



### **Interactive dialogue on the priority theme**

#### **“Building alliances for women’s full and effective participation in public life”**

**Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 4.00-6.00 p.m.; Informal virtual meeting**

#### **Speaker bios**

##### Moderator

**Ms. Emilia Sáiz**, the Secretary General of United Cities and Local Government has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments since 1997, leading initiatives on institutional capacity building, participation of women in local decision-making and decentralized cooperation. She has represented local and regional governments in international processes such as the Rio+20, the Beijing+25 and the 2030 Agenda. She led a campaign to secure an SDG indicator on women's participation in local governments. Emilia co-leads the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership.

##### Panelists

**Ms. Ximena Miriam Fajardo Navarro** is the Deputy Delegate for the Enforcement and Exercise of the Human Rights of Children, Adolescents, Women and Vulnerable Populations of the Ombudsman's Office of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, from 2018 to date. Previously, she exercised the public function in relation to fundamental rights and worked on ending human trafficking and smuggling in the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency. She holds a Master's degree in Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy from the University of Alcalá. She also obtained diplomas in Higher Education and Interculturality; International Law of the Human Right to Adequate Food; Intercultural Public Management; Human Rights and Prevention of Violence against Women.

**Mr. Bafana Khumalo** is a member of the Senior Management team at Sonke Gender Justice serving as a Co-Executive Director and as one of the organizations’ co-founders. He has a long and accomplished track record in the NGO sector and was senior gender technical advisor for

EngenderHealth South Africa between 2012 -2013. From 2001-2008 Bafana served as a Commissioner at the National Commission for Gender Equality (CGE). At the CGE, he was instrumental in assisting the National and Provincial Departments of Government to plan and coordinate activities related to men, gender and HIV/AIDS. He holds a Bachelors and Masters degree in Theology

**Ms. Sarah Macharia** directs the Global Media Monitoring Project, a transnational longitudinal research and advocacy initiative for gender equality in and through the news media running since 1995 in more than 100 nations. She is the lead editor of *Who makes the news? The Global Media Monitoring Project* reports and co-editor of the UNESCO-published *Setting the gender agenda for communication policy* (2019). She is the General Secretary of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender initiated by UNESCO in line with Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action. She has worked extensively with gender equality movements worldwide and holds a doctorate in Political Science.

**Dr. Hannah Neumann** is a member of the European parliament where she also serves as Peace and Human Rights Coordinator for the Greens/EFA Group; Vice-Chair of the Human Rights Committee; Member of the committees on Foreign Affairs and Security and Defense Policy; and Chair of the Delegation for Relations to the Arabian Peninsula. Before Parliament, she consulted for peace projects and advised ministries and non-governmental organizations on anti-discrimination, democracy, climate protection at the local level and human rights. From 2013 to 2016, she worked as a policy advisor in the German Bundestag. She has a doctorate in media sciences and peace & conflict studies.

**Ms. Kenita Placide** is a human rights advocate, whose work focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/health, LGBT and climate change from Saint Lucia in the Eastern Caribbean. She is the co-founder and executive director of the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE). Kenita has served as the Director of United and Strong Inc. (U&S), an LGBTI Human Rights organization in Saint Lucia for over ten years and has also served as Outright Action International's Caribbean Advisor for over two years.

**Dr. Ewa Ruminska-Zimny** is an author and lecturer on feminist economics at postgraduate Gender Studies, Polish Academy of Science. She has been actively involved in the women's movement in Poland as the President of the International Women's Forum and the Vice President of the Congress of Women Association. She has taught at the Warsaw School of Economics and Georgetown University Washington D.C and worked for the United Nations as (senior economist; Gender Focal Point for Beijing + regional reviews and development of Gender and Economy programme). She also worked with the European Institute for Gender Equality and the International Association of Feminist Economics.

**Mr. Simon Springett** assumed his duties as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Moldova on 1 October 2019. Prior to this, he was the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director for Response Operations for the UK Department for International Development's Humanitarian and Stabilisation Operations Team. He served for five years as the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, UNFPA Representative, and the UN

Designated Official in both The Republic of Mauritius and The Republic of Seychelles (2012-2017). He holds a Master's degree in Development Practice and a Bachelor's degree in Geology.

**Mr. Mandeep Tiwana** is chief programmes officer at CIVICUS, the global civil society alliance where he is engaged in efforts to advance civil society participation in decision making and to protect civic freedoms globally. Before CIVICUS, he advised the New Delhi Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross on judicial guarantees. He has worked with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and published landmark Indian Supreme Court decisions and National Human Rights Commission guidelines on human rights and policing, contributing to good governance and gender justice in India.

**Dr. Véronique Tognifodé** is the current Minister of Social Affairs and Microfinance of Benin. She is currently the President of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. She is an obstetrician-gynecologist. Dr. Tognifodé is a researcher at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Abomey-Calavi at the rank of Master-Assistant of the Universities of the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education. Her expertise is focused on the protection of the rights of children, girls and women. For 10 years as Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tognifodé has dedicated her work to promote the rights of sexual and reproductive health and family education.