Concept Note

Transforming women’s leadership through Innovative Entrepreneurship – opportunities and challenges

March 17, 2017, 1:15pm-2:30pm

United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 8

The 2030 Agenda puts forward for the first time the involvement of and the critical role of women of all ages and in all areas of sustainable development. Gender equality is not only a separate goal, SDG 5, but it is mainstreamed through all SDGs. Within such a systematic framework, supporting female innovators and women’s entrepreneurship is critical to drive change and a powerful means to achieve equal opportunities for women.

The world is confronted with many challenges but it offers new opportunities as well. Changing business models offer new opportunities for women’s participation to join new sectors, suggest new ways of doing business and provide further possibilities for women to become part of a new innovative generation. For this, women need access to new knowledge and skills in various areas, from building confidence to technical know-how and networking.

The changing world of work necessitates new ways of communicating, modifying norms and rules so that women can take on a leading role. Becoming entrepreneurial women leaders’ necessitates not only leadership skills but also the know how to ascertain resources as they track and select new opportunities which in corporate or social entrepreneurship.

This side event will look at how women worldwide are empowered through-

- Training, geared to sharpening skills in innovation and entrepreneurship and in information and communication technologies.
- Mentoring for honing management and networking abilities whether in government, civil service, social enterprises or as corporate leaders.
In this event, we will convey how Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, MASHAV/MCTC together with our longtime partner from UNECE work towards attaining these goals.

We have the honor of having with us as panelists’ additional UN partners and past participants in our Economic Leadership Conferences who will share some of their vast experience in working to ensure access of women into economic leadership positions, technological upgrading and innovative entrepreneurship.

The panel will share progress made in their countries and discuss new challenges ahead.

The Composition of Panel

Opening remarks:

H.E Amb. Danny Danon, Permanent representative of Israel to the United Nations

Moderator:

Dr. Janet Kabeberi-Macharia, Head, Gender and Safeguards Unit, Policy and Programme Division, UN Environment (UNEP)

Panelists:

- H.E. Julia Duncan-Cassel, Minister of Gender and Development, the Republic of Liberia
- Dr. Malinka Koparanova, Gender Focal Point, Office of the Executive Secretary, and Senior Social Affairs Officer, UNECE
- Ms. Laila Touqan Abu el Huda, Board Member of the Jordanian Red Crescent and Director of the Vocational Centre, Jordan
- Ms. Mercedes Eleta de Brenes, President Women Corporate Directors, Founder and President of Stratego Communications, general manager of RPC Radio y Television and President of United Way, Panama
- Ms. Hava Karrie, Director, the Golda Meir Mount Carmel Training Center, MASHAV-Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, Israel