

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fourth session
1 – 12 March 2010

Interactive expert panel

Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work

Thursday, 4 March 2010, 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

1. Ms. Codou Diaw is the Executive Director of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), a pan-African non-governmental organization engaged in the promotion of gender equality in education in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2003, she received a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies for "Original and significant research on Women's issues that crosses disciplinary, regional and cultural boundaries". She was the Deputy Programme Director for Education at the Japan International Cooperation Agency's regional bureau in Dakar, and worked as a consultant with UNESCO in Africa, the World Bank in Washington DC and Femmes Africa Solidarité in Geneva. She was a member of the education advisory board of the 2008 Clinton Global Initiative meeting. Ms. Diaw has contributed to publications such as "African Education: Sociological Perspectives" and the "Language, Literacy and Culture Review". She has also presented her work at several education conferences.

2. Ms. Annette Williams is the founding director of the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (UKRC), the organization which leads the Government Strategy on Women in Science, Engineering and Technology. The UKRC offers solutions to business and organizations to implement gender equality practices and provides an extensive range of support measures for women to progress their careers. Ms. Williams has twenty five years experience gained from working in and teaching engineering and subsequently developing national programmes to increase the participation and position of women scientists and engineers. She is the UK representative on the EU's Helsinki Group for Women and Science, member of the Expert Group for Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and chair of the WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) Advisory Board. In May 2010 an honorary doctorate from the Open University will be conferred to Ms. Williams.

3. Ms. Monazza Aslam is Research Officer at the University of Oxford's Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE). She has largely worked on the Outcomes of Education project, part of the Research Consortium on Educational Outcomes and Poverty (RECOUP). A Rhodes Scholar from Pakistan, she holds a doctoral degree from the University of Oxford. Ms. Aslam's research interests include the economics of education and the labour market, applied micro-econometrics and gender issues in education in developing countries. Recent publications include the journal article "Education gender gaps in Pakistan: Is the labour market to blame?" (2009), and "Is female education a pathway to gender equality in the labor market? Some evidence from Pakistan", a book chapter in the 2008 World Bank publication: *Girls' Education in the 21st Century: Gender Equality, Empowerment and Growth*.