



**Commission on the Status of Women  
Fifty-ninth session**

**THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS A CATALYST FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

**A DIALOGUE WITH FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS**

**Thursday, 19 March 2015  
10.00 am to 1.00 pm**

**SPEAKER BIOS**

**Moderator:**

**Mr. Martin Sajdik** is the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, since 2012. He was elected President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2014. Mr. Sajdik previously served as Austria's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He also held diplomatic postings in Moscow and with the Executive Secretariat of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna. He also served at the Permanent Representation of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

**Panelists**

**Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet** is the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, and currently serves as Chair of the Commission on Population and Development. Prior to holding this position, she served as Ambassador of Belgium to Israel from 2008 to 2012. She has also served as Director for United Nations in the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels from 2003 to 2008. Ms. Frankinet also served as Ambassador of Belgium to Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia. In addition, she also served as first Secretary in the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the European Communities in Brussels from 1988 to 1992. Ms. Frankinet holds Degrees in Political Science, Social Science and Journalism from the University of Brussels.

**Ms. Simona Mirela Miculescu** is the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, and currently serves as Chair of the Commission for Social Development. Prior to that, she was Director of the Communication and Public Diplomacy Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bucharest, having served as Senior Adviser to the Government of Iraq from 2006 to 2007. In 2005, she was based in Romania's Permanent Representation to the United Nations in New York. From 2000 to 2004, she

served as Minister Counsellor and Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Romania, becoming the first woman in her country to achieve the rank of Ambassador.

**Ms. Bente Angell-Hansen** is the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in Vienna, and currently serves as first Vice-Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. She started working for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1982, and has held positions as deputy under-secretary of state in the Norwegian Office of the Prime Minister, and Ambassador to Hungary. In 2011, she was appointed the first female Secretary General of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2012, the magazine *Stat & Styring* named her as the sixth most powerful civil servant of the Norwegian state and the magazine *Kapital* named her as Norway's tenth most powerful woman.

**Ms. Victoria Romero**, a Mexican diplomat posted at Mexico's permanent Representation to the United Nations in Geneva, is the current Vice-Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Ms Romero has experience in political, multilateral and consular affairs and served in different positions in Japan, Germany and within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. For the last seven years, she has been in charge of the Telecommunications and Internet portfolio in the Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva. Since 2013 she is a member of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group of the Secretary-General, involved in activities related to the Internet Governance Forum.

**Ms. Mariam Wallet Mohamed Aboubakrine** is a medical doctor from Mali, and a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Ms Aboubakrine is a member of Tin Hinan, an association working for the defense, promotion and development of indigenous peoples in Africa, in particular the Tuareg (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya). She has participated in training and capacity building as well as expert meetings on the rights of indigenous peoples. She also volunteered with African NGOs for advocacy on human rights at the Human Rights Council of the United Nations and the Universal Periodic Review in Africa.