

Speaker list as of 27/06

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Not necessarily in order of speaking

Opening

Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

H.E. Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of the Republic of Malta

H.E. Dr Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi, President, Federal National Council, United Arab Emirates

H.E. Ms Rula Ghani, First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

H.E. Ms Tarja Halonen, Former President of the Republic of Finland

H.E. Ms Teresa Fernández de la Vega, Former First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain, President, *Fundación Mujeres por África*

Mr Mohamed Hmayen Bouamatou, Conference Sponsor, Founder & President, Fondation pour l'égalité des chances en Afrique

Lunch

H.R.H. Princess Petra Laurentien of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, UNESCO Special Envoy for Literacy for Development

Closing

H.R.H. Princess Dana Firas, President, Petra National Trust, Jordan

H.E. Ms Aminata Touré, Special Envoy of the President, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Senegal

Ms Tzipi Livni, Former Foreign Minister of the State of Israel, Member of the Knesset

UNESCO's Soft Power Today
Fostering Women's Empowerment and Leadership

30 June – 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

The High-level Conference will include six panels, three parallel panels in the morning and the afternoon, lasting two hours each. The panels will discuss various aspects of the importance of gender equality and the empowerment and leadership of women and girls.

11:00 – 13:00 | Morning sessions

- "Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development - The Power of Women's and Girls' Education"
- "Breaking Gender Stereotypes - The importance of role models in changing cultural norms"
- "Leadership and Power - Women in Politics"

14:30 – 16:30 | Afternoon sessions

- "Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development - Women, Peace and Security"
- "Breaking Gender Stereotypes - Challenging the status quo"
- "Leadership and Power - Women in Business"

I. Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development: The Power of Women's and Girls' education

Despite immense progress in achieving gender parity in primary education, numerous challenges remain for girls to access, complete and benefit from a full cycle of quality education. While poverty remains the main barrier, discriminatory social norms (such as early marriage or gender-based violence), the distance between the home and the school and related safety concerns, or inadequate sanitation facilities at school are among the many factors hampering girls' participation in and completion of a full cycle of education. In addition, girls are disadvantaged in terms of learning processes and outcomes. Yet, evidence also shows that an educated girl can be a powerful game changer for her, her family, community and society.

This panel will discuss the importance of achieving gender equality in education. It will explore strategies and initiatives that empower girls and women to gain the knowledge and skills for fulfilling future life opportunities. Through their personal experiences and work, as well as discussions, the panelists will also consider how UNESCO can promote quality educational pathways for girls and women and gender equality in education.

Moderator:

Ms Anita Erskine, Entrepreneur and Broadcaster

Keynote speaker:

Ms Helene Öberg, State Secretary to the Minister for Education, Kingdom of Sweden

Panelists:

- **Ms Aïcha Bah Diallo**, Founder, Forum for African Women Educationalists, former Assistant Director General, a.i. Education Sector/UNESCO
- **Ms Annie Black**, Deputy Executive Director, L'Oréal Foundation
- **Ms Meagan Fallone**, Chief Executive Officer, Barefoot College
- **Ms Evernice Munando**, Founder and Executive Director of Female Students Network Trust
- **Ms Mistoura Salou**, Head of SRAJ and Gender, CeRADIS
- **Dr Hayat Sindi**, Founder and President of the Institute for Imagination and Ingenuity (i2institute), UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

II. Breaking Gender Stereotypes: The Importance of Role Models in Changing Cultural Norms

Girls and boys are conditioned by their gender roles from birth. In science class, we learn about the contributions of Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein, but we rarely learn about the impact of female scientists such as Hypatia or Rosalind Franklin. From an early age, girls learn that they are not expected by society to become scientists, engineers, innovators, or leaders. As a result, women are still drastically underrepresented in too many areas in STEM fields, especially in leadership positions. UNESCO believes that role models can break down barriers in the minds of any girl and boy and inspire them to challenge cultural norms.

This panel will discuss the importance of mentors and role models for women and girls, and explore innovative initiatives to ensure that women and girls receive the positive encouragement they need to succeed and become leaders. Through their personal experiences and work, as well as discussion, the panelists will also discuss the way forward for UNESCO in this domain.

Moderator:

Mr Henri Thulliez, Director, Fondation pour l'égalité des chances en Afrique

Keynote speakers:

Baroness Beeban Kidron, OBE, Member of the House of Lords, Gender Equality Advocate

Ms Marlène Schiappa, Secretary of State for Equality between Women and Men, Republic of France

Panelists:

- **Ms Miriam González-Duránte**, Founder of Inspiring Girls International

- **Ms Aminetou Mint El Moctar**, President, Association of Female Heads of Households

- **Ms Clarisse Reille**, Director-General, DEFI Professional Committee for Economic Development of Clothing

- **Ms Tarcila Rivera Zea**, Founder, Chirapaq: Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú

- **Ms Michaëlla Rugwizangoga**, Project Officer - Innovation Accelerator, Imbuto Foundation, Co-Founder, International Hope Week

III. Leadership and Power: Women in Politics

Women are still severely underrepresented in political leadership worldwide and a global commitment at the highest political level is needed to improve this situation. Political participation and leadership of women worldwide is not only a goal in itself, it is also a necessary precondition for the promotion of gender transformative policies and the achievement of gender equality in all other spheres of life. UNESCO calls upon its partners and distinguished speakers to initiate a debate that can break new ground for the promotion of women in political leadership.

Moderator:

H.E. Ms Eleonora Mitrofanova, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, former Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO

Keynote speaker:

The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, 26th Governor General of Canada (1999-2005) and Co-Chair of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship

Panelists:

- **Ms Fatimetou Abdel Malick**, Mayor of the community of Tevragh-Zeina, Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- **Ms Eva Rita Katarina Biaudet**, Member of Parliament, former Minister of Gender, Republic of Finland
- **Ms Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir**, Chair of the Women Political Leaders Global Forum Executive Board, Former Minister of Interior of the Republic of Iceland, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Iceland, and Mayor of Reykjavík
- **Ms Cécile Kyenge Kashetu**, Former Italian Minister for Integration, Member of the European Parliament
- **Ambassador Carmen Moreno**, Executive Secretary of Inter-American Commission of Women, former Director of UN-INSTRAW
- **Ms Lydia Shouleva**, Former Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria

IV. Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development: Women, Peace and Security

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council formally acknowledged, through the adoption of Resolution 1325, the changing nature of warfare, in which civilians are increasingly targeted, and women continue to be excluded from participation in peace processes. Resolution 1325 and the follow up resolutions address not only the disproportionate impact of war on women, but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management, conflict resolution, and sustainable peace.

The panel aims at exploring the achievements as well as the obstacles and challenges remaining in the full implementation of the Resolution 1325 and ultimately identify new pathways for UNESCO to contribute to the women, peace and security agenda.

Moderator:

Dr Rangita de Silva de Alwis, Associate Dean of International Affairs, University of Pennsylvania Law School

Keynote speaker:

Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, Former US Ambassador at Large for Global Women Issues

Panelists:

- **Professor Feride Acar**, Professor, Middle-East Technical University, President of GREVIO (Council of Europe) , Member of CEDAW
- **Ms Elisabeth Decrey-Warner**, President and Co-Founder, Geneva Call
- **Ambassador Mara Marinaki**, Principal Advisor (PAG) on Gender and UNSCR 1325, European External Action Service
- **Ms Jacqueline Moudeina**, Laureate of the Right Livelihood Award
- **Ms Mazal Renford**, Adviser for International Cooperation and Peace, International Council of Women, former Director of the Mount Carmel International Training Center

V. Breaking Gender Stereotypes: Challenging the Status Quo

Gender stereotypes have the capacity to limit the freedom of women and men, girls and boys; insofar as they affect their most profound and intimate perception of themselves and of their capacities and aspirations. Gender stereotypes are a limit to human potential and wellbeing because they condition the vision that women and men, girls and boys, have of what they can or should be and achieve. Gender categorization and portrayals may be subtle and difficult to tackle, and yet they often represent a greater obstacle than laws and norms in preventing equality among women and men. Thus, gender stereotypes prevent sustainable development, and their negative effects can be witnessed in all spheres of life and at all levels, from local communities to the international arena.

This panel gathers a unique set of leaders, intellectuals and activists who are dedicating their lives to changing mind-sets with a view to building inclusive societies. During this session, UNESCO seeks to discuss how the stereotypical portrayal of women and men has specifically been a barrier for change and to learn about innovative approaches and experiences for the promotion of non-stereotypical images of women and men. The speakers of the panel will be asked to share their stories and present their work for the deconstruction of gender stereotypes from different angles. They will address issues such as the analysis of masculinities and positive fatherhood, the importance of media to promote freedom of speech, the critical role for women in politics, and the interlinkages between media and restrictive gender roles.

Moderator:

Ms Irene Natividad, President of the Global Summit of Women, Chair of Corporate Women Directors International

Keynote speaker:

Dr Michael Kimmel, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies, Executive Director, Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities, Department of Sociology, Stony Brook University, USA

Panelists:

- **Ms Hoda Al-Helaissi**, Member of the Shura Council, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- **Ms Barbara Cleary**, Executive Committee Member, European Women's Lobby
- **Ms Zuriel Oduwole**, Independent Filmmaker, Girl Education Advocate
- **Ms Shazia Rafi**, President, AirQualityAsia, Former Secretary-General, Parliamentarians for Global Action

VI. Leadership and Power: Women in business

The business world is a core area for leadership and the panel aims at identifying new pathways for the promotion of women's leadership in business worldwide, building on UNESCO's work in the field of women's economic empowerment and through the experience and vision of the distinguished speakers of this panel.

Moderator:

Ms Bonnie Hagemann, Chief Executive Officer of the Executive Development Associates

Keynote speaker:

Ms Gabriela Ramos, Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20, OECD

Panelists:

- **Dr Maliha Hashmi**, Executive Director of the Red Sea Foundation
- **Dr Ing. Boriana Manolova**, CEO of Siemens Bulgaria, Chairperson of the Executive Board, Council of Women in Business in Bulgaria
- **Ms Sasha Krstic**, Country Manager – Nordics & Baltics, Mastercard
- **Ms Isabella Lenarduzzi**, Fondatrice et directrice du JUMP
- **Ms Pascale Thorre**, Nokia Global Diversity and Inclusion Head, Founder of StrongHer
- **Ms Debra Vanderburg Spencer**, Curator, Arts Management Specialist, contributor at the The Harlem Times