



**Interactive Dialogue: Accelerating implementation of Agreed Conclusions commitments for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**

**Wednesday, 15 March 2017, 3 to 6 pm  
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters**

**SPEAKERS BIOS**

*Speakers*

**H.E. Mr. Tété António** is the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations since 2009. Prior to this appointment, Mr. António was the Diplomatic Adviser to the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union and, previously, Angola's Deputy Permanent Representative and Minister Counsellor at the country's United Nations Mission in New York. From 1999 to 2002, Mr. António was Director, Office of the Deputy Minister of External Relations, in Luanda. Mr. António began his diplomatic career in 1990.

**H. E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani** was appointed the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN in October 2013. Previously, she was the State of Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva. A well-known leader on human rights, social justice and development issues, she has authored and facilitated numerous groundbreaking GA Resolutions on education in emergencies, autism, and natural disaster response amongst others. Ambassador Al-Thani is the Chairperson of the 50th Session of the Commission on Population and Development. Ambassador Al-Thani holds a M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

**Ms. Michaela Bergman** is a social anthropologist and lawyer, with over 20 years' work experience with multi-lateral, International Financial Institutions, bi-laterals and civil society in over 40 countries. Her expertise lies in policy and project related to gender, involuntary resettlement, poverty alleviation, protection and empowerment of vulnerable and socially excluded groups, Indigenous Peoples, community development, disability, provision of community based services, support of civil society, human rights and labour laws; particularly in post-conflict countries and transitional economies. Ms Bergman is currently the Chief Counsellor for Social issues in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and chair of the Multi-Lateral Development Banks' Working Group on Gender. She regularly participates in the newspaper review for the BBC Business news.

**Ms. Margarita Cabello Blanco** is a magistrate of the Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Colombia and the President of the National Commission of Gender of the Judicial Branch. She is a specialist in Family Law and Civil Procedural Law. In her professional career, she has been a judge, Superior and Supreme Courts magistrate. She received the award of the International Women's Association as 'Outstanding Woman'. In 2016, she was president of the Supreme Court of Justice and received the José Ignacio de Márquez Award for judicial merit. She has been delegated on several occasions by the Supreme Court of Justice as a representative to the National Gender Commission, opportunities in which she has

represented the country in the Permanent Gender Committee of the Ibero-American Judicial Summits and to the United Nations.

**Ms. Dalia Leinarte** is the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) since February. Ms. Leinarte is Professor of History and Director of the Gender Studies Centre at Vilnius University. She is a consultant of the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men, Lithuania. She is also a member of the Working Group on Women and Democracy, Community of Democracies. Ms. Leinarte was Vice-Chair of the CEDAW Committee (2015-2016), and a member of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention.

**Ms. Noelene Nabulivou** is the Focal Point of the Women's Major Group SIDS, an adviser and member of Diverse Voices and Action for Equality (DIVA for Equality Fiji) and an Associate of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). Ms. Nabulivou is a member of the UN-Women Advisory Group for Asia-Pacific. Ms. Nabulivou has focused her career on links between gender equality and women's rights, human rights, climate justice, environmental justice and sustainable development, including community-based and multilateral work. She increasingly works across the Pacific, SIDS, South-South and global multilateral spaces.

**Ms. Susan O'Malley** is the Chair of NGO CSW Committee NY and the Main Representative to the UN for the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW). She is also the Communication Chair and editor of Action for Girls for the Working Group on Girls. In addition to serving as the elected Faculty Trustee and Chair of the City University of New York (CUNY) Faculty Senate, Ms. O'Malley was a professor of English and Women's Studies for 36 years. She has published articles and books on early modern women's literature, Shakespeare, higher education, disability and civil rights. She is currently involved in Cities for CEDAW to get CEDAW ratified in New York City.

**Ms. Frances Raday** is a former Chairperson and current member of the Working Group on Discrimination against women in law and in practice. She is a former member of CEDAW. She is honorary professor of University College London, honorary doctor at Copenhagen University, emerita professor of Hebrew University and has taught extensively in various academic institutions. Ms. Raday is author of numerous academic books and articles on human rights, labour law and feminist legal theory. She is currently the Director of the Concord Research Centre for Integration of International Law in Israel.

**Ms. Sima Samar** is the chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, the first Human Rights Commission in Afghanistan's history. Ms. Samar was appointed as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Sudan in 2005. In June 2002, she was elected as the vice-chair of the Loya Jirga Assembly. Prior to that, she served as the deputy prime minister and minister of women's affairs for the interim administration of Afghanistan. Ms. Samar established the first-ever Afghanistan Ministry of Women's Affairs which began advocacy, training, and service programs to help restore the rights of women and to improve their economic, political, legal, and social status. Ms. Samar founded and directs the Shuhada Organization in Quetta that runs health, education, and income generation projects for women and girls in Afghanistan and those living as refugees in Pakistan; the Shuhada Organization is the largest Afghan woman-led organization and the oldest Afghan NGO working in the region.

**Ms. Florence Simbiri-Jaoko**, is a Kenyan lawyer. She currently lectures at the University of Nairobi, School of Law and is also the Special Envoy for the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). Previously, she was the Chairperson of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (2007-2012) and the Secretary of Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (2009-2012), and a member of the Steering Committee of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) (2007-2012). Ms. Simbiri-Jaoko served on various Kenyan government taskforces on legal,

judicial and security sector reforms. She is a member of the International Commission of Jurists and International Federation of Women Lawyers.

**Ms. Dubravka Šimonovic** was appointed as Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences in June 2015. Ms. Šimonovic has been member of the CEDAW Committee from 2002 to 2014 and served as its Chairperson from 2008 to 2009. She headed the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia and was the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the UN in New York. She chaired the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She was also Ambassador to the OSCE and UN in Vienna. At a regional level, she co-chaired the Ad hoc Committee (CAHVIO) of the Council of Europe that elaborated the Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). She holds a PhD in Family Law and published books and articles on women's rights and violence against women.

**Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne** is the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD. Ms. Sirimanne holds a PhD in Economics and has extensive experience in development policy, research and technical cooperation in international organizations, national governments, think tanks and universities. She served as Director of the ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), where she spearheaded major regional cooperation programmes. During her tenure with ESCAP, Ms. Sirimanne also served as the Secretary of the Commission, headed the trade facilitation programme, and led the macroeconomic policy work and ESCAP's flagship publication, Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific.

**Ms. Annette Young** is a senior journalist and news presenter for France 24 Television, based in Paris. When not fronting the news, she also hosts 'The 51 Percent,' a program about the women reshaping our world. Originally from Australia, Annette has reported from parts of Europe, the Middle East and Asia. While based in the Middle East she became a Jerusalem correspondent for France 24. Since returning Paris in 2010, Annette has interviewed a range of figures for the network from world leaders to Hollywood actors. In 2015, she was named by UN Women as one of 20 inspirational global voices on women in media.