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**Resilient Women, Resilient Societies:
Advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
to accelerate transformative change for the SDGs
July 18, 2018 | 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm | Trusteeship Council Chamber**

- 1:15 PM** Opening remarks from Ms. Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Government of Canada
- 1:20 PM** Panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Adam Vaughan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Children, Families, and Social Development, Government of Canada
- 2:00 PM** Moderator opens the discussion to the audience for questions
- 2:25 PM** Closing remarks from Parliamentary Secretary Vaughan

The 2030 Agenda recognizes the crucial contribution of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for progress across all SDGs and targets. In order to ensure the transformation towards sustainable development and resilient societies, women and girls must also have the resiliency to adapt to, and quickly rebound from, shocks and crises.

This side-event will explore the interplay between women and girls' vulnerability and resilience in the context of achieving sustainable development, and provide panelists with an opportunity to discuss practical ways development actors can support building the resilience of women and girls, while also effectively addressing the barriers that perpetuate vulnerability, including by engaging men and boys as stakeholders in advancing gender equality.

Speakers' Bios



Ms. Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Government of Canada

Celina Caesar-Chavannes is the Member of Parliament for Whitby, Ontario. She served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister from December 2015 to January 2017 and is currently the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie.

Mrs. Caesar-Chavannes was a successful entrepreneur from 2005 to 2015, owning a successful research management consulting firm focused on neurological research. She was the recipient of both the Toronto Board of Trade's Business Entrepreneur of the Year for 2012 and the 2007 Black Business and Professional Association's Harry Jerome Young Entrepreneur Award. Mrs. Caesar-Chavannes was a well-known research consultant and who worked with a variety of private, government and non-government organizations. Her work

required her to build and manage effective collaboration across a wide range of interests and perspectives, and has many years of experience managing complex projects involving industry, federal agencies, health care professionals, researchers and patient advocacy groups.

An international lecturer on the inclusion of marginalized populations in clinical research, Ms. Caesar-Chavannes has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto, an MBA in Healthcare Management, and an Executive MBA from the Rotman School of Management. She is a past member of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto. She also served as member of the Institutional Advisory Board of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction, part of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She is also a member of the Congress of Black Women.

During her short term as a politician thus far, she has advocated for people suffering with mental illness and was awarded the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health Champions of Mental Health Parliamentarian Award in May 2017. She was also named one of the Most Influential People of African Descent, Global 100 Under 40, Politics & Governance in 2017.



Mr. Adam Vaughan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development, Government of Canada

Adam Vaughan was first elected to the House of Commons as Member of Parliament for Trinity-Spadina, on June 30, 2014. Prior to that, he was elected twice to Toronto City Council. As an activist and a journalist, Mr. Vaughan has played a significant role in the social and economic growth of Toronto.

Mr. Vaughan brings a lifetime of experience to federal politics. On City Council, he played a major role in reforming Toronto's public housing policy. He led successful campaigns to rebuild and revitalize existing public housing while initiating new policies to create family housing, supportive housing and new co-op housing programs. Together with residents, he spearheaded the revitalization of Toronto's Alexandra Park community, a significant neighbourhood that will see new affordable housing, new commercial space, a re-built community and more downtown parkland.

Mr. Vaughan has demonstrated strong support for the arts in Toronto. While on City Council, he championed the expansion of OCAD University's campus and led the campaign to save Theatre Passe Muraille. He also served on the boards of the Toronto Arts Council, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Harbourfront Centre and Heritage Toronto.

Before entering politics, he was a broadcast journalist for more than 20 years, specializing in municipal affairs for both the CBC and City TV. He covered all three levels of government as well as writing about urban issues.

Mr. Vaughan served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Intergovernmental Affairs) from December 2015 to January 2017.



H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen (Bangladesh), Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Prior to his appointment, he had been Bangladesh's Ambassador to Japan since August 2012. Before that, he had served since August 2008 as his country's Ambassador to Italy and Permanent Representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

From 2006 to 2008, he was Director-General for Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for matters related to South Asia, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the United Nations. He was Deputy Commissioner at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India, from 2004 to 2006, having been Director of Poverty Alleviation at SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 2001 to 2004. From 1998 to 2001, he was Director in charge of the Foreign Ministry's United Nations Wing and Foreign Secretary's Office in Dhaka. He holds a master's degree in international relations from Tufts University in the United States, and a bachelor's degree in economics from Dhaka University in Bangladesh.



H.E. Ambassador Ms. Maria Erla Marelsdottir, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Iceland

Ambassador Marelsdottir began her career as a lawyer at the Government Agency for Child Protection and the Icelandic Human Rights Centre in 1996, joining Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs a year later. She has been posted to a number of countries, including Germany and Sweden.

Ambassador Marelsdottir was director for international trade negotiation and participated in Iceland's EU accession negotiations between 2009 and 2011. She was appointed Ambassador in December 2011 and since 2012 she has been the Director General for International Development Cooperation. Furthermore, she is the Ambassador of Iceland

for the Sustainable Development Goals and Non-Resident Ambassador of Iceland to the State of Palestine, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Uganda, and Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and the Republic of Kenya.

Ambassador Marelsdottir holds a master degree in law from the University of Iceland, and a Master of Laws in European Law from Stockholm University. She is married to Dr. Einar Örn Einarsson, Anesthetist and Intensive Care doctor, with whom she has two children.



H.E. Ambassador Milenko Skoknic, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations.

Ambassador Milenko Skoknic Tapia completed his law studies at University of Chile and holds a diploma in Foreign Policy and International Economics from Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford University. He is a graduate of the Chilean Diplomatic Academy, receiving the Minister's Prize for the best student at his promotion.

As part of his extensive career in the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Skoknic has served in the Chilean Missions to the United Nations, at the Chilean embassies to the Holy See, Turkey, Argentina, Canada and Brazil.

He has been Ambassador of Chile in Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia and to the International Organizations in Vienna from 2005 to 2010, Ambassador in Argentina and Consul General of Chile in La Paz.

From May 2018 Ambassador Skoknic is the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York.



Ms. Åsa Regnér, serves as Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, at UN Women since May 2018.

Ms. Regnér served since 2014 as Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality of Sweden, where her focus was on concrete results in the implementation of Swedish gender equality policies as well as a shift towards prevention of violence against women and the involvement of men and boys in gender equality work.

She has extensive experience in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment, having held various leadership positions in government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations. She has led important processes and campaigns as a leading advocate for feminism and gender equality in Sweden and beyond. She has built and managed strong partnerships with a range of key stakeholders, including women's movements and civil society, both at the global and in country contexts.

She previously served as UN Women Country Director in Bolivia (2013-2014) and Secretary-General of Riksförbundet för sexuell upplysning, Swedish International Planned Parenthood Federation branch. She also served as Director of Planning, Ministry of Justice (2004-2006) and as Political Adviser in the Prime Minister's Office (1999-2004). She began her career in women's rights as a volunteer for a Swedish NGO in La Paz, Bolivia (1990-1991) and moved to the Ministry of Labour working on Gender and labour market issues for several years in the 1990s.

Ms. Regnér holds a Master's Degree in Democratic Development from Uppsala University. Born in 1964, she has two children.



Ms. Nikki Fraser, Indigenous youth activist, UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals

Nikki Fraser is 27 years old and from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, which is a part of the Secwépemc Nation located in the interior of British Columbia, Canada. Nikki is a proud mom of two, son Trey, 7 yrs old and daughter Aiyana, 5 yrs old.

In 2015, Nikki was elected as the BC Native Women's Association Youth Representative, and was the successful candidate in 2016 and became the National Youth Representative for the Native Women's Association of Canada. For over 2 years Nikki used her platform to advocate for young Indigenous Women and Girls, by participating in many meetings, conferences, and gatherings, in many communities across Canada, the United States of America, and Central America.

In 2016 she was one of 10 Canadians selected to interview Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) special, "Face to Face", where she asked the Prime

Minister how he was going to help end the continuous violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada. Nikki was also named one of seventeen UN Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals in 2016, for the work she has been doing with Indigenous communities.

In 2018 Nikki was invited to speak on the Equality and Inclusion Panel at the Commonwealth Youth Forum during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London.

Nikki's efforts and advocacy have been recognized by a number of organizations, including being one of Green Biz's 2017 30 under 30 list; CBC's 2017 "Young Indigenous Women on the Rise", and most recently, the Government of Canada's 2018 Top 10 Indigenous Influencers.

Nikki is currently traveling the world, working to inspire the next generation of Indigenous Youth by sharing her story. This fall, Nikki will begin pursuing her degree in Indigenous Studies and Political Science at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia.



Mr. Jake Stika, Executive Director, Next Gen Men

Jake Stika is passionate about creating spaces to engage men and boys in conversations around gender equality. He is the Cofounder & Executive Director of Next Gen Men, a Canadian organization focused on building better men in schools, communities, and workplaces through the lens of caring masculinities, healthy relationships, and gender equity. Jake has represented Canada at the British Council and was recognized as one of the top 100 emerging global innovators by Ashoka and as a community contributor by the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion.



Myriam Aman Soulama, Charge d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations

Ms. Soulama is a lawyer by training and diplomat by profession. After completing her law studies and a Graduate Diploma in Diplomacy and International Relations, she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Burkina Faso. Her posting to Burkina Faso's Permanent Mission to the United Nations is her first assignment abroad, where she is First Counselor, and has managed both UNGA sixth (legal) and third (social, humanitarian, human rights) commission successively.



Ms. Laurence Monnoyer-Smith, Interministerial Delegate and Commissioner General for Sustainable Development, Government of France

With a Ph.D. in Information Science and Communication and a Professorial Thesis on methods of citizen participation in modern societies, forms and limitations of mechanisms for public debate, Laurence Monnoyer-Smith was Senior Lecturer and University Professor at Compiègne Technology University from 2008 to 2013.

In this role, she was sequentially responsible for providing engineers with instruction in information science and communication, scientific and technical literacy, public discourse and scientific communication, and she directed Compiègne

University's Costech Research Laboratory (Technical Systems and Knowledge). Her research work focused on e-democracy, electronic citizen mediation devices, public data, and development of digital literacy and new forms of citizenship.

In 2013, she became Vice-President of France's National Public Debate Commission and contributed actively to developing representative and participatory democracy tools.

On May 22, 2015, Laurence Monnoyer-Smith was appointed to the French Council of Ministers as Interministerial Delegate and Commissioner General for Sustainable Development, General Commissariat for Sustainable Development, within the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition.



Ms. Susan Papp, Managing Director for Policy and Advocacy, Women Deliver

Susan Papp serves as the Managing Director of Policy and Advocacy at Women Deliver. She is an award-winning advocate and policy expert with a passion for improving the health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations.

Ms. Papp has nearly 20 years of experience working on global projects to advance political will, policies, and funding for a variety of issues relating to girls' and women's health and women's economic empowerment. Before joining Women Deliver, she served as a Vice President at Rabin Martin where she supported the advocacy efforts for *MSD for Mothers* and *Saving Mothers Giving Life*. Susan also worked in with the

White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood in India and evaluated social accountability programs to improve maternal health outcomes in Orissa. Prior to this, she served as a Vice President at GMMB, where she directed advocacy and communications campaigns for several UN agencies, private sector companies, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Susan began her career on Capitol Hill where she worked for two US Senators. She holds an MSc in Health, Community, and Development from The London School of Economics and Political Science.