

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fifth session
22 February – 4 March 2011

Interactive Expert Panel 2

**Key policy initiatives and capacity-building on gender mainstreaming:
Focus on education and training**

Wednesday, 23 February 2011, 3 – 6 p.m.

Panellists

Ms. Subhangi Herath is a Senior Lecturer in sociology at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka. She has served as a resource person for gender programmes to various government agencies, including the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Family Planning Association, the Labour Department and the Department of Vocational Training. She also worked as a consultant for the Ministry of Higher Education to improve the quality and relevance of higher education. She has previously collaborated with a number of organizations including the Asian Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, OXFAM, and Care International. Her past research covers a wide range of issues, including the gender aspects of vocational training, rural development through empowerment of women, and economic empowerment of women.

Ms. Diana Serafini is the Vice Minister for Educational Management in the Ministry of Education and Culture in Paraguay. She has extensive experience in gender issues, including in the realm of education, employment, HIV/AIDS and governance. She has been particularly active in the development of gender-sensitive curricula and educational materials, for both teachers and students. Ms. Serafini has also

collaborated with UNDP, the European Union, and government agencies of Latvia on various gender-related research projects. She has served as a national expert on the European Commission's Network of Experts on Employment and Gender Equality Issues, as well as the European Union Advisory Committee on Vocational Training. She is currently a national union representative in the European Sectoral Social Dialogue on Education.

Ms. S. Gülser Corat is the Director of UNESCO's Division for Gender Equality in the Office of the Director-General. Before joining UNESCO in 2004, she pursued a dual career in academia and in international development. Her academic work included research and teaching in the field of political economy at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa in Canada. As an international development practitioner, she was a senior development advisor for various organizations including UNDP, UNCTAD, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Canadian International Development Agency. She has also worked with civil society organizations especially in Asia and Africa, as well as in the private sector.