

Sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)

Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective

Expert Group Meeting: Expert Biographies

Meghna Abraham is Executive Director of the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR). Ms. Abraham has spent over two decades working with communities to challenge the impact of unjust economic policies. Before joining CESR, Ms. Abraham was employed at NGOs and academic centers in India, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. She worked at Amnesty International for over a decade, including as the Director of Global Issues and Head of Economic, Social and Cultural rights. Ms. Abraham is a qualified Indian lawyer, and a Fellow of the Nottingham Human Rights Law Centre.

Leia Achampong is a Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Climate Finance with Eurodad. She joined Eurodad in April 2020 to initiate the organization's policy work and research on climate finance. Prior to joining Eurodad, she worked at the WWF European Policy Office for over 4 years and worked at Climate Action Network - Europe, Campaign Against Climate Change and the Environmental Investment Organisation. Ms. Achampong holds a master's degree in Sustainability Sciences and Policy from Maastricht University.

Jahnvi Andharia is the Director and a Research Fellow with the Institute of Social Studies Trust. For over two and a half decades, she worked directly with women living in poverty and in marginalized communities in Gujarat and Maharashtra. This work shaped her perspectives on feminism, intersectionality, vulnerability, empowerment and leadership. Dr Andharia and four colleagues founded ANANDI, an organisation based on collective leadership that works among the poorest communities of Gujarat. She has a PhD from the Faculty of Social Work, M.S. University and a master's in social work from TISS, Mumbai.

Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky has been Researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina at the National University of Río Negro since 2021. He was the UN Independent Expert on Debt and Human Rights between 2014–2020. Dr. Bohoslavsky worked as Sovereign Debt Officer at UNCTAD between 2010-2014. He has published books and articles on finance and human rights. He holds a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Salamanca, Spain, as well as an LL.M. in Corporate Law from the Austral University, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona is Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. From 2008 to 2014 she was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. She also served as a member of the United Nations High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda. Ms. Sepúlveda holds a PhD in International Law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and a post graduate diploma on comparative constitutional law from the Universidad Católica de Chile.

Diane Elson is Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Essex and a former professor of development studies at the University of Manchester. She is noted for her work on issues of development and human rights. Professor Elson is a past vice-president of the International Association for Feminist Economics and the chair of the UK women's organization, the Women's Budget Group, which analyses

government economic policy and advocates for budgets that support gender equality and low-income women. Professor Elson holds a B.A. in philosophy, politics and economics from the University of Oxford and a PhD in economics from the University of Manchester.

Yasmine Ergas is the Director of the Specialization on Gender and Public Policy and Senior Lecturer in Discipline in International and Public Affairs at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. She directs the program in Gender and Human Rights of Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Ms. Ergas' recent work has focused on the emergence of an international market in reproductive services, the transformations of 'motherhood' and the impacts of human rights programmes and policies. She is a sociologist and lawyer, with a Juris Doctor from Columbia University Law School.

Dorothy Estrada-Tanck is Chair of the UN Working Group of the Human Rights Council on the issue of discrimination against women and girls. She is an Assistant Professor of Public International Law and International Relations at the Faculty of Law of University of Murcia. Her academic and professional activities focus on issues ranging from international human rights law, violence against women and human rights of migrants, refugees and persons with disabilities. Dr Estrada-Tanck holds a PhD in Law from the European University Institute, an MSc in Political Theory from the London School of Economics and a Law Degree from Escuela Libre de Derecho.

Jayati Ghosh is a Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In 2021, the United Nations named her to the High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs. She has received several national and international prizes, including the 2023 Galbraith Award by the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. Professor Ghosh is the Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, an international network of heterodox development economists. She holds a PhD and M. Phil in economics from University of Cambridge, with an M.A. in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Caren Grown is a Senior Fellow in the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution. From 2014-2021, she served as Global Director for Gender at the World Bank and as Senior Technical Advisor in the Macroeconomics, Trade, and Investment Global Practice until 2022. Prior to joining the World Bank, Dr Grown was economist-in-residence and co-director of the Program on Gender Analysis in Economics at American University. During her career, she has held several senior positions, including senior gender advisor at USAID. Dr Grown has a PhD and master's in economics from the New School for Social Research.

Wendy Harcourt is Professor of Gender, Diversity and Sustainable Development at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University. Prior to joining ISS, Professor Harcourt spent 23 years at the Society for International Development, Rome as Editor of the journal *Development and Director of Programmes*. She is series editor of the Palgrave *Gender, Development and Social Change* and the ISS-Routledge *Series on Gender, Development and Sexuality*. She holds a PhD in history from Australian National University and a B.A. in history from University of Adelaide.

Leila Hessini is a feminist strategist and AWID board member, with over 25 years of organizing and grantmaking experience advancing human rights, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. She served as Vice President of Programs at Global Fund for Women, overseeing strategic grantmaking, movement-strengthening, global advocacy, and philanthropic collaborations. From 2002 to 2016, Ms. Hessini was on the senior leadership team of Ipas. Ms. Hessini studied Islamic law in Morocco and holds a master's in public health and a M.A. in Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

İpek İlkkaracan is Professor of Economics at Istanbul Technical University. Her research addresses macroeconomics of unemployment and wages, labor market inequalities, work-life balance policies, time use, the care economy, and sustainable growth. Dr İlkkaracan is a founding member of the Gender, Macroeconomics and International Economics GEM–Europe network; Women for Women’s Human Rights – New Ways; and the Women’s Labor and Employment Initiative (KEIG) Platform. She holds a BA in political science from Swarthmore College, an MA and a PhD in economics from the New School for Social Research.

Christina Laskaridis is an Assistant Professor of Economics with The Open University (OU). She co-convenes the OU Economics Seminar Series, the Politics of Economics seminar series at the University of Cambridge and was a Research Fellow at Duke University’s Center for the History of Political Economy. Her research interests include the political economy of sovereign debt, international organisations and monetary and debt debates. Dr Laskaridis has a PhD in Economics from SOAS, University of London, and is a Fellow of St Edmund Hall and Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford.

Chenai Mukumba is Executive Director of Tax Justice Network Africa, where she previously served as Policy Research and Advocacy Manager. She was recently elected to the board of ATAF's African Tax in Women Network and is a member of the International Lawyers' Project Advisory Group. Previously, Ms. Mukumba was Director of the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International and worked as a Policy Analyst at CUTS’ Centre for Trade, Economics and Environment in India. Ms. Mukumba has a master’s in international relations from Wits University, Johannesburg.

Ana Patricia Muñoz is Executive Director of the International Budget Partnership. Previously, she was Executive Director of FARO, a non-partisan Ecuadorian think tank that generates research and implements initiatives to influence public policy. Ms. Muñoz spent a decade at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, eventually serving as Assistant Vice President. Ms. Muñoz holds a master’s in public affairs from Brown University, a master’s in economics from University of Montreal and a B.A. from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

Heba Nassar is a Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), and former Vice President, of Cairo University. Dr Nassar served as the Chair of the Economic Department. in 2007-2008 and Vice Dean for Community Development and Vice Chair for all academic centers at FEPS from 2004-2007. After teaching at American University, she was a visiting Research Professor at the Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo until 2020. Dr Nassar has a PhD in Economics from Cairo University, as well as a M.S. and Bachelor of Science in Economics from Cairo University.

Sohela Nazneen is a Senior Fellow with the Governance Cluster of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS). Her research focuses on gender and politics, feminist movement, women’s empowerment and violence against women in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Before joining IDS, Dr Nazneen was a faculty member at the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, and a Research Fellow at BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University. She holds a PhD in Development Studies and a MA in Gender and Development from the University of Sussex.

Esther Camac Ramírez is a theologian, and a Founder of the Continental Link of Indigenous Women of the Americas - ECMIA. She has participated in several United Nations processes, including the Commission on the Status of Women each year since 1995 and the UN Human Rights Commission in relation to the establishment of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She currently advises on issues of economic justice for the ECMIA.

Michael Rogan is an Associate Professor in Economics and Economic History, Rhodes University. He is also a research associate in the global research-policy-action network Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). Professor Rogan's recent work has focused largely on informal employment, gender, poverty, food security, education and skills development, and survey design. He holds a PhD and a master's degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Durreen Shahnaz is the founder of Impact Investment Exchange (IIX) and IIX Foundation. Professor Shahnaz started her career in finance, then moved into media with Hearst Magazines International, and ultimately research and education at the National University of Singapore. She has led IIX to create the world's first social stock exchange, the largest crowdfunding platform for impact investing. Professor Shahnaz holds a BA from Smith College and a joint MBA from the Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania and MA from the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Violet Shivutse is the Founder and Coordinator of Shibuye Community Health Workers, a grassroots network that works with local authorities to actively enforce the land and inheritance rights of women and orphans in Kenya. She is actively involved in global advocacy initiatives to strengthen the inclusion of rural and grassroots women in higher-level dialogue processes. Ms. Shivutse serves as Chair and Africa Regional Representative for the Huairou Commission and runs the Good Governance Coalition, an organisation led by women that strengthens partnerships between authorities and communities.

Attiya Waris was appointed the UN Independent Expert on foreign debt, other international financial obligations, and human rights by the Human Rights Council and took up the function on 1 August 2021. She is also Associate Professor of Fiscal Law and Policy and Director of Research and Enterprise at the University of Nairobi. Dr. Waris is an advocate and arbitrator of over 20 years standing and was the founding Chair of the Fiscal Studies Committee from 2017-2020. She holds a PhD in Law and is a specialist in Fiscal Law, Policy and Development.

Yumiko Yamamoto is an Associate Professor in Economics at Okayama University. Prior to joining Okayama University, she worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, conducting research studies and policy advisory services in the fields of international development with special focuses on gender and trade, unpaid and paid work, economic policies and Sustainable Development. Dr Yamamoto has a PhD in Economics from University of Utah.