



High-level interactive dialogue

Accelerating implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and achieving concrete results by 2020

Tuesday, 13 March 2018, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Melchiade Bukuru is currently the Chief of the Liaison Office of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York. He contributed to the steady ratification campaign of the Convention and played a key role in making the Global Environment Facility (GEF) a financial mechanism of the Convention. Before joining the United Nations in 1996, Mr. Bukuru, a career Diplomat from Burundi, worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Burundi to the United Nations where he served several times as Head of Mission. He specialized in sustainable development issues and supported member states to include achieving land degradation neutrality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as SDG Target 15.3.

Ms. Bineta Diop is currently the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security. She is the Founder and President of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), an international NGO that seeks to promote the leadership role of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa. She played an instrumental role in achieving gender parity within the African Union Commission's leadership and in the adoption of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. She was recognized as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine in 2011.

Ms. Karen Gomez-Dumpit is a Commissioner of the Philippines Commission on Human Rights. She has served as Director of the Child Rights Center and Government Linkages Office of the Commission before her appointment as Commissioner in 2015. She is a graduate of AB Communication Arts from De La Salle University. Karen has two postgraduate degrees, Master of Arts (MA) in Public Management from the Development Academy of the Philippines and a Master of Science (MSc) in Human Rights, with honors, as a British Chevening Scholar at the

London School of Economics and Political Science. Currently, she is the Focal Commissioner for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights.

Ms. Michaëlle Jean is a Canadian stateswoman and former journalist who is the third and current Secretary General of la Francophonie. She is the first woman to hold the position. From 2005 to 2010, Michaëlle Jean was Governor General of Canada. From 2010 to 2014, she served as UNESCO Special Envoy for Haiti to support the post-earthquake reconstruction efforts and the will of Haitian men and women to end dependency on foreign aid. She has awarded the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Canada Award and the Board of Governors Recognition Achievement Award from the National Quality Institute.

Ms. Carla Mucavi is a career diplomat having served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique from 1989–2015, including in the Division for International Organizations and Conferences; Division for Europe and North America and Latin America; as Deputy Director of State Protocol; and as Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. She has also served at the Embassy of Mozambique in Ethiopia. From 2007–2015 she was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mozambique to Italy, Greece and Malta, and Permanent Representative to FAO, WFP and IFAD. Ms. Mucavi has been Director of the FAO Liaison Office to the United Nations in New York since August 2015.

Mr. Michael O'Flaherty is Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. Previously, he was Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland Galway, and served as Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. From 2004-2012, he was a member of the UN Human Rights Committee. His earlier UN career included leadership of human rights protection programmes in Sierra Leone and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Bruno Ríos Sánchez currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Commission on Social Development. He is First Secretary with the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in New York. His portfolio includes following the work of the Third Committee of the General Assembly. Previously, he served in the Mexican Embassies in Brazil as head of multilateral affairs and in Saudi Arabia as chief political officer and head of the consular section. He has published articles on international issues on a number of Mexican newspapers and magazines, including Foreign Affairs Latin America.

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. 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. Ekaterine Skhiladze was appointed as a Deputy Public Defender of Georgia in June 2016. Since 2007 she has been actively involved in the processes aimed at protecting women's rights and gender equality. From 2007-2012 she worked in the non-governmental organization Women's Information Center. From 2013-2016 she worked as Head of the Department of Gender Equality at the Public Defender's Office of Georgia. Since 2014 she has been involved in the activities of the coordination councils working on promotion of protection of human rights and gender equality. In 2016 Ekaterine Skhiladze was the winner of the Kato Mikeladze Award, a prize for women human rights defenders.

Ms. Melissa Upreti is a Member of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, established by the United Nations Human Rights Council. She is a fellow in the University of Toronto Law Faculty's International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program and currently Senior Director of Program and Global Advocacy at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University. She led the creation of the South Asian Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative. She participated in the first CEDAW Special Inquiry in Asia in 2012 and was co-petitioner in the landmark case, *Lakshmi v. Nepal*. She has written and lectured extensively about women's reproductive rights and legal accountability.