

**30TH Anniversary Event of the Committee on the
Elimination of Discrimination against Women
9 July 2012
United Nations Headquarters**

Biographies of Participants

Silvia Pimentel

A national of Brazil, Ms. Pimentel has been a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women since 2005 and is currently its Chair. She is Professor of Legal Philosophy at the Catholic University of Sao Paulo (PUC/SP). She is a well-known women's rights activist, in the Latin American and Caribbean region, particularly in Brazil. Ms. Pimentel was one of founders of the International Women's Rights Action Watch – IWRAP and of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights – CLADEM. She has attended and participated in numerous conferences, including the UN International Women Conferences of Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995) as well as at the UN International Human Rights Conference in Vienna (1993). She has also been active in the elaboration of numerous general recommendations of the Committee, including the general recommendations on migrant workers, and the core obligations of article 2 of the Convention. She is currently the Chair of the Working Group on the General Recommendation on Access to Justice.

Jan Eliasson

Ambassador Jan Eliasson was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon since 1 July 2012. He was the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur from 2007 to 2008. Mr. Eliasson is a former Swedish Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the UN (twice) with extensive experience as a UN mediator and humanitarian relief director. From 1988 to 1992 he was part of the UN mediation missions in the war between Iran and Iraq. In 1992, Mr. Eliasson was appointed as the first UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, and was involved in operations in Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique and the Balkans. He took initiatives on landmines, conflict prevention and humanitarian action. He has been a Visiting Professor at Uppsala University and Gothenburg University in Sweden, lecturing on mediation, conflict resolution and UN reform.

Michelle Bachelet

Ms. Michelle Bachelet is the first Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, which was established on 2 July 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly. UN Women works with the entire UN system, governments, civil society and the private sector to advance women's empowerment and gender equality worldwide. Ms. Bachelet most recently served as President of Chile from 2006 to 2010. A long-time champion of women's rights, she has advocated for gender equality and women's empowerment throughout her career.

Eleonora Menicucci de Oliveira

Ms. Eleonora Menicucci de Oliveira is Minister of Policies for Women of Brazil. She is also Professor of Public Health and Deputy Dean at the Department for Preventative Medicine of the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). Ms. Menicucci de Oliveira holds an undergraduate degree in Social Sciences from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, a master's degree in Sociology from the Federal University of Paraíba, a Ph.D in Political Science from the University of São Paulo, and a post-doctorate degree in health and women's labour from the Facultá de Medicina della

Università Degli Studi Di Milano. She is an experienced professor in the fields of sociology and public health. Her academic trajectory has been marked by her active engagement in councils and commissions regarding women's rights as well as her work as a consultant regarding public policies towards women.

Mary Shanthi Dairiam

Ms. Shanthi Dairiam is a Malaysian human rights and women's rights advocate. She has served on the UN's Gender Equality Task Force since 2004. She is a former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, where she served from 2005 to 2008. In 2010, she was appointed as one of three United Nations experts to lead an inquiry into the Israeli navy's response to the Marmara flotilla that sought to break a blockade of Gaza. Ms. Dairiam She is also the founder and a member of the Board of Directors of the International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific, a non-governmental organization devoted to facilitating the implementation of the CEDAW Convention globally.

Ivan Šimonović

Mr. Ivan Šimonović assumed his functions as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights on 17 July 2010, to head the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Before joining the United Nations and since 2008, he held the position of Minister of Justice. He had previously served as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, where he served as Senior Vice-President and President of the Economic and Social Council from 2001 to 2003. A Croatian national, Mr. Šimonović worked as a professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb, where he served as Head of the Legal Theory Department, Vice-Dean and Vice-Rector for international cooperation. He has extensive experience and publications in the fields of international relations, law, human rights, and development of national institutions.

Anders B. Johnsson

Mr. Anders B. Johnsson is a Swedish human rights lawyer and the current Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). He joined the IPU in 1991 where he served as Assistant Secretary General until 1994 and Deputy Secretary General and Legal Adviser from 1994 to 1998. He also directed the development of the IPU's program on strengthening parliaments and promoting democracy. He worked for 15 years at the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) where he held senior positions in Honduras, Pakistan, Sudan, and Vietnam. He also served as Senior Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner at the UNHCR headquarters. Mr. Johnsson is an expert in international law and politics, democracy, human rights, gender equality issues and parliamentary democracy. He is the author of several papers and articles and is frequently invited to speak on these subjects.

Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga

Ms. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga is a Ugandan lawyer and politician. She is the current Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, a position she was elected to in 2011. She is the first female to be elected Speaker in the history of Parliament in Uganda. From 1986 to 1989, Ms. Kadaga was president of the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA). Since 1989 to date, she has been the elected Member of Parliament for the Kamuli District. In 1996, she was elected Secretary-General of East African Women Parliamentarians Association. From 1996 to 1998, she participated in peace initiatives under the IGAD for the Sudan-Arusha Regional Initiative for Burundi and the Arusha Regional Initiative for DRC. In December 2010, Ms. Kadaga led the African regional Commonwealth Women

Parliamentary delegation to Abuja, Nigeria, to lobby for increased representation of women in parliaments in West Africa. She is the president of women members of parliament in Commonwealth countries in Africa.

Sapana Pradhan Malla

Ms. Sapana Pradhan Malla is a lawyer and a member of Nepal's Constituent Assembly and participates in constitutional reform. She currently serves as the Gender Adviser to the Office of Prime Minister and Council of Minister (OPMCM) and was instrumental in the establishment of the GBV Unit in OPMCM. She is a strong advocate of women's participation in the political process and as a result of her efforts women now make up one-third of Nepal's National Assembly. Ms. Malla has published extensively on the legal status of women in Nepal and has brought several landmark cases to Nepal's Supreme Court. She is dedicated to ensuring a comprehensive women's rights agenda within the constitutional framework. She was a driving force behind the passage of legislation to criminalize marital rape, drafting of the Gender Equality Amendment Act, and the Human Trafficking Act which has become a legal model for the region. Ms. Malla was also essential in the development of an anti-domestic violence bill. In 2008, she was awarded the prestigious Gruber International Women's Rights Awards for her contribution in the field of women's rights.

Martha Sánchez Néstor

Ms. Martha Sánchez Néstor is the founder of Coordinadora Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas (CONAMI), and Founder of Casa de Salud de la Mujer Indígena-Manos Unidas. She has led the fight to promote indigenous women's health issues and rights in Mexico and throughout Latin America. She is also the Coordinator of the Indigenous Women Alliance of Central America and Mexico and serves as Mexico's focal point for the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), a network of indigenous women leaders from Asia, Africa, and the Americas. She founded the group, the Plural Group for Gender Equity and Advancement of Women in Guerrero, Mexico an organization which has been influential in promoting indigenous women's rights in Guerrero. Ms. Sánchez has been a delegate at the meetings of the United Nations Working Group for Indigenous Populations, held in Geneva as well as at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held in New York.

Souad Triki

Professor Souad Triki is a women's rights and human rights advocate in her native Tunisia. She is the new Team Leader of the "Civil Society" European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) – South Program. Ms. Triki is the co-founder of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD) and the Research and Development Tunisian Women's Association (AFTURD). After the Tunisian revolution, she served as Vice President of the Independent Higher Authority for the October 2011 elections in Tunisia. She holds a PhD in Economics and was a lecturer in Economics at the University of Tunisia. She specializes in economics, gender, and development and has written several articles on these subjects.