



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

**Resources for gender equality: Good practices and strategies for action/the way forward  
Panel Discussion**

**Friday, 13 March 2015  
3.00 pm to 6.00 pm**

**SPEAKER BIOS**

**Moderator:**

**Ms. Aruna Rao** (India) is a gender and institutional change expert with over 30 years of experience in addressing gender issues in a variety of development organizations. She is the Executive Director and co-founder of 'Gender at Work,' an international initiative that strengthens organizations to build cultures of equality and social justice, with a particular focus on gender equality. Ms. Rao worked as a Practitioner-in-Residence in the Global Gender Program at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University from 2012-2013. She was also the Leader of the BRAC Gender Team in Bangladesh from 1994-1996 and the Population Council's Asia Regional Coordinator for Gender and Development, based in Bangkok from 1984 to 1990. Additionally, she was Board Chair of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation from 2003-2007 and Board Chair of the Association for Women's Rights in Development from 1994-1997. Ms. Rao has written and published extensively on gender equality, women's rights and organizational change.

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Professor Diane Elson** (UK) is an Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex and the Chair of the UK Women's Budget Group. She is also a member of the UN Committee on Development Policy and has advised on gender-responsive budgeting for UN Women, UNDP, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the government of Iceland. She was formerly a Professor of Development Studies at the University of Manchester and a Member of the UN Taskforce on Millennium Development Goals. One of the founders of gender budget analysis, Professor Elson has published numerous books and articles on gender equality and women's rights, including on gender-responsive budgeting and accountability in budget processes. Most recently, her research and teaching has centered on global social change, gender inequality, and economic and social rights. Professor Elson has a PhD in Economics from the University of Manchester.

## Panelists:

**Mr. Mohamed Chafiki** (Morocco) is the Director of Studies and Financial Forecasts in the Moroccan Ministry of Economy and Finance. In this capacity, he has led Morocco's pioneer efforts since 2002 in the area of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). As the lead focal point on GRB in the Ministry, he is also the National Director of the Gender-Responsive Budgeting Center of Excellence, established in coordination with UN Women to promote capacity building, knowledge exchange, and research and innovation on GRB. Previously, Mr. Chafiki was the Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Finance from 1998-2004 and a professor and researcher at the Faculty of Law, Economics, and Social Sciences in Rabat and various higher education institutions from 1977 to 1997. Throughout his career, he has been a committed human and women's rights activist, focusing extensively on human development, inequalities, and poverty analysis. Mr. Chafiki holds a PhD in Economics.

**Ms. Lydia Alpízar Durán** (Costa Rica) has been the Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) since 2007. Previously, she managed AWID's *Where is the Money for Women's Rights* and *Building Feminist Movements and Organizations* strategic initiatives. She is the co-founder and advisor of ELIGE - Youth Network for Reproductive and Sexual Rights in Mexico and a Board Member of the Global Fund for Women. She also founded the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Network for Reproductive and Sexual Rights and was a member of the International Council on Human Rights Policy. Ms. Alpízar Durán is a graduate of the Human Rights Advocacy Training Program at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Furthermore, she brings considerable experience in advocacy and capacity building, including on financing for gender equality and women's rights.

**Ms. Patti O'Neill** (New Zealand) is the Acting Head of Division for Global Partnerships and Policies in the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate. She currently coordinates the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), bringing together development cooperation agencies to fund and promote gender equality and women's empowerment. At the OECD, she has been actively involved in the implementation of the DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker, which tracks and reports on gender equality-focused aid. She also assisted in the organization of the Busan High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011 and in the development of the global gender equality indicator following this meeting. Previously, Ms. O'Neill was the gender equality advisor for the aid programme in the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She also held senior positions at the Ministry of Women's Affairs.