

## The High-Level Event on Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development **Post-2015 and Beijing+20: Women's Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Development – the Synthesis for Success**

Date: March 2, Monday

Place: Riga, Latvia

Venue: National Library of Latvia

This high-level event aims to identify possible solutions for ensuring women's equal rights and access to the market and economic resources and for unlocking women's economic potential. Furthermore, the discussions will highlight best practices on women's entrepreneurship and their contribution to sustainable social, economic and environmental development through the economic perspective. The main deliverables of the conference will consist of the Chair's Summary reflecting the conclusions from the various panels and putting forward proposals to promote women's economic empowerment in the post-2015 framework and the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action.

Conference moderator: Mr. Simon Maxwell, Senior Researcher Associate of *Overseas Development Institute*

### Programme

- 08:00 – 09:00      **Registration**  
**Morning Coffee** – Lobby, Ground Floor
- 09:30 – 09:35      **Welcoming remarks** by Ms Zanda Kalniņa – Lukaševica, Parliamentary State Secretary for EU Affairs of Latvia
- 09:35 – 10:15      **Launch of the High-level Event** – “Ziedoņa” Hall, Ground Floor  
Opening statements by:
- H.E. Ms Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of Parliament of Latvia
  - Mr Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development
  - Prof. Dr. Vaira Vīķe - Freiberga, former President of the Republic of Latvia, President of the Club de Madrid and EYD2015 Goodwill Ambassador
  - Mr Moez Doraid, Director, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women
- 10:15 – 11:45      **Panel 1: Empowering Economics: Enabling an Environment Conducive for Full Participation of Women** – “Ziedoņa” Hall, Ground Floor
- In view of the upcoming intergovernmental discussions on post-2015 and CSW59, this session will aim at identifying concrete actions for the economic empowerment of women through equal rights and opportunities, as well as access to financial resources, social protection and gender sensitive working conditions, as a contribution to sustained and inclusive growth.

Panelists:

- Ms Lilianne Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands
- Mr Lapo Pistelli, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy
- Ms Sofia Sprechmann, Programme Director, "CARE International"
- Ms Cathy Pieters, Director, Cocoa Life Program, "Mondelēz International"
- Ms Federica Ortalli, Member of the Board, Milan Chamber of Commerce

11:45 – 12:00

**Heads of Delegations family photo** - Lobby, Ground Floor

12:00 - 12:30

**High-level Press Conference** - "Baltija" Hall, Ground Floor

- Ms Zanda Kalniņa – Lukaševica, Parliamentary State Secretary for EU Affairs of Latvia
- Mr Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development

12:30 - 14:00

**Lunch break** – National Library of Latvia restaurant, Ground Floor

**Working lunch on Financing for Gender Equality and Women and Girls in Development (Invitation only)** – "Jūra" Hall, Ground Floor

Keynote speaker:

- Mr Jon Lomøy, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

14:00 – 15:30

**Panel 2: Women in Entrepreneurship: a Multidimensional Contribution to Sustainable Development** - "Ziedoņa" Hall, Ground Floor

Entrepreneurship is one of the most effective ways to unlock and show women's potential, benefit for the communities and contribution to global sustainable development in all three dimensions – economic, social and environmental. The discussion aims to identify best practices and examples of how women's participation in economic processes and gender equality as such can efficiently contribute to sustained development, for instance, by sustainable production.

Panelists:

- Ms Michaela Bergman, Chief Counsellor for Social Issues, EBRD
- Ms Helen Hai, CEO, "Made in Africa Initiative" and UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador
- Ms Rupa Ganguli, Founder and Director, "SPINNA Circle"
- Ms Sofia Amaral de Oliveira, Technical Specialist on Conditions of Work and Employment, and Gender Equality, ILO
- Ms Annelies van den Berg, Senior Expert, Plan Nederland

15:30 – 16:00      **Coffee break** - Lobby, Ground Floor

16:00 – 17:30      **Panel 3: Strengthening the Dimension of Women's Economic Empowerment in Post-2015 framework** - "Ziedoņa" Hall, Ground Floor

This session aims to define the next steps, how to integrate the discussed solutions/practices and what kind of structural changes are in need within post-2015 framework and can be efficient in further implementation of Beijing Platform for Action as well.

Panelists:

- Baroness Northover, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Cooperation, The Lead Spokesperson for International Development in the House of Lords, United Kingdom
- Mr Martin Bille Hermann, State Secretary for Development of Denmark
- Mr Andris Piebalgs, the former European Commissioner for Development, EYD2015 Goodwill Ambassador
- Dr. Caren Grown, Senior Director for Gender, World Bank
- Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair, Southern Voice on Post-MDG, a former Ambassador to WTO and UN Offices in Geneva and Vienna

17:30                **Closing remarks**

- Mr Uldis Augulis, the Minister of Welfare of Latvia
- Ms Zanda Kalniņa – Lukaševica, Parliamentary State Secretary for EU Affairs of Latvia

**Reception** – Lobby, Ground Floor

For any further questions regarding the High-Level Event, please do not hesitate to contact: Ms. Jana Kurpisa (e-mail: jana.kurpisa@mfa.gov.lv; phone: +371 670 16 127) for content-related questions and Ms. Ilze Logina (e-mail ilze.logina@prae.lv) or Ms. Zane Ievina (e-mail: zane.ievina@prae.lv) for logistical/participation queries.