

Commission on the Status of Women
52nd session
25 February – 7 March 2008

Interactive expert panel on
“Key policy initiatives on financing for gender equality
and the empowerment of women”

Tuesday 26 February 2008, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Panelists

1. Ms. Isabella Bakker (York University, Canada)
2. Ms. Mireille Brunings-Stolz (Central Bank of Suriname)
3. Ms. Mayra Buvinic (World Bank)
4. Ms. Lydia Alpízar Durán (AWID and Chairperson of EGM)
5. Ms. Caren Grown (American University, United States)
6. Ms. Dubravka Šimonović (Chairperson, CEDAW)

1. Ms. Isabella Bakker (York University, Canada)

Ms. Isabella Bakker is Professor and former Chair of Political Science at York University, Toronto, Canada. She has a Ph.D. in Economics from the New School University. She has recently been a Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Santa Barbara in their Global Studies Program. She has also held visiting positions at the European University Institute (Florence), New York University and the Free University of Berlin. Before taking up her position at York, Ms. Bakker worked as an Economist for the OECD and the Canadian Federal Government. She worked as a consultant for the Division for the Advancement of Women preparing the background paper for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on “Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women” in 2007 and participated in the Day of Dialogue organized by the United Nations Task Force on Gender and Financing for Development to bring greater attention to gender perspectives in 2002. Ms. Bakker has also worked with various United Nations’ entities including: UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM and has twice contributed to the Human Development Report. She has published extensively on women’s issues and macroeconomics, and made presentations on financing for gender equality.

2. Ms. Mireille Brunings-Stolz (Central Bank of Suriname)

Ms. Mireille Brunings-Stolz has been the Head of the Annual Reports Division of the Central Bank of Suriname since 2001. She previously worked in the Research Division: Public Finance and Socio-economic development (1991-2001) and the Statistics Division (1990-91) of the

Central Bank, as well as the Ministry of Education and Public Development (1982-90). Her work experience also includes being a lecturer on public finance (1996-2001). She participated in various seminars and workshops. She presented a paper on “fiscal policy for sustainable development, social equity and gender equality: the Women’s budget” (1999) and participated in ECLAC expert group meetings on “Gender and macroeconomic policies in the Caribbean” (2000) and on “Capacity-building in gender analysis for economic planners in the Caribbean” (2004). She also made several presentations on “gender and macroeconomics” and “gender budgeting” for the Women’s Parliament Forum.

3. Ms. Mayra Buvinic (World Bank)

Ms. Mayra Buvinic is Sector Director for Gender and Development, PREM Network, World Bank. Between 1996 and 2004 she was Chief, Social Development Division and Special Advisor on Violence Prevention at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Prior to working at the IDB, Ms. Buvinic was a founding member and President of the International Center for Research on Women (1978-2004). She is past President of the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) and member of a number of non-profit boards, including the International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka, and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Nigeria. A Chilean national, her published works are in the areas of gender, poverty and development; health and reproductive health; violence prevention; social inclusion and social cohesion; and project and program evaluations.

4. Ms. Lydia Alpízar Durán (AWID and Chairperson of EGM)

Ms. Lydia Alpízar Durán is currently the Executive Director of the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID). She is a Costa Rican feminist activist who lives in Mexico City. She participated actively in youth organizing and mobilization around the Earth Summit process in 1991-1992 and worked for several years as coordinator of the Youth Programme of the Earth Council. She facilitated the participation of young women from Latin America in the Beijing 95 process, coordinating an international project called "Our words, our voices: young women for change. Young women voices beyond Beijing '95". Ms. Alpízar Durán is co-founder and advisor of ELIGE - Youth Network for Reproductive and Sexual Rights (Mexico), and she is also co-founder of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Network for Reproductive and Sexual Rights. Since 1996, she has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Committee for the Peace Council. She is member of the Advisory Council of the Global Fund for Women and has recently become a member of the International Council on Human Rights Policy, based in Geneva. In 2000, she was the Latin American regional representative to the International NGO Committee for Beijing +5. She participated for several years in the Campaign "Stop Impunity: No more murdered women", a national Mexican initiative to put an end to the killings of women in the US/Mexico border city of Ciudad Juárez. Ms. Alpízar Durán is a sociologist and a former participant of the 2003 Human Rights Advocates Training Program of the Center for the Study of Human Rights, at Columbia University. She has extensive experience in advocacy and training on women's human rights, particularly in sexual and reproductive rights and violence against women.

5. Ms. Caren Grown (American University, United States)

Ms. Caren Grown is an Economist-in-Residence in the Department of Economics at American University in Washington, DC, where she teaches graduate courses in development economics and gender analysis of economics and conducts research on assets and women's well-being, gender equality and public finance, and international trade and gender. Prior to this position, she was a Senior Scholar and Co-Director of the Gender Equality and Economy Program at the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College (2005-07). She previously directed the Poverty Reduction and Economic Governance team at the International Center for Research on Women. From 1992 to 2001, she was a Senior Program Officer with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, where she managed research competitions related to globalization and the Fund for Leadership Development in Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, and India. Ms. Grown has written and edited several books and special journal issues, including co-editing the *Feminist Economics of Trade* (2007) and *Trading Women's Health and Rights: The Role of Trade Liberalization and Development* (2006). She is an Associate Editor of *Feminist Economics* and a founding member of the International Working Group on Gender and Macroeconomics.

6. Ms. Dubravka Šimonović (Chairperson, CEDAW)

Ms. Dubravka Šimonović has been a member of CEDAW since January 2002 and is currently serving as its Chairperson. She previously served as its Rapporteur in 2005 and 2006. A career foreign service officer, Ms. Šimonović currently heads the Human Rights Department in Croatia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She represented her country at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995. She was elected Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women for 2001 and 2002, and served as a member of the UNIFEM Consultative Committee from 2001 to 2003. She has been appointed by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe to its Task Force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (2006-2008), and was its Chairperson in 2006/07. Ms Šimonović has published and lectured widely on women's rights.