



Interactive expert panel on the priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Harnessing synergies and securing financing

Friday, 15 March 2019, 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm, United Nations Headquarters

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Dr. Christina Behrendt is Head of the Social Policy Unit in the Social Protection Department in the Social Protection Department of the International Labour Office in Geneva. Her earlier work experience includes assignments as regional social security specialist at the ILO Regional Office for Arab States in Beirut, Lebanon, as consultant at the International Social Security Association, and as lecturer and research fellow at the University of Konstanz. She has worked and published on various aspects of social security in both developed and developing country contexts. Having studied in Konstanz and Edinburgh, Dr. Behrendt earned her master's degree in politics and Public Administration and her PhD in Social Policy from the University of Konstanz, Germany. Her current work focuses on the extension of social security in low- and middle-income countries and its impact on social and economic development.

Dr. Tara Cookson is Co-Founder and Director of Ladysmith, a feminist research consultancy that helps international development organizations collect, analyze, and take action on gender data. She is author of *Unjust Conditions: Women's Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs*, an ethnographic account of women's experiences of participating in the world's most widely implemented anti-poverty programs. Originally from Canada, Dr. Cookson earned her PhD at the University of Cambridge as a Gates Scholar, and is currently a SSHRC Research Fellow at the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Fernando Filgueira received his Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University. He was Coordinator of the Program on Poverty and Social Exclusion at the Universidad Católica (Uruguay), Director of Policy Evaluation at the Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency in Uruguay, Social Affairs Officer at ECLAC (Chile), Director of the UNFPA office in Uruguay and Vice-Minister of Education in Uruguay. He has written and published numerous books and more than 100 articles on models of socioeconomic development, welfare regimes and social structure. Some of his most recent (coauthored) publications include, *Confronting inequality: Social protection for families and early*

childhood through monetary transfers and care worldwide (ECLAC, 2017), Pension and income transfers for old age: Inter-and intra-generational distribution in comparative perspective (ECLAC, 2017); The Divergence in Women's Economic Empowerment: Class and Gender under the Pink Tide (Social Politics, 2017), Social Justice, Well-Being and Economic, Organization (Oxford/IPSP, 2018), The Pluralization of Families (Oxford/IPSP, 2018). He is currently senior researcher at CIPPEC (Argentina) and CIESU (Uruguay) and the coeditor of the Oxford Series for Latin America on Social Policy and Public Administration.

Ms. Nato Kurshitashvili is a Gender Specialist with the Transport Global Practice at the World Bank. Previously she worked as a Principal Gender Adviser at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), responsible for the development and implementation of projects to mainstream gender into EBRD's operations. Prior to that, she had been part of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) working in a multi-country project to support national statistical offices to improve collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data. Ms. Kurshitashvili has ten years of experience developing and managing projects across diverse sectors (with particular strengths in the transport sector) and countries in Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa and South Asia. Nato is an author and a co-author of a number of academic and agency reports. She holds a MSc in Social Policy and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, and MA in Public Policy from the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

H.E. Maritza Rosabal is the current Minister of Education and Minister of Family and Social Inclusion of Cabo Verde. From 1981 to 1986 she worked as a Superior Technician of the Office of Studies and Planning of the Ministry of Education, she was General Director of Education from 1989 to 1990, Director of the Studies and Planning Office of the Ministry of Education from 1993 to 1995 and General Director of Primary and Secondary Education (1997/1998). Her social engagement placed her on projects with a real impact on Cape Verdean society, such as the implementation of the Law against Gender-Based Violence, the creation of the Laço Branco Network, and the implementation, now as Minister of Family and Social Inclusion, of the National Plan of Care. In the 1990s, she also worked in the NGO Morabi, as Coordinator of the training area, and as executive director, gave training in the islands of Maio, Brava and in her native land, Cuba. H.E. Minister Rosabal has a degree in History from the University of Havana, Cuba. She was also a university professor at the Jean Piaget University (2008/2009) and at the University of Cape Verde (2010/2011).

Dr. Gita Sen has over 35 years of experience working nationally and internationally on gender equality and women's human rights. Her work has ranged widely spanning poverty, population policies, human development, labour markets, and women's health. Dr. Sen holds a PhD in Economics from Stanford University. She is the director of the Ramalingaswami Centre on Equity and Social Determinants of Health at the Public Health Foundation of India; and is adjunct professor of global health and population at Harvard University. She is a co-founder and now General Co-Coordinator of the South-based network, DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era). Dr. Sen is a member of the new *Lancet* Commission on "A Synergistic Approach to Universal Health Coverage, Health Security and Health Promotion" and was a member of the WHO Consultative Group on Equity and Universal Health Coverage, as well as of the High-Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage set up by the Planning Commission of India in 2010. Dr. Sen's national and international work has helped to shape the global paradigm shift on population policies and programs, and to advance gender equality and women's health. She has published extensively, and is a co-editor of the latest DAWN book, *The Remaking of Social Contracts: Feminists in a Fierce New World* (Zed Books, 2014).