

Biographical data form of candidates to human rights treaty bodies

Name: Ismat Jahan (Ms.)

Nationality: Bangladeshi

Date and place of birth: 3 June 1960, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Working languages: Fluent: English and Bengali; Basic: Spanish

Current Position/function:

Ambassador to Belgium and Head of Mission to the European Union; Concurrent Accreditation as Ambassador to Luxembourg. Member of CEDAW (2011-2014)

Main professional activities:

Career diplomat with 30 years of service experience; specialization in multilateral diplomacy with skills in international negotiations and conference diplomacy. **Area of focus:** Human rights and humanitarian issues and gender matters; Serving in the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh to the UN both in New York and in Geneva was directly responsible in dealing with matters relating to human rights, including women rights and humanitarian issues . Served as Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, New York (2007-2009). Currently, as Head of Mission in Brussels responsible for overall management of the Embassy and spear heading its various activities ; articulating strategic and operational plans for implementation of national foreign policy; drafting of policy papers and country statements; representing Bangladesh in various meetings, conference and seminars in the European Commission and the European Parliament; networking with the think tanks and civil society including women's organizations; advocacy on women's rights at national level including coordination with NGOs.

Educational background:

- i. M.S.S (Economics), University of Dhaka, 1982.
- ii. M.A. (Law and Diplomacy), Fletcher school of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA, 1986
- iii. Visiting Fellow in Foreign Service Programme, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, USA 1996 (certificate with distinction)
- iv. Certificate in Spanish language from the University of California, Berkeley, USA, 1986.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Long association with gender issues and promotion of women's rights while serving in Bangladesh Missions in New York and Geneva; participated in many CEDAW sessions (involved in presentation of Periodic Reports of Bangladesh) and in the Commission on the Status of Women; contributed in the drafting of Conventions/Declarations related to the work of CEDAW inter-alia, UN Conventions on the Rights of Child and its two optional Protocols; Rights of Migrant; Final documents of Rio Earth Summit, Cairo Summit on Population and Development; the Beijing Platform for Action; Convention on Trans-national Organized Crime and its Protocol on Trafficking in Women. As Vice President of UNICEF Executive Board (

2008-09) and member of the UN Peace Building Commission(2007-09) focused on the issues of girl child, women, peace and security , including the implementation of UNSC Res.1325.

Presently, as a member of CEDAW, the areas of focus include issues concerning trafficking in women; rural women, minorities women ; migrant women . Participated actively in the Working Group on Women in Conflict and Post-conflict situations; and currently member of the Working Groups mandated with the drafting of general recommendations on rural women; women refugees and asylum seekers and stateless women; and gender dimension of natural disasters and climate change.
