



High-level interactive dialogue

Accelerating implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Towards Beijing +25

Wednesday, 13 March 2019, 10.00am – 1.00pm, CR4, United Nations Headquarters

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women since 2013. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government and civil society, and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa. She has devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry. She was a Member of Parliament as part of South Africa’s first democratic government. She began her career as a teacher and is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education.

Ms. Margaret Mensah-Williams is the Chairperson of the National Council, the Upper House of the Parliament of Namibia, and is the first woman in the history of the country to hold the post. She is a member of the of the ruling SWAPO Party’s Political Bureau and Central Committee and is also the Chairperson of the National Council Standing Committee on Women Caucus. She is co-Chair of the Parliamentary Conference to the World Trade Organisation and Vice-Chairperson of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Extremism. She is a member of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Speakers’ Conference, is a member of IPU’s Executive Committee for more than eight years, and was President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians until March 2018. She is an advocate for gender equality, violence against women and children, human trafficking and community development.

Mr. Michel Forst is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Mr. Forst has extensive experience on human rights issues, including human rights defenders, the rights of children with disabilities, extreme poverty, and the elderly. Prior to his current posting, he has held a number of leading positions within the field of human rights, including the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights, the Cimade (*Comité inter-mouvements auprès des évacués*), UNESCO, the first World Summit on Human Rights Defenders (Paris), and Amnesty International (France). Mr. Forst was the UN Independent Expert

on the situation of human rights in Haiti, and Chair of the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed is the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations in New York. Prior to her appointment, she served as Senior Special Adviser to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, where her work mainly focused on peace and security, regional integration and organizational development. During her career she has worked as Executive Director at West Africa Conflict and Security Consulting and as Program Manager at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS. Further, she worked as a Regional Project Manager for Security Policy Projects in West Africa with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

Ms. Ivana Radačić is a member of the UN Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice. She is a senior research assistant at Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences in Zagreb and a part-time lecturer at the University of Zagreb. Her research and teaching areas are women's rights; gender equality; human rights; and gender, sexuality and the law. She has published extensively in these areas in leading international journals and books, and she has authored the book *Sexual violence – Myths, Stereotypes and the Legal System* (TIMpress, 2014). She also teaches at the Women Studies Centre (Zagreb) and the regional Women's Human Rights Training Institute (Sofia).

Mr. A Min Tjoa is Chair of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development. He has been a full professor and director of the Institute of Software Technology and Interactive Systems at the Vienna University of Technology since 1994. He is the chairman of the Austrian National Competence Center for Security Research and visiting professor at several Universities. From 1999 to 2003, he was the president of the Austrian Computer Society. He is vice-chairman of the IFIP Technical Committee for Information Systems and chairman of the IFIP Working Group on Enterprise Information Systems. His current research focus areas are data warehousing, cloud computing, semantic web, security, and non-standard IT-applications. He has published more than 200 peer reviewed articles in journals and conferences.

Mr. Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet is Chair of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Permanent Representative of Sudan to the United Nations in Vienna. During his ample career, Mr. Bakhet, also served as Ambassador to Austria, Iran and Iraq, and in various capacities within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sudan. Mr. Bakhet holds a Master's degree in political science from the Middle East University in Amman, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree from the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at the University of Khartoum.

Ms. Florence Simbiri-Jaoko is a Kenyan lawyer. She currently lectures at the University of Nairobi School of Law and is 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), 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). She 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. Sima Samar is the chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. She was appointed as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Sudan in 2005 and elected as the vice-chair of the Loya Jirga Assembly in 2002. Previously, she served as the deputy prime minister and minister of women's affairs for the interim administration of Afghanistan. She established the first-ever Afghanistan Ministry of Women's Affairs, which began advocacy, training, and service programmes for women. She founded and directs the Shuhada Organization in Quetta, which runs health, education, and income generation projects for women and girls in Afghanistan and those living as refugees in Pakistan.

Ms. Kate Jenkins is Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner since 2016. She is leading a number of projects at the Australian Human Rights Commission, including the National Inquiry into sexual harassment in Australian workplaces and the Commission's collaborative project on cultural reform with the Australian Defence Force. Prior to joining the Commission, Kate spent three years as the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner. In that role she held an Independent Review into Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, including Predatory Behaviour, in Victoria Police. She was also the Co-Chair of the Victorian Commission's Disability Reference Group and a member of the Aboriginal Justice Forum.

Ms. Maika Saada Saar is Senior Counsel on Civil and Human Rights in Google. Prior to her current posting, she served as the executive director of Rights4Girls. As a human rights lawyer and advocate, Saada Saar led the effort to shut down Craigslist sex ads that served as the leading site for the trafficking of children for sex, ended the federal practice of shackling pregnant mothers behind bars in U.S. prisons, and successfully advocated for millions in federal funding for treatment services for at-risk families. Newsweek and the Daily Beast have named Saada Saar as one of "150 Women Who Shake the World." The Obama White House selected Saada Saar to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. She also serves on the board of directors for the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights.

Ms. Sarah Macharia is the global coordinator of the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), a 114-nations longitudinal research and advocacy initiative for gender equality in and through the news media running since 1995. She is the principal author of the 2010 and 2015 Who makes the news? The Global Media Monitoring Project reports. She represents WACC on the International Steering Committee of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender initiated by UNESCO to follow up on the implementation of the media recommendations (Section J) of the UN 1995 Beijing Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women. Sarah holds a PhD in Political Science from York University in Toronto. Prior to her current role she worked extensively with women's rights movements at the pan-African level and at the UN Economic Commission for Africa.