



Focus area: The empowerment of indigenous women

Interactive dialogue

**Thursday, 16 March, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters**

SPEAKERS BIOS

Speakers

Ms. Mariann Wollmann Magga is a member of the Norwegian Sami Parliament. Ms. Wollmann Magga has represented the Labour Party since 2010, and she has been the head of the Ministry of Industry and Culture Committee since 2013. In December 2016, Ms. Wollmann Magga became a member of the Sami Parliamentary Council. On the political level, Ms. Wollmann Magga is deputy of the local council in Sør-Varanger municipality, and she is also a “land consolidation lay judge” in the municipality.

Ms. Aysa Mukabenova is a Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Ms. Mukabenova is a leading expert on inter-ethnic relations and the author of a number of publications on minorities and indigenous populations. Ms. Mukabenova is a recognized authority among the Permanent Forum experts, and maintains regular contact with Russian and international indigenous organizations.

Ms. Otilia Lux de Coti is a Guatemalan social leader and politician. She was the Vice President of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2001 to 2007 as well as the Representative of Guatemala to the UNESCO Executive Board 2004-2007. From 1997 to 1999, Ms. Lux de Coti was the Commissioner of the Commission for Historical Clarification on the violation of Human Rights and Acts of violence in Guatemala. She has received numerous recognitions and awards, including the notable Bartolome de las Casas (Spain), Legion of Honor (France) and Francisco Marroquin (Guatemala) awards.

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin is the Executive Director of UNFPA since January 2011. A physician and public health expert, Dr. Osotimehin holds the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Before this appointment, Dr. Osotimehin was Nigeria’s Minister of Health. Prior to that, he was Director-General of Nigeria’s National Agency for the Control of AIDS, which coordinates HIV and AIDS work in a country of 180 million population.

Ms. Agnes Leina is the Executive Director and founder of Il’laramatak Community Concerns (ICC), a group founded in September 2011 that promotes the human rights and development issues of Maasai pastoralist communities in northern and southern Kenya, with a special emphasis on women and girls.

Ms. Pratima Gurung has served as Secretary General of the Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association and President of the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal based in Kathmandu. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network. Previously, she worked with the International Disability Alliance and with several Nepalese organizations and the Nepalese government as a researcher and advisor on gender, disability and ethnicity issues. Ms. Gurung has a Masters in philosophy and teaches in the oldest college providing education to girls in Nepal.

Dr. Khalida Bouzar is the Director of the Near East, North Africa and Europe Division of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Dr. Bouzar brings nearly 30 years of national and international corporate leadership experience, with more than 15 years in the UN system, where she has worked extensively on environmental protection, sustainable development, industry and natural resource management.

Dr. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine is a medical doctor from Tombouctou in Mali. She is a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and a member of Tin Hinan, a women's association working for the defense, promotion and development of indigenous peoples in Africa, with a particular focus on the Tuareg community.

Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz is the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Ms Tauli-Corpuz is an indigenous leader from the Kankanaey Igorot people of the Cordillera Region in the Philippines. She is a social development consultant, indigenous activist, civic leader, human rights expert, public servant, and an advocate of women's rights in the Philippines. She was the former Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2005 to 2010. Ms Tauli Corpuz was actively engaged in drafting and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007.

Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea is a Quechuan activist from Ayacucho, Peru, and the Founder of Chirapaq, The Hunger Project's partner organization in Peru. She has contributed to the creation of the Permanent Workshop of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru, the International Forum of Indigenous Women of the Americas and the Continental Link of Indigenous Women of the Americas. She was recently elected to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for the period 2017-2019.

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