



11-22 March 2024

 **CSW68**

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

ADDRESS POVERTY

STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS

MAXIMIZE FINANCING

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

Interactive Expert Panel on Priority Theme

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'

Monday 18 March, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Speaker bios:

Ragui Assaad is a Professor with the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. He researches education, labor policy, and labor market analysis in developing countries with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa. Professor Assaad is a Research Fellow of the Economic Research Forum in Cairo, Egypt and serves on its board of trustees. He is also a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany. He served as Regional Director for West Asia and North Africa for the Population Council from 2005 to 2008 and has served as a consultant to the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, the Ford Foundation, UNDP and UNICEF.

Diane Elson is Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Essex. She is noted for her work on issues of gender equality, development and human rights. Professor Elson is a past vice-president of the International Association for Feminist Economics and a former chair of the UK Women's Budget Group. She served as a member of UN Committee for Development Policy (2013-2021), and has been an adviser to several UN agencies, including most recently, UN Women and UNDP. 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. She was awarded the 2016 Leontief Prize for Advancing Frontiers of Economic Thought by the Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University.

Zofia Łapniewska is associate professor in feminist and ecological economics at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She has been an activist for gender equality and sustainability for the past twenty years, having worked as a young researcher in NGOs and later contributing to social movements for ecology. Her current research interests focus on issues such as care, governing the commons, circular economy, just energy transition and forest management.

Laura Nyirinkindi has been a member of the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls since November 1, 2023, and is current Vice Chairperson. She holds a master's degree in international human rights Law from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, and a Law Degree from Makerere University in Uganda. She is the senior managing consultant for Pro Initiatives Agency, a legal and human rights firm based in Kampala, Uganda. Ms. Nyirinkindi specializes in women's rights, gender equality, governance, and the rule of law. She has published several articles on the rights of women in Africa.

Dulce Patricia Torres Sandoval is Púrhépecha, native from Michoacán, Mexico. Ms. Torres Sandoval is a member of the General Coordination of the National Coordinator of Indigenous Women of Mexico and the Mexico representative of the Continental Link of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ECMIA). From 2019 to 2021, she was a collaborator of the Legal Sub-directorate of the State Commission for the

Development of the Indigenous Peoples of the State from Michoacan. She has a degree in law and a masters in social anthropology from the Center for Research and Higher Studies in Social Anthropology, Mexico City and extensive experience in areas including rights of Indigenous peoples and Indigenous women.

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. Ms. 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 has researched and published on global, African, Asian, European as well as Latin American issues. She holds a PhD in Law and is a specialist in Fiscal Law, Policy and Development.