



Interactive Roundtable

6) Women and the Economy

Tuesday, 4 November 2014, 11:30 - 13:00

Palais des Nations Geneva, Room XXIII

Introduction: Promoting women's economic empowerment - that is, their capacity to bring about economic change for themselves - is key to achieving equality between women and men, a fact that was well recognized in the 1995 BPfA. In addition, research increasingly shows that women, whether as consumers, employees, employers, entrepreneurs or investors, are an untapped economic force, an "emerging market" that has the potential to spur economic growth. Nevertheless, 20 years after Beijing, there is still a tremendous bias against women when it comes to access to the labour market and economic resources, the distribution of economic power and career advancement, the level of salaries for the same work and the sharing of unpaid care responsibilities. This interactive round table will discuss these issues and other BPfA implementation gaps and challenges that still persist in the UNECE region, with a focus on key emerging issues that hinder economic equality between men and women. Its expected outcome is a set of key concrete recommendations to further women's economic empowerment and promote women's greater inclusion in the economy.

Co-conveners	Valerie Bichelmeier , Main UN Representative, Make Mothers Matter (MMM); Vice-President, NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva Catherine Bosshart , Main UN Representative, International Federation of Business & Professional Women (IFBPW)
Moderator	Valeria Esquivel , Gender Focal Point, UNRISD
Speakers	Joanna Manganara , President, International Alliance of Women (IAW) Anne-Claire de Liedekerke , President, Make Mothers Matter (MMM) Margunn Bjørnholt , Feminist Economist & Director, Policy and Social Research AS, Norway Subada Shiralayeva , Director, International Center Women & Modern World (CWMW), Azerbaijan Amelia Espejo , Social and Labour Policy Advisor, International Organization of Employers
Recommendations, Q&A	From the floor
Rapporteurs	Nancy Lyon , UN Representative, Latter Day Saint Charities (LDS) Laurie Richardson , Vice President, FAWCO; Vice-Secretary, NGO CSW Vienna
Interpretation	Provided from and into English, French and Russian

B+20 Review Forum Organizer: NGO CSW Geneva: <http://beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch>

E-mail: beijing20forum@ngocsw-geneva.ch

Short Bios: Women and the Economy

Co-Convenor: Valerie Bichelmeier is main UN Representative for Make Mothers Matter (MMM) and Vice-President of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva. She holds a Master's degree in Telecommunication & Information Technology and has worked for 10 years as a Software Engineer and Project Manager in international companies in France, Japan and Hong Kong. She then moved on to work as an Independent Consultant in Japan and Germany, specializing in the field of Telecommunications, Marketing and regulatory issues. She joined MMM after moving to Geneva, and the Beijing+15 UN ECE review in 2009 was the first event she attended in this capacity. A mother of 3 children, her main areas of work are unpaid care work, gender equality at work and the reconciliation of work and family.

Co-Convenor: Catherine Bosshart holds a Master's degree and a PhD as an historian with a background in gender studies. She is - among many other publications - the co-author of the history of BPW Switzerland (1947-1997), published in 2001. She taught Swiss history at the California State University in Long Beach, contemporary history and gender studies at the University of Fribourg until her retirement in 2013. Since 2012 she has been the UN main representative of IFBPW in Geneva and since 2014 an independent expert in the Gender Program of the Swiss Conference of University Presidents. Her activist interests focus on gender equality, work-life balance as well as women's and girl children's human rights.

Moderator: Valeria Esquivel holds a Master's degree and PhD in Economics from the University of London. She joined UNRISD in August 2014 as Research Coordinator on Gender and Development. In her role, Valeria is responsible for conceptualizing, developing and managing research on gender-related issues of concern for the UN system and other stakeholders within the framework of the UNRISD Research Agenda. Prior to joining UNRISD, Valeria was Associate Professor of Economics at the Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina, and Researcher for CONICET, the Argentine National Research Council. In the past, she collaborated with UNRISD for the project *The Political and Social Economy of Care* (2006-2009). An internationally recognized feminist economist, Valeria's academic work cuts across the fields of labor markets and social policy, notably on issues of unpaid work, time-use and care.

Speaker: Joanna Manganara is a graduate of Pierce College and studied sociology at the University of Geneva (Switzerland) and Kent (England). She has worked as researcher on migration issues at the National Center of Social Research in Athens (1969-1974) and as Lecturer in Sociology at Panteios University (1970-1982). From 1980 to 2005 she worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece as Minister Counsellor on Human Rights. She was the editor of the *Greek Reviews of Social Research* (1976-1981) and of the *Struggle of Women* (1980 - 2010). Among many other publications, she is the co-author of "Gender Discrimination in the labour market" (2011). As an activist she was engaged in the women's and civil rights movement in Greece and as a Board member involved in many NGO's defending women's rights. Since 2013 she has been president of the board of the International Alliance of Women (IAW).

Speaker: Anne-Claire de Liedekerke is an art historian, married with three grown children and two grandchildren. During a first expatriation in the US, Anne-Claire became a lecturer in art history at the Leesburg Community College in Florida. After four years in Paris, the family went back to the United States where Anne-Claire became docent at the Dallas Museum of Art from 1986 to 1990. In 1990, they moved to Canada and she assumed the position of Vice-President of the French Lycée of Calgary. Back in Belgium in 1992, Anne-Claire worked at the Société des exposition du Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels and co-founded in 1998 the guide "Expats in Brussels" sold in 2009 to devote herself fully to MMM. Her deep conviction that mothers have a crucial role in society is at the heart of her involvement in MMM. She was President of the European Delegation of MMM from September 2009 and became President of MMM in April 2014.

Speaker: Margunn Bjørnholt is a sociologist and Dr. of gender studies, with a background in economics, and the co-editor of *Counting on Marilyn Waring: New Advances in Feminist Economics*, published by Demeter Press 2014. She is director of Policy and Social Research AS and an affiliated researcher at the Center for Feminist Social Studies (CFS) at Örebro University. Her research interests encompass ethical banking, organizational and spatial flexible working arrangements in the public sector, management, gender equality, work-life balance and migration, and work-family arrangements with a particular focus on men, work and family. She is a member of the board of International Alliance of Women, chair of the Norwegian Association of Women's Rights and the Norwegian Women's Lobby.

Speaker: Sudaba Shiraliyeva holds a degree in economy and political sciences and did postgraduate studies in International Relations. She is the author of "Managing market economy: essence, concept, mechanism of formation and functioning" as well as "Relations of Azerbaijan with Western Europe countries: contemporary situation and development tendencies". In 1999, she founded the Center "Women and Modern World" from Azerbaijan and has been director of this institute since it obtained consultative status with the ECOSOC of the UN in 2008. The center CWMW is a member of international organizations and cooperates with them. Its aim is to render practical help to women from all over Azerbaijan; to create opportunity for Azerbaijani women in integration into Europe and to the world as a whole; to protect human rights and women's rights; to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women.

Speaker: Amelia Espejo is responsible for the development of gender related policies at the International Organization of Employers (IOE) and the point of contact for the existing partnership with BPW International and the IOE. She works extensively across the 150 member federations and business community the IOE represent to promote workplace diversity, gender equality and women empowerment in over 143 countries. Further to gender policies, Ms. Espejo is specialized in the development of social and labour policies for the effective elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, the abolition of child labour and the elimination of forced labour and human trafficking. A business entrepreneur and linguist, Ms. Espejo has previously worked as an official translator for the governments of Singapore, Australia, UK & Spain and continues to hold language responsibilities at the IOE in synergy with her policy development work.

Rapporteur: Nancy Lyon is the UN representative in Geneva for both Latter-days Saint Charities (LDS) and the Kennedy Center for International Studies (KICIS) along with her husband, Joseph. Prior to serving in Geneva, Nancy spent two years in New York City working with UN Permanent Missions, Consuls General to New York and faith leaders in a public affairs role. Nancy was the Assistant Vice-President for Government Affairs for the University of Utah for five years. Elected as the first woman representative in her district, Nancy served three terms in the Utah House of Representatives. She holds Bachelors and Masters of Education degrees from the University of Utah.

Rapporteur: Laurie Richardson has a Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a Master's degree in Public and Private Management from the Yale School of Management. She spent ten years working for an international development consulting firm in Washington, DC and on USAID-funded projects in Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan. Laurie also led a multi-university study and co-authored a book on corporate social responsibility and private-public-non-profit partnerships. As Training Program Manager for the Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps) based in Washington, DC, she provided management training for grassroots community service workers across the US. Laurie currently serves as FAWCO's Vice President for Global Programs, as a FAWCO UN NGO Rep, and Vice-Secretary of the CSW Vienna.