



# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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## Meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

### Twenty-third meeting

New York, 7 June 2024

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

### Election of members of the Committee

## **Election, in accordance with article 17 (4) and (5) of the Convention, of 11 members of the Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2024**

### **Note by the Secretary-General**

1. In accordance with article 17 (4) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the twenty-third meeting of States parties to the Convention will be convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters on 7 June 2024 for the purpose of electing 11 members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from a list of persons nominated by States parties to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2024 (see sect. I below). The names of the persons nominated by States parties appear in section II. The names of the other 12 members who will continue to serve on the Committee until 31 December 2026 appear in section III.
2. In accordance with the procedure set out in article 17 (3) of the Convention, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 18 December 2023, invited the States parties to submit their nominations for the election of 11 members of the Committee, by 8 March. All the curricula vitae received by that date are contained in the annex to the present note. Addenda to the present note will be issued for any subsequent nominations received.
3. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the names of the persons nominated for election to the Committee and the States parties that have nominated them. The biographical data of the nominees, as provided by the States parties concerned, are contained in the annex to the present note.
4. In addition, in compliance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#), the current situation with respect to the composition of the Committee, reflecting the balance in terms of geographical distribution and gender representation,

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\* CEDAW/SP/2024/1.



professional background and different legal systems, as well as the tenure of current members, is contained in sections I and III of the present document.

5. In paragraph 13 of the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies.

## I. List of the 11 members whose terms expire on 31 December 2024

6. The members' biographical data and professional backgrounds may be found on the membership web page of the Committee (see [www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw/membership](http://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw/membership)).

<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Nicole Ameline	France	2009
Marion Bethel (Rapporteur)	Bahamas	2017
Leticia Bonifaz Alfonzo	Mexico	2021
Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	2021
Hilary Gbedemah	Ghana	2013
Nahla Haidar El Addal	Lebanon	2013
Dalia Leinarte	Lithuania	2013
Rosario G. Manalo	Philippines	2017 <sup>a</sup>
Bandana Rana	Nepal	2017
Natasha Stott Despoja	Australia	2021
Jie Xia	China	2021

<sup>a</sup> Ms. Manalo was also a member of the Committee from 1999 to 2006.

## II. List of persons nominated by States parties

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Hamida Al-Shukairi	Oman
Violet Eudine Barriteau	Barbados
Neda Chalovska Dimovska	North Macedonia
Shazia Choudry	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Donatienne Girukwishaka	Burundi
Diana González Perrett	Uruguay
Nahla Haidar El Addal	Lebanon
Madina Jarbussynova	Kazakhstan
Abide Kpemsi épse Kombate	Togo
Ângela Melo	Mozambique
Mu Hong	China
Lia Nadaraia	Georgia
Thérèse Ngoluma Malongue épse Atangana Amougou	Cameroon
Eunice Njovana	Zimbabwe
Jelena Pia-Comella	Andorra
Bandana Rana	Nepal
Erika Schläppi	Switzerland
Natasha Stott Despoja	Australia
Patsilí Toledo Vásquez	Chile

7. The curricula vitae of the nominees, as provided by the States parties concerned, are contained in the annex to the present note.

### III. List of the 12 members who will continue to serve on the Committee until 31 December 2026

8. The members' biographical data and professional backgrounds may be found on the membership web page of the Committee (see [www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw/membership](http://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw/membership)).

<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Brenda Akia	Uganda	2023
Hiroko Akizuki (Vice-Chair)	Japan	2019
Rangita de Silva de Alwis	Sri Lanka	2023
Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia (Vice-Chair)	Nigeria	2023 <sup>a</sup>
Yamila González Ferrer	Cuba	2023
Daphna Hacker	Israel	2023
Marianne Mikko	Estonia	2023

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<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Maya Morsy	Egypt	2023
Ana Peláez Narváez (Chair)	Spain	2019
Rhoda Reddock	Trinidad and Tobago	2019
Elgun Safarov	Azerbaijan	2019
Genoveva Tisheva (Vice-Chair)	Bulgaria	2019

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<sup>a</sup> Ms. Eghobamien-Mshelia was also a member of the Committee from 2018 to 2020.

## Annex

### Curricula vitae of the candidates\*

#### Hamida Al-Shukairi (Oman)

##### Place of birth

Tanzania

##### Working languages

Arabic and English

##### Current position/function

- Since August 2018: Director of Rural Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources; in charge of eleven rural women development sections across Oman
- Since 2007: Member of CEDAW National Committee; Vice-chairperson of CEDAW National Research Committee: involved in the implementation of sustainable development goals programmes; participated in the establishment of the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services, FAO Regional Office for Northeast and North Africa, Cairo

##### Main professional activities

- 23 years of experience in gender equality, gender mainstreaming, improving employment, the socio-economic and legal status of rural women and girls, including enabling their access to state resources and supporting the establishment of women's cooperatives and local loan funds
- Development and implementation of policies, procedures, women empowerment programmes, evaluation, documentation and participation in supervision of academic theses; conducts research, training, extension and communication programmes for rural women's empowerment
- Development of relationships with local, international, stakeholders and organizations on gender strategies, policies, empowerment and capacity building programmes; drafting gender conference recommendations and implementation programmes; preparing project management maps and development of indicators for monitoring and evaluating projects

##### Educational background

- Since 2011: PhD thesis under preparation; attended and participated in 32 capacity building courses and 56 seminars, forums and workshops, nationally and internationally
- Master degree (MSC) in Education & Training for Agriculture and Rural Development, Reading University, United Kingdom, September 2000-September 2001
- Bachelor's degree (BSC) in "Plant Science", Sultan Qaboos University, Masqat, Oman, September 1990

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\* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Conducts Research relevant to CEDAW issues; involved in drafting and reviewing the initial to fourth periodic reports of Oman on the implementation of CEDAW; responding to concluding observations and questions of CEDAW Committee; involved in formulating national CEDAW plans, programmes, activities, forums and meetings, especially on article 14; participated in official delegation of Oman for the constructive dialogues with the CEDAW Committee in Geneva in 2011 (initial report), 2017 (second periodic report) and February 2024 (third periodic report)
- Worked with WHO on national evaluation of the birth spacing programme and with FAO, the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (ARRDO) and country offices such as in Malaysia on poverty alleviation programmes; took the lead on and promoted the Gender and Rural Women's Empowerment Programme in Oman; attended regional meetings of experts and national as well as international summits, conferences and gender sessions

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- "Rural Development: Empowerment of rural women and entrepreneurs", Annual Report 2022, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources
- Working paper on women's empowerment through micro enterprises in the case of the Sultanate of Oman. Corporation with the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (ARRDO), 2013
- National paper on the "Influence of poverty alleviation programmes on rural community livelihood: An application to SANAD, rural women and Mawarid al-rezq programmes – Achievements and constraints", Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (ARRDO), 2011
- "Gender Role in Agriculture: An application to dates palms production in Oman", FAO 2004
- "The need for an effective training network for rural development: An application to rural women in Oman", dissertation prepared in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the MSc in Education and Training for Agricultural and Rural Development, The University of Reading, 2001

## **Violet Eudine Barriteau (Barbados)**

### **Date and place of birth**

10 December 1954; Grenada

### **Working languages**

English

### **Current position/function**

Professor of Gender and Public Policy, University of the West Indies (UWI), Barbados

### **Main professional activities**

- Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UWI, Barbados, 2015-2021
- Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UWI Open Campus, 2014-2015
- Deputy Principal, UWI, Barbados, 2008-2014
- Coordinator, School for Graduate Studies and Research, UWI, Barbados, 2004-2008
- Head lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Professor, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI, Barbados, 1993-2008
- Chair, Vice chancellor's Task force for a Governance Model for the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI, 2020-2021
- Lead Coordinator, Inaugural Gender and Development Forum, UNCTAD 15th Ministerial Conference, November 2019-October 2021
- Chair, Review Panel of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Prime Ministerial Committee on Cricket – “The Report on the Governance of West Indies Cricket”, November 2015
- President, International Association for Feminist Economics, IAFPE, 2009-2010; Board Director, 2003-2011; Member since 1994
- International Fellow, Centre for Excellence in Research on Gender, GEXCEL, GEXCEL Örebro University, Sweden, 2008, 2010, 2013
- Dame Nita Barrow Distinguished Women in Development and Community Transformation Inaugural Fellow, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, August-December 1997
- Since 2012: Member of International Advisory Boards: Signs, Journal of Women in Culture and Society; Palimpsest a Journal of Women, Gender and the Black International
- Regional Caribbean Coordinator, Development Alternatives of Women for a New Era (DAWN), 1996-1999
- Since 2003: Director, Board National Association for the Study of Black Women in Politics, USA
- Life Member Caribbean Studies Association, Caribbean Association of Feminists for Research and Action, CAFRA, 1993-2008

**Educational background**

- PhD in Political Science: “Gender and Development in the Post-Colonial Caribbean: Female Entrepreneurs and the Barbadian State”, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Howard University, Washington D.C., USA, 1994
- Certificate in Editing and Publications Training, International Rice Research Institute, Los Banos, the Philippines, 1986
- MPA, Public Administration, New York University, New York, USA, 1984
- BSc. Public Administration, Upper Second Honours, UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, 1980
- Two-year Professional Teacher Training Certificate, Erdiston Teacher’s College, Barbados, 1975
- Certificate of Teaching, UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, School of Education, Certificate of Teaching, 1975

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Coordinated the Bridgetown Declaration, which issued a call to action in the ongoing quest for gender justice in trade and across borders, October 2021
- Undertook consultancies on women and gender for UNDP, the Caribbean Development Bank, UNIFEM/UNWOMEN, CARICOM, and the Commonwealth Secretariat, 1997-2008
- Organized, mounted and delivered multiple national and regional gender training workshops/seminars to national women/gender machineries, women NGOs, and police officers on: Reversing Violence Against Women, Building Gender Sensitization in the Creation of National Gender Policy, 1990-2023
- Created a model for theorising and analysing Caribbean gender systems which have been adopted and adapted by CARICOM to inform its framework for mainstreaming gender in key programmes on gender and development (Gender Dialogue, UNECLAC, Issue 5. No.1, 2001)
- Founded the Women’s Forum of Barbados, a women’s public policy pressure group, which mounted educational and outreach programmes on breaking down societal barriers discriminating against women and lobbied governments to change policies adversely affecting women, 1988
- Delivered 43 distinguished keynote and public lectures in Nairobi, Beijing, Tokyo, St. Andrews (Scotland), Oxford, The Netherlands and many Caribbean countries on themes of feminist/women/gender studies, women/gender equality, curbing violence against women, promoting gender justice, enhancing women’s citizenship, gender and migration, women and political power, women and leadership, 1996-2023
- Delivered 6th keynote lecture, “The gender of crises a crisis of gender? Reflections from Barbados and the Caribbean”, University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus), 60th anniversary lecture series, October 2023
- Authored the pioneering and foundational text “The political economy of gender in the twentieth century Caribbean”, published by Palgrave International, 2001; edited/co-edited five other books



**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Foreword in “Global black feminisms: Cross-border collaboration through an ethics of care”, Andrea N. Baldwin and Tonya Haynes (eds.), xvi-xix. Routledge International Studies of Women and Place, London and New York, Routledge, 2023
- “Meditations on migrations of gender, mobility and movement from the Commonwealth Caribbean”, in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies*, 2024 (forthcoming)
- “What love has to do with it? Sexuality, intimacy and power in contemporary Caribbean gender relation”, *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*, issue 13/2019, pp. 297-330
- “Protecting feminist futures in the Caribbean’s contemporary”, *Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (2017), pp. 7-25

**Neda Chalovska Dimovska (North Macedonia)****Date and place of birth**

21 January 1986; Skopje, North Macedonia

**Working languages**

English, Macedonian, Serbian

**Current position/function**

Senior consultant on gender and intersectionality, based in North Macedonia, with over 14 years of national (North Macedonia) and 6 years of regional experience (Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Moldova) in facilitating and leading processes for capacity building and legal and policy reforms for institutions and civil-society organisations related to anti-discrimination, gender equality, gender-based violence, women, peace and security, gender and minority rights in development.

**Main professional activities**

- Independent senior consultant on gender and intersectionality working with UNDP, OSCE, UN Women, DCAF (since 2023)
- Lecturer at the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors in North Macedonia on topics related to non-discrimination, gender equality and gender-based violence (since 2023)
- Member of the expert support group of the Commission for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination in North Macedonia (since 2023)
- Programme officer for Gender equality and Minorities for Europe Region in the Swedish Development Organisation We Effect (2018-2023)
- Programme manager for equality and non-discrimination at the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (2012-2018)
- President of the National Network against Violence against Women and Girls (2017-2018)

**Educational background**

- Master of Legal Studies (LLM) in International Law, International Relations and EU Law, University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law, Skopje, North Macedonia; Master thesis on “The line between human rights and security rules on the border crossings from intersectional aspect” (2023)
- Professional Diploma (Gender-Based Violence), SAIF Domestic Violence Fellowship Award, State University of New York, Buffalo Law School (2013)
- Bar exam, Ministry of Justice, North Macedonia: General legal education including practical training in courts and law firm (2009-2011)

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

Consultant for governmental and non-governmental organisations, for conducting legal, gender and diversity assessments, designing and supporting interventions and reform processes through gender mainstreaming, evaluate results from an intersectional perspective, in North Macedonia and Western Balkan countries, for example:

- Key inputs to various reports of CSOs in North Macedonia to the CEDAW, CERD, CAT, with a focus on women from minority groups, marginalized women and rural women
- Led the capacity-building project for the civil society sector in understanding the procedure for individual and collective complaints before the CEDAW Committee for violations of the human rights of women and gender-based discrimination
- Led the capacity-building process for CSOs active in rural development in four countries (North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova) for the preparation of shadow reports to CEDAW and advocating for rural women at the national, regional and international levels, through CEDAW
- Academic research, analytical studies, workshops and trainings on gender equality (including CEDAW) and human rights, for governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Neda Chalovska Dimovska/Zaneta Poposka, Analysis of the Intersectional Gender Approach (2023)
- Neda Chalovska Dimovska, Analysis of the legal and work practices on gender equality in the Government of North Macedonia (2022)
- Neda Chalovska Dimovska/Hajdi Shterjova Simonovik, Research for the experiences of disadvantaged and marginalized groups in the justice system (2022)
- Kosana Beker/Neda Chalovska Dimovska, Baseline study on gender, diversity and justice (2021)

**Shazia Choudhry (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

**Date and place of birth**

1972, United Kingdom

**Working languages**

English, Italian

**Current position/function**

- Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford and Hackney Fellow in Law, Wadham College, University of Oxford
- Specialist Adviser to the UK Joint Parliamentary Committee on Women and Equalities Committee
- Academic Benchers at the Inner Temple and Solicitor of the Supreme Court (non-practising)
- Member of OCEAN - Open Council of Europe Academic Network on Gender Violence
- Academic Member of the WAVE (Women against Violence in Europe) Network

**Main professional activities**

Professor of Law - research focuses on the human rights of women, feminist legal theory and violence against women. I have also taken on the following key roles:

- Specialist Legal Adviser to the following UK Joint Parliamentary Committees: the Joint Committee on Human Rights Inquiry into Violence against Women (2014-15), the UK Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill (2019) and the UK Joint Parliamentary Committee on Women and Equalities Committee (2023 ongoing)
- Expert evaluator for the European Commission for the DG Justice DAPHNE project (2016-21)
- Ongoing expert consultant for the Council of Europe (including participating in the GREVIO monitoring mission to Serbia in 2019) on gender equality, violence against women and access to justice
- Expert consultant for the UNFPA (2017)
- Expert consultant for the UN Special Rapporteur on VAWG, its causes and consequences for her report on Custody and Parental Alienation (2023)

**Educational background**

- PhD in Law, University of Warwick, 2016
- Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice, 1999
- Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice, The College of Law, 1994
- Bachelor of Laws LLB (Hons), The University of Liverpool, 1993

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Qualified lawyer and practiced in family law before becoming an academic
- Key areas of expertise: criminal law, family law, constitutional law, human rights law
- Wrote and published three books together with numerous articles within the field of gender and human rights
- Research with a global reach, covering Europe, Asia and South America to date, and recognised internationally by invitations to present including by the Supreme Courts of Mexico and Chile
- Interviewed, following application, for the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls
- Expert consultant to the UNFPA and the UN
- Expert consultant to the European Commission, the Council of Europe and membership of OCEAN - Open Council of Europe Academic Network on Gender Violence
- Appointments as a legal adviser to Parliamentary Committees in the UK; commissioned research for the Ministry of Justice

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- With J. Herring, The Cambridge Companion to Comparative Family Law (eds.), Cambridge University Press, 2019
- S. Choudhry and J. Herring, European Human Rights and Family Law, Hart Publishing, 2010
- S. Choudhry, J. Herring and J. Wallbank, Rights, Gender and Family Law (eds.), Routledge-Cavendish, 2009
- S. Choudhry, “When women’s rights are not human rights - the non-performativity of the human rights of victims of domestic abuse within English family law”, Modern Law Review (2019) 82, pp. 1072-1106
- S. Choudhry, “Towards a substantive/transformational conceptualisation of violence against women - a critical frame analysis of Council of Europe discourse”, Modern Law Review May 2016, vol. 79:3

## **Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen (Kingdom of the Netherlands)**

### **Date and place of birth**

9 July 1949; The Hague, The Netherlands

### **Working languages**

English, French, German, Dutch

### **Current position/function**

- Since 2021: Member and Chair on the Working Group on Communications of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- Professor at Leiden University, the prestigious Cleveringa Chair (2018-2019), on rule of law, freedom and responsibility, based primarily at the departments of criminal law, juvenile law and children's rights.
- Since 2021: Chair of the Supervisory Board of 'Misbruikt!', an advocacy organization on sexual abuse of children.
- Since 2019: Chair of the Social Advisory Board of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- Since 2018: Chair of the Supervisory Board of Child Helpline International.
- Since 2018: Member of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.
- Since 2003: Member of the Council for the Leiden University Fund.

### **Main professional activities**

- Member of Judiciary (1974–2009): Judge assistant, Prosecutor District Court, Rotterdam; Juvenile and Family Judge; Criminal Judge; Vice President of District Courts of The Hague and Dordrecht.
- National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children (2006-2017): Produced close to 35 reports on trafficking in human beings, including trafficking for harvesting of organs; child pornography; child sex tourism; sexual violence against children. Made 215 recommendations in periodic and thematic reports to national and local governments, law enforcement, judiciary and institutions relevant to the fight against human trafficking or sexual violence against children, of which over 80 percent were adopted. Conducted qualitative and quantitative research and translated outcomes into guidelines for policymaking; the reports reflect both the national and international angles ([www.nationaalrapporteur.nl](http://www.nationaalrapporteur.nl)). Always stressed the position of girls and women, and their increased vulnerability to sexual violence, trafficking in human beings and migration situations. Developed and maintained contact with significant and diverse national and international stakeholders, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, Parliament, law enforcement, the judiciary, youth protection agencies, the medical world, academia, media etc.

### **Educational background**

- Law Degree, Leiden University, the Netherlands, 1973

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- (Keynote) speaker at many (international) conferences, including the Pontifical Academy, on trafficking in human beings, migration in the context of trafficking in human beings, sexual violence against women and children, and the CEDAW Convention.
- Has created a substantial increase in awareness in the Netherlands of both trafficking in human beings and sexual violence against children by fulfilling an advisory role for numerous national and international NGOs on these subjects.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Amicus Brief on invitation for US Supreme Court regarding compensation for victims of child pornography.
- Many publications, other than the aforementioned reports, on trafficking in human beings and sexual violence against children.
- Initiated collaboration with UNODC to issue a report on hidden trafficking in human beings the Netherlands using ground-breaking methodology to estimate the population involved, providing more in-depth knowledge of where to target anti-trafficking policies. UNODC has duplicated the methodology in other countries in order to monitor Sustainable Development Goal 16.2.

**Donatienne Girukwishaka (Burundi)**

[Original: French]

**Date and place of birth**

23 June 1982; Musigati/Kiziba, Burundi

**Working language**

French

**Current position/function**

- Director General for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality.
- Chair of the Board of Directors of the Women's Bank of Burundi.
- Member of the Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes Region.
- National trainer at the regional training centre for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Member of the national committee for drafting periodic, initial and other treaty body reports.

**Main professional activities**

- At the national level, promoting the adoption and implementation of laws, policies and development projects based on the promotion and protection of women and gender equality with a view to implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the national gender policy.
- Coordinating gender mainstreaming in programming in other fields related to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (such as health, education, agriculture, environment, social protection, information and communications technology, labour, justice, leadership).
- Mobilizing resources and ensuring monitoring, evaluation and reporting on implementation.
- Working closely with international and regional mechanisms (such as the African Union and various communities of which Burundi is a member) to promote gender equality in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).
- Initiated the Women's Bank of Burundi, the early warning system against sexual and gender-based violence, the centre of excellence against sexual and gender-based violence, and various approaches to empowering (vulnerable) women.

**Educational background**

- Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Bachelor's degree in African languages and literature.
- Master's student in gender and development.
- Award winner from international training centres: the regional training centre for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in Uganda; the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization in Italy,



gender academy course, on gender-based planning and budgeting, gender and development, and combating sexual and gender-based violence in the workplace; the Forhom Training Centre in France, on the operational planning and monitoring of programmes and projects; and the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies, London, England, on conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- More than 10 years of coordinating the implementation of the Convention at the national level; and national expert in the promotion of women's rights and gender equality, with speeches delivered at the international level (African Union, Commission on the Status of Women and the Conference of the Parties).
- Carrying out evaluations of gender mainstreaming in the programming and interventions of other sectors related to the Convention.
- Burundi delegate to the constructive dialogues held at the sixty-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the seventy-eighth session of the Committee against Torture, the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council universal periodic review and the fifty-sixth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Member of the national committee for drafting periodic and universal assessment reports on the human rights conventions and covenants ratified by Burundi.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Guide to gender mainstreaming in the sectoral policies of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture, and the Ministry of Communication and Technology (2023).
- Report on the implementation by Burundi of the Kampala declaration on combating sexual and gender-based violence (2017).
- Beijing +25 national evaluation report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2019).

**Diana González Perrett (Uruguay)**

[Original: Spanish]

**Date and place of birth**

26 December 1964

**Working languages**

Spanish and French

**Current position/function**

- Consultant on the human rights of women, children, adolescents and persons with disabilities and dissidents.
- Contributor, Red Pro Cuidados (Pro Care Network) of Uruguay and the non-governmental organization El Paso (El Paso Civil Association).
- Member, Tenemos ELA Uruguay (We Have ALS Uruguay) foundation.
- Member, Tamo' Juntxs (We're Together) collective of Costa de Oro, Canelones, Uruguay.

**Main professional activities**

- Independent consultant on gender equality and gender-based violence for various national and international organizations, with a particular focus on the development of laws aimed at promoting gender equality and combating sexual violence.
- Researcher in sociolegal issues, in particular those surrounding discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability or caregiving responsibilities.
- Lecturer in topics related to her area of specialization.

**Educational background**

- Doctorate in Law and Social Sciences, University of the Republic of Uruguay (UDELAR), with a specialization in human rights, in particular: women's rights and gender equity; rural studies; health-care rights; sexual rights; reproductive rights; sexual diversity; protection from and combating sexual violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons; disability and caregiving; and the rights of children and adolescents.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Served as the expert from Uruguay on the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention from 2011 to 2018 and was elected as President in 2016.
- Conducted research on non-human aides for persons with disabilities and for their caregivers (2023).
- Contributed to the development of draft legislation at the national level:
  - Draft law on equality and non-discrimination of women (now Act No. 19.846)
  - Draft comprehensive law on trafficking and exploitation of persons (now Act No. 19.643)

- Draft law for a life free from gender-based violence for women (now Act No. 19.580)
- Draft law on femicide (now Act No. 19.538)

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- “Violencia institucional de género: Resoluciones de especial interés” (Institutional gender violence: decisions of particular interest), National Human Rights Institution and Office of the Ombudsperson, 2023 (co-authored with the Institution’s Gender Division)
- “Respuestas normativas para el cumplimiento de los estándares en materia de femicidio/feminicidio: Desafíos y buenas prácticas en la legislación procesal penal de la región” (Regulatory responses for the enforcement of standards on femicide/feminicide: challenges and good practices in criminal procedural laws from the region), Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission of Women, Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), 2022.

## **Nahla Haidar El Addal (Lebanon)**

### **Date and place of birth**

22 July 1951; Lebanon

### **Working languages**

Arabic, English, French and some knowledge of Spanish

### **Current position/function**

- Member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and member of its Executive Committee.

### **Main professional activities**

- Deputy focal point for the advancement of women - United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Senior Director External Relations, Communications and Public Outreach (WIPO), focusing on United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the Millenium Development Goals;
- Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States (WIPO), focusing on development cooperation, including the promotion of women inventors and innovators in the region;
- Deputy Executive Director, War Torn Societies Project (UNOPS): in charge of outreach and learning for peace building projects in Guatemala, Rwanda, Macedonia, empowering women at the community level through participatory action research and dialogue processes;
- Chief of Section covering North, Central and Eastern Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan (UNOCHA), with a special emphasis on humanitarian assistance, protection issues and women in conflict;
- Human Resources Officer, UN Headquarters and UNOG, focusing among other issues on improving the representation of women at senior level within the Secretariat;
- Social Affairs Officer (UNESCWA), working on community development projects throughout the region including special projects aiming at a better integration of women in development;
- Lawyer trainee, Beirut Bar Association.

### **Educational background**

- Advanced university degree in law, major in sociology of law, Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris;
- “Licence en Droit”, major international law, Université Saint-Joseph, Beirut;
- “Licence en Sociologie”, sociologie du développement, École Supérieure des Lettres, Université Saint-Joseph, Beirut.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Country Rapporteur in several sessions, as well as a member of different country task forces;
- Vice-Chairperson of the Committee (2021-2022);
- Currently the Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention (2023-2024);
- Member of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol to the Convention;
- Rapporteur for General Recommendation No. 37 on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, adopted in 2018;
- Chairperson of the working group on engagement with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs);
- Rapporteur on reprisals;
- Member of the working group on the rights of indigenous women and girls;
- Member of the working group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration;
- Member of the working group for General Recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19;
- Member of the working group on General Recommendation No. 32 on gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women;
- Member of the task force on General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations;
- Member of the Working Group on working methods with a special emphasis on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#);
- Member of the team of focal points on the 2020 review of the human rights mechanisms;
- Member of the CEDAW-UN Women/Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) working group;
- Undertook different activities in representation of the Committee and in support of policy-making and capacity building through advocacy and training for government officials, jurists and civil society activists at national and regional levels (Algeria, Japan, Jordan, Egypt, France, Morocco, Russia, Tunisia, Lithuania and the United Kingdom);
- Participated in different expert meetings on, *inter alia*: women in migration, women and health, and contributed to the OHCHR initiative “Faith for Rights”;
- As ICJ Commissioner, contributed to the project of women’s access to justice in Asia and South-East Asia at the regional level in the Maldives and at the national level in the Philippines.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Very active in the field of human rights, in particular through the Arab Lawyers Union in the early 1980's, as a member of the special committee on women and Sharia, as well as through the Arab Organization for Human Rights and more recently as an elected Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ);
- Served on several internal UN panels investigating claims of discrimination, including gender;
- Acted as an Advisor to different NGO's such as AMEL International and MENTOR Arabia, on pro bono basis to streamline gender perspective into their policies and programmes;
- Acted as a Consultant to an International NGO in the evaluation of development and humanitarian assistance at the field level (i.e. Sudan, Yemen);
- Contributed to several United Nations reports including on the status of women within the Secretariat, as well as other reports and training materials on various topics addressing also gender concerns such as the protection of civilians in armed conflict, women in disasters, humanitarianism and war, the Humanitarian Response Index (HRI).

## **Madina Jarbussynova (Kazakhstan)**

### **Date and place of birth**

10 November 1954

### **Working languages**

English and Russian

### **Current position/function**

National consultant, Senior Advisor to UN Women in Kazakhstan

### **Main professional activities**

- Since April 2021: National consultant, Senior Adviser to UN Women in Kazakhstan.
- From January 2020 to November 2021: Head of the Department of multilateral cooperation and integration of associations of the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- From August 1995 to August 2018, Ms. Jarbussynova was in the diplomatic service as an Adviser, Director of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- From September 2014 to August 2018: OSCE Special Representative, Co-ordinator for combating trafficking in human beings.
- From June 2012 to September 2014: OSCE Co-ordinator, Ambassador in Ukraine.
- From 2003 to 2012, she served as the Ambassador-at-large coordinating issues of cooperation at the multilateral level in the field of democratization, human rights and gender equality.
- From November 1999 to May 2003, she represented Kazakhstan as Permanent Representative to the UN.

### **Educational background**

- 2005-2007: Law Faculty at the University named after D. Kunayev, Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- 1998: Courses at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan;
- 1982-1983: Postgraduate courses at London University College, Survey of English;
- 1977-1980: Postgraduate courses at the Academy of Sciences of USSR (Moscow);
- 1971-1975: Kazakh State University of International Relations and the World Languages.

### **Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- In 2023, appointed as National Coordinator on Women, Peace and Security.
- During 2023, consulted Central Asian Dialogue of women leaders.

- Addressed the UN Security Council meetings in 2017, 2018 and 2023 on Security Council resolution 1325.
- Headed the delegations of Kazakhstan at the 49th-54th and 56th sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and participated in its 67th session.
- In 2002-2003, participated in the work of the UNUFEM Advisory Board.
- Participated in the 23rd special session of the UN General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century” and in the 24th and 37th sessions of CEDAW.
- 2004-2013: A member of the Commission on Human Rights. Under the President of Kazakhstan.
- 1998-2012: A member of the National Commission on family issues and gender policy under the President of Kazakhstan.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- “On the role of human rights mechanisms to protect the rights and ensure the safety of women and girls in Central Asia and Afghanistan”, Materials of regional consultations of Ombudsmen, Astana, June 2023.
- “Gender equality in Kazakhstan”, Materials of the international conference, Astana, July 2022.
- “Women, peace and security”, in the collection of statements at the Civil Society Alliance Forum, Almaty, November 2021.



## Abide Kpemsi épse Kombate (Togo)

[Original: French]

### Date and place of birth

3 December 1986. Tchifama, Togo

### Working languages

French and English

### Current position/function

Director of Gender and Women's Rights at the Ministry of Social Action, Women's Empowerment and Literacy.

### Main professional activities

Our mission includes:

- Reviewing texts in order to identify legal obstacles to be eliminated
- Contributing to the design and development of legislative and regulatory texts for the protection of women's rights
- Working to safeguard women's rights
- Designing, developing and overseeing the implementation of training and education programmes for women on national texts, treaties and conventions signed by Togo relating to women's rights
- Designing, developing and overseeing the implementation of gender training Programmes
- Designing gender awareness and advocacy materials
- Formulating gender-differentiated quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure the results, effects and impacts of programmes and projects, and carrying out monitoring and evaluation

### Educational background

- Graduated from the third cycle of the National School of Administration (ENA-Togo) in 2015.
- Master's degree in business law from the University of Kara in 2012.

### Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

- Since February 2024: Chair of the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel, Togo section.
- Since June 2023: member of the regional steering group for drafting national reports as part of the implementation of the women, peace and security programme in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region.
- Since April 2019: member of the multi-actor platform (a platform for dialogue between Togolese civil society and the Government of Togo on public order issues and especially on human rights and democratic issues).

- Since 2016: active member of the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel, Togo section.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- N/A

## **Ângela Melo (Mozambique)**

### **Date and place of birth**

22 April 1959; Chinde, Mozambique

### **Working languages**

French and English

### **Current position/functions**

- Director of Research, Ethics and Inclusion, Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS), UNESCO.
- Senior focal point for Africa priorities programmes, including the flagship on General History of Africa; SHS representative for the Publications Board (a central service of the Organization); SHS Gender focal point until 2021; SHS representative for UNESCO Category 2 Institutes and Centres (category 2 are independent centres under the auspices of UNESCO).

### **Main professional activities**

Co-ordination, supervision, strategic guidance functions and roles of leading, moderator/participant of:

- Annual anti-racism and anti-discrimination global forums, whose key plenary and panel sessions topics range from women's empowerment to gender equality and gender resilience;
- Ongoing research studies on transatlantic and trade enslavement: historical roots of contemporary racism against people of African descent;
- Under the intercultural dialogue programme, regional consultation processes which culminate with specific projects such as a flagship in Africa with focus on women's role in peace and reconciliation;
- World Sport Ministers Conferences on sport, physical education (MINEPS) embracing discrimination and violence against women in sport;
- Implementation activities related to the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researches with a focus on the Science, technology and innovation in Africa project (2023); scientific freedom report; Youth bi-annual forum with recommendations on climate change social dimension; implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with its global and regional forums and dissemination of two tools on ethical impact assessment and preparedness in relation to AI technologies;
- Strengthening of capacities of key stakeholders (young people, government officials), with a focus on participation and inclusion of women and girls through master classes to combat racism and discrimination against women, including on AI and women's rights and equality.

### **Educational background**

- LL.M. from Université des Sciences Sociales de Toulouse, France;
- B.A. and M.A. in Law from Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Has vast experience on high level constructive dialogues with Member States in the framework of the preparation of their national reports on the CEDAW implementation; the examination of submissions made by concerned African Member states and other stakeholders to the AU-African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to implement the Maputo Protocol to the ACHPR and ACHPR Charter.
- Served as ACHPR Commissioner for eight years and for seven years as the Special Rapporteur on women 's rights.
- Achieved the adoption of the Maputo Protocol on Women' Rights in Africa by the AU Head of States and the Governing Summit.
- Her experience on the examination of individual complaints and queries submitted by stakeholders to the ACHPR could be useful for the work in the CEDAW Committee.
- Mobilizing field and HQs gender transformative issues has been part of projects under her supervision since 2015. This work led to positive results starting from the Interregional Conference on Men and Masculinities (Maputo, Mozambique, 2017) and led to a series of "Men'talities" publications produced both at HQs and Field Offices in Sri Lanka, India, Costa Rica, as well as to the development and implementation of projects aimed at empowerment of women and fighting discrimination against women in AI, promoting women researchers to eliminate gender stereotypes and bias in STI.
- Thanks to her work as an achievement: the AU Members States, in their reports, always presented a specific chapter on women's rights, violence against women and other specific topics closely related to CEDAW. Conducted country missions for the first time authorized by concerned governments; increased the feminization of the ACHPR, provided more interpretative work within the ACHPR.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

As the SHS representative at the Publications Board (PB, a central body) she prepared presentations, including short summaries, forewords, gender issues and other related forms for the following UNESCO publications:

- Tackling violence against women and girls in Sport - a handbook for decision makers and practitioners;
- A series of "Men'talities" publications from Sri Lanka and India;
- Engaging men and boys for gender equality: Success factors in India;
- Gender resilience and other publications.

## **Mu Hong (China)**

### **Date of birth**

23 December 1962

### **Working languages**

Chinese and English

### **Current position/function**

- From July 2012 to November 2023, she served as the Director-General of the International Liaison Department (name changed to Liaison Department in 2017) of the All-China Women's Federation. In the meantime, she was the Director of the Exchange and Cooperation Center of the All-China Women's Federation from 2013 to 2019;
- From 2012 to October 2023, she was elected member of the 10th Executive Committee and the 11th and 12th Standing Committees of the All-China Women's Federation.

### **Main professional activities**

- From June 2007 to July 2012, she served as Deputy Director-General of the International Liaison Department of the All-China Women's Federation;
- From November 2000 to June 2007, she worked with the International Liaison Department of the All-China Women's Federation, successively serving as Director of the Publicity Section, Director of the General Office, and Deputy Inspector of the Department;
- From July 1984 to November 2000, she worked with the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, successively serving as Deputy Director of the General Office and Director of the Publicity Section, and holding a concurrent post of the Deputy Director-General of the International Department of All-China Youth Federation.

### **Educational background**

- Mu Hong studied in the on-the-job graduate class of the Department of Administration, Renmin University of China, and got her master's degree in Law, from September 1995 to June 1998;
- She studied Russian language at the Department of Languages of Moscow University of the former Soviet Union from October 1987 to October 1988;
- She graduated from the Department of Foreign Languages, Wuhan University, with a bachelor's degree in Russian language and literature, in 1984.

### **Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Mu Hong has long studied the development trend of international women's movement, is committed to promoting exchanges between Chinese and foreign women and international women's cooperation, pays close attention to women's human rights, and actively participates in and promotes human rights dialogues in the field of women. She has rich experiences in civil and public diplomacy.

- Mu Hong has a persistent commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. As a member of the Standing Committee and the Director-General in charge of international affairs of the All-China Women's Federation for over 10 years, Mu Hong is very familiar with the laws and policies of the Chinese government for promoting women's development and safeguarding women's rights and interests. She actively participated in the theoretical innovation and important practices of the All-China Women's Federation for accelerating equality between men and women. She had field studies in 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, as well as Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions, to learn about the situation of women and the work for women's advancement in different places. Moreover, she visited more than 60 countries to learn about gender equality and women's empowerment, and gained a deep understanding of the common concerns, real needs, opportunities and challenges faced by women in different countries.
- Mu Hong actively participates in and promotes exchanges between Chinese and foreign women. Mu Hong attaches great importance to the exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and foreign women, as well as their mutual learning of experience. Over the past decades, the All-China Women's Federation has established ties with more than 400 government agencies, women's organizations, and international and regional organizations in more than 120 countries around the world. Mu Hong promoted the incorporation of women's exchanges into a number of inter-country exchange mechanisms, and contributed to the bilateral exchanges between China and the UK, China and Europe, China and Russia, China and France, China and Germany, China and South Africa, China and Japan, etc. She actively participated in and accelerated the women's agenda under the frameworks of APEC, G20, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, China-ASEAN, China-Arab States, China-Africa cooperation, etc. She also planned and organized activities in women's human rights dialogue, women's economic empowerment, women's education and poverty reduction, combating domestic violence, and training on women's leadership, etc. For example, the China-France Seminar to Combat Domestic Violence was held for 9 consecutive years, and the China-Germany Training Course on Capacity Building for Grassroots Women Leaders was held for 2 consecutive years, the China-ASEAN Women's Forum and the China-Arab Women's Forum were held many times, and the China-Africa Women's Forum was organized in 2023. Focusing on capacity building of women in developing countries, Mu Hong played an important role in organizing the Workshop for Women Cadres in Lancang-Mekong Countries on Poverty Eradication, the Workshop for African Women's Organizations, the Seminar for Women Cadres in Pacific Island Countries, and the Workshop for Caribbean Women Leaders. Since 2018, she led the implementation of 30 small-amount material assistance projects of the All-China Women's Federation for women in nearly 30 countries, worth 10 million RMB, and the donation of epidemic prevention materials, worth 17 million RMB, to 15 countries.
- Mu Hong actively participates in and promotes exchanges and cooperation between the All-China Women's Federation and the United Nations. Mu Hong attaches great importance to and values highly the active efforts made by the United Nations to achieve global gender equality and women's all-round development, especially the great significance of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and is committed to promoting cooperation between the All-China Women's Federation and relevant UN agencies. She participated in the preparation for China's commemoration of the 10th, 15th, 20th and 25th anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and in particular, the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's

Empowerment co-hosted by China and UN Women in 2015. In September 2020, she prepared and organized the meeting in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the 5th anniversary of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, with the theme of "Women and Poverty Reduction in the 21st Century", co-hosted by the All-China Women's Federation and UN Women. She also put into effect the Chinese government's donations to UN Women. Mu Hong attended the annual sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women as head or member of delegations. In August 2020, she promoted cooperation between the All-China Women's Federation and UN Women in holding the international virtual ministerial roundtable meeting on ensuring progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5 amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, with the theme of "From Response to Recovery: Experiences from China and Global Partners". In November 2021, she co-chaired the Symposium on "Women's Role in Anti-pandemic Efforts and Post-Pandemic Recovery" with the visiting President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, Abdullah Shahid. Mu Hong led her team to carry out international cooperation projects with relevant UN agencies in the areas of women's political participation, anti-domestic violence, early childhood education, post-pandemic work and recovery, etc., covering 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across China. In recent years, she worked with UN Women on the project of "Supporting Women to Recover from Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19", and with UNICEF on the project of "Community-Based Support for Early Learning and Responsive Care for Children aged 0-6 years in China".

- Mu Hong takes an active part in dialogues on women's human rights and the popularization and publicity of the CEDAW Convention. Mu Hong has always agreed with the idea that women's rights are an important part of basic human rights, and highly valued the key role of the CEDAW Convention in eliminating discrimination against women and protecting women's rights and interests. She participated in the reviews of China's reports on implementing the CEDAW Convention by the United Nations CEDAW Committee in 2014 and 2023 as a member of the Chinese delegation. She also participated in bilateral and multilateral dialogues on women's human rights many times, during which she took the initiative to publicize the Convention spirit and its main contents to relevant governmental departments, officials and leaders of grassroots women's federations. In March 2023, she prepared and organized the "Together for an Equal Tomorrow: Workshop on Gender Equality Laws and Policies", which was jointly held by the All-China Women's Federation, the UN Women China Office and the UNFPA China Office.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- N/A

**Lia Nadaraia (Georgia)****Date and place of birth**

31 May 1957; Tbilisi, Georgia

**Working languages**

Georgian, English, Russian, French

**Current position/function**

- President of the Caucasian Feminist Institute in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Director of the Women's Political Resource Centre
- Founder & Strategic Advisor - Gender Network Eastern Partnership (Ge NEP)

**Main professional activities**

- An international gender expert with over 25 years of significant experience in the civic sector. She works on capacity building on women's human rights and gender equality of different actors (government officials, civil activists, media and gender experts).
- From 2015 to 2022, she served as a Member of the CEDAW Committee and was Rapporteur of the Committee from 2019 to 2020.
- From 2004 to 2012, served as a member of the Gender Equality Advisory Council under the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament and developed laws, action plans and state programmes on women's rights and gender equality.
- She has extensive international experience collaborating with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. She is the President of the Caucasian Feminist Institute in consultative status with the UN ECOSOC since 2005. She cooperates with CSOs worldwide to carry out evidence-based research, develop country strategies, and develop policy recommendations.
- From 1999 to present, she has conducted educational programmes and lectures on women's human rights and gender issues in different universities and educational institutions in the US, the UK and Europe, as well as in the Eastern Partnership Region and Georgia. Writes, edits, research and publications.

**Educational background**

- Diplomacy and State Security, Diploma, Georgian Institute of Public Administration (2005)
- General Psychology/Sociology, Doctoral Degree in General Psychology, Georgian Institute of Psychology (1994–1997)
- MA in Psychology, Diploma with Excellency, Tbilisi State University, Georgia (1973–1978)
- Primary and secondary education, Tbilisi, Geneva, Kano (1964–1973)

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Since 2015: Works on the improvement of coordination between international and regional mechanisms on women's human rights (2015-present).



- Since 1999: Participates in UN conferences on women's issues, including in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
- Conducts capacity building for States parties and social actors on women's human rights and the CEDAW Convention.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Women's Empowerment Decade, Georgian Parliament, Tbilisi 2023. (<https://parliament.ge/parliament/councils/51090/about>)
- Promotion of women's and feminist initiatives for ratification of the Istanbul Convention and counteraction anti-gender initiatives in the EaP Region, Report, Lvov, www.genep.online (2020)
- State policies regarding prevention, protection and prosecution of gender-based violence and domestic violence in 6 Eastern Partnership Region(Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus, Moldova and Azerbaijan), Report, Komrat, Moldova, www.genep.online (2019)
- Gender policy and practices in countries of Eastern Partnership, in accordance with "Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020–2018", Report, Kiev, www.genep.online (2018)
- Gender mainstreaming in activities of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and national platforms of Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine. Minsk, www.genep.online (2016).

## **Thérèse Ngoluma Malongue épouse Atangana Amougou (Cameroon)**

[Original: French]

### **Date and place of birth**

1 June 1965; Victoria, Cameroon

### **Working languages**

French and English

### **Current position/function**

- Since 2022: Full professor at Cameroon universities.
- Member of the Scientific Council of the Health and Globalization Chair at the University of Yaoundé II.

### **Main professional activities**

- Responsible for teaching personal law, family law and private international law at the University of Yaoundé II (Cameroon) and the University of Omar Bongo (Gabon); and supervising student research projects.
- Since 2023: Trainer at the René Cassin Foundation - International Institute for Human Rights; courses on “The right to education” and “Human rights education and development”, Yaoundé, October 2023.
- Since 2021: Research Director of the follow-up committee for the preliminary draft of the Personal and Family Code of Cameroon (CPF-ComSuivi).
- From 2014 to 2022: member of National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms.
- From 2012 to 2023: member of the National Ethics Committee on human health research.

### **Educational background**

- 2009: Agrégation in private law and criminal sciences (African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES) competitive examination).
- 2001: Doctorate in private law (specializing in family law) from Lyon 3 University (France).
- 1997: Diplôme d'études approfondies (diploma of advanced study) in private law (specializing in family law), Jean Moulin University, Lyon 3 (France).
- 1992: Master's degree in law, Université Paris XII Val de Marne (France).
- 1991: Bachelor's degree in private law (Francophone), University of Yaoundé, Cameroon.

### **Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Gender consultant at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), France, from October 2015 to December 2016, for the preparation of a study on UNESCO actions in Africa to promote women's rights (Published in 2017, entitled “UNESCO and gender equality in Sub-Saharan Africa”).

- Gender and elections expert for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Cameroon, in 2012 for the presidential elections of 9 October 2012 and in 2013 for the legislative, municipal and senatorial elections.
- Gender and elections expert at UN-Women: preparation of a training guide on gender mainstreaming in electoral matters; development of a 2010–2013 project appraisal on the theme “Moving politics in Cameroon forward with women”; and development of a strategic plan on gender mainstreaming in electoral processes in Cameroon.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- “Droits africains des personnes” (African people’s rights), Brussels, Bruylant, 2022, 795 pages.
- “Le droit à l’éducation de la femme: un droit fondamental” (Women’s right to education: a fundamental right?), in Droits fondamentaux et politiques de solidarité au prisme des actions sociales de la première dame (Fundamental rights and solidarity policies in the light of the First Lady’s social actions), 2018.
- “Le juge camerounais et le droit international” (Cameroonian judges and international law) in Le Cameroun et le droit international, Pedone, 2014.
- “Le principe d’égalité en droit camerounais de la famille” (“The principle of equality in Cameroonian family law”), RIDC, 2006/3, pp. 833–858.

**Eunice Njovana (Zimbabwe)****Date and place of birth**

30 October 1957; Harare, Zimbabwe

**Working languages**

English

**Current position/function**

- 2021: UN-Women consultant on gender analysis of 13 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) for 13 Countries in East and Southern Africa;
- 2020-2021: Evaluation of UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Programme;
- Implementation Plan for the Zimbabwe National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2019-2021 commissioned by UNICEF;
- The development of an Implementation Plan and Results Framework for African Union Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2018-2028; and
- Gender Technical Advisor to the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission of Zimbabwe.

**Main professional activities**

Country Manager, UNIFEM, Sierra Leone (2009 – June 2011):

- UNIFEM provided financial and technical support for the National Gender Strategic Plan for Sierra Leone (2009-2012);
- Ensured that the stand-alone Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Programme in the United Nations Family Joint Vision is premised on CEDAW.

Country Manager, UNIFEM, Zimbabwe (2005 – 2008):

- Supported and guided the Zimbabwe United Nations Country Team in integrating gender in a comprehensive assessment of the capacity of the National Aids Council of Zimbabwe (NAC) commissioned by the Global Fund;
- Mobilized funding from the European Commission for Women's Coalition for two years, supporting 25 organizations under a grant of 1 million Euro; and
- Coordinated the process of crafting a multimedia nationwide campaign to raise the profile of home-based care and the burden of care work on women and girls.

**Educational background**

- Master of Policy Studies, University of Fort Hare and University of Zimbabwe (2001)
- Bachelor of Administration, University of Zimbabwe (1979)

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Director of Musasa Project, an NGO addressing violence against women and children in Zimbabwe

- 2007-2009: Board member, Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service.
- 2017-2020: Chairperson, Anti Domestic Violence Council of Zimbabwe.
- Since 2016: Member of the UN-Women Civil Society Advisory Group for Zimbabwe and East and Southern Africa.
- Board member, Culture Fund; as gender equality and women's human rights expert.
- Member of the Gwanda State University Council representing women's groups in Zimbabwe.
- Member of the International Precious Stones Foundation Board for the affirmation of women and girls' value and potential.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Charlotte Watts and Eunice Njovana, "Gender Violence in Zimbabwe need for collaborative action", published in Reproductive Health Matters, 1996
- Charlotte Watts, Eunice Njovana and Mavis Ndlovu, "Women, Violence and HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe", published in SAFAIDS Journal, 1997

## **Jelena Pia-Comella (Andorra)**

### **Date and place of birth**

28 March 1973; Escaldes-Engordany, Andorra

### **Working languages**

English, French and Spanish

### **Current position/functions**

- Adjunct assistant professor, Hofstra University, and Adjunct lecturer, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Faculty member of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Consultant and trainer, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and Université Senghor

### **Main professional activities**

- Lecture on international human rights law and gender justice for conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Hofstra University, featuring CEDAW, ICERD, the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute.
- Train young professionals and diplomats on the Responsibility to Protect and the Women Peace and Security Agenda for UNITAR's Global Diplomacy Initiative and the President of the UN General Assembly Fellowship program for young diplomats from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (Harnessing Opportunities for Promoting Empowerment of Youth (HOPE) Initiative).
- Train senior officials on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda for the OIF and University Senghor.

### **Educational background**

- Master of Arts degree in international political economy and development, Fordham University, New York
- Advanced certificate in emerging markets and country risk analysis
- Member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, The International Honor Society for Economics
- Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics (*Cum Laude*), Université de Fribourg, Switzerland

### **Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Ms. Pia-Comella is a Board member and member of networks promoting women's leadership, women's rights and gender justice (Global Justice Center; member of the Women Network on the Responsibility to Protect, Peace and Security of the British Academy for the humanities and social sciences of Leeds University; visiting scholar at the Center for International Human Rights of John Jay College).

- Ms. Pia-Comella has drafted gender policies for civil society organisations and network organisations. Ms. Pia-Comella was a member of the gender equality and education committee of the *Réseau Normalisation et Francophonie* that drafted the guidelines and norms on gender equality for school textbooks and learning materials.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Pia-Comella, J., “The Force of Witness: Contra feminicide”, by Rosa-Linda Fregoso, *Human Rights Review* 24, 307-308 (2023).
- Pia-Comella, J (2020), « L’agenda ‘Femmes, paix et sécurité’: cadre normatif, bonnes pratiques de sa mise en œuvre », *Politorbis: Prévenir les atrocités: vers de nouveaux paradigmes? Preventing atrocities: Towards new paradigms?* (No. 68, pp. 65-70) Département fédéral des affaires étrangères DFAE (2021).

## **Bandana Rana (Nepal)**

### **Date and place of birth**

15 August 1961; Kathmandu, Nepal

### **Working languages**

English, Nepali, Hindi and basic French

### **Current position/functions**

- Think Tank Member of Nepal's Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
- Chair of Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)
- Member of the UNFPA High-Level Commission on Nairobi Summit, ICPD25 Follow-up (September 2020-2023)
- Member of the Editorial Board of the South Asian Journal on Gender and Peace Building (WISCOMP)
- Founder/Coordinator of 1325 Action Group (Consortium of NGOs working on women, peace and security)
- Co-founder and Strategic Adviser of Saathi (NGO working on violence against women in Nepal)

### **Main professional activities**

- Former Chair of National Women's Commission of Nepal;
- Team leader, "Addressing Social Barriers that Hamper Advancement of Women" programme that supports the Government's National Strategy and Action Plan on gender-based violence;
- Continues to provide strategic direction for movement building for gender equality in Nepal and South Asia through pro-bono service to many NGOs and regional networks;
- Initiator of Engaging Men and Boys programmes and active engagement with the national regional and global MenEngage Alliance;
- Key drafter of the National Action Plan of Nepal on UN Security Council resolutions 1325 & 1820; engaged in capacity building of Government and civil society stakeholders on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in many conflict-affected countries;
- Convener of the National Network for Beijing Review of Nepal and actively engaged in Beijing+15, Beijing+20 and Beijing+25 reviews nationally and regionally.

### **Educational background**

- Post Graduate Diploma in Women in Journalism, FOJO Sweden (1997);
- Post Graduate Diploma in Project Management, Atlanta Management Institute, USA (1992);
- Post Graduate Diploma in News and Current Affairs, Radio Netherlands Training Center, Netherlands (1987);



- Master's degree (one year in English Literature, 1983) and Bachelor's degree (Psychology, Culture and Major English), Tribhuwan University (1981/82).

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Engaged in providing strategic leadership to Saathi (NGO) programmes related to generation equality, engaging men and boys, cross-border trafficking, harmful practices, capacity building for government officials at federal and provincial levels to integrate the concluding observations of CEDAW in the annual plans and policies;
- Convened and led a national conference of women shelters in June 2023 jointly with Saathi and the Ministry of Women;
- Conducted a functional review of women machineries of Pakistan (UNFPA Pakistan), 2022;
- Resource person for the Pacific Government learning exchange on the CEDAW reporting process with ten States, organized by UN Women and OHCHR, July 2022;
- Actively involved in using CEDAW for promoting gender equality and addressing discrimination and violence against women through capacity building, media mobilization and developing communication tools on CEDAW and its linkages with the Beijing Platform for Action, the SDGs and UN Security Council resolution 1325;
- As co-founder and former Chair of the Global Network of Women Shelters, actively engaged in shelter strengthening movement regionally and globally;
- Member of the Government delegation to numerous global UN conferences including the CSW, the General Assembly and the Conference on Population and Development;
- As member of the High-Level Advisory Group for the UN Secretary-General's Global Study on 15 years of UN Security Council resolution 1325 contributed significantly in documenting and compiling Asia Pacific civil society voices and experiences.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Pre-Scoping research study on "Male perpetrators of rape: Characteristics & behaviours" (2021)
- Rapid assessment of women shelters in Nepal on impact of Covid-19 (June 2020)
- "CEDAW – A tool for addressing violence against women", research chapter as part of the large report titled "70 Years of Development", Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan (2019)
- "Implementation status of the Domestic Violence Act in Nepal", assessment study (Saathi 2018)

**Erika Schläppi (Switzerland)****Date and place of birth**

4 November 1959; Lenk/Bern, Switzerland

**Working languages**

German, English, French, Spanish

**Current position/functions**

Senior consultant and managing co-director of Ximpulse Ltd, a team of independent consultants based in Switzerland, working on human rights incl. women's rights and gender, governance, access to justice, as well as mediation and conflict transformation, with assignments in developing and transition countries as well as in Switzerland and the EU, supporting various stakeholders in reform processes, often in conflict-affected contexts.

**Main professional activities**

- Co-director of and leading senior expert in the Ximpulse consulting team (since 2009);
- Independent expert consultant on governance issues, the rule of law, international human rights, women's rights, and development cooperation (1998-2009);
- Senior research analyst at the Institute of Public Law, University of Bern, Prof. Walter Kälin (1994-2000), research on human rights in development cooperation and economic assistance;
- Staff lawyer in and deputy head of the Human Rights Section, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland (1989-1994);
- Legal analyst of the NGO Association for the Prevention of Torture (formerly: Swiss Committee against Torture) (1987-1989).

**Educational background**

- Dr. iuris, University of Bern, Switzerland, 1998: Doctoral thesis "Human rights in bilateral development co-operation: Opportunities and risks from an international law perspective", awarded the 1999 Walther Hug Prize for outstanding legal research.
- Attorney-at-Law (Rechtsanwältin), University of Bern/Bernese High Court, 1985. General legal education including practical training in courts and law firm.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

Working as an expert in governmental and non-governmental environments, to assess political contexts, design and support interventions and reform processes, evaluate results in human rights and women's rights, in Switzerland and other countries, for example:

- Key inputs to various reports of Switzerland to the CEDAW and the first report to GREVIO;

- Design and elaboration of an on-line tool to use CEDAW in legal practice in Switzerland;
- Advice on international women's rights topics to the Federal Commission on Women's Issues of Switzerland and the Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation (SDC);
- Key support for the recent establishment of the Swiss National Human Rights Institution;
- Academic research, analytical studies, workshops and trainings on women's rights (including CEDAW) and human rights, for governmental and non-governmental stakeholders;
- Board member of the international NGO Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- E. Schläppi/J. Wyttenbach/S. Ulrich (eds.), Commentary on the CEDAW (in German), 2015;
- E. Schläppi (2022), "Common goals – different universes: Gender equality in human rights, the CEDAW and the Agenda of Sustainable Development", in: Kritisches Rechtsdenken II (in German);
- E. Schläppi (2021), "From voting rights to effective political participation: formal and substantive equality and the need for positive measures", in: Juristinnen Schweiz (eds.), Recht und Geschlecht: Herausforderungen der Gleichstellung (in German).

## **Natasha Stott Despoja (Australia)**

### **Date and place of birth**

9 September 1969, Rose Park, South Australia

### **Working languages**

English

### **Current position/function**

- Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- Professor in the Practice of Politics, Australian National University
- Principal, Deloitte
- Member, Advisory Council of the Broad Agenda 50/50 by 2030 Advisory Group, an Australian foundation focused on increasing women's representation in leadership positions
- Member, George Washington Global Women's Leadership Council

### **Main professional activities**

- Member of the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup Steering Committee (2022-2023)
- Inaugural Chair of Our Watch (2013-2021)
- Member, United Nations High Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents (2017)
- International election monitor, Nigeria, Indonesia, Cambodia and Kenya (2017)
- Member, World Bank Gender Advisory Council (2015-2017)
- Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls (2013-2016)
- Leader, Australian Democrats (2001-2002)
- Senator for South Australia and youngest woman to enter Australian Federal Parliament (1995-2008)

### **Educational background**

- Professor in the Practice of Politics, Australian National University
- Honorary Visiting Research Fellow, University of Adelaide
- Honorary Doctorates, University of Adelaide and University of South Adelaide
- Bachelor of Arts (Political Science, History), University of Adelaide

### **Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Ms. Stott Despoja has served on the CEDAW since 2021. She holds a number of roles on the Committee including as the Rapporteur for Follow-up and the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on General Recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems.
- During her role as a Senator in the Australian Parliament, she pursued various gender equality initiatives, including tabling Australia's first paid maternity

leave bill in the Australian Parliament and advocating for Australia's ratification of the CEDAW Optional Protocol.

- As Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, Ms. Stott Despoja represented Australia at gender-focused meetings including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; the Human Rights Council; APEC Women and the Economy Forum; and the Pacific Women Business Leaders Dialogue.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- *On Violence*, Melbourne University Press, 2019.
- "Women, peace and security: Australia in the UNSC", International Humanitarian Law Magazine, 2015.

**Patsilí Toledo Vásquez (Chile)****Date and place of birth**

11 April 1976, Los Ángeles, Chile

**Working languages**

English, Spanish (native)

**Current position/function**

- International consultant on women's human rights, with a focus on gender-based violence against women.
- Adjunct lecturer on Gender-based Violence and International Protection of Human Rights and Gender and Criminal Justice System at Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain.

**Main professional activities**

- Since 2009, Ms. Toledo Vásquez has worked as an expert consultant for diverse UN agencies and offices on issues related to gender-based violence against women, including femicide and sexual violence.
- She was the lead consultant to the 2023 UNODC Background paper on Femicide Review Committees, presented to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
- She prepared the 2020 UNODC Global Review of Emerging Evidence on the Impact of COVID 19 on Criminal Justice System responses to GBVAW, as well as specific consultancies on women's access to justice in Nepal and Bangladesh.
- As a consultant to the OHCHR, Ms. Toledo Vásquez was the drafter of CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women.
- She has been teaching at the University of Chile, the University of Barcelona, the University for International Cooperation (Costa Rica) and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

**Educational background**

- Doctor in Public Law, Autonomous University of Barcelona (2012); dissertation on femicide/feminicide legislation in Latin American countries.
- Postgraduate diploma on "Women's human rights: Theory and practice", University of Chile, Law Faculty (2004).
- Bachelor's degree in legal and social sciences (law), University of Chile (2003).

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

- Ms. Toledo Vásquez worked as a consultant for the UN Women LAC Office, including on the review of a draft of the UN Women elimination of violence against women (EVAW) strategy and the EVAW Action Plan.
- She also reviewed discriminatory legislation on violence against women in LAC countries and elaborated a comparative report with recommendations on legal reforms in diverse countries.

- As a consultant for the OHCHR in Mexico, she analysed the proposals for typification of femicide in different Latin-American countries. This analysis was later used in the debates and discussions regarding the adoption of specific legislation on femicide in several Latin-American countries. She also contributed to the elaboration and adoption of a resolution on femicide at the EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly.
- Ms. Toledo Vásquez was a speaker in diverse conferences focusing on gender-based violence against women in Latin America and Europe.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights**

- Chapters: “Femicide/feminicide and legislation” (2023); “Criminalising femicide in Latin American countries: Legal power working for women?” (2018); “El reconocimiento jurídico-penal del femicidio/feminicidio en Latinoamérica desde la perspectiva de los derechos humanos” (2017), in: Parra, Sijniesnsky and Pacheco (eds.), *La lucha por los derechos humanos hoy, Estudios en homenaje a Cecilia Medina Quiroga*.
  - Book: *Femicidio/feminicidio* (2014).
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