



Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-ninth session

Panel Discussion

Changing social norms to achieve gender equality: expectations and opportunities

Monday, 16 March 2015

3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Moderator

• **Ms. Anita Nayar, Director of Regions Refocus 2015 (India/USA)**

Regions Refocus 2015 fosters regional and feminist solidarities to advance progressive policies through dialogue between civil society and governments. Ms. Nayar worked nationally and internationally on issues including women's human rights, ecological justice, economic globalization and development. She has also served as Chief of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) and on the Executive Committee of the leading South-based feminist network, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

Panellists

• **Ms. Stephanie Seguino, Professor of Economics at the University of Vermont (USA)**

She is also a Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies – SOAS – University of London. Ms. Seguino has served as economist in Haiti. Her current research explores the relationship between inequality, growth, and development. She is an instructor in the African Program for Rethinking Development Economics, Associate Editor of *Feminist Economics*, *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, and *Review of Keynesian Economics*.

• **Ms. Nafissatou J. Diop, Coordinator of the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on *female genital mutilation/cutting: accelerating change* (UNFPA)**

Before joining UNFPA, Ms. Diop conducted several researches to evaluate programs addressing female genital mutilation in Senegal, Burkina Faso and in Mali. Beyond the issue of female genital mutilation, Ms. Diop has directed and managed initiatives to improve community access to quality reproductive health, including family planning, youth, post-abortion care and HIV/AIDS services in West Africa.

- **Ms. Olena Suslova, Founding Director, Women's Information Consultative Center(Ukraine)**
Ms. Suslova is a human rights and women's rights activist and researcher with more than 20 years of experience. She has worked in Ukraine, as well as countries of the former Soviet Union, as a short-term expert and trainer on gender, conflict transformation, advocacy etc. She established the Empowering Education Programme in 1996.
- **Ms. Elisa Salinas, CEO, The Women's Project (Mexico)**
Ms. Salinas is an internationally recognized television and film producer. Ms. Salinas is the CEO of Azteca Novelas in Mexico since 2011. In 2014, Ms. Salinas founded 'The Women's Project', a NGO that works to create equal development opportunities for women and men. As an advocate for the human rights of women, she has produced spots for the UN Women UNITE and He For She campaigns in Mexico.
- **Ms. Chi Yvonne Leina, World Pulse (Cameroon)**
Chi Yvonne Leina is a journalist and women's rights activist dedicated to shining a light on the unheard voices of ordinary women in Africa and transforming their fate. She uses journalism to expose negative cultural practices, such as the inhumane treatment of widows and breast ironing which affects 3-4 million girls in Africa. Through a combination of public awareness campaigns, grassroots organizing and digital media she was successful in reaching over 20,000 women and girls who have sworn to end the practice of breast ironing in Cameroon.