



## MAKING EVERY DECISION COUNT: Using Parliamentary Oversight and Lawmaking to Advance Gender Equality

WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2022  
12:00 – 13:00 CET (Brussels time)

### BIOGRAPHIES

WELCOME  
REMARKS  
12:00 – 12:05



**Fabienne Van Den Eede**, Deputy Head of Unit, Unit INTPA.G.1 - Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, DG for International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission

Fabienne Van Den Eede is currently deputy Head of Unit of the Unit the International Partnership Directorate General of the European Commission, dealing with “Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democracy Governance”. This unit oversees, among other things, the thematic programme for Human Rights and democracy, the EU Gender Action Plan 2020-2025 and the Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative is coordinated directly by her.

Fabienne has 22 years of experience in the European Commission, working mainly in development cooperation, dealing with both financial and operational issues in relation to a wide range of countries and geographical areas; she has also serviced 8 years abroad in EU Delegations (Kenya, Somalia and Zambia) working on financial and contractual issues, democratic governance and social sectors. She studied International and Diplomatic Relations in Brussels and financial management in Antwerp, Belgium.



**Jonathan Murphy**, Head of Programme, INTER PARES

Jonathan Murphy is an internationally recognised expert in the field of democratic development, with a specific focus on strengthening parliaments and other democratic institutions. He is the Head of Programme for INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership - EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments. Over the past 20 years, Jonathan has worked and consulted with more than 40 parliaments in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, the Arab region, and the Pacific, and has conducted major reviews and policy development for international agencies including the United Nations, the World Bank, and the European Union, before joining International IDEA in 2019.

**PANEL I**  
**12:05 – 12:30**



**Saša Gavrić**, ODIHR Gender Officer

Saša Gavrić is ODIHR's officer working on gender and politics. Before joining the Warsaw-based OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in summer 2020, Saša served as team leader and gender adviser in the OSCE missions in Kosovo and North Macedonia.

Saša is the co-founder and former executive director of the Sarajevo Open Centre, one of the leading human rights NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, working on women's and LGBTI rights. Saša supports parliaments in their gender transformation, among others by facilitating participatory gender audits of the Parliament of Malta and the Assembly of North Macedonia. He co-authored a guide for MPs on gender equality in North Macedonia. Since 2021, Saša is a PHD student at the University of Leipzig in Germany, looking into the influence of power sharing political systems on substantive representation of women in Bosnia and North Macedonia.



**Maria Mousmouti**, Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Executive Director, Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL)

Maria Mousmouti is Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London, Executive Director at the Centre for European Constitutional Law, a research center based in Athens, Greece and Associate Expert at the

Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

She specialises in law-making, legislative quality and effectiveness, legislative design and drafting and gender-sensitive scrutiny of legislation.

Recent publications include her monograph 'Designing Effective Legislation' (Elgar 2019) and papers on Gender – sensitive Post-Legislative Scrutiny, Gender-Sensitive Post-Legislative Scrutiny of general legislation; Post-legislative scrutiny of gender-specific legislation and a Data and gender-sensitive post-legislative scrutiny (2020).



**Sonia Palmieri**, Policy Fellow (Gender), The Australian National University

Sonia has worked across academic, development and parliamentary institutions, principally with the interest of understanding and improving women's leadership and participation in political institutions. Sonia has driven the international research agenda on gender sensitive parliaments, having written practitioner-

focussed reports (for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and UN Women) and academic publications on the subject.



**Ramona Vijayarasa**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney, Chief Investigator behind the Gender Legislation Index

Dr Vijayarasa is the 2020-2022 Women's Leadership Institute Australia Research Fellow and the 2021 runner-up for the Letten Prize, awarded by the Young Academy of Norway and the Letten Foundation. A graduate of New York University School of Law (LL.M) and the University of New South Wales (Ph.D, LL.B/B.A), Dr Vijayarasa is a Senior Lecturer and the Juris Doctorate Program Head in the Faculty of Law at UTS. She is the Chief Investigator behind the Gender Legislative Index, a tool powered by human evaluation and machine learning to assess the gender-responsiveness of individual laws. Her research pivots around gender and human rights. Her current research focuses on strengthening accountability for women's rights at the domestic level.

**PANEL II**  
**12:30 – 12:55**



**Holly Cairns TD**, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland

Holly is the party spokesperson on Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Rural Development; Social Justice; and Disability. She is a member of the Oireachtas Committee on Children, Disability, Equality and Integration. She was elected to Dáil Eireann in February 2020 in Cork South-West.

In 2019, Holly won the final seat in the Bantry Local Election by a single vote. During her time on the Council, she made it her priority to highlight local environmental issues. Holly has a first class honours in MSc in Organic Horticulture from UCC. As part of her studies, she researched the methods and importance of plant adaptation in the face of unpredictable climates. Her background as a farmer and environmentalist inspired her to enter politics.



**YB Fuziah Salleh**, Member of Parliament, House of Representatives of Malaysia

YB Fuziah Salleh has served as the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of religious affairs in the Pakatan Harapan (PH) administration under former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and former Minister Mujahid Yusof Rawa from July 2018 to the collapse of the PH administration in February 2020. She is also a member of the Select Committee on Women and Child Affairs and Social Development in Parliament under the current BN (Barisan Nasional) – Perikatan Nasional (PN) administration. She has served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Kuantan since March 2008. She is a member of the People's Justice Party (PKR), a component party of the PH opposition coalition.



**Maria Edera Spadoni MP**, Vice Speaker, Italian Chamber of Deputies

Born in 1979, a diploma in USA, a Master's Degree in foreign language, historical field, Maria Edera Spadoni MP recently obtained a postgraduate master's degree in international cooperation, finance and development. Before being elected in Parliament, she worked in the aviation field. She has been serving as an MP from 2013 in the Five Star Movement political party. She is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chair of its Sub-Committee on Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals, member of the delegation to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly from 2013 to 2017, sitting on the Equality and Non-Discrimination Committee.

Maria Edera is the first signatory of the bill, which ratified the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, better known as the Istanbul Convention. In 2014 she was appointed Rapporteur within the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on the motion "Systematic collection of data on violence against women", which was unanimously adopted in 2016. On 29 March 2018 she assumed office as vice president of the Chamber of Deputies. She is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and joins the Parliamentary Intergroup for Women, Rights and Equal Opportunities. She speaks fluent English and Spanish. She has a good knowledge of German.



**Hon. Jurmi Wangchuk**, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Bhutan

Hon. Jurmi Wangchuk has been a member of the National Assembly of Bhutan since October 2018. He holds a master's degree in International Affairs from Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont, USA. Prior to this, he worked in the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva UN OHCHR, Switzerland and Department of Peacekeeping Operations DPKO, New York, USA.

**CLOSING  
REMAKS  
12:55 – 13:00**



**Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu**, Senior Adviser Diversity and Inclusion, International IDEA

Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu, is the Senior Advisor on Democracy and Inclusion at International IDEA. She is a democracy and gender equality advocate and global expert on women's political participation, political systems, political parties, electoral systems and processes, gender in constitutional processes and outcomes, gender and political financing, parliamentary strengthening, with working experience from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe.

