

Panel 1

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls

Wednesday, 12 March 2014, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Panellists

Mr. Chrispine Gwalawala Sibande is the Senior Policy Advisor of Ipas Malawi, an international non-governmental organization dedicated to ending preventable deaths and disabilities from unsafe abortion. A human rights lawyer with a focus on women's rights, Mr. Sibande has expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights, maternal health and access to safe abortion. He currently serves as a commissioner in the Special Commission on Prevention of Domestic Violence. Mr. Sibande holds a Master of Laws specializing in sexual and reproductive health and rights from the University of Free State in South Africa.

Ms. Ursula Schäfer-Preuss is a development economist and the Chair of the Global Water Partnership, based in Stockholm. She has experience in the field of development policy for over 35 years, including designing a more equitable and gender balanced policy at the Asian Development Bank and very recently introducing a new gender strategy in Global Water Partnership's six year Strategy Towards 2020, which will be launched at World Water Day. Ms. Schäfer-Preuss previously worked as the Vice President of the Asian Development Bank for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development and Director General of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. She currently serves as Vice President of UN Women, National Committee Germany. Ms. Schäfer-Preuss holds a Doctorate degree in Economics from the Albert-Ludwig-University, Freiburg i.Br., Germany.

Ms. Radhika Balakrishnan is the Executive Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. Her expertise includes gender and development, gender and the global economy, human rights with particular attention to economic and social rights. Her research and advocacy work seeks to change the lens through which macroeconomic policy is interpreted and critiqued by applying international human rights norms to assess macroeconomic policy. Ms. Balakrishnan previously served as the Chair of the Board of the US Human Rights Network and is currently a member of the Board of the International Association for Feminist Economics and the Center for Constitutional Rights. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers University.

Ms. Virginia Bras Gomes is the Senior Social Policy Advisor in the Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security of Portugal. Her expertise includes economic, social and cultural rights, socio-economic policies and practices, social protection, and gender equality and women's rights in the context of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She is currently a member and rapporteur of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as a member of the High-Level Advisory Committee on Deinstitutionalisation of the European Social Network.

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Ms. Isabel Ortiz is the Director of the Social Protection Department at the International Labour Organization. With expertise in socio-economic development, Ms. Ortiz has worked in more than 30 countries, providing advisory services to governments and development institutions. She previously served as the Director of Global Social Justice Program at Joseph Stiglitz's Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University, the Associate Director of Policy and Strategy at United Nations Children's Fund, and Senior Advisor at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and at the Asian Development Bank. Ms. Ortiz holds an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. from London School of Economics.