

DPI/NGO Briefing,
Woman Count for Peace:
Global Event on the Open Days for Women,
Peace & Security

Thursday, October 21, 2010, 1:15 PM - 3:15 PM

1. Background Information:

In observance of World Food Day (October 16), this week's Briefing addressed the current state of food security and global hunger, specifically on how to address the current high numbers of undernourished people in the world in order to achieve food and nutritional security for all. The panel of experts consisted of experts who have worked to improve food security in various capacities.

2. Moderator:

Ms. Carla Koppell, Director of Institute for Inclusive Security
and the Washington, DC office of Hunt Alternatives Fund

3. Speakers

Ambassador Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the
United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)

Ms. Ameerah Haq, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste
and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)

Ms. Bineta Diop, Co-Chair of the Civil Society Advisory Group

Ms. Safa Elagib Adam, Sudan Secretary-General & Gender Advisor,
Community Development Association

Miss Mandira Sharma, Nepal Executive Director, Advocacy Forum

Ms. Consolata Ndayishimiye, Burundi President, Burundi Association of
Women Entrepreneur (AFAB)

Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary for the Department of Political Affairs

Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General for UN Women

Ms. Rebecca Grynsan, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator
of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of
Peacekeeping Operations

Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for
Peace Building Support (head of PBSO)

4. The Moderator, Ms. Carla Koppell, introduced each of the speakers with their backgrounds.

5. Ms. Carla Koppell, indicated that as Director she works extensively with both women and civil society leaders from conflict areas worldwide. They include the Middle East, Iraq, Sudan and Uganda. She speaks and writes widely on the contributions of both women and civil society to peace building. She has addressed officials from the United Nations, World Bank, NATO, the United States State Department and the United States Congress. Ms. Koppell also provides commentary for a myriad of Other research and policy making institutions. Her opinions have been published in The Christian Science Monitor and the International Herald Tribune among others.

Previously, Ms. Koppell was the senior adviser and interim director of the Conflict Prevention Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. While there she authored "Preventing the Next Wave of Conflict: Understanding Non-Traditional Threats to Global Stability".

Ms. Koppell also served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. While there she oversaw a portfolio of cooperative programs that included efforts to assist humanitarian aid and reconstruction in Central America, housing reform in China and post-conflict reconstruction in South Africa..

Ms. Koppell was also a special assistant to the administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the director of the USAID Climate Change Program. She has also worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

She received her Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and her Bachelor's Degree from Cornell University.

6. The First speaker, Ambassador Said Djinnit is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and is the Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in Dakar. He received this appointment in April, 2008.

UNOWA is the first regional conflict prevention and peace building office of the United Nations. He indicated that the office works closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other regional partners to tackle challenges affecting both peace and security in West Africa.

In collaboration with the United Nations system, his office promotes a regional approach to address cross border and cross-cutting matters that impact on peace and stability such as human rights and democratization, governance and rule of law, security sector reform, unemployment, food security, small arms proliferation, drugs and human trafficking.

Ambassador Djinnit also serves as Chair of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission to oversee the peaceful implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice in the Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria as well as the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the Green-Tree agreement related to the Bakassi Peninsula.

Prior to his appointment at the United Nations, Ambassador Djinnit was the Commissioner for Peace and Security at the African Union. He held various positions in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) now known as the African Union (AU).

During his career, he has contributed to the development of the new African Peace and Security agenda and architecture including the establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the

development of the African Standby Force (ASF). Ambassador Djinnit has spearheaded efforts by the OAU General Secretariat and the AU Commission in supporting the peace processes on the continent in Ethiopia-Eritrea, Democratic Liberia, Sudan, Somalia and others.

Ambassador Djinnit also played a leading role in the deployment of AU Peace missions in Burundi (AMIB), Sudan (AMIS), Somalia (AMISOM). On behalf of the African Union, he has contributed to the establishment of the AU United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). He also served in various diplomatic missions for Algeria

7. The second speaker, Ms. Ameerah Haq, recently served as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan and as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator from 2007-2009. Before that she served as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and as the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan from 2004-2007.

Before this she was formerly the Deputy Assistant Administrator and Crises Prevention at UNDP Headquarters in New York. She served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Malaysia from 1994-1997 and in the same capacity from 1991-1994 in Laos. Ms Haq worked in the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in various capacities from 1980-1990. This included responsibilities for aid coordination mechanisms and the Desk Officer for Thailand, Myanmar and Bhutan. She also had an assignment with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) From 1985 to 1987.

Ms. Ameerah Haq is a graduate of Western College in Oxford, Ohio and holds Masters Degrees in Community Organization and Planning from Columbia University and Business Administration from New York University.

8. The third speaker, Ms. Bineta Diop, is the executive Director and founder of Femmes Africa Solidarity (FAS). This is a pan-African civil society organization working on issues of women, peace and security. Ms. Diop has led Femmes Africa Solidarity in numerous peace-building programs. These include the creation of a strong West African Women's movement, the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET).

Ms. Diop has observed elections in post-conflict areas such as Liberia and facilitated peace talks, particularly for Burundian and Congolese women. As a member of the African Union Women Committee for Peace and Development (AWCPD), Ms. Diop played an instrumental role in achieving gender parity within the African Union Commission in 2003.

Ms. Diop serves as Vice-President of the African Union Women's Committee and chairs the United Nations Working Group on Peace in Geneva. This group is part of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, monitoring the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. She also serves as a member of the Group of International Advisors to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

9. The fourth speaker, Ms. Safaa Elagib Adam, As the Secretary-General and gender advisor of the Community Development Association (CDA) in Khartoum, she is a tireless advocate for women and children in Sudan. She co-founded the association in the 1990s. The association empowers women to participate more fully in peace building and seeking to create primary education and job opportunities for those displaced by the conflict in Darfur.

Ms. Adam's frustration with the exclusive nature of the peace talks motivated her to press for a more inclusive process. She organized the Gender Expert Support Team (GEST). This is a diverse cross-section of Darfurian women representing non-governmental organizations, academia, the government, and

rebel movements from across Darfur. She then successfully advocated for their participation in the 7th round of Peace negotiations in Abuja, Nigeria.

Ms. Adam is a member of the Sudanese Women's Solidarity Group, the Civil Society Initiative for Peace Forum, Women in Law and Development Network and the Expert Committee on Women within Sudan's Federal Ministry of Agriculture. She authored a study on women's role in the informal economy and also co-authored a study on Sudanese women entrepreneurs. Ms. Adam is an executive member of the Darfur Forum for Dialogue and Peaceful Co-Existence and is also a member of the Darfur Conflict Advisory Group. She advised the group of women civil society leaders that participated in the seventh round of the Darfur Peace Negotiation held in Abuja in December, 2005. Ms. Adam is also a board member of the Darfur Relief and Documentation Center.

Ms. Safaa Elagib Adam was among the group of 1000 women peace builders nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. On November 7, 2009 she was awarded the Freedom & Human Rights Award by the Swiss Foundation for Freedom & Human Rights. She participated in the Heidelberg Darfur Dialogue for the proposed Draft Darfur Peace Agreement.

9. The fifth speaker, Miss Mandira Sharma, founded the Advocacy Forum in 2001. As a Nepali NGO she has played a crucial role in defending the rights of Nepali people caught in the brutal civil war between Maoist insurgents and the Nepali government. Miss Sharma has focused on achieving accountability for abuses committed by both sides during the fighting. She and her team of more than 50 lawyers file lawsuits on behalf of the victims of torture, investigate cases of extra judicial killings, sexual abuse of women and enforced disappearances. Advocacy Forum has filed numerous habeas corpus petitions to free prisoners illegally detained by the government.

Even under constant pressure and harassment, Miss Sharma led the call for internal monitoring of the human rights situation in the country. This created the grounds for the establishment of the United Nations Office of High Commissioner in Nepal. Advocacy Forum is now active in organizing groups through out the country, enhancing their capacities to bring their voices to the forefront in the process of establishing a comprehensive transitional justice mechanism in the country. The organization is also conducting research on the impact of conflict on women and empowering women by providing legal, medical support and documenting their stories.

Miss Sharma after completing her legal degree Kathmandu, earned a LLM degree from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom. Since its founding in 2001, the Advocacy Forum has established offices in all the regions of Nepal and holds a reputation for both credibility and fairness.

10. The sixth speaker, Ms. Consolata Ndayishimiye, has developed a wide base of knowledge through several years of practical experience, consultation and study. She was elected to be the first female president of the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi. This was a pioneering step in the international business community. Within this capacity she has become a global leader and representative for Burundi in regional and international activities.

Ms. Ndayishimiye is a member of the Burundi peace building steering committee. In this role she has made several speeches, raised money, listened and convinced people to work toward improving the situation of women in a post conflict country. She believes that one of the key pillars for peace is the financial and economic independence of the people. She places key emphasis on women because by empowering a woman, we positively impact on the family, the community and the nation.

Her personal mission is to promote cross-sectoral partnerships aimed at the common good. She believes that women should arise and make their voices heard in all matters that affect their lives. These include their economic, social, health and political well being. Through her own aspirations to promote gender

equality, she created income generating opportunities through her Women Entrepreneurs Association organization and the Women Initiative for Self Empowerment by giving access to credit to hundreds of rural women. She also mobilizes key stakeholders from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the government to seek strategies and ways to improve the social and economic development for women in local and international settings.

11. The seventh speaker, Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, before joining the United Nations was the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia from October, 2004 to February, 2007. He previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the State Department in Washington, D.C. Before that he was the United States Ambassador to Malaysia the United States Special Negotiator for Regional Conflicts in the former Soviet Union.

In 1996, Mr. Pascoe served at the United Nations as a Special Advisor to the United States Permanent Mission to the United Nations. From 1993 to 1996 he was Director of the American Institute in Taiwan. He also served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the East Asian and Pacific Bureau of the State Department, Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy in Beijing, Deputy Executive Assistant Secretary of the Department of State and Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State.

In an almost forty-year career in the United States Foreign Service, Mr. Pascoe also has held positions on the Soviet and China desks and has been posted to Moscow, Hong Kong and Bangkok, as well as to Beijing twice and to Kaula Lumpur. He speaks mandarin Chinese.

Born in the State of Missouri in 1943, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kansas and a Master of Arts from Columbia University.

12. The eight speaker, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, trained as a pediatrician and linguist. She speaks both Spanish and English fluently, and has studied German, French and Portuguese. She has taken graduate studies in Military Sciences as well. She was ranked as number 15 on Time magazine's list of the world's most influential people.

In Chile in the 1990's, Ms. Bachelet worked with the National AIDS Commission, consulted for the Pan-American Health Organization, and the German Technical Cooperation Agency. She then worked on improving health care services while consulting to the Health Ministry in 1994. After excelling in military strategy studies, she began working with Santiago's Socialist Party.

In 2000, Ms. Bachelet was appointed Minister of Health, where she was tasked with improving health care. In 2004, she was appointed head of the Defense Ministry. In 2006, Ms. Michelle Bachelet became the first woman president in the Republic of Chile's history.

13. The ninth speaker, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, is currently the Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Program. Previous to this appointment from 2006 -2010 she was the Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean United Nations Development Program. Prior to that she was the Director of ECLAC sub regional office in Mexico, where she was the International Food Policy Research Institute's Board Co-Chair.

She is a Costa Rican and studied Economy and Sociology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Costa Rica and a Master of Arts from the University of Sussex in England.

As part of the Costa Rican government she occupied several positions; Vice-President of the country, Housing Minister, Coordinating Minister of the Social Sector, and Vice-Minister of Finance. She has also

collaborated as a Counselor Advisor and Researcher with multiple Governmental Institutions, National and International Organizations.

Ms. Grynspan has authored and co-authored numerous articles on social and economic policy, gender and And poverty from 1998 - 2008. Examples of this include the Pacto Fiscal Cohesion Social America Latina Caribe, Introduction Political Superacion of the Pobreza, the Revista del CLAD-Reforma Democracia and many others.

14. The tenth speaker, Mr. Alain Le Roy as the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations brings to this job extensive experience in public administration, management and international affairs in both the political level and in the field. After serving in the private sector as a petroleum engineer, he joined the public service first as a Sous-Prefet then as a Counselor at the French Audit Office.

Mr. Le Roy was appointed as Deputy to the United Nations Special Coordinator for Sarajevo and Director of Operations for the restoration of essential public services. He went on missions for UNDP in Mauritania and was appointed the United Nations Regional Administrator in Kosovo.

After having been the National Coordinator for the Stability Pact for South-East Europe in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was appointed the European Union Special Representative in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He subsequently was appointed the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Financial Affairs in the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs and then served as the French Ambassador to Madagascar.

Most recently, Mr. Le Roy served as the Counselor Maitre a la Cour des comptes and as the Ambassador in charge of the Union for the Mediterranean Initiative.

He holds a degree in Engineering from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Paris a DEA in Economics from Paris I. He has also completed the Program for Senior Managers in Government at the Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

15. The twelfth and last speaker, Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins before joining the PBSO New York had a long and successful United Nations career spanning over thirty years. She covered development and humanitarian work in Africa and Asia and a ten year stint in the field in Africa. Ms. Cheng-Hopkins was the United Nations Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees from February, 2006 to August, 2009, where she was involved in refugee and IDP issues and helped develop UNHCR policies on IDPs as well as refugee/IDP return and re-integration.

Previously, Ms. Cheng-Hopkins served as the Director of the World Program's Office Asia and Eastern Europe Bureau from 1997 - 2000 where she supervised some WFPs largest and most significant operations of that period in DPRK and in Kosovo. During that period she also conceptualized and managed a smooth and innovative exit from China of the operations.

Prior to that period, she served UNDP in Africa for ten years. She first served in Zambia from 1982 - 1988, then in Kenya from 1988 - 1992. Ms. Cheng-Hopkins was also the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa from 2002 - 2003 and Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund from 1993 - 1997.

Ms. Cheng-Hopkins received a Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in 1978. She also received diplomas from the University d'Haute Bretagne in Rennes, France and the Business School at Harvard University.

Summary; Each of the speakers summarized the conditions in their countries in Africa, Middle East, Asia and parts of Europe and how women are combating this problem. They believe that a major effort is required world wide to help these people and that NGOs must speak to their elected officials on this important issue'

PDC George Weinstein
National UN Chairman