



Priority Theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work
Interactive Expert Panel

The global care economy in the context of the changing world of work

Friday, 17 March 2016, 3.00 to 6.00 pm
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters

SPEAKERS BIOS

Panelists

Ms. Patricia Cossani is an Adviser to the Director of the National Care Secretariat, Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay. Ms. Cossani has worked in the Ministry of Social Development since 2007. Between 2010 and 2015, she oversaw the General Coordination of the Social Policy Directorate of this Ministry and supported the creation of a Care System in Uruguay. Currently Ms. Cossani supports the Ministries and public entities that form the national Care System.

Ms. Diane Elson is Emeritus Professor in the Department of Sociology at Essex University, Visiting Professor at the WiSE Research Centre, Glasgow Caledonian University and Research Associate at the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University. In 2016, Ms. Elson was awarded the Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought. She has served as chair of the UK Women's Budget Group and as Vice-President of the International Association for Feminist Economics. Ms. Elson has published widely on gender equality and economic policy.

Ms. Susan Himmelweit¹ is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the Open University. Her research is on gender issues in economics, particularly those located at the boundary between the household and the market economy; including intra-household financial issues, the gender impact assessment of policies, and theoretical and policy issues around care. She is a founder member and past chair of the UK Women's Budget Group, an active member of the International Association for Feminist Economics and was its President in 2009.

Ms. Ida Le Blanc is the General Secretary of the National Union of Domestic Employees and co-founder of the Service Workers Centre Co-operative Society Limited in Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Le Blanc is the former 4th Vice President of the National Trade Union Centre and now holds the position of Trustee. She sits on the working group for women and work of the Economic Social and Cultural Rights Network based in New York. Ms. Le Blanc represents domestic and other low-wage workers, particularly women, at the grassroots level.

¹ Ms. Diane Elson will deliver the paper/statement submitted by Ms. Susan Himmelweit.

Ms. Ito Peng is a Professor of Sociology and Public Policy, and Canada Research Chair in Global Social Policy at the Department of Sociology, and the School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto. She has written extensively on family, gender and social policies in East Asia. She currently leads a large international partnership research project on “Gender, Migration, and the Work of Care,” funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Ms. Manuela Tomei has been the Director of Conditions of Work and Equality Department, International Labour Organization since 2013. Previously Ms. Tomei was the Director of the Labour Protection Department since 2011. She was the lead coordinator of the preparatory work which culminated in the adoption of the new international labour standards on decent work for domestic work by the International Labour Conference in June 2011. She has written and provided policy advice on gender, poverty and work, informal and atypical work, and wages and the gender pay gap.

Ms. Naomi Wekwete is a Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Population Studies of the University of Zimbabwe, and is the Chairperson of the University of Zimbabwe Research and Intellectual Outputs – Science Engineering and Technology Committee. Previously, Ms. Wekwete was a member of Council of the Women’s University in Africa from 2011-2016. She is a coordinator of the Young Women Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights project since 2010, and has been actively involved in gender advocacy activities with the Zimbabwe Gender Budgeting Network.