

CSW66 Dialogue: Women Leaders Impact Change Globally Thursday, March 24, 2022 - 1PM-3:30PM, EDT



H.E. Mrs. Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO in Paris. Ambassador Miculescu has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO since January 2021, after holding the position of Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Office in Belgrade, between 2015 and 2020. Prior to this, she was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, between 2008 and 2015. During her term in New York, Amb. Miculescu held several positions including: Vice-President of the UNICEF Executive Board, Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Francophonie, Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the General Assembly during its 66th Session, Vice-President of the UN General Assembly for its 68th Session, and Chair of the 53rd Session of the UN Commission for Social Development. Amb.

Miculescu's 30 years of diplomatic career include the positions of Spokesperson for the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Media Advisor to the Minister (1993 and 1999), Director of the Press Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1994 and 2008), Press Secretary of the Embassy of Romania to the US (1994-1998), or Senior Public Information Officer at the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Kosovo (1999-2000). Between 2000 and 2004, she served as Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Romania (with rank of minister), becoming eventually the first woman in the Romanian diplomatic history to be granted the rank of Ambassador. Between 2006 and 2007, she acted as Senior Advisor for Public Outreach to the Government of Iraq, within a USAID-funded project. Amb. Miculescu holds the titles of Doctor Honoris Causa Beneficiorum Publicorum of the Western University in Timișoara, as well as the title of Doctor Magna Cum Laudae of the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. This is due to the fact that, in parallel with her diplomatic career, she has developed a rich academic and public communication experience that includes teaching international public relations courses at two universities in Romania, as well as publishing several books and articles on related topics. In her country, she is recognized also as one of the best experts in the field of international public relations management, being appreciated especially due to the elaboration of the first university curriculum on this subject, a study program currently used by several universities. Ambassador Miculescu has a passion for singing, and many times she matched it with projects of cultural diplomacy. During her term as Ambassador of Romania to the United Nations, she initiated several unprecedented music projects that included the "Ambassadors Sing for Peace" music album - containing peace-themed songs performed by ambassadors - and the UNRocks Music Group, that was the first ever music group in the UN circles composed of ambassadors, with which she released, in cooperation with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, a music album called "Strong UN, Better World". Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu is married and has two children.



Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa President of the UN73rd General Assembly. Member of the Group of Women Leaders for Change and Inclusion, Ecuador. Ms. Espinosa is an Ecuadorian academic, diplomat, politician and poet. A linguist and with graduate studies in Amazonian Studies and Environmental Geography. Ms. Espinosa has more than 30 years of professional experience in academia, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and high-level government positions. In Ecuador, she served as Minister of Foreign Affairs in two occasions, Minister of National Defense and as advisor for the constitutional process of 2008. With a vote of two thirds of its membership, her most recent appointment was to serve as President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (2018-2019), becoming the fourth woman in history and the first from Latin America and the Caribbean to be elected to preside this body since its foundation in 1945. Currently Ms. Espinosa has several advisory roles in the areas of global governance, health diplomacy and multilateralism. Among other responsibilities, she is a member of the Group of Women Leaders for Change and Inclusion, member of The Lancet Commission

on COVID-19, The Science Panel for the Amazon and a fellow at the Bosch Academy in Germany.



Hon. Ms. Bonita Zarrillo, Member of Parliament for Port Moody—Coquitlam, Canada, NDP Critic for Infrastructure and Communities, NDP Critic for Disability Inclusion, NDP Deputy Critic for Health.

In her community, Bonita is known to be a voice for equality. In her political work, she drives systemic change that puts people first. Before coming to Ottawa in 2021 as one of the 103 women Members of Parliament, Bonita spent 3 terms as a municipal city councillor advocating for working people and supporting the needs of the most vulnerable in the community. She championed women in the economy and buy-local initiatives, challenged pipeline corporations, and completed a successful housing affordability strategy that generated the most rental housing starts in the region. Bonita gets things done. Board and committee roles include: Federal Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities; Multiculturalism Advisory; Indigenous Relations Committee; Universal Access-Ability Advisory; and Board Member for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Bonita has also sat on multiple Not-For-Profit boards that advocate for women, gender identity, and equality and is a regular panelist at The Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. Before being elected Bonita worked as a Business Analyst for food and beverage companies across North America and Europe. She has a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Manitoba, a Human Resource Management Certificate from the University of Calgary and has a Computer Science Degree from CDI Montreal. Bonita acknowledges that she lives and works on the unceded traditional territory of the kwikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem).



Dr. Linda Vakunta, Deputy Mayor of Madison Wisconsin, Founder and Executive Director of Project 1808. Dr. Vakunta joined the Mayor's Office to assist with housing and human services with more than a decade of experience in grassroots community engagement and program development, monitoring and evaluation work. She served as Program Director at the Chicago-based Heartland Alliance International (HAI), where she led, developed, and designed training programs for government, community, and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking in persons. In recent years, she has worked as a researcher with Sustaining Natural Circle's CDC funded grant on understanding impacts of opioid use among African American women in Madison. Dr. Vakunta is a founder and executive director of a Wisconsin-based non-profit called Project 1808. She was instrumental in the growth, success, and global-local recognition of the group as an important player in transforming lives, enabling youth and adults, and building capacity in Sierra Leone through School-Community-University Partnership Models. She holds a PhD in Environmental Studies, a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Psychology and a Bachelor's Degree

in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Ms. Hawa Taylor-Kamara Diallo, Chief of the Civil Society Unit within the Civil Society, Advocacy and Special Events Section of the United Nations Department of Global Communications. Hawa began her United Nations career in 1986 with the UN Department of Public Information (now Department of Global Communications) in New York, where she worked in various public information capacities. From 1992 to 1994, she served in two United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia and Somalia, respectively. In 1994, She joined the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General until moving the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi, as an Associate Human Settlements Officer. She later served as a Partners and Youth Programme Officer until moving to UN-Habitat's New York Liaison Office in 2010. Currently, she is Chief of the Civil Society Unit within the Civil Society, Advocacy and Special Events Section of the Department of Global Communications, where she manages United Nations and civil society partnerships activities. She has extensive experience in designing and

implementing United Nations communications and outreach programmes to foster civil society partnerships, with an emphasis on youth and women's organizations. Hawa is a national of Sierra Leone and the United States of America.



Dr. Azza Karam, Secretary-General of Religions for Peace. This is the largest multi-religious leadership platform with 92 national and 6 regional Interreligious Councils. Dr. Karam also holds a Professorship of Religion and Development at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam (The Netherlands), of which she is a citizen. Dr. Karam served in intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organisations since the early 1990s, and has lectured in various academic institutions in Europe, North America (including the United States Military Academy/West Point), and in the Arab region. She served in different positions in the United Nations since 2004. Her last post was as a Senior Advisor on Culture, at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and as Founder and Convenor of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development; where she coordinated engagement with over 20 members of the United Nations system, as well as with over 600 faith-based and faith-inspired NGO members of a Global Interreligious Network on Development from all regions of the world. She was a founder of the Multi-Faith

Advisory Council of the UN Interagency Task Force, and the Lead Facilitator for the United Nations' Strategic Learning Exchanges on Religion, Development and Diplomacy, building on years of experience as a trainer on inter-cultural leadership in the Arab region, Europe and Central Asia. Her Ph.D., in 1996, focused on Political Islam, and became her first book in Arabic and English. She has since published widely, in several languages, on international political dynamics, including democratization, human rights, peace and security, gender, religious engagement, and sustainable development. She was born in Egypt, lived and worked in many countries, and now resides in the United States.



Ms. Maureen Maguire, President of Soroptimist International from Ireland. Maureen commenced her 2 year biennium on 1 January 2022. Recognising, the importance of education, empowerment and enablement, she selected "Education" as the theme for the SI President's Appeal. She believes that education and training is essential to achieving gender equality, empowering women and girls to be change leaders, and contribute to and benefit from an inclusive and sustainable future. Education, a basic human rights for all people, is the one area that is required by all of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all people. Maureen began her journey as a Soroptimist in 1989 and is a member of SI Portadown, Northern Ireland. Serving at Club, Regional, Federation, and SI levels, Maureen held the role of Federation President of Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland from 2011 to 2012. During her professional life, she worked for 38 years within the Northern Ireland Health and Social Services, in the Procurement and Supply, Contracting, Facilities

Management, and Primary Care sectors, before setting up her own Consultancy Company. She has a Master's Degree in Public Procurement, and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Supply Management, and Health Services Management, in addition to being a Trustee and Board member of Training for Women Network (TWN) N Ireland, and United Nations Association, Northern Ireland Region. She has played an important liaison role with the Department of Justice, Northern Ireland, working on increasing awareness of, and helping to reduce the incidence of Modern Day Slavery.



Ms. Elaine Lum MacDonald, CEO of The Knowledge Pledge. Elaine is committed to harnessing the talents of the private sector to empower social enterprises across sectors and sizes succeed in their quests to create positive societal and environmental impact. Elaine is currently the CEO of The Knowledge Pledge, a global movement of purpose-driven leaders and innovative social entrepreneurs committed to securing a brighter future for people and the planet by exchanging knowledge. In this role, she is paving the way to enable leaders to leverage their skills, insights, and connections to spark action and accelerate progress on the world's most pressing issues. Specifically, The Knowledge Pledge focuses on creating impact in four sectors: Education, Economic Opportunity, Health & Well Being, and Climate Action—all aligned with the UN SDGs. Prior to her role at The Knowledge Pledge, Elaine was the Executive Director of Harvard Business School Community Partners of Northern California, where she inspired Harvard Business School alumni to leverage their business management talents to support nonprofits drive positive social change.

Before her pivot to advance the social impact sector at large, Elaine founded a strategic marketing consultancy, was a Marketing Leader at the Clorox Company, and was a global management consultant for The Monitor Group. Elaine received her A.B. from Harvard College, and MBA from Harvard Business School. She currently serves on the Harvard Business School Alumni Board, is a Partner at Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund, a member of Ascend Leadership, and serves on local boards. She resides in Menlo Park, CA.



Ms. Kate Porter, Global HR Director of SafeMoon. Kate is a successful HR practitioner with more than 15 years working in Human Resources across industries including Automotive Engineering, Banking/Finance, Telecommunications, Online Wagering, Pharmaceutical and, most recently, in the Decentralized Finance and Technology space as Global Director of HR for SafeMoon. After graduating from University with First Class Honours, Porter commenced her HR career in automotive engineering which taught her invaluable lessons about working effectively in a male dominated industry that she has carried throughout her career. Then, in telecommunication, she gained the experience of working through internal politics as a young female leader that established her place at the corporate leadership table. Kate does not shy away from challenging situations or difficult conversations. This, coupled with her empathetic and considered nature, has ensured her success. She is an avid reader and personal development enthusiast with a true growth mindset that contributes to her passion for helping people realize their

potential. Through her experience and open demeanour. Kate establishes trust and rapport quickly with her peers and leaders and brings energy and positivity to every workplace. Kate is also a busy mum to three children (11, 10 and 5), an avid meme collector, and business owner. She is steadfast in her individual contributions to the growing theme of Venture Philanthropy in her role at SafeMoon, creating a ripple effect through her actions in both a professional and personal capacity.



Ms. Mary Muia, Founder & Director of WEMA and Soroptimist International Rep to UNEP Rep. in Nairobi, Kenya. Mary is a 2019 Evolution Business Council (EBC) Membership Award nominee as an emerging global leader and is the first EBC member in Africa. She lives in Nairobi, Kenya East Africa region. Mary is passionate about environment, climate change, gender equality, food security, water and sanitation. She champions for rights and access to adolescents and youth reproductive health, family planning, maternal neonatal child health and access to basic services and livelihoods for women and girls living in informal settlements and rural settings. Mary is a founder and director of WEMA, a community-based organization working to transform the lives of adolescent girls and young women to access education, prevent gender-based violence, early child marriages, teenage pregnancies, female genital mutilation (FGM), and other harmful practices through social entrepreneurship and economic resiliency initiatives. Her vision is to influence as a speaker, trainer, and coach in leadership as a tool to empower those working with

girls and young women in vulnerable environments in Africa. A soroptimist, wife and a mother, Mary is the Immediate past Chair and President who helped bring Soroptimist International Africa Federation (SIAF) to its inauguration in June 2020, following many years of its formation journey. Mary was recently appointed to serve as a director for Soroptimist International (SI) Board starting January 2021 and a member of NGOCS-D-NY Executive Board and member of the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster.



Ms. Teddy Slavcheva, Co-Founder & CEO at Sooo Magazine and Co-Founder at InnoP - Circular and Sustainable/Women in Tech, Oslo, Vice Leader/WomenTech Network Global Ambassador/ Nordic Women in Tech 2021 judge. Teddy is a cofounder and partner at Sooo Sustainability - a global immersive digital media covering topics related to SDGs with articles, visuals, audio, video, AR, and VR content from all around the world. Founded in Norway Sooo has a global team of creators, ambassadors, and experts in the area of sustainability. The mission of the organization is to spread awareness, educate and inspire action towards a more sustainable future for all. Teddy is highly interested in how tech can bring positive impact and novel solutions for today's challenges, especially related to sustainability. Following that passion she become one of the founders of InnoP - a company that develops products from recycled plastics with the use of latest technologies and smart design solutions. She is passionate about diversity in leadership and tech and holds the role of a vice leader at Women in Tech Oslo, a non-profit organization

that empowers and encourages more women to thrive in the technology field and lower the barriers of entry. She is also a global ambassador at WomenTech Network on a mission to untie 100 000 women in the field and a Nordic Women in Tech Nordic Awards 2021 judge. She is the Co-founder of Sooo Sustainability awareness and impact/ and Sustainability leadership clubs in Clubhouse she hosts weekly events to highlight the latest news and updates in the area of sustainability and connect sustainability professionals and entrepreneurs around the globe.



Ms. Nudhara Yusuf, Global Youth Coordinator at the Coalition for the UN We Need and Global Governance Innovation Network Facilitator at The Stimson Center, Washington, DC, UK & India. Nudhara is the founder and leader of several grassroots NGOs and CSOs in India and the U.K., focusing primarily on skills-based empowerment of young people and ensuring youth voices are taken seriously in increasingly inter-generational forums. She is also an Honorary Advisor for Youth Leadership with the NGOCS-D-NY. Having built and fostered large action-oriented communities through her various experiences across UNDP's Policy Support Bureau, Crisis management Bureau, and the larger UN system, she hopes to continue to explore the intersection between an empowered youth and a policy-environment that enables their mobilization.



Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First. Since 2017 the civil society-led UN2020 initiative had facilitated discussions with member states, UN officials and civil society advocates on the need for a robust, well prepared 75th anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the organization. In December 2020, the UN2020 campaign was renamed the Coalition for the UN We Need. Together First is a network of individuals, civil society organizations, practitioners, parliamentarians, business leaders and activists from all regions of the world committed to fair, open and inclusive solutions to improve global governance. Jeffery had previously represented CIVICUS as UN Representative (NY), where he was an organizing partner of the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in the lead up to Rio+20 through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda", UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. He was also Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), helping to organize the annual UN DPI/NGO Conferences hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). Jeffery was previously UN Representative (NY) for the U.S. Baha'i Community (1996-2009) where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



Ms. Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. She is Co-Founder & CSO of the SDG Impact Awards Community, Director of UN Relations for Global Family. Margo is a Coalition Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and she is Chair of the Board of Advisors for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is proud to be a Charter Board member of the Soroptimist International Metro New York - SIMNY Chapter and a Climate Reality Project Leader. She is the Convener of the NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster, as well as a member of the Women's Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. Margo is a Designer and Artist with a career in Film, Theatre & TV production. In addition, she is an activist dedicated to supporting the causes related to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. She has worked within the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations. She collaborates with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful programs and projects. The

NGOCS-D-NY was proud to be a Partner of the UN Secretary General's UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Oceans Day/Month initiatives. Margo is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 UN SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: *"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change."* Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into the United Nations discourse to foster investing in the SDG solutions to support the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we "Leave No One Behind." Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from United States President Joseph R. Biden, Jr,

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Our Partners: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, Baha'i International Community, Coalition for the UN We Need, The Stimson Center, SDG Relief Fund, SafeMoon, Together First, SDG Impact Awards Community, Global Family, Soroptimist International, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Empower-a-Billion-Women(EBW), Debate for Peace, Huairou Commission, Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>