

Speakers Bio

Addressing Gender and Ageing: Centring Older Women in Social Development Solutions

Solutions Session at The Second World Summit for Social Development

Doha, Qatar

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Full Name and Bio	Photo
Ms. Diene Keita [Speaker] Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director, UNFPA Ms. Diene Keita is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), appointed by the UN Secretary-General in August 2025. She brings over 30 years of leadership in international development, diplomacy, and public service, with a strong commitment to advancing women’s and youth empowerment, sexual and reproductive health, and gender equality. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Keita served as UNFPA Deputy Executive Director for Programmes and as the organization’s Representative in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She also served as Minister for Cooperation and African Integration for the Republic of Guinea and has held senior roles within the UN system, including as UN Resident Coordinator in multiple countries. Ms. Keita holds a doctorate in Law and advanced degrees in International Economics, Development Law, and International Relations from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.	



**Ms. Sima Bahous [Speaker]
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
and Executive Director, UN Women**

Ms. Sima Bahous is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, appointed in September 2021. A strong advocate for women's empowerment, gender equality, and youth inclusion, she brings over 35 years of leadership experience at national, regional, and international levels. Prior to her appointment, she served as Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and as Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States at UNDP. Ms. Bahous has also held senior positions with the League of Arab States and in the Government of Jordan, including as Adviser to King Abdullah II and President of the Higher Media Council. She holds a PhD in Mass Communication and Development from Indiana University, an MA in Literature and Drama from Essex University, and a BA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.



**Ms. Camilla Waltersson Grönvall [Speaker]
Minister for Social Services, Government of
Sweden**

Camilla Waltersson Grönvall has been Sweden's Minister for Social Services since 2022. Ms. Waltersson Grönvall has studied teacher training in Swedish and English at the University of Gothenburg and Karlstad University College. At national political level, she has served three terms as a member of the Parliament. She has also been the Moderate Party's education policy spokesperson and social policy spokesperson. At local level, Ms. Waltersson Grönvall has served as Chair of Lilla Edet Municipality's Education Committee.





Hon. Dr. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey [Speaker]

Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Republic of Ghana

Hon. Dr. Agnes Naa Momo Lartey is the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection of the Republic of Ghana. A committed advocate for gender equality, social inclusion, and women's empowerment, she brings extensive leadership experience in public service and social policy. Prior to her ministerial appointment, Dr. Lartey served as a Member of Parliament, where she championed legislation and initiatives advancing women's rights, child protection, and community development. She has also held roles in academia and local governance, contributing to research and programmes on gender-responsive social protection and poverty reduction.

Dr. Lartey co-chairs the **Equity 2030 Alliance**, a global initiative promoting gender equity and inclusive development. She holds a Doctorate in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Development Policy and Planning.



Dr. Mansour Al-Rumayyan [Speaker]
Supervisor General, Deputyship of Human Capital Development and Labor Market Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (TBC)

Dr. Mansour Al-Rumayyan serves as Supervisor General for Human Capital Development and Labor Market Affairs at the Ministry of Economy and Planning of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In this capacity, he leads national efforts to advance workforce development, employment policies, and human capital strategies aligned with Saudi Vision 2030. His work focuses on fostering inclusive economic growth through evidence-based planning, labor market reform, and investment in skills and productivity. With extensive experience in public policy and socio-economic planning, Dr. Al-Rumayyan has contributed to shaping strategic initiatives that enhance human capital and drive sustainable national development.





**H.E. Mr. Marcelo Esteban Gerona Morales
[Speaker]
Ambassador of the Oriental Republic of
Uruguay to the State of Qatar**

H.E. Mr. Marcelo Esteban Gerona Morales is the Ambassador of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay to the State of Qatar. A seasoned diplomat with extensive experience in international relations and multilateral cooperation, he has represented Uruguay in key postings across the Middle East and Latin America. Ambassador Gerona Morales has been instrumental in advancing Uruguay's engagement on sustainable development, gender equality, and social inclusion through global and regional platforms.

Throughout his diplomatic career, he has worked to strengthen partnerships between Uruguay and the international community, fostering dialogue on innovation, education, and human rights. He holds advanced degrees in international affairs and diplomacy and speaks multiple languages, reflecting his commitment to cross-cultural understanding and cooperation.



**H.E. Mrs. Melvin Wyatt-Ras [Speaker]
Minister of Health, Social Affairs, Elderly
Affairs and Addiction Care, Government of
Aruba**

H.E. Mrs. Melvin Wyatt-Ras is the Minister of Health, Social Affairs, Elderly Affairs and Addiction Care of Aruba. With a strong background in social policy and community development, she has championed inclusive health systems and gender-responsive social protection measures. Minister Wyatt-Ras has been a leading advocate for the well-being and dignity of older persons, advancing reforms to strengthen access to care, combat social isolation, and promote healthy ageing in Aruba.





**H.E. Mr. Vahan Kostanyan [Speaker]
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic
of Armenia**

H.E. Mr. Vahan Kostanyan serves as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Appointed in 2023, he has extensive experience in public administration, political communication, and international relations, having previously served as Adviser and Assistant to the Minister and President of the National Assembly. Mr. Kostanyan has been engaged in advancing Armenia's foreign policy priorities and regional cooperation efforts, with a strong focus on dialogue and diplomacy. He holds a degree in Oriental Studies from Yerevan State University and has pursued specialized courses in public administration, conflict resolution, and human rights.



**Ms. Hanna Onwen-Huma [Speaker]
Ministerial Adviser, Gender Equality Unit,
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland**

Ms. Hanna Onwen-Huma is a Ministerial Adviser in the Gender Equality Unit of Finland's Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, with over two decades of experience advancing gender equality and mainstreaming across government. She leads the Unit's work on UN affairs and Nordic cooperation, serving as Chair of the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality and LGBTI during Finland's 2025 Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Ms. Onwen-Huma has been a key figure in shaping Finland's gender equality policy, including legislation, education, and men's engagement, and holds a Master's degree in Sociology.





Mr. Cherian Mathews [Speaker]
Chief Executive Officer, HelpAge International

Mr. Cherian Mathews is the Chief Executive Officer of HelpAge International, a global network working to promote the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of older people worldwide. With over two decades of leadership experience in international development and humanitarian action, he has led efforts to advance social protection, health, and inclusion for ageing populations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Before joining HelpAge International, Mr. Mathews held senior roles in international NGOs and development organizations, focusing on poverty reduction, community resilience, and rights-based approaches to development. He is widely recognized for his strategic vision and commitment to ensuring that ageing is addressed as a central pillar of sustainable and inclusive development.



Ms. Leyla Sharafi [Moderator]
**Chief, Gender, Human Rights and Inclusion
Branch**
Programme Division, UNFPA/HQ

Ms. Leyla Sharafi is the Chief of the Gender and Human Rights Branch in the Technical Division at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Headquarters. Leyla's role at UNFPA is to coordinate the organization's gender mainstreaming efforts, and manage global gender and human rights programmes including those related to women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Leyla coordinates UNFPA's system wide accountability on disability inclusion, and manages UNFPA's flagship initiative We Decide to promote the rights of women and young persons with disabilities. Leyla brings with her more than 20 years of international work experience at the United Nations including at UNFPA, UNIFEM, the Executive Office of the Secretary General, and UNDESA. Prior to joining the UN, Leyla worked





in the media sector both in an NGO in Ghana, and as a journalist and editor for a number of years.

**Ms. Aparna Mehrotra [Speaker & Moderator]
Director, UN System Coordination Division and
Senior Executive Advisor on Ageing, UN
Women**

Ms. Aparna Mehrotra is the Director of the UN System Coordination Division and Senior Executive Advisor on Ageing at UN Women. She serves as Secretary of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and Chair of its Working Group on Ageing, and a member of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, advancing system-wide coherence and accountability.

With over four decades of UN service across four continents—Africa, Asia, Latin America, and North America—she co-founded and led the development of the UN System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP), the UN’s accountability framework for gender equality. Earlier, she pioneered the first inter-agency campaign on violence against women across 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and served with the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Iraq, contributing to the Security Council-mandated International Advisory and Monitoring Board for Iraq.

Previously, she was the UN Focal Point for Women, leading initiatives on gender parity, inclusive organizational culture, and anti-harassment policies. Her work continues to bridge policy, reform, and coordination to embed gender equality and a life-course perspective—including ageing—across global development frameworks.





**Ms. Sanjolli Kumari Padhy [Speaker]
Coordinator, VOICES – Vision of Impact,
Change, Equity and Solidarity, The YP
Foundation (India)**

Ms. Sanjolli Kumari Padhy is a youth policy advocate and the Coordinator of VOICES at The YP Foundation in India. With experience in programmes addressing gender-based violence, child protection, and adolescent girls' leadership, she has contributed to the design and implementation of policies promoting gender equality and youth participation. Before joining The YP Foundation, she worked with the Government of Odisha and UNICEF to advance initiatives on women's empowerment and adolescent engagement. Passionate about amplifying youth voices in policy spaces, she continues to champion inclusive and rights-based approaches to social change

