

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women- 58<sup>th</sup> Session  
“NEW APPROACHES TO POVERTY ERADICATION  
AMONG WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES –  
FULL ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES AND PRODUCTS”  
Wednesday, 19 March 2014 – 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.  
United Nations Headquarters -Conference Room 7 -North Lawn Building

Moderator:

Ms. Stephanie Ortoleva, Esq., Founder and President, Women enabled International

Panelists:

Professor Theresia Degener:

<http://www.efh-bochum.de/homepages/degener/>

Professor Degener is a Professor of Law and Disability Studies at Protestant University of Applied Studies, Bochum Germany and Extraordinary Professor of Law at the University of the Western Cape, Belleville/ Cape Town, South Africa, where she also serves as Co – Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, University of the Western Cape Belleville/ Cape Town, South Africa. As a delegate to the negotiations for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, she was a leading advocate and author of position papers advocating for a “dual track approach” which resulted in women’s issues being addressed in the Convention’s Article 6 on Women and throughout other articles of the Convention. She now serves as Co-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She is a Member of the German Association of Women with Disabilities. She also has numerous scholarly publications.

Ms. Lakshmi Puri:

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/About%20Us/LakshmiPuri-Biography%20pdf.pdf>

Ms. Puri is the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. Among other accomplishments there, she led CSW 57 efforts with respect to violence against women. [Moderators Note: The Final Agreed Conclusions to CSW57 included numerous significant provisions on violence against women and girls with disabilities.] She has extensive experience in numerous areas, including economic and development policy-making covering trade, investment, migration and labour mobility, financial flows, environment and climate change, energy, agriculture and food security, universal access to essential services, among others. Ms. Puri joined the United Nations after a distinguished 28-year career with the Indian Foreign Service. She studied history, public policy and administration, international relations and law, and economic development.

Ms. Daniela Bas:

<http://undesadspd.org/Home/tabid/40/news/158/Default.aspx>

Ms. Bas serves as the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development at UN DESA.

Ms. Bas has a long and accomplished career within the UN in the area of development and also has had a distinguished career in the media. She holds degrees in international relations, and wrote her dissertation on employment of people with physical disabilities and the elimination of architectural barriers. Ms. Bas writes in her UN bio: ““Life knew that I had a mission”, explaining that at six years of age she became paraplegic as a result of a rare medical condition.

#### Professor Asha Hans

Professor Hans is the Founder of the Women with Disabilities India Network, through which she prepared the disability part of the Alternative Report to the Committee on the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and also led the effort to provide UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Rashida Manjoo, with documentation of violence against women and girls with disabilities during her country visit to India in April 2013. She has also been involved in efforts for the inclusion of women in the India Disability rights Draft legislation. She is the co-founder of Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre in India and is a former Professor of Political Science and Director of Women's Studies at Utkal University in India. She also has extensive experience in the inclusion of women in peace and security strategies and is leading the People's Action Plan pursuant to UHNSCR 1325. She has authored and edited numerous articles and books, including: India's first book on women and disability, *Gender Disability and Identity* (Sage Publications, 2003); with Betty Reardon, *The Gender Imperative: Human Security Vs State Security*, Routledge, 2010; and the forthcoming book, *Disability and Feminist Experiences*, Sage Publications, 2014. At this side event, she represented the International Network of Women with Disabilities, an on-line community.