

CSW 56 Official Side Event: Supporting Rural Women's Engagement in Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Conflict and Fragile Settings

March 8 2012, 11:30am-12:45pm. UN North Lawn Building, Conference Room A



From collecting water and gathering wood for fuel, to participating in farming, and to mining extractive resources, natural resources are critical for rural women's and their families' livelihoods. At the same time, rural women hold an abundance of knowledge about these resources and play a crucial role in managing them. Yet few have legally recognized rights. This situation generally worsens in conflicts environments through insecurity, migration and violence. Despite this, women's engagement in community decision-making, in the management of lands and finances, and a variety of other roles can increase, with a "roll-back" in these opportunities post-conflict. **Exploring an under-researched area, the panel brings together three global experts to discuss the inter-linkages between peacebuilding, natural resource management and gender equality. Panelists will examine how these areas inter-relate and will explore the impact of women's participation in natural resource management on generating and maintaining social equality and stability.**

Hosted by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the discussion will be moderated by **Henk-Jan Brinkman, Chief of the Policy, Planning and Application Branch in the Peacebuilding Support Office**. Panelists are -

Dr. Mishkat Al Moumin was Iraq's Minister of the Environment in the government of 2004-2005, where she designed the Ministry and developed a new environmental law. She is currently a scholar teaching and researching environmental policies in developing countries and research interest focuses on the security implications of environmental policies.

Carl Bruch is a Senior Attorney and Co-Director of International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI). He has helped countries and organizations throughout Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe develop and strengthen their environmental laws, improve institutions, and build capacity. He is currently coordinating a global initiative with UNEP, the University of Tokyo, and McGill University to examine experiences in managing natural resources to support post-conflict peacebuilding.

Rachael Knight is an attorney with expertise in the areas of land tenure security, access to justice, and legal empowerment of the poor. She is currently the director of Namati's Community Land Protection Program, which works to support rural communities to seek documentation for their customary land claims in Uganda, Liberia and Mozambique.

Please contact Sharon Fleming at UN Women to RSVP. sharon.fleming@unwomen.org