



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING

Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

A conversation about the future

Tuesday, 21 July 2020, 16.35 -16:55 EDT, United Nations Headquarters (virtual)

BIO-NOTES

Host:

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women (UN-Women)

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka became the Executive Director of UN Women on 19 August 2013. As the head of the UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, she is a global advocate and has led the organization's innovative work on disruption of society's norms. Through coalition and movement building among global leaders in public and private sectors, and with civil society, she is driving the role of women in leadership, and ending discrimination and violence against women and girls. Before joining UN-Women, she served in the Government of South Africa, under President Nelson Mandela, as Minister of Minerals and Energy, and subsequently Deputy President, working on the fight against HIV/AIDS and coordinating efforts between the private sector, civil society and government to tackle poverty and education issues. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka also worked as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global programme for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education.

Guests:

Mary Robinson

Mary Robinson is Chair of The Elders, an independent group of global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007, who work together for peace, justice and human rights. Mrs. Robinson was the first woman

President of Ireland (1990–1997) and is a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002). A tireless advocate for justice, she was President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative from 2002 to 2010. Mary Robinson served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region of Africa from 2013-2014, stepping down in July 2014 to take up the post of Special Envoy for Climate Change. She continued in this post until the end of December 2015 which saw the successful conclusion of the COP21 Climate Summit and the historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In 2016, Mary Robinson served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate.

Hajer Sharief

Hajer Sharief is the co-founder of the “Together We Build it” NGO in Libya and an Extremely Together Young Leader of the Kofi Annan Foundation. With her organization, Hajer advocates for women's and youth inclusion in peace in Libya. In 2013, she co-initiated the 1325 Network in Libya, a network of civil society organisations encouraging women to play an active role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. As part of the Kofi Annan Foundation's Extremely Together initiative, she also helped design the first ever youth-led countering violent extremism toolkit. Hajer was a member of the UN Advisory Group of Experts for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. She is currently a UN Women Champion on Women, Peace, Security and Human Rights.

Jayathma Wickramanayake

Having represented and motivated global youth development on an international level since the age of 21, notably during high-level United Nations initiatives including the declaration of World Youth Skills Day, Jayathma Wickramanayake has also played a key role in transforming the youth development sector at the national level, notably through the creation of a large movement for civic and political engagement of young people named “Hashtag Generation.” Presently working as an officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, Jayathma Wickramanayake has previously served as Secretary to the Secretary General of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Project Officer-Youth, One-Text Initiative in Sri Lanka, Member and Youth Lead Negotiator, International Youth Task Force of the World Conference on Youth 2014 and Official Youth Delegate to the United Nations, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development. She was furthermore a Senator in the Sri Lankan Youth Parliament.