who disagree with me - and vice versa on quite a few issues. Nevertheless, we believe that the solidarity between us is vital for Israeli society. I take care to frequently appoint women, to public positions, Director Generals in my ministries, councils, and committees. I prefer women in senior positions in my office. Yes, I admit this - guilty as charged!

From my own experience, I know that the path each of us takes until we reach a position of influence is far more difficult and complex, than the one men follow. In every position we fill, we are examined under a magnifying glass. Not only are our skills evaluated, but also our mental stamina, and our ability to stand by our principles. Unlike men, our commitment to our jobs and our commitment to our children and families is constantly tested. As a woman minister, I can say to you: we are better! To paraphrase Simone de Beauvoir, I'll say that I wasn't born a feminist, but my life experience led me to be one.

The ability to lead is not connected to a male chromosome, and there is no gene in women's bodies that makes us passive. If anything - the bug exists only in societies which hinder women's empowerment through socialization. In some countries, women are denied an education, or even the right to drive. In others, girls are sent to school - to learn to sit still and be pretty, and to university - to find a groom. Therefore, to actually promote female leadership does not only mean to appoint women to leadership roles. The empowerment of women is a continual commitment. It requires us always to see the world through feminist eyes. To remember that policy does not

affect each gender the same way. We must question every policy, legislation, and ask: how will this impact men and how will it impact women?

While evaluating a new policy, we need to bear in mind the young girl, who needs encouragement and assistance; we must remember the girl who needs a break to become a leader in her field. This law we just enacted - is it a bridge for her? Or a wall?

Dear women, I want to remind you that we are living in exciting times - the era of progress for the feminist revolution. It seems as though the slow, trickling progress of women has grown into a huge wave that has washed over various fields. More and more spheres that were once strictly men's territory - economics, politics - have been conquered by women. Groundbreaking women have made their marks in this process. Each pioneering woman clears the path for others to follow in her footsteps. Every female entrepreneur increases the chance that there will be more like her. Every Marisa Meyer shows the way for the next CEO, every Sheryl Sandberg opens the door for the next revolutionary.

More and more women are heading countries around the world, including South Korea, Brazil, Argentina, Liberia, Malawi and Denmark. Women such as Angela Merkel, Christine Lagarde, Catherine Ashton, and more. And in the U.S, Janet Yellin was recently appointed to head the Federal Reserve. Here in Israel, too, we have achieved some milestones. In the economic sphere, we recently appointed a new Governor of the Bank of Israel, and a woman, to head one of the largest banks in Israel, creating a unique situation in which three of the five largest banks in Israel are currently being led by women. In our government, three of the top economic 'movers and shakers' in the Finance Ministry are women. We were overjoyed when the first female general was appointed. And in the political arena, three political parties are led by women. Unfortunately, in our current government, there are only four female ministers including myself, out of twenty-one ministers, six government ministries that are directed by women, including my own. Not good enough. But still more than ever - we are moving forward. But make no mistake, the situation worldwide is far from rosy.

In many countries, women are still fighting for their fundamental rights: the right to live with dignity. In 2010, two Pulitzer Prize winners from the New York Times wrote a startling book called, "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide". The book begins with this incredible fact: more than 100 million women in the world are missing. More women have been killed in the past 50 years, just because they were women, than all the men killed in world wars in the 20th century. They call this phenomenon 'gendercide'. What's even more shocking is that most of the global population accepts this fact in silence. Newspapers don't report it, and the deaths of young girls, their very disappearance, is treated with a troubling indifference, infuriating and outrageous.

But here too, there is a ray of light. More and more women across the globe are standing up and saying: Enough! That's it! Never again! More and more women are mustering up the courage to take their destiny into their own hands.

In India, an appalling gang rape instigated a tremendous social protest. Thousands of women took to the streets and declared 'We are no longer someone's property, our bodies belong to us!' And next door, in Pakistan, the brutality towards a 15 year old girl, Malala Yousafzai, who was shot just for her desire to learn, led the world to say - Stop! Women are not worthless. In the Arab world, more and more women are standing up and saying, "No more". An especially motivating movement is that of Saudi Arabian women, who are doing something that many of us consider so trivial – getting into a car – and driving.

More and more women are saying - enough, this public sphere belongs to me as well! We, too, want to drive without fear of being punished; to walk on the street without worrying about being raped, to read a book without being afraid that we'll be killed. Make no mistake: female empowerment is not a women's-only topic. Endless research studies and cases have shown that the best way to encourage sustainable development is to invest in women. Strengthen their self-confidence, encourage their education and boost female entrepreneurship. When you invest in women, you receive a high rate of return, and you get results. Thus, poverty is slowly being reduced. True, we still have a long way to go until we realize all the goals we have set for ourselves. In terms of female representation, despite the progress made worldwide, we are still a far cry from equal representation in most countries.

Here in Israel, we may have celebrated the election of 27 female Knesset members, which is more than any other Knesset in the past, but we are still 33 women short of equal representation. We still need to bridge the gaps in acquiring education in the developing world. And in the developed world, where more women graduate with second or doctoral degrees, we still must ensure that they can be appointed as lecturers and professors, department heads, deans, and university presidents. In the job market, the situation is not yet "perfect" either. Women, and especially mothers, have a much more difficult time than men finding work, and when they do, the job almost always comes with a lower salary than their male counterparts. And of course, we are still far from equal representation in senior management positions.

Throughout this conference that starts today, thanks to MASHAV, with joint efforts by UN-WOMEN, UNDP, and others, you'll debate, be surprised, get angry, and discuss many projects and policies from around the world. It is my hope that by the end of the conference, you'll have agreed upon concrete policy lines for the post-2015 world. We must understand that in a democratic society, women's leadership cannot be the exception to the rule. We want to see women leaders in every walk of life, in every field. We're not talking here about women empowering women, but about our moral responsibility as human beings to empower other human beings.

Israel is proud to be part of the global dialogue for development through MASHAV's important activities and partnerships, moving from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals.

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## *Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker*

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### **Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin**

Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA and  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

*J*t gives me great pleasure to be with you today at this International Women Leaders' Conference to talk about a priority issue for UNFPA and an imperative for sustainable development – ensuring the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development framework. As the father of four daughters, this issue is especially close to my heart.

I'd like to thank the Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center for organizing and hosting this conference, and UNFPA's sister UN agencies, UN WOMEN and UNDP, for their support.

The Government of Israel has been a strong advocate for gender equality both in UN processes and through MASHAV's training programmes and development activities in the field.

The International Training Center hosting us this week has been sharing Israel's development experience and know-how with women and men from around the world, and addressing the connection between gender, poverty reduction and sustainable development, for more than fifty years.

The aspiration of the development agenda beyond 2015, as outlined in the Secretary General's report "A life of dignity for all", is to create a just and prosperous world where all people – women and men, girls and boys – realize their rights and live with dignity and hope. Eradicating poverty in all its forms, tackling exclusion and inequality, and empowering women and girls are instrumental in bringing this vision to life.

Women are at the center of people's lives – a point best summed up, I believe, by Dr. Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union in reminding us that "women are half of the world and give birth to the other half."

The choices that women make have a huge impact on families, on communities and on nations. So being able to provide an enabling environment for them to exercise their rights and make choices in their lives is crucial. It is at the heart of human development.

That's what world leaders understood in 1994 when they signed on to the Cairo Agenda at the International Conference on Population and Development. It's what

they reaffirmed at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. It's why they made gender equality one of the eight Millennium Development Goals and reiterated the vital role of women at Rio+20, calling for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development.

Landmark documents such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which has been ratified by almost every country in the world, the Programme of Action forged in Cairo, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action have long established that women's rights are human rights, and that states are responsible for ensuring equal rights for men and women.

But despite considerable achievements over the past two decades, discrimination against women and girls still affects half of the world's population and occurs in all societies. So as we look to the development agenda beyond 2015, we need to ensure that women and girls are at its very heart. We need to do this because the inequities and inequalities impacting on their health, opportunities and wellbeing are so persistent. This is our unfinished business and the world's greatest challenge as we chart the path ahead.

The MDGs that are most off-track are those directly linked to achieving gender equality, such as reducing maternal mortality and ensuring universal reproductive health and rights. This despite the fact that there is by now overwhelming evidence that ensuring gender equality is not only the right thing to do; it's smart economics.

Gender inequality severely constrains women's independence and freedom, their control over their own bodies, sexuality and childbearing. It restricts their life choices and opportunities in terms of education and work. There is also abundant evidence that it significantly slows economic growth in both rich and poor countries.

Yet across the world, in all societies, women and girls continue to face a range of barriers to equality. In far too many countries, they still earn less than men for the same work.

In far too many societies, gender-based violence, child marriage and female genital mutilation persist.

Although the gender gap in education is closing, far too many girls are still denied schooling or drop out prematurely with few skills and even fewer opportunities. Two thirds of the world's illiterate people are women.

Gender discrimination and poverty discrimination further conspire to marginalize the poor and otherwise socially disadvantaged. Therefore, tackling the gender inequalities and critical barriers that prevent women and girls from exercising their rights and empowering themselves must be at the heart of our efforts to create sustainable, prosperous and resilient societies.

Education, human security and protection from fear and hunger are certainly pre-conditions for the fulfillment of human potential. But for the elevation and security of women and girls – the world must also acknowledge that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are essential in order for them to enjoy all of their other human rights.

Gender equality can only be achieved if we overcome violence against women and girls and all forms of exploitation and abuse. We can only succeed if women and girls have equal access to services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and are able to make fundamental choices about whether and when to bear children, and to do so in full confidence of health, without coercion, and with a reasonable hope for their children to survive and thrive. This is fundamental not only for human dignity but for our common future.

Far too many women still die giving life. Most maternal deaths are preventable, but worldwide 800 pregnant women die each day from pregnancy-related causes. Far too few women in developing countries who want to use a modern method of family planning have access to one. An estimated 222 million women in developing countries who wish to avoid pregnancy, are not using modern contraception, most of them in the poorest countries and in the most disadvantaged groups.

HIV infections are frequently concentrated among poorer and younger women in sub-Saharan Africa and represent half of those globally living with HIV/AIDS. Deaths due to cervical cancer are on the rise and concentrated in low- and middle-income countries, due to lack of screening and early diagnosis programmes.

That is why we at UNFPA are working with governments and other partners in more than 150 countries to ensure that women and girls, particularly the most marginalized and disadvantaged, have access to sexual and reproductive health information and services and choices that allow them to fulfill their greatest potential.

I am very happy to see so many partners and powerful advocates for women and girls in the room today because we can only achieve all of this if we work all together – governments and international organizations, civil society and academia, women leaders and men. We can only advance if women have an equal voice in decision-making and if men raise their voices for equality.

There are some positive signs. We are seeing a remarkable increase in women's participation in political, economic and cultural life, as evidenced by many of you here today. We are also seeing an increase in national institutions to address gender equality and women's empowerment.

There is also growing international momentum towards support for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as mainstreaming gender equality throughout the new development framework. UNFPA and its UN partners strongly support this approach, and I hope the outcome document of this conference will clearly support this as well.

Humanity cannot move forward by leaving half of us behind.

We at UNFPA look forward to continuing the dialogue on ways to make gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and the rights and needs of adolescents and young people as prominent and integrated as possible in the post-2015 development framework.

Working closely on this with key partners and working together to build the widest possible global alliances, we hope for significant progress during the next year

in forging a development framework in which every person, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, counts.

Finally, I'd like to speak a bit about young people, girls in particular. Young people are the custodians of the future, and all countries need to recognize and cultivate their powerful potential by investing in their human capital. This is critical.

There are around 600 million girls in the world today – 90 per cent of them in developing countries. Empowering these girls to make choices about their own lives – to stay in school, to delay marriage and childbirth, to seek decent employment – is one of the surest ways to transform individual lives, strengthen families and communities, and ensure equitable, sustainable development for all.

If a girl is educated, healthy, safe and skilled, she will invest in herself and her present and future family, charting a new course for our common future.

When we think about the future we want, let's picture this:

Tomorrow is today aged 10, and it's a girl. Change her life, change the world.

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# *from Plenary Session 1*



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1. H.E. Mrs. Roman Tesfaye, Ethiopia and Dr. Sergei Zelenev, ICSW
2. Dr. Patricia Bullrich, Argentina
3. Ms. Valentina Leskaj, Albania and Ms. Mazal Renford, MCTC
4. Dr. Sergei Zelenev
5. Ms. Kristin Hettle and Ms. Lopa Banerjee, UN WOMEN
6. Dr. Esohe Aghatisé, Italy/Nigeria

# **Looking from a gender perspective at the progress achieved and the gaps still remaining in the implementation of the MDGs**

Message from

**Ms. Lakshmi Puri**

Deputy Executive Director, UN WOMEN

Chair

**H.E. Mrs. Roman Tesfaye**

First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of **Ethiopia**

Presentations

**Dr. Patricia Bullrich**

National Deputy in **Argentina**

**Dr. Sergei Zelenev**

Executive Director, International Council on Social Welfare, **ICSW**

*Plenary Session 1*

The plenary deliberations opened with a video message to the participants from

## **Ms. Lakshmi Puri**

Deputy Executive Director, UN WOMEN



UN WOMEN is pleased to partner with MASHAV, the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center, and UNDP as partners for this important conference. In the next days you will have the opportunity to discuss the shape of the post-2015 development agenda and how to influence decision making process so that this agenda makes a real difference for women and girls.

UN WOMEN has been very much engaged in this global discussion. We are calling for a standalone goal and achieving gender equality in women's rights and women's empowerment and mainstreaming of gender perspective in all of the goals.

The standalone goal needs to address structural causes of discrimination and gender relations. It must be central to the new framework so that women and men, girls and boys, can live free from fear and worry and fully develop their potential for the well being of their families, communities and countries. We believe the standalone gender equality goal should tackle three core areas:

- ◆ Prevention, protection, prosecution and provision of services which would also aim at changing perception, attitudes and behaviors that can justify violence against women and girls.
- ◆ Women and girls must have equal access to resources and opportunities. This equal distribution of capability needs to be addressed with urgency to build women's economic and social security. This must include efforts to promote decent work, reduce women's time burdens and promote access to health, education, energy, water and sanitation, as well as control of lands and productive assets.
- ◆ The third area we propose should encompass voice, leadership and participation and it should go beyond women's participation in national parliaments to include participation in public institutions at local enrichment levels. Promoting equal decision making in households and women's leadership in the private sector are equally important, as well as women's opportunities to engage in collective action. I propose that the goal is grounded in existing governments' commitment, but the targets and indicators we propose are in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as the Beijing Platform for Action. We also reflected on recent gains, such as elements of the conclusions of this year's session of the Commission on the Status of Women on ending violence against women.

My friends, the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals are being considered at a time of urgency. We are making progress to empowerment and to eliminate gender base discrimination and we must increasingly deal with the constraints and challenges posed by the economic and financial crises

and the impact of climate change, of tradition, culture and harmful practices and we have to take into account developing a global vision of sustainable development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

As the discussion moves into the inter-government arena, as it is, we need many voices of support to be heard loud and clear. I call on you as champions of gender equality to take the findings of your discussions to your governments, to UN entities and other civil society groups and into all consultations.

Together we can make the post-2015 development agenda one that truly benefits women and girls, together with men and boys in order to build a sustainable future for us and the next generations. I wish you a productive and energizing conference and I thank the government and people of Israel for this.

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## **Dr. Patricia Bullrich**

National Deputy, Argentina

*Dr. Patricia Bullrich holds a PhD in Political Science from the National University of San Martin, Buenos Aires, and a Master's degree in Political Science and Sociology. Dr. Bullrich has been a congresswoman in the Argentinean National Congress for three periods until now and is President of the Parliamentary Block of Unión por Todos Party.*

*She has served as Minister of National Social Security, Minister of Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development and Secretary for Criminal Policy and Penitentiary Matters at the National Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.*

*She has been member of several Parliamentary Commissions and has passed prominent laws, such as the new law of intelligence issues, liberty and democracy in Unions, a special criminal code applicable for teenagers, a code for small and middle companies, an anticorruption law, a book law, a leasing law and a higher education law. She has also submitted four hundred projects. On the academic level she belongs to the Honorary board of IDEAR, a think tank on public policies, and is a lecturer at Matanza National University.*

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## **Una perspectiva transversal, integral y valiente para encarar la pobreza**

La perspectiva de género es una orientación-guía que nos permitirá encarar los problemas acuciantes de la humanidad con un criterio de humanidad. Los problemas que encaramos en el MDGs están todos interrelacionados y no es posible pensarlos por separado, aislarlos y solucionarlos uno a uno.





La mirada de género lo que aporta a esta transversalidad para encarar la solución de los problemas es como se trata a la persona, a la mujer, al niño/a al hombre que sufre la pobreza y que de atravesar esta situación sin una mirada de género que significa una capacidad de encontrar espacios para el amor, el cuidado, la valoración del otro, la capacidad de dar nos encontramos con una perspectiva que traslada el problema sin darle solución. No es solo el alimento lo que supera la pobreza, el alimento es fundamental, pero la lucha por salir de la pobreza precisa de una construcción social más profunda que la mera alimentación.

La perspectiva de género construye igualdad porque comienza a adentrarse en las diferencias sociales entre una mujer pobre y un hombre pobre, sus responsabilidades hacia la familia, los hijos, el trabajo domestico, la explotación y la violencia intrafamiliar. La dificultades a la entrada al mercado de trabajo deben compensarse con políticas activas que permitan a la mujer tener espacios para que sus hijos sean atendidos, o un ingreso universal que le permita estar más tiempo durante los primeros años de la vida del niño/a, sin que esto signifique una pérdida de capacidad de volver al mercado de trabajo. En este tiempo la capacitación y el entrenamiento son instrumentos sólidos de políticas públicas que permiten desperfilar a la mujer en el rol de madre y construir relaciones más igualitarias entre hombres y mujeres.

La escolarización primaria no es para nuestro país ya un objetivo, y podría decir que ya no lo es para Latinoamérica. La escuela primaria es universal, pero ello lo que hace es trasladar el problema al segundo nivel de enseñanza, ya que hasta para las tareas de más baja calificación ya es requerimiento el título secundario. Esto ha trasladado el problema ya que la relación inclusión-exclusión se da unos años después, con las cifras de abandono de la escuela secundaria y los llamados Niní que son adolescentes que ni estudian ni trabajan y que entran en una zona de enorme peligro en contacto con la marginalidad, el delito y la droga.

El objetivo de la igualdad entre los géneros comienza a darse nominalmente, por primera vez en la Argentina hay mas matriculación universitaria de mujeres que de hombres, lo mismo a nivel de la escuela secundaria, pero esto no es óbice para que en los diez años siguientes a la graduación la tasa de empleabilidad del hombre y el salario es un 30 % mas. Las razones son que en esos años tan fructíferos desde la perspectiva profesional, las mujeres siguen siendo las cuidadoras de hijos y las que resignan. Así aun en la argentina, la legislación no ha avanzado en cuanto a la misma cantidad de días de licencia entre hombre y mujer al nacimiento. Este es un objetivo a conseguir en el corto plazo en el parlamento nacional.

El problema de los países que interfieren Estado y religión se genera una situación de exclusión de la mujer de la vida. Las escenas de lapidación, de impedimento de las mujeres de manejar, de salir a la calle, de caminar atrás de los hombres debe ser un tema a tratar y a resolver. Las campañas deben de ser fuertes y agresivas para que los países sientan el peso de la sanción hacia estas conductas brutales que sufren las mujeres, especialmente adolescentes. Es por ello que las políticas de asignaciones monetarias que no interpelen la cuestión del ambiente social, de la capacidad de acceso a la educación y a un trabajo decente, los ritos culturales y la forma en que se construye el poder social son todos componentes fundamentales para comprender que la pobreza no se combate solo con comida.

## *Summary* in English

Poverty is not fought only with food. The struggle to overcome poverty requires a deeper social construct, beyond food, and this can be reached by gender perspective which builds equality. Women's difficulties to access the labor market should be compensated by active policies that enable them to have educational placements for their children, or a universal income to enable them to stay home longer when the children are young, without losing the opportunity to return to the labor market. The goal of gender equality is becoming a reality: for the first time in Argentina there is more university enrollment of women than men, but men's employability and salary are 30% more than those of women and in these fruitful years, women are still the caretakers of the children. In countries where state and religion are one, a situation of exclusion of women in life is generated. Campaigns should be tough so that countries feel the weight of the penalty for brutal behavior against women.

These are all key components to understanding that poverty is fought with tools other than food.

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### **Dr. Sergei Zelenev**

Executive Director, International Council on Social Welfare

*Dr. Sergei Zelenev is a Special Representative of the ICSW to the United Nations in New York and an international expert on social policy. For almost three decades, Dr. Zelenev worked for the United Nations, both at the Headquarters in New York and in the field, in Africa and in the Caribbean. His international career with the UN Secretariat involved a range of functions, including research and policy analysis of various socio-economic issues and strengthening the capacity of the member states in social policy formulation and implementation. He assumed various managerial duties in the UN, including positions as Director of the UN International Research Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Head of the Social Integration Branch in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He has written widely in the areas of social inclusion, economic development, ageing, youth and family and directed numerous UN/DESA studies on key policy issues.*

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## The gender agenda: the quest for dignity

A high-profile international development program of the next generation is now in the making. This new framework, embodying the vision of sustainable, inclusive and transformative development endorsed by the Rio+20 Conference and other international meetings, will become a direct successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It will constitute an overarching political agenda and a new promise of the international community to improve the human condition through collaborative efforts.

A global measure of overall progress towards gender equality and empowerment of women is a difficult, if not impossible task; it is much more practical to use some indicators of incremental progress. Let me start with some specific figures that illustrate the dynamics in implementing the MDGs in the context of gender equality. The annual Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, produced by the United Nations, underscores some salient indicators concerning several MDG targets that have already been met or are within close reach – the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day have been halved at the global level, falling from 47 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2010; over 2 billion people gained access to improved sources of drinking water; between 2000 and 2010 mortality from malaria fell by more than 25 per cent globally, death rates from tuberculosis are likely to be halved by 2015, and the target of halving the percentage of people suffering from hunger by 2015 appears to be within reach.

There have been big gains in child survival and reduction of maternal mortality by 47 per cent over the last two decades.<sup>1</sup> Progress in many other MDG-related areas has been real, making both women and men around the world beneficiaries of socio-economic development. In many cases the progress has accelerated due to targeted efforts undertaken at the national level within MDG frameworks. But the situation clearly varies from country to country and from region to region.

Overall, despite the impressive achievements at the global level, there is no reason for complacency – 1.2 billion people in the world are still living in extreme poverty and there are numerous goals and targets that have not been achieved in other MDG-related areas. Moreover, the progress in poverty reduction has been very uneven and should be also viewed realistically. With the exceptions of China and East Asia, and to some extent India, which has made significant strides reducing the number of people living in abject poverty, the global poverty levels declined in the last two decades insignificantly, and in the case of sub-Saharan Africa, the situation remains grave – almost half of the population lives on \$1.25 dollars a day; in absolute terms the number of people in this region living in extreme poverty has increased from 290 million in 1990 to 414 million in 2010.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, Sales No: E.13.I.9, New York 2013, p.4

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p.7

There is another dimension that should not be overlooked – difficulty in measurements of who could be classified as “poor”. Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon and has numerous manifestations beyond low income, namely hunger and malnutrition, ill health, limited access to social services and various other deprivations. When poverty in terms of income is used as a key benchmark for measuring and monitoring, such an approach highlights only one part of a much bigger picture and ignores deficits within the other dimensions of well-being that often exist at levels of income well above the poverty line. Given that in many countries women are facing multiple deprivations and structural disadvantages, a reduction in the number of absolute poor – though welcome in itself – is not sufficient to gauge the progress in poverty reduction across the board, in the absence of gender-disaggregated data. Much depends on the level of the cost-of-living assessments at the national level and comparability of data globally. In many cases it may be advisable to revise poverty lines set now at \$1.25 upward, which would entail changes in the global picture.<sup>3</sup>

Promoting equality of access to education addressed under Goal 3 of the MDG framework, namely “Promote gender equality and empower women” has been one of the areas where much effort has been invested on the global scale. Equality in access to education has been high on the agenda of many countries, but results have been mixed, particularly when assessed against the achievement of specific quantitative indicators, such as ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education, or share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. The educational gender gap between boys and girls still exists despite progress made. For example, the gender ratio (female to male) for average years of schooling in Sub-Saharan Africa increased from 77.2 per cent in 1990 to 80 per cent in 2010. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the gender ratio was 97.2 per cent in 1990 and 98.4 per cent in 2010. In Europe and Central Asia, the gender ratio increased from 91.4 to 98.3 per cent and in East Asia and the Pacific, the gender ratio was 88.3 per cent in 1990 and 88.5 per cent in 2010.<sup>4</sup> Gender disparities become more marked at secondary, and particularly tertiary, level compared to lower levels of education. In general, the visible gender disparities in tertiary education are found in countries with low levels of enrolment – in countries where girls are at a disadvantage during the childhood years, they continue to face barriers in education later in life.<sup>5</sup> Education is a human right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of gender equality and empowerment.

The comparison of years 2011 and 1990 in terms of non-agricultural wage employment reveals that progress achieved in women’s access to the labor market has not been universal. While in developed regions in 2011 women gained additional ground and employment constituted 48 per cent of all employees compared to 35 in 1990, in other regions the situation was much less encouraging in Latin America

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<sup>3</sup> There are debates among the economists whether the standards of the “rich world” or “the poor world” be used in setting the global poverty line in the future. See for example, Angus Deaton

<sup>4</sup> United Nation. General Assembly, sixty-eighth session. World social situation 2013: inequality matters, Doc. A/68/215 dated 29 July 2013, para.17

<sup>5</sup> The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, op.cit., p.19.

and the Caribbean the increase was 44 per cent against 38 per cent respectively; in Eastern Asia 42 per cent against 38 per cent, in Sub-Saharan Africa – 33 per cent against 42 per cent. In Western Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia the share of women in employment was under 20 per cent. The gender gap in employment persists, with a 24.8 percentage point difference between men and women in the employment-to population ratio in 2012.<sup>6</sup> The upward trajectory of labour force participation of women shows that labour markets have become more open to them, which signifies a substantial ongoing change in social attitudes. Greater openness in this regard, however, does not automatically lead to achieving gender equality, as other key factors have to be addressed – such as safety of employment, its duration, existing occupational segregation, and the wage gap – to name just a few. The quality of jobs that many women workers are able to get are noticeably low. Quite often women are forced to take up low-pay and precarious work either because that is the only type of job available, or because they need a job that may help them to balance work and family responsibilities.

Goal 5 of the MDGs seeks to improve the situation with maternal mortality – a phenomenon which has been described in the literature as “the ultimate illustration of the circle of human rights abuse – deprivation, exclusion, insecurity and powerlessness – which defines and perpetuates poverty”.<sup>7</sup>

There is a strong correlation between high maternal mortality and unequal access to adequate education and nutrition, experienced by women, as well as inadequate health facilities, exacerbated by curbs on women’s mobility that limit access to antenatal and obstetric emergency treatment.<sup>8</sup> On the other hand, the progress in this area is not only a reflection of improvements in health infrastructure, but also on the broadening of the range of health care services and quality of care for women. According to the UN, maternal mortality has declined by nearly half since 1990, and in Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia it has declined by around two thirds.<sup>9</sup> Overall, however, it falls far short of the MDG target of 75 per cent global-level reduction of maternal mortality envisaged by the MDG framework by 2015. Strengthening gender perspective in public health systems, along with targeted measures, can facilitate faster improvements in this. While gender equality is an important goal in its own right, gender inequality has substantial costs to countries in economic, social, political and moral terms. The progress that has been achieved in the health and education of women or more political influence that women have been acquiring at the national levels should not obscure the enormous scale of what has not yet been achieved due to entrenched and deeply-rooted gender inequality. Ending violence against women and girls, improving the plight of rural women, banishing gender stereotypes and making empowerment of women not only a nice

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 9 20

<sup>7</sup> Irene Khan. *The Unheard Truth: Poverty and Human Rights*. Amnesty International, p. 124<sup>8</sup>  
UN DESA. *Committee for Development Policy. Implementing the Millennium Development Goals: Health Inequality and the Role of Global Health Partnerships*, United Nations, 2009, p. 25-27

<sup>9</sup> The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013, p.28

slogan but a real policy, are just small parts of the gender agenda for today and tomorrow. If we are serious in articulating a development agenda for post-2015, where “no-one-is-left-behind”, then the quest for new thinking and new approaches becomes as vital as closing the existing gender gaps.

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# *Summing up*

## **Session 1**

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*This first Plenary Session allowed for reflection on what has been done, and the work still ahead of us, regarding the MDGs.*

*The presentations were followed by enthusiastic participation from the audience with questions and comments from representatives of Guatemala, Dominican Republic, UN HABITAT, Ecuador, Italy-Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the UN office in Nairobi and Israel.*

*The Chair, H.E Ms. Roman Tesfaye, summarized by saying that we can understand that while there are some goals that have been attempted to be achieved, there are some problems that have been doubled or tripled. By reviewing what has been accomplished we gain an indication of the real and workable targets that need to be put in place on the post-2015 Agenda.*

*The Chair concluded the session by saying that the topics considered in this Plenary will serve as stepping stones for the discussions ahead.*

# from Plenary Session 2



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1. Ambassador Daniel Carmon, MASHAV; Ms. Tracy Gough, UNDP; Hon. Ms. Rovana Plumb, Romania; Dr. Ebun A. Jusu, Sierra Leone
2. Hon. Ms. Rovana Plumb
3. Ms. Bani Dugal, Bahá'í International Community's UN Office
4. Ms. Glenda Roxana Soto Rubio, Ecuador & Mrs. Aura Saturnina Toribio Díaz, Dominican Republic
5. Ms. Kathy Kaaf, Germany
6. Dr. Ebun A. Jusu

# **Integrating a gender equality perspective into the post-2015 development and the SDGs: Exploring strategies and entry points**

Chair

**Hon. Ms. Rovana Plumb**

Minister of Environment and Climate Change, **Romania**

Presentations

**Ms. Tracy Gough**

Gender Policy Advisor and post-2015 Focal Point, **UNDP**

**Dr. Ebum A. Jusu**

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
**Sierra Leone**

*Plenary Session 2*



## Ms. Tracy Gough

Gender Policy Advisor and post-2015 Focal Point, UNDP

*Tracy Gough is a Policy Advisor with UNDP's Gender Team, based in New York. She works on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and is part of the team that coordinated the UN Development Group national, regional and global thematic consultations on post-2015. Prior to joining UNDP, she worked with many aid organizations, including UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP and the International Rescue Committee, on gender mainstreaming, research and advocacy on a range of women's rights issues. She has lived and worked in Kenya, Rwanda and Afghanistan and also has experience working in Eastern and Central Africa and the Middle East, especially in humanitarian contexts. Tracy has a Master's degree in Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies in the UK.*

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The process of developing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda – with all its richness and seeming complexity – sets the stage on the **UN system** and **intergovernmental processes** which are currently underway...

**Civil society** too has space to push agendas more than we in our specialized institutions or political roles can. Civil society often needs support – either technical or financial, to claim the space that is open to them. Both the operational working groups and expert committees ensure there are forums for civil society consultation.

Even better is ensuring your national government has a position on GEWE (Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment) in the SDGs. One way to do this is to work with women's organizations, women's ministries and UN agencies and civil society at the national level, to raise awareness and lobby for that dimension to be part of your government's negotiating position.

For those of you from countries which held national post-2015 consultations, perhaps there are possibilities to continue those multi-stakeholder dialogues – to ensure that the partnerships that were established via the national consultations remain active. Share information/tools/resources that can better inform your national UN negotiators about the gender dimensions of the sustainable development debates. This can mean ensuring that they have seen the UN WOMEN's goal, that they have access to other materials that provide evidence or strategies to integrate a GE perspective or which are directly linked to women's rights.

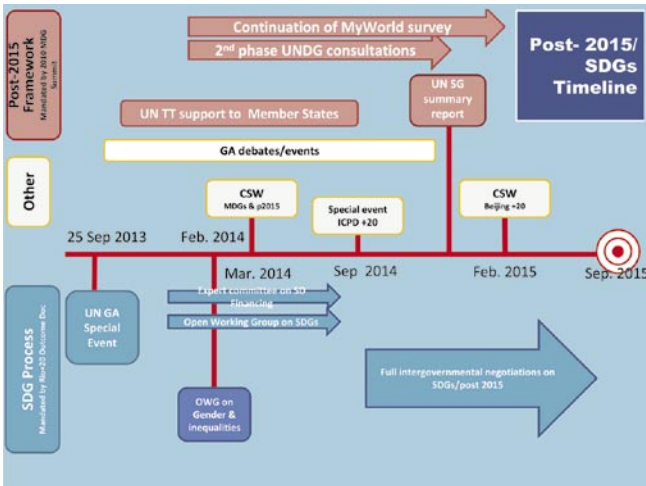
As women leaders in your own right, you have political space to generate interest in key priorities. The post-2015 agenda will be important for us all, but despite all the outreach that has been done so far, there are still many people who are not aware. It is important that we use our relative positions of influence to inform and educate. At a basic level, this could mean publicizing the Myworld survey, ([www.Myworld2015.org](http://www.Myworld2015.org)), which enables people to vote for their priorities. Some of you will also have regional level networks and these groups will also be important for agenda-setting.

From the UNDP perspective, we are more than willing to provide information to aid all these efforts.



Integrating a gender equality perspective into the post-2015 development agenda & the SDGs  
**Exploring Strategies & Entry Points: The Process**

International Conference for Women Leaders, Haifa, Israel  
 4 November 2013  
 Tracy Vaughan Gough, UNDP



### One Million Voices – Main messages

88 national consultations, 11 thematic consultations, X regional consultations, MYWorld survey  
[www.worldwewant.org](http://www.worldwewant.org)

- People demand a role in shaping their world
- MDG issues still critical, more ambition, urgency
- Injustice due to **growing inequalities** /insecurities
- An agenda built on **human rights, equality, justice, security**
- **Complex, interlinked challenges require a sustainable development agenda** - integrated, holistic & **universal**
- **Broader** agenda: Inclusive growth/jobs: environmental sustainability, better governance, protection from crime & violence
- **Data revolution** to support an **accountability revolution**

### On gender equality – emerging themes

- **Continued relevance** of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to achieve sustainable development
- **Sex and age-disaggregated data (SADD)**
- GEWE seen as **precondition for achieving other agendas**
- All key reports: HLP, SDSN, UNGC propose a gender equality goal
  - Sex disaggregated data
  - Gender mainstreaming
  - VAW

*"Strengthening gender equality, an important precondition for accelerating progress to reduce food insecurity, hunger & malnutrition"*  
 Issues paper on Hunger, Nutrition & Food Security

### National consultations...issues raised

- **Quality** rather than quantity: *Egypt*
- **Gender discrimination** commonly mentioned
  - sex selective abortions: *Albania*
  - lack of access to financial resources/social services: *Iraq*
  - labor laws: *Egypt*
- **GBV/ work sexual harassment**: *Ecuador, Turkey, Mauritius, Uganda, Zambia*
- **Reproductive health rights and information**: *Pakistan, Albania, Peru*
- **Gender balance through education beyond primary**: *Turkey*
- **Gender responsive budgeting**: *Turkey*



## One Million Voices


"In our town, we have a river that changes color once a year because of industrial waste of the local plan. Yet all the environmental fees paid by the plant are somehow channeled to other regions of the country"

Young woman, town hall discussion, Armenia

*"I imagine a future full of rights where there is no gender discrimination, where law is enforced regardless of preferences, where life is truly equal"*


University Student, Ankara, Turkey

Young Indigenous woman, Ecuador

United Nations Development Programme 

## UN SG's report

- Women & girls: **"major drivers of development"**
- **Significant challenges to achieving Gender equality /Women's rights:** education, lack of decent work & opportunities in decision-making, GBV.
- **"The common ground ... far outweighs any differences...**it is possible to see the emerging outlines of a new ... agenda: **universal in nature yet responsive** to the complexities, needs & capacities of individual countries & regions; bold in ambition but simple in design; **combining the economic, social & environmental dimensions while putting the highest priority on ending poverty & reducing inequality; protective of the planet...;** rights-based, with particular emphasis on women, young people & marginalized groups."

United Nations Development Programme 

**"Gender equality is crucial to human progress. None of us can progress if we leave half of humanity behind"**

John Ashe, President of the General Assembly  
24 September 2013 – Closing remarks at HLPF meeting

United Nations Development Programme 

## Opportunities & entry points in post 2015

- Support for **civil society engagement/lobbying** at national, regional and global levels
- Strengthening **national consensus for gender-responsive SDGs** – informing UN negotiators
- Networking and **building alliances**
- Information-sharing – **influencing**
  - [www.Myworld2015.org](http://www.Myworld2015.org) survey
  - [www.worldwewant2015.org](http://www.worldwewant2015.org)


## **Dr. Ebum A. Jusu**

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,  
Sierra Leone

*Dr. Ebum Adebola Jusu is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Sierra Leone. She is responsible for the daily supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, along with the Minister. She has a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from the University of Georgia, a Masters in International Law from Georgetown University and is a Barrister at Law from the Sierra Leone Law School.*

*She has attended and participated in several international conferences, in particular the Meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea, the 38th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Kazakhstan, the 66th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers in Abuja, Nigeria and the United Nations General Assemblies.*

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 The responsibility for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals and all the other international instruments for the advancement and empowerment of women still remains the primary responsibility of national governments. However, the United Nations General Assembly, in its gamut of resolutions, has always urged member states to take appropriate action to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to remove all barriers that stifle their full enjoyment of political and economic rights.

In discussing the topic “Ensuring the Means of Implementation for the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, with its specific relation to the gender equality agenda, I would use the opportunity to examine this topic with particular reference to Sierra Leone. My government realizes that there cannot be any meaningful economic development without the equal participation of women in the development of the country.

Until recently, Sierra Leone was a highly patriarchal society, where the 52% female population is subjected to institutionalized gender inequalities, exacerbated by discriminatory cultural practices, particularly in relation to marriage, property rights and sexual offences. Women and girls have limited access to education, justice, health care and political decision making. The discriminatory practices in these areas have created barriers to women’s full participation in the economic development of the country. Women have been subjected to discrimination in terms of access to education, resulting in high levels of illiteracy and consequently limited employment opportunities. Discriminatory access to justice has also resulted in limited access to property rights and positions of decision making, affecting the upward mobility of women in political office.

The country recently created its **Agenda for Prosperity**, a deliberate government policy – to lift the country out of poverty. The **Agenda for Prosperity** is composed of eight pillars. Pillar 8 is dedicated to gender equality and women’s empowerment, making specific provisions for the mainstreaming of gender in all government programs, to ensure especially the economic emancipation of women and their full participation in the national development of the country.

The **Agenda for Prosperity** is the policy document responsible for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, particularly as it pertains to women’s issues. The country has placed such importance on this issue that a gender equality act was propagated in 2011 and a special Office for Gender Affairs was created in the Office of the President to monitor the implementation of the act and the gender pillar of the **Agenda for Prosperity**. The gender adviser to the Office of the President convenes bi-monthly meetings of the pillar working groups, consisting of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and development partners that provide support to the pillar programmes.

Towards the implementation of the gender equality act, the government has instituted several reforms within the financial, social and political policies in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is basically a rural economy with about 50% of the female population living in the rural areas and involved in subsistence farming. The government has therefore implemented policies and programs geared towards providing an enabling environment for agricultural sustainability.

The basic commodity in agriculture is land. The enforcement of the 2006 **Developing of Estates Act** now gives women the right to acquire, own and dispose of real and personal property, with particular reference to land ownership. The opportunity to own land has created wealth, in that the land can be used for agriculture purposes, as collateral for loans and as a valuable asset for other economic activities. With increasing numbers of Sierra Leone women constituting heads of households, improving their livelihood and income generating capabilities remains critical for reducing poverty and enhancing national economic development.

There is also renewed focus on the provision of access to financial services as a tool for enhancing women’s economic social and political empowerment. The majority of poor women in the rural areas do not have access to commercial banks, partly because of strict banking rules on credit delivery and the limited outreach of banking services. The availability of micro credit is a new phenomenon that creates access to working capital, while also providing training to small scale business women to mobilize their productive capacity to alleviate poverty and maximize economic output. Microfinance institutions created by banks and NGOs provide individual and group loans. Another means of financing is the “Osusu”, operated by saving and credit associations to provide loans to women on a rotating basis.

**Education and capacity building for gender equality** – the importance of women’s and girls’ education is directly linked to transforming communities. The government has instituted a free education policy for the girl child in grade schools and free university education for girls in the sciences at universities. Illiterate women are also given the opportunity to train in the **Barefoot women solar engineers initiative**, where the government, in partnership with the Government of India, instituted the



solar training college, managed by twelve illiterate community women. The women initially benefitted from a six month solar training programme in Telonia, India and now train other women to provide rural electrification based on solar energy throughout Sierra Leone. The aim is to train 15,000 unemployed men, women and youth in income-generation micro-enterprise activities to create products for rural communities.

Still on energy, the Mano River Union, a sub regional group of four countries in West Africa, comprising Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Ivory Coast, held a high level conference on **“Women’s Economic Empowerment through Energy Access in the MRU Sub-Region”**, an initiative aimed at creating a sub-regional action plan to support economic development through environmentally and socially acceptable means. The initiative will also provide practical training on gender mainstreaming in renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and projects, with a view to equipping participants with necessary skills to contribute to the development of the sub-regional gender action plan on energy and women’s empowerment.

Other initiatives in capacity building for gender equality include training for women in government institutions, in order to enhance their capacities and opportunity for upward mobility: the establishment of adult education centers to educate and train adult women in basic education and skills training in trades such as catering and hospitality, Gara cloth dying, mechanics, etc., to enhance their employability and earning capacity.

### **Sex-disaggregated data**

The government of Sierra Leone is committed to collecting relevant data to measure progress made in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Gender Affairs and the Gender Adviser in the Office of the President are charged with the responsibility of providing the services for data collection, monitoring and evaluation of the information.

This is done at three levels:

1. On the activity level, all activities are monitored by project implementers and the final result and outputs are measured against the given targets.
2. On the outcome level, the overall monitoring of outcomes and objectives are collected nationwide and evaluated by the government, in collaboration with our development partners.
3. The end results are then aligned to the strategic priorities and actions identified in the gender equality and women’s empowerment pillar of the agenda for prosperity.

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# *Summing up*

## **Session 2**

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*After questions from representatives of UN WOMEN, Costa Rica, the Baha'i International Community's UN Office, MASHAV, Papua New Guinea, UNON, Ethiopia, Germany and UN HABITAT, a fresh review of the current situation in Romania and Europe was provided by the Chair.*

*In order to improve women's condition we should discuss not only sustainable development but also green and smart growth, which must be gender balanced.*

*We have to take into consideration each nation and each region, in order to draw up an appropriate approach. The post-2015 MDGs framework has to set ambitious targets to close gender gaps by ensuring advances in women's empowerment and gender equality, through participation in decision making, preventing and criminalizing violence against women, insuring universal access to and completion of quality education at all levels, eliminating female illiteracy and creating employment possibilities, career development, representation of women in politics and economic activity through ownership and inheritance rights.*

*The Plenary finished on the optimistic note that together we can achieve what we want to establish, and make things happen.*

# **The empowerment of women and girls and the enjoyment of their rights within the next development framework: Priority areas for the post-2015 development agenda**

Chair

**Hon. Ms. Loujaya Kouza**

Minister for Religion, Youth & Community Development, **Papua New Guinea**

Presentations

**Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira**

Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General for **UN HABITAT**

**Ms. Christine Musisi**

Regional Director for Eastern & South Africa, **UN WOMEN**

**Ms. Menissa Rambally**

Permanent Representative to the United Nations, **St. Lucia**

**Hon. Prof. Amsatou Sow Sidibe**

Ministre conseillère Présidentielle, **Senegal**

**Ms. Ingrid Cumming**

Director and CED, Kart Koort Wiern, **Australia**

**Dr. Esohe Aghatisé**

Coalition against Trafficking in Women, **Italy/Nigeria**

*Plenary Session 3*



## **Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira**

Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General  
UN HABITAT

*Before joining UN-Habitat at the end of 2011, Dr. Kirabo was the Governor of Eastern Province, the largest province in Rwanda with a population of 2.5 million. Previously, she was Mayor of Kigali City (2006 - 2011), one of the fastest urbanizing cities in the world. In recognition of the high level of cleanliness, greenery, safety and the sustainable, affordable housing initiatives, combined with pro-poor urban employment opportunities, under Ms. Kirabo's leadership, Kigali won the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award in 2008.*

*Prior to her position as Mayor, Dr. Kirabo was an Elected Member of Parliament (and member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee in charge of land use and management, settlement and environment); she actively participated in the legislative and over-sight functions of parliament, in addition to community mobilization.*

*Dr. Kirabo was educated at James Cook University, Australia where she gained her Masters in Veterinary Science in Animal Production and Economics and at Makerere University, Uganda where she gained her Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine. She is currently pursuing an MBA in the School of Finance and Banking, Rwanda/Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands. She is married and has four children.*

*W*

We are meeting at a time when momentum for change to end violence against women and girls is stronger and more widespread than ever before. We have all witnessed the public outrage sparked by the recent brutal gang rape and death of a young woman in India and more recently in Tahrir Square in Cairo.

There is a worldwide call to action to end the impunity and protect the rights of women and girls to live free of violence and discrimination.

The world's attention is focused on the pervasive sexual violence and harassment faced by women and girls in public spaces, particularly in urban areas, every single day, just by going about their daily lives.

Violence against women in the private domain is widely recognized as a human rights violation. But sexual violence and harassment against women in public spaces remains largely unaddressed, with few laws or policies in place to address it. It is time for these issues to come front and center as a priority on every policy agenda.

Violence in any form denies women and girls their freedom and their right to be full and equal participants in virtually every aspect of life: from education, to work, to recreation, to public and political life. When women and girls live under fear of violence, there can be no talk of progress towards gender equality, sustainable development, justice, or democracy.

With leading women's organizations, including Women in Cities International, the Huairou Commission, Jagori and Women and Habitat Network in Latin America, Plan International, Action Aid and many others, UN-WOMEN, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT are placing gender equality, women's empowerment and safety of women in public spaces within the activities of the UN-HABITAT's Global Network on Safer Cities.

In partnership with UN WOMEN, UN-HABITAT launched the programmes in 2010 in five pilot cities: Quito, New Delhi, Kigali, Port Moresby, and Cairo. One year later, UN WOMEN and UN HABITAT partnered with UNICEF on the joint programme "Safe and Sustainable Cities," which is underway in eight cities: Greater Beirut (Lebanon); Dushanbe (Tajikistan); Metro Manila (Philippines); Marrakesh (Morocco); Nairobi (Kenya); Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); San José (Costa Rica) and Tegucigalpa (Honduras).

We are working together with sister UN agencies, women's networks, civil society organizations, research institutes and the private sector to promote systematic, human rights based, and multi-sectoral and multi-level approaches.

The growing evidence shows that whether New York or Port Moresby, Cairo or New Delhi, this form of gender based violence affects women and girls every day and everywhere: on the street, in buses and subways, in markets, and recreational areas, near schools, and in parking lots.

With the Safer Cities programme, UN-HABITAT, in partnership with UN WOMEN and UNICEF, is mobilizing partnerships, generating innovation, and advancing progress for women's empowerment and gender equality.

Several results have been achieved:

In Quito, findings from the Safe City programme scoping study and the Cartas de Mujeres Campaign led to the adoption of a pioneering amendment to a city ordinance on sexual violence and harassment in public spaces.

As a result of Cairo's Safe City Programme in 2012, Egypt's Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development adopted women's safety audits into its urban planning, which allow for consultations with local women to identify safe and unsafe areas in their communities.

Despite these important achievements, the issue of violence against women in public spaces remains under-recognized and under-resourced. We need to ask: should a post-2015 agreement include a specific focus on violence against women? Indeed, should there be a gender equality goal? My answer to both questions is a resounding 'yes'. **Ensuring the human rights of women and girls should not be an optional development goal. It has to be a national and global commitment.**

A future gender goal must be part of any discussion on the purpose of a global framework, its achievements and its impact. Gender should be mainstreamed across goals and a specific gender goal with the empowerment of women at its core should exist in the post MDG framework. **Such a goal will allow us to hold governments and the international community to account** in ensuring progress is made and in bringing about a fundamental change in attitudes towards violence against women.

### **Some alarming statistics:**

- ◆ Globally, 60% to 70% of all residents in cities and towns have been victims of crime, at least once over the past 5 years.
  - ◆ In Lima, only 12% of women report they can move around freely without fear of harassment.
  - ◆ In Buenos Aires, 70% of women feel insecure at night.
  - ◆ In New Delhi, a baseline study conducted in 2010 reveals that 66% of women surveyed report experiencing sexual harassment between 2-5 times in the past year.<sup>1</sup>
  - ◆ In Delhi, 31% of women reported feeling unsafe in public transport and 40% considered that the roadside was the most unsafe place.
  - ◆ In South Africa, 79% of women felt unsafe in public areas and 33% felt most unsafe in public transport facilities and at bus stops and train stations.
  - ◆ In Cairo, 40% of girls reported that they felt unsafe in public spaces and 40% of girls reported 'never' feeling safe on public transport. Girls' mobility is often limited to the household, school /work, market (household needs), and the mosque.
  - ◆ In Tegucigalpa, a Scoping Study conducted in 2011, in conjunction with the National Observatory of Violence, shows that the majority of child abuse, including sexual abuse, is perpetrated against girls aged 10-14.<sup>2</sup>
  - ◆ In Quito, a Scoping Study conducted in 2011, reveals that 68.4% of women surveyed indicate that they had at least once been the victims of sexual harassment.<sup>3</sup>
  - ◆ In Lima, only 2.2% and in Hanoi only 8% of girls reported always feeling safe when walking in public spaces.
  - ◆ Only 3.3% of girls reported always feeling safe when using public transportation in Delhi.
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<sup>1</sup> JAGORI and UN WOMEN (2010). Report on the Baseline Survey.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, UN WOMEN, HONDURAS NAT. OBSERVATORY OF VIOLENCE (2011) 'Retratos de la Vida' Report. Tegucigalpa Safe Cities Programme.


<sup>3</sup> UN WOMEN (2012). Scoping Study on Sexual Harassment in Quitumbe and El Afaro. Quito Safe City Programme, Fundacion Patronato San Jose, in collaboration with UN WOMEN.

## **Ms. Christine Musisi**

Regional Director for Eastern & South Africa – UN WOMEN

*Christine Musisi joined UN WOMEN as Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa Region in April, 2012. Between 2008-2012, she was the Deputy Country Director for UNDP Ethiopia. She served as Deputy Head of the Policy & Technical Cluster of UNDP's Regional Centre in Johannesburg. Prior to this, she worked as Senior Policy Advisor on Poverty Reduction, Civil Society Empowerment and Gender, covering Eastern and Southern Africa (Johannesburg) and Eastern Europe and CIS (Slovakia). She worked, as Chief Technical Advisor for the Participatory Poverty Alleviation Programme of the UNDP Gender in Development Bureau in Kyrgyzstan (1998 – 2001) and as Gender Specialist for the Government of Mongolia's Poverty Reduction Programme (1996 – 1998). Christine worked as Programme Officer for a development consulting firm (UNECIA, 1992 – 1995), and the Health Education Authority in the UK. She also worked as WID Officer with the Ministry of Women in Development in Uganda.*

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 Our vision as UN WOMEN in Africa is to bring women to the heart of Africa's development and transformation. Putting sentences in our key strategic documents is not enough, we would like to put gender equality and women's empowerment right at the center of development and ensure that every woman and girl in Africa and the world is empowered to reach their destiny.

For this to happen it is important that we look at our approaches to gender equality and women's empowerment; we need to understand that it is not a favor to women but it is their right and not just their right or the right thing to do, it is also the smart thing to do. We have studies that indicate that the gender gaps in Africa cost the continent up to 255 billion dollars a year. A study which we are completing with the UN Economic Commission for Africa is proving that violence against women, specific intimate partner violence, is costing us up to 1 to 2 percent of the GDP. A study by the Food and Agriculture Organization found that in Kenya, for example, if the same agriculture inputs that were given to men had been given equally to women, this could have increased production by about 20%. We are currently conducting a cost of the gender gap study in Rwanda and Kenya to see what it costs the government and the people by not investing in women.

As we deliberate on the post-2015 development framework it is really important to understand that we are not only advocating that agenda is mainstreamed in the other goals but we should see it as a central part of all the other goals. Mainstreaming is not about ticking a little target here and an indicator here. The continent of Africa, which hosts a sixth of the world's fastest growing economies, is itself growing 5.5% amidst global economic crises, where the average growth rate is, I think, is about 3%. However, this growth does not translate into employment generation or poverty reduction and the African continent hosts 30% of the world's poorest, the majority

of whom are women, so it's not a lack of resources or a lack of growth, but the approach that we need to look at.

Africa's Vision 2063 is very progressive; it sees an integrated, peaceful, prosperous continent, driven by its citizens and playing a dynamic role in the global arena. This vision will elude us unless women are brought to the center of the continent's transformation. I'm focusing mainly on women's economic empowerment, which we see as one of the most strategic innovations, because an economically independent and empowered woman is able to move out of situations of violence, to ensure food security for the family, to ensure her children go to school and are kept in good health, and can rise up in society into positions of leadership. As decision makers, women can promote the economic transformation agenda, framed in the context of sustainability. There is a saying that behind every successful man is a ... great woman, but if you bring this great woman to the same level as the successful man, she will be successful, he will be successful, and we will all be successful, so why are we keeping that woman behind?

If the post-2015 development framework is to bring women to the center of development and transformation, our approaches to economic empowerment of women should also change and become more transformative.

I have four issues to share with you. We have tended to look at women largely as vulnerable, and this pushes our investments more toward marginal contributions and a projective approach, so that while the country's development plan looks at the industrial development plan and the agriculture transformation plan, we have little projects here for women and this should not be tolerated any more. We must explore opportunities for women to participate in the key drivers of the economy, through agriculture, the service industries and trade. Investment in women's entrepreneurship, education, labor saving technologies, financing and land and many others, are not project issues but policy matters that must be addressed as a national priority and enforced through legislation, as a prerequisite to development. Only then can we witness real transformation in our economies and societies.

The second area I want to share is agriculture in Africa. Agriculture is a strategic entry point for women's empowerment, considering that up to 80% of women in many countries live in rural areas and contribute up to 70% of agriculture labor and 90% of food, although they own only 1% of the land. In addition agriculture in many African countries provides up to 50% of GDP, so considering the growing demand for food it is most strategic for us to invest in commercializing women's agriculture. Combining any entrepreneurship and enterprise development services with investment in greenhouse technologies – drip irrigation systems, mobile extensions and marketing services - appears to be very effective in enhancing women's agriculture production and productivity. Many of us have been helping to set up little revolving funds for women, which limit them to a small amount of \$50 credit. We need to start linking up with financial institutions which have wide coverage that can actually reduce the costs of financial services, but also increase outreach to more people and address the structure barriers, as access to land, both privately and through public solutions, is absolutely critical.

And while ensuring that women have the capacity to access local and international markets for processed, well packaged quality products is important, the third area I want to share is the extracting industry, which is becoming a major driver for economic development in Africa. However, as the Africa mining vision is totally gender blind, we must engage with governments and extracting companies to ensure that women participate equally, not just as employees but also as business owners, across the extractive value chain, with options for small-scale mining with women-friendly labor and time saving technologies. We must also seek to transform the mechanisms for displacement of communities in mining areas, which give funds to men who utilize them either for beverages or for marrying other wives and leave their families destitute. We must explore the possibilities of establishing alternative local economies which equally target women and can help them benefit from the existence of the extractive industries.

A fourth strategy that is critical for women's economic empowerment is investment in the girl child. If we do not address the barriers to girl child food development and empowerment, we will soon have a lost generation. Through our regional women's economic empowerment program, UN WOMEN is working with various partners to move toward the most strategic approach to women's economic empowerment and we are combining this with building women's leadership through the African Center for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership, in partnership with Kenyatta University, which trains mentors and supports women leaders to successfully implement their personal and society transformation plans. Among many partners, we are privileged to partner with MASHAV and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center in this initiative.

UN WOMEN believes that economic empowerment of women is a powerful vehicle in addressing other inequalities and propelling women into leadership and that an economically empowered woman is more confident to lead and assert her rights and the rights of girls and women in her family, community and nation. An economically empowered woman has the potential to change the face of business, the face of politics and the face of society for the common good.

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## **Ms. Menissa Rambally**

Permanent Representative to the United Nations, ST. LUCIA

*At thirty-six years of age, Menissa Rambally can be considered a veteran of St. Lucia and Caribbean politics. She has reached almost every peak of political endeavor, serving her island as an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly, a Minister of Government, a member of her party's Executive Council, a crusading speaker on issues impacting quality of life across the Caribbean and more recently, a Political Consultant and Social Policy Adviser in the wider Caribbean.*

*Ms. Rambally rewrote the pages of Caribbean history when she was first elected to the St. Lucia Parliament at age 21; making her the youngest elected Member of Parliament throughout the English speaking Commonwealth. Three years later, she went on to become the youngest person in contemporary Caribbean politics to hold full Ministerial office.*

*For two years she presided over the number one driving force behind the growth of the St. Lucia economy – the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. Later, she navigated the path of development of the Ministry of Social Transformation, which oversees management of all state run social service entities in St. Lucia, including Local Government, Community Empowerment, Non-Governmental Organizations, benevolent funds and social institutions.*

*Considered by many as a role model for women and youth, Ms. Rambally believes in equality of reward and opportunity for all.*

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**J**I started my public life when I became the youngest elected Member of Parliament in the Caribbean and the Commonwealth. At 21, I had a very interesting journey, a tremendous learning experience which took me right back to the basics. I start by suggesting to you one of the outcomes I would like to see going forward in the post-2015 development framework, as I am here today and was empowered as a girl, only because of the strength of family. In the context of the dialog that we are having on gender balance and gender equality, I really would like to see that we put in perspective the need to focus post-2015 partly on what I believe is the root, the need to influence the family.

We speak of empowering women, we speak of quotas, we speak of having more women in our parliaments, but to ensure that process becomes a reality, the influence really has to start with the basics. When women like myself have had to engage on the doorsteps to convince the electorate that we are deserving of their votes, it is that influence of the family, of the boy, of the girl, that ultimately helps in the decision making process. I share this with you today because at every level of decision making we seek to find answers to the challenges that we are faced with. We spent the last decade or so dealing with many of the symptoms of the problems that we face as societies.

Today in the Caribbean there has been much advancement in terms of women's participation and leadership and we are pleased to have two female prime ministers

in the Caribbean, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, which is the largest Caribbean island, is a female, and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago is a female, and throughout the parliaments of the Caribbean there is female participation. We do not have a quota system in the Caribbean because our parliaments are somewhat different, in fact in St. Lucia, where I am from, the parliament is made up of 17 seats so you could hardly imagine the dynamics of having a quota system. But all our political organizations on both sides of the fence have ensured that they have very active women's organizations. Our challenge still remains to convince a family that the woman can be a good option for representation in parliament and that is why I included the need to influence at the family level.

Today in the Caribbean region we have empowered our women but we have a flip side of the challenge; our statistics indicate that our women are out performing our men in almost every sphere of society; they are doing better at universities, they are actually getting the better jobs in the work place and so we in fact have a challenge where the men folk in our society to some extent feel vulnerable to the reality that more and more women are keeping the households economically. So we have that challenge of seeking the right balance in our very small islands, an issue that has become very real for us during my years as a Member of Parliament.

If we look at the last two decades, women have made significant strides forward; there are many more of us in parliaments, we are at a high level of achievement throughout the world in every sphere, but we still have inequalities and I believe that post-2015 we must look to ensure that we can become true partners in the process of development. In seeking to right the wrongs of the past we do want to ensure that men and women can take their rightful place within the context of the development agenda of our country.

Coming from the Caribbean region, we are mostly developing islands, small in nature, our economies are relatively small but they have emerged and are changing and posing another challenge for women in our society. I share with you another example. St. Lucia and many small islands have moved from an agricultural economy to a service-based economy, now largely dependent on tourism. I was made Minister for Tourism simply because we recognized that tourism was becoming the economic livelihood of our society and we had to use practical mechanisms to empower our women through this channel. In fact it was of benefit to the women in our society that I was not limited to be a minister for gender, for when you sit in a cabinet of ministers in the developing world there is something called "a fight for the budget" and the dynamic of putting your cards on the table becomes quite a challenge. I also served as Minister for Social Development and often it is a literal fight to ensure that your budget is approved vis à vis what may seem to be the economic priorities of your society.

So may I suggest that part of going forward has to be that we use mechanisms throughout our development sectors, to empower our women so they become tangible. The St. Lucia experience allowed us to develop a number of enterprises to empower our women folk. We developed several social development funds so women became empowered by their work places and through their abilities to earn



livelihoods for themselves because of their skills. I believe that that is really the way to go, because while ministries of gender have an important role to play we have to find some implantation mechanism to make real the empowerment that we really want to bring about.

My learning experience, still very much in process, has suggested to me that there is a need for us to look carefully at our education system which needs to evolve to become more relevant to the needs of our society. Too many of our young ladies leave school and are still not ready for the work place. I have often asked myself, where did I fall short as a policy maker in ensuring that education is not simply available, but is relevant to the evolving needs of the society? We have changed, from agriculture to services, so that our young people leave school not necessarily equipped with what is needed to enter the work place in the most dynamic way. So I would like to suggest that we are also part of the process of going forward in terms of real action and implantation strategies.

In the Caribbean we have the issue of health care which affects women in a very real way. Health care needs to become focused on preventative health care. A lot of the health care issues that we deal with in the developing world are related to life style choices. I believe in post-2015 we can begin to influence not just the symptomatic problems but the root, meaning the family, we can influence a lot of things that can now become preventative and so the policy makers who sit here around the table can begin to make a real difference in the lives of women around the world.

Our experiences may vary but ultimately we all want the advancement of women through empowerment and through real opportunities for growth. I suggest that facing all of us today, no matter whether we are from the Caribbean or from one of the larger continents, economic empowerment is vital to our sustainability. I am very thankful for the work of all the international women's organizations; I am thankful for the work of the female ministers around the world, because the world is not such a big place as we believe, and so your work throughout the world is influencing countries, big and small, to remind us that women have a place in the process of development. I believe we have proven that we have made a significant contribution to that process.

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# Hon. Prof. Amsatou Sow Sidibe

Ministre conseillère Présidentielle, Senegal

*Prof. Sow Sidibe was the first presidential candidate in 2012 in National Senegal politics. She is now the minister advising the current President. Prof. Sow Sidibe is a full tenure professor at the University of Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Dakar, where she holds the chair of Private Law, she is also the director of the university's Institute for Human Rights and Peace. After earning her undergraduate and masters degrees in Political Sciences and Law, the department of Law and Economics, UCAD, she left Senegal to continue her studies in France at the University of Paris, where she received her DEA and continued with her doctoral studies. This prominent lawyer and scholar is also a defender of human rights in general and those of women in particular. She is president of IRFET and has contributed tirelessly to the promotions of equality and valuing the role of women and development.*

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## **Politiques et programmes en faveur de l'intégration de la parité et du renforcement de la participation des femmes dans le processus de décisions politiques : domaines prioritaires dans le cadre du développement du post-2015.**

*P* Pour un bon agenda post-2015, le temps est peut être arrivé de nous inspirer de la théorie pour faire un saut qualitatif vers l'action. L'après 2015 doit être placé sous l'auspice du concret. A cet effet, quatre axes nous semblent prioritaires.

**Premier axe prioritaire est l'axe juridique.** Il se décline en trois points : l'approche droits, la loi, la justice judiciaire. **L'approche droits**, expérimentée pour l'application de la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits des enfants, nous semble la plus efficace pour la réalisation effective des droits humains. Cette approche permet de rappeler que les femmes, conformément à la convention de Vienne sur les Droits de l'Homme de 1993, sont des droits universels inaliénables et imprescriptibles. Il s'agit de droits exigibles et non de charité. Ces droits sont consignés dans des instruments juridiques internationaux et régionaux ainsi que le dispositif juridique national : la constitution, les lois et règlements. Ces droits étant exigibles, font de l'Etat le principal débiteur de l'obligation de les promouvoir, de les protéger et de les faire protéger.

D'où l'importance du cadre légal. Dans la mise en œuvre des droits on a tendance soit à reléguer au second plan le droit ou alors à le considérer comme un empêchement de tourner en rond. On a tendance à se méfier du droit et à favoriser les actions de sensibilisation. Il est certes bon de sensibiliser. Mais, la loi est par essence un

excellent moyen de mise en œuvre des droits humains, y compris, ceux de la femme. En effet, par son rôle dynamique, la loi permet d'asseoir un projet de société viable et durable. La loi a le mérite de booster les réformes.

On peut alors comprendre qu'une femme, directrice de l'Institut des Droits de l'Homme et de la Paix de l'Université Cheikh Anta DIOP de Dakar, ait pu impulser des réformes juridiques plus égalitaires, en collaboration avec ses collègues juristes. L'idée et les bases d'une loi sur la parité sont nées dans mon bureau. Deux femmes juristes, une collègue et moi-même avons jugé nécessaire de proposer une loi sur la parité. Nous avons ensuite écrit, organisé des séminaires et participé à la marche pour demander au Président de la République de faire voter la loi sur la parité.

Au Sénégal, la loi sur la parité prévoit une parité absolue hommes/femmes (50/50) dans les instances électives et semi électives. Le non respect de la parité sur les listes électorales expose, les partis politiques à l'irrecevabilité de leurs listes de candidature à l'occasion des élections.

Lorsque la loi sur la parité a été votée au Sénégal, la première réaction de grandes démocraties étaient de s'étonner que notre pays ait voté une loi sur la parité. Certains ont même pensé que c'était une bizarrerie. Aujourd'hui, la donne a changé. La Secrétaire Générale Adjointe des Nations Unies et Directrice Exécutive d'ONU-FEMMES, Madame Michèle Bachelet a loué la loi sur la parité lors de sa visite au Sénégal. Elle « félicite le Sénégal d'avoir adopté une loi historique, sur la parité des sexes, qui prévoit que la moitié des candidats aux élections locales et nationales doivent être des femmes ». Elle ajoute que « lorsque les hommes et femmes dirigent conjointement, les décisions prises reflètent mieux les différents besoins de la société auxquels ils répondent mieux aussi ».

Quels résultats ont été produits par la loi sur la parité? Lors des élections législatives de 2012, la loi sur la parité a permis d'élire 64 députées femmes sur 150 (42,5%), ce qui est une avancée notoire par rapport à la législature précédente (2007- 2012) où on comptait 37 femmes députées sur 150 (soit 24,6%). Certes, nous n'avons pas encore atteint 50% de représentation des femmes, mais on peut considérer que la loi sur la parité fait partie des bonnes pratiques et pourrait être expérimentée dans d'autres pays. Evidemment, des résistances sont encore notées au plan national. En effet, lors du renouvellement du bureau de l'Assemblée Nationale, la parité n'a pas été effective. Quelques défaillances ont été notées à cette occasion. La parité n'est pas inscrite au Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental. Dans le gouvernement, la présence des femmes est relativement faible (5 femmes /31 membres), même si le Premier Ministre est une femme. Cela signifie que si la parité commence à entrer dans les mœurs, il faut cependant veiller à l'application effective de la loi par la mise en place de mécanismes de suivi – évaluation. Au Sénégal, les organisations de la société civile, en particulier celles des femmes, ont pu obtenir de l'Etat la création d'un Observatoire National de la Parité chargé de veiller à l'application de la loi. Cet observatoire indépendant, logé à la Présidence de la République, cherche ses marques pour faire de la parité une réalité.

**Enfin, la justice judiciaire est déterminante. L'impunité** face à la violation des droits des femmes doit être vaincue. Le pouvoir judiciaire doit être une réalité pour les femmes.

Il est important que les femmes puissent obtenir la sanction judiciaire et la réparation nécessaire en cas de non respect de leurs droits fondamentaux. Ceci est une condition de la réalisation effective des droits humains des femmes et des filles.

**Le Second axe prioritaire, l'éducation, une autre exigence.** L'éducation est d'une importance capitale. D'où la nécessité de travailler sur toutes les politiques et mesures susceptibles d'assurer le maintien des filles à l'école. Dans nos pays en développement, de nombreuses contraintes constituent un handicap pour l'éducation des filles. Il s'agit, du contexte socio culturel, des stéréotypes sexistes, de la pauvreté qui favorise le travail domestique des jeunes filles, des mariages forcés et mariages précoces, des maladies, des violences à l'école qui font que beaucoup de filles quittent l'école prématurément, etc.

La lutte contre ces différents fléaux, est encore nécessaire, et doit fédérer les Etats, les familles, la Société civile et les partenaires au développement. Les Nations Unies doivent veiller à contrecarrer la privatisation, à outrance de l'école et de l'éducation. L'éducation est un droit fondamental, et à ce titre relève de la plus haute responsabilité des Etats.

L'éducation est la base du renforcement des capacités des femmes et des filles. Elle permet d'inculper outre le savoir, le savoir faire et le savoir être, l'audace sans quoi les femmes auront du mal à s'intégrer et à s'imposer dans le milieu décisionnel.

Pendant plus de 30 ans à l'université, j'ai formé des milliers de cadres. Tout en ayant atteint les grades les plus élevés dans le milieu académique : agrégée, Professeur titulaire, je n'étais pourtant pas au plus haut niveau de la prise de décision. Je n'ai pu accéder à cet espace d'initiés que lorsque j'ai osé franchir le pas en créant un parti politique dénommé Car Leenen, un parti démocrate humaniste et en me présentant à l'élection présidentielle dans mon pays en 2012. Ayant soutenu au second tour l'actuel Président de la République, je suis devenue Ministre Conseiller auprès du Président de la République chargée des Droits de Humains et de la Paix. Je m'occupe entre autres de la Paix en Casamance. A cet effet, j'ai créé un Espace Dialogue Vérité Réconciliation (EDVR), qui nécessite la même audace pour sillonner une zone de conflit. Il faut avoir de l'audace pour le faire, au nom de la recherche de la paix. Etant aux instances décisionnelles nous pouvons influencer sur les décisions et ainsi participer à la jouissance des droits dans notre société.

De manière générale, il convient de souligner l'importance de l'éducation de tous les citoyens en droits humains pour ainsi assoir une culture des droits et spécialement ceux des femmes et des filles.

**Le Troisième axe prioritaire est la lutte contre les violences et l'insécurité dont souffrent les femmes.** Les violences et l'insécurité limitent considérablement les capacités, les pouvoirs des femmes et peuvent constituer une contrainte sérieuse face au leadership féminin. Voilà pourquoi, au nom de la dignité humaine, l'une des priorités actuelles des femmes et de la communauté internationale est l'éradication des violences dont souffrent les femmes. La lutte des femmes pour un monde plus digne, pour la promotion et la protection de leurs droits fondamentaux est en effet devenue incompatible avec les multiples atteintes à l'intégrité physique et psychique dont elles sont victimes. Il est intolérable aujourd'hui que les femmes continuent

de subir des sévices et tortures tels le viol, le meurtre, le harcèlement sexuel, les mutilations génitales (excision), la prostitution forcée, les grossesses forcées, les mariages précoces et forcés, etc.

Les violences faites aux femmes sont des phénomènes criminels. La communauté internationale et notamment l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU à travers Conventions et Déclarations, exhortent les Etats à prendre en charge le phénomène des violences et à protéger les femmes contre ce fléau.

**Le quatrième axe prioritaire est l'autonomisation économique et financière des femmes.** Le leadership féminin ne peut constituer une réalité si les femmes sont sans ressources économiques et financières.

Il nous semble donc déterminant, que les femmes puissent exercer des activités génératrices de revenus. Le financement de petites et moyennes entreprises pour les femmes est une autre bonne pratique favorable à l'autonomisation des femmes. Des crédits à très faible taux d'intérêt, ou sans intérêts peuvent booster la situation économique et financière des femmes. Evidemment l'accompagnement par le renforcement des capacités des femmes demeure une nécessité.

Quant aux femmes leaders qui sont sur le terrain politique, elles ont également besoin de ressources financières. Il se pose alors la problématique du financement des femmes politiques. L'expérience de l'ancienne candidate à l'élection présidentielle que je suis montre combien la pauvreté financière des femmes peut être un handicap pour leur réussite en politique. Les Nations Unies, les Etats et les partenaires au développement sont ici interpellés. N'est-il pas possible d'user de la discrimination positive prévue par l'article 4 de la convention des Nations Unies contre toutes Formes de Discrimination à l'égard des Femmes pour venir à bout de cette difficulté ?

La coopération internationale s'invite au débat et c'est le lieu de rappeler la teneur de l'article 2 du Pacte de 1966 sur les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels qui fait référence à la coopération internationale comme acteur fondamental de la mise en œuvre et de l'effectivité de droits.

Voilà quelques pistes de réflexion autour de l'agenda Post-2015. Je reste convaincue qu'unies, nous franchirons le pas de la réalisation d'une plus grande égalité et d'une plus grande équité dans la mesure en œuvre des droits humains fondamentaux. L'union faisant la force, je réitère mon invitation faite à Mazal, à MASHAV, à l'UNDP, au Centre Golda Meir et à l'ensemble des participantes et participants à former une **coalition** pour mener à bien nos objectifs.

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## *Summary* in English

For a good post-2015 agenda, the time may have arrived to be inspired by the theory for a quantum leap into action. The post-2015 should be placed under the auspices of the concrete. To this end, four priority axes should be taken into consideration.

The first priority is the legal axis comprising of three aspects: the rights based approach, law, and judicial justice. The rights-based approach, experienced in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, seems most effective for the best realization of human rights. It is important for women and girls to obtain legal sanction and necessary repair in case of disrespect of their fundamental rights. This is a condition for the effective realization of their human rights. The second priority is education, the basis of capacity building of women and girls. The third priority is the fight against violence and insecurity faced by women, since these severely limit the capacities of women and can be a serious constraint to women's leadership. The fourth priority is the economic and financial empowerment of women, as women's leadership cannot be realized unless women have access to economic and financial resources. The union formed by this women leaders' conference is of great strength and I reiterate my invitation to all participants, to form a coalition to carry out our goals.

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## **Ms. Ingrid Cumming**

Director & CED of Kart Koort Wiern

*Ingrid Cumming is a custodian and traditional owner of Whadjuk Nyungar country. She has worked in many areas, including national and local indigenous Australian media, marketing and communications, state health, the arts, anthropological research, higher education and is now CED and Principal Consultant of Kart Koort Wiern. Ingrid earned a B.A. majoring in Australian Indigenous Studies at Murdoch University, and Management and Academic Leadership Programs, and the MURRA Aboriginal Business Program at Melbourne Business School. Among her international participation, she has recently been a delegate to the UN International Conference for Women Leaders 2013.*

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### **Gender equality for youth and young women**

**F**For those who aren't aware, in Australia our indigenous peoples, or, as more commonly known, Aboriginal Australians, did not come under human rights conventions, nor were identified as humans in our country until 1967 so our country still faces a separation or an 'us and them' mentality between non indigenous and indigenous communities.

As you can imagine, indigenous women, as most women were back in the 'good old days', were subjected to gender bias and treatment, including the forced removal of children, or 'the stolen generation', which occurred as Aboriginal mothers, due to their race, were not considered fit to be parents or caregivers of their own children. This was born out of a policy of racial segregation and attempt at cultural genocide under the 1905 Aborigines Act, created under the theory that the aboriginal race would die out, due to being inferior. We still suffer from this legacy, mainly around issues of life expectancy, psychical and psychological health, socioeconomic issues and cultural integration, labeled as 'Closing the Gap'.

Even before then, the role of the various indigenous women across our country was seldom documented by early anthropologists and colonials that came to our shores, as the theory was that it was important to focus on the patriarchal component of these 'native societies' to grasp the inner workings of the Indigenous peoples....

This was a Real Issue for all women across the world, especially for our culture, as women were highly respected and held important leadership roles and rights within our societies, respected by our men, even today. Everyone played a crucial role, and the teaching, mentoring and nurturing of our young people was imperative for the survival and continuation of our culture, and still is today.

However the major impact of colonization, the deliberate genocide of people and culture that occurred for over 200 years in Australia and our nation's issues

with teaching and understanding what impact this history has had until recently, has created a disconnection and disharmony of the traditional roles, rights and obligations of our people, including our young women.

In Australia we have over 300 distinct cultural groups and 600 languages, so we are not all the same, and our experience differs from others. Again I'm sure this is no different to any culture in the world.

My theory is simple, reconnection of country and culture for all people is critical to ensure the equality of all people, as we can better understand, empathize and relate and once we understand each other, despite our differences, we can better create integrated and respectful spaces to create change. This includes the role of elders, non indigenous people, men, women and young people.

I found in my experience and that of the many other strong women who have influenced me, we all have found cultural and economic independence and strength by obtaining qualifications.

In Australia, especially in the last decade we have seen many indigenous women obtaining law, business, commerce, human rights qualifications and roles, including Hannah McGlade, Tammy Solonec, Michelle Evans, Michelle Webb and many more.

Plus there are community women who due to their commitment to communities may not have official qualifications, but inspire and mentor our future and current leaders, such as Selina Eggington, who has run a sexual health, suicide and healing program called Quatamia Kwob for decades, one I used to attend.

As I tell the ones I mentor, especially young girls, leadership comes in many different forms. Being a mummy demonstrates all sorts of skills and resilience that can be transformed into the professional world, but if you want to be a lawyer, entrepreneur, human rights activist or whatever, you can do this too and also together, as many do.

However, education opens many doors and I encourage young ones to find their passion and reflect on their journey of how to get there. Given the low socio-economic barriers our communities still face, our women can find empowerment by having the skills to be competitive in the professional world. This in turn helps us break free from the grasp of welfare dependency but we must have support mechanisms at the ready, as it is no easy task in a patriarchal society.

In 2006, after years of drug use, mental illness, violence, death threats and much more, I finally took control of my life and destiny. I, a 23 year old woman, reported, charged and successfully put in a jail my offender. I was quoted by a local newspaper as saying, "taking down my offender was like taking down the Prime Minister, but I did it. Who would have thought it would take a young woman like me to finally end his reign of terror?" I was the first to break the silence on abuse in communities by sending a strong message that sexual violence is not part of culture.

I am one of the youngest international entrepreneurs from my community, especially in consultancy, and even though this might sound like me 'blowing my own trumpet' it is quite inspiring to young people to know that you can be a leader, at anytime.



Could you imagine the change young women could make in this world if instead of saying “Why me? I can’t. I won’t. I’m too young,” we started hearing “Why not me, I can, I will, and my age is not a factor as what I have to offer and say is of immeasurable value ... Here I come”.

One of the factors that kept me on track was that I stayed at university the whole time. It gave me strength and abilities during this time and now is my life’s work. Three weeks after the court case, I discovered I was pregnant with my first child. I made a promise that I would not allow the intergenerational trauma of sexual violence impact my child and I would need to step out of my current situation and empower myself and create a healthy future for my child. Even in my late pregnancy I stayed at university, mid semester I gave birth and three weeks later I was back at university, with a newborn by my side.

Upon completion of my degree several years later, working in public service and not-for-profit organizations for many years, my husband and I decided that we wanted another child. At the time I was being groomed for an executive position in government but once they discovered I was pregnant, that promotion was deferred “just in a case I had a difficult pregnancy”.

I left that role and applied successfully for another. When I told the employer I was newly pregnant, I was told the offer was revoked, due to “issues of finding a replacement during my maternity leave”. Despite my anger at the obvious discrimination, it was evident to me at this point that I would need to find other ways to make an impact in the world.

Thus I created, ‘Kart Koort Wiern’, my company, which encourages cultural diversity and change within Australian and now global corporations and institutions by providing training, research and consultancy. It has been running for four years, and has the ethos ‘Gnullar wort koorliny boorda’ – ‘let’s go forward together’. Using ‘Kart Koort Wiern’, ‘our knowledge, hearts and spirits’, I started the company when I was 8 months pregnant. Together with my husband, we built my dream.

Research shows that in Australia, three quarters of small business fail within the first three years. Kart Koort Wiern has tripled in growth. Despite what people tell me ... I’m either arrogant or brave, maybe both, I follow my dreams.

I will be honest, ten years ago, I would not have imagined myself, presenting to some of the most influential women of the world, and being considered one, about the stuff that creates leadership. My journey is a humbling experience. However, I always remind myself that my actions will impact the future leaders so I had better make sure that whatever path I create, it’s relevant to them.

The one big thing that created my reality was the amazing people who supported me, listened to me, and empowered me to think that I had as much right as them to tell my story. I was recently interviewed for a television show in Australia in which I was asked who has had the biggest influence on me in my life.

Every single person, good or bad, has shaped my perspectives and given me directions of who and how to be. Everyone has the ability to mentor and lead. It’s up to all of us, in our own ways to create change; we are all here because we make an impact with our work, our words and our energies.

How do we create gender equality? I think it's not hard ... Go back to basics. For me and many others, education, empowerment and culture were my saving grace and I share my method with people all over the world in the hope that this message is shared and taken on by many more. But more importantly, continue the dialogue, and support innovation from all, especially those who are directly impacted, our youth.

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## **Dr. Esohe Aghatisé**

Coalition against Trafficking in Women, Italy/Nigeria

*Dr. Esohe Aghatisé is a lawyer with a Ph.D in International Economic and Trade Law. She is also an Ethno-clinical Cultural Mediator who has provided services for more than nineteen years to victims of trafficking in Italy. She has a thorough inside knowledge of the issues and dynamics of trafficking in persons, of government approaches to it and has been responsible for some institutional response to the issue. She has designed several projects on the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking, which have been financed by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, by the Turin Municipal Council, by the CRT Bank, by the Turin Provincial Council and by various other public and private donors and contributors. A member of the Board of Directors of CATW, she is the founding Executive Director of Associazione Iroko Onlus, which provides services to victims of trafficking in Italy. She was appointed a United Nations Expert on Trafficking in 2002. She was honoured in 2007 by the US State Department and nominated a "Hero in the fight against modern day slavery". In 2005, the University of Messina awarded her recognition as winner of the "Premio di Donna nel Terzo Millennio: Madre Teresa di Calcutta" (Mother Theresa of Calcutta 'Prize for Women in the Third Millennium') for her work against trafficking, in the XVIII Edition of the "ELIO VITTORINI" Literary and Artistic Prize Awards. She was also awarded a Service to the Nation Prize by the Nigerian Government through the Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). In 2013, she was honoured by the European Institute for Gender Equality as one of the Women and Men Inspiring Europe in the Promotion of Gender Equality, 2014.*

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## Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls

**J**It is incontrovertible that the empowerment of women and girls is of utmost importance and an urgent necessity, if countries are to attain their full potential. The enjoyment of basic human rights should be regarded as a matter of normal acceptance in the world, but as we know, unfortunately, this is not so. Women and girls in many parts of the world are still denied their most basic rights, and not only that, are severely punished for any hint of deviation from what is considered their position in their societies and communities. Women and girls are killed daily in many parts of the world for the sole fact of being female. There is an undeclared global war being waged against women and which has still not been acknowledged as such. Many of the conditions and circumstances where women's and girls' rights are basically denied include:

- ◆ Cultural Context: polygamy and other cultural practices which negatively impact women and the girl child, perceived and socially approved "roles for women", media portrayal of women and of women's roles in the news, social comments and adverts.
- ◆ An upshot of this cultural and social practise is the belief that women's bodies are for sale in an unequal social exchange, which those who support this practice would want us to believe empowers women and girls. (French so-called intellectuals' call for their right to buy and use women in prostitution).
- ◆ Economic and Social Context: poverty, lack of social structures and programmes for youth, especially for the girl child, gender, racial and ethnic discrimination, gender, racial and ethnic violence, religious instability and persecutions (the Taliban in Afghanistan).
- ◆ Geographical Context: armed conflict/war, civil unrest, natural disasters, economic and financial disasters; political instability and persecution.

The principal factors which promote and propel trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation include:

- › The global demand for sexual services including prostitution, pornography, mail order brides and sex tourism
- › The global demand for cheap labour and cheap products
- › The use of the internet to promote the sale of women, girls and children
- › Lack of adequate government regulation of the use of the internet

The empowerment of women cannot be taken in the abstract, as something we decide and talk about, but must be concretised. Concretisation means putting in place policies that promote the rights of women and girls, taking actions to promote such rights by eliminating all forms of exploitative conditions, which continue to make it difficult for women's rights to be respected and promoted. Part of this means the elimination of practices that reinforce stereotypes and make it difficult for national and international policies for the promotion of women's rights to be fully achieved. Some of these practices include, as stated above, cultural ones such as FGM, child marriage, and other such practices that are evidenced in domestic and

public violence. Domestic violence is relatively well known and documented, and public violence is either completely ignored or is seen as 'a natural and/or normal' part of social relations in society or as inevitable.

Let us consider the question of the use of women's bodies in the media in most of the commercials in the world. Women's bodies are commoditised and stereotypes often equate the capacity to buy commodities of any type with the capacity to buy women's bodies. (See the example of the FIAT commercial for their new 500 car, where a young man with his eyes closed meets or imagines in what seems to be a dream, that he meets a very beautiful young woman, who first attacks him physically and then tries to seduce him. He reaches out to embrace her and at that moment, all of a sudden, he wakes up from his dream/trance and instead of the young beautiful woman, he sees the new FIAT car 500 series that he has always wanted. He is satisfied and happy (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siWVgAzhFC8>). Imagine what messages such a commercial passes to young men? In this way, the stereotype of men's economic possibilities to afford women's bodies are reinforced and promoted. Men's right to acquire and consume women's bodies with immunity and impunity is reinforced. The effect of this is that men, most men in most countries, consider it their innate right to have women's bodies available for their use and consumption and women are expected to service their every need. Consider the recent petition of so-called French intellectuals, who in contesting the French Parliament's recent move to punish the buying of women's bodies for sexual consumption, following the excellent example of Sweden, Norway, Iceland and those other countries that have taken this courageous move to promote women's rights, are calling for their natural right to consume women's bodies in prostitution. As if women are their play objects to be acquired, used, consumed and disposed of like mere commodities.

When women oppose this, the result is very often that of violence, the violence of rape, of the denial of women's basic rights and of their relegation to a position of third and fourth class citizens in their communities and countries. Let us also consider the other part of this public violence: pornography and the buying and consumption of women's bodies in commercial sex – often referred to as the oldest 'profession' for women in the world. I completely disagree. It is, on the contrary, one of the oldest forms of violence against women in the world. We cannot honestly raise our voices to call for the elimination of violence against women and girls, for their empowerment and for the promotion of their basic rights, when in the same breath, we are promoting the setting aside of some groups of women as buyable and consumable commodities for the other half. That is directly against gender equality and reduces women to mere objects for male consumption. I speak mainly about women when I speak about commercial sexual services, because the greater majority of those presented as objects for sale are women.

Then, there are those who would have us believe that the legalisation of the buying of women's bodies in commercial sex is a sign of the 'empowerment' of women who may then 'fully' exercise their sexuality and their right to self determination in what use to make of their bodies. That this would lead to greater protection for the women and girls involved, and would safeguard them in their exercise of such activities. Research and experience has shown that this is a myth and is far from the truth. Research and experience show us the exact contrary of this.

The truth is, when the economic and social conditions of women improve and they are comfortable, you will hardly find them taking to the commercialisation of their bodies to live. Look at the statistics of women from Western industrialised countries who work in prostitution, compared to women from the poor south and you will see what I mean. What we know from research and experience is that over 90%, if not more, of women who go into prostitution do so as a survival mechanism; that over 85% of them were victims of sexual violence at a very early age and were then groomed to believe that their only capacity to earn money and to be useful in their communities is to sell their bodies, usually to provide for themselves and for their families. Research and experience shows that women and girls in commercial sexual activities suffer from repeated violence and are forty times more likely to be killed than other women. We know that the legalisation of commercial sexual activities does not favour the women who are prostituted, but favours their buyers and pimps, who become 'respected and respectable entrepreneurs' in their violent exploitation of women and girls. Research in many countries shows us that over 85% of women in commercial sexual activity would leave immediately if they had a valid alternative to provide for themselves and for their families. (In Italy – in 1958, an Italian female senator fought for and finally succeeded in outlawing brothels in Italy after more than fourteen years of political battles in parliament. Her conviction of the rightness of her fight to ban brothels was based in part on the strong evidence of letters, often written in very poor Italian, by women who were being prostituted in these brothels. Their testimony was that such places did not safeguard the interests of the women who were prostituted therein, but safeguarded only the interests of the brothel owners. They did not have access to free medical care as the law required, they were not protected from violence as the promoters of brothels insisted they would be, because the primary interest of the brothel owners was to protect the interests of their 'clients', who were those that provided the basis for the existence of the brothels in the first place).

This situation is as real today as it was over fifty years ago. We need to remember that commercial sexual activity is a commercial activity and that means, if I go into a shop to buy a commodity, it is not the shop owner that is going to tell me what to buy and how, but the buyer, with the economic power to acquire my commodities in my shop that will decide and chose what to buy and how. In such a context, how can we turn round to denounce violence against women when we put them up for sale as mere commodities?

This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. In concluding, I would like to state that the prerequisites for the empowerment of women and girls, for the promotion of their basic rights and for the elimination of violence against women and also for the elimination of trafficking in persons include:

- ◆ Cultural and social programmes which positively target young people and which change the culture of violence as a resolution to problems and as a mode of relations between genders and peoples
- ◆ Elimination of the cultural and social practices which make women and girls vulnerable and which commodify them

- ◆ Introduction of programmes on violence against women as part of school curricula
- ◆ Addressing the economic and financial imbalances in the global economy which negatively impact women and girls
- ◆ Concretely addressing gender issues and working for real gender equality by refusing those social structures that reinforce gender based stereotypes and gender based violence
- ◆ Firmly addressing the demand for commercial sexual services by refusing to allow the commercialization of women and girls' bodies as an acceptable social exchange
- ◆ Respect and implementation of all the international legal instruments signed and ratified by State Parties to the UN
- ◆ Introduction of national policies and plans of action to combat trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, in accordance with the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in the year 2000, otherwise known as the Palermo Protocol, and in accordance with all other UN Conventions and Legal Instruments, such as the 1949 Convention on the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.
- ◆ Examples of the introduction of policies and laws to combat and punish trafficking in Persons include: Italian Article 18 and its Impact on Trafficking in Persons; Nigerian Government creation of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and its impact; The US TIP Reports and its Impact.

No free, democratic and civil society can declare itself a safe place for women and girls to enjoy their basic rights and be empowered, where their bodies are regularly placed in the market place as commodities to be bought, used, consumed and disposed of like a commodity.

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# *Summing up*

## **Session 3**

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*After the first presentations in this Panel, described, in the words of the Chair, as 'inspirational', she took the opportunity to thank UN WOMEN for their work in Papua New Guinea, in the light of the statistics showing that between 80% - 90% of the women there suffer from gender based violence. The Chair drew a very complex picture of the situation in her country, emphasizing the great help of UN agencies and various NGOs there.*

*In the first general discussion, questions and comments were raised by representatives of MASHAV, Guatemala, Myanmar, Samoa, Costa Rica, Argentina, St. Lucia, and UNFPA.*

*At the end of the second half of the session, it was felt that the presentations on the indigenous Australian experience and considerations of human trafficking and how to combat it had helped us appreciate the presentation on human rights and legal justice and the implementation of these rights by law.*

*In the general discussion that followed, delegates from Argentina, the ICW, UNON, MASHAV, Dominican Republic, UNFPA, UN WOMEN and Sierra Leone all addressed questions to the panelists.*

# from Plenary Session 3



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3



4

1. Ms. Menissa Rambally, St. Lucia;  
Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, UN HABITAT;  
Hon. Ms. Loujaya Kouza, Papua New  
Guinea; Ms. Christine Musisi,  
UN WOMEN
2. Lic. Elsie Jannette Sierra Belches De  
Durán, Guatemala
3. Hon. Prof. Amsatou Sow Sidibe, Senegal
4. Dr. Ebum A. Jusu, Sierra Leone
5. Dr. Esohe Aghatisé, Italy/Nigeria;  
Ms. Ingrid Cumming, Australia
6. Prof. Dr. Khin San Yee, Myanmar
7. Dr. Josephine Rose Majale Ojiambo,  
UNFPA



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# from Plenary Session 4



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6

1. Ms. Valentina Leskaj, Albania
2. Hon. Ms. Mayi Antillón Guerrero, Costa Rica;  
Ms. Lopa Banerjee, UN WOMEN
3. Ms. Millie Odhiambo, Kenya;  
Ms. Valentina Leskaj;  
Hon. Ms. Mayi Antillón Guerrero;  
Ms. Lopa Banerjee
4. Dr. Malinka Koparanova, UNECE; Dr. Sergei Zelenev,  
ICSW; Ms. Cosima Schenk, ICW
5. Ms. Sara Greenblatt, UNODC
6. Ms. Millie Odhiambo

# Putting gender equality and women's rights at the center of sustainable development

Chair

**Hon. Ms. Mayi Antillón Guerrero**

Minister of Economy, Industry and Commerce, **Costa Rica**

Presentations

**Ms. Lopa Banerjee**

Chief of Civil Society Section, **UN WOMEN**

**Ms. Valentina Leskaj**

MP, Chair of Parliamentary Commission for Education and Media and Former Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, **Albania**

**Ms. Sara Greenblatt**

Chief of the Organized Crime & Illicit Trafficking Branch, **UNODC**

**Ms. Millie Odhiambo**

Member of Parliament at Mbita District, **Kenya**

## **Ms. Lopa Banerjee**

Chief of Civil Society Section, UN WOMEN

*Lopa Banerjee is the Chief of the Civil Society Section at UN WOMEN, based in New York. Ms. Banerjee has worked for over three decades in international development, policy advocacy, communication and partnership building across the UN and in the private sector as a gender and human rights thematic expert, with substantive experience in social policy and governance issues across Asia and Africa.*

*Lopa Banerjee has had more than a decade-long career with the United Nations. Prior to the UN she worked with the private sector as well as with civil society, in India. Before joining UN WOMEN, Lopa worked with UNDP and OHCHR in South Africa and UNICEF in Iran, Bangladesh and New York. In India, Lopa worked for several years in communication, research and advocacy. Lopa has worked with civil society, facilitating UN-civil society engagement in South Africa, Iran and Bangladesh. In India she worked on gender-based violence and the representation of women in media. With the UN in South Africa, Lopa led the formation of a multi-stakeholder (UN/Government/Civil Society) task team to support the development of the joint gender programme for South Africa. She also led a multi stakeholder campaign with civil society, government and the private sector on the MDGs during the Soccer World Cup in 2010.*

*With UNICEF in Bangladesh, she worked with civil society and the government to develop a community based advocacy programme to prevent early marriage of girls. She worked with the government, community groups and civil society in Iran on child rights' issues including juvenile justice and corporal punishment. Lopa's areas of specialization include policy analysis, partnership development and engagement, advocacy and Human Rights based programming and training.*

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We are at a crucial moment. We are at the moment when we have the successes of the MDGs behind us and to build upon and the opportunity to address their shortcomings. The months ahead will be crucial for the elaboration of the new post-2015 development agenda. More than ever, we need to come together as a community of advocates to ensure that gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment are central to the new framework.

UN WOMEN is calling for a stand-alone goal on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment as well as comprehensive mainstreaming of gender equality into ALL other goals, with appropriate targets and indicators.

The target areas that we are proposing are: i) freedom from violence, ii) gender equality in capabilities and resources, iii) voice, leadership and participation.

A standalone goal is essential to concentrate policy commitment and funding, and drive political will. A gender equality goal must establish minimum standards, and in our view, push change forward in three critical areas:

- ◆ First, freedom from violence is an absolute minimum condition to promote gender equality and women's rights. Gender equality and women's empowerment are simply not possible if we don't end violence and fear of violence – and if societies still consider gender based violence to be acceptable.
- ◆ Second, we must ensure women's capabilities, bodily integrity and access to resources. We must ensure all human development areas give specific consideration to gender differences to enhance women's capacities and allow them to make meaningful choices about what to do and be in their lives.
- ◆ Finally, we have to ensure women have voice and participate in and influence the processes and institutions that shape public policies, households and private sector decisions.

Our proposed gender equality goal draws from and is anchored in the international human rights framework and government commitments. The targets and indicators we propose are in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as the Beijing Platform for Action and of course the ICPD Programme of Action among others. We have also reflected recent gains, such as elements of the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women 57th session.

In order to generate transformation in gender relations and the realization of women's rights, UN WOMEN is advocating for the commitment to substantive equality.

In other words, the stand-alone goal needs to do what the MDGs failed to do - address the structural causes of discrimination.

Expanding people's capabilities in a gender-equitable way would ensure that constraints that are gender-specific (e.g. women's and adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights) are addressed with the same urgency as those that affect both women and men (e.g. education, health).

"The issue of gender disparities is ultimately one of disparate freedoms." UN WOMEN's framework includes a focus on the key processes that would advance women's capacities to enjoy a life free of violence, to make choices of what to do and how to be, to make decisions for themselves, their families, communities, future generations, and the planet. It seeks to promote transformation in gender relations that would advance the freedom of all.

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## **Ms. Valentina Leskaj**

MP, Chair of Parliamentary Commission for Education and Media and Former Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Albania

*Valentina Leskaj has been a Member of Parliament of Albania since 2002. She is currently the Chair of the Parliamentary Commission for Education and Media and is the Head of the Albanian Parliamentary Delegation. She is the former Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of Albania. She has been the Chair of the Parliamentary Commission for EU Integration, the Chair of the Parliamentary Commission for Labor and Social Affairs and the Deputy Chair of the EU-Albania Inter-parliamentary Committee on Stabilization Association.*

*She is the Co-founder and Vice President of the UNESCO Center for Women and Peace in the Balkans and of the Inter-Balkan Women's Co-operation Societies with headquarters in Thessaloniki, Greece and was the President of the Albanian NGOs Forum, an umbrella organization with 300 NGO members.*

*She was one of five distinguished representatives chosen from civil society in the world to participate in the White House Event on International Family Planning, "Saving Women's Lives", organized under the auspices of President Clinton. This event was followed by the forum organized by Congress on the same subject.*

*She is a graduate in Political Economy from the University of Tirana.*

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Thirteen years after the Millennium Summit, we all agree that unprecedented progress has been achieved. As data from the UN Report 2013 indicates<sup>1</sup>, half a billion fewer people are living below an international poverty line of \$1.25 a day. Child death rates have fallen by more than 30%, about three million children's lives are saved each year.

However, we are only two years away from the deadline and evaluation of the MDG framework reveals a mixed picture. There is success in the area of reducing extreme poverty and improved access to education, but less progress has been made in areas such as reducing hunger and maternal mortality, improving access to sanitation and social services.

We are reviewing the MDGs in a completely different context, nearly twenty years after Cairo and Beijing and thirteen years after the Rio Conference on Sustainable Development and in a economic situation that is completely different compared to the time of the MDGs.

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<sup>1</sup> The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, UN Report 2013

Coming to my country, I have to admit that with support provided by UNDP, Albania started the process of adopting and contextualizing the MDGs. The Albanian Parliament passed a resolution in support of the Millennium Declaration, “encouraging all stakeholders to track progress in achieving the MDGs on a regular basis, through national monitoring and evaluation systems”.

What has been achieved? A number of MDG targets in areas on combating extreme poverty and gender inequalities have been met. Considerable progress has been made for the legal and policy framework in regard to gender equality. A national strategy on gender equality is approved by the government. Today we have a very good set of laws and policies in place, such as the law on gender equality, a law for women’s employment, a gender quota, etc.

Let me say something about the gender quota, since empowerment of women in politics and decision making is crucial to gender integration in sustainable development. Our 30% gender quota is not only for the list in parliament but for almost all levels. The number of women MPs has tripled because of that, but the quota has not been fully respected. With the new Government we have five women Ministers, out of nineteen in total. Some women are appointed in some male domain sectors.

But of course numbers are not enough and on the other hand, having good laws and policies does not give automatic results. Why?

First: There is no holistic and comprehensive approach and if we speak specifically about the policies that integrate gender equality in sustainable development, we have a long way to go.

Second: There is still a gap between laws and policies already adopted and their implementation in practice. For example, we have adopted a good employment law but it is not being implemented.

In my country the proportion of the population living in poverty declined from over 25% in 2002 to 12.4% by 2008. Extreme poverty decreased from 4.7% in 2002, to 1.2% in 2008. But this promising path was interrupted because of the financial situation. We have to bear in mind that the economic crisis has changed priorities in budgeting. Investments in education, health and the social sector decreased three times in the last four years. This means less employment, less quality of education, fewer social services for women.

Poverty does not appear to be solely a rural phenomenon anymore. Instead, poverty has mainly shifted to the urban areas. Women suffer from long term unemployment, low access to social services and natural resources and quality of education.

In this context, achieving the Social Development Goals for gender integration in sustainable development, there is need for specific interventions for women in different situations. Women that return from emigration, because of the economic crisis in Greece and Italy, women that moved from rural to urban areas, women in business activity, etc, their needs differ from each other. I think we need to re-examine the needs, in the new context, and develop efficient mechanisms and allocate adequate resources to reach women.

The current social and economic development model is mostly based on reducing the role of the state and liberalization of the “market”. These have reinforced gender stereotypes, gender based inequality and discrimination and have impacted badly on sustainability of results achieved. Therefore, the focus should be on changing systems and development models, as well as the “subordination” role given to women in our societies.

Integrating gender equality in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development requires a holistic approach, because challenges are complex, interlinked and reinforce the effects of each other. It is our responsibility as politicians, to give priority to investment in education, and job creation activities, to allocate funds for social services and environment. The quality of education is the key to successful policies for gender integration in sustainable development. Seventy five per cent of women who live in poverty have only primary education.

I believe there is a need for a special focus on access to financial resources (including land, property titles, credits).The issues of the rule of law and corruption need to be addressed as they are another barrier for the integration of gender in economic resources in the social and environment dimension.

We need to adopt a participatory approach and use both a combination of bottom up and top down approach. Involving man, civil society, media, academia, public figures, the private sector and grassroots leaders is very important.

It is our obligation to give a voice to those women that are voiceless, to work locally with a clear goal. Often politics speaks about itself and people feel left out.

I will close my remarks with a short story which says so much to me as a politician, because it has to do with the reason why we are in politics. Many years before, I was editor-in-chief of a women’s magazine, travelling in the north of my country. On my way back I saw a woman, poorly dressed and digging the land.

I asked her “How are you?” She answered “I am fine.”

Then I asked how many children she had and she answered “Ten”.

I asked her immediately what she gave them to eat. She told me “Bread and water and if I have, I put some sugar in as well.”

I think this woman is the reason why I am in politics, why I am here, and I believe this is the reason why all of us are here to discuss making gender equality central to the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development.

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# Ms. Sara Greenblatt

Chief of the Organized Crime & Illicit Trafficking Branch  
of UNODC

*Ms. Greenblatt's professional experience combines work with international organizations, government and the private sector. Ms. Greenblatt commenced her career with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and has since worked for the World Bank, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations. Ms. Greenblatt also assisted multinational Fortune 100 corporations in establishing business and commercial operations in the CIS and Eastern Europe, while employed with Price Waterhouse in Moscow. Ms. Greenblatt specialized in international tax law and served as Director General of the International Tax Directorate of Revenue Canada with the Canadian Federal Government. Since 2005, Ms. Greenblatt has worked for the United Nations as a Senior Legal Officer in the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and assumed her functions as Chief, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch in February 2012. Ms. Greenblatt received a First Class Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in political science from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada and a Bachelor of Common Law Degree (LL.B) from McGill University, Faculty of Law, in Montreal, Canada.*

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**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**International Women Leader's Conference**

Putting Gender Equality and Women's Rights at the Center of Sustainable Development

Haifa, Israel

November 3-8, 2013

Sara Greenblatt  
Chief  
Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Linkages of trafficking in / smuggling of women and development**

- Increasing feminisation of migration
- Particular vulnerabilities of women and girls:
  - Social and cultural conditions exclude them from higher education, proper employment, legal and political parity
  - Lack or limited access to resources
  - Decline of the agricultural sector
  - 'Hidden' victims of war and armed conflicts
  - More exposed to harmful traditional practices
  - Vulnerable to rape, other forms of sexual and domestic abuse

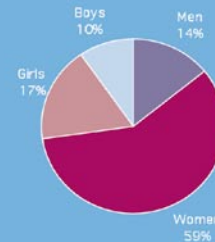


## Victims of trafficking in persons



Photo: Alessandro Scotti

## Gender and age profile of victims detected globally, 2009



Source: UNODC elaboration on national data

## Possible impact of trafficking in women on sustainable development

- Lost resources: benefits of work and services of trafficked women redirected to traffickers; Resources devoted to anti-trafficking efforts may be taken from resources meant for development
- Women in trafficking situations cannot contribute to the development of their community
- Entire communities suffer physically and emotionally
- Demographic consequences: Children lose the care, emotional support and guidance of one parent, might be left with the elderly; women in trafficking situations might be unable to contribute to growth of population

## Measures to reduce vulnerability and increase development

- Educational and business development of women
- Partnership with assistance service providers
- Awareness-raising initiatives
- Creating the conditions for safe migration and decent work
- Empowering victims of trafficking and abused migrants by convicting traffickers and smugglers

## Holistic global approaches

- Global Migration Group (GMG)
- Inter-agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)

## Examples of UNODC's Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Work

- Blue Heart Campaign, joined by e.g. Lebanon, Mexico, Serbia, Spain
- United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking: support of grassroots NGOs
- Training of criminal justice practitioners in identifying, protecting and assisting (through referrals) victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants
- Development of national policies and action plans that consider the needs of victims and vulnerable migrants

## **Ms. Millie Odhiambo**

Member of Parliament at Mbita District, Kenya

*Millie Grace Okoth Odhiambo is now the MP Elect for Mbita Constituency. She attended Nairobi University for her BA in Law. She started her professional career working at the State Law Office as a State Counsel.*

*She later worked at FIDA as a legal officer advising and representing women, which eventually led her to fight for women's and children's rights. She later founded The Cradle, an organization that promotes the rights of children, in 1997.*

*She has also been involved in the constitutional process as a delegate in Bomas and eventually served in the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC).*

*Millie Odhiambo initiated the Millie Institute, through which she mentors girls in leadership. She also has a project called Women's and Girls' Education and Development Initiative that focuses on ensuring girls' education, especially in the marginalized areas, but with a special focus on Nyanza.*

*She is a member of the Kenya Parliamentary Association Equal Opportunities Committee and Powers and Privileges Committee. She is also the Vice Chairperson, Justice and Legal Affairs Committee and the executive director of The Cradle.*

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**J**support a standalone call on gender. I joined the women's movement actively in 1997, when I started my professional career working with the international federation of women lawyers. I began by representing a woman who had been bitten by her husband and she had taken the husband to court and at that time (1997) it was such a big issue in Kenya that it was even reported in CNN and all the international media. The reason I'm saying this is that, as women, we sometimes forget the milestones that we may have reached, because now, if a woman takes her husband to court in Kenya, it is no longer news. But in 1997 it was news that was reported even in the international media.

Over the years there have been a lot of milestones in the women's movement, internationally, regionally and at national levels, but there is a growing backlash on women's gains, and that's why we must find new ways of reengagement and new ways of visibility on issues of gender equality.

I'll give you an example on the issue of women's leadership in Kenya. You have cheered the fact that we have 47 women members of Parliament in Kenya and because we put in the constitution that at least 30% of women must be not only in political leadership, but also in other areas of leadership. We have seen within the short time since we passed our constitution in 2010 that we have many, many women that have taken high positions. For the first time we had a woman as Deputy Chief Justice, for the first time we had a woman Deputy Registrar of the High Court and many, many women taking very high positions, but also, within that short time, the first woman Chief Justice was brought down from being Chief Justice because

she pinched the nose of a girl, something that men do all the time. But when it is a woman, you lose your office for it. Then we also had the first woman Deputy Registrar, who was fired from her job just one month ago because of unproved claims that probably involved corruption among her male colleagues.

What we are seeing in Kenya within a period from 2010 to now is that we have gotten women to rise to the highest level, but with a lightning speed they are coming down and that is why we must find different ways of engagement or recommitment, telling the world it's not enough for us to have laws that protect women but there must be commitment beyond the law. Because in Kenya the law is very clear, we are saying that you make women rise and when they become very powerful you bring them down very quickly so that they cannot stay at the same level.

I think we must attend international level events to recommit and renew our energies. For many years I worked for women's movements and every year I used to attend the Commission on the Status of Women and I think that those of you who attend the CSW every year can see the energies are winning, people are getting tired and it is time that we also reenergize ourselves by providing a standalone goal that would give us that energy, even if it is not for us, but for people who are starting to reenergize on issues of gender equality.

The other reason is because of the issue of new forms of gender inequalities and gender – based violence; for instance we've just been told about issues of trafficking in persons that have been reenergized, especially the issue of internet and global interconnectivity. Because of that, as women, we must be ever more vigilant and again I want to say that it's important to translate the issue of rhetoric into action. Most governments think it is now very trendy to say that in our country we are committed to gender equality, but in practice you don't see it happening or if you do, it is really at very cosmetic levels. When for example I was in the last parliament and on the committee for equal opportunities, we visited some countries such as Denmark, with a very long tradition, to see their challenges. What they were telling us was that you can see they are cited as one of the countries that have done very well, Denmark, and Norway too, but if you actually remove gender equality from the top and go to the lower levels, you find the numbers of women in leadership positions decreasing and engagement of women in those positions decreasing. I say that we have every reason to recommit ourselves to reenergize ourselves and to push forward for a standalone call on gender equality.

## *Summary*

To wind up the Plenary Session, the **Chair, Hon. Ms. Mayi Antillón Guerrero, Minister of Economy, Industry and Trade of Costa Rica**, as well as a political scientist at the University of Costa Rica, gave her own presentation, entitled **Economic inclusion with a woman's face**

Costa Rica has decided to strengthen SMEs, which account for 95% of businesses and a law was passed in 2002 to support them. In 2008 a banking system for development was created in order to facilitate access to financing for SMEs, as well as offering training and mentoring.

Today there is greater coordination between specialized institutions to support areas with higher levels of poverty. Public, private, academic and financial institutions have managed to integrate through the Support Network for SMEs, which now adds up to more than sixty organizations based on the following five areas of work: access to finance, business development services, innovation and technological development, market access and production planning. As part of this process of economic inclusion two priority sectors were defined: **youth and women**.

The Ministry for the Status of Women and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry joined forces, so that the same structural model approach that has been developed for the inclusion of SMEs into the economy can be established for women who are in productive activity.

The methodology of this initiative has been of particular interest to the Gender Division of the Economic Council for Latin America, which has given its endorsement to allow the project to be a roadmap for other countries in the region.

Elements which allow women greater economic autonomy are: governance, coordination and strategic alliances; marketing strategy and market intelligence focused on women; business skills and competence; legal and institutional frameworks for economic empowerment of women; integrative financial models.

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# *Summing up*

## **Session 4**

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*Conclusions were drawn that we have to look for synergies and avoid duplication among institutions. We women are good communicators and must better utilize our networks in order to put across the message from both rural and urban women.*

*In answer to the claim that there should be a basic platform for advancing women and mechanisms for adapting such a platform in different countries, the UN already has one that more advanced countries can adapt to their settings and those who have advanced beyond the basics can adapt according to their country's setting. The Commission for the Status of Women also creates political statements that have to be applied at regional and local level to ensure gender equality.*

*The need for indicators about women and institutions was emphasized throughout this plenary session and ranges of statistics and pilot projects that could serve others were offered, including indicators for violence against women. Also, as pointed out, the annual census of all countries in the UN offers easy indicators by age and gender.*

*As the media can build or destroy a politician, gender equality itself is not news for media. We have to come to them with a key message and clear goals.*

# Ensuring the means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda

Chair

**Ms. Glenda Roxana Soto Rubio**

National Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic, **Ecuador**

Presentations

**Hon. Ms. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa**

Minister of Justice, **Samoa**

**Attorney Sonia Elizabeth Cortez**

Attorney General, **El Salvador**

# Hon. Ms. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa

Minister of Justice, Samoa

*Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa is a Samoan High Chief and a senior member of Cabinet in the Samoan Government. Elected into Parliament for the first time in 1985 for the constituency of Lotofaga, she is one of the longest standing Members of Parliament.*

*She has been a Cabinet Minister since 1991, serving as Minister of Education (1991-2006), Minister for Women, Community and Social Development (2006-2011) and currently is the Minister of Justice.*

*Fiame has represented Samoa and the Pacific region on the Executive Board of UNESCO, the Commonwealth of Learning, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Women's Committee. In 2012, she completed a six year term as Pro-Chancellor and Chairperson of the University of the South Pacific.*

*Fiame is President of the Samoa National Council of Women, Chairperson of the Inailau Women's Leadership Network (IWLN), dedicated to increasing women's participation in politics) and the Women in Leadership Advocates (WinLA, a public sector women leaders' group).*

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The name Fiame is actually a chief entitlement. Our country was socially organized as extended families, so we have our chiefs, the family leaders, essentially trustees. We have 5% of female chiefs in Samoa. Our electoral system is also based on traditional infrastructure, so when we became independent in 1962 only chiefs could stand for election and only chiefs could vote. There was a slight change to that in 1991, when the voting was open to people aged 21 and over but the candidature for members of Parliament remained with the traditional chiefs. That will probably change in time.

In terms of that arrangement, one of the significant things I wanted to share is that when we were negotiating our independence, our constitutional convention, we had said to the UN that we wished to have this particular kind of electoral system and of course the response was to have a vote on it as the democratic practice. The vote was substantially in support of maintaining the customary traditional system as the foundation for our electoral system. I suppose it was the feeling of the constitutional convention that the stability of the country lay in that customary infrastructure, and I suppose we could say that we were coming from a position of strength, especially as we were transitioning into self-government and independence.

In our country we don't have the practice of automatic succession, father-to-son or father-to-daughter for that matter. When chiefly leaders pass away the extended families meet and decide who will be the next leader. We do of course now have an arbitration body, a lands and titles court. Title also goes with land, and customary land in Samoa represents 87% of the land mass, so that is a considerable natural asset

for the country. So our lands and titles court is a very busy court and Samoan people are very litigious in terms of making their claims.

My title had to go to arbitration, because the extended family could not agree on it. It was a very interesting process, in that we have a bench of other Samoan chiefs, and the Chief Justice at the time was a New Zealander, who was also the President of the Lands and Titles Court. When my father passed away and this process of claiming titles took place, I was nineteen-twenty years old, and in laying claim to the three titles he had, it became very clear early on that the Bench did not approve of my candidature. We were able to see the evidence of this when we asked for the record of the Discussion of the Bench, which went something like this: she meets all the criteria in term of genealogy, knowledge and level of support from her family, but unfortunately, she's not really suitable because she's female, young, and unmarried. I think the New Zealand judge could see what was happening, so he intervened and said: you cannot disqualify this girl on the grounds that she is female, young, and unmarried. The unmarried thing is unstable you understand, and in fact goes against the constitution of your country that provides for the women and children.

I had that experience and I'm thankful that the legal and constitutional frameworks of our country when we became independent had those provisions in place, so in making my comments on capacity rebuilding I wanted to give focus to two areas – one on women's leadership and one on violence against women. Women's leadership and participation is our voice and if we don't have a voice, we cannot articulate the situations we find ourselves in. Violence against women gives us such terrible tangible evidence of a lot of women and what they face in preventing them from having the freedom and the quality of life that we should all enjoy.

In terms of capacity building I think it's very important that we build the capacity of our institutions and I've given you that example of the constitutional provision that led to the protection of my rights. Talking about women's leadership and participation, we are not only looking at those constitutional legal frameworks, we have to look at the electoral systems that are in play, and we all have common knowledge of the difficulties that women experience trying to get into Parliament.

Our electoral system, first past the post, is not the best way to go if you want to have a representational parliament. The party rules and that is fine if you've got parties. In my part of the world there are some countries that really don't have parties. It's a lot more than just the gathering of individuals that come to central government and once they get there it becomes more about personal politics than about a platform.

There are circumstances where, unless special measures are put into place it will never happen, and we're beginning to see the proof of that come true in our region in the procedures and rules of the institutions that we get in to. I hear the stories from women in parliaments where they have to walk two blocks to go to the bathroom, because the planning was never done with women in mind, so they had a lot of men's restrooms but none for women. This is probably a very inane example but I think it's demonstrative of the mindset that just isn't there.

Having made the point about institutional capacities, I do think that in terms of community and social coalitions, strengthening them and marrying them to the more



legalistic and formal institutions make very good partnerships in terms of driving the gender equality agenda. With violence against women we had to build a lot of capacity, first getting the legislation in place, getting the police and the courts on board and, more importantly, the support services for the victims of gender based violence.

Governance has not played a strong role in our region, in fact all the capacity building has essentially been through civil NGOs; they have put together thinking, developed the strategies and negotiated with the governments on issues of gender equality, so that needs to get acknowledged, probably not just in our region of Samoa. It is probably true of many countries where they have had to build capacities around developing legislative processes and services within government infrastructures.

I've been in government now for twenty eight years and a minister since 1991 and one of the things I always reflect on is what is government good for, what is it not good for, so where do we need to look if government is not doing it? But one of the things that also continuously challenges me about being in government is that the role of government is coming more and more into question, the integrity of governments are coming into question. The whole philosophy of representing your constituencies means the question has to come with the kind of decisions that are being made, whose interests are we really looking after? As women, as representatives of our countries that's a reflection that needs to happen on a regular and constant basis. It is essentially about power – who has it, who doesn't have it, who wants to share and who doesn't want to share? Let's not lose sight of the fact that that's the root cause of the discussions around having a standalone issue for gender equality. If it addresses that power in balance then I think we will succeed, but if it doesn't, we really will have to look at how we actually do that.

One of the other reflections I've had is about gender equality. We as women understand the issues and what women face but we don't live in a world by ourselves, we live in a world of relationships and more and more we need to fix things in a holistic way. When we talk about violence against women we understand the pain and shame of violence against women victims, but I have also seen that the perpetrators are not in a good place either. Research will suggest to us that violence is learned behavior, no one is born violent, we do it because we see it. It's not just men against women, we live in a world that is full of violent people, countries do it to each other, institutions do it to each other, the list is just endless.

We need to take a holistic view on this whole issue of violence. One of the reflections I heard in the very excellent discussion this morning asked are we really talking about gender equality or are we talking about humanity, about where this planet is going? And as the voyagers on this planet, are we good voyagers, men and women?



# Attorney Sonia Elizabeth Cortez de Madriz

Attorney General, El Salvador

*Attorney Sonia Elizabeth Cortez de Madriz is a Lawyer and Certified Notary who has twice been elected **Attorney General of the Republic**. She has been an advocate and served in different Courts in El Salvador, as well as coordinator at the Department of Judicial Research and as Interim Magistrate at the Supreme Court.*

*Attorney Cortez graduated in judicial sciences from the University of El Salvador and holds a Diploma in Leadership. She trained in Penal and Constitutional Law.*

*She presided over the Women Lawyers Association of El Salvador and has attended and given dissertations at several conferences in Cuba, Nicaragua, Spain, Costa Rica, Panama and the United States of America.*

*She is a member of the Board of Directors of INDEMU (Salvadorian Institute for Women's Development).*

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**R** Realmente es un privilegio estar acá frente a tan selecta concurrencia y haber escuchado y aprendido tanto de todas las ponencias. Quiero confesar ante Uds. que venía muy tranquila, solamente de oyente, hasta el día de ayer se me dijo que si estaba incluida como panelista pero como hay temas como el de la niñez, hay temas como el de la mujer, del adulto y de la adulta mayor que son causas superiores y por lo tanto así como los 'boy scouts' debemos de estar siempre listos y listas para hablar del tema así es que una de las mejores formas como han dicho mis antecesoras es hablar de nuestra experiencia en nuestros países y en esa manera ir viendo cuanto hemos avanzado y también cuanto nos falta más por avanzar en materia de género.

Vengo, como ya dijo la Presidenta, de un país pequeño que queda casi en el centro de Centro América llamado el pulgarcito. Uds. se imaginarán como es de pequeño y es pequeño realmente en territorio, así como Israel; pero es muy grande en hospitalidad yo los reto a que prueben esto que les estoy diciendo y ya con algunas compañeras, hermanas les he estado haciendo la invitación para que conozcan ese maravilloso país, así que estamos a la orden como funcionaria pero más que como funcionara ya que estos cargos son circunstanciales yo me pongo a su orden como amiga que es el que permanece como persona así es aquí estamos con los brazos abiertos para demostrar que no es ningún discurso lo que estamos haciendo.

También quiero comentarles que en efecto fui elegida como Procuradora General de la República en el año 2010 y reelegida en el 2013. Así como los políticos tenía que hacer mi campaña para ganar porque íbamos como 56 candidatos y candidatas y voy a traer aquí a este foro los temas que son de interés:

Primero me comprometí a la formación de una escuela de capacitación para estar en igualdad de condiciones con el resto de actores del sector de justicia.

Segundo me comprometí también y esto es de mucho interés para los organismos internacionales, a tener dentro de esa institución una unidad que centralizara toda ayuda aquella interna y externa que recibimos a manera de dar cuentas claras y transparentes e incluso establecer como un eje estratégico de mi gestión eso: transparencia y utilización racional y optima de todos los recursos. Utilizar los recursos del estado como si fueran los de nuestra propia casa.

Y el tercero de interés fue la creación de la unidad de género ya que no existía la unidad de género en la Procuraduría General de la República. Ya para la reelección tenía que tener concretados estos tres proyectos por lo menos para así tener la solvencia moral para pedir nuevamente a los diputados y diputadas una oportunidad más para seguir desarrollando lo que ya había comenzado.

Gracias a Dios tanto en la primera y segunda ocasión fui elegida por unanimidad. Eso es un privilegio pero al mismo tiempo determina una gran responsabilidad porque como aquí ya se ha dicho a las mujeres se les exige tres veces más para demostrar que somos capaces. Creo que si hubiese sido un hombre sólo habría sido una reelección más pero yo si tenía que demostrar que si estaba cumpliendo con lo que había prometido.

¿Por qué la necesidad de una unidad de género? La Procuraduría General de la República amigos y amigas forma parte del Ministerio Público. El Ministerio Público se compone de la Fiscalía General de la República que es la que tiene el monopolio de la acción penal, la Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos que es una institución joven que nace de los acuerdos de paz. Uds. saben que también tuvimos una guerra por 10 años, una guerra civil interna y la Procuraduría General de la República, que es un muro de contención social, porque todo problema que cualquier ciudadano o ciudadana pueda tener ahí está la Procuraduría. Así, si necesita un defensor porque no tiene para pagar los honorarios a un abogado particular ahí está la Procuraduría. 28 pretensiones en materia de familia que van desde el reconocimiento de paternidad de maternidad, calendario de visita, fijación de cuota alimenticia, reconocimiento de alimentos a un niño no nacido bueno una cantidad grande ahí está la Procuraduría, despidos injustos en materia laboral también está la Procuraduría. Estamos enseñando a resolver nuestros conflictos en forma pacífica vecinales patrimoniales familiares está el proceso de mediación pero por lo que más se conoce a la Procuraduría es por la fijación de la cuota alimenticia y eso está determinado ya que es una forma de violencia contra la mujer. Obligar a la mujer a que acuda al sistema pues claro que es violencia puesto que no debería de ser así. Aparte de eso está demostrado también que si no existiese la Procuraduría la madre que no es una cuota para ella sino que es un derecho irrenunciable del niño y de la niña tendría que ir a pedir el alimento al padre irresponsable lo cual a veces sucede cuando la mujer es muy orgullosa y dice yo no quiero usar la Procuraduría pero lo quiere hacer por sus propios medios que pasa va a la casa del sujeto a veces hay hombres tan irresponsables y descarados y dicen yo te doy la cuota pero vas a hacerme los oficios de la casa, yo te doy la cuota del niño o la niña pero primero también un favor sexual entonces lo importante es buscar la Procuraduría para la seriedad en el asunto y el respeto a esos derechos humanos de las mujeres. Como ven es realmente una violencia contra la mujer. Así las cosas era necesario

transversalizar el resto de procesos todo estos de lo que les hablo teníamos que transversalizarlos con ese enfoque de género, con enfoque de derechos humanos y era la necesidad de la creación de la Unidad de Género. Afortunadamente surgen dos leyes que son instrumentos que los que más hacen es desarrollar los instrumentos internacionales como la CEDAO y también la Belén de Para. Entonces tenemos esas dos herramientas; tenemos nuestra Constitución que en su artículo 3 también determina que no hay desigualdad entre hombres y mujeres y esa es nuestra base para impulsarnos y desarrollar al interior con políticas públicas en favor de la mujer y estamos en eso.

Pues bien, estas tres instituciones que les menciono padecen de una situación, la escasez de presupuesto, pero la que más padece es la Procuraduría General de la República, tanto es así hace poco me ha tocado ir a la Asamblea Legislativa a defender ese presupuesto; solamente contamos con 21 millones 200 mil para una presencia de la Procuraduría a nivel Nacional. Uds. verán no es suficiente; trabajando sobre lo básico y no excedente hicimos un estudio y necesitábamos 13 millones más y sólo nos dieron 3 millones más pero no viene nada presupuestado para la Unidad de Género. Viene presupuestado para nivelación salarial. Entonces qué es lo que necesitaba yo, que ese presupuesto para la Unidad de Género viniera etiquetado, orientado desde su aprobación para yo poder decir: “esto lo utilizamos para darle estricto cumplimiento a las leyes que en su texto son preciosas pero nos falta hacerlas vida”. Y ahí comienzan los obstáculos. Pero nosotras no nos quedamos con los brazos cruzados. Para nosotros son muy importantes los organismos internacionales; están UNPFA y ONU Mujeres. Iniciamos diciéndoles a ellos que son nuestros aliados estratégicos: déjenme decirles que ya son nuestros amigos. Porque decimos que estas dos grandes organizaciones son nuestras amigas y amigos: porque conocen la necesidad de la Procuraduría. Y hay una identificación completa Esa es la importancia de los organismos internacionales cuando conocen las necesidades y hay una identificación completa como es el caso de estas organizaciones o quienes están representando a estas organizaciones en El Salvador.

Donde sí estamos bastante atrasados es en la conciencia que debería tener la empresa privada. Ahí no ha entrado todavía el tema de género – no lo conocen y si lo conocen - es muy poco.

Y donde está nuestra falla es en el órgano judicial. Hay mucha impunidad. No digo que todos los jueces y juezas, pero sí muchos entran a filosofar sobre el contenido de las leyes y hasta quieren declararlas inaplicables, o sea, se meten a hacer análisis que van más allá de su competencia. Yo hace poco estuve en la hermana República de Guatemala y envidiaba que ellos ya tienen su jurisdicción especializada. Cuánto quisiéramos nosotros llevar este tipo de solución de problemas. Pero nosotros damos un paso hacia adelante pero vienen los órganos judiciales, en las áreas departamentales -no en la capital -y nos hacen dar un paso para atrás. La articulación interinstitucional es lo que podría también ayudar al fortalecimiento de la igualdad de género. Esto aparte de tener los instrumentos como son las leyes adecuadas, la utilización de instrumentos internacionales que muchas veces nosotros no los aplicamos o no los hacemos ejercer. La Procuraduría tiene ese rol protagónico. Lo importante es el reconocimiento de ese rol y el respeto a esa función. Yo quisiera

hablar sobre la importancia que tienen todas nuestras mujeres, pero más aquellas que son doblemente discriminadas. Por ejemplo: por ser mujer y por ser niña; por ser mujer y adulta mayor; por ser mujer y discapacitada; mujer y privada de libertad. Nosotros estamos dando mucho énfasis a este sector: a las privadas de libertad. Yo lo tuve adentro de la cárcel de mujeres. Qué se siente al abrazar a una mujer sin importar que ha hecho. Yo no sabía si ella había matado, robado o extorsionado. Era una mujer. Y se lo di. Y eso es algo maravilloso, porque la mujer ahí está siendo privada de un derecho: el de la libertad, pero le subsisten, por el solo y simple hecho de ser humano, el resto de derechos. Y vean ustedes que aun dentro de la cárcel llega un hombre y la amenaza que ya no es digna de tener a su hijo con ella, hasta ejercen violencia dentro mismo de la cárcel. Entonces, todos esos temas tienen que ser el centro de nuestras preocupaciones. Estoy de acuerdo con los que han dicho que debemos caminar una milla extra y salir del área de confort de donde estamos y llegar al campo, llegar a las cárceles, llegar a las áreas rurales, llegar a todo aquello donde este la mujer más pobre, mas vulnerable, y no por misericordia, sino porque es un derecho. Las mujeres son sujetos de derecho y como tal deben de ejercerlos. Todas las mujeres tienen el derecho de vivir una vida libre de violencia, a ser incluidas, tomadas en cuenta en todas las áreas de la vida. El no hacerlo, el discriminar es otra forma de hacer violencia.

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## *Summary* in English

When elected, I pledged to create a training center in order to create equality for those working in the field of justice. I also pledged to create a unit that would centralize all the aid we receive, in order to have transparency and optimal use of resources. The third thing was to create a Gender Unit at the General Attorney's Office, which every citizen can turn to. We teach how to solve conflicts in family disputes in a peaceful way within the community and so the Gender Unit in the General Attorney's office is a wall of social support. I needed the budget for this Unit to be tagged. But as it wasn't we addressed the international organizations, UN WOMEN and UNPFA.

We lack awareness of the private sector, and there is a lot of impunity in the judicial system, especially outside the capital. The General Attorney's Office has to coordinate between institutions, as well as implementing laws and using international tools.

We have to reach those women that are doubly discriminated against: for being woman/girl, woman/elderly, woman/disabled and women in prison. In this last case, the woman has been deprived of her freedom but still has other rights as a woman. For even inside jail men come and exert violence against women. We have to go out of our comfort zone and reach prisons, rural areas, where women are most poor, and most vulnerable. Women are entitled to their rights, otherwise it is another sort of violence.

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# *Summing up*

## **Session 5**

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*This panel was shorter than the previous ones, but nevertheless very interesting. The chairperson shared the difficulties of being a public servant in her country, especially in the private sector. She claimed that men go into politics in order to gain power, while women have more service awareness.*

*After the presentations from Samoa and El Salvador we heard of the importance of using the right terminology when talking about victims and the care needed when dealing with the media, especially in regard to victims of violence. When different kinds of violence are excused with terminology, victims are just hurt again.*

*The representative from Senegal mentioned two important points for international organizations:*

- 1. The need for capacity building for women to be proactive - civil society and international organizations can help build capacity, governments can make laws, so a partnership is needed.*
- 2. Financial resources are needed for women leaders in the field who want to go into politics and influence policy, but are financially unable to and need help from development organizations – even if they claim they do not want to interfere with local politics.*

*The MASHAV delegate pointed out that, if we are going to suggest a standalone gender goal, it has to be directly connected to all three dimensions of sustainable development. The panelist from Samoa responded to a question about positive discrimination and what UN agencies can or cannot do.*

*Attorney Sonia Elizabeth Cortez concluded by saying that it is important to have training and education on gender issues, not only for judges and lawyers but for the entire public.*

*from*  
**Plenary Session 5**



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1. Hon. Ms. Fiamé Naomi Mata'afa, Samoa;  
Ms. Glenda Roxana Soto Rubio, Ecuador;  
Attorney Sonia Elizabeth Cortez, El Salvador
2. Attorney Sonia Elizabeth Cortez
3. Hon. Ms. Fiamé Naomi Mata'afa
4. Ms. Glenda Roxana Soto Rubio
5. The Plenary at work

# **Strengthening global partnerships and accountability to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda**

Chair

**Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde**

UN Under-Secretary-General,  
Director-General,  
United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNON

Presentations

**Ms. Kristin Hetle**

Director of Strategic Partnerships, UN WOMEN

**Dr. Josephine Ojiambo**

Chief, Executive Board and External Relations Branch, IERD, UNFPA

**Ms. Cosima Schenk**

President, International Council of Women

**Ms. Kathy Kaaf**

Immediate Past President, Soroptimist International of Europe

**Dr. Malinka Koparanova**

Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point, UNECE



## Ms. Kristin Hetle

Director of Strategic Partnerships, UN WOMEN

*As Director, Strategic Partnership Division, **Kristin Hetle** oversees UN WOMEN's partnerships with civil society, its corporate communications and resource mobilization. She is also responsible for outreach to the business community and other non-traditional partners. Before joining UN WOMEN she served as Director of Communications for the Ministry of Labour in Norway. Between 2002 and 2008 she was Chief of Communications in UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, where she spearheaded several public awareness campaigns for women's health. Prior to that, Ms. Hetle was CEO of Media Lion Inc., a company she co-founded; specializing in communication strategies and media training for public and corporate leaders. Ms. Hetle is a journalist by training, and anchored a variety of programs in Norwegian Public Radio for almost 20 years. She graduated in Human Geography and Roman languages at the University of Oslo, and in Journalism at Oslo University College.*

There have been many affirmations by the global community of the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment to sustainable development. The Rio+20 outcome, the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons, the Sustainable Development Solutions Report, the UNDG report "A Million Voices", among others, have all emphasized the importance of a strong focus on gender equality.

The Open Working Group has been discussing gender in its thematic discussions thus far and will focus specifically on it in its February session.

These affirmations are very encouraging, but need to accelerate into commitments and action. We still have a long and challenging distance to travel as the intergovernmental process begins. So what is a blueprint for action? Working with the UN System, with civil society, with governments and all stakeholders we must ensure that every negotiating delegation has before it the following focus issues:

1. To prioritize gender equality and women's human rights throughout the framework.
2. To ensure meaningful participation of women's and social movements in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and programs.
3. To use the human rights architecture as its basis and include concrete means of implementation that prioritize public financing and overcome exclusion.
4. To promote innovative, democratic financing mechanisms, including long-term, flexible support for civil society organizations, including women's organizations.

UN WOMEN believes that the key to making accountability systems work for women is the strength of women's collective action, through women's rights groups

and civil society movements. We have an active strategy to engage with and build capacity and impact of civil society organizations, to more effectively advocate for our common goals in the post-2015 development agenda, and increase public accountability in countries.

This includes:

1. Supporting civil society contribution to specific sector policy dialogues.
2. Supporting the convening of multi-stakeholder consultations at national and regional level, involving civil society actors, national authorities and other partners, so as to facilitate their participation in policy dialogues on the post-2015 discussions.
3. Supporting civil society-led advocacy activities at regional, sub-regional or national level.

A renewed global partnership for gender equality in the new development framework will have to strengthen global governance by addressing weaknesses in international arrangements for collective decision-making.

Creating a more inclusive and equitable system of global governance mechanisms, determined not only by private/multinational private sector interest, but by participation of public national institutions and civil society and citizen collectives would help strengthen coherence within the global partnership and would contribute to creating an international enabling environment for development, which prioritizes gender equality.

Mobilizing resources for gender equality will be essential for the renewed global partnership for development. While commitments on official development assistance must be strengthened and met, and developed countries must be urged to honor their pledges, these should also address quality aspects such as aid efficiency. Moreover, the renewed global partnership for development can foster innovative forms of development finance and development assistance that go beyond traditional donors. It can also support governments through capacity building and other means to mobilize domestic resources for the gender equality agenda.



## **Dr. Josephine Ojiambo**

Chief, Executive Board and External Relations Branch  
IERD, UNFPA

*Dr. Josephine Ojiambo is the new Chief of the Executive Board and External Relations Branch in the Information and External Relations Division (IERD) at UNFPA. Before this assignment, Dr. Ojiambo was immediate Former Ambassador/ Deputy Permanent Representative at the Kenya Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, where she notably engaged with a range of committees at the UN General Assembly on themes including international peace and security, development and humanitarian aid. At the United Nations, she provided inputs to processes related to MDGs, the Commission on Population and Development, South South collaboration, the Review Conference on the Elimination of the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, Arms Trade Treaty and Development, and Global Governance among others. She has engaged quite extensively with other UN agencies, notably UNFPA and UN WOMEN, in some of these processes.*

*Prior to representing Kenya at the United Nations, Dr. Ojiambo managed a Public Health Consultancy in Kenya. She has worked in the private sector and with non-governmental organizations, advocating for multi-sector interventions to promote equity in social development, particularly for women, youth and vulnerable people. Additionally, she has worked for the Ministry of Health, for the Ministry of Planning and National Development and for other Government departments in Kenya.*

*Dr. Ojiambo has been an active member of a number of organizations, such as the Women's Democracy Network, the Medical Women's International Association and the Pan-African Women's Organization. She holds a Master's degree (with Distinction) in Public Health and Community Medicine, a degree in Medicine and Surgery and several certified skills, including one in diplomacy.*

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*I* am grateful to join you here today to share views on crucial issues – for ourselves, our families and communities, and the world we call our own. I am also grateful to the organizers of this conference, those who collaborated and those who took the time to be together, and work together. At this conference we see true collaboration among those from many sectors of society – youth groups, faith-based groups, philanthropists, the United Nations family – and I am also a member of this family. We see people of goodwill also from the private sector, government and partners across the globe. What a tremendous privilege this is – and what an opportunity to really make a difference!

Let me speak now about an issue close to my own heart – the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality. Personally, I feel these are matters of social justice that require a human rights based approach. For decades, it is the women who have actively participated, in all fora, including at the United Nations,

in shaping economic, social, and political development. Recognizing the key importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as essential components of poverty eradication and human development, Member States of the United Nations, in July of 2010, collaborated to create the new United Nations agency, UN WOMEN. Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, UN WOMEN works for the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality. With this – everyone benefits. Men and boys, women and girls, families, communities and nations – all can make the progress and live the lives that they know and feel are their own birthright.

## **Post-2015 development agenda**

Thus, the timing and focus of MCTC's 28<sup>th</sup> International Women Leaders' Conference are both timely and relevant. Within the United Nations and the international communities, people of vision and commitment, like yourselves, are working to shape the post-2015 development framework. This is a truly global agenda, with shared responsibilities for all countries. As we speak, my colleagues at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are actively preparing for the 2014 review of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The vision and recommendations from this will dovetail into enriching the dialogue for the post-2015 Development Agenda. At the same time, related to these reflections, colleagues within and outside the United Nations family are working towards the development of sustainable development goals (SDGs) that have been called for by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. In all this work, and as a growing number of Member States are reviewing and prioritizing the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals that need to be considered in the post-2015 framework, we are seeing both how much we have achieved and how much more we still can achieve. As the Haitian saying goes: "Beyond the mountains, there are mountains".

In this development landscape, our agenda will need to evolve. We need to:

- ◆ Build on the strengths of the current global partnership for development, while going beyond its present framework.
- ◆ Develop an integrated policy approach.
- ◆ Ensure policies include gender-inclusive economic development, social progress, environmental sustainability, a human rights-based approach, peace and health developments for women.

## **Gender equality and transnational civil society**

The engagement of civil society groups in global governance processes is essential to addressing gender inequalities in any post-MDG programme. National-level women's advocacy groups, working at the grassroots level, are able to identify emerging issues and solutions; and moreover may take an independent stance on gender rights and hold both governments and international organisations to account. Such groups have the potential to contribute to the next global development framework on gender and rights, particularly in terms of presenting key concerns and ideas about measuring

and monitoring. Further, they play an important role in transnational advocacy on gender rights, constituting a crucial part of the interactions between UN agencies and governments.

Recent interest in the role of civil society organisations has in part stemmed from trends in governance: in both national policy and development assistance initiatives, civil society groups have been increasingly involved in national policy and development. Initiatives increasingly feature partnerships with a wide network of partners and people of goodwill within civil society, including faith-based organizations, philanthropists, parliamentarians and young people.

I am very proud of these young people. For example, in the UNFPA Tajikistan Country office, youth representatives played a substantial role in the ongoing global UN consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. Highlighting the role of young people, youth activist Rustam Gulov said “Today, young people are working equally with adults in different spheres, including health and education, governance and social protection. Therefore the participation of young people in the post-2015 process is crucial”.

Here are some examples of active collaborations among women in Africa:

**FEMNET: The African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)** was set up in 1988 to share experiences, information and strategies among African women’s non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through advocacy, training and communications so as to advance African women’s development, equality and other human rights. FEMNET aims to strengthen the role and contribution of African NGOs focusing on women’s development, equality and other human rights. It also aims to provide a channel through which these NGOs can reach one another and share experiences, information and strategies so as to improve their work on African women’s development, equality and other human rights.

**AWLN: African Women Leaders Networks for Reproductive Health & Family Planning.** AWLN is a collective of thirty five African women leaders from fifteen African countries. AWLN supports the efforts of African women to improve reproductive health and access to comprehensive family planning. AWLN strengthens global advocacy efforts for reproductive health and family planning by bringing to the foreground the voices and perspectives of African women.

## **Civil society and global frameworks for gender equality**

Especially in recent decades, numerous international non-governmental organisations and networks such as Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN); Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO); the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID); and the Gender and Development Network (GADN) (Moghadam 2010: 295-299) lobby for the interests of women and girls. These groups contribute to the dialogue between international women’s networks and national NGOs, and UN agencies, including special committees and online consultations.

On all continents, women actively lobby for their rights and those of their families and communities. Women in India have a strong history of lobbying the state from an active civil society movement; South African women's activists have, since transition to democracy, attempted to work from within the government. Particularly since the mid-1900s, women in China have led a strong women's movement from within the Communist Party, and also from semi-autonomous NGOs.

## **Coalition building for effective advocacy for gender equality integration**

How does one define coalition building? In simplest terms, a coalition is a group of individuals and/or organizations with a common interest, who agree to work together toward a common goal. That goal could be as narrow as obtaining funding for a specific intervention, or as broad as trying to improve permanently the overall quality of life for most people in the community. By the same token, the individuals and organizations involved might be drawn from a narrow area of interest, or might include representatives of nearly every segment of the community, depending upon the breadth of the issue.

Coalition goals vary, but often contain elements of one or more of the following:

- ◆ Influencing or developing public policy, usually around a specific issue.
- ◆ Changing people's behavior (reducing smoking or drug use, for instance).
- ◆ Building a healthy community.

In reference to coalition building for gender equality, it is essential to design, implement and monitor efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes at all levels to foster the empowerment and advancement of women.

## **About UNFPA: sexual and reproduction health**

UNFPA works to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights under the goal to "Ensure Healthy Lives". This again builds upon and goes beyond the existing MDGs, which include a target to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015. We encourage in this a sensitive, compassionate, human rights based approach.

A human rights based approach is key to achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health services. These services include family planning counseling, information and education, and a full range of contraceptive services; education and services for pre-natal care, safe delivery and post-natal care; prevention and treatment of infertility; safe abortion services and post-abortion care; treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, and other reproductive health conditions; prevention and treatment of breast cancer, cervical cancer, and other cancers of the reproductive system; and comprehensive sexuality education, among other things, delivered through the primary health care system in a way that respects human rights, including the right to bodily integrity and informed consent.

Civil society organizations provide one channel to voice community concerns. The existence of CSOs can help to make the state more accountable, and can fill gaps in the delivery of services. Practice has shown that CSOs can play an active role in ensuring government's development promises are fulfilled and policy improvements made.

## The way forward

The most urgent steps for the realization of the human rights of women and girls will be through the avenues of health and security. UNFPA has steadily worked toward achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health for all women globally.

- ◆ A key UNFPA priority is maternal and child health. My colleagues and I are working on various initiatives: examples include the **Maternal Health Thematic Fund** and the Campaign to End Fistula.
- ◆ The area of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The prevention and control of NCDs among women in low and middle-income countries is an area where we should also focus and bring in CSOs to mobilize greater advocacy for this area.
- ◆ Further global awareness and support on all levels for a gender-based approach to NCD prevention and control, gender specific financing for NCD programs. Crucial is the expansion of technical capacity and resources to meet the health needs of women and girls.
- ◆ Access to reproductive health care also demands what UNFPA calls **reproductive health commodity security**, the ability for all individuals to obtain and use quality reproductive health supplies of their choice whenever they need them. This is the aim of the UNFPA-led **Global Programme on Reproductive Health Commodity Security**.
- ◆ As a physician, I see clearly the need to achieve better health outcomes for women by leveraging existing resources, policies and programs to create a lifecycle approach to women's health that ensures women's rights to access healthcare by expanding synergies with global efforts to prevent and control NCDs. HPV vaccines and early screening and treatment tools to prevent cervical cancer cases and new gender-focused models for NCD programs and policies that make possible major breakthroughs in women's health.

## Actions we all can take in ensuring the rights of women

**Lobby your government to apply a broader gender lens to measure progress:** Promote the use of sex-disaggregated data to measure and monitor the impact of fiscal and social policies on women and girls. This data is essential and should be applied in analyses of policies at all levels of society.

**Expand your horizons:** Many gender-sensitive indicators already exist and have been used to measure progress of other UN agreements from United Nations world conferences – such as the International Conference on Population and Development

and the Beijing Platform for Action. We have so much at our fingertips, to use as we chart our way forward.

**Monitor your government's progress:** Following the 1995 conference in Beijing, women began monitoring their governments' effort to turn policy promises into action. In preparation for UN reviews in which governments present progress reports, women's organizations have responded with their own critical reports. Seeing the world through the eyes of women provides the only truly realistic context for official words and deeds. Progress reports by government authorities must be read alongside the realism of women's day-to-day lives.

**Think Globally, Act Locally:** Get input from all the stakeholders. Here again, I would like to mention and acknowledge the key contribution of people like yourselves – people of goodwill from all sectors, such as youth groups, women's organizations, faith-based groups, parliamentarians, philanthropists, the non-governmental community and the United Nations family.

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## **Ms. Cosima Schenk**

President, International Council of Women

*Cosima Schenk* was born in Lausanne, Switzerland and has held the position of President of the International Council of Women (ICW) since October 2009. Prior to her appointment she served in several key positions in the ICW, including first Vice-President and Member of the Board. Ms. Schenk graduated in Political Science from the University of Lausanne and took different posts in the Foreign Service, in Berne and in Ghana, Cuba, New York (United Nations), Strasburg (Council of Europe), Washington, Vienna, South Africa, Algeria and Colombia, from 1968 to 1999. Additionally, she was a member of staff at the Swiss Office of Social Security in Berne, and President of the United Nations Delegations Women's Club in New York, President of "Welcome to Berne", President of the International Services of the American Red Cross in Washington, President of the International Club IV in Washington, member of the American Club, Cape Town, South Africa, President of the Diplomatic Club and President of the United Nations Women's Club in Bogota, Colombia, and Vice-President of the National Council of Women in Switzerland.

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The International Council of Women is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, as the oldest women's organization. ICW and its sixty four members integrated into three regional councils, in Europe, in Pacific Asia, and in America. It is dedicated as an umbrella organization to identify the common goals we all have. The emancipation of women - many obstacles pave our actions - through language barriers, political trends, religious and traditional patterns, illiteracy, poor access to education, endemic violence, stereotypes. Women victims of extreme poverty are everywhere in developed, as well as in developing countries. Besides, it is now obvious that the impact of the economic crisis affects women more than men. My objective today is to express the point that accountability is only possible if women are leaders. Looking back at our history I want to share with you what our American founders had in mind when they created the ICW in Washington in 1888. Audacious women at the end of the nineteenth century, with a certain level of education, became conscious that they could play a role in society, in spite of the patriarchal system that in general was widespread in the society of those times. The objective remained the same throughout the century – advocacy and struggle at all levels for emancipation.

In a recent extensive evaluation, the UN Secretary, General Ban-Ki-Moon, determined the global development framework and identified goals and targets up to the 2015 MDGs and after 2015. To develop a new vision, of a life of dignity for all and a sustainable development climate of peace and security, a strong will is needed to achieve substantial progress. However, I am very much concerned that in the UN WOMEN are not considered enough as potential partners with equal shares of responsibility to improve our society.

Ban Ki Moon identifies women among the most vulnerable groups, together with children, youth, indigenous people, migrants, elderly and finally handicapped persons. In other words, it is a handicap to be born female; it means half of humanity is a minority to be protected. The great show of the Commission on the Status of Women is very often frustrating for NGOs. Women's organizations are less and less allowed to take part in the discussion about their status, if the word status hurts me, the concept of human rights for women implies a sad reality. Women need special treatment because they are women and consequently inferior, the concept of human rights should be enough to describe what human dignity requires as men or as women.

Why do women need a special status? Women can be poor, vulnerable, sick, and above all, being women, they are inferior human beings. Fundamentally born unequal, more than 50 member states of the UN consider that women are unequal, denying them fundamental rights. The principle of having a special status implies inequality, the principle of using quotas in political parties or in cooperate bodies is fundamentally wrong; it implies that women are incapable of ensuring themselves their positions. However, I can see that the system of quotas helped in many countries in the recent past, increasing the participation of women in parliaments. In Europe, in Asia and in America, women have reached equal access to universities, where they present an average of 52% of the students.

What women want now is a position of leader, in full participation with the men in the family and in her professional life. Women showed that they were capable to

live the life they have chosen, they want to control their body without the pressure of legislation; they are able to choose the number of children they want without the recommendation of some government. ICW does not act in confronting women with the status of victims, our slogan is: "Help women help themselves"; our main objective is to promote women's self consciousness, self esteem, self defense, our strategy is to fight against violence – but not to fight back. We want to stress gender similarities instead of insisting on gender disparities, which only lead to confrontations. The image of Martha Dolorosa conveys only the image of women's suffering and not the image of a mother responsible for bringing up the future generation. The propensity for victimization is a dangerous way which leads to self-pity, besides, women tend to consider that as victim or oppressed they are innocent.

In the developed world the constellation of family and work is still a challenge for the younger generation, but it works rather well and has been proved possible. In the majority of the European countries, society has changed and a new structure has been provided by the state to take care of children in school and after school. The majority of young women are now willing to continue a professional activity, whether from financial necessity or a real need to make a career. During the 20th century a new woman appeared, capable of existing by herself, responsible for her family, promoting her own political and professional career. We'd like to believe that the patriarchal model is gone. Globally, women gained in dignity and self control and what starts now, only now, is appreciation of the value of women's labor for free, provided for free during centuries. This value has never been evaluated as part of a GNP or involved in statistics. It was considered as inherent to the female nature.

The new acquisitions in the field of women's rights have been suffering for the last 10 years from a serious backlash, not only in the Islamic regime, but also in Europe. Recently the German government agreed to allow a subsidy to women who prefer to stay home and look after their children. In Switzerland, Swiss people will be asked in 2 weeks' time to vote for or against a people's initiative of the extremist right party to exempt from some fiscal burden the family where the mother is staying home, and I consider those attempts as pure manipulation from the conservative parties to confine women in a strict family sphere.

The Millennium Development Goals were identified by the UN with a deadline of 2015; we already know that hunger and extreme poverty were reduced for the last decade, but we also know that none of these objectives will be reached by 2015. The UN member states agreed on them but they cannot be the only agent of change. All decision makers, including women, are responsible for improving the situation.

All our women's organizations deplore that no one gives enough opportunity to women to play a role in addressing those challenges in the field of politics, economics and peace process. Women have to ask for it. We want to participate in those efforts to improve the situation and so improve the world of today. We want to prove also that we are indispensable in this process.

## Ms. Kathy Kaaf

Immediate Past President, Soroptimist International of Europe,  
Germany

*Kathy Kaaf is President elect of Soroptimist International of Europe and a member of the organization since 1984. She has worked in media and communications. She has experience in freelancing for several German newspapers, writing mainly for the culture, travel, education, art and music sections. She has also written for and produced documentary films for public and private TV channels in Cologne on topics of art, music and history.*

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**I** have been most impressed by the high calibre contributions to this conference and I am glad to learn that more women have found their way into politics. I have always tried to persuade our competent and eloquent partners - particularly in Africa - to enter politics because **there will never be a positive change in society unless women enter the arena not only to settle conflicts but to prevent wars.**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent the service-organisation I belong to. The name Soroptimist International ([www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)) derives from the Latin Sorores optimae, best sisters. This is not only a title and a challenge, but, at the same time, a programme. We have been striving to do the best for women in every aspect of their lives. Through our global network of some eighty five thousand members in one hundred and twenty four countries, all working in different professions, through our international partnerships and work as an NGO at all the major centres of the United Nations, SI gives women and girls a voice.

We have, of course, had various programmes to educate women and girls for a long time, yet we have come to realize that this is not enough. So now **Soroptimist's overarching programme of work and the focus of many of its projects is "Educate to lead"**. We inform about our wide range of international initiatives and their results in our **"Global Impact Report"**. We work with **mentoring programmes** at all levels to promote young women in particular. To raise awareness of women's issues and to give greater weight to its advocacy effort as **an international NGO**, SIE has representatives with participatory status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, is a member of the European Women's Lobby in Brussels and is represented at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna and Prague.

We enjoy and encourage strategic partnerships with, among others, **Women for Water Partnership**, a worldwide network of women's organisations in eighty seven countries. Together we facilitate the social and economic development of women and their communities, through the provision of **water and sanitation** and by supporting activities to achieve **water and food security** and climate change adaptation.

We believe it most important to join with young women and girls as partners and do so with **WAGGGS**, the International Girl Guides Organisation, which is itself well organized and efficient.

We think it is decisive for the cause of **women at the grass-roots** to help them gain the confidence and skills needed to **speak in public**. We organize courses and competitions in public speaking. And of course we encourage our members to acquire skills in communication in order to bring across their **message in such a way as to be positively received and understood**. This morning we have addressed the importance of the **media** in the gender equality process. Would it not be a way of raising awareness on important women's issues by investing in a **media campaign**?

Why not finance such an initiative on TV or in prominent newspapers and magazines? Why not use the know-how of creative advertising experts to show what we want to be achieved. Why not make the effort to find partners – men and women – to support and advertise the message we want to be known by everybody: **End violence against women and girls, against everybody**.

We are talking here among ourselves, which is necessary and vital but we lack a **wider public audience** necessary to show that **we have a say and an influence**.

You only have to look at the newspapers to realize that women are not adequately represented in world politics and business. Yet in **advertising** they still are a welcome object for promoting cars, as we heard yesterday. So why not try to use the same methods for a better cause?

When I was a representative for SIE at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, where there are some 400 NGOs uniting to lobby their very diverse causes, I found it difficult to convince members of women's issues in the male-dominated discussions. The argument which I found most effective to **make the men react positively was that of Justice. We should involve men much more in our discussions** to find strong partners in promoting more justice in the world.

I also pleaded for shorter and better understandable texts. If you want to be read you have to be short. If you want to be understood you have to use understandable language.

Let me share with you an experience I had last Friday when I was in Istanbul for one day on my way to Tel Aviv to be with my Turkish Soroptimist Friends and encourage them to intensify their help in the Syrian refugee camps. It was the day when the newspapers in **Turkey** were full of pictures of **the first women members of parliament with headscarves**. It was celebrated as a conquest for women. Of course the Turkish Soroptimists were appalled.

As there are many Turkish journalists in prison I was delighted to find a **courageous female commentator**, Ms. Mehves Evin, in an article on another subject. She wrote under the headline **'Marriage encouraged, not school'**, if you want to have good news you should get married and immediately have a child. Newlyweds will be given interest-free credit of 10.000 Turkish Liras, that is some \$5,000. If you get pregnant in the first year, the payback of the credit will be postponed. In other words, the state will be distributing money with the aim of marriage and fast impregnation.

There is **no programme for the continuity of the education of girls**.

To finish, I would like to appeal not only for **good strategic global partnerships**, but also that each and every one of us **be an ambassador of women's issues for the post-2015 agenda** and take part of the responsibility for the achievement of gender equality in his or her environment.

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## **Dr. Malinka Koparanova**

Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point, UNECE

*Malinka Koparanova is Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). As Head of the gender activities in UNECE, she conducts and coordinates research on development issues and gender, policy analysis in the economics of gender, including women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship development; organizes intergovernmental meetings as a follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, workshops and conferences as a platform for exchange of good practices and negotiations for advancing gender equality in the ECE region. She leads the Special Programme of the Economies in Central Asia on Gender and Economy, which has a strong capacity building component focusing on trainings for women entrepreneurs. She has previously worked as a Senior Economist at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN and is Senior Fellow at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Economic Research Institute. Dr. Koparanova was a McNamara Fellow of the World Bank, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and EU Fellowships, and a Visiting professor at California State University and the London Business School. She has a Ph.D. in Economics and has published books and articles on globalization, capital markets, structural changes, trade, FDI and most recently on women's economic empowerment.*

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**B**uilding partnerships is a key process to empower women and achieve gender equality, and through that, sustainable development. It is a fundamental necessity in order to bring together a whole range of agents, institutions, international organizations at global and regional levels, governments, communities, sectors and groups of people to form alliances and direct efforts and actions towards achieving gender equality. As an overarching goal, achieving gender equality requires a broad approach to include a framework of cross-cutting areas as well as a range of agents

supporting such a framework. Partnership provides this broad approach and brings together women and men working in different sectors, living in various communities and countries to work efficiently in common structures.

## **I. Gender equality challenge**

There has been impressive progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the UNECE region, but the goal of equal opportunity for men and women is still far from being achieved. Gender inequality continues to penetrate sectors, communities and regions in various forms. Moreover, a reverse in long term declining trends in gender gaps has been observed in some countries in the region in the last few years, including gender differences in paid and unpaid work, in allocating intra-household resources and time, in wages, in policy decision making<sup>1</sup>.

Major contributors to these growing gaps are the global financial and economic crises and the slowing down of many economies in the UNECE region. The austerity measures undertaken by many ECE member States have led to widening the gender gaps in employment, in particular for young women and with a high level of education. In addition, the pay gap has gone up for young educated women in the years after graduation. All of this has long term consequences on their income and wealth through the whole life-cycle.

Education parity, which has been achieved in the ECE region, has not led to equal opportunities in the labour markets. A range of factors underpins this negative trend in the region. The mismatch between the qualification of women and the demand of the markets from one side and the rigidity of these markets from another, are prompting a widening of the gender gaps between women's and men's employability. Women, as a result of the squeeze in the formal labour market, go for informal working arrangements and bear the consequences of no social insurance for many years. The prolonged economic crisis has deepened this trend, leading to an increase in poverty among women. In Spain, for example, 21 per cent of women and 19 per cent of men are poor, and one third of older women are at risk of poverty.

The advancement in the legislative environment, including against wage discrimination is a positive trend in many countries in the ECE region. For some of them, it has led to reducing the gender gap; for others, wage discrimination remains a persistent challenge. On average, the differences between the wages of women and men remain high: in twenty five countries out of the fifty six member States in the ECE region the difference is above 30 per cent. In all countries of the ECE region data show that women continue to earn less than men at all levels of education (see Figure 1). Moreover, the gap is the largest between highly educated women and men.

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1 For an overview of the challenges and progress in achieving the MDGs in the ECE region see : The UNECE Report on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Europe and Central Asia, 2012, [www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)

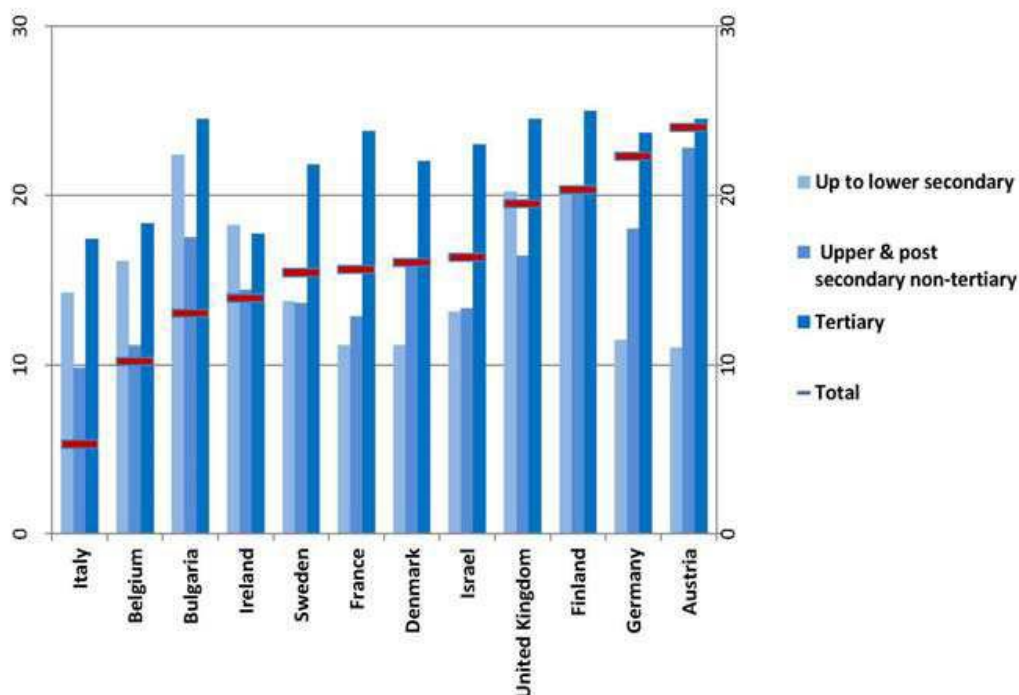


Figure 1. Gender pay gap in hourly wage rates by level of education in selected ECE countries, 2012  
 Source: UNECE Gender Statistics Database, [www.unece.org/data](http://www.unece.org/data)

Women have advanced in their participation both in economic and political decision making processes in the last five years. This progress has been uneven across the ECE region and is moving ahead slowly. In the ECE region there are sub-regions with stronger positions, such as the EU countries, with an average of 26 per cent of members of parliaments being women, while in the countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (EECCA) it is 18 per cent. The involvement of women in business, in particular those holding higher positions in the business, has advanced: between 30 and 40 per cent of managers are women and between 20 and 30 per cent of employers are women as well<sup>2</sup>.

## II. Gender-sensitive policies to reverse the inequality trends

The economic recovery in the pan-European space has remained fragile for a long period. In some countries, growth has resumed, but the pattern it follows is not generating jobs, or not enough to reverse the employment trends in a sustainable way. These factors have deepened the gender gaps as their root causes have spread over many areas. Against this background, long-term advocacy and actions, in conjunction with a specially designed policy and measures to reflect the inclusion of women in economy and policy, is an urgent necessity that could restore growth and contribute to sustainable development.

<sup>2</sup> UNECE Gender Statistics Database, [www.unece.org/data](http://www.unece.org/data)

First of all, empowering women and gender equality has to be a forward-looking task and this defines its major role in the post-2015 development framework. As priority within a development plan, it should encompass the vision of society, but a vision based on human rights for all. Only then can it transform society to a powerful agent of change. The development plan should explicitly include all areas where women are involved as participants and/or final users. This goal is long-term and it has to factor in the development of all human resources, and women and girls are a significant half of this resource. Along with providing universally accessible and affordable education, investment in education of girls should be made according to the development plan of the whole nation, accounting for the needs of strategic sectors and sustainable economies, such as the green economy, and ensuring that girls have those skills and education that are needed for the year ahead, i.e. for all sectors of sustainable development.

On an everyday basis, policy instruments and initiatives should target the elimination of existing gender gaps and the prevention of new ones. Economic regulation and labour market policies should have as elements promotion of equal pay and decent work for all. Special programmes to train women and girls, and finance their entrepreneurial ideas and projects have to work both in the government and have initiatives for the private sector to incorporate similar policies.

Both the long-term and short-term dimension of including gender-sensitive initiatives and policies in the development agenda need a reliable monitoring mechanism, the provision of data and indicators, as well as a mechanism to feed back into adjustments in policies.

### **III. How partnerships can help promote gender-sensitive policies**

Innovative and constructive partnerships between different sectors and interests can create an efficient environment for significant progress toward creating sustainability. In such an environment, gender-sensitive policies could be shared by all participants and stakeholders, both women and men. Examples for successful partnerships could be found at microlevel and include organizations from the public and private sector. Partnerships could be built at country and regional level and have a broader range of institutions involved. Below, I would like to share the partnership UNECE has developed in the area of women's entrepreneurship development in the ECE region.

#### **UNECE experience in building partnerships to strengthen women's empowerment and accelerate the achievement of gender equality**

UNECE works for empowering women and accelerating the achievement of gender equity across various areas in the pan-European space. We do this by monitoring key areas where gender gaps persist through data collection and analysis of the gender gaps; policy recommendations and exchange of best practices across our



member States, our reports on the achievements and challenges of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as various reports on the post-2015 development agenda as part of the UN system.

UNECE regularly organizes events on best practices in women's entrepreneurship development. In this field we cooperate with our partners: women's business associations, professional associations, chambers of commerce, academia, government officials from ministries and agencies dealing with entrepreneurship, international organizations acting in the ECE region, global institutions and organizations.

The creation of an enabling economic and social environment to boost women's entrepreneurship and SMEs is an important area for UNECE work. In order to provide technical assistance, especially to countries in transition and emerging market economies, the Secretariat has established a Project Working Group on Gender and Economy within the framework of its Special Programme for the Economies In Central Asia (SPECAs). In 2010-2011 two field projects were conducted to assess the business environment for women and men entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The results of these projects provide empirical evidence for the gender differences in the perception of women and men entrepreneurs, in regard to various economic policies and measures applied to the business environment; gender differences are particularly notable in rural and urban areas. These results support the need for gender-sensitive policies and measures across the sectors in and within the countries.

UNECE works in partnership with all countries in the region in the area of capacity building to support women entrepreneurs to set up and/or expand their businesses. Since 2006 UNECE Gender and Economy has collaborated with the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) in Haifa and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in providing biannual training workshops for professional women from Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia. These workshops cover two main topics: Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Since the first jointly organized workshop in 2006 on Microcredit and other Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs, over 350 women entrepreneurs from government institutions and SME support agencies, NGOs dealing with small business support and development, women's business associations and academia have received training on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs. These training workshops provide an excellent opportunity for women entrepreneurs from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to meet, exchange information and experience and build their networks.

These opportunities are further strengthened through exchanging knowledge and experiences, discussing best practices and policies at the women's entrepreneurship Policy seminars and Forums organized by UNECE. At these meetings, partnerships are strengthened through dialogue between policy makers, the business community and academia, at country and regional levels.

Partnerships can be an effective player in promoting and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in all aspects of life by bringing greater attention to the need for ensuring better linkages between gender equality and the promotion of sustainable development. In particular, UNECE discussed the linkages between women's economic empowerment and sustainable development at a Roundtable during its biennial session in 2011.

UNECE works in partnership with the corporate sector to promote women's empowerment. Participants in the Symposium on Empowering Women in the Energy Industry for Value and Development (Geneva, 19-20 September 2013) emphasized that women are part of the solution. It is up to the United Nations, governments, organizations and industry working in partnership to find the appropriate solutions to ensure industry and society benefit globally from the added value of a diverse labour force. The Symposium concluded that a cultural shift is needed in how companies and organizations are run so that diversity and inclusion become the norm. Specific policies are needed to ensure that a diverse workforce can work well together. Inclusion is about ensuring that the right conditions are in place for each person to achieve his or her full potential. Inclusive policies in support of a diverse workforce need to permeate from the top down and be reflected in an organization's culture, practices and relationships.

Looking forward, UNECE will continue to promote gender equality through partnering with its member States and international organization. The forthcoming Regional Review of the progress and challenges of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in November 2014 will be important for outlining future directions of work to link the actions in the twelve areas of concern of the BPfA with the post-2015 development framework. Since 2000, UNECE has provided a regional platform for the review of the progress and appraisal of the BPfA, namely Beijing+5, (Geneva, 2000), Beijing+10 (Geneva, 2004) and Beijing+15 (Geneva, 2009).

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## *Summing up*

### **Session 6**

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*The diversity of speakers from various organizations in this panel allowed us to examine the subject of global partnership and accountability as a whole. The chairperson thanked the panelists for their contributions and afterwards opened the discussion. Participants from Italy/Nigeria, followed by Albania, Argentina, UNDP, Papua New Guinea, UN WOMEN and Costa Rica all spoke and the questions and comments opened a dialog between the participants and the panelists.*

*The chair praised the wonderful audience and panelists; taking the opportunity to thank MASHAV and MCTC she declared that she personally had learned a great deal and means to use this information back in her office at Nairobi, with her group of women leaders.*

# from Plenary Session 6



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1. Dr. Malinka Koparanova, UNECE;  
Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, UNFPA;  
Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, UNON;  
Ms. Kristin Hetle, UN WOMEN
2. Dr. Malinka Koparanova;  
Dr. Josephine Ojiambo
3. Dr. Malinka Koparanova
4. Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde
5. Ms. Kristin Hetle
6. Ms. Cosima Schenk, ICW

## **Working Groups**

PLENARY SESSION VII

## **Reports of Workshops to the Plenum**

Chair

**Ms. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa**

Minister of Justice, Samoa

PLENARY SESSION VIII

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Co-Chairs

**Mr. Ilan Fluss**

Director, Policy Planning & External Relations Department, MASHAV

**Ms. Mazal Renford**

Director, MCTC

## Working Groups

The Plenary divided into four working groups to define the top three Gender Equality Priorities for the Post-2015 Agenda and to identify the necessary strategies for advancing those priorities with their governments, in order to take forward the post-2015 negotiations. Each group inserted proposed revisions into a draft of the Declaration for discussion in the forthcoming Plenary.

### English Speaking Groups

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Ms. Bani Dugal</b>	Bahá'í International Community's UN Office
<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Mr. Ilan Fluss</b>	MASHAV
	Hon. Ms. Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa	Samoa
	Ms. Christine Musisi	UN WOMEN
	Ms. Menissa Rambally	St. Lucia
	Ms. Lopa Banerjee	UN WOMEN

<b>Chair/ Rapporteur</b>	<b>Dr. Ebum A. Jusu</b>	Sierra Leone
<b>Co-chair</b>	<b>Hon. Ms. Loujaya Kouza</b>	Papua New Guinea
	Dr. Sergei Zelenev	ICSW – International Council on Social Welfare
	Dr. Josephine Ojiambo	UNFPA
	Prof. Dr. Khin San Yee	Myanmar
	Ms. Randi Davis	UNDP
	Ms. Ingrid Cumming	Australia
	Ms. Millie Odhiambo	Kenya
	Ms. Valentina Leskaj	Albania
	Dr. Esohe Aghatisé	Italy/Nigeria

## French Speaking Group

<b>Chair/ Rapporteur</b>	<b>Hon. Prof. Amsatou Sow Sidibe</b>	Senegal
	Ms. Cosima Schenk	ICW
	M. Dibahi Doh Marcellin	Ivory Coast
	Ms. Kathy Kaaf	Germany
	Dr. Malinka Koparanova	UNECE
	Ms. Fannette Modek	MASHAV
	Ms. Mazal Renford	MCTC

## Spanish Speaking Group

<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Hon. Ms. Mayi Antillón Guerrero</b>	Costa Rica
<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Dr. Patricia Bullrich</b>	Argentina
Rapporteur	Ms. Glenda Soto Rubio	Ecuador
Rapporteur	Attorney Sonia Elizabeth Cortez	El Salvador
	Ms. Aura Saturnina Toribo Diaz	Dominican Republic
	Ms. Hanoi Sanchez Paniagua	Dominican Republic
	Lic. Elsie Jannette Sierra Belches de Duran	Guatemala
	Ms. Shula Ferdman	MCTC
	Ms. Rosa Franco-Alhadeff	MCTC
	Mr. Natan Ben Shachar	MCTC

### **The participants reconvened for Plenary Session VII, chaired by Hon. Ms. Fiamé Naomi Mata'afa, Samoa.**

Each working group presented its recommendations for amending the Declaration to the Plenary, delivered by representatives of each group –

- › **Dr. Ebum Jusu**
- › **Mr. Ilan Fluss**
- › **Hon. Prof. Amsatou Sow Sidibe**
- › **Hon. Ms. Mayi Antillón Guerrero**

## Plenary Session VIII

# Conclusions and Recommendations; the Haifa Declaration

This Plenary Session was jointly co-chaired by the **Conference Chairs, Ms. Mazal Renford, Director, MCTC**, and **Mr. Ilan Fluss, Director, Policy Planning & External Relations Department, MASHAV**.

Winding up the session, co-chair **Mr. Ilan Fluss** said that he hoped the Declaration could be helpful and influence the post-2015 agenda. "It is up to all of us whether it will be influential.

The outcome of the Haifa Declaration will be incorporated into the official Israeli position to be presented in New York. We will also try to get this accepted into the position of the US and Canada with whom we share the seat.

We suggest and recommend that we continue to coordinate and connect later on once we all go back home. Propose to your governments to work together with Israel on how to create a stronger group in New York to work and push this agenda in New York. The strong way to influence policies is as a group of countries together".

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Fluss expressed his appreciation and thanked all partners to this meeting. A lot of work went into organizing this event on the part of MASHAV, Ms. Mazal Renford and the staff of MCTC. MASHAV was used to being focused on operational activities on the ground, but in the last few years had become more focused on contributing at the policy level too.

Conference Co-chair, **Ms. Mazal Renford**, then expressed her gratitude to all who contributed to the Conference, Mr. Ilan Fluss, Ambassador Carmon, representatives of the UNDP and UN WOMEN. She offered "big thanks to all the participants who came from far away, to all the technicians, translators, and the staff of the Center! ...We rely upon you, my dear friends, and upon our partners and all the United Nation's and specialized agencies and organizations and NGOs present here to disseminate the Haifa Declaration, so our voice will be heard, with the hope that we will continue to cooperate with all of you".

## Haifa Declaration

*We women leaders from all corners of the globe, along with other participants in the International Women Leaders' Conference on The Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals Agenda: Ensuring the Centrality of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Next Framework, held in Haifa, Israel, November 3-8 2013, hereby emphasize the centrality of gender equality, gender empowerment and girls' rights in a new 2015 framework.*

*We:*

*Reaffirm* the Rio+20 recognition that gender equality, with equal rights access and opportunities for women's participation and leadership in the economy and society and political decision making is crucial for poverty eradication as well as inclusive, equitable and sustainable development;

*Recognize* the centrality of women's rights in all new sustainable development goals, understanding that discrimination against women and girls serves as a major obstacle to progress;

*Urge* that the international community and governments analyze and implement lessons learned from efforts to achieve the MDGs, taking greater steps to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed across all sustainable development goals and that specific targets are set for women and girls;

*Recommend* coalition building between international organizations, governments, private sector, media and civil society through networking at regional and national levels to influence the formulation of the post-2015 targets and to ensure their implementation;

*Recommend* that stakeholders use the CSW as a platform to promote gender priorities in the post-2015 agenda;

*Urge* that prevention of maternal mortality remains a priority for the post-2015 agenda and that the root causes are addressed;

*Reinforce* gender equality and the empowerment of women as an essential foundation for a just, inclusive, prosperous and environmentally sound society and a key element of sustainable development;

*Call on* governments and international organizations to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, including human trafficking, as a core element of gender equality and women's empowerment. This necessitates



# Haifa Declaration, 2013

appropriate frameworks for women victims of violence as one of the priorities of the international community, the provision of support services such as shelters, professional counseling, childcare, training for economic independence and psychosocial rehabilitation and the prosecution of perpetrators;

*Recognise* that education is a mechanism for comprehensive development, encouraging stakeholders to work with men and boys to promote gender equality and empowerment of women;

*Call on* governments to respect women's bodily integrity and promote women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, including the prevention of child marriage;

*Call on* governments, international organizations and civil society to increase the participation of women in all decision-making processes by promoting their representation in institutional and corporate governing structures. As well as in trade unions and in employers' associations and by mobilizing public and private sector resources to support women leaders and to promote gender equality in the public and work space;

*Recommend* that action be taken to adequately address the needs of rural communities, reducing the disparities between rural and urban women, ensuring their access to health and education, as well as access to productive resources, including financial assistance and credits and by promoting income generating activities leading to employment and decent work;

*Recommend* that renewed emphasis be placed on the importance of equal access of girls and women to quality formal and non-formal education, technical and vocational training at all levels, including in science and the new technologies;

*Urge* the international community to address the challenges related to sustainable development, by promoting women's entrepreneurship, self-employment and economic independence and to urge governments to undertake legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to provide women with full and equal access to and control over economic and natural resources;

*Urge* that the necessary cooperative steps be taken to put into action the resolutions of the World Summits in Rio, Vienna, Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing, emphasizing the necessity to merge a women's rights based approach to population and environmental change, to lobby and raise public awareness through the media to the important role played by women in protecting the environment and to assure women's full participation in the ongoing debate on climate change;

*Employ* disaggregated targets and indicators in areas relating to sustainable development, to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment is consistently addressed and mainstreamed across the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs;

*We women leaders and other participants gathered here in Haifa commit to promote the spirit of the discussions in our spheres of influence.*

## Professional Visits and Official Events

Before leaving the city the participants were received at **Haifa City Hall** by the **Deputy Mayor, Ms. Hedva Almog, Ms. Hanna Schroedek, Advisor to the Mayor on the Status of Women** and the **Secretary General of the City of Haifa, Ms. Bracha Sela**. In response to their words of welcome, **Ms. Aura Toribio, Governor of Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic**, gave a vote of thanks for the hospitality extended to all the Conference participants by the city of Haifa.

The first stop was at **Emek Hefer**, where a study visit was made to the **Regional Council Visitors' Center and Bio-Gas facilities** to observe **sustainable development projects**. **Dr. Daw Khin San Yee, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar**, extended thanks to the hosts for the most interesting and relevant visit.

This was followed by lunch in Tel Aviv as guests of **Ms. Gila Oshrat, President, Council of Women's Organizations in Israel**, where the delegates had the opportunity to meet with representatives of women's organizations in Israel. **President of the International Council of Women (ICW), Ms. Cosima Schenk** gave a vote of thanks for the hospitality afforded to the group.

In Jerusalem a **Reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** awaited the Conference participants, hosted by **Ambassador Daniel Carmon**, and with the participation of **Ms. Aviva Raz Shechter, Deputy Director General, Middle East and Peace Process Division, MASHAV**. **Ms. Aviva Raz Shechter**, spoke about the geo-political situation in the region. **National Deputy in Argentina, Dr. Patricia Bullrich**, thanked Ambassador Carmon for the hospitality MASHAV had extended to the group during their stay in Israel.

The delegates spent the following morning at the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), meeting first with **M.K. Ms. Orly Levy-Abekasis**, and then with Deputy Speaker, **Ms. Pnina Tamano-Shata**, both members of the Parliamentary Committee on the Status of Women. A vote of thanks was given on behalf of the delegates by the **First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Mrs. Roman Tesfaye**.

During lunch in the Knesset with the **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ze'ev Elkin, Hon. Ms. Mayi Antillón Guerrero, Minister for Economy, Industry, and Commerce, Costa Rica**, presented Mr. Elkin with a copy of the Haifa Declaration and offered a vote of thanks on behalf of the group.

After visits to a number of holy and historical sites in the Old City of Jerusalem, the Conference drew to a close with a **Farewell Dinner at Ramat Rahel Hotel, hosted by Ms. Vered Swid, Director General of the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women at the Prime Minister's Office**. Ms. Swid briefed the participants about the achievements of the Authority regarding the status of women in Israel in politics, economics, sciences and innovation, as well as on different segments

of society, such as ultra-orthodox Jews, and Israeli Arabs. Speaking for the group, **Ms. Kathy Kaaf, Immediate Past President, Soroptimist International of Europe, Germany**, expressed thanks for the evening's event and took the opportunity to thank everyone for their active participation in the Conference.

For participants who were able to stay on the next day, a visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Jerusalem was organized, followed by lunch.

# Involvement & Impact

*Talofa and greetings from Samoa! Israel seems very far away, yet the memories of our meeting and visits are still very present in my mind. Congratulations for hosting a successful gathering of leaders to promote and progress advocacy and actions to assure gender equality. I shall be following closely the processes to determine the Post-2015 Development Goals and pledge to work with our networks here in the Pacific and elsewhere to push for a standalone Gender Goal. Like many of the Haifa Group have indicated, I too would like to maintain this particular network and look forward to connecting in the future.*

Hon. Fiamé Naomi Mataafa, Samoa



*It has been a great pleasure to be together in marvellous place and with all of you. I am sure our paths will cross again. Let's keep in touch and share our thoughts and ideas for the future.*

Valentina Leskaj, Albania



*It was a pleasure and honour to have met such wonderful women from different parts of the world and such wonderful men too. I had some of the most exciting and interesting days with you all.*

Dr. Esohe Aghatisé, Italy/  
Nigeria



*It was an inspiring gathering and I hope to network and possibly work with you all in one capacity in the near future or possibly hosting an event here in Australia.*

Ingrid Cumming, Australia



*I had the opportunity to meet prominent women and people from different parts of the world at this important event... I would like and expect to strengthen our relations in the future*

Prof. Dr. Khin San Yee, Myanmar





Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

**UN WOMEN**  
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women



Israel's Agency for International  
Development Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The Golda Meir Mount  
Carmel International  
Training Center (MCTC)



**MCTC / MASHAV / UNDP / UN WOMEN**  
**International Women Leaders' Conference**  
**on The Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals Agenda:**  
**Ensuring the Centrality of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Next Framework**  
Haifa – November 3-8, 2013

# List of Participants

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## Déclaration de Haïfa

Nous, femmes leaders de tous les continents et autres participants à la Conférence Internationale des Femmes Dirigeantes "L'après 2015 et l'Agenda des Objectifs de Développement Durable: Garantir la Centralité de l'Égalité des Genres et l'Autonomisation des Femmes dans le Futur Programme-Cadre", organisée à Haïfa, Israël, du 3-8 Novembre 2013, soulignent la centralité de l'égalité des genres et les droits des femmes et des filles dans le nouveau contexte de l'après 2015.

*Réaffirmons* que la reconnaissance de la parité des sexes de Rio+20, basée sur une égalité des droits, d'accès et d'opportunités de la participation et le leadership des femmes au sein de l'économie et de la société ainsi que dans la prise de décision politique est essentielle au développement équitable, inclusif et durable et à l'éradication de la pauvreté;

*Reconnaissons* la nécessité pour les droits humains de figurer au centre de tous les nouveaux objectifs de développement durable et souligne que la discrimination à l'égard des femmes et des filles constitue un obstacle majeur au progrès;

*Exhortons* la communauté internationale et les gouvernements nationaux à analyser et mettre en pratique les enseignements tirés des efforts effectués en vue de parvenir aux OMD, en prenant des mesures plus importantes afin de garantir l'intégration de l'égalité des sexes aux objectifs du développement durable et la formulation d'objectifs spécifiques pour les femmes et les filles;

*Réclamons* que la prévention de la mortalité maternelle demeure une des priorités pour l'après 2015;

*Confirmons* que l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes sont les fondements d'une société juste, inclusive, prospère, et respectueuse de l'environnement ainsi qu'un élément clé du développement durable;

*Incitons* les gouvernements et les organisations internationales à la prévention et au combat contre toutes formes de violence à l'égard des femmes et des filles, comme étant un élément fondamental de la parité des sexes et de l'autonomisation des femmes. Ceci nécessite un encadrement adapté pour les femmes victimes de violence, tels que: abris, réhabilitation psycho-sociale et économique, prise en charge de la petite enfance, et assurance que les auteurs de violence soient poursuivis pénalement;

*Appelons* les gouvernements au respect de l'intégrité corporelle des femmes et la garantie de leur santé sexuelle et reproductrice et des droits qui en découlent;

*Incitons* les gouvernements et organisations internationales à renforcer la participation des femmes dans tous les processus de prise de décision en favorisant leur représentation au sein des structures de gouvernance institutionnelle et d'entreprise, ainsi qu'au sein des syndicats et associations d'employeurs et en mobilisant les ressources des secteurs public et privé afin de soutenir les femmes dirigeantes et de promouvoir l'égalité des sexes dans l'espace public et professionnel;

*Recommandons* que des mesures adéquates soient prises afin de réduire les disparités entre les femmes rurales et urbaines, assurant leurs accès à la santé et à l'éducation, aux ressources financières, promouvant les activités génératrices de revenus menant à l'emploi et au travail décent;

*Recommandons* que l'accent soit à nouveau mis sur l'importance de l'égalité d'accès des filles et des femmes à l'éducation formelle et informelle de qualité, à la formation technique et professionnelle à tous les niveaux, notamment en sciences, et en nouvelles technologies;

*Exhortons* la communauté internationale - les organisations gouvernementales et non gouvernementales - à répondre aux défis liés au développement durable en promouvant l'entrepreneuriat des femmes, et leurs indépendance économique, en incitant la prise de mesures législatives, administratives, sociales et éducatives destinées à donner aux femmes le pouvoir et un accès total et égal aux ressources économiques et naturelles;

*Incite* à prendre des mesures nécessaires à la mise en œuvre des résolutions de Rio +20, de Vienne, du Caire et de Pékin, mettant en lumière la nécessité d'intégrer une approche axée sur les droits des humains au changement démographique et climatique et de sensibiliser le public, en particulier à travers les médias et les ONG, à l'importance de la place des femmes en tant qu'actrices dans la protection environnementale, assurant leurs pleine participation dans le débat en cours sur le changement climatique;

*Demandons* que des objectifs et indicateurs ventilés par genres dans des domaines liés au développement durable, soient fixer afin d'assurer l'intégration constante du genre à l'agenda de développement post-2015 et aux objectifs de développement durable;

*Nous* femmes leaders et autres participants rassemblées ici à Haïfa, nous nous engageons à promouvoir l'esprit de discussions de cette conférence dans nos sphères d'influence



## Declaración de Haifa

Nosotras, las mujeres líderes de todos los rincones del mundo y otras participantes en la Conferencia Internacional de Mujeres Líderes sobre la "Agenda Posterior al 2015 y Objetivos del Desarrollo Sostenible: Asegurar la Centralidad e Igualdad De Género y el Empoderamiento de la Mujer en el Próximo Marco de Actividades", celebrada en Haifa, Israel, entre el 3-8 de noviembre del 2013 enfatizamos por este medio la centralidad sobre la igualdad, el empoderamiento de género y derechos de las niñas en un nuevo marco de 2015.

*Reafirmar* el reconocimiento de Rio +20 que la igualdad de género, con acceso a la igualdad de derechos y oportunidades para la participación y liderazgo de las mujeres en la economía y la sociedad y la toma de decisiones políticas es crucial para el desarrollo sostenible, inclusivo y equitativo y la erradicación de la pobreza;

*Reconocer* la importancia de los derechos de las mujeres en todos los nuevos objetivos de desarrollo sostenible, entendiendo que la discriminación contra las mujeres y las niñas sirve como un importante obstáculo para el progreso;

*Exigir* que la comunidad internacional y los gobiernos nacionales analicen y apliquen las lecciones aprendidas de los esfuerzos por alcanzar los ODM, tomando mayores medidas para garantizar que la igualdad de género se incorpore en todas las metas y que los objetivos específicos se establezcan para las mujeres y las niñas;

*Recomendar* la creación de coaliciones entre las organizaciones internacionales, gobiernos, sector privado, medios de comunicación y la sociedad civil a través de la creación de redes a nivel regional y nacional para influir en la formulación de los objetivos de 2015 y posteriormente para garantizar su aplicación;

*Recomendar* que los interesados utilicen la CSW como una plataforma para promover las prioridades de género en la agenda post-2015;

*Reforzar* la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres como base esencial de una sociedad justa, inclusiva, próspera y un medio ambiente sano y como un elemento clave del desarrollo sostenible;

*Urge* que la prevención de la mortalidad materna siga siendo una prioridad de la agenda post - 2015 y que se aborden las causas fundamentales;

*Pedir* a los gobiernos y organizaciones internacionales prevenir y combatir todas las formas de violencia contra las mujeres y niñas, incluida la trata de seres humanos, como un elemento fundamental de la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres. Esto requiere marcos adecuados para las mujeres que son víctimas de la violencia, mediante la prestación de servicios de apoyo como refugios, asesoramiento profesional, cuidado de niños, formación para la independencia económica y la rehabilitación psicosocial y el enjuiciamiento de los autores;

*Reconocer* que la educación es un mecanismo para el desarrollo integral, alentando a las partes interesadas a trabajar con hombres y niños para promover la igualdad de género;

*Instar* a los gobiernos a respetar la integridad física de las mujeres y promover la salud y los derechos sexuales y reproductivos de las mujeres;

*Hacer* un llamado a los gobiernos, organizaciones internacionales y sociedad civil para aumentar la participación de las mujeres en todos los procesos de toma de decisión promoviendo su representación en las estructuras de gobierno institucional y corporativo. Así como en los sindicatos y en las asociaciones de empleadores y movilizándolo recursos del sector público y privado para apoyar a las mujeres líderes y promover la igualdad de género en el espacio público y de trabajo;

*Recomendar* que se adopten medidas para atender adecuadamente las necesidades de las comunidades rurales, reduciendo las disparidades entre las mujeres rurales y urbanas, garantizando su acceso a la salud y la educación, incluida la asistencia financiera y créditos y la promoción de actividades generadoras de ingresos que conduzcan al empleo y el trabajo decente;

*Recomendar* que debe hacerse hincapié en la importancia de la igualdad de acceso de niñas y mujeres a la educación formal y no formal de calidad, la formación técnica y profesional a todos los niveles, incluso en la ciencia y las nuevas tecnologías;

*Instar* a la comunidad internacional para hacer frente a los desafíos relacionados con el desarrollo sostenible, mediante la promoción de la iniciativa empresarial de las mujeres, el autoempleo y la independencia económica y hacer un llamado a los gobiernos a que adopten medidas legislativas, administrativas, sociales y educativas apropiadas para proporcionar a las mujeres acceso pleno e igualitario y el control de recursos económicos y naturales;

*Instamos* a que se adopten las medidas de cooperación necesarias para poner en acción las resoluciones de Río, Viena, El Cairo y Beijing, haciendo hincapié en la necesidad de combinar el enfoque basado en derechos humanos y de la mujer de la población y del cambio ambiental y sensibilizar al público en particular, a través de los medios de comunicación y organizaciones no gubernamentales, sobre el estado de la mujer como vigilantes para la protección del medio ambiente, asegurando su plena participación en el debate en curso sobre el cambio climático;

*Emplear* los objetivos e indicadores en ámbitos relacionados con el desarrollo sostenible, para garantizar que la igualdad género y empoderamiento de la mujer sea sistemáticamente incorporado a través de la agenda post-2015 de desarrollo y los ODS;

Nosotras, las mujeres líderes y otras participantes reunidas aquí en Haifa nos comprometemos a promover el espíritu de los debates en nuestras esferas de influencia.

# Conference Concept Paper

The Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals Agenda:  
Ensuring the centrality of gender equality  
and women's empowerment in the next framework

November 3-8, 2013

Haifa, Israel

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## Introduction

"Women's education is the smartest global investment" stated UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon at the 2012 World Economic Forum.<sup>[1]</sup> At the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC), established in Haifa in 1961 by MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation<sup>[2]</sup> – women's education is at the core of women's ability to contribute to all activities, working to advance and enhance knowledge, competence and skills, including in the development process and in their contributions to civil society.

**MASHAV/MCTC's** work directly relates to the Millennium Development Goals and to the objectives of UN Resolution 1325, putting gender issues on the international agenda, promoting poverty eradication, conflict resolution and socio-economic development, through the empowerment of women and community building.

Its international training programs are designed for professionals experienced in their field, from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Oceania and the Middle East, seeking to benefit from the practical examples that Israel, as a 'living laboratory' of human resource development, can provide. Topics covered recently include *Women's Leadership Development, Human Trafficking, Gender and Local Governance, Elimination of Violence against Women and Women's Entrepreneurship as a Tool for Poverty Eradication*.

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is the main development arm of the United Nations System, working on the ground in over 170 countries around the world. UNDP works with national actors to eradicate poverty, reduce exclusion and inequalities, and achieve sustainable human development. Gender equality and women's empowerment are intrinsic components of this vision.

UNDP works with national partners, undertaking activities that advance women's rights and take account of the full range of their contributions to sustainable human development. This includes empowering women economically; promoting their leadership and political participation; ensuring their full participation in finding sustainable pathways to development and tackling gender based violence. In doing

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<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41055&Cr=davos&Cr1=>

<sup>[2]</sup> [www.mashav.mfa.gov.il](http://www.mashav.mfa.gov.il); [www.mctc.co.il](http://www.mctc.co.il)

so, UNDP is guided by the UN Charter, the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, CEDAW, and the Beijing Platform for Action.

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created **UN WOMEN**, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In doing so, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating international progress for gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN WOMEN was created to be a dynamic and strong champion for women and girls, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels.

Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the UN Charter, UN WOMEN works for women's empowerment and the achievement of gender equality, with women and men as partners and beneficiaries of peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development.

In its work, UN WOMEN focuses on six priority areas: leadership and participation; economic empowerment; ending violence against women; peace and security; national planning and budgeting; and supporting global norms and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment.

UN WOMEN supports inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms. It has presence in 75 countries where it supports countries to implement these standards in close partnership with governments, civil society and other stakeholders. In order to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, UN WOMEN also spearheads UN coordination, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

### **MASHAV/MCTC's experience in hosting International Women's Leadership Conferences:**

Since its inception almost 53 years ago, International Women Leaders' Conferences and Symposia have been taking place at MCTC biennially on development themes of current interest for women active in public life in developing and industrialized countries, often on topics declared by the United Nations to be of international concern. MCTC has held 27 International Women Leaders' Conferences, including in cooperation with international organizations such as UNESCO, IOM and the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI, now part of UN WOMEN).

The 23rd MCTC International Symposium, held in 2003, entitled *Conflict Resolution and Peace Building*, was based on UN Resolution 1325. It brought together women leaders from thirty one countries and international organizations, to analyze and redefine the role of women in conflict resolution and in peace building at all levels of society. The Symposium concluded in recommending the emergence of a more tolerant approach to attitudes between societies. The urgent need was noted for increased media interest in women and children and for groundwork to be laid in education.

A significant **impact** of that Symposium was **MASHAV/MCTC's program of cooperation with Palestinian women**, developed as a direct consequence of the

discussions and recommendations that took place. A series of Seminars was initiated at MCTC, entitled *“Women Building a New Reality: a dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian women”*. Some 25-40 Palestinian and Israeli women come together at MCTC for 3-day intensive programs several times every year, to create dialogue and build bridges for peace education. A total of over 900 women have participated in 30 such programs so far.

Subsequent conferences – in 2007 on *Women’s Leadership for Sustainable Development*, in 2009 on *The Global Financial Crisis – Implications for Women*, and in 2011 on *Science, Technology and Innovation – Education and Training for Women and Girls* – all reflect the concerns and the linkages between different aspects of women’s and girls’ education and training, their development as leaders and their impact on sustainable development.

## **Background**

As the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, a number of processes are under way among Member States, the UN system, academia, policymakers and civil society to reflect on the post-2015 development framework. Related to these reflections is work towards the development of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which have been called for by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. The Rio+20 outcome reiterated the vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development, and the commitments of all stakeholders to equal rights and opportunities for women in political and economic decision-making, including with respect to the linkages between gender equality and the promotion of sustainable development.<sup>1</sup>

In the fall of 2012, the UN General Assembly reiterated that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the Assembly called for gender equality and the empowerment of women to feature prominently in the discussions of the post-2015 development framework, bearing in mind the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective.<sup>2</sup>

As the benchmark of 2015 approaches, a growing number of States are reviewing and prioritizing the lessons learned from the MDGs that need to be taken forward into the post-2015 framework. The most recent 2012 Millennium Development Goals Report<sup>3</sup> revealed that while there has been notable progress in a number of the gender dimensions of the MDGs, there is still much to be done in every country

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<sup>1</sup> A/CONE.216/16.

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/67/148

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012. New York

and at every level to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Women and girls continue to experience multiple and intersecting inequalities. Structural barriers in the economic, social, political and environmental spheres produce and reinforce these inequalities. Furthermore, obstacles to women's economic and political empowerment and violence against women and girls are impediments to sustainable development and the achievement of human rights, gender equality, justice and peace. These are just some of the many important issues that must be included in the next development framework.

**MASHAV/MCTC, UNDP and UN WOMEN** share the objective of seeing gender equality and women's empowerment integrated in the post-2015 framework and the SDGs. UN WOMEN has been actively involved in the UN consultation processes on post-2015, and co-led the thematic consultation on inequalities. They have also been working in partnership with other UN agencies and civil society to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment is central in the next development framework. UNDP, as chair of the UN's Development group, has taken a lead role in coordinating the post- 2015 national, regional and thematic consultations, supporting women's meaningful participation and gender mainstreaming in the discussions.

The timing and focus of MCTC's 28th International Women Leaders' Conference is very relevant, as the multiple governmental and non-governmental consultative processes that were initiated to provide recommendations on the vision and shape of the post-2015 development framework and the SDGs will continue to take place in 2013-2014, including activities related to the acceleration of progress in meeting the MDGs, and the 2014 Review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

### **Conference objectives:**

Marking 55 years since MASHAV was established, to work together with the developing world, the industrialized countries and the international aid agencies to overcome shared development challenges, MCTC's 28th International Women Leaders' Conference will tackle ***The Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals Agenda: Ensuring the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in the next framework.***

Participants will:

- ◆ discuss progress achieved and remaining gaps in the implementation of the MDGs from a gender perspective; and highlight lessons learned and best practices in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment that should inform the next development framework;
- ◆ explore strategies and entry points to advocate for the integration of a gender equality perspective in the post-2015 development framework and the SDGs;
- ◆ identify priority areas that contribute to the empowerment of women and girls and the enjoyment of their rights, and that should be included in the next development framework, including financing for gender equality;

- ◆ examine and undertake a critical analysis of the role played by women leaders in decision-making at all levels, recommending strategies and options for shaping the future of democratic societies;
- ◆ explore and identify ways to recognize and reinforce the economic empowerment of women as a key element of sustainable development;

## **Previous MCTC International Women Leaders' Seminars, Symposia and Conferences**

[Held within the framework of MASHAV/MCTC biennial International Meetings for Women Leaders]

<b>1961</b>	The Role of Women in a Developing Society
<b>1962</b>	Community Leaders
<b>1963</b>	The Role of Voluntary Organizations in the Development of the Community
<b>1964</b>	Social and Cultural Integration in Urban Areas
<b>1966</b>	Eradication of Illiteracy Amongst Women
<b>1968</b>	Participation of Women in Social and Educational Development
<b>1969</b>	Contribution of Women to the Advancement of Developing Countries
<b>1970</b>	The Contribution of Women to Development
<b>1971</b>	Changing Needs in the Education of Women (Symposium with former seminar participants to evaluate MCTC's 1st decade of activities)
<b>1973</b>	Mass Communication and Development – Activating Women in the Process of Social Change
<b>1975</b>	Partnership of Men and Women in National Development
<b>1977</b>	Voluntary Action in Development of Society
<b>1979</b>	Childhood, Culture and Community
<b>1982</b>	From Generation to Generation – Interaction between the Elderly and the Young
<b>1985</b>	Adult Education – New Trends in the Education and Occupation of Women
<b>1986</b>	Women's Share in Promoting Peace and Development
<b>1990</b>	Our Common Future – Women in Non-Traditional Occupations - Towards 2000
<b>1994</b>	Women, Family and Society
<b>1995</b>	Women, Development and Public Policy
<b>1996</b>	Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Gender
<b>1998</b>	Women's Leadership – Help Women Help Themselves
<b>2001</b>	The Impact of Women's Training on Socio-Economic Development
<b>2003</b>	Women's Voice in Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building
<b>2005</b>	Migration and Gender Issues within the Millennium Development Goals
<b>2007</b>	Women's Leadership for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with UNESCO
<b>2009</b>	The Global Financial Crisis – Implications for Women
<b>2011</b>	Science, Technology and Innovation: Education and Training for Women and Girls





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