



SDG 16 CONFERENCE

Peace, Justice & Inclusive Societies



People-Centered Governance in a Post-Pandemic World
21-22 April 2022

In Rome and Online

Co-organized by UN DESA, IDLO, and the Government of Italy

SPEAKER BIO

Ms. Sarah Hendriks is the UN Women Director of Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division



Sarah Hendriks leads the Programme, Policy and Intergovernmental Division at UN Women - the United Nations entity dedicated to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. In this role, Ms. Hendriks leads UN Women's efforts as convener of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions, a transformative initiative to accelerate concrete results on the SDGs.

Ms. Hendriks has over 23 years of experience in program and policy work on gender equality with government, public sector, foundations, NGOs and research institutions. She joined UN-Women from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where she served as the Director, Gender Equality, Global Growth & Opportunity for 4 years. In this role, she successfully developed and launched the Gates Foundation's first-ever strategy on gender equality, driving new investment of \$170 million to results on women's economic empowerment. Ms. Hendriks also led the Gates Foundation's work on gender mainstreaming, supporting program strategy teams with the capacity and tools to apply a gender lens to grant-making.

Prior to this role, Ms. Hendriks worked as the Director of Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (2010-2015) at Plan International Headquarters, and as the Global Advisor on Gender Equality and HIV AIDS (2005-2009) at Plan International Canada, where she led the strategic direction across 50+ countries that drove more than 500 million euros in new resources towards innovative work on gender equality and adolescent girls' development. Sarah served for 9 years

as the Chair of the Advisory Board governing Plan's research and policy report on the 'State of the World's Girls', a global initiative that reached audiences across more than 72 countries. Before joining Plan International, Sarah worked for several development organizations, including Women and the Law in Southern Africa (Malawi), World Vision International (Zimbabwe) and as a gender equality consultant with Global Affairs Canada (on Gender-Based Violence), GIZ (on women's access to justice) and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (on gender mainstreaming in public sector delivery). Sarah was twice named as one of Apolitical's 'Top 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy'. A national of Canada, Ms. Hendriks holds an M.A. in Adult Education and International Development from the University of Toronto and a B.A. in International Justice and Human Rights from the McMaster University, Canada.