

Co-Chairs, Panelists and Deputies

Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment

Co-Chairs

[The Honourable Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, President of Costa Rica](#)

In June 2013, Luis Solís was elected party candidate of the Citizen Action Party (PCA), and became Costa Rica's forty-seventh President of the Republic on 6 April 2014. Mr. Solís started his career in 1981 at the University of Costa Rica as a professor of History and Political Science. He was Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan at Flint (1983) and Research Associate at the Latin American and Caribbean Centre of Florida International University (2000). He became Deputy Director of the School of Political Science (1992-1994); Associate Dean of the School of Social Sciences (2001-2002), and Director of the Central American Graduate Programme in Political Science (2003-2004) at the University of Costa Rica. From 2004 to 2008, he was Regional Research Coordinator of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). Professor Solís also served as Chief of Staff (1986-1990), Ambassador at Large for Central American Affairs (1994-1996), and Director General for Policy (1996-1998) at the Costa Rican Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He was Secretary General of the National Liberation Party (Social Democrat) in 2002 and 2003. From October 2008 to December 2010, President Solís served as Regional Representative of the Ibero-American General Secretariat for Central America and Haiti, based in Panama. In 2014, Mr. Solís received three honorary degrees from Duquesne University, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE), and Renmin University of China, respectively. He currently resides in San José with his wife.

[Simona Scarpaleggia, CEO, IKEA Switzerland](#)

Since May 2010, Simona Scarpaleggia has served as CEO of IKEA Switzerland. She joined IKEA as a Human Resources Manager for Italy in 2000. Prior to that, she spent over 18 years in numerous positions in human resources, working for companies in various sectors. Ms. Scarpaleggia is a passionate campaigner for all issues concerning women's empowerment. She co-founded Valore D [Value W(omen)] in Italy in 2009, consisting of over 130 corporate members, becoming its first president. She later co-founded «Advance - Women in Swiss Business» together with eight other companies in Switzerland in 2011, an association which now has 40 member companies, of which she serves as President. She is on the board of IKEA AG, Inter IKEA Center Switzerland, the Swedish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, and IKEA Foundation Switzerland. She is an Italian citizen, married, with three children.

Panelists

[Alicia Girón, Professor, Economic Research Institute](#)

Alicia Girón is a dedicated economist with a PhD in Latin American Studies. She serves as a Professor and Researcher at the Economic Research Institute (IIEc) where she also tutors for postgraduate programmes in Economics and Latin America Studies at the National University of Mexico (UNAM). Her latest research in the field of Gender Studies focuses on the impact of the financial crisis and the stabilization programmes for Mexican and Latin American women in light of the austerity measures set forth by the International Monetary Fund. She is the former president of the International Association of Feminist Economics (2014-2015) and Director of the Economic Research Institute (1994-2001) where she founded the electronic journal “Ola Financiera.” She is also director of the journal “Problemas del Desarrollo, Revista Latinoamericana de Economía,” and a principal at the journal of the IIEc. She has served as a visiting professor at multiple institutions, including the Institute of Social Science of Tokyo University in Japan, at the Department of Economics of the University of Missouri–Kansas City, at the Institute of Latin America of the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS) in Beijing, China, and at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain.

[Amadou Mahtar Ba, Co-Founder and Executive Chair, AllAfrica Global Media Inc.](#)

Amadou Mahtar Ba is a seasoned professional with wide experience in African and U.S. markets in the fields of media, governance, technology and innovation. He is Co- Founder and Executive Chair of AllAfrica Global Media, Inc. Until recently, he was Chief Executive of the African Media Initiative (AMI), a pan-African effort he established to provide the continent’s media owners and practitioners with the tools they need to play a stronger leadership role in their respective communities, countries and the region. Mr. Ba sits on several boards and participates in a number of international working groups including the World Economic Forum Network of Global Agenda Councils, the Africa Democratic Institute, and the Africa Policy Advisory Board of One, as well as serving as a member of the panel of judges for the CNN African Journalist Award. In 2008, he convened the African Media Leaders Forum (AMLF) with support from the World Bank Group, the Coca Cola Company and Ecobank. The forum has become the largest annual gathering of African media leaders bringing together African Heads of State, leaders of continental organizations and civil society to advance dialogue and innovation. Mr. BA is a recipient of many distinguished awards and recognitions in Africa, Europe and the U.S.A. He was educated in Senegal and France and is fluent in French, English, Spanish, Fulani and Wolof.

[Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund](#)

On 5 July 2011, Christine Lagarde became the eleventh Managing Director of the IMF, and the first woman to hold that position. On 19 February 2016, the IMF Executive Board selected her to serve as IMF Managing Director for a second five-year term starting on 5 July 2016. Born in Paris in 1956, Ms. Lagarde completed high school in Le Havre and attended Holton Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A. She then graduated from law school at University Paris X, and obtained a Master’s degree from the Political Science Institute in Aix-en-Provence, France. After being admitted as a lawyer to the Paris Bar, Christine Lagarde joined the international law firm of Baker & McKenzie as an associate, specializing in Labour, Anti-trust and Mergers & Acquisitions. A member of the Executive Committee of the firm in 1995, she became the Chair of the Global Executive Committee of Baker & McKenzie in 1999, and subsequently Chair of the Global Strategic Committee in 2004. Ms. Lagarde joined the French Government in June 2005 as Minister for Foreign Trade. After a brief stint as Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, in June 2007 she became the first woman to hold the post of Finance and Economy Minister of a G-7 country. From July to December 2008, she also chaired the ECOFIN Council, which brings together economics and finance ministers of the European Union and has helped to foster

international policies related to financial supervision, regulation and the strengthening of global economic governance. As Chair of the G-20 when France took over its presidency for the year 2011, she set in motion a wide-ranging work agenda on the reform of the international monetary system. Ms. Lagarde was named Officer in the Légion d'honneur in April 2012. A former member of the French national team for synchronized swimming, Ms. Lagarde is the mother of two sons.

[Elizabeth A. Vazquez, President, CEO and Co-Founder of WE Connect International](#)

Elizabeth A. Vazquez is the President, CEO and Co-Founder of WEConnect International, a corporate-led non-profit that helps to empower women business owners to succeed in global markets. She is a world leader in women's economic empowerment and global supplier with diversity and inclusion. WEConnect International identifies, educates and certifies women's business enterprises that are at least 51 per cent owned, managed and controlled by one or more women, and connects them with member buyers. WEConnect International members are committed to inclusive sourcing and represent over USD \$1 trillion in annual purchasing power. WEConnect International supports and promotes women-owned businesses in 100 countries. Ms. Vazquez serves on several boards of directors including: the Global Banking Alliance for Women, the Cornerstone Capital Group, and the Eisenhower Fellowships Board of Trustees. She is an Advisor to CGI, a member of the International Council on Women's Business Leadership, a member of the W20 and G20 SME Taskforce, and sits on the International Advisory Council for the Walmart Global Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative. Ms. Vazquez is the co-author of the book, "Buying for Impact: How to Buy from Women and Change Our World." She was born in Mexico and has a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

[Fiza Farhan, CEO Buksh Foundation and Director Buksh Energy Pvt. Ltd.](#)

Driven by sustainable development goals and passionate about creating a lasting impact on regional and national issues pertaining to women's empowerment, economic justice and sustainable development, Fiza Farhan has effectively led Buksh Foundation and Buksh Energy Private Limited to establish unique and demand-based multi-stakeholder solutions in the domains of gender equity, inclusive growth, impact investment and renewable energy. In a short span of time, Ms. Farhan has not only led both social enterprises to become globally recognized brands of empowerment and sustainable social impact, but with the many international recognitions and acclaims she has won over the years, pioneering numerous innovations with a triple bottom line approach across diverse macro- and micro-sectors, engaging multiple stakeholders from the public, private and civil societies in "win-win" business models, she has also created a national success story for the youth of Pakistan, especially the women. Ms. Farhan's profound passion for women empowerment and creating equitable socioeconomic models has been realized in the unique projects of Buksh Foundation as well as in her roles of national and global advocacy and leadership towards women's economic empowerment and inclusive growth opportunities. Ms. Farhan continues to represent Pakistan on multiple global platforms including: the UN Foundation, ADB Energy for ALL, and the World Energy Council, among others. Ms. Farhan governs the strategy for Compass Training & Consultancy, while also being the Co-Chair of the Italian Development Chamber of Commerce, Pakistan. In 2015, Ms. Farhan was selected in Forbes Magazine's "30 Under 30 List" of Social Entrepreneurs in addition to various other global recognitions, including the Women Entrepreneurs Achievement Award and the 100 Influential Leaders Award. Ms. Farhan is an alumni of the Warwick Business School, U.K. and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan.

[Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization](#)

Guy Ryder first joined the International Labour Organization in 1998 as Director of the Bureau for Workers' Activities and, from 1999, as Director of the Office of the Director-General. In 2002, he moved to Brussels where he was appointed General Secretary of the ICFTU, leading the process of global unification of the democratic international trade union movement. He was elected as first General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) when it was created in 2006. He headed international trade union delegations to high-level talks with the UN, IMF, World Bank and WTO and to the G20 Leaders' Summits. In September 2010, Mr. Ryder came back to the ILO in Geneva as Executive Director, responsible for international labour standards and fundamental principles and rights at work. Among other activities, he supervised the application of ILO Conventions and Recommendations. He also headed several high-level ILO missions to address a range of issues related to labour standards in countries such as Bahrain, Colombia, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Myanmar and Swaziland. Mr. Ryder was elected as ILO Director-General by the ILO's Governing Body in May 2012 and took office on 1 October 2012. On taking office, he pledged to position the Organization as a determined actor, translating principle into action and ensuring that it had the capacity to make a major difference to the working lives of people on all of the continents. To support this he launched a major reform process geared to assuring the ILO's authority on matters falling within its mandate.

[Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank](#)

Jim Yong Kim, M.D., Ph.D., became the 12th President of the World Bank Group on July 1, 2012. A physician and anthropologist, Dr. Kim has dedicated himself to international development for more than two decades, helping to improve the lives of under-served populations worldwide. Dr. Kim comes to the Bank after serving as President of Dartmouth College, a pre-eminent centre of higher education that consistently ranks among the top academic institutions in the United States. Dr. Kim is a co-founder of Partners In Health (PIH) and a former director of the HIV/AIDS Department at the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Kim's work has earned him wide recognition. He was awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship (2003), named one of America's "25 Best Leaders" by *U.S. News & World Report* (2005), and was selected as one of *TIME* magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" (2006). Born in 1959 in Seoul, South Korea, Dr. Kim moved with his family to the United States at the age of five and grew up in Muscatine, Iowa. Dr. Kim graduated with an A.B. *magna cum laude* from Brown University in 1982. He earned an M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1991 and a Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard University in 1993.

[Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom](#)

Justine Greening was appointed UK Secretary of State at the Department for International Development (DFID) in September 2012. She leads the DFID ministerial team, sets the overall strategy and direction of the department, and has final authority over all DFID business. Since being appointed UK Development Secretary, Ms. Greening has put gender equality at the heart of U.K. development. For example, through helping more girls go to school, more women to vote and tackling violence against women and girls. In the last few years, she is proud to have helped push things like family planning access, female genital mutilation, and child marriage right to the top of the global agenda. In January 2016, Ms. Greening became a founding member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. Prior to DFID, Ms. Greening was appointed Economic Secretary to the Treasury (2010–2011) and became Secretary of State for Transport (2011-2012). She also holds an MBA from the London Business School.

[Michael Spence, Professor of Economics at the Stern School at NYU, Recipient of the 2001 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences](#)

Michael Spence served as the Chair of an Independent Commission on Growth in Developing Countries (2006-2010 –the life of the commission). He is Professor of Economics at the Stern School at NYU, Professor Emeritus of Management in the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, a Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford. Mr. Spence received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2001, and the John Bates Clark Medal in 1982, for work on markets with asymmetrical information. He is the author of the book, “The Next Convergence: The Future of Economic Growth in a Multispeed World,” Ferrar, Straus and Giroux, May 2011. Mr. Spence serves on the board of Mercadolibre and a number of private companies. He is a member of the board of the Stanford Management Company. He is a Senior Advisor to Oak Hill Investment Management and a consultant to PIMCO. He is the Chair of the academic board of the Fung Global Institute, based in Hong Kong. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the School of Economics and Management of Tsinghua University.

[Mitchell Baker, Executive Chair, Mozilla Foundation, United States](#)

Mitchell Baker is the Executive Chair of Mozilla Foundation and Mozilla Corporation, a subsidiary of the Mozilla Foundation that coordinates development of the open source Mozilla Internet applications, including the Mozilla Firefox web browser. She coordinates business and policy issues and sits on both the Mozilla Foundation Board of Directors and the Mozilla Corporation Board of Directors. Ms. Baker received a JD from the Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley. In 2005, *TIME Magazine* included her in its annual list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World under its “Scientists and Thinkers” category and she has been affectionately given the title of “Chief Lizard Wrangler” at the Mozilla Corporation. Ms. Baker was honoured as winner of the Anita Borg Institute’s 2009 Women of Vision Award and in 2010 she was the recipient of the Aenne Burda Award for Creative Leadership. In 2012, Ms. Baker was inducted into the founding group of the Internet Society’s Hall of Fame.

[Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women](#)

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She has devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka has worked in government and civil society, and with the private sector, and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa. She served as Deputy President of South Africa, Minister of Minerals and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry. She was a Member of Parliament as part of South Africa’s first democratic government. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA. A long-time champion of women’s rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women’s empowerment and gender equality. She has completed her Ph.D. on education and technology at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

[Renana Jhabvala, Chair, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing \(WIEGO\)](#)

Renana Jhabvala is the Chair of the WIEGO Board. She has been working with the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) since 1977 and is currently SEWA’s National Coordinator as well as the Chair of SEWA Bank and SEWA Bharat. Her most recent publications include *The Progress of the World’s Women 2005: Women, Work and Poverty* with Martha Chen, Joann Vanek, Francie Lund, James Heintz and Christine Bonner; *Informal Economy Centrestage: New Structures of Employment*, which she co-edited with Ratna M. Sudarshan and Jeemol Unni; and *The Unorganised Sector: Work Security and Social Protection*, which she co-edited with R.K.A. Subramanya.

[Saadia Zahidi, Head of Employment and Gender Initiatives, World Economic Forum](#)

Saadia Zahidi is the Head of Employment and Gender Practices and a Member of the Executive Committee at the World Economic Forum. These two initiatives seek to combine insights and action, producing unique analysis and mobilizing leaders to work together to set targets for impact, share best practices, create new public-private partnerships, muster resources and change mindsets. Ms. Zahidi founded and co-authors the Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report*, *Human Capital Report*, *Future of Jobs* report and other publications. She is a frequent speaker at international conferences and in the media. She was selected as one of BBC's 100 Women in 2013 and 2014 and is currently authoring a book entitled *Womenomics in the Muslim World*.

[Samia Suluhu, Vice-President, United Republic of Tanzania](#)

Samia Hassan Suluhu became Tanzania's first-ever female Vice-President in the 2015 General Elections, alongside John Magufuli, the President. She is a Tanzanian CCM politician, served as the Member of Parliament for Makunduchi constituency from 2010 to 2015, and has been Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office for Union Affairs since 2010. Prior to this, Ms. Suluhu served as a Minister in the semi-autonomous region of Zanzibar in the administration of President Amani Karume. In 2014, she was elected as the Vice-Chair of the Constituent Assembly, tasked with drafting the country's new constitution. In July 2015, CCM's presidential nominee John Magufuli chose her as his running mate for the 2015 election, making her the first female running mate in the party's history.

[Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation](#)

Sharan Burrow was elected General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) at its Second World Congress in Vancouver in June 2010. Previously President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) since 1992, she served as inaugural President of the ITUC from its foundation in Vienna in 2006, and of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (a predecessor organization to the ITUC) from 2004. The ITUC is the world's peak labour union body and represents 180 million workers in 162 countries and territories, with 333 national affiliates.

[Sheikha Lubna Khalid Al Qasimi, Minister of State for Tolerance, United Arab Emirates](#)

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi is the Minister of State for Tolerance of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the first woman in the UAE to hold a cabinet post. Previously, she was Minister for International Cooperation and Development (2013-2016), Minister of Foreign Trade (2008-2013) and Minister of Economy (2004-2008). She headed Dubai's public sector e-Government initiatives (2004) and was also the CEO of Tejari.com (2000), the Middle East's first business-to-business e-market. She is the recipient of numerous prestigious, international awards. She topped *Arabian Business Magazine's*, "100 Most Powerful Arab Women", (2011-2015), and has featured in *Forbes Magazine's*, "World's Most Powerful Women" and the *Wall Street Journal's* "50 International Women to Watch". Ms. Lubna was the first Emirati to receive the "Clinton Global Citizen Award" from the Clinton Global Initiative. She is President of Zayed University and holds many honorary degrees.

[Tina Fordham, Managing Director and Chief Global Political Analyst, Citi Research](#)

Tina Fordham is Managing Director and Chief Global Political Analyst at Citi, the first to hold this position. Her work focuses on hard-to-quantify risks such as geopolitics and socioeconomic factors, including "vox populi" risk, the idea that public opinion is a risk factor in the investment environment, as well as the role of women in the global economy. Named in the Top 100 Most Influential Women in Finance and "40 Women to Watch", she joined Citi in 2003, where she advises corporate boards and institutional investors on the implications of

macro-political developments. Previously, she served as senior advisor in the UK Prime Minister's Strategy Unit and head of global political risk at Eurasia Group, where she started the firm's financial markets research business. Ms. Fordham earned her Master's degree in international affairs at Columbia University. She is a San Francisco Bay Area native and lives in London with her two daughters.

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of Oxfam International

Winnie Byanyima is a leader on women's rights, democratic governance and peacebuilding. She has served at the African Union Commission and as Director of Gender and Development at the United Nations Development Programme. Born in Uganda, Ms. Byanyima was elected for three terms and served 11 years in the Ugandan Parliament. She led Uganda's first parliamentary women's caucus, championing ground-breaking gender equality provisions in the country's 1995 post-conflict constitution. A world-renowned expert on women's rights, she founded the still-thriving civil society organization Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE). Ms. Byanyima is a signatory to her country's 1985 peace agreement and has helped to broker and support women's participation in peace processes in Rwanda, South Africa, Burundi, Sudan and other countries emerging from conflict. She co-founded a 60-member Global Gender and Climate Alliance of civil society, bilateral and multilateral organizations and chaired a UN-wide task force on gender aspects of the Millennium Development Goals and Climate Change. She has served on numerous global boards and commissions including the African Capacity-Building Foundation and the International Centre for Research on Women. She holds an M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering in Energy Conservation and the Environment from the University of Cranfield and a B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Manchester. She began a five-year term leading Oxfam International on 1 May 2013.