

PROGRAMME

of the International High-Level Conference “Re-Thinking Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in 2015 and beyond”

4 March 2015, Room X, 2-5pm
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Against the background of the *Beijing Declaration* and the *Platform for Action* adopted twenty years ago in Beijing at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) and the *Education For All* (EFA) objectives, both set in 2000 for 2015, and the preparations for the Post-2015 agenda, 2015 is a pivotal year to understand the positive feedback loops that can be found between gender equality, development and peace; to take stock of the challenges ahead; and most importantly, to explore the need for and the parameters of a new vision to accelerate the pace to achieve gender equality.

As the international community prepares to adopt the post-2015 agenda, it is critical that a strong and comprehensive goal on gender equality, the empowerment of women and human rights of women and girls is included. This agenda must integrate gender equality perspectives throughout the entire framework. As a specialized agency, UNESCO will contribute to the implementation of this agenda in all its domains. As UNESCO is in a unique position to contribute to a transformative approach for gender equality in education, the sciences, culture and communication/information, it is expected that the reflections and conclusions of this conference will provide innovative ideas for UNESCO’s further input into the finalization of the post-2015 development agenda.



International
Women's Day 2015

PROGRAMME

Moderator: **Ms S. Gülser Corat**, Director, Division for Gender Equality, UNESCO

2 pm: Opening by **Ms Irina Bokova**, Director-General, UNESCO

2.15pm: Presentations by the panelists:

H.E. Dr Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Ms Laura Chinchilla, former President of Costa Rica

Ms Tsetska Tsacheva, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Ms Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Fourth International Conference on Women, Beijing

Ms Nicole Ameline, President of the CEDAW Committee

Ms Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi, Professor of law, member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

3.30pm: Discussion

4.15 pm: Q&A session with the audience

PANELISTS



H.E. Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar is Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of the Environmental Protection Organization. She holds a PhD in Immunology. She has been involved for more than two decades with women's issues and headed the Women's NGOs Network in Iran up to 1997. She was awarded the 2006 "Champion of the Earth" award by UNEP.

H.E. Ms. Laura Chinchilla served as President of Costa Rica from 2010 to 2014. She was the first woman to become President of Costa Rica. She served in the National Assembly as a deputy for the province of San José from 2002 to 2006. She focused her efforts on combating organized crime, public corruption, domestic violence and crimes affecting children.



Ms. Tsjetska Tsacheva is the first female President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. She majored in law in Bulgaria. She is a founding member of the Association of Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria.

PANELISTS



Ms Gertrude Mongella is the former Secretary-General of the Beijing Conference. She is an educator, a politician and a diplomat from the United Republic of Tanzania. She served in the Prime Minister's office responsible for Women's Affairs from 1982 to 1985. She has been a member of the Parliament of United Republic of Tanzania, the Parliament of East African Legislative Assembly and the Parliament of Pan-African Parliament.

Ms Nicole Ameline is the President of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She is also a member of the French National Assembly. She served as a minister in the Raffarin government, responsible for Parity and Professional Equality, up until 31 May 2005. She is a strong advocate of women's rights.



Ms Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi is Professor of law and member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. From 2002 and 2004 she was the Director of International Relations at the Ministry of Human Rights in Morocco. She is a founding member of the UNESCO chair "Women and their Rights" at the Faculty of Law in Rabat, Morocco. She is an expert and consultant to UN Women and the international NGO "Terre des Hommes".