

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Tuesday 8 march 2016 . 9.00-9-45 am
breakfast & speeches

International Environment House I - 11-13 ch. des Anémones

Working to protect
the environment

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

INSPIRATIONAL.WOMEN.GENEVA

A call for nominations for Geneva-based inspirational women working to protect the environment was launched in February 2016. A total of 160 submissions were received, including women working for inter-governmental, non-governmental, governmental and business organizations, academic institutions and civil society. A committee selected 20 of these inspirational women to be part of an exhibition celebrating their achievements, launched on 8 March 2016, on the occasion of International Women's Day.

#GVAWomen4envt #IWD2016



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 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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FOREWORD

The International Women's day (or the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace), is the day when we recognize women for their achievements.

Today we are zooming in on inspirational women in Geneva working for the environment.

The response to our call to find such inspirational women has been overwhelming. We received 160 nominations all of which deserve to be recognised.

Our selection committee deserves many thanks and accolades for managing the difficult task to single out twenty women to shine the light on in this exhibition.

The 20 inspirational women that have been selected by the committee represent a wide range of organizations, sectors, functions and nationalities. Some of our dynamic, knowledgeable and bold enthusiastic women are from the UN family or intergovernmental organizations: UNEP, UNECE, the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, UNDP REDD+, UNITAR, the International Trade Center (ITC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Civil society is represented by passionate and dedicated women from WWF, the International Institute on Sustainable Development and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We also recognise today respected, motivated and motivating women from the private sector, namely the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and Transparency.

Last but not the least, the committee acknowledged the important contribution of wise and insightful visionaries from the University of Geneva and the Swiss Parliament.

It is a great honour and a real joy to recognise these outstanding women here today – for their passion, dedication, commitment, compassion and for smart, dedicated and professional leadership.

I would encourage you to spend some time pondering the succinct three word characterization of each of these women. They tell us a lot of the values and traits these women are guided by, and they inspire us all.

It is also intriguing to note that most of our nominations have been through a bottom up process, whereby colleagues or staffs have put a name forward. Many of the nominated were supported by team nominations, which is another encouraging trend. Many were nominated by male colleagues. We also saw a few instances where the supervisor is the one that has made the nomination. Also, we can see our mainstreaming efforts bear fruit, many of you that we today celebrate represent entities whose main focus is not environmental matters but where environment and sustainability is important.

Allow me also a few words on why it is important to acknowledge the work that our twenty awardees do, and why it is that we need to advance our work on gender equality.

The Charter of the United Nations, signed in 1945, was the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men.



Since then, the UN has played a strong part of the efforts to advance the status of women worldwide. While it is essential that gender equality is promoted and ensured through internationally-agreed strategies, standards, programmes and goals such as the SDG number 5, I believe that the greatest impact is achieved through the daily on the ground work that we do – both men and women.

It is only when we in our work and lives have completely assimilated the view that men and women, girls and boys should have equal choices, equal opportunities and equal access that we achieved our goal.

This is not to say that equality means that we strive for sameness of men and women, but rather that the differences are a great strength.. We do, however, need to be reminded that even when faced with diversity, it is not because of gender biases we make decisions that impact negatively choice, opportunity and access.

The international setting that we are in, and the cultural backgrounds and expectations that form the context, make the challenge all the more interesting and complex.

This year the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions initiated this process of recognition and acknowledgement and I would like to extend a special thank you to the team for this excellent idea. Celebrations such as this remind us of the progress we have made. I am very happy to announce that we will pass the baton on to the Geneva Environment Network for next year's awards.

I would like to challenge us all for next year's nominations; let's look at nominating women who work to support and enable leaders and agendas and let's recognise women from all UN regions who work to make change happen for the betterment of environment and sustainable development.

Once more, let me extend my warmest thanks and congratulations to all you inspirational women – it is a proud and happy moment to recognise the outstanding work that you do and the values and traits that guide you to make it happen.

Coming back to what it's all about. It's about making gender equality matter, making us all aware of its importance and making it happen.

You, the 20 women that we are proud to celebrate today are doing just that.

Kerstin STENDAHL
Deputy Executive Secretary
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat



International Trade Centre

ANN-KATHRIN ZOTZ

CONSCIENTIOUS.ETHICAL.HARD-WORKING

Ann-Kathrin is a German national working as an Associate Expert for the Trade and Environment Programme at the International Trade Centre (ITC), the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Her work focuses on export promotion of biodiversity-based products from developing countries such as Peru and Madagascar. Via her projects, technical assistance is provided to SMEs to become export ready and access international markets. Before joining the ITC, Ann-Kathrin worked for the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Inter-American Development Bank based in Santiago, Chile, conducting research on the interplay between international trade and transport and carbon emissions. She holds a Master's degree in International Trade, Finance and Development from the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics and a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Maastricht School of Business and Economics.



United Nations
Development
Programme

BERTA PESTI

INNOVATIVE.DEDICATED.RESILIENT

Berta is a technical advisor on REDD+ finance at UNDP's REDD+ team based in Geneva and the interim head of the Secretariat of the Central Africa Forest Initiative, a multi-donor fund to support the conservation of Central African forests. Previously she worked in the area of low emission development strategies and nationally appropriate mitigation actions at UNDP, environment and local development at UNITAR in Geneva and at the World Bank Institute and in the humanitarian field as a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Berta is a member of the IUCN Committee on Environmental Law and the energy law specialist group thereof. She holds an MSc in Finance and Financial Law from the University of London, an LLM in Environmental Law and Land Use Planning and a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Pollutions from the University of Strasbourg and a JD in Law from the University Eotvos Lorand of Budapest, Hungary. She is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Hungarian.



International
Telecommunication Union

CRISTINA BUETI

DEDICATED.DYNAMIC.TRUSTWORTHY

Cristina joined the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2004 and since that time has been leading initiatives on environmental sustainability, e-waste and smart cities. She serves as the Advisor of Study Group 5 "Environment and Climate Change" and Study Group 20 "Internet of Things and its applications including smart cities and communities". Cristina is also the ITU Focal Point for ICT standardization issues in Latin America. She has authored over 40 reports on environmental issues. Cristina is one of the youngest officials at her level of seniority at ITU. She helps ITU's prestigious Smart Sustainable City projects in Dubai and Singapore and diligently encourages young professionals in their career endeavours within the sustainability domain. Cristina graduated from the University of Florence with a Master's in International Cooperation and Telecommunications Law. She is a polyglot and is fluent in English, French, Italian and Spanish.



International
Organization
for Migration

DINA IONESCO

INSPIRING.PASSIONATE.DEDICATED

As Head of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division of IOM, Dina's work aims to bring climate migrants into the spotlight and to equip migration and climate policymakers with the tools to respond to environmental migration challenges and opportunities. Dina has expanded IOM's environment portfolio, leading the establishment of a dedicated Division and inputs instrumental to the inclusion of migration in the Paris Climate Agreement. Dina considers that freedom, creativity, trust, competence and fun are crucial to good management and she is tremendously proud of her team, comprised of remarkable female professionals. Dina's passion for migration arises from her early experience as a political refugee in France, escaping with her family from Romania. Dina is married and has two sons, aged 5 and 8. They are her daily motivators to care and act: "We have the power to influence what air future generations will breathe and what values will prevail", says Dina.



World Meteorological
Organization

ELENA MANAENKOVA

BOLD.INCLUSIVE.EMPATHETIC

Elena is a geographer with specialization in hydrology and meteorology and holds a PhD in Physics and Mathematics, with specialization in meteorology, climatology, satellite meteorology and remote sensing from satellites. She joined WMO in 2003 and has been Assistant Secretary-General since June 2010. Her responsibilities include promoting international collaboration for improved weather, climate and environmental services. Elena spearheads the drive for greater gender equality within the WMO Secretariat and among Members and is passionate about the need to attract more women scientists into meteorology, hydrology and climatology. In 2014, she organized a Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services that provided new insight into the vulnerability of women to climate change and extreme weather, as well as their untapped strengths as champions of resilience. Since 2011, Elena has chaired the UN system-wide inter-agency group on climate change. Elena, a Russian national, is the mother of two children. She is fluent in Russian, English and French.



United Nations Institute
for Training and Research

EMILY BRADLEY

COMMITTED.MOTIVATIONAL.VISIONARY

Emily has been working at UNITAR since March 2015 with the Multilateral Diplomacy (MDP) team. The main focus of this work has been UNITAR's Women's Leadership Programme, which aims to promote gender equality and women's full and effective participation and leadership at all levels of political decision-making. Through a series of Workshops and Training Events, with organizations such as the UNFCCC, WMO and ITU, the objective has been to create an enabling atmosphere focusing on the challenges for women in fields where they are under-represented, such as meteorology, climate change and sustainable development. The learning outcome includes recognition of the value and strength that women can contribute. Originally from Scotland, though born in Vienna, Emily has lived, studied and worked in a number of European countries and graduated with a BA in Sociology and Social Policy from Brighton University (UK).



Secretariat of the Aarhus
Convention

FIONA MARSHALL

PASSION.PROFESSIONALISM.DEDICATION

Fiona is an Environmental Affairs Officer with the Secretariat of the UNECE Aarhus Convention, an international treaty on the environment and human rights. She is Secretary to the Convention's Compliance Committee, a mechanism that allows the public and Parties to bring cases concerning a Party's compliance before the Committee made up of independent experts. She also supports the Convention's work to promote public participation in international forums relating to the environment, as well as providing legal support to the Secretariat generally. Prior to joining the Secretariat, Fiona worked with several international non-governmental organizations focusing on human rights and the environment. Fiona says: "I work for the Aarhus Convention because I believe its principles are fundamental to ensuring a just and open society as well as the protection of the environment. I feel very fortunate that I am able to make a real contribution to positive change in the countries in which we work."



United Nations
Environment Programme

ISABELLA MARRAS

COMPASSIONATE.HARD-WORKING.EFFICIENT

Isabella has been working with UNEP since 1997. Her areas of expertise cover sustainable production and consumption, sustainable events, environment management systems and sustainability communications. She initiated the sustainable procurement work of UNEP in 1999; the UNEP UNESCO youthXchange project on sustainable lifestyles for young people (translated in 32 languages) in 2001; the UNEP work on education for sustainable lifestyles in 2006; and then moved to the Sustainable UN initiative in 2007. Isabella is currently the Coordinator of the Sustainable UN (SUN) facility based in Geneva. SUN coordinates the yearly "Moving towards a climate neutral UN" report gathering GHG emissions data from over 60 UN entities worldwide. The facility helps these entities define emissions reductions strategies and to offset. The SUN team is made up of individuals based in global offices and they are the proud parents of the UN campaign "Greening the Blue".



World
Intellectual Property
Organization

ISABELLE BOUTILLON

CHAMPION.INSPIRATIONAL.COMMITTED

Isabelle is a French national, holding a Master's degree in law and a specialization in international public and private law from the University of Strasbourg. She held various legal positions in two multinational corporations in France and the US, and in a major intellectual property law firm in New York (1981 to 1990). She joined WIPO in 1990 working on international patent law, and held various managerial positions in international patent law and general administration. From 2006, she managed two major construction projects (office building and new conference hall) with numerous environmental and biodiversity features. Since 2009, she has been managing the WIPO Environmental Responsibility Project. As Director of Premises Infrastructure, she has been overseeing the evolution of the WIPO Campus and has continuously and strongly advised in favour of, and has managed the implementation of, environmentally-friendly solutions. She is also Adjunct Professor at the University of Strasbourg.



University of Geneva

LAURENCE BOISSON DE CHAZOURNES

BRILLIANT.OPEN-MINDED.INSIGHTFUL

Laurence is a Professor at the University of Geneva and the Director of the Platform for International Water Law. She is widely published in the areas of international environmental law, international water law and dispute settlement. She received the Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law (2008) and she is a member of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. Since 2011, she has been a member of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. A Senior Counsel to the World Bank between 1995 and 1999, Laurence has since then advised international organizations as well as States. She is also a counsel before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and has acted in renowned international environmental law cases (Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons (1996), Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (2010) and Whaling in the Antarctic (2014)). She also acts as an arbitrator in investor-State disputes.





Les Verts genevois

LISA MAZZONE

ACTIVIST.GREEN.TRAILBLAZER

Lisa, born in Geneva in 1988, started her political career very young. In 2006, she founded and became President of the Youth Parliament in Versoix, her native village. In 2008, Lisa joined PRO VELO, the Swiss Bicycle Advocacy Association, first as an activist, but soon after as coordinator of the Association. During this period, Lisa graduated from University with a Bachelors degree in French and Latin language and literature. She also started her career as a Green politician. After a few years of activism with the Young Greens, Lisa was elected first as City Council member of Grand-Saconnex and later as member of the Cantonal Parliament of Geneva. In 2014, she became President of the Green Party of the Canton of Geneva. Last October, she was elected and became the youngest member of the Swiss Parliament. Through her work, Lisa has emphasized her commitment to sustainable mobility, gender equality, cleaner energy production and fairer asylum and immigration policies.



World Business Council
for Sustainable Development

MARÍA MENDILUCE

LEADER.COMMITTED.GRACEFUL

María is the Managing Director of Climate and Energy at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Her 20 years' experience in the energy sector, her policy background and personal leadership have been instrumental to WBCSD's work. She is in charge of the development of the organisation's Climate and Energy strategy that guides the work of its 200 member companies and influences the global climate landscape. In particular, at the invitation of the French Government and the UNFCCC, María led over 150 global companies under the Low Carbon Technology Partnerships Initiative, one of the flagship projects that mobilized a large number of CEOs on concrete solutions at COP21. While juggling the demands of a family, she also manages to teach at the University of Geneva and coach students. She is also recognized for her contributions to scientific journals and international conferences on climate and energy.



World Health
Organization

MARIA NEIRA

LEADER.GAME-CHANGER.EMPOWERING

Maria was appointed Director of the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health at the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland in September 2005. Prior to that, she was Vice-Minister of Health and President of the Spanish Food Safety Agency. She previously has held several senior positions in WHO. Maria began her career as a medical coordinator working with refugees in El Salvador and Honduras for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). Maria is a Spanish national, and a medical doctor by training. She specialized in Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases and Public Health. Maria has been awarded the Médaille de l'Ordre national du Mérite by the Government of France and is a member of the Academy of Medicine, Asturias, Spain.



United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe

MONIKA LINN

MOTIVATING.KNOWLEDGEABLE.ENGAGED

Monika is Chief of the Sustainable Development and Gender Unit in the Office of the Executive Secretary of UNECE. Her Unit leads and coordinates UNECE's contributions to the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as for other cross-sectoral themes in the development field. Monika has 25 years of experience in multilateral work on environment and sustainable development. Before joining the United Nations in 2001, she worked for 10 years in the International Affairs Division of the Swiss Environment Agency and was involved in a wide range of multilateral meetings, conferences and negotiation processes at the global and regional levels. Previous assignments in the UN include work in UNDESA and the Secretariat for the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, inter-agency cooperation as the first Director of the Environmental Management Group in UNEP, and Deputy Director of the Environment Division in UNECE.



International Institute
for Sustainable Development

NATHALIE BERNASCONI-O.

SINCERE.COURAGEOUS.VISIONARY

Nathalie is a senior international lawyer and heads the Economic Law & Policy work of the International Institute on Sustainable Development (IISD). She has extensive legal, policy and training experience in the area of international trade, investment, sustainable development, international environmental law, human rights and arbitration. Nathalie previously managed the Geneva office of the Center for International Environmental Law after working as a senior attorney with the Center in Washington D.C. For several years she worked in Hanoi, Vietnam, for a legal reform project of the UNDP and for the Australian law firm Phillips Fox. In Switzerland, Nathalie is admitted to the Bar of Basel and has worked for the Justice Department, Berne, in the Section for International Law. She is devoted to making economic frameworks, institutions and processes more just and sustainable from an environmental, social and economic perspective.



Transparence SA

NAWAL AÏT-HOCINE

BOLD.PERSISTENT.CARING

Nawal is a Sustainability, Legal and Compliance Executive with 20 years' experience managing and protecting corporate risk and reputation while shaping social and environmental best practice in the precious materials, diamond and gold jewellery industry and professional services sectors. As Cartier's Corporate Responsibility Director for five years, Nawal shaped company strategy and policies around responsible sourcing of precious and non-precious materials, supply chain, environmental footprint of activities, and product eco-design. She previously held legal & compliance positions at Metalor, Reuters and SGS. Nawal also took an active role at the Responsible Jewellery Council and the Swiss Better Gold association. She now works independently to create business models that are scalable and transform the artisanal mining sector, promote the development of chemicals-free gold mining at the industrial scale and shape policies around sustainable sourcing, precious metals, environmental impact and human rights.





Programme for the Endorsement
of Forest Certification

SARAH PRICE

PERSISTENT.INSPIRATIONAL.GOAL-ORIENTED

Sarah is passionate about people and trees and the potential to utilize forests to solve our global challenges. She is currently the Head of Projects & Development at PEFC International in Geneva where she leads an ambitious program to expand forest certification and sustainable forest management into more areas of the world. Working in the forest sector for nearly 20 years, Sarah's experience spans the full spectrum: from operational forestry to international forest policy. She has held positions with The Forest Trust and The Forests Dialogue, in addition to spending many years living and working in the forests of North America, South America and Southeast Asia. Sarah possesses a Masters of Forest Science from Yale University and a Bachelors of Science in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of British Columbia. When she's not at work she can be found at the park with her two small kids, Olive & Téo.



United Nations
Environment Programme

SHEILA LOGAN

SMART.COMPASSIONATE.SOLUTION-ORIENTED

Sheila has been working with UNEP for thirteen years on issues relating to chemicals and wastes, with the highlight being her support for the negotiations on the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The Convention covers mercury in a full life-cycle approach, and has potential to address the significant environmental effects of mercury poisoning, which may be linked to declines in species such as sharks, predatory fish and marine mammals, as well as having deleterious effects on vulnerable populations who rely on such species as an integral part of their diet. Sheila's work on chemicals and waste has built on her previous work in the Department of Health and Aged Care in Australia, where she worked as a regulatory toxicologist assessing pesticides and industrial chemicals, utilising her qualifications in Veterinary Science. Sheila feels proud of UNEP's achievements in the chemicals and waste area over the years, and looks forward to playing a role in the future work in the sustainable development agenda.





United Nations
Environment Programme

SILJA HALLE

PERSISTENT.PRINCIPLED.DILIGENT

Silja is a Programme Officer with UNEP's Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB). A Swiss and Finnish national with strong family ties to the US and Canada, she currently heads a new programme on women and natural resource management in conflict-affected settings. In this respect, she acts as the coordinator for an innovative partnership between UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and PBSO, which focuses on pilot-testing gender-responsive approaches to environmental and natural resource management as a tool for redressing gender inequity and promoting women's empowerment in peace-building processes. Silja has held several other roles within PCDMB, guiding programme and policy development and working to build partnerships within and outside the UN system. Prior to joining UNEP, Silja served on the city of Geneva's Municipal Council, before being elected as a Green party representative to the canton's Constituent Assembly.



WWF International

SUSAN BROWN

SMART.PASSIONATE.CARING

Susan is Director of Global and Regional Policy at WWF and has a lifetime commitment to the conservation of natural systems through the development of good public policy, environmental advocacy and constructive political engagement. Over 11 years of international negotiation work, she has led teams to significant outcomes in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), the Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio +20, the World Summit of 2005 and many others.

Other achievements include the substantial expansion and reform of environmental law in Australia, a significant package of measures and new environment funding through the overhaul of the national taxation system, running a conservation organisation in northern Australia and journalism with stories Australia's major newspapers. She is utterly passionate about and absolutely committed to a sustainable, just and inclusive world. Susan is from North Queensland, Australia.



GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

The Geneva Environment Network (GEN) is a cooperative partnership of over 75 environment and sustainable development organizations based at the International Environment House and elsewhere in the Geneva area, including United Nations offices and programmes, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and academic institutions.

Set up in 1999, the GEN secretariat, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, actively promotes increased cooperation and networking between its members.



BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS SECRETARIAT

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 22 March 1989 and it came into force on 5 May 1992. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, transboundary movements and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted on 10 September 1998 and it came into force on 24 February 2004. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of certain hazardous chemicals, including some pesticides and industrial chemicals.

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted on 22 May 2001 and it came into force on 17 May 2004. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from highly dangerous, long-lasting chemicals by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, trade, release and storage.

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are distinct legally autonomous multilateral environmental agreements that share the common objective of protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes for the promotion of sustainable development.

