



United Nations



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic

With the support of the Conference of the Italian Regional Parliaments

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING

Women in Local Authorities' Leadership Positions: Approaches to Democracy, Participation, Local Development and Peace

5 November 2009
Palazzo Vecchio
Florence, Italy

08:00 am – 09:00 am Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:00 am – 10:20 am Opening Session

Enrico Cecchetti, Project Coordinator, Euro-African Partnership for Decentralized Governance, Italy

Bruna Giovannini, Bureau of the Regional Council of Tuscany, Italy

Liliane Murekatete, Special Representative for Africa of the Prime Minister, Italy

H.E. Ponts'o Matumelo Sekatle, Minister of Local Government, Kingdom of Lesotho

Françoise Gaspard, Expert on Gender, Council of the European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR-CCRE)

Carolyn Hannan, Director, Division for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

10:20 am – 11:40 pm Decentralized Governance and Participation: *an Overview of Practices with a Gender Perspective*

Chair: *François Albert Amichia*, President of the Union of Cities and Municipalities of Ivory Coast, Ivory Coast

Nontsba Ncizga, Councillor, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Council Germiston, South Africa

Ines Smith, Gender Adviser of OXFAM United Kingdom

The critical Role of Women in Promoting Good Governance and Development: Innovative Practices from the United Nations Public Service Awards

Adriana Alberti, Coordinator, United Nations Public Service Awards Programme, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Open discussion

11:40 pm - 01:00 pm **Women's Role in the Informal Economy and their Contribution to Local Development**

Chair: *Julia P.D.Cassell*, Superintendent of Grand Bassa County, Liberia

Mai Manga Thérèse Keïta, President of the Organization of Women for Development, Niger

Alessandro Volpi, University of Pisa, Italy

H.E. Henriette Nyindi, Member of the National Assembly of Cameroon, Councillor of the Municipality Yaoundé 7, Cameroon

Ethical Fashion as a Tool to Reduce Poverty and Empower Women in Kenya and Uganda

Simone Cipriani, International Trade Centre Geneva, and *Claudio Vanni*, Unicoop Florence

Open discussion

01:00 pm – 01:15 pm

Video-message of Rita Levi Montalcini, Nobel Prize for Medicine presented by Giuseppina Tripodi, Rita Levi Montalcini Foundation

01:15 pm – 02:30 pm **Lunch break**

02:30 pm – 03:50 pm **Strengthening Women's Networks: North-South and South-South Partnerships**

Chair: *Monica Donini*, President of Regional Council of Emilia Romagna, Coordinator of the Presidents of the Italian Regional Council, Italy

Bineta Diop, Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité, Vice-President of the Africa Union Women Committee, Senegal

H.E. Ngoné Ndoye, Member of the National Assembly of Senegal, Councillor of Rufisque East and President of the Commission Femmes Elues de l'Union des Associations des Elus Locaux, Senegal

Neila Akrimi, Regional Project Manager Africa, VNG International, Netherlands

The Italian Initiative for the Empowerment of Women in West Africa: Two Years after Bamako

Bianca Pomeranzzi, Central Technical Unit, DG Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

Open discussion

03:50 pm - 04:30 pm General Discussion on the Overall Topic of the Meeting

H.E. Fiamma Nirenstein, Vice-President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Italy

H.E. Rosy Bindi, Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, Italy

H.E. Abdu Katuntu, Representative of the Parliamentary Committee on Local Government Matters, Uganda

04:30 pm – 05:00 pm Adoption of Final Declaration

H.E. Ponts'o Matumelo Sekatle, Minister of Local Government, Kingdom of Lesotho