



International Women Leaders' Conference

On

Promoting Gender Equality through Economic Empowerment: Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda

PROGRAM

October 25-30, 2015

Haifa, Israel

**MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem**

The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC), Haifa

In cooperation with

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
(UN Women)**

And the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

SUNDAY, October 25

12.45 Depart from Dan Panorama hotel for lunch at The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) – Optional

14.00 Return to the hotel

16.30 Depart from Dan Panorama hotel for Opening Ceremony

17.00 **Official Opening Ceremony at the “YAMA” Banquet Hall**

Introduction to the 29th International Women Leaders’ conference
Ms. Hava Karrie, Director, The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center

Greetings:

H.E. Ambassador Gil Haskel, Head of MASHAV, Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, and Deputy Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Hon. MK Gila Gamliel, Minister for Social Equality, Israel

Ms. Hedva Almog, Deputy Mayor of Haifa and Acting Mayor

Ms. Kristin Hetle, Director of Strategic Partnerships, UN Women

Mr. Michael O’Neill, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP

Musical interlude by Ms. Rose Fostanes, Winner of the Israeli “X Factor”

Keynote Speaker

Ms. Amina Mohammed, UN Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning

19.30 **Festive Dinner**

21.00 Return to the hotel

MONDAY, October 26

08.00 **Depart from the hotel to MCTC**

08.30 PLENARY SESSION 1

Setting the Stage: Women's economic empowerment as a prerequisite for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty

This session will frame the importance of women's economic empowerment as a prerequisite for sustainable development and fulfilment of the SDGs. It will provide a wide perspective of progress made since the MDGs were proclaimed, an overview of key challenges and experiences, and provide a forward-looking perspective in the context of the implementation of SDGs.

Chair:

H.E. Lorena Herrera , Vice President of Honduras

Panel Presenters:

- **Amina Mohammed, UN Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning**
- **H.E. Ambassador Prof. Akiko Yamanaka, Special Ambassador for Peacebuilding, Japanese Government, Japan**
- **Hon. Julia Duncan Cassel, Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia**
- **Randi Davis, Director, Gender Team, UNDP**

10.30 Group photo

11.00 PLENARY SESSION 2

Discussing women's economic empowerment and their control over economic assets and natural resources

This session will focus on the vulnerabilities of women resulting from structural gender inequalities, women's concentration in the informal sector, self-employment and as unpaid family workers. It will analyse options for their equal rights to economic resources, access to ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, and natural resources. It will identify possible policy entry points through the national and regional experiences, giving special attention to the population of rural women.

Chair:

Hon. Sheila Abed, Minister of Justice and Labor, Paraguay

Panel Presenters:

- **Dr. Yin Yin Nwe, Chief Education Advisor to the President of the Union of Myanmar and Special Advisor to the Myanmar Peace Center, Myanmar**
- **Dr. Ana Birchall, Chairperson of European Affairs Committee of Chamber of Deputies, Romania**
- **Christine Musisi, Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa, UNWOMEN**
- **Nina Groes, Director at KVINFO - The Danish Centre of Research and Information on Gender, Equality and Diversity, Denmark**
- **Hon. Erisa Xhixho, Deputy Minister of European Integration, Albania**

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **PLENARY SESSION 3**

Discussing economic and social policies to promote women's decent work and address care economy – practical policy recommendations

This session will discuss recognition and value of the unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family. It will highlight successful interventions and policies with emphasis on identifying challenges faced and factors that led to success.

Chair:

Hon. Nana Oye Lithur, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana

Panel Presenters:

- **Hon. Prof. Marija Ausrine Pavilionienė MP, Member of the Seimas, Lithuania**
- **Jacqueline L'Hoist Tapia, President of the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination Mexico City (COPRED), Mexico**
- **Dr. Judith Shamian, President - International Council of Nurses**
- **Rose Rwabuhiri, Chairperson of the Gender Monitoring Office, Rwanda**
- **Mohammad Abbadi, Local Development Program Manager, Local Development Financial Practice, UNCDF**
- **Laura Grecu, State Secretary, Ministry of Labor, Social affairs and Family, Republic of Moldova**
- **Sapana Pradhan Malla, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court, Nepal**

15.30 Depart from MCTC to The Baha'i World Center

16.00 **Visit the Baha'i World Center**
The Baha'i religion is a relatively new faith in the world. The spiritual and administrative heart of the Bahá'í community is located in Haifa, Israel, and is known for the temple that sits on a mountain overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.
Meet with **Ms. Sarah Vader, Deputy Secretary-General of the Baha'i International Community.**
View of the gardens and terraces.

Vote of thanks: **Anne Louise Hübert, Founder of "Aid in Action", Norway**

Departure point after the visit: 87 Ha'Tzionut Avenue, Haifa

17.30 Return to the hotel

19.00 **Depart from the hotel for Dinner and Folklore evening hosted by the Mayor of Haifa**
Musical interlude by The Jewish-Arab orchestra of Neve Yosef Community Center And Shiluvim Koliim (Vocal Combinations) youth choir

The Neve Yosef Community Center's Jewish-Arabic Orchestra comprises 15 teenagers – Jews, Christians, and Muslim. The orchestra plays ethnic instruments and performs unique arrangements to Hebrew and Arabic songs, as well as world, ethnic, and classical music. The orchestra's Musical Manager and Conductor is Albert Balan.

The Shiluvim Koliim (Vocal Combinations) youth choir, under the musical direction of Hillel Shitrit, combines the various cultures and sounds of Eastern Haifa, reflecting a rich and unique human mosaic. The group is a platform for expressing the youths' personal talents through song, dance, and other performance arts, as well as one for bringing together the various cultures and languages, facilitating a creative and special discourse through joint action, creation, performances, and volunteering in the community.

Vote of thanks: **Ambassador Dr. Cristina Aguiar, Human Rights Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic**

21:30 Return to the Hotel

TUESDAY, October 27

08.00 **Depart from the hotel to MCTC**

08.30 **PLENARY SESSION 4**
Discussing women's participation in economic decision making

This session will discuss the importance of women's full and effective

participation in economic decision making and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of economic life. It will analyse policy options for increasing the number of women in the corporate boards, trade unions, banks, and other decision making positions. It will give an overview from around the world of the policies and strategies being used to address the gender disparities in the leadership positions and management jobs.

Chair:

Hon. Michaela Marksová-Tominová, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Czech Republic

Panel Presenters:

- **Nino Zambakhidze, Director of Regional Development Association Projects, Chairwomen of Georgian Farmers Association and CEO of Georgian Business Zone, Georgia**
- **Hana Pri-Zan, Chairman of the Board, Peilim Portfolio Management Ltd, Israel**
- **Dr. Zarina Arslanova, Independent Director, KazAtomProm, Kazakhstan**
- **Dr. Gordica Karanfilovska, Advisor at the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Macedonia**
- **H.E. Isabel Saint Malo, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Panama**
- **Hon. Gulan Avci, Chairman, Swedish Federation of Liberal Women, Sweden**
- **Maria da Conceição Zagalo, President of GRACE General Assembly, in representation of IBM, Portugal**

10.00

PLENARY SESSION 5

Discussing women's entrepreneurship

This session will examine importance of women's entrepreneurship for women's economic empowerment. It will examine the challenges facing women entrepreneurs and focus on the importance of engaging women in economic activities and breaking down the barriers preventing women from creating a new entrepreneurial class that would diversify the local economies and contribute to an inclusive and sustainable economic growth. It will highlight successful interventions, policies, and programming through sharing best practices. This session will also give special focus to the capacity building of women entrepreneurs.

Chair:

H.E. Maria de Jesus Veiga Miranda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cape Verde

Panel Presenters:

- **H.E Marisol Espinoza Cruz, First Vice President of Peru**
- **Moran Bar, Co-founder and CEO of Geekmedia, Israel**
- **Christel Alvergne, Deputy Director, Local Development Finance,**

UNCDF

- **Sabetha Mwambenja, Chairlady and President Covenant Bank, Tanzania**
- **Hon. Dr. Cândida Narciso, Governor of the Province of Lunda Sul, Angola**
- **Anna Fälth, Manager, EmpowerWomen.org, UNWOMEN**

11.30 **SESSION 6**
Working group discussions (in separate language groups)

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **PLENARY SESSION 7**
Group reports to the Plenum

Co-Chair: **Kristin Hetle, Director, Strategic Partnerships at UNWOMEN**

Co-Chair: **Hava Karrie, Director, The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center**

Conclusions and Recommendations

15.30 Leave for Professional Visit – “Gamila Secret”, Pki’in

17.00 **Meet with Gamila ‘Hir, founder of “Gamila Secret”**
Gamila ‘Hir is well known for being the first woman entrepreneur of Druze origin to establish what was once a small, homemade soap-making business, that turned into an international enterprise employing people from all ethnic groups in the village of Peki’in in Israel’s Galilee.

Vote of thanks: **Naw Nau Htoo, Civil Society and Media Program Analyst, UNDP, Myanmar**

18.30 Dinner at "Roberg" – a Galilean Culinary experience in Moshav Livnim, with Breathtaking view of the Galilee and Golan Heights

20.30 Return to Haifa

WEDNESDAY, October 28

08.00 Depart for a professional visit at Intel Israel in Kiryat Gat

10.30 **Meet with Ms. Maxine Fassberg, CEO, Intel Israel, and Vice president Intel Corporation**

Vote of thanks: **H.E. Ambassador Prof. Akiko Yamanaka, Special Ambassador for Peacebuilding, Japanese Government, Japan**

- 12.00 **Tour the factory**
- 13.00 Lunch at Intel Kiryat Gat
- 13.45 Depart for Jerusalem
- 15.00 Arrive at the Hotel – **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem**
- 16.20 Depart for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 17.00 **Meet with Dr. Karnit Flug, Governor of the Central Bank of Israel**
- A talk on *“Israel’s Economy – From a Woman’s perception”*
- Vote of thanks: **Sabetha Mwambenja, Chairlady and President Covenant Bank, Tanzania**
- 18.00 **Reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hosted by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, MK Tzipi Hotovely**
- Introduction: **Ms. Sharon Kabalo, Director of Policy and International Relations Department, MASHAV, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- H.E. Ambassador Gil Haskel, Head of MASHAV, Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, and Deputy Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- MK Tzipi Hotovely, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs**
- Hon. Marisol Espinoza Cruz, First Vice President of Peru, speaking on behalf of the participants**
- Musical Interlude – “Magic Three Violins”**
- Festive Dinner**
- 20.00 Return to Crown Plaza Hotel

THURSDAY, October 29

- 08.30 Depart from the hotel
- 09.00 **Visit to Yvel**
- Yvel is a for-profit **social business** providing skills, economic empowerment, and social integration to new immigrants. From its inception until today, Yvel focuses on creating a better life for new Israeli immigrants. Founded in 1986

by husband and wife team Orna and Isaac Levy, Yvel has flourished over the last two and half decades as an esteemed jewelry brand, blossoming from a small start-up firm to an international success (<http://www.yvel.com>).

Vote of thanks: **Dr. Zarina Arslanova, Independent Director, KazAtomProm, Kazakhstan**

11.00 Leave for visit to Beit Hanassi – official residence of the President of Israel

11.30 **Reception at the Presidential Residence. Meet H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin, the President of the State of Israel**

Introduction: **H.E. Ambassador Gil Haskel, Head of MASHAV, Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, and Deputy Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Vote of thanks: **H.E. Maria de Jesus Veiga Miranda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cape Verde**

Presentation of the 29th International Women Leaders’ Conference Declaration (Haifa Declaration)

12.30 Depart for Lunch at the Israel Museum

13.00 **Farewell Lunch hosted by H.E. Ambassador Gil Haskel, Head of MASHAV, Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation, and Deputy Director General of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Vote of thanks: **H.E. Lorena Herrera , Vice President of Honduras**

14.00 Depart for “Yad Vashem”

14.30 Yad Vashem: Guided tour of the Holocaust Memorial Museum

*** *Optional* sightseeing**