



APWWmeet SERIES 2020

Working for the Creation of UN Women: The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign



Lopa Banerjee is the Director of the Civil Society Division at UN Women. She is based in New York and leads UN Women's work on supporting and strengthening women's rights groups and civil society movements as well as their contribution, participation and influence in policy discussion and decision processes at global, regional and national levels. Lopa's work focuses on partnership development with civil society organizations to influence global action on gender equality, in particular related to standard setting, policy discussion and stakeholder accountability processes.



Noeleen Heyzer has served as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and was the first woman to serve as the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Prior to this, Noeleen was the first woman from the South to head the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), serving as Executive Director for 13 years. Under her leadership, UNIFEM's annual resources grew to about \$150 million invested in women's economic security and rights; ending violence against women; women's political empowerment; women, peace and security; and a presence in 80 countries. She and her team were instrumental in the establishment of UN Women. Noeleen was a founding member of several international women's networks.



Patricia Licuanan chaired the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) during the preparations for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW). In Beijing, China in 1995, she chaired the main committee that negotiated the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. She has played leadership roles in NGOs and networks in the Asia Pacific Region such as Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW), Southeast Asia Women's Watch (SEAWWatch) and Women and Gender Institute (WAGI). In the Philippines she was a long-time professor of Psychology, chair of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), president of Miriam College, and Minister of Higher Education.



Bandana Rana is the vice-chair of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN CEDAW). Throughout her career she has actively worked on issues of violence against women including violence in times of conflict in Nepal, serving as Executive President for Saathi a women's NGO working on violence against women and children in Nepal. She has been active in all Beijing processes nationally and globally. As founder of National Network for Beijing- Review Nepal she convened the Beijing+15 and Beijing+20 National Conferences and worked on the Beijing +15 +20 +25 NGO Reports. She has served as the Chairperson of the National Women's Commission of Nepal.



Moderator: Sepali Kottegoda is an academic and a women's rights activist. She is the Director Programmes - Women's Economic Rights and Media at the Women and Media Collective, Sri Lanka. She was the Chair of Asia Pacific Women's Watch (2008-2012) and member of the Asia Pacific B+25 CSO Steering Committee. Sepali is a Visiting Lecturer in Gender/Women's Studies at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo. She was a member of the Sri Lanka National Committee on Women, the Council of the Social Scientists' Association, the Sub-Committee on Migration of the Human Rights Commission.