

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

Interactive Expert Panel 2

**Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming:
Focus on education and training**

Wednesday, 23 February 2011, 3 – 6 p.m.

Panellists

Ms. Subhangi Herath is a Senior Lecturer in sociology at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka. She has served as a resource person for gender programmes to various government agencies, including the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Family Planning Association, the Labour Department and the Department of Vocational Training. She also worked as a consultant for the Ministry of Higher Education to improve the quality and relevance of higher education. She has previously collaborated with a number of organizations including the Asian Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, OXFAM, and Care International. Her past research covers a wide range of issues, including the gender aspects of vocational training, rural development through empowerment of women, and economic empowerment of women.

Ms. Diana Serafini is the Vice Minister for Educational Management in the Ministry of Education and Culture in Paraguay. She has extensive experience in gender issues, including in the realm of education, employment, HIV/AIDS and governance. She has been particularly active in the development of gender-sensitive curricula and educational materials, for both teachers and students. Ms. Serafini has also worked for the Universidad Católica Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, as the Director of the Department of Communications Sciences, and as a professor and researcher in this field. Throughout her career, she has provided consultancy services for a wide range of national and international institutions, undertaking research, project planning, monitoring and evaluation, and development and facilitation of workshops.

Ms. Aicha Barki is the founder and President of IQRAA (Association Algérienne d'Alphabétisation - Algerian Literacy Association), the President of the Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education, and the Vice President of the International Council of Adult Education. Ms. Barki was elected National Secretary of the Algerian Women's Union in 1986. She was also elected to the National Observatory of Human Rights in 1993 and has served as its Vice President since 1997. She is a laureate of the J. Roby KYDD prize granted by the International Council of Adult Education, and of the National Liberty Prize of Valencia. Under her leadership, IQRAA has obtained several distinctions.

Ms. Ilze Trapenciere is a researcher at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the University of Latvia as well as an advisor at the Latvian Trade Union of Education and Science Employees. She has developed expertise in a wide range of research areas, including women in employment, higher education, science and technology, vocational education and lifelong learning, and linkages between vocational education and employment. She has

collaborated with UNDP, the European Union, and government agencies of Latvia on various gender-related research projects. She has served as a national expert on the European Commission's Network of Experts on Employment and Gender Equality Issues, as well as the European Union Advisory Committee on Vocational Training. She is currently a national union representative in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue on Education.

Ms. S. Gülser Corat is the Director of UNESCO's Division for Gender Equality in the Office of the Director-General. Before joining UNESCO in 2004, she pursued a dual career in academia and in international development. Her academic work included research and teaching in the field of political economy at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa in Canada. As an international development practitioner, she was a senior development advisor for various organizations including UNDP, UNCTAD, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Canadian International Development Agency. She has also worked with civil society organizations especially in Asia and Africa, as well as in the private sector.