



WORLD SURVEY ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

GENDER EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Join us for a panel discussion:
20 October 2014, 1:15 - 2:30
GA building Conference Room 6

Panelists

Melissa Leach, Director of the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK, contributing author

Isha Ray, Professor of Energy and Resources at University of California, Berkeley, contributing author

Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Zenebeworke Tadesse Marcos, independent researcher, Ethiopia

John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme at UN Women will moderate the session

(biographies below)

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By 17 October, 5 PM

Panelist biographies

Melissa Leach is Director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex. As a Professorial Fellow of IDS, she founded and directed the ESRC STEPS (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability) Centre (www.steps-centre.org) from 2006 – 2014, a global research-policy centre working with core partnerships in Africa, Asia and Latin America. A geographer and social anthropologist, her research in Africa and beyond has integrated social science with science-policy and natural sciences across many environmental, political ecology, agricultural, health, and technology approaches and issues, often with a feminist and gender relational lens. Her publications include the books *Rainforest Relations: Gender and resource use among the Mende of Gola, Sierra Leone* (Edinburgh, 1994); *Misreading the African Landscape* (Cambridge, 1996); *Reframing Deforestation* (Routledge, 1998); *Science, Society and Power* (Cambridge, 2003); *The Lie of the Land: Challenging Received Wisdom on the African Environment* (James Currey, 1996); *Dynamic Sustainabilities: Technology, Environment, Social justice* (2010, Earthscan), and *Green Grabbing* (2012, Taylor and Francis). Her contributions to shaping global agendas around sustainability and development include vice-chairing the Science Committee of Future Earth. She led the conceptual framework for the UN Women's 2014 World Survey Report on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development.

Dr. Isha Ray is Associate Professor at the Energy and Resources Group, UC Berkeley, and Co-Director of the Berkeley Water Center. She has a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University, and a PhD in Applied Economics from the Food Research Institute at Stanford University. Dr. Ray's research fields are water and development; technology and development; and common pool resources. Her work focuses on access to water and sanitation for the rural and urban poor, and on the role of technology in improving livelihoods. She and her students have worked on access to, and affordability of, water in India, China, Turkey, the Philippines, Mexico, Tanzania and California's Central Valley. She served on the Editorial Committee of the *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* from 2003 - 2013, and is co-editor (with Pranab Bardhan) of *The Contested Commons: Conversations Between Economists and Anthropologists* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2008). In addition to research and teaching, Dr. Ray has extensive past and ongoing experience in the non-profit sector on international development and freshwater issues.

Hilal Elver is a Research Professor, and co-director of the Project on Global Climate Change, Human Security, and Democracy housed at the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has a law degree, a Ph.D. from the University of Ankara Law School, and SJD from the UCLA Law School. She started her teaching career at the University of Ankara Faculty of Law. During this period, she was also appointed by the Turkish government as the founding legal advisor of the Ministry of Environment, and the General Director of Women's Status. In 1994, she was appointed to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Chair in Environmental Diplomacy at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta. Since 1996 she has been teaching at several Universities in the United States and abroad. Throughout her career, she has done extensive work with national and international human rights NGOs. Her publications have focused mainly on international environmental law, women's rights and international human rights law. Her book, *Peaceful Uses of International Rivers: Case of Euphrates and Tigris Rivers*, was published in 2002. Her most recent book, *The Headscarf Controversy, Secularism and Freedom of Religion* published in 2012 by the Oxford University Press. She has written numerous chapters in books and articles in academic journals ranging from Global Justice, New Constitutionalism, Secularism, women's rights, water rights, environmental security, climate change diplomacy and food security. She was appointed Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food by the Human Rights Council in May 2014 and assumed her functions on 2 June 2014.

Zenebework Tadesse is a sociologist by training. She is currently a Research Fellow at the Graduate Studies, Ethiopian Centre for Graduate Studies, University of South Africa. She has published widely and serves as an international consultant to UN agencies and non-profit organizations in the fields of social development and governance. She is a founding member of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences. Ms Tadesse has served and continues

to serve on a large number of Boards including as the President of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), as a member of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Advisory Council Member of the Ibrahim Index on African Governance. At present, she serves as a member of the UN Committee of Development Policy (CDP) as a member of the Board of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), and on a number of local advisory committees.

John Hendra is Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme at UN Women, the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, where he leads the agency's global policy work and its programmes in over 70 countries and manages the Bureau supporting policy analysis, research and programme management. He co-chairs the UN Development Group's Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Taskforce and is a member of the Senior Coordination Group of four ASGs tasked by the UN Secretary-General to coordinate UN System support to Member States to formulate the post-2015 development agenda. His 28 year career in the UN spans roles in four different regions including 13 years as UN Resident Coordinator in Latvia (1993-1997), Tanzania (2002-2006) and Vietnam (2006-2011), where he led a very successful UN reform effort at country level – the 'Delivering as One' Initiative.