



## COMITÉ DE LA CONDITION DE LA FEMME COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



### PRESIDENT/PRESIDENTE

**Conchita Poncini**

International Federation of University Women

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**Krishna Ahojapatel**

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

**Simone Ovarit**

Zonta International

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Women's Federation for World Peace, Int'l

**Ursula Barter Hemmerich**

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

### TREASURER/TRESORIERE

**Joyce Jett**, Solar Cookers International

### CONVENORS OF WORKING GROUPS

#### DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

**Astrid Stuckelberger**, Society for Psychological Studies of Social Issues

#### DISPLACED WOMEN

**Joyce Jett/ Krishna Ahojapatel**

Solar Cooker International/WILPF

#### EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMICS

##### OF GENDER

**Conchita Poncini/Karin Kausch**

Intl Fed. of University Women

Intl Federation of Business and Professional Women

#### ENVIRONMENT

**Jeannine de Boccard**, International Council of Women

#### GENDER EQUALITY: ROLE OF MEN AND BOYS

##### BOYS

**David Fernandez-Puyana**, Spanish Society on International Human Rights Law

#### HEALTH

**Afton Beutler/ Manjit Dosanjh**, Worldwide Organisation of Women/ IFUW

#### NUTRITION

**Joanna Koch/ Myrna Lachenal**

Associated Country Women of the World

World Federation on Mental Health

#### PEACE

**Bineta Diop/ Edith Ballantyne**

Femmes Africa Solidarité /WILPF

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN and GIRLS

**Hendrica Okondo/ Elly Pradervand**

World YWCA/ WWSF

#### TASK FORCE ON RELIGIOUS AND

TRADITIONAL RIGHTS AND THEIR IMPACT

ON GENDER EQUALITY

**Berhane Raswork**

Inter African Committee

February 15, 2011

Ms. Michelle Bachelet

Executive Director, UN Women

Dear Madam Bachelet,

At last, after years of collective campaigning and lobbying all over the world for a women's composite entity in the United Nations, it is now a reality.

We warmly congratulate you as the designated Executive Director of "UN Women". We are very encouraged by your first moving of program priorities which link closely to the goals of our own committee in Geneva. We have active Working Groups that are following up to the issues that you have earmarked as important.

On behalf of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women of which I am President, we would like to convey to you certain concerns which we hope can be addressed by your organization- as well as our own commitment to be engaged from our side.

Each of the five thematic priorities that you outlined is dealt with in depth in one or more of our working groups or task force. "Violence against women" and "Peace" are active on issues related to SCR 1325 and have very close roots in the women's grassroots movements over several continents. "Employment and Economics of Gender" is spearheading a large forum on women's entrepreneurship for the committee in November, 2011.

Our main platform in Geneva is toward the Human Rights Council and in cooperation with the OHCHR, but many of our working groups coordinate with other international organizations located here; ILO, WHO, IOM, OHCR, UNCTAD, etc. More recent additions to our family of mandates are "Gender Equality: the Role of men and Boys and a task force that sprang from some recent debates in the HRC on religious and traditional rights.

We will continue to support the goals that you have prioritized and would like to stay in touch with your office about our advances -as well as receive any advice from you about how we could better coordinate our efforts.

With sincere wishes for success in all these important endeavors,

Conchita Jimenez Poncini