

CHRISTIANSBORG SEMINAR 2012

Women in Politics

Diversity and Equality for a Democratic Culture

COPENHAGEN, SEPTEMBER 11-12

PROGRAMME

DIPD

DANISH INSTITUTE FOR
PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY



WELCOME TO CHRISTIANSBORG 2012

Searching for ideas and practices that can inspire change

In the first DIPD strategy *Political Parties in a Democratic Culture* adopted by the Board in the early part of 2011, we decided that it would be useful for the Danish political party support community to meet with colleagues and partners in the global community, to learn from their hard earned experiences, and to be inspired by the good practices they have developed. Learning and sharing is a necessity for a newcomer like DIPD.

We are therefore excited to welcome participants from all over the world to this first *DIPD Christiansborg Seminar*, where discussions will focus on the theme of Women in Politics. While this is not in any way a new theme, it continues to be an important theme for all institutions, political parties and civil society organisations engaged in the support of democracy in its many forms and colors. Equal participation and representation has been high on the international agenda for decades, but all the knowledge we have indicates that progress is extremely slow.

The participants gathering at Christiansborg represent a rich diversity of organisations as well as a diversity of experiences due to the very different circumstances they live in. It may be difficult for women to enter the political arena in both Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, but the two countries still offer very different possibilities and difficulties; young women in Egypt and Nepal probably face a lot of similar barriers, but again they are very different societies and therefore require different approaches; and joining politics at the local level in Tanzania and Bhutan will also require different solutions, although there will be areas where they are similar.

So while we are eager to learn from each other about what works and what does not work, it should not be our intention to search for the one and only 'magic bullet' or the 'one size that fits all situations'. We would rather encourage all of us to look for ideas, practices and solutions that reflect the rich diversity we can identify in the many corners of the global community. And of course we need to look for ideas and solutions that can work in the practical and often difficult realities, we operate in.

*Henrik Bach Mortensen, Chairman
Bjørn Førde, Director*

SEPTEMBER 11, DAY 1

SEMINAR AT CHRISTIANSBORG

10:00-10:30 OFFICIAL OPENING

Mr. Henrik Bach Mortensen, *Chairman of DIPD*
Mr. Villy Søvndal, *Minister of Foreign Affairs*
Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, *Chairman of Venstre*

10:30-11:30 SCREENING OF “LA, AUM LYONCHHEN: LESSONS FROM DENMARK”

Mr. Manu Sareen, *Minister for Gender Equality*
Ms. Dasho Sangay Zam, *Member of Parliament, Bhutan*

11:30-12:30 KEYNOTES

Ms. Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga
Minister for International Cooperation in Zimbabwe
Ms. Winnie Byanyima
Director of UNDP’s unit for Gender & Development

12:30-13:30 LUNCH

13:30-14:30 PANEL 1: WOMEN IN LOCAL POLITICS

Moderator: Ms. Joy Mogensen, *Mayor of Roskilde*
Presentations by:
Hon. Susan Lyimo, *Tanzania*
Ms. Anne Stenhammer, *UN Women*

14:30-15:30 PANEL 2: YOUNG WOMEN IN POLITICS

Moderator: Ms. Lone Loklindt, *Member of Parliament*
Presentations by:
Ms. Mozn Hassan, *Egypt*
Ms. Manju Yadav, *Nepal*

15:30-16:30 PANEL 3: WOMEN IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES

Moderator: Ms. Gitte Lillelund Bech, *Member of Parliament*
Presentations by:
Ms. Selay Ghaffar, *Afghanistan*
Ms. Njeri Kabeberi, *Kenya*

16:30-17:00 CONCLUSIONS

Ms. Ulla Tørnæs, *MP and former Minister for Development*

17:45-20:00 RECEPTION AT “RUNDETÅRN”

SEPTEMBER 12, DAY 2

WORKSHOP AT KOSMOPOL

09:00-09:15 INTRODUCTION

Mr. Bjørn Førde, *Director of DIPD*

09:15-10:15 WOMEN IN POLITICS — METHODS AND APPROACHES

Moderator: Ms. Anne Stenhammer, *Regional Director, UN Women*

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, *UNDP*

Ms. Amneh Zubi, *Jordanian Women's Union*

Ms. Ajla van Heel, *OSCE/DIHR*

10:15-11:00 THEME 1: WOMEN IN LOCAL POLITICS

Moderator: Ms. Sumona DasGupta, *Consultant, India*

Ms. Nzira Deus, *Mozambique*

Ms. Phuntshok Chhoden Tshering, *Bhutan*

Mr. Julio Huaraya Cabrera, *Bolivia*

11:00-11:45 THEME 2: YOUNG WOMEN IN POLITICS

Moderator: Ms. Maryse Helbert, *Consultant, Australia*

Hon. Leticia Nyerere, *Tanzania*

Ms. Jemina Anita De-Sosoo, *Ghana*

Ms. Ratebeh Adnan Abu Ghoush, *Palestinian Territories*

11:45-12:30 THEME 3: WOMEN IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES

Moderator: Ms. Rumbidzai Kandawasvika, *IDEA, Sweden*

Ms. Chema Gargouri, *Tunisia*

Ms. Chitra Lekha Yadav, *Nepal*

Ms. Janah Ncube, *Zimbabwe*

12:30-13:30 LUNCH

13:30-15:30

WORKSHOP 1

Women in local
politics

WORKSHOP 2

Young women
in politics

WORKSHOP 3

Women in transition
countries

15:30-16:30

REPORTS FROM WORKSHOPS

Recommendations from the workshops
for the Christiansborg 2012 Statement

16:30-17:00

CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Ms. Anne Stenhammer, *Regional Director, UN Women*

Ms. Winnie Byanyima, *Director, UNDP*

Mr. Bjørn Førde, *Director, DIPD*

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

The following list includes all speakers, moderators and presenters featuring in the programme on both September 11 and September 12. They are mentioned in alphabetical order based on the surname.

Ms. Gitte Lillelund Bech

Member of the Parliament, Denmark

Gitte Lillelund Bech has been a Member of Parliament for the Liberal Party in Copenhagen County constituency from October 1999. She served as Minister of Defense from February 2010 to October 2011 and is currently Chairperson of the Committee of Fiscal Affairs. She was spokeswoman on development 2010, transport policy spokeswoman 2005-2006, and education policy spokeswoman 2001-2005. Chairwoman of the Foreign Policy Committee 2006-2010. Vice-chairwoman of the Defense Committee 2005-2006. She holds a MSc (Business Administration and Management Science). In 2003, she was appointed German Marshall Fellow. Prior to the membership of Parliament, she worked as Financial Specialist in the financial sector and as a consultant.

Ms. Winnie Byanyima

Director of the UNDP Gender Team, Bureau for Development Policy

Before joining UNDP, Ms. Byanyima served as Director of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union Commission. She has served on many expert and advisory panels and as a consultant for UNDP, UNIFEM and other UN agencies. She is a member of the Executive Board of the African Capacity Building Foundation and the International Centre for Research on Women. Ms. Byanyima has produced several publications on issues of gender and governance, including a handbook she co-authored for the Inter-Parliamentary Union entitled "Parliaments, the Budget Process and Gender". Ms. Byanyima holds an M.Sc. in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering from Manchester University.

Mr. Julio Huaraya Cabrera

Member of the National Board, MAS-IPSP, Bolivia

He is elected member of the national board of MAS-IPSP, the governing socialist party in Bolivia, and works as secretary for the coordination with the social organisations and members of the political commission. Mr. Cabrera has spent most of his political life in local politics in his home municipality of Chuma in the Province of Muñecas in the La Paz Department. He is at present Secretary General for the municipal government. He is educated as an agricultural engineer and has previous experience with agricultural development projects. Mr. Cabrera is invited by MAS' Danish partner, the Socialist People's Party.

Ms. Phuntshok Chhoden

Independent consultant for B-NEW, Bhutan

She is a development worker engaged in gender mainstreaming for many years at national, regional and international level. In 2010 she got deeply involved in setting up a new women's NGO, Bhutan Association of Women Entrepreneurs, that brings women entrepreneurs together to work on economic empowerment of rural and poor women in Bhutan. Ms. Chhoden serves as the Chair of Bhutan Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and is a Board Member of the SAARC Business Association of Home-based Workers. Currently she is working on the establishment of the Bhutan Network of Elected Women (B-NEW) which is an outcome of the first ever national consultation in Bhutan of the elected woman representatives in local government and the parliament of Bhutan, and supported by DIPD.

Ms. Sumona DasGupta

Political Scientist and independent research consultant, India

Based in New Delhi, she is currently senior research consultant with Society for Participatory Research in Asia. Her research and publications focus on issues of governance and democratic dialogue, conflict and peace building, and South Asian politics. Gender is a cross cutting issue that informs all of her work. Her book "Citizen Initiatives and Democratic Engagements: Experiences from India" from 2010 deals with issues concerning women's political leadership in local governance as one of the issues covered. Ms. DasGupta was the author of the India country paper on analysis of political parties from a gender perspective, a research initiative of International IDEA in 2011.

Ms. Jemina Anita De-Sosoo

National Women's Organizer, Ghana

She is the leader of the women's wing of the National Democratic Congress, the ruling party in government in Ghana. Prior to that, she was a Constituency Deputy Organizer and a National Deputy Propaganda Secretary. She is also the West African Women Commissioner for Women Academy for Africa, as well as an executive board member of the National Board for Small Scale Industries under The Ministry of Trade and Industry. Ms. De-Sosoo is a gender and a human rights activist. She is also the founder and president of Foundation for Women Development and Empowerment which seeks to empower women in education, health, politics, governance and leadership in Ghana. She is currently studying Public Administration. Ms. De-Sosoo is invited by NDC's Danish partner, the Social Democratic Party.

Ms. Nzira Deus

Programme Director at Forum Mulher, Mozambique

In addition to Forum Mulher, she is the National Coordinator of the Movement of Young Women Feminists. She holds a Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy and is specialized in community development with a gender focus. She has coordinated research on culture and tradition, women's access to land and political participation, and HIV/AIDS. She has been involved in dialogue with government regarding monitoring of public policies, and she has been attending international conferences on Human rights of women like CSW, AWID and the World Social Forum. Ms. Deus is invited by her Danish partner Ibis.

Mr. Bjørn Førde

Director of DIPD

Before joining DIPD, he was Director of the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, a global thematic facility in the Democratic Governance Group of UNDPs Bureau for Development Policy, established to help position UNDP as a champion of democratic governance. Previously, he was the Resident Representative of UNDP and Resident Coordinator of the UN in Botswana. He is educated as a political scientist from the University of Copenhagen, and from 1975 to 2002 he held various positions with the Danish NGO Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, including that of Secretary General 1995-2002. He has served as a member of the Board of Danida appointed by the Minister for Development.

Ms. Chema Gargouri

President of Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability, Tunisia

Founder and President of the Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability (TAMSS), a community development and micro-lending NGO for women and youth located in Borj-Louzir in Tunis, an area facing difficulties and socio-economic problems. In 2011 two additional offices were opened in Sidi Bouzid and in Gafsa. The organisation works to strengthen the social and economic inclusion of women and youths in disadvantaged communities by strengthening the economic and social capacities of families by establishing innovative complementary services based on leadership, training, education, assistance and the promotion of entrepreneurship. Ms. Gargouri is invited by her Danish partner KVINFO.

Ms. Selay Ghaffar

Executive Director of HAWCA, Afghanistan

The organization is Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan. She studied Economics in Iran and Pakistan at a time when women's education was not possible in Afghanistan, and after the fall of Taliban, Ms. Ghaffar found an opportunity to work for emancipation of women in the repressive systems and joined HAWCA. Ms. Ghaffar is actively involved in lobbying and advocacy for women's rights and human rights issues in Afghanistan. She led the nine member CEDAW Initiative Committee for the first time in Afghanistan to write the CEDAW Shadow Report. The last three years, she has effectively highlighted the issues of Afghan women at different international events, and she has raised their visibility and voice in the international community. Ms. Ghaffar is invited by her Danish partner MS/ActionAid.

Ms. Ratebeh Adnan Abu Ghoush

Member of the international department of the Palestinian Democratic Union, Palestinian Territories

Since 2003 Ms. Abu Ghoush has worked as program coordinator on youth with many local organizations. She is currently working with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society on a project aiming at empowering youth with skills and knowledge. Furthermore, she was one of the founders of SHAREK Youth Forum where she presented the Head of Board of Directors in 2006-2010. As a feminist, she participated in women debates under the leadership of the women's project: The Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center -a Special Project of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (UNESCO) 2008-2009. She is also a member of the committee to revive the voluntary and civil work in Jerusalem. Currently, Ms. Abu Ghoush studies for an MA in Development Studies at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem. Ms. Ghoush is invited by her Danish partner, the Red-Green Alliance.

Ms. Mozn Hassan

Executive Director of Nazra for Feminist Studies, Egypt

Nazra is an organisation that aims to build an Egyptian feminist movement, believing that feminism and gender are political and social issues affecting freedom and development in all societies. Ms. Hassan's research interests range from combating violence against women, to history of feminism in Egypt, to early child marriage. She holds an MA of International Human Rights Law from the American University in Cairo. Ms. Hassan is member of political and social coalitions which aim to defend Egyptian human rights defenders, especially females and enhancing human rights values in Egypt. She serves as Egypt's advisor for the Global Fund for Women. Ms. Hassan is invited by her Danish partners DEDI and DIPD.

Ms. Ajla van Heel

Gender Officer at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Her expertise include promoting women's political participation and strengthening national mechanisms for the advancement of women. Prior to joining the OSCE, she worked with the International Organisation for Migration and the United Nations Development Programme, mainly focusing on prevention of trafficking in women and girls in the Western Balkans. Ms. van Heel holds a BA in international affairs from Princeton University and an MA in human rights from University of Bologna.

Ms. Maryse Helbert

Researcher and advocate, Australia

She has been an advocate for, and researcher on, women's participation in politics and decision-making for over a decade. After completing a Master's thesis on the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the French and Finnish political systems in encouraging and increasing women's political participation, she became actively involved in the movement to institute the so-called 'Parity Law' in France (1999-2000). Maryse Helbert has since broadened her research to include women's involvement in decision-making processes related to development, specifically in the context of resource exploitation and climate change, where evidence shows that women are being sidelined.

Ms. Njeri Kabeberi

Executive of Director for the Centre for Multi Party Democracy, Kenya

Prior to becoming Executive Director of CMD-Kenya in 2004, she worked for seven years for Amnesty International as the Development Coordinator for East & Southern Africa. She has served on the board of the Kenya Human Rights Commission, the Release Political Prisoners Pressure Group (RPP) and the International Centre for Policy and Conflict. Ms. Kabeberi is also an opinion shaper in the areas of equality, governance, democracy and human rights. Njeri Kabeberi was awarded the inaugural 'Humanity Award' by the Chamber of Lawyers, Frankfurt am Main for 'Commitment to Law and Justice' in 2009; she was awarded the 'Democracy Ribbon' by the City of The Hague in 2009 for 'Commitment to Peace and Democracy'. In 2010, Njeri received the 'ILO Wedge Award 2010' given jointly by ILO and the Women's Entrepreneurship Development in recognition for her work to increase Women Rights in Kenya. She is invited by her Danish partner, the Danish Liberal Party.

Ms. Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu

Senior Programme Manager, International IDEA

She is responsible for the Global Programme on Democracy and Gender at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) in Stockholm, Sweden. She is a gender equality advocate and practitioner, with more than twenty years of hands-on professional experience on gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives at national, regional and international levels. She has worked with capacity building and gender mainstreaming in parliaments, intra-party democracy processes, management of electoral processes from a gender perspective and transformative leadership strategies for women in politics.

Ms. Lone Loklindt

Member of Parliament, Denmark

She is member of Parliament for the Social Liberal Party (Radikale Venstre), chairperson of the Environment Committee and spokesperson on environment, development cooperation, and human rights. She holds a M.Sc. in Business and Development from Copenhagen Business School, and an MBA from European University in Brussels. Ms. Loklindt's working career includes positions abroad, intercultural management, entrepreneurship and CSR consulting. She has been involved in international political activities through ELDR and Liberal International and now also PACE and IPU. She has been elected councilor to the local municipality at Frederiksberg, deputy party chairman and held various other positions in the party organization.

Hon. Susan Lyimo

Member of Parliament, Tanzania

Since 2005, she has represented the opposition party Chadema in Parliament. During her first tenure 2005-2010, she also acted as a Shadow Minister of Education and Vocational Training. Ms. Lyimo has played a leading role in joint women's movement in Tanzania. She acted as the National Chairperson of CHADEMA Women Council in 2011-2013 and is currently the Vice Chairperson of Tanzania Women Parliamentary Group as well as the Vice Chairperson of Tanzania-Women Cross-party Platform. She holds a MA of Applied Social Psychology from the University of Dar Es Salaam and Certificate of Career Counseling from the University of Minnesota, USA. She is invited by her partner, Demo Finland.

Hon. Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga

Minister of Regional Integration and International Cooperation, Zimbabwe

Honorable Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga, is a member of the Inclusive Government of Zimbabwe as a Senator and the Minister for Regional Integration and International Co-operation, One of only 7 female members of Cabinet, she is also the only female negotiator in the SADC facilitated Zimbabwe Dialogue Process as a Chief Negotiator for the Professor Welshman Ncube led Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) of which she is also the Secretary-General (2nd female Secretary-General of a political party in SADC). Minister Misihairabwi-Mushonga is a Co-chair of the Joint Operation and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) responsible for oversight and implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and a member of the 15 member Constitutional Management Committee (COPAC) with representatives from the three political parties to oversee and guide the constitutional development process in Zimbabwe. Previously she was the Deputy Secretary-General of the MDC and a Member of Parliament for Glen-Norah Constituency for two parliamentary terms, wherein she also served as the first female Chairperson of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee from 2002-2008. She has a strong history of civic participation in the Zimbabwean political movement and in particular as a Feminist in the Zimbabwe Women's Movement which was a large aspect of the creation of the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) which she co-founded. She founded and led the Women and Aids Support Network (WASN) which grew to become a lead organization in the HIV/AIDS advocacy and work in Zimbabwe. She was awarded the Kofi Annan Awards for her advocacy work on the female condom.

Ms. Joy Mogensen

Mayor of Roskilde Municipality

The municipality has 83.000 inhabitants and a budget of almost 1 billion Euro. She is a member of The Social Democratic Party, and has been involved in international activities in the Danish Social Democratic Youth Organization, the Danish Youth Council and in her current work. She holds a BA in Cultural Encounters from Roskilde University, and has worked as a consultant in Business and City Development, before being elected Mayor.

Mr. Henrik Bach Mortensen

Chairman of DIPD

He is a member of the National Board of Venstre, The Liberal Party, and he is a co-founder of the political think tank CEPOS. He holds an MA in Economics from the University of Copenhagen and an M.Phil. in Economics from Cambridge University. Mr. Mortensen is the executive director of the Confederation of Danish Employers Association, and he represents private business in three partite negotiations with the government and unions on economic and social issues, employment and education. He has been involved in international activities through the Liberal Party, the ELDR, The German Marshall Fund, the OECD and as a Danish delegate to the UN General assembly. He has been the Chairman of DIPD since it was established by Parliament in 2010.

Ms. Janah Ncube

CEO for Centre for Citizens' Participation, the African Union, Zimbabwe

Janah Ncube is the Executive Director of the Centre for Citizens' Participation in the African Union. Prior to this, she was working as a Senior Policy Advisor on Poverty and Development at the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat. Ms. Ncube was also the first Gender Programme Manager for ACORD, an alliance of international development actors working in conflict and post conflict countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. Between 2001-2004 she worked in Zimbabwe on human rights and Constitution issues as the Director of Women in Politics Support Unit, the Chairperson of the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe and Vice Chairperson of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition. She holds a Masters Degree on Gender and Women's Studies and currently serves as an advisory board member of the ICCO Southern Africa Regional Council. In July 2011 she was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Zimbabwe.

Ms. Leticia M. Nyerere

Member of Parliament, Tanzania

She represents the opposition CHADEMA party in Parliament, holding a special women's seat, and is currently serving on the Finance and Economic Affairs Committee. She is also a champion of women's, children's and human rights. In addition to her political career, she has been an independent lecturer in Women and Politics at Bowie State University in Maryland, USA. Ms. Nyerere is currently working on a PhD on the theme of "Women and general elections in Tanzania" at the Open University of Tanzania. She also holds a Masters in Business Administration and Finance from Corlins University in the US and an ASC Degree in Criminal Justice from Kaplan University, also in the US. She is invited by her Danish Partner, the Conservative Party.

Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen

Chairman of Venstre (Danish Liberal Party) and former Prime Minister

Lars Løkke Rasmussen has been President of Venstre since 2009, the same year that he was appointed Prime Minister following the appointment of former Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen to the post of Secretary General of NATO. He has had a long career in the party, starting with his election to the post of Chairman of the youth wing in 1986; in 1998 he was elected Deputy President of the party. He was elected to Parliament for the first time in 1994, following a long career in local politics – first as a member of the council of a municipality, then as Deputy Mayor, and while being MP he was also Mayor of Frederiksborg County 1998-2001. When the party won the election in 2001 and formed the government, he became Minister for the Interior and Health 2001-2007, and then Minister of Finance 2007-2009 before becoming Prime Minister.

Mr. Manu Sareen

Minister for Gender Equality

In addition to gender equality, he is also Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs as well as Minister for Nordic Cooperation in Denmark. He is a Member of Parliament for the Danish Social-Liberal Party (Radikale Venstre). Mr. Sareen was appointed minister in October 2011. From 2008 to 2010 he worked as Auditor of Public Accounts. From 2002 to 2011, he served as a member of the City Council in the municipality of Copenhagen. The minister is educated as a social worker and he has previously among other things worked as lecturer, teacher and integration consultant. He is also the author of children's books as well as academic publications.

Ms. Anne F. Stenhammer

Regional Programme Director for UN Women, South Asia Sub Regional Office

With work experience, spanning a period of over forty years, she was formerly the Deputy Minister of International Affairs of the Government of Norway, where she was responsible for Peace and Security, Human Rights, Gender Equality issues, NORAD and relations with the UN system and multilateral development banks. She has been active in politics for a period of twenty years and has held various political posts in the Socialist Left Party during this time. Ms. Stenhammer has served as Mayor in northern Norway (1991-1999) and as Administrative Chief. She holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark and London School of Economics.

Mr. Villy Søvndal

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Minister of Foreign Affairs since October 2011, when the new coalition government took over after winning a majority in the September 2011 election. He has been Chairman of the Socialist People's Party since 2005, and he was elected to Parliament for the first time in 1994. Following his studies to become a teacher, he was employed as such by the Municipality of Kolding 1980-1992, and during this period he was also a member of the Council of Kolding 1982-1994.

Ms. Ulla Tørnæs

Member of Parliament, Denmark

She is a member of Parliament for Venstre, The Liberal Party, since 1994. From 2001 to 2005 she was Minister of Education. In 2005 she was appointed Minister for Development Cooperation, a position she held in five years from 2005-2010. While being Minister for Development Cooperation she was able to put great emphasis on women in developing countries, especially concerning women's status in countries in which they are often disempowered and treated unequally. Being Minister for Development Cooperation it was very important for Ms. Tørnæs to emphasize that no culture, tradition or religion should ever justify unequal treatment. Additionally, Ms. Tørnæs initiated the Program MDG3 Torch Bearers, which is a programme for people whom are committed to fighting gender inequality and to fight for the empowerment of women.

Ms. Manju Yadav

Central Committee Member of Youth Federation Nepal, affiliated to CPN-UML

She joined politics of Nepal's Unified Marxist-Leninist party in 1997. Since 1999 she has been an active member of the youth organization, Youth Federation Nepal, of the CPN-UML. Today she is a central committee member of the Youth Federation and a central member of inclusion and social security department of her party. Ms. Yadav holds a Masters Degree on Population and has been providing several trainings on gender issues. She writes for national magazines and newspapers regularly. She is invited by her Finnish partner Demo Finland.

Ms. Chitra Lekha Yadav

Treasurer of the Nepali Congress Party Central Committee, Nepal

She has held several prestigious ministerial posts e.g. as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1999-2008. She has worked as Central Working Committee member and Chief of the women department of the Nepali Congress (Democratic), and as Eastern Regional coordinator of Nepal Women's Association (sister organization of Nepali Congress). As a professional, Ms. Yadav is well versed in issues of gender equality, equity and social inclusion, and provides inputs on policies relating these issues for the Nepali Congress Party. She is one of the key initiators in the formation of the multi-party Women Caucus that has contributed significantly in advancing women's issues. Ms. Yadav took major initiative for adopting the policy of 33% representation of women in parliament, and holds an MA from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Ms. Yadav is also the Chair of the Steering Committee for DIPD's programme in Nepal.

Hon. Sangay Zam

Member of Parliament, Bhutan

She is a member of the National Council of Bhutan (upper house) since the first democratically elected Parliament of Bhutan was instituted in 2008. The constituency she represents is the capital city Thimphu and she is one among six women MPs in the NC and one among ten women MPs in the Parliament when combined with the National Assembly. Ms. Sangay Zam serves on the Social and Cultural Committee and Legislative committee of the National Council. Issues close to her heart are Women's empowerment and youth problems. Having served as a passionate educator for 25 years, today she continues to counsel youth and mentor some of the leading school principals, and is also actively involved in parenting programs and career counseling in schools. Ms. Zam is also a member of the B-NEW Steering Committee, which is supported by DIPD.

Ms. Amneh Zubi

President of Jordanian Women's Union

Senator and President of Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), a non-governmental organisation working to abolish gender discrimination and empower women to practice their rights as citizens. Furthermore, the organisation works to eliminate all legislative, economic, social and cultural hindrances to women's participation as stipulated by human rights conventions. JWU has local offices across Jordan and is in addition currently the chair of the regional Arab Women's Network. Ms. Zubi is invited by her Danish partner KVINNO.

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CHRISTIANSBORG SEMINAR

The 'Christiansborg Seminar' is an annual event, bringing DIPD partners and colleagues from around the world together to share ideas and practices on a specific theme. The seminar offers a unique opportunity for Danish political parties and NGOs to learn from other Nordic organisations as well as from partners in political parties and democracy organisations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

DIPD

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