



NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, NY

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NGOCSD-NY CSW60 Special Membership Meeting: Friday, March 18, 2016 from 3-5:30PM



Honorable Mrs. Chandrani Bandara Jayasingha, Minister for Women and Child Affairs in Sri Lanka.

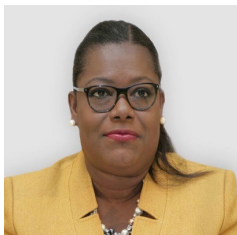
Minister Bandara is a long time parliamentarian from Sri Lanka who has championed gender equality throughout her career. Under her leadership the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs has embarked on very important projects such as childcare centers within the office premises and an action plan for widows. Her ministry is also focusing on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. One of her many noteworthy achievements is that under her tenure Minister Bandara worked tirelessly to secure a 25% quota for women at the local government level.



Mrs. Sicily K. Kariuki, MBS, CBS is the Cabinet Secretary, the Republic of Kenya's Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs.

This is a newly established Ministry, following the recent reorganization of the Executive by His Excellency, The President of Kenya in December 2015. The new Ministry, in the Office of the President encompasses three large areas of focus which have Constitutional imperatives and uphold key promises by Kenyan public to the Government. The main priorities for the new Cabinet Secretary include: Transforming Public Sector Service Delivery; Youth Empowerment and strengthening of National Youth Service; gender equality and women empowerment. Her vast portfolio includes a number of transformational initiatives- One Stop Shops-Huduma Kenya, Affirmative Action Funds – Women Enterprise Fund, UWEZO, YEDF, ASSDF, the 30% Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) for women, youth & persons with disabilities; eliminating of Gender

Based Violence including FGM and all its forms; and access to justice and safeguarding other gender equality gains in the Constitution. During her short tenure, the Cabinet Secretary has successfully established a Ministerial Rapid Results Initiative, to ensure due attention is given to these interventions; including reorganization of the National Youth Service; and the strengthening of the Governance and Management of Affirmative Funds. Under this initiative, the Ministry team continues to place emphasis on effective and impact driven initiatives. Prior to this appointment, Mrs. Kariuki was Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, responsible for the operations of the State Department of Agriculture, ranging from agriculture policy development, agriculture research and development, irrigation implementation programs and other interventions focusing on food security, especially access to credit, insurance and inputs. She had previously served as Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) for a period of 8 years. During her tenure at TBK, she led the tea industry to become Kenya's top foreign exchange earner, bringing in over Kenya Shillings 130 billion (1.5 Billion US Dollars) in foreign exchange earnings in 2012. She also worked in the private sector within Kenya's vibrant horticulture & floriculture industry as the Chief Executive Officer of Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya (FPAEK) and also worked in Kenya Investment Authority (KENINVEST). She is a graduate of the University of Nairobi and has a Masters of Business in Administration degree with specialization in strategic management from ESAMI/Maastricht School of Management and Post Graduate qualifications in Food Laws and Regulations from Michigan State University. Sicily has served on several International Boards.



Honorable Mrs. Nana Oye Luther is the Honorable Cabinet Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection of the Republic of Ghana.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, and a Masters in Law, in Human Rights and Democratization in Africa (LLM) from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She has 23 years of legal experience in human rights, court advocacy and solicitor's practice. She over the years specialized in human rights law, women's rights and sexual and reproductive rights. Her significant achievements include being awarded the Vera Chirwa Award for Human Rights in Africa in 2007. She was appointed Champion Torchbearer for Women's Rights, one of the 100 selected globally by the Danish Government on 10th March, 2008. She was awarded the African Servant Leadership Award, legal service category, 2011. She was named the 4th most influential African woman achiever amongst 25 other African female presidents, politicians and Nobel

Peace laureates by the United Kingdom Guardian Newspaper in March 2013. For over a decade, she has led legal advocacy in Ghana to pass laws protecting human rights including the Domestic Violence Act, the Persons with Disability Act, the Mental Health Act, the Property Rights of Spouses Bill, the Intestate Succession Law Bill, and the Right to Information Bill. She has been appointed on several advisory and steering committees of various international, regional, and national Commissions and Boards including the International Consortium on Medical Abortion, the African Consortium on Medical Abortion, the Global Consortium on Realising Rights, International Advocates for Freedom of Information, the African Women Leaders Network to Promote Sexual Health and Rights. She instituted the first ever national human rights lectures in Ghana with the Commission on Human Rights and Ghana Bar Association. She set up the first ever Pro Bono Lawyers Network in Ghana made up of 219 lawyers throughout Ghana offering free legal services and representation to indigent persons. Significant public interest law litigation cases she has argued in court on pro bono basis include an amicus curie in the Supreme Court case on the rights of LGBT persons; the detention of juveniles in adult prisons, protection of rights of an HIV positive woman etc. In January 2013, Honorable Nana Oye Luther was appointed by His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama as a member of the Presidential Transition Team and made Chair of the Sub-Committee on Ex-Gratia awards for public office holders. On 18th February, 2013, she was sworn in by the President as Cabinet Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection.

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Representative Carolyn B. Maloney has represented parts of New York City in Congress since 1993. A champion of women and families, educational, cultural and medical institutions, the environment, and equal rights for all, she also has been a leading advocate in the House on issues including consumers and investors, homeland security, oversight of government contracts, the health care needs of 9/11 responders, and a champion of vital infrastructure projects. As the co-chair and founder of the Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking, and co-chair of the Trafficking Task Force of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Representative Maloney wrote and secured passage of legislation to combat sex trafficking internationally and domestically. Representative Maloney is the lead democratic sponsor of The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA), which passed the House in January 2015, and focuses on rescuing domestic victims, tracking down their exploiters, and prosecuting the criminals responsible for

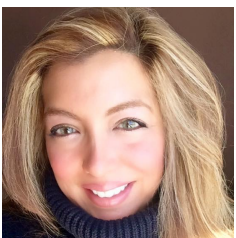
modern-day slavery. She has also introduced The Human Trafficking Fraud Enforcement Act to enable the IRS to investigate sex traffickers for violations of tax laws. In the 113th Congress, she introduced bipartisan legislation to require large companies to publicly disclose their policies aimed at ridding their supply chains of human trafficking. Representative Maloney is the author of the Debbie Smith Act to fund processing of DNA evidence in rape and sexual assault cases, which RAINN, the Rape, Incest and Abuse National Network, called "the most important piece of anti-rape legislation that Congress has ever passed." The 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act included two of Representative Maloney's bills: the SAFER Act, which will help reduce the nation's untested DNA rape kit backlog, and the Campus SaVE Act which will aid colleges in reducing sexual violence on campuses and help victims obtain needed services. Representative Maloney is an Honorary Member of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and an NGOCSD-NY Program Project Director for Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking & Ending Violence Against Women; Women and Girls' Leadership and Empowerment; CEDAW; and #BringBackOurGirls.



Ms. Lakshmi Puri is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women.

She is directly responsible for the leadership and management of the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, UN System Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships. Ms. Puri joined UN Women in March 2011 and was the interim head of UN Women from March 2013 to August 2013. She has steered UN Women's engagement in major intergovernmental processes, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, including the landmark outcomes of the 57th and 58th sessions, as well as the historic 59th session on the 20-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which resulted in a Political Declaration by which Member States pledged to take concrete steps to ensure the full, effective and accelerated actions to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. Ms. Puri has been at the forefront of UN Women's intergovernmental work on Sustainable Development, Climate Change,

Financing for Development, Health, Information Society, Youth, Migration, Women, Peace and Security, the Urban agenda and Humanitarian Action. Ms. Puri has been a strong champion of movement building ensuring effective and enhanced engagement of civil society in delivering results for the achievement of gender equality. Through her strategic and thought leadership, UN Women has been effectively reaching out to wider constituencies beyond women's organizations, including to men and boys and faith-based organizations, among others. Ms. Puri has fostered a dynamic partnership with civil society international networks, ensuring that civil society and the women's movement have greater participation, voice and leadership in intergovernmental normative processes, while bridging communication and interaction between the networks and the governments in relation to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, and women's rights at the international, regional and national levels. During her tenure as Deputy Executive Director she has played a critical role in ensuring the strong presence of civil society in the most relevant intergovernmental processes, including Rio+20, the 15-year review of Security Council resolution 1325, Humanitarian Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Conference of the Parties 17 through 21 on Climate Change, to list a few. Ms. Puri has promoted the importance of the youth movement to defeating entrenched patriarchal belief systems in order to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Under her guidance UN Women developed its strategy on youth and gender equality, which has spearheaded the entity's work to include youth in the advocacy for, decision-making on and implementation of the international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment, at the international, national and local levels. Prior to joining UN Women, she was Director of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. She joined the United Nations in 2002 as Director of the Division of International Trade in Goods, Services and Commodities, which is the largest division at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). From 2007 to 2009, she served as UNCTAD's Acting Deputy Secretary-General. Ms. Puri had a distinguished 28-year career with the Indian Foreign Service, where she held the rank of Permanent Secretary of the Government of India. She has a Bachelor of Arts (honours) from Delhi University and a postgraduate degree from Punjab University, as well as professional diplomas. An Indian national, she speaks Hindi and English fluently, and speaks some French and Japanese.



Ms. Zainab Khan is the President of the Muslim American Leadership Alliance - MALA.

Ms. Khan is a therapist, award winning painter, and human rights advocate, she was born in the US to Asian immigrants. She became an activist after eye-opening experiences counseling survivors of domestic violence and organizing exhibitions for artists facing repression. A former Senior Clinician holding a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, Ms. Khan also co-curated the International Museum of Women's exhibition "Muslimah: Muslim Women's Arts and Voices" and served as a United Nations Association delegate to the 59th Commission on the Status of Women. The YWCA Chicago gave her its 2014 Racial & Social Justice Award. She has published in The Daily Beast about young Muslim-Americans' struggles with bigotry; written about gender-based violence for No Ceilings; featured in Cosmopolitan Magazine; and appeared in the groundbreaking documentary Honor Diaries. She gave a notable TEDx talk, "How to Fight Injustice Without Saying a Word." Ms. Khan is honored as a "Global Hero" for Safe Magazine's 2015 issue, and is recognized as one of Fortune Magazine's 2015 Most Powerful Women Next Gen. She is also a speaker for the 66th Conference on World Affairs.

On behalf of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY Executive Board we wish to wholeheartedly thank H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and Ms. Sonali Samarasinghe, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka for their outstanding and generous support.

We are grateful to Mr. Isaac Reshad, Ms. Sheima Sweiss and Mr. Shawn Porat for their kind contributions to the refreshments for today's meeting.