

Commission on the Status of Women
53rd session
2-13 March 2009

Interactive Expert Panel
Emerging issue

The gender perspectives of the financial crisis

Thursday, 5 March 2009, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Panellists

1. Ms. Stephanie Seguino (Professor of Economics, University of Vermont, USA)
2. Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (Professor, New School Graduate Program in International Affairs, New York, USA)
3. Ms. Elizabeth Eilor (Independent Consultant on gender equality and macroeconomics, Uganda)
4. Ms. Shamika Sirimanne (Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Africa)

Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, and is on the editorial board of Feminist Economics.

3. Ms. Elizabeth Eilor is an independent consultant in the area of gender equality and macroeconomic policy. She has experience in socio-economic policy analysis, programme evaluation, and strategic planning. She has provided capacity-building and institutional support for civil society organizations, and worked on sector-wide approaches, poverty reduction strategy papers, trade policies, and development cooperation. She previously served as the Executive Director of the African Women's Economic Policy Network, and is currently serving in a number of regional and international civil society boards. She is the vice president of LDC Watch – an international civil society network promoting the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action. She has also worked with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda, as well as various donor agencies and women's organizations.

4. Ms. Shamika Sirimanne is the Chief of the Trade Facilitation Section of the Trade and Investment Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). From 2005-2008 she led UNESCAP's macroeconomic work and its flagship publication, Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (Survey). She led the team that prepared the notable and widely quoted 2007 Survey, which estimated that discrimination against women in labour markets and education alone costs the Asia-Pacific region US\$80 billion a year. Before joining UNESCAP, Ms. Sirimanne was with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), where she task managed the Economic Report on Africa, the flagship publication of UNECA. She also participated in the African Peer Review Mechanism as a lead expert on economic governance issues. Ms. Sirimanne has also worked for the Canadian Department of Finance and World Bank.

5. Ms. Mayra Buvinic is the World Bank's senior spokesperson on gender equality and development. Before joining the World Bank in 2005, she was Chief of the Social Development Division at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the IDB's Special Advisor on Violence Prevention. Prior to this, she was a founding member and President of the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) in Washington, D.C.