



WOMEN DELIVERING JUSTICE: ACHIEVING GENDER PARITY IN THE JUSTICE SECTOR

Side Event organized by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), the American Bar Association (ABA), the Institute for African Women in Law (IAWL), the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations on the occasion of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Thursday, 18 March 2021, 14:00 – 15:30 Rome/ 9:00 – 10:30 New York

[Zoom Webinar](#)

The equal representation of women in the justice sector is a human right, guaranteed by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW - Article 7 on equal participation in political and public life) and reinforced by the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) under the critical areas of concern on Women in Power and Decision-Making (Strategic Objective G.1) and on Human Rights of Women (Strategic Objective I.2). The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, includes among its targets SDG 16.7.1, dedicated to monitor the proportion of positions in public institutions held by women (16.7.1)¹.

Despite incremental country progress in achieving gender parity in the justice sector, women continue to encounter overall social, economic and institutional challenges to their full and effective participation as justice agents. Challenges range from gender stereotypes to sexual harassment, time poverty, limited opportunities to career advancement and obstacles to access leadership positions. In some cases, barriers have been further amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. More generally, global data on women justice professionals continues to be incomplete, inconsistent and uneven.

Against this background, this event will highlight the importance of investing in the equal representation of women in the delivery of justice. It will seek to:

- identify challenges to gender equality in the justice sector, especially within the current COVID-19 context;
- discuss policy and programmatic directions for prioritizing gender balance in the justice sector; and
- provide recommendations for better data, research and analysis in support of SDG 16.7.1.

The event builds on IDLO's work on women's equal participation in the justice sector as featured in IDLO's report entitled [Women Delivering Justice: Contributions, Barriers, Pathways](#). It highlights specific country experiences and lessons from [Kenya](#) and [Tunisia](#).

¹ Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions.

Agenda

Opening Remarks

Ms. Jan Beagle, Director-General, IDLO

Panelists

- H.E. Iman Al Zahwani Hoemel, Minister of Women, Children and the Elderly of Tunisia
- Hon. Justice Susan Glazebrook, Judge, Supreme Court of New Zealand and President-Elect of the International Association of Women Judges
- Hon. Justice Aruna Devi Narain, Judge, Supreme Court of Republic of Mauritius and Vice – Chairperson and Rapporteur, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- Ms. Patricia Lee Refo, President, American Bar Association
- Dr. Ruth Aura-Odhiambo, Dean, Faculty of Law, Egerton University, Kenya
- Dr. J. Jarpa Dawuni, Associate Professor of Political Science, Howard University

Moderator

Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero, Director, Policy, Research and Learning, IDLO

Interactive Dialogue

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.