



10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325:

Ensuring women's participation in peace and security

Egmont palace, Brussels, 9th of September 2010

Biographies

Catherine Ashton (UK)

Catherine Ashton is currently the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and also holds the post of First Vice-President of the European Union. Between 1998 and 2001 she was Chair of the Hertfordshire Health Authority and became Vice-President of the National Council for One-Parent Families. A member of the Labour Party, she was Junior Minister at the Education, Constitutional Affairs and Justice Ministries. In 1999, she was made life peer as Baroness Ashton of Upholland and was appointed leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Queen's Privy Council by Gordon Brown in 2007. She is credited with having played an "active" and "vital" role in the adoption in the United Kingdom of the Lisbon Treaty by ensuring its passage through the House of Lords. Her international career began in 2008, when she took up the post of European Commissioner for Trade, thereby becoming the first British female member of the Commission.

Steven Vanackere (Belgium)

Mr Vanackere is currently the Belgian Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Reforms. In 1988, he worked for the Research Centre of the then CVP-PSC (Christian Democratic Party). He went on to become an advisor to Herman Van Rompuy, then Chair of the Christian People's Party. In 1995, he was appointed chief of cabinet to Jos Chabert, Minister for the Brussels Region. Mr Vanackere also served as Director-General of the Port of Brussels between 1993 and 2000, and as Deputy Director-General of the STIB (Brussels Public Transport Network) between 2000 and 2005. In 2004, he was elected to the Flemish Parliament as member for Brussels. At the 2006 municipal elections Mr Vanackere, on a bilingual list, was elected City of Brussels Alderman for Economy, Trade and Flemish Affairs. He has also held the posts of Minister for Welfare, Public Health and the Family in the Flemish Government, and subsequently Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Civil Service, Public Enterprise and Institutional Reform until November 2009.

Inés Alberdi (Spain)

Inés Alberdi is the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Ms. Alberdi worked for more than 25 years on gender issues and in politics. She has published extensively on family and women's issues. From 2003 to 2007, Ms. Alberdi was an elected Deputy in the Madrid Assembly. She served as an expert for the Equal

Opportunities Unit of the European Commission on the networks Family and Work and Diversification of Occupational Choices for Women and worked for the Inter-American Bank as Adviser for Women in Development. She also served as a Member of the Board of INSTRAW, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

Sabine de Bethune (Belgium)

Sabine de Bethune has been a Belgian senator since 1995 for the CD&V (Christian Democrat and Flemish Party, the former Christian People's Party). A former lawyer and advisor to the European Commission, she was national Chair of the 'Vrouw en Maatschappij' (Women and Society) working group between 1988 and 2003 and a member of the management committee of the national Centre for Equal Opportunities and Anti-Racism. Since 1995, she has been a member of the management committee of Amazone, the Belgian national women's support centre. Between 1999 and 2003, she was Deputy President of the Senate. She holds a number of posts in various organisations, including serving as a member of the Belgian UNICEF National Committee.

Bineta Diop (Senegal)

Ms. Bineta Diop is the Executive Director and founder of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), a pan-African civil society organization working on issues of women, peace and security. Ms. Diop has led Femmes Africa Solidarité in numerous peace-building programmes, including the creation of a strong West African women's movement, the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET). Ms. Diop has been elected as Vice-President of the African Union Women's Committee, and chairs the United Nations Working Group on Peace in Geneva, which is part of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women monitoring the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola (Italy)

Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola has been Chairman of NATO's Military Committee since 2008. In addition to numerous command posts (most notably commanding the aircraft carrier "Garibaldi") he has held various posts, including Assistant Chief of Staff of the Italian Navy, Chief of the Directorate of Defence Policy and Polmil Advisor to the Ministry of Defence's Chief of Defence Staff, and subsequently Chief of the Cabinet Office for the Ministry of Defence. He played an active part in NATO's enlargement process, in the Alliance's outreach policy and in the development of the European Security and Defence Policy, as well as in NATO-EU relations. After acting as Secretary General of Defence / National Armaments Director, he became Chief of Defence and held planning and command responsibility for the Italian Forces' participation in the NATO, EU and Coalition operations conducted in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans, the Mediterranean and Pakistan, and in the United Nations operation in Lebanon.

Shirin Ebadi (Iran)

Shirin Ebadi is an Iranian lawyer who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003, the first ever Iranian to do so. She was also the first Iranian woman to become a judge. In 1979, Ebadi was forced to leave her post as a judge due to the Iranian revolution. She did not obtain a licence to practise as a lawyer until 1992, when she began to fight for a number of causes: She has defended several journalists or journalists' families who have been arrested or convicted under laws curtailing their freedom of expression. During the period in which she was prevented from practising law, she wrote several books and published numerous

articles in Iranian newspapers. She has headed a number of research projects for UNICEF's Teheran office and was co-founder of the Society for the Protection of Children's Rights in 1995, of which she was President until 2000. She also co-founded the Centre for the Defence of Human Rights in 2001.

Kamilia Ibrahim Kuku Kura (Sudan)

Kamilia Ibrahim Kuku Kura is the founder and current executive director of the "Nuba Women for Education and Development Association" (NuWEDA). She is also a passionate activist for women's rights, a member of the G40 and coordinator for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Sudan. Between 1991 and 1998, frequent fighting took place in the Nuba Mountains and Ms Kuku Kura decided to speak out on behalf of human rights, in spite of the many dangers. She achieved recognition for her association, fought to ensure that the basic needs of women in the camps were met and ran various aid programmes in small communities. In 2006, Ms Kuku Kura and other women were arrested in the Nuba Mountains. Freed as a result of pressure from several humanitarian organisations, her determination remains as strong as ever and she still wants to set an example in fighting for respect for women's rights.

Alain Le Roy (France)

Alain Le Roy is Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations. He worked in the private sector as an engineer in the petroleum industry before going on to hold various posts in the French civil service such as Deputy Prefect and Public Auditor in the Court of Auditors. In 1995, Le Roy was appointed Deputy to the UN Special Coordinator for Sarajevo and Director of Operations for the restoration of essential public services. He had previously served on United Nations Development Programme missions to Mauritania and to Kosovo. He served as the French Foreign Ministry's National Coordinator for the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, and was subsequently appointed European Union Special Representative in Macedonia. He was later appointed Assistant Secretary for Economic and Financial Affairs and subsequently French Ambassador to Madagascar.

Rachel Mayanja (Uganda)

Rachel Mayanja has served since November 2004 as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women. Previously, Ms. Mayanja had been the Director of the Human Resources Management Division of the United Nations, prior to which she had held senior posts at the UN's Office of Human Resources Management. During her career in the UN, she has also served as Secretary to a number of bodies, including the Secretary-General's Task Force on the reform of Human Resources Management in 1999. She also worked on UN peacekeeping operations in Namibia (UNTAG) and in Iraq and Kuwait (UNIKOM), encouraging women to become actively involved in peacekeeping operations, in particular in the police and the military. Ms. Mayanja also worked for the Division for Equal Rights for Women of the former Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs shortly after the first World Conference on Women.

Luz Méndez (Guatemala)

Luz Méndez is president of the Advisory Board and coordinator of the peace building and nonviolence against women program of the National Union of Guatemalan Women, a women's association working for women's human rights, gender equality and social justice. From 2005 to 2008, she was coordinator of the Women Agents for Change Consortium,

which set in motion a political process for psychosocial healing and empowerment of women survivors of sexual violence during the armed conflict in Guatemala. In the 1990s, Ms. Méndez was involved in the Guatemalan peace processes and actively participated in the negotiations. Being the only woman at the peace table for several years, she dedicated special attention to the incorporation of gender equality commitments into the peace accords. She was a speaker at the first meeting that the UN Security Council held with women's organizations leading up to the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Elisabeth Rehn (Finland)

Märta Elisabeth Rehn is a human rights expert who has previously served as a Member of the Finnish Parliament, Minister of Defence, Minister of Equality, a Member of the European Parliament, as UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, and as Under Secretary-General and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the former Yugoslavia. In recent years, she has dedicated herself to the impact of war on women and their role in peace building. She co-authored with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a landmark study entitled 'Women War Peace'. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims within the International Criminal Court and as a member of the Civil Society Advisory Group to the UN on Women, Peace and Security.

Dr. Sima Samar (Afghanistan)

Dr Sima Samar is President of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and since 1995 has been United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan. In 1989, she established the Shuhada Organisation and Shuhada Clinic in Pakistan, dedicated to providing health care for Afghan women and girls, to training medical staff and to education. In 2002 she took up a cabinet post in Hamid Karzai's interim administration, in which she served as Deputy President and Minister for Women's Affairs. She was forced to resign in response to death threats following her questioning of conservative Islamic laws.

Margot Wallström (Sweden)

Margot Wallström is Special Representative on ending conflict-zone sexual violence. In Sweden, she has served as a Member of Parliament, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Women and Youth, Minister for Culture and Minister for Social Affairs. She was first appointed to the European Commission in September 1999. In 2004 she was appointed Vice-President for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy. Ms Wallström is actively committed to promoting women's participation in peace and security. Since 2007 she has been Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders ministerial initiative, in which she has actively promoted the appointment of women to leadership roles. Ms Wallström has also played a leading role in raising awareness of the urgent need to implement Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820.