

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fifth session
22 February – 4 March 2011

Interactive Expert Panel 1

**Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming:
Focus on science and technology**

Wednesday, 23 February 2011, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Panellists

Ms. Sesae Mpuchane recently retired as Professor of biological sciences from the University of Botswana after 35 years of service. She is a former Dean of the Faculty of Science. Her last academic assignment was to set up the Botswana International University of Science and Technology, where she consequently served for two years as the founding Executive Chairperson of the Council. She is a founding member of the Botswana National Food Board and the Founder Chairperson of the Botswana Bureau of Standards. She has taken part in several initiatives related to women's participation in science and technology, including as the coordinator of the University of Botswana's Women in Science project, and in activities of the Third World Academy of Science. She is currently on the Board of the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).

Ms. Hagit Messer is the President of the Open University in Israel as well as Professor of electrical engineering at the Tel Aviv University, where she held several positions, including Vice President for Research and Development. She served as the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Science in the early 2000s. An expert in statistical signal processing, she has published numerous journal and conference papers. Ms. Messer was the founder and the first chair of the National Council for Promoting Women in Science in Israel, and a member of the founding board of the European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS). She currently chairs the UNESCO Committee for ethics in science and technology in Israel, serves on governmental committees, and is a member of the board of directors of the Centre for Educational Technology, Israel.

Ms. Londa Schiebinger is the John L. Hinds Professor of History of Science at Stanford University, USA, where she is also the Director of the Gendered Innovations in Science, Medicine, and Engineering Project. She was formerly the director of Stanford University's Clayman Institute for Gender Research. She has received numerous prizes and awards, including the Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize and the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Her books include: *The Mind Has No Sex? Women in the Origins of Modern Science*; *Nature's Body: Gender in the Making of Modern Science*; and *Gendered Innovations in Science and Engineering*. Ms. Schiebinger was the consultant at the expert group meeting on gender, science and technology, organized by UN Women and UNESCO in preparation for this year's session of the Commission.

Mr. Bunker Roy is Founder-Director of Barefoot College, an organization he started 40 years ago in the village of Tilonia in Rajasthan, India. Barefoot is the only college built and managed by the poor for the poor. Its approach of training rural, semi-literate, middle-aged women to solar electrify their own villages has been replicated in nearly 25 countries, in

collaboration with the Government of India. Mr. Roy is also Founder-Chairman of the Global Rain Water Harvesting Collective, which focuses on collecting rain water from the roofs of remote rural schools, and has collected over 100 million litres in over 1,000 schools globally. He was recognized by *TIME* as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Ms. Anne Miroux is the Director of the Technology and Trade Logistics Division at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where she leads the organization's work programme on science, technology and innovation for development. An economist by training, she has over thirty years of experience at the United Nations. She started her career in New York, where she was involved in the negotiations on the UN Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations. She then joined UNCTAD in Geneva, holding positions of growing responsibility focusing on finance issues, international investment, and technology and innovation. Ms. Miroux also worked for the World Bank in Washington D.C.