

CSW60

Commission on the
Status of Women

14-24 March 2016

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Priority theme - interactive expert panel:

'Participation and multi-stakeholder partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'

Thursday, 17 March, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Conference Room 4

SPEAKERS BIOS

Panelists

Ms. Olfa Soukri Cherif is Member of Parliament, Tunisia, since 2014. She serves as the rapporteur of the parliamentary finance committee and is a member of the committee on administrative reforms and anti-corruption. She is a member of the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality, and in April 2015 she joined the parliamentary network of the World Bank and IMF as vice chair. Before, she was a Professor of Economics at the Institute Supérieur de Science Humaines in Tunis, and worked at the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Ms. Soukri Cherif graduated with an MBA in Trade Policy from Harvard University. She is an adamant advocate of democratic consolidation through sustainable development.

Her Worship Senator Councillor Angela Brown-Burke is the Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica since 2012. Ms. Brown-Burke strives to create a space in local government for all Jamaicans to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. Previously, Ms. Brown-Burke was Corporate Area Councillor of the Kingston and Saint Andrew Corporation, Vice-President of the People's National Party, and Deputy President of the Senate of Jamaica. In September 2015 in New York, Ms. Brown-Burke, together with over 30 mayors and governors from around the world, made a commitment to putting their cities and states on a path towards sustainable development, as elected leaders increasingly recognize that climate change, rising inequalities and unsustainable economic growth are immediate threats to their constituencies and economies.

Ms. Michaela Bergman is the Chief Counsellor for Social Issues and Director of Gender at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Ms. Bergman is a social anthropologist and lawyer, with experience with multi-lateral banks, International Financial Institutions, bi-lateral agencies and civil society in over 40 countries. Her expertise lies in policy and project related activities related to gender, involuntary resettlement, poverty alleviation, protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples, community development, disability, support of civil society, human rights and labour laws, particularly in post-conflict countries and transitional economies, among others. As Chief Counsellor for Social Issues at the EBRD, Ms. Bergman provides support and strategic advice to the institution and clients on gender and social issues.

Ms. Rima Khalaf is the Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in Beirut. Previously, Ms. Khalaf served as director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States with the UN Development Program from 2000 to 2006, initiating projects to promote good governance, human rights and human development in Arab countries. She was the principal architect behind the pioneering Arab Human Development Report series and has received numerous international prizes, including the Prince Claus Award and the King Hussein Leadership Prize. Before joining the UN, Ms. Khalaf served in senior government posts in Jordan, including deputy prime minister, industry and trade minister, planning minister and head of the ministerial economic team. Ms. Khalaf holds a Ph.D. in system science from Portland State University in Oregon.

Ms. Emma Kaliya is the Chairperson of FEMNET - the African Women's Development and Communication Network, the SADC Gender Protocol Alliance, and the NGO Gender Coordination Network in Malawi. Ms. Kaliya is a human rights and gender/women's rights activist who has worked in several portfolios with different organizations, including the Danish Centre for Human Rights, Africare, Finnish Refugee Council, MSF-France, Population services International, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Ms. Kaliya believes that strengthening and developing leaders at the grassroots level encourages communities to take ownership and become change agents. Ms. Kaliya won the 2009 Drivers of Change Award bestowed by the Southern Africa Trust/Mail & Guardian Newspaper of South Africa.