

## Commission for Social Development (52<sup>nd</sup> session)

### High-level panel discussion in observance of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014

Thursday, 13 February, 2014 (3:00 pm - 6:00 pm)  
Conference Room 4 (NLB)

## Profile of Speakers

### Panellists

#### **H. E. Valentin Rybakov**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Belarus

H.E. Valentin Rybakov, acting for more than 6 years in his previous capacity as Assistant to the President of the Republic of Belarus, has contributed significantly to the development of a number of state family-centered programmes and national projects aimed at the improvement of the wellbeing of families and protection of this fundamental social institution.

As a Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, responsible for international cooperation of Belarus in social and humanitarian areas, H.E. Valentin Rybakov is one of the most advanced governmental experts on international matters related to sustainable development, including its social pillar.

Through his active involvement in cooperation of Belarus with the UN agencies and regional organisations on socio-economic and humanitarian issues, H.E. Valentin Rybakov is well aware of national and international policy developments in the social and economic fields, including family issues.

His presentation will be based on the experience of Belarus and national approach to the issue of promotion and protection of the family within the wider context of international development for improving this institution.

#### **Ms. Kathy Greenlee**, Administrator of the Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States

Kathy Greenlee serves in the dual roles of Administrator of the Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging. Ms. Greenlee was appointed by President Obama as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and confirmed by the Senate in June 2009.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is a new federal agency operating within the Department of Health and Human Services. ACL brings together into a single entity the Administration on Aging, the Office on Disability, and the Administration on developmental Disabilities. ACL is charged with working with states, tribes, community providers, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses and families to help seniors and people with disabilities live in their homes and fully participate in their communities.

Assistant Secretary Greenlee believes that people with functional support needs should have the opportunity to live independently in a home of their choosing,

receiving appropriate services and supports. She is committed to building the capacity of the national aging and disability networks to better serve older persons, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities.

Kathy Greenlee served as Secretary of Aging in Kansas, and before that as the Kansas State Long Term Care Ombudsman. She also served as the General Counsel of the Kansas Insurance Department and served as Chief of Staff and Chief of Operations for then-Governor Kathleen Sevelius. Ms. Greenlee is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and Juris Doctor degree in law.

**Dr. C. Katharina Spiess**, Head of Department Education and Family at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) and Professor at the Freie Universität Berlin

Professor Dr. C. Katharina Spiess is Head of Department “Education and Family” at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) and a professor for the economics of education and the family at the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. She served as a member of an expert group on family policy (Agendagruppe) for the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and as a Member of its scientific advisory board. She also served as a Member of Research Committees on “Social Policy”, “Population Economics” and “Economics of Education”.

**H. E. Ms. Noor Al-Malki Al Jehani**, Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute, Qatar

H.E. Ms. Al Jehani is the Executive Director of the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) and serves on the Board of the Governors of DIFI. H.E. Ms. Al Jehani is also a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW).

Before joining DIFI, H.E. Ms. Al Jehani worked as Secretary General for the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA), a national entity entrusted with preparing strategies, policies and programs relating to the family. She was also a member of the National Committee for Human Rights in the State of Qatar since its formation in 2003 until 2011. H.E. Ms. Al Jehani was Qatar's representative in the Arab Women Committee (Arab league) and Women Committee (UNESCWA) and a lead delegate and member of many national delegations to regional and international conferences on the family, women, and child rights.

As former chair of the drafting committee to the Sectorial Strategy on Family Cohesion and Empowerment of Women H.E. Ms. Al Jehani participated in drafting national policies and plans including Qatar's first national development strategy from 2011-2016. Additionally, Her Excellency reviewed and drafted several legislations pertaining to social and women's issues which included organizing and supervising numerous workshops, panel discussions, and awareness raising campaigns on women issues such as domestic violence, family law, and women's political rights.

**Mr. Jean Baptiste Koah**, Expert Consultant, Gender and Development, Social Protection and Former Director, Family Empowerment, Ministry of the Empowerment of Women and the Promotion of the Family, Cameroon

Mr. Koah has been Head of Training and a trainer for social workers at the National School of Administration and Magistracy of Cameroon. He is specially focused on the impact on families and on the community of providing support to people in a chronic dependency status (dependency due to handicaps, age or mental sickness....). His involvement in the resolution of marital conflicts, and his assistance to families in crisis has given him a profound understanding of the links between poverty, sex, age, handicaps and exclusion, while giving him the experience of living through the disintegration of solidarity processes both within families and at the community level.

As a trainer and as Director for the Well-being of the Family, Mr. Koah had the opportunity to assess critically political orientations impacting the family. This gave him the responsibility of supervising the preparation of the Plan of Action on Family and the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the Code of the Family, as well as of texts addressing violence - sexual, marital and familial.

#### **Moderator:**

**H. E. Ambassador Carlos Enrique García González**, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations, and Vice- Chair of the Commission for Social Development for the 52<sup>nd</sup> session

H.E. Mr Carlos García is Permanent Representatives of El Salvador to the United Nations. Ambassador Garcia has been elected as Vice President of the Economic and Social Council. He is a career diplomat that has served his country in the United Nations since July 1, 1996. Mr. Carlos García has been in charge of the economic, financial, social, peacebuilding, humanitarian, and environmental and human rights issues during his post in New York. In this regard, he has represented El Salvador in the Economic and Social Council and many other subsidiary bodies such as the Commission on Social development, the Commission on Human Rights (now replaced by the Human Rights Council), the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA, the Executive Board of UNICEF, and the Executive Board of INSTRAW.

Mr. Carlos García has served as Vice-Chairperson of the Third Committee during the 56<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> sessions of the General Assembly. He also served as Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Board of INSTRAW (2004-2006) and as Rapporteur of the Joint Executive Boards visit to Guatemala (2004) and Azerbaijan (2005).

Prior to joining the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations, he worked as Director of Multilateral Affairs (1996) and chief of Caribbean Affairs (1991-1995) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Carlos García holds a Special Course's degree in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Madrid (Spain) and a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of El Salvador.