



## Customary and Informal Justice Systems: Expanding Women's Access to Justice and Gender Equality

10 September 2020

### SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

**Jan Beagle** is the Director-General of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). She was elected by Member Parties on November 13, 2019 and took up her position formally on January 1, 2020. Ms. Beagle is a diplomat from New Zealand and a senior international civil servant. She brings some forty years of experience of multilateral diplomacy, working on peace and security, development, human rights, management, gender and organizational reform. Ms. Beagle has served as Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on System-wide Implementation of Chief Executives Board (CEB) decisions; United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance; Deputy Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva; and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management. She has held senior positions in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of the Administrator of UNDP, and the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. Throughout her career, Ms. Beagle has played a leadership role in the interagency bodies of the UN system, including as Chair of the High-Level Committee on Management of the CEB, and Chair of the CEB Task Force to address sexual harassment in UN organizations. She was formerly the Chair of the Assistant Secretary-General Advisory Group of the UN Development Group and a member of the Board of the UN System Staff College. Ms. Beagle is a committed advocate for gender equality and an active member of the International Gender Champions, a leadership network that brings together senior female and male decision makers to break down gender barriers. She has spearheaded the development and implementation of programs and approaches to improve and accelerate diversity and inclusion, women's empowerment and rights-based approaches. Ms. Beagle began her career in the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as a delegate to the United Nations in New York. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in History and International Relations from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She is married with three daughters.

**Hilary Gbedemah** is the chairperson for the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). She is a Ghanaian lawyer and a women's rights activist and was first elected to CEDAW in 2013 for a two-year term. Ms Gbedemah has more than 30 years experience in human rights, and a thorough knowledge of the gender issues from the academic, policy and practical perspectives. In her first tenure in CEDAW, she was appointed to serve on the Working Groups such as Access to Justice, which produced CEDAW's General Recommendation 33 on Access to Justice; the Right to Education; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; and Inquiries under the Optional Protocol. Ms Gbedemah holds a Bachelor of Law Certificate from the University of Ghana, a Master's Degree in Law from Georgetown University, Washington D.C., a certificate in International Humanitarian Law from the Henri Dunant Institute in Geneva and a Diploma in Leadership and Advocacy, Georgetown University from Washington D.C. In 1997, she was appointed the Senior Legal Advisor at the Volta Regional

Office and she was in charge of the Legal Awareness Programme, which was funded by the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) in partnership with the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) and ACTIONAID Ghana. She was the first rector of the Law Institute, a vocational law training facility, which is a pioneer concept in Ghana. Ms Gbedemah has been an active member of several advocacy groups including, Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA), a Non-Governmental Organisation of women lawyers.

**Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero** is the Director of Policy, Research and Learning at IDLO. Her responsibilities include oversight of research, evaluation and impact assessment, as well as gender issues. Prior to joining IDLO, Dr. Bottigliero was Lecturer and Researcher at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Lund, Sweden, and at the Lund University Faculty of Law. Dr. Bottigliero was also Lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law, teaching a variety of international law and gender courses to graduate students. Dr. Bottigliero has lectured extensively in Europe and Asia on various human rights and international criminal justice topics. She is the author of “Redress for Victims of Crimes under International Law”, as well as several scholarly publications on victims’ rights, international criminal justice and gender issues. Dr. Bottigliero is a ‘Hague Counselor’ for The Hague Project Peace and Justice, and the recipient of the 2010 Worldwide Universities Network International and Comparative Criminal Justice Network Fellowship.

**Beth Roberts** is the Program Manager for the Center for Women’s Land Rights at Landesa. She is a law, policy, and gender specialist who works with people living in poverty in rural areas to strengthen their rights to land and productive assets, and to further gender equality and social inclusion. She provides legal and policy recommendations to government decision-makers, traditional authorities, civil society partners, and international human rights and climate change bodies, and conducts consultations and assessments with rural communities. She has focused geographically on Ghana and Myanmar during her time at Landesa. Beth holds three advanced degrees from the University of Washington: a Master of Public Administration (MPA) with a focus on international development and nonprofit management, a Juris Doctor (JD), and an LL.M in Sustainable International Development Law.

**Emerlynne Gil** is a Senior Legal Adviser of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). She is ICJ’s global thematic lead on women’s human rights. She is also ICJ’s focal person for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), looking at the current efforts around the establishment of a regional human rights mechanism in Southeast Asia. Prior to ICJ, Emerlynne headed the Human Rights Defenders Department of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) where she led advocacy initiatives at the regional and international levels for the implementation of standards under the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Emerlynne served as a court attorney under Justice Adolfo S. Azcuna at the Supreme Court of the Philippines and also as a lecturer at the University of the Philippines’ Department of English and Comparative Literature. She also worked as a corporate and labor litigation attorney at a law firm in Makati City, Philippines, immediately after receiving her law degree from the University of the Philippines College of Law in 2000. She received her LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the University of Notre Dame Law School in South Bend, Indiana, in 2007 and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Comparative Literature from the University of the Philippines in 1996.

**Dr. Fiona Hukula** is a Senior Research Fellow and Building Safer Communities Program Leader at the Papua New Guinea National Research Institute (PNGNRI). She received a PhD in Social

Anthropology from the University of St Andrews, Scotland. Fiona also holds a Masters in International Criminology from the University of Sheffield and a BA in Anthropology from Victoria University of Wellington. Having started in 1998 at the NRI as a project research officer, Fiona is a career policy and social researcher with over twenty years' experience. She has authored and co-authored various publications relating to crime, urban issues and gender violence in PNG. Fiona's research interests are in the area of urban studies, gender and socio-legal studies. Fiona represents the PNG NRI on high level national committees such as the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC) and the National Action Plan against Sorcery Accusation and Related Violence (NAP SARV) Fiona serves on the board of the NGO Peace Foundation Melanesia is also a Commissioner of the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission.

**Rita Hope Aciro-Lakor** is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), the leading National Women's Network in Uganda (a Non-Governmental Organisation advancing Women's Rights and Gender Equality and Transformation). Ms. Aciro-Lakor is a social development worker, expert on leadership, governance, gender and development with training in development, human rights, leadership, governance and democracy. Ms. Aciro-Lakor holds Msc Leadership and Governance an ABA, and BA Development studies and Democracy including training in Business and accounting, M&E, Policy analysis, Public Administration amongst others. She has over 18 years of experience in development work working in national and regional Non-Governmental Organisations specializing in gender analysis and mainstreaming in social development i.e. gender, HIV/AIDs, governance, land, peace, social protection, environment amongst others. Ms. Aciro-Lakor sits and serves on a number of Civil Society, donor and Government committees such as the Parliamentary Committee on Gender Budgeting, Social Protection committee Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, The Steering Committee of the European Union on the Social Accountability fund, The Uganda Governance Monitoring Group and currently is a Board members of the Action Aid International Uganda and a Steering Committee Member of a GIZ Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme.

**Romualdo Mavedzenge** is an experienced and skilled Democracy and Governance expert, with particular focus on Rule of Law development, Justice Sector support, parliamentary strengthening and Civil Society Engagement. He offers a leadership background of more than 15 years in institutional capacity building in the governance sector. Mr. Mavedzenge possesses strong donor coordination and networking skills and is well versed in providing administrative and technical direction for implementing programs in conflict and post conflict countries while retaining a keen appreciation of strategic development in cross cultural environments. He currently serves as Regional Manager Africa for IDLO having served most recently in various positions including Country Director - Kenya (2018-2019), Program Manager New Initiatives - Africa (2017-2018), Country Director - South Sudan (2015-17). His previous engagements at a senior level in Sudan's Darfur Region, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe provide him with a detailed understanding of the dynamics of providing capacity building support in a post conflict environment, within the democracy and governance field. Having contributed significantly to the development of program strategic plans, and overall development of the institutions and the projects he has worked for has equipped Mr. Mavedzenge with the knowledge and skills to be able to support governance capacity development in a manner that recognises the varied political and cultural sensitivities. His strong background in technical support for Democracy and Governance projects places him well to continue to support governance institutions at both the National and local level, ensuring development of linkages with Civil Society actors.