



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Canada

62nd SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN



BIOGRAPHIES

SIDE EVENT

March 12, 2018 | 11:30 am - 12:45 pm

ExPress Bar | UN Headquarters | New York

OPENING REMARKS



HON. MARIE-CLAUDE BIBEAU

**Minister of International Development and
La Francophonie of Canada**

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau was elected as the Member of Parliament for Compton–Stanstead in October 2015, and a few weeks later, she was appointed Canadian Minister of International Development and La Francophonie by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Minister Bibeau was born and raised in Sherbrooke, Quebec and earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a graduate diploma in environmental management from Université de Sherbrooke. She began her career at the Canadian International Development Agency, with assignments in Morocco and Benin. After settling down with her family in Quebec's Eastern Townships, she became a successful businesswoman and was actively involved in her community.

In her capacity as Minister, Hon. Bibeau has a mandate to refocus Canada's international assistance on helping the poorest and most vulnerable people and on supporting fragile states. In June 2017, Minister Bibeau launched Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policy strengthening government commitment to fight against poverty by prioritizing gender equality in the country's international assistance programming. Hon. Bibeau advocates for actions and initiatives that empower women and girls, and she defends their rights. As well, she is at the heart of Canada's strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development objectives both at home and around the world.



MS. FLEUR NEWMAN

Lead Gender Officer, UNFCCC

Fleur Newman is the Lead Programme Officer for the .N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and Gender Focal Point for the UNFCCC Secretariat.

She has a background in climate change, sustainable development, energy and international law in the private sector, and extensive experience in advocating for gender equality and women and girl's empowerment. She holds law degrees from The University of Notre Dame Australia, The Australian National University, and a LLM at the International law The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

At the UNFCCC Secretariat she has worked on implementing a voluntary tool for describing sustainable development co-benefits of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects and managing the work of Parties and the UNFCCC in implementing gender equality strategies, including the Lima work programme on gender and UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan. She also represents the UNFCCC in the Gender Partnership of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



H.E. MS. OLAI ULUDONG

Palau Ambassador to the United Nations

Ngedikes "Olai" Uludong is a Diplomat from the Republic of Palau, currently serving as the Permanent Representative from Palau to the United Nations

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Uludong was Palau's Ambassador to the European Union and Belgium. Serving concurrently as Ambassador on Climate Change, she was the lead negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change between 2012 and 2014.

Previously, Ms. Uludong dedicated her career to climate change and the environment. She served as a consultant, adviser and planner in a number of South Pacific island nations, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, and served as the Lead Negotiator for the United Nations Negotiating Bloc: The Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) in New York City. She was later appointed as Palau's Permanent Representative to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), serving as the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) bureau to FAO.

She holds a Master of Science degree in climate change from the University of the South Pacific and a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from the University of Guam.



MS. SARATOU MALAM GONI

Director, Leadership, Women Empowerment Programme, CARE Niger

Ms. Saratou Malam Goni is a development specialist with over 25 years of experience in the field. She has held several senior positions in project management, technical support and coaching, focusing on the development of agro-sylvo-pastoral value chains in the context of climate change. In addition, she has over 15 years of practical experience in decentralized financial systems, namely in the establishment of microfinance institutions as well in the monitoring and survey of savings and credit management.

Ms. Saratou Malam Goni has been appointed as Special Advisor to the Presidency of the Republic of Niger and was Executive Director of the Foundation GURI Vie meilleure. She has contributed to Niger's participation at various climate summits, and in 2016 she was a Panelist at COP 22 addressing gender and climate justice, good practices for dealing with climate challenges in agriculture and sustainable development. Currently she is the Director of CARE's extensive Leadership Empowerment Programme for Women and Youth (LEFJ) in Niger.



MRS. POLOTU PAUNGA

Head, Division of Women's Affairs, Kingdom of Tonga

Ms. Polotu Fakafanua - Paunga has been Deputy CEO & Head of Women's Affairs Division in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tonga since July 2012, responsible for the gender and social inclusion portfolio and related budgets.

Previously, she served as Deputy Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Director and Head of Women's Department in the Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs and Culture, providing advice on strategic policies on gender issues and budget allocation. In this capacity, she oversaw the development of legislation protecting women and has helped to build strategic partnerships with line Ministries, the private sector, NGOs and other partners. She also served in the Prime Minister's Office as the Focal Point for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the development of the first national MDG report.

From 2014 to 2016 she served as a freelance consultant for the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Tonga. As a National Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist for the very first Climate Financing and Risk Governance Assessment Report for Tonga, she oversaw gender equality and inclusion in climate resilience and disaster risk preparedness planning.

Ms. Paunga holds a Bachelor's degree in English and a Master's degree from Auckland University in New Zealand.



**MS. LEITUALA KUINISELANI
TOELUPE TAGO – ELISARA**

**Director, Social Development Programme,
Pacific Community**

Ms. Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago is the Director of the Social Development Programme of the Pacific Community, focusing on the specific needs and different vulnerabilities of women, youth and minorities within policy and programme interventions at all levels in Pacific countries and territories.

Previously she worked as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development in Samoa. Leituala's work as CEO facilitated the strategic thinking and leadership required to engage village communities in climate resilience planning and programming both at national and local level. Additionally she has been actively involved in multiple local, national and regional partnership initiatives involving civil society and institutions with the common goal of enhancing Women and Child protection actions namely through the adoption of CEDAW recommendations.

Ms. Leituala holds a Bachelor's in Social Work from the Massey University in New Zealand, a Master in International Social Development from the University of New South Wales and an Advanced Diploma in Business Management from the University of New England in Australia. With more than 20 years of experience as a senior executive in the public sector, Leituala has participated in several international and regional forums including at the United Nations; Commonwealth Secretariat; the African, Caribbean and Pacific Secretariat; and Pacific Ministerial Forums.



MS. CARLA MUCAVI

**Director, FAO Liaison Office, FAO Liaison
Office to the United Nations in New York**

Ms Mucavi is a career diplomat having served in different functions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique between 1989 and 2015.

This has included assignments in the Division for International Organizations and Conferences; Division for Europe and North America and Latin America; position as Deputy Director of State Protocol and Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. She has also served at the Embassy of Mozambique in Ethiopia.

Between 2007 and 2015, she was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mozambique to Italy, Greece and Malta, and Permanent Representative to FAO, WFP and IFAD.

Since August 2015, she has been the Director of the FAO Liaison Office to the United Nations in New York.

Ms Mucavi, national of Mozambique, holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the Institute for Higher Studies in International Relations, Mozambique and a Master's Degree in Cooperation and Development Planning from the University La Sapienza, Italy.

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR



MR. JENS FRØLICH HOLTE

State Secretary of International Development, Norway

Jens Frølich Holte is the current State Secretary for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to taking up his current post in 2017, Mr. Holte worked in the Ministry of Transport and Communications. From 2011-2017 he acted as a political adviser, first for the Conservative Party's Parliamentary Group and later moving to the Ministry of Climate and Environment. Mr. Holte holds a BSc and MSc degrees in Economics and Business Administration from the Norwegian School of Economics, as well as graduating in 2011 with an MSc degree in Economic History from the London School of Economics.







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