



Interactive Roundtable

7) Women in Power & Decision Making

Tuesday, 4 November 2014, 14:30 - 16:00

Palais des Nations Geneva, Room XI

Introduction: Women's equal participation in decision-making is essential for achieving open and accountable government and provide a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society. The speakers of this roundtable will draw from their varied personal perspectives as women in position to make a difference for the coming generations. **Objective:** Make recommendations to accelerate access to and full participation of women in power structures and decision-making.

Convener	Heli Bathija , Global Fund for Women
Moderator	Claudia Zwart , Global Women Leadership Foundation
Speakers	Torild Skard , International Alliance of Women, Norway Natalia Karbowska , Chair, Ukrainian Women's Fund, Ukraine Staminira Hadjimitova , Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation, Bulgaria
Title of Video	<i>Women in Georgia</i>
Recommendations, Q & A	From the floor
Rapporteur	Jane Muthumbi , consultant
Interpretation	Provided from and into English and French

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Short Bios: Women in Power & Decision Making

Convener: Heli Bathija worked as a medical doctor in her home country, Finland, was a district medical officer in Senegal, and joined a breast cancer research team in New York, USA. From 1986 to 2012 Dr Bathija worked in Geneva, Switzerland at the WHO Headquarters in the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, where she coordinated many multi-country research studies with topics covering the whole range of reproductive health issues from the safety of contraceptive use to female genital mutilation. Since 2012 Dr Bathija is Director, Knowledge Management and Sharing at the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research. She is the Representative of the Global Fund for Women in Geneva.

Moderator: Claudia Zwart is founder and president of the Global Women Leadership Foundation, whose mission is to increase the share of women in New Leadership, and also a founder of TOTARA which provides services to businesses on training and coaching, interim management and leadership. Since Nov 2012, TOTARA is registered and accepted as a civil society organization by UN Women. Ms Zwart is a member of NGO CSW, a consultative committee to UN Women since Nov 2012. She is working together with UN Partnerships and participated in European Commission debates about the New European Economic Agenda in April/June 2013.

Speaker: Torild Skard is a Norwegian psychologist and researcher, feminist, politician for the Socialist Left Party, civil servant and former high-ranking United Nations official (UNESCO, UNICEF). She served as a Member of Parliament and was the first woman President of the Upper Chamber in Norway from 1973- 1977. She served as Director for the Status of Women in UNESCO Paris 1984–1986 and Regional Director for West and Central Africa at UNICEF in Abidjan 1994–1998. She was Director General of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1986-1994 and 1999-2003. She was President of the Norwegian Association for Women's Rights from 2006 to 2014. Her latest book *Women of Power* (2014) describes women heads of state or government worldwide.

Speaker: Natalia Karbowska has more than 18 years of experience in development work. Since 1997, she has been working in the area of civil society development and women's rights first as the Women's Program Director of the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) in Ukraine, then as the Director of Women's Economic Empowerment Project at Winrock International and presently as Deputy Director of the "Healthy women of Ukraine" Program. Ms Karbowska is a Board Chair of the Ukrainian Women's Fund – the only women's fund in Ukraine. Under her leadership the Fund has provided more than 1,5 million USD in grants to women's rights NGOs in Ukraine and neighboring countries – Moldova and Belarus. She holds degrees in economics and computer science. Ms Karbowska is an advisor of the Global Fund for Women, Board member of International Gender Policy Network and International Network of Women's Funds.

Speaker: Stanimira Hadjimitova is educated as an Dipl. engineer and specialized in international economic relations. She started her career as Chief export specialist for Machinoexport Trade Co. , then founded two of the rare private enterprises in Soviet-era Bulgaria, specialising in the export of professional machines and agricultural products, companies which grew successfully over the ten years of her leadership. She founded and served as Executive Director for Gender Project for the Bulgaria Foundation, which was among the first NGOs in the "new" Bulgaria. She is board member for the Bulgarian Fund for Women and the Bulgarian Donors Forum, and coordinator for Bulgaria of the Stability Pact Gender Task Force. Further, she participates as an expert in the National Council on Gender Equality to the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, and is an advisor to the Global Fund for Women.

Rapporteur: Jane Muthumbi's areas of expertise are social science research, policy analysis, strategic planning, stakeholder relations, and program development. Part of her PhD thesis was on NGO mobilization in UN conferences, including the UN Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995.
