"The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls: Why it matters for sustainable development"

When: Tuesday, 15 March 2016, 13.15-14.30
Venue: UN Headquarters, Conference Room 8

Biographies

Speakers:

Ms. Jet BUSSEMAKER, Minister for Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands

Dr Jet Bussemaker was appointed Minister of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands on 5 November 2012. Jet Bussemaker began her career at the University of Amsterdam in 1985, where she was a research assistant, researcher and lecturer until 1993. From 1986 to 1988 Dr Bussemaker was a policy officer at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, where she was involved in promoting research in women’s studies. Jet Bussemaker became a member of the House of Representatives for the Labour Party (PvdA) in 1998. Her portfolio included social affairs and tax policy, and together with John Leerdam she was responsible for drawing up the PvdA’s cultural strategy. In February 2007 she was appointed State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport in the fourth Balkenende government. After serving as State Secretary, Dr Bussemaker worked for a short period as an independent consultant. On 1 March 2011 she joined the Executive Board of the University of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. She has also been a crown-appointed member of the Social and Economic Council (SER).

Ms. Gabriele HEINISCH-HOSEK, Minister for Education and Women's Affairs of Austria

A teacher by training, Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek has an extensive political background in the area of women’s and children’s rights. Among other political offices, she was Spokesperson for Children and Youth Affairs of the Social Democratic Party in the Austrian Parliament from 2001 to 2004, as well as Spokesperson for Women’s Affairs in parliament and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commission for the Equal Treatment of Women from 2004 to 2008. Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek was appointed Federal Minister for Women and Civil Service in December 2008. In 2014 she was appointed Federal Minister for Education and Women’s Affairs. Key elements of her political agenda are the protection of women from violence and gender equality on the labour market.
Ms. Bathabile DLAMINI, Minister for Social Development of South Africa

Minister Bathabile Olive Dlamini holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from the University of Zululand. She is one of the founder members of Idlangamabala Youth at Imbali’s St Marks Anglican Church as well as the South African Students Congress. She worked with various structures including the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions and was instrumental in the establishment of the Progressive Women’s Movement of South Africa. She became part of the interim leadership formed to build the ANC Women’s League in the Midland regions in 1991, and served as the National Secretary General of the ANCWl from 1998-2008. She was elected to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the ANC as well as the National Working Committee in 2007 and re-elected to these positions in 2012. She was appointed Minister of Social Development in 2010 and re-appointed after the 2014 General Elections. She is the President of the ANCWl and passionate about the economic empowerment of women, a fierce advocate against gender based violence and a champion for universal access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Ms Věra JOUROVÁ, Commissioner for Justice, Consumer and Gender equality, European Union

Ms Věra Jourová is currently European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before coming to the European Commission, Ms Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. Previous to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding, and also was involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. In 2003 Ms. Jourová was appointed Deputy Minister for Regional Development, a position which she held for three years. Previously she worked as Head of the Department of Regional Development in the Vysočina Region, from 2001, and before that as Secretary and Spokesperson of the Třebíč Municipal Office, from 1995 to 2001. Ms Jourová holds a Degree in Law (Mgr.) from the Charles University, Prague and a Master’s degree (Mgr.) in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague.

Ms. Alejandra NEGRETE, National Commissioner on Preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women, Mexico

Ms. Negrete holds a Law degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and a Master’s in Legal Reasoning from the University of Alicante, Spain. She served as a member of the legal team of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as in the legal team of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. She was an advisor in the Coordination for Human Rights of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and an Advisor on Human Rights at the Ministry of the Interior, where she also served as Deputy Director General for Defense of Human Rights. Ms. Negrete has represented Mexico in various international fora and has given lectures and workshops at a national and international level. She has published a number of articles on human rights, gender equality and international standards. Since 2013 she serves as the National Commissioner for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women.

60th Commission on the Status of Women
Ms Iratxe GARCÍA PéREZ, Chair of the Women’s rights and gender equality Committee of the European Parliament, European Union

Mrs. García-Pérez was born the 7th of October of 1974 in Baracaldo (Basque Country) but moved when she was a child to Laguna de Duero, Valladolid, where she has been living since. She has a University Diploma in Social Work (1995). In the nineties she held different positions in the local politics and in the Young Socialists of Spain. In 1995 she became a Member of the Regional Committee of the Socialist Party of Castile and Leon and from 2000 to 2004 she was a Member of the Spanish National Parliament. Since 2008 she is Deputy Secretary-General of the Valladolid Provincial Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of Castile and Leon in Valladolid and in 2014 she was designated Member of the Federal Executive Committee of the PSOE. She was also a Member of the Bureau of PSE Woman from 2009 to 2015. She is a Member of the European Parliament since 2004 in the Group Of The Progressive Alliance Of Socialists & Democrats In The European Parliament. In 2014 she was nominated Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. She is also a Member of the Committee on Regional Development and a substitute member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, and a member of the Intergroup on "Disability".

Respondents:

Ms Samira MERAI-FRIAA, Minister of Woman, Family and Childhood, Tunisia

Mrs. Samira Merai-Friaa, Minister of Woman, Family and Childhood in Tunisia since February 2015, born on January 10th 1963 in Zarzis, is a politician, former deputy at National Assembly for Constitution-ANC- from 2011 to 2014, MD professor of pulmonology at the medical school of Tunis since 2003. After a high school degree in Science and Math in 1981, she studied at the medical school of Tunis and became in 1993 a medical doctor specialist in Pulmonology at Mohamed Mami Hospital. She also obtained a diploma in physiology and sleeping pathology at the University of Lyon in 2008. Mrs Merai is very active in many scientific associations such as Tunisian association of Pulmonology, European respiratory society, American association for Bronchitis diseases and French association for the respiratory system. Mrs Merai is co-founder of the party “Afek Tounes”, and actual member of the political bureau. She was head of list of Medenine at the 2011 ANC elections. As a deputy, she was assistant manager to the president of the assembly, responsible of the legislation and the relations between the government and the presidency of the Republic of Tunisia. Mrs Merai was also a member of the parliamentary assembly of the UFM where she held the position of president of women rights commission. She followed several trainings in the political leadership and the parliamentary work in Germany, France and the American congress. She obtained a degree from the political school in Tunis in 2012.
Moderator:

Ms. Lakshmi PURI, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women

Ms. Lakshmi Puri is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. She is directly responsible for the leadership and management of the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, UN System Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships. Ms. Puri joined UN Women in March 2011 and was the interim head of UN Women from March to August 2013. She has steered UN Women’s engagement in major intergovernmental processes, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, including the landmark outcomes at the 57th and 58th sessions, as well as the historic 59th session on the 20-year anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, which resulted in a Political Declaration. Ms. Puri has been on the forefront of UN Women’s intergovernmental work on Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Financing for Development, Health, Information Society, Youth, and the Urban agenda. Prior to joining UN Women, she was Director of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. She joined the United Nations in 2002 as Director of the largest division at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Division of International Trade in Goods, Services and Commodities. From 2007 to 2009, she served as UNCTAD's Acting Deputy Secretary-General. Ms. Puri had a distinguished 28-year career with the Indian Foreign Service, where she held the rank of Permanent Secretary of the Government of India. She has a Bachelor of Arts (honours) from Delhi University and a postgraduate degree from Punjab University, as well as professional diplomas.