



SIDE EVENT:

Looking Ahead – The Place of Sport for Women’s Empowerment Post-2015



Co-hosted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and UN Women
16 March 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | UNHQ, Conference Room 11

Welcome remarks by Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, *UN Women Executive Director*

Keynote speaker: Ms. Michelle Kwan,

Two-time Olympic medalist, Senior Adviser for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs and Member of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition, US Department of State

Panelists:

H.E. Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota,
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN

Ms. Sania Mirza,
UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia

Mr. Werner Obermeyer,
Deputy to the Executive Director, World Health Organization at UN Headquarters

Ms. Maria Bobenrieth,
Women Win Executive Director

Mr. Nodar Andguladze,
Head of Social Projects, Georgia Rugby Union

Moderator:

Alan Abrahamson,
International sports journalist and award-winning sportswriter, USC Professor, and IOC Press Commission Member

Closing remarks by:

Ms. Lydia Nsekera,
Chair of the IOC Women and Sport Commission

#CSW59



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Speakers’ Biographies



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She has worked in government, civil society and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa. From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry. She was a Member of Parliament as part of South Africa’s first democratic government and began her career as a teacher. She gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA, and is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education.



Lydia Nsekera is a Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Chair of its Women and Sport Commission. She is also a FIFA Executive Board Member, the first-ever woman to hold this position. Lydia has occupied several functions in the world of sport and was President of the Burundi Football Federation for nine years, one of the very few women in the world to head a national football federation. Lydia is one of the winners of the prestigious IOC Women and Sport Awards, which recognized the important role she played in her country to encourage women to practice sport.



Michelle Kwan is a five-time world champion figure skater and two-time Olympic medalist. Michelle’s skating brilliance and accomplishments have earned her a place among the all-time greats of the sport. Michelle’s activities off the ice have been equally noteworthy. In 2006, the Secretary of State appointed Michelle as the first U.S. Public Diplomacy Envoy. In this capacity, Michelle travels the world and meets with young people to speak about leadership and engages them in dialogue on social and educational issues. In 2010, President Obama appointed her to the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, the group that advises the President on ways to engage, empower and educate all Americans to lead healthy, active lifestyles.



H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota is currently the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations. He was Minister of External Relations of Brazil from January 2011 to August 2013; Deputy Foreign Minister from October 2009 to December 2010; Ambassador of Brazil to the United States from 2007 to 2009; Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs at the Foreign Ministry from 2005 to 2007; Chief of Staff to the Foreign Minister, in 2004; and Secretary for Diplomatic Planning at the Foreign Ministry, in 2003. From 1992 to 1994, he was Deputy Diplomatic Advisor to then President Itamar Franco. Overseas, he has served in Washington (2007-2009), twice in Geneva (1983-1987 and 1999-2003) and New York (1994-1999 and 2013-today), in Caracas (1988-1990) and in Beijing (1987-1988). He graduated from Brazil’s Diplomatic Academy in 1979, after studying Philosophy at the University of Geneva.



Sania Mirza, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia, is India's top tennis star. From 2003 until her retirement from tennis' singles division in 2013, she was ranked by the Women's Tennis Association as India's No.1 player, both in singles and doubles. She launched the *Sania Mirza Tennis Academy* in 2013 with the aim of providing world class tennis training to Indian tennis players, including talent from rural and disadvantaged areas. She has used the spotlight on her professional success to highlight social issues that are of concern for many Indians, speaking out on issues such as the need to halt the practice of female feticide and the decreasing sex ratio in India. She has repeatedly urged a changing of the mindset that discriminates against the girl child and expressed her strong desire to spread the message of gender equality.



Werner Obermeyer is the Deputy to the Executive Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) office at UN Headquarters in New York. His portfolio includes the promotion of health priorities in the General Assembly and other intergovernmental processes, global inter-agency relationships with the UN system entities based in New York, as well as non-governmental organizations that focus on public health issues. Prior to joining WHO he served as Deputy Director in the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) New York office, responsible for UNEP reform, environmental governance and health and sustainable development. Before joining the United Nations he served as the South African Deputy Permanent Representative in Kenya, from 1996 to June 2000, and held various other diplomatic assignments in Africa and South America, from 1988 to 1994.



Maria Bobenrieth is the Executive Director of Women Win. Born in Chile, raised and educated in the US, Maria currently resides in Amsterdam, headquarters of Stichting Women Win. She holds a BS in International Business, a Master's in International Management and has done extensive postgraduate work in cross-sector partnerships. Maria has over 20 years of international business management experience, working for major brands applying innovative multi-sector approaches to create shared value and collective impact. From 1998-2009, Maria worked in various capacities at Nike, serving as the Global Director of Community Investments where she supported Astrid Aafjes to launch Women Win in 2007. Maria served as the first Chair of the Board of Directors of Women Win and became Executive Director in 2010.



Nodar Andguladze is Head of Social Projects at the Georgia Rugby Union. He provides sport activities to young offenders, teaching them the values and codes of rugby and promoting a healthy lifestyle. In partnership with UN Women, he has brought advocacy efforts of the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign to international rugby matches, press conferences, PSAs and TV commercials. He has lead efforts to train rugby players on becoming male advocates for ending violence against women and held *Sportsmen talks with boys* in schools and at games. Mr. Andguladze also runs the Sports Medicine Clinic in Tbilisi, and manages the Georgian National Sevens Team. He was himself a member of the Georgian National Rugby Team, the Georgian Men's Sevens Team, and the Rugby League National Team. He studied at the University of Amsterdam and the Tbilisi State University of Economic Relations.



Alan Abrahamson is an award-winning sportswriter, best-selling author and in-demand television analyst. He spent 17 years at the LA Times and four years as a columnist for NBC's online properties. In 2010, he launched his own website, 3 Wire Sports, now recognized worldwide as the go-to source about the Olympic movement and its culture. He co-wrote Michael Phelps' biography, a New York Times' best-seller, and won an Emmy Award for his coverage of the 2008 Olympics. Alan also teaches sports writing at the University of Southern California's Annenberg journalism school. He, his wife and three children live in Palos Verdes, California.