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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

66th Commission on the Status of Women
STEM education as a stepping-stone towards
gender transformative climate change policies

Tuesday, 15 March 2022
11:30 AM-1:00 PM EDT /4:30-6:00 PM CET
Online

Speakers' biographies

Side-Event co-organised by the Council of Europe and Italy,
and co-sponsored by Austria, the United Kingdom and the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Opening Session



Elena Bonetti, Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Italy
Elena Bonetti is Associate Professor of Mathematical Analysis at the University of Milan. Graduating in Mathematics in 1997 at the University of Pavia, in 2002 Ms Bonetti obtained a PhD in Mathematics at the University of Milan. She is committed to the Scout Movement and has experiences in the field of education and youth. On 5 September 2019, Elena Bonetti was appointed as Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family by the President of the Italian Republic.



Claudia Luciani joined the Directorate of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe in 1990, first in the External Relations Department and then as political adviser on South East Europe and minorities. She held a number of positions in the Directorate of Political Affairs, including in the field, and served as Director of Political Advice and Co-operation for five years. She was appointed Director of the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes in 2011 and then of the Democratic Governance and Diversity. Since 2018, she is the Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance with a particular focus on the implementation of the Istanbul and Trafficking Conventions. Claudia's work on governance focuses on the functioning of institutions, election assistance, civil society and she organises annually the World Forum for Democracy. Claudia studied philosophy at Trinity College (Washington DC), graduated in Political Science (University of Padua) and holds a specialisation in International Public Law and studied at ENA (Paris).



Susanne Raab, Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration and Media of the Republic of Austria, was appointed Minister of Women and Integration within the Federal Chancellery in January 2020. Her portfolio was subsequently expanded and now also includes matters relating to Family policy (since February 2021) as well as Media policy (since December 2021). Minister Raab was also responsible for Youth policy between February and December 2021 before a new State Secretariat for Youth Affairs was established in the Federal Chancellery. Prior to her appointment as Minister, Susanne Raab served in multiple senior executive roles in the Austrian public service, most notably as Director of the Department for Integration Coordination and the Director-General for Integration in the Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. As an expert for integration policy, she developed and implemented key policy reforms such as the introduction of Austria's first ever Integration Act, which legally enshrines both rights and obligations for migrants and recognised refugees. Susanne Raab holds university degrees in psychology (Mag.rer.nat) and law (Mag.iur) as well as a doctorate in legal studies from the University of Innsbruck, where she also worked as a research assistant in the legal department prior to her appointment as policy advisor in the migration and asylum department of the Ministry of the Interior. Minister Raab has been responsible for a number of key policy reforms

ever since she took office: She increased the budget for the Women's and Gender Equality Portfolio by more than 80 per cent in two years, which mostly benefits violence prevention and protection measures on top of introducing the largest ever violence prevention and protection package. Moreover, her focus lies on the empowerment of young girls and women, particularly with regard to defying gender stereotypes in their career choices and encouraging a stronger uptake of STEM. In the area of integration, her priorities are countering segregation and extremism in migrant communities as well as the integration and empowerment of women. When it comes to the Family portfolio, Minister Raab's key priority in recent months was to ensure that families have all the support they need to get through the pandemic and the associated measures as well as on expanding childcare services in cooperation with the States. In the area of media policy Minister Raab started a comprehensive consultation process for a media policy reform. Susanne Raab is married and has a son, who was born during her tenure as Federal Minister.



Baroness Deborah Stedman-Scott, Order of the British Empire (OBE), Minister for Women, United Kingdom was appointed as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions on 30 July 2019. She was previously a Government Whip (Baroness in Waiting) from 27 October 2017 to 29 July 2019.



Shamila Nair-Bedouelle took up her new duties as Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences on 1 April 2019. She comes to UNESCO from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), where she had served as Director of the OzonAction programme since 2012, providing developing countries with scientific and technical advice on which alternative technologies to choose for the chemical substances depleting the Ozone Layer. A strong advocate for enhancing women's role in science and engineering, she launched UNEP's first training programme for

women technicians in the refrigeration and air conditioning sectors. Born in 1960, Shamila Nair-Bedouelle holds a PhD in Life Sciences from the University of Cape town in South Africa. She has published in numerous scientific journals and is the co-inventor of several patents. Her scientific research focus was on molecular biology. She pursued her research career at the famous French Institute for Research "l'Institut Pasteur" (Paris), and within the pharmaceutical industry at the MIT University Park in Boston, (US). Dr Nair-Bedouelle has pursued her research interests in parallel with her career at the United Nations. For several years, she was selected and appointed as First-Class Director of Research at the French National Medical Research Institute (INSERM) in 2017. Dr Nair-Bedouelle also worked at the European Commission and coordinated scientific research programmes between the EU and developing countries. As Coordinator of the Working Group on Gender Equality at UNESCO from January 2010 onwards, she launched the first Science Camp for Girls in South Africa and coordinated science education projects on the continent.



Maria Elena Boschi, graduated in law, she is a lawyer specialized in corporate law. Currently she is the group leader of Italia Viva party at the Chamber of Deputies and a member of the Assembly of the Council of Europe. She has been Minister for Constitutional Reforms and Relations with Parliament, in the Renzi government (2014-2016) and later she has been the first woman to ever have held the role of Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in the Gentiloni government (2016-2018). In both cases with delegation to equal opportunities. In November 2017 she has chaired the first G7 in history on equal opportunities in Taormina, Italy.

Panel Discussion



Dr Anna Cabré is a climate physicist and oceanographer with a background in astronomy and cosmology. Currently, she is working on a climate security project as a research associate at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2019 she went to Antarctica with 100 women scientists in a leadership programme for a just and sustainable planet, which led her to direct the documentary, [Begin again](#) about motherhood, gender equality, Antarctica, and climate change, and to write two [children's books](#) (*Mamma Goes to Antarctica* and *The Secret Life of Viruses*). *The secret life of the viruses* was written together with [Ellas Lideran](#) (She leads), an association of which she is a co-founder and which promotes the climate and gender agenda in Spain. She is also involved in educating and communicating for a better future, on topics related to our footprint on Earth, oceanography, climate change, or Antarctica.



Antara Ganguli recently joined the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) as the Head of the Secretariat. Before joining UNGEI, she led on gender equality for UNICEF India where she supported state governments to empower girls and support positive masculinity for boys with a focus on gender socialization in schools and prevention of gender-based violence. Antara served as the Deputy Representative for UN Women in Bangladesh and before that, supported the Programme Director's oversight and management of 80 country and regional offices around the world. Prior to joining the UN, she led management consulting teams at Dalberg Global Advisors and Booz Allen Hamilton for the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UN Women, Ministries of Finance, Health, Social Welfare and Human Development in countries in Central Asia and Eastern and Southern Africa, USAID, GIZ, the World Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Antara started her career as a teacher in a municipal school in Pune, India that served children of sex-workers. A novelist and a TedX speaker, she has written for publications like The Atlantic Monthly and Stanford Social Innovation Review. Antara holds a M.A. in International Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. in English Literature and Developmental Psychology from Amherst College. She tweets at @antaraganguli.



Loveth Imo, serves as the Chief Operating Officer at WAAW Foundation. She is an innovative and highly motivated professional, with excellent leadership and communication skills, with a proven ability to develop & promote social services in STEM education. She joined WAAW Foundation in 2012, first serving as a STEM volunteer, counsellor, and camp director. Loveth led the marketing efforts at WAAW foundation until 2016 when she took over as the Business Development Manager. She excels in program development, organizational and strategic planning, partnership building, and fundraising. Due to her strategic thinking, she was

promoted to Chief Operating Officer in 2018 has significantly increased the organization's visibility, implemented sustainable business processes, and developed cutting edge programs. She currently manages the WAAW Foundation regional office in Abuja, Nigeria. Loveth graduated with honours in Geology and Mining (BSc) from The Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Nigeria in 2015. In 2018, She completed a graduate course on STEM curriculum development at the Faculty of Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Massachusetts USA. She is an avid reader, a robotics facilitator, and enjoys networking.



Faith Karanja is an Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of Geospatial and Space Technology, School of Engineering, University of Nairobi. Prof. Karanja has a Ph.D. in Geoinformation from the University of Hannover, Germany, Masters in Surveying and Photogrammetry, Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science, BSc. in Surveying and Photogrammetry all from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, Prof. Karanja has a Masters in Business Administration (Project Management) from Kenyatta University, Kenya. Her core duties entail training, research and consultancy in the field of Geoinformation. Specifically, her field of specialization is in the application of satellite earth observation and Geographic

Information Systems in addressing real life challenges including natural and man-made disasters, food security, poverty, urbanization, natural resource management and effects of climate change effects. In addition to training, she is involved with supervision of Postgraduate students both at Master and PhD level in the field of Geoinformation. She has published widely in peer reviewed journals and presented many conference papers both international and local. She is a Corresponding Member (CM) of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). She is also a commissioner in IGU, Research Methods Commission. At the National Level she participated as a member in the committee mandated with establishing the Kenyan Space Agency. She is a Mentor and Member of the Committee that Co-ordinates UNESCO and Government of Kenya Scientific Camps of Excellence in STEM for High School Girls in Kenya where over 3,000 girls have been mentored.



Karen Morrow is Professor in Environmental Law, Swansea University (since 2007) and has worked at Leeds University, Durham University, the Queen's University of Belfast and the University of Buckingham. Her research interests centre on public participation in environmental law and policy making, with particular emphasis on gender, and she has published extensively in these areas. Her publications include: 'Gender in the global climate governance regime: A day late and a dollar short?': in Gunnhildur Lily Magnúsdóttir and Annica Kronsell (eds): *Gender, Intersectionality and Climate Institutions in Industrialised States*, Routledge (2021); 'Tackling climate change and gender justice – integral; not optional' 2021 *Oñati Socio-Legal Series Vol. 11.1*; 'Climate Justice in the Anthropocene Gender and the Sustainable

Development Goals' in Duncan French and Louis J. Kotzé (eds): *Sustainable Development Goals Law, Theory and Implementation*, Edward Elgar (2018); 'Changing the Climate of Participation: The Development of the Gender Constituency in the Global Climate Change Regime' in Sherilyn Macgregor (ed.): *Gender and Environment Handbook*, Routledge (2017); and 'Integrating gender issues into the global climate change regime' in S. Buckingham and V. le Masson (eds): *Understanding Climate Change* Routledge (2017). She was a founding co-editor of the *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* and the IUCN e-journal. She sits on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*, the *Environmental Law Review*, and the *University of Western Australia Law Review*. She is on the International Advisory Board for Gender and Environment book series (Routledge).



Linda Laura Sabbadini, scholar of social changes, pioneer in gender studies, since 2000 she has been Central Director of the National Institute of Statistics. In the field of Official social and gender statistics in Italy, Ms Sabbadini lead a radical renewal process, starting from designing and implementing statistics of a noteworthy social relevance, for which there are not yet European or international protocols. She gave statistical visibility to invisible people. Awarded by the

President of the Republic through the award of the Commendatore in 2006 and Grande Ufficiale in 2021, Ms Sabbadini took part in several national and international high-level groups within the UN, OECD and at the European level, where she has been, for several years, playing an active part in guiding and innovating statistical and survey methods in the social and gender fields. Included in 2015 in the publication of the 100 Italian excellences, she is author of numerous scientific articles and 10 monographs. She was appointed to the Committee of Economic and Social Experts for the management of Phase 2 of the pandemic, chaired by Vittorio Colao. She is a member of the Scientific Committee of the USB, Budget Forecasting Office of the Parliament. She was Chair of 2021 Women20, the G20 engagement group for women's issues. She is a columnist for *La Stampa* and for *Repubblica*, two of the most important newspapers in Italy.

Jeanne Lenders is a Policy Officer in the Gender Sector of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission. Her focus lies on gender gaps in STEM careers, the integration of the gender dimension in R&I content in Horizon Europe, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality in the European Research Area. Before joining the Commission, she worked on women and refugee rights for non-governmental

organisations in Germany, Greece and Malta. Her academic background lies in European Studies from King's College London.



Moderator: Valeria Robecco is a professional journalist covering the United Nations since 2010 for ANSA, the leading Italian newswire service. She has also reported for several major Italian media outlets such as La Stampa and Il Giornale with a special focus on politics and international affairs. She is currently the President of the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) since the beginning of 2019.