



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 July 2019

Excellency,

In furtherance of the aim of promoting gender equality and empowerment of women which has been one of my top priorities as the President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, I am pleased to inform you that the second meeting of the Group of Gender Equality Leaders will be held on 15 July 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

As you know, I established the Group of Gender Equality Leaders to benefit from the expertise of eminent leaders in the public and private spheres who share the common goal of accelerating the promotion of gender equality around the world.

In the framework of the second meeting of the Group, I am convening an Informal Panel Discussion on Gender Equality and Women's Leadership for a Sustainable World.

The event will focus on empowerment, equality and inclusion as critical elements to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and provide a platform to follow up on the President of the President General Assembly high-level event on 'Women in Power', held on 12 March 2019. It will also aim at identifying best practices to implement the key action points included in the 'Call for Action', released in that occasion.

In this respect, I have the honour to invite you to participate and engage in interactive discussion with group of eminent panelists that have been assembled for this event. I am certain that your participation and engagement will be very valuable and enrich our discussion. The preliminary program and concept note are enclosed.

I look forward to welcoming you at this important meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. F. Espinosa'.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



***Informal Plenary Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's
Leadership for a Sustainable World:
A Panel Discussion with the President's Group of Gender Equality
Leaders***

Concept Note

Date and Venue:

15 July 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background and Objective:

As the fourth woman at the helm of the General Assembly in the history of the UN, the President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly recognizes that women decision-makers must lead by example to safeguard the achievements and accelerate progress towards gender equality for all women and girls.

As part of her commitment to gender equality, the President has established an informal group of eminent leaders to identify barriers that hinder women's full participation and leadership and share best practices that can accelerate women's empowerment.

In the framework of the second meeting of the group, the members of the Group will participate in a High-Level Panel Discussion.

The event will bring together this diverse group of leaders representing a variety of background and ideas, but sharing one common goal: to accelerate the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in their own communities and around the world.

In line with the theme of this year's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, the event will focus on empowerment, equality and inclusion as critical elements to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event will also provide a platform to follow up on the President of the General Assembly high-level event on 'Women in Power', held on 12 March 2019, and will aim to identify best practices to implement the key action points included in the 'Call for Action', released during the event.

Preliminary Programme
Gender Equality and Women's Leadership for a Sustainable World: Informal Panel Discussion with
the President's Group of Gender Equality Leaders.

OPENING SESSION
ECOSOC Chamber

10:00 a.m. –
10:15 a.m.

Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly
- **H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**, President Elect of the 74GA
- **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General
- Vice President of ECOSOC (tbc)

PANEL DISCUSSION 1

Theme: “Women's Leadership – a Call for Action”
ECOSOC Chamber

10:15 a.m. –
11:45 a.m.

Chair and Moderator

- **H.E. Jürg Lauber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

Panelists

- **Ms. Helen Clark**, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former UNDP Administrator
- **Ms. Isabel Plá**, Minister of Women and Gender Equality of Chile
- **Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, Executive Director of UN Women
- **Ms Gabriela Cuevas Barrón**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- **Ms. Rebeca Grynspan**, Ibero-American Secretary General
- **Ms. Melanne Verwee**, Director Georgetown University Institute for Women, Peace and Security, Washington.
- **Ms. Aurelia Frick**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein (video message)

Interactive Discussion

- Questions and answers from the floor

PANEL DISCUSSION 2

Theme: "Gender Equality and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development"
ECOSOC Chamber

11:45 a.m. –
12:55 p.m.

Chair and Moderator

- **H.E. Valentine Rugwabiza**, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations

Panelists

- **Ms. Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço**, First Lady of Angola
- **Ms. Natalia Mikhailovna Vodianova**, supermodel and philanthropist, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador
- **Mr. Guy Ryder**, General Director of ILO
- **Ms Martha Delgado**, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
- **Ms. Folly Bah Thibault**, Principal Presenter, Al Jazeera English
- **Sofia Borges**, Senior Vice President of UN Foundation

Interactive Discussion

- Questions and answers from the floor

CLOSING SESSION

ECOSOC Chamber

12:55 p.m. –
1:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

- **H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly