



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

**Managing the transition from the MDGs to SDGs: Lessons learned for gender equality from  
the MDGs and galvanizing transformative action**

**Thursday, 19 March 2015  
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

**SPEAKER BIOS**

**Moderator:**

**Ms. Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona** is a Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). She served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights between May 2008 and June 2014. She is a member of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the Committee of World Food Security. Ms. Sepúlveda is a Chilean lawyer with a Ph.D. in International Human Rights Law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. She also served as Co-Chair of the Expert Group Meeting for CSW59.

**Panelists**

**Professor Gita Sen** has over 35 years of experience working nationally and internationally on gender equality and women's human rights. Her work has ranged widely, spanning poverty, population policies, human development, labour markets, and women's health. A citizen of India, Professor Sen holds a PhD in Economics from Stanford University. She recently retired from her position as a professor of public policy at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India, and is adjunct professor of global health and population at Harvard University. She is a founder and currently General Coordinator of the South-based network, DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era). Her research has been extensively published nationally and internationally. She has also worked over many years with different agencies of the United Nations system, and is currently intensively involved in the United Nations sponsored discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

**Ms. Noelene Nabulivou** works with Diverse Voices and Action for Equality in Fiji. She is also an associate of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), and a co-convenor of Pacific Feminist SRHR Coalition, and Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development. Noelene is a feminist lesbian activist, frontline community organiser and advocate in local, regional and

more lately, global spaces. She served on the team of organising partners of the Women's Major Group on Sustainable Development, which works across the Rio+20, SIDS, SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda processes, and in CSW, Beijing+20 and ICPD Beyond 2014. For the past 30 years since her teens, Nabulivou has used south feminist political economy and interlinkage approaches to work on sexual rights, gender justice, human rights, and social, economic, and ecological/climate justice. Noelene lives in Suva, Fiji.

**Ms. Irène Esambo** is President of the Center for the Study of Justice and Resolution 1325 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which focuses on security sector reform and has successfully ensured the inclusion of a gender strategy in national government policies on police, justice and civil society. A Congolese lawyer and human rights defender in Kinshasa, Ms. Esambo also serves as International Criminal Court (ICC) counsel and a member of the Congolese coalition for the ICC.

**Mr. John Hendra** is the UN Senior Coordinator, "Fit for Purpose" for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. From May 2011 until late 2014, he served as UN Women's Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme at the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) level, leading UN Women's global policy work, overseeing its programmes in over 70 countries and management of the Bureau supporting policy analysis, research and programme management. Mr. Hendra's almost three decade career in the UN system includes work in four different regions and 13 years as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Viet Nam, Tanzania and Latvia; and, in several key corporate headquarter roles at UNDP. Mr. Hendra has a Masters in International Development from the University of Toronto and an Honours BA degree in Political Studies from Queen's University. He has received many awards and published numerous articles on development issues.