

Sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Beijing +30: Emerging issues and future directions for gender equality and women's rights

Expert Group Meeting, 13–15 August 2024

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

Expert participants

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Clinical Professor at the Center for Global Affairs, New York University

Ayesha Constable

Young People for Action on Climate Change Jamaica

Ayshka Najib

Action Coalition Youth Lead on Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Co-Convener of the Young Feminist Caucus

Beverley Palesa Ditsie

LGBTIQA+ activist

Cai Yiping

Member of Executive Committee, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era

Edita Tahiri

Chair, Regional Women's Lobby in South Eastern Europe

Esther Mwaura Muiruri

Global Advocacy Director for the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Campaign

Gladys Acosta Vargas

Chair, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2021–2022)

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Hija Kamran

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Mrinalini Mathur

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Gender Specialist at LATINDADD, Research Coordinator at CADEP

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Human rights officer, OHCHR

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Social Affairs Officer, ESCAP

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Biographies

Ahmed Dahmani

Ahmed Dahmani is a university professor of political science and public law and coordinates the Civil Coalition for Gender-Sensitive Budgeting in Morocco since May 2018. Dr. Ahmed Dahmani is an expert in gender, governance, and gender-sensitive public finance. He is also a passionate activist for human rights, equality, and democracy. Dr. Dahmani specializes in local development, public policies, public finance, and Gender-Sensitive Budgeting (GSB). He has developed local GSB strategies, gender integration mechanisms, and inclusive development plans. His work positively influences governance in Morocco, making significant contributions to the field of gender-sensitive public finance and policy development.

Amira Nassim

Amira Nassim, a native of Palestine and Finland, is a Migration Policy Officer at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office at the United Nations. Within the Sustainable Development Unit, she specializes in gender and women's empowerment, youth, and multiple high-level UN coordination bodies. Additionally, Amira is the focal point for inter-agency collaboration on gender and related issues in the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. With an extensive experience in the multilateral world spanning over a decade, her expertise extends from grassroots initiatives to the UN system.

Anne-Marie Goetz

Anne-Marie Goetz is a political analyst who studies women's political participation, anti-corruption, and gender issues in conflict and peacebuilding. She is a Clinical Professor at the Center for Global Affairs, School of Professional Studies, New York University, and a Professorial Fellow Emeritus at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, where she worked from 1991 to 2005. She worked on women's engagement in governance and peace and security at the United Nations (2005 – 2014) in UNIFEM and UN-Women. Dr. Goetz is currently researching the challenges of peacebuilding in the southern Philippines, and gendered dynamics in the drift towards electoral autocracy, or illiberal democracy, particularly in conflict-affected states. She is Chair of the Board of the Nobel Women's Initiative and on the editorial boards of the journals *Gender and Development* and *Politics and Gender*. She was appointed a Gender Commissioner to New York City by Mayor Eric Adams in Fall 2022.

Asako Hattori

Asako is serving as a human rights officer at the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations Human Rights – OHCHR). Currently, she is leading Socio-Economic Equality Cluster of the Section, focusing on gender equality and "care and support", as well as gender equality and women's rights in socio-economic spheres. Previously, she served at the Secretariat of the United Nations human

rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At United Nations Human Rights, she also worked on economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to food and land and human rights. Prior to OHCHR, Asako worked at the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva and supported the integration of human rights, in particular the right to health, into WHO's work.

Ayesha Constable

has worked extensively on youth and gender integration in climate change adaptation and regional climate action. She is founder of the Young People for Action on Climate Change Jamaica (YPACCJa), which is working on building a Climate Justice Youth Coalition in the Caribbean; and founded GirlsCARE- Girls for Climate Action for Resilience and Empowerment which offers mentorship for girls in climate activism. She is a Global Advisor to the FRIDA Young Feminist Fund, supporting participatory grantmaking processes for funding support to grassroots organizations, and a member of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD). Ayesha is the Technical Director for Climate Justice at the Global Fund for Women.

Ayshka Najib

Ayshka Najib is a climate justice activist and an intersectional feminist based in the United Arab Emirates. Her work focuses on ensuring the leadership and meaningful participation of those at the frontlines of the crisis and this is reflected in her advocacy with Fridays For Future MAPA. As Youth Lead for the Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice, she works with UN-Women and the Generation Equality Campaign to push for recognizing the intersectionality of gender equality and climate justice in decision-making spaces as well as at the grassroots level. She is also the youth representative to the GEF Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group and a co-convenor of the Young Feminist Caucus - amplifying the demands of young feminists and steering the implementation of feminist methodologies and practices across systems.

Beverley Ditsie

Beverley Ditsie (Hon) is an award-winning radical gender nonconforming lesbian activist and filmmaker who was instrumental in bringing LGBTIQ+ rights into focus in the late 80's and 90's in South Africa and the world. Best known for being the first African lesbian to address the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995—the subject of their latest documentary, *Lesbians Free Everyone* (2020), Bev is also a guest lecturer, key-note speaker and filmmaker, with over 25 years of experience in reality television directing and documentary filmmaking, with a particular focus on telling stories that are in the margins.

Cai Yiping

Cai Yiping is a member of Executive Committee of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). She Co-leads DAWN's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) thematic analysis team together with Vanita Mukherjee. She was Associate Researcher at the Women's Studies Institute of China (2006–2008) and was a journalist for China Women's News (1995–2005). Her research focuses on transnational feminist movement, especially in Global South, sexual and reproductive health and rights, media and communication. She serves as a member of UN-Women's Asia-Pacific Civil Society Advisory Group from 2013 to 2016.

Channe Lindstrøm

Ms. Channe Lindstrøm Oguzhan's career spans decades within the United Nations system. Her roles have encompassed significant contributions to sustainable urban development, humanitarian coordination, and refugee protection with UN agencies such as UN-Habitat, OCHA, and UNHCR. She currently serves as a Social Affairs Officer at ESCAP, focusing on advancing Sustainable Development Goal 5 through research, normative work, and technical cooperation on women's economic empowerment across ESCAP member States. Channe holds a Master's degree in Forced Migration from the University of Oxford Refugee Studies Centre and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Danielle Cliche

Danielle Cliche is Chief, Policies and Strategies for Gender Equality in the Cabinet of the Director General for UNESCO. From 2009-2019, she was Secretary of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the 1980 Recommendation on the Status of Artists and the 1952 Universal Copyright Convention. Danielle was also Chief of Section on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2009-2019), where she co-led an interagency team on behalf of UNESCO to produce the UN Creative Economy Report, Special Edition (2013), conceived and directed the UNESCO global reports, Re|Shaping Cultural Policies (2015 and 2018).

Previously Danielle was research manager for the European Institute of Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts Institute) and founding co-editor of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe.

Dawn Minott

Dawn Minott is a passionate advocate for gender equality and thrives on collaborating with diverse teams to advance women's empowerment and rights. Her career has spanned diverse roles from Head of Office to Special Assistant to the UNFPA Executive Director, serving at various levels across duty stations in Barbados, Jamaica, South Africa, and Nigeria, and the UNFPA Headquarters in NY. With expertise in gender mainstreaming, gender-based violence and a deep understanding of the humanitarian-development nexus, Dawn provides technical assistance, develops impactful programs, and fosters strategic partnerships. Dawn

is also committed to cultural diversity and social justice and leads from an intersectional lens.

Edita Tahiri

Edita Tahiri is a leader of the independence of Kosovo. She is a key founder and leader of the movement for freedom and independence of Kosovo (1991-1999). For ten years, she was Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo during the hard times of liberation in her country. She was also Deputy Prime minister, Minister of Public Administration and Member of Parliament for five terms. She was a peace negotiator in the Rambouillet Peace Conference on Kosovo in 1999, which ended war and genocide in Kosovo through the military intervention of the US and NATO over Serbia. She was the only woman in the Kosovo negotiating delegation of 15 members. She is dedicated to gender equality and empowerment of women and advancing the WPS agenda and for the past 18 years she serves as the Chair of the Regional Women's Lobby in Southeast Europe which today is the leading regional women's peacebuilding organization.

Emanuela Pozzan

Emanuela Pozzan is Senior Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination Specialist at the International Labour Organization – Gender, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Branch – WORKQUALITY Department. Ms. Pozzan has over 20 years of experience working in the Middle East, Africa and Asia on gender equality and non-discrimination in the world of work. She has a degree in Middle Eastern Studies and a Master of Science in Development Studies at SOAS with a focus on gender equality and forced migration. Her career included serving for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGOs, UNFPA and the ILO. Currently a Senior Gender Equality and Non - Discrimination Specialist at the ILO, Coordinating a portfolio of initiatives in the area of access to work for women, care economy, pay equity, violence and harassment at work, and a gender-responsive just transition. She co-manages the Secretariat of the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC).

Esther Mwaura Muiru

Esther Mwaura Muiru is an ardent believer of grassroots' women's power and capacities. In 1995 she attended the 4th UN-Women Conference that cemented her commitment to grassroots women leadership, critical gateway to achieve gender equality and sustainable development. Esther is Global Advocacy Director for the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Campaign. She has been active in the GEF since 2020 and is a leader with Feminist Action on Climate Justice (FACJ). Previously, she was Global Women Land Rights Manager at ILC and as the Founder (1995) and National Coordinator, GROOTS Kenya. She's a social planner with over 25 years of expertise in gender, governance and development.

Gladys Acosta Vargas

Gladys Acosta Vargas is a Peruvian feminist sociologist and lawyer who has actively participated in numerous international organizations. From January 2021 to December 2022, she chaired the CEDAW committee, after leading the Latin America and the Caribbean division of UNIFEM and UN-Women. At UNICEF, she worked as Head of Office (Argentina, 2006–2008; and Guatemala, 2003–2006), and Regional Advisor on Gender Equality (1999–2002). She has a Master's Degree in Sociology (La Sorbonne University, Paris), a Degree in Law (Catholic University, Lima) and was Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the National University in Bogota, Colombia (1993–1995).

Hannah Wu

Hannah Wu is the Chief of Women's Rights and Gender Section at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Hannah has been working there since 1994 in different duty stations, in Geneva, in Bangkok, and in New York. She has served as Coordinator of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria, Secretary of the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures, Coordinator of the Equality, Non-discrimination and Participation Unit in Special Procedures Branch, and Secretary of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls. Prior to joining OHCHR, she had worked in the United Nations' peacekeeping mission in Cambodia, at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and as a public high school teacher.

Hija Kamran

Hija Kamran is a digital rights advocate from Pakistan with extensive experience influencing internet governance in South Asia. Her work focuses on privacy, data protection, and freedom of expression, particularly at the intersection of gender and technology. Hija has led key advocacy campaigns and research initiatives that have shaped the region's legal landscape in response to digital rights challenges. She is the part of the APC Women's Rights Programme, contributing to policy advocacy across Asia and is also the editor of GenderIT.org. Her efforts continue to provide crucial insights into the impact of inadequate legislative frameworks on marginalized communities.

Isidora Uribe

Isidora Uribe is a Chilean inclusion activist and a law student at "Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile". At age 13, she developed an app to locate accessible parking spaces. Isidora created the "Encuentra Tu Lugar" Foundation, connecting people with inclusive spaces and looking to democratize inclusion. Isidora was honored in her country as one of the 100 Women Leaders 2022 and one of the 100 Young Leaders 2023, among others. In 2024, Chile's National Institute of Human Rights recognized Isidora as a "Woman of Influence" for promoting disability rights. She's currently a member of the Generation Equality Adolescent Committee of UN-

Women and one of the young leaders for the SDGs recognized by the UN Youth Office.

Laisa Bulatale

Laisa Bulatale is the Programme Director of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM), and is passionate about legal advocacy and addressing human rights issues for women and girls in her country. Laisa is a keen researcher and has produced publications for FWRM particularly in the area of women's health, economic status, and older women's issues.

Lidia Alpízar Durán

Lydia Alpízar Durán is a Costa Rican-Mexican feminist activist and the Co-Executive Director of IM-Defensoras, a unique local-to-regional alliance of women human rights defenders (WHRDs), organizations, multiple social movements and national WHRD networks working in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Lydia served for a decade as Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID); she is currently Board President of the Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAU-LAC); and Board member of the southern feminist organization Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). She is a graduate from the Human Rights Advocacy Training Program of Columbia University's Center for the Study of Human Rights.

Mama Koité Doumbia

Mama Koité Doumbia is a feminist activist and leader based in Bamako, Mali. She has been Chair of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims at the International Criminal Court (2020–2021) and President of FEMNET, The African Women's Development and Communications Network (2003–2010). Her career has been recognized with numerous awards, including the nomination to the Association 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. In 2021, she became an Officer of the National Order of Mali and, in 2023, she received The Maputo Protocol 20 for 20 Solidarity Award in the Access to Justice category. She is currently a member of FemWise/Union Africaine, where she was nominated as African Female Mediator, and President of the Platform of Women Leaders of Mali.

Mrinalini Mathur

Mrinalini Mathur is a recent M.S. in Global Affairs graduate from New York University, where she specialized in Human Rights and International Law, Global Gender Studies, and Data Analytics. Passionate about women's rights and gender equality, Mrinalini's research has predominantly focused on gender-based violence. Her academic and personal experiences reflect a strong commitment to addressing critical global issues and advocating for vulnerable communities. Through her work, she aims to drive meaningful change and support the advancement of human rights on a global scale.

Paola Yañez Inofuentes

Paola Yañez Inofuentes is a Bolivian Afro-feminist activist and a civil engineer who has devoted her career to research and advocacy on discrimination, identity, racism and women's rights. She is the former Executive Director of the Afro-Bolivian Centre for Integral and Community Development (CADIC) and, since 2018, she has been the General Coordinator of the Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women. She has participated in the United Nations Compliance Review Panel, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, among others. Through these activities, she has been able to influence the agendas of Afro-descendant women and follow up on their progress. In 2016, she was elected as a member of the UN-Women Civil Society Advisory Group for Latin America and the Caribbean, ending her term in 2020.

Prabhleen Tuteja

Prabhleen Tuteja is a feminist social worker and social justice practitioner from India. She is currently the Executive Director of a youth led organisation, The YP Foundation and has been working at the intersections of building platforms for young feminist organising and movement building across the country and regionally. She is a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group for Generation Equality and is currently serving as a member of the Beijing+30 Civil Society Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific. She also represents the organisation as one of the co-convenors of Young Feminist Caucus.

Pille Tsopp-Pagan

Pille Tsopp-Pagan is an Estonian social justice advocate, standing for women's and children's rights to live free from violence. Her professional background is in business, finance, as CFO of various companies for 30 years. She is the co-founder of the first women's shelter in the Baltic states in 2002. Since 2011, serving as head of the NGO. Internationally, during 2017- 2021 she served as President of WAVE Network. Currently, she is a member of GREVIO.

She has led several international projects that advance assisting victims of DV. For the past 8 years, she has worked together with international partners to create a framework for supporting older victims of violence.

Randa Siniara

Randa Siniara is the General Director of the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC). She has been a feminist and human rights defender for the past 38 years.

Randa has an LLM Degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex/UK and an MA Degree in Sociology-Anthropology from the American University in Cairo. Randa was the first Palestinian woman from CSOs to brief the UN Security Council on the status of Palestinian women under occupation during the Women's Peace and Security Open Day in 2018.

Randa is currently the Co-Convener on the Steering Group of the Arab CSOs and Feminists Network. She was recently selected by UN-Women on the Generation Equality Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group representing CSOs on behalf of WCLAC to advise and support decision-making over the next four years (2022-2025).

Raquel Lagunas

Raquel Lagunas is the Global Director of Gender Equality at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with more than 25 years of experience working on gender equality in development settings. She has advised governments and large development organizations (World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, IUCN); and worked closely with non-governmental organizations and grass roots women's movements across Latin America. Raquel is also the co-founder of 'America Latina Genera'; a unique knowledge management platform that promotes gender equality across the Latin America region. Raquel has worked closely with academia, leading a master's degree in the Gender Studies Programme at the Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales (ICEI); and lecturing at SIPA/Columbia University and Duke University.

Raymond Brandes

Raymond Brandes is the Gender Programme Management Officer at the United Nations Environment Programme, based in Nairobi, Kenya. Raymond has more than 20 years of experience in the development sector and has worked within the United Nations and with (inter-)national NGOs in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa on organizational and institutional capacity development, gender, and sustainable development. Raymond holds a master's degree in Sustainable Development (with specialization in Gender and Social Development) from the University of London (SOAS/Imperial College), a post-graduate diploma in Management, a certificate in Public Relations and a bachelor's degree in Chemistry.

Salma Al-Nims

Salma Al-Nims is Senior Social Affairs Officer, Gender Equality and Inclusion at ESCWA. She served as the Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women from 2014-2022. During her tenure she provided policy advice to the government on development planning and humanitarian response. She led the development and adoption of the National Strategy for Women and Jordan's National Action Plans for Women, Peace, and Security through nationwide participatory approaches. Salma served on the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Women Empowerment and co-chaired the "National Committee on Pay Equity" and the "Gender Partners Coordination Group". She holds a PhD. in Development Planning (2004) from University College London, University of London.

Shoubo Rasheed Jalal

Shoubo Rasheed Jalal is an Iraqi health care professional with around 40 years' expertise in Gender Equality and Social and Behavioral Change fields with a special interest in advancing child and women's rights in development and humanitarian contexts. Dr. Shoubo served as Ministry of Health- Iraq as clinician and health promoter for 17 years, joined United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF) in 2002, and is currently holding the position of Senior Advisor, Gender Equality - Programme Group.

She has rich experiences in integrating gender in system strengthening efforts across sectors, developing behavioral and social change strategies, designing, implementing, and monitoring multi sector evidence-based gender transformative programming and developing training manuals & programme tools. Her experience spans across different sectors including Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition, Immunization, Education, HIV, Early Childhood Development, and Protection including programming for SGBV, FGM and child marriage. Dr. Shoubo embraces local culture, respects values and traditions, and adopts participatory approaches as principles for success.

Sibongile Ndashe

Sibongile Ndashe is the founder and executive director of ISLA. She will be the technical lead for the project. She is a feminist who works at the intersection of public interest litigation, movement building, legal empowerment and capacity strengthening. Sibongile has worked as a public interest lawyer for over twenty years and has designed and implemented capacity strengthening programmes for lawyers for over fifteen years. She nurtures young lawyers with a view to developing a pool of feminist litigators. As a lawyer at the Internal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights (Interights) and at ISLA, she has litigated cases before the African human rights system and supported lawyers to litigate cases before national courts in different African Countries. Her work focuses on women's rights and people whose rights are violated on the basis of gender identity and expression and sexual orientation. She is an organizer and works with different social justice formations to push back on attacks against feminist causes and other actions that are intended to reverse feminist gains. She also works with different coalitions before the African Human Rights System to develop normative standards, hold states accountable and strengthen the mechanisms to ensure that they can deliver on their protective mandate.

Sofie Lambert

Sofie Lambert is Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination Officer at the International Labour Organization. A Belgian national, she has over 10 years of experience within the United Nations System. Prior to joining the ILO, she worked at UN-Women in Morocco for 6 years, leading the Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting Programme in close collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance. She has experience in gender training and capacity development,

programme management and technical assistance to public institutions. Sofie has a master's degree in modern history from the University of Ghent and in development economics from the University of Bordeaux.

Tulika Srivastava

Tulika Srivastava brings together the politics of resources she learnt and practiced during her tenure at Women's Fund Asia, and the normative standards of equality and non-discrimination that she learned as a legal activist from human rights movements and IRAW-AP, where she now serves as the ED.

She is passionate about institution-building, intergenerational leadership and feminist governance. She has served as the co-chair of the Board of Directors of Prospera- the international network of women's funds, and presently sits on the Board of Trustees of AALI, is the vice-chair of the Board of Directors of Women Deliver, the Founding Director of the Fearless Foundation for Arts and has recently joined the Board of Directors of the Global Greengrants.

Verónica Serafini

Verónica Serafini is a feminist economist with experience in civil society organizations and academia. She currently works as a Gender Specialist at the Latin American Network for Economic and Social Justice, LATINDADD, and is Research Coordinator at the Centre for Analysis and Dissemination of the Paraguayan Economy, CADEP. A lecturer at the National University of Asunción and the Catholic University, Paraguay, her research focuses on labour markets, poverty and inequality, social protection policy and financing for development with a gender perspective. She has worked as a consultant for different UN agencies (UN-Women, UNDP, UNFPA, ECLAC) and international financial institutions. She has a master's degree in social sciences and a PhD in Economics.

Zainah Anwar

Zainah Anwar co-founded two ground-breaking women's groups that engage with Islam from a rights perspective to promote equality and justice for women living in Muslim contexts. In 1987, she co-founded Sisters in Islam in Malaysia and became its founding Executive Director from 1999-2008. She also co-founded Musawah, the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family, and was its founding Executive Director from 2009-2021. She now chairs its Board. Zainah has worked as a journalist, a researcher, a columnist, and a senior programme officer in the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat. She has written numerous articles and given talks on Islam and women's rights, political Islam, Malaysian politics and race relations