

CHANGE MAKERS AND PEACEKEEPERS

Journey towards equal representation of women

March 7, 2012 * 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm * UN Headquarters

Admiral Mark E. Ferguson

U.S. Navy Admiral, Vice Chief of Naval III Operations

Admiral Mark E. Ferguson was appointed Vice Chief of Naval Operations in July 2011. Prior to being named as vice chief naval operations, he served as the 55th chief of naval personnel, a role that he assumed in April 2008. He concurrently served as the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training & Education) during that time. Following graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy with the Class of 1978, Adm. Ferguson completed nuclear power training prior to entering the fleet as a surface warfare officer. His afloat assignments include service on board USS *South Carolina* (CGN 37), USS *Fife* (DD 991) and USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69). He commanded the USS *Benfold* (DDG 65) and Destroyer Squadron 18. In addition to various staff assignments, he served as the assistant commander, Navy Personnel Command, chief of legislative affairs, and chief of naval personnel. Ferguson holds a master's degree in computer science from the Naval Postgraduate School and completed a National Security Fellowship at the Harvard Kennedy School. His awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and various unit and campaign awards.

Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye

Military Adviser for UN Peacekeeping Operations

Lieutenant General Babacar Gaye of Senegal was appointed as Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations in August 2010. Lieutenant General Gaye was previously Force Commander at the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) (previously the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)) for five years. His long and distinguished career with the Senegalese Army includes serving as Chief of Defense staff (2000-2003). He participated in two United Nations peacekeeping operations: in the Sinai (United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) 1974-1975) and in South Lebanon (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) 1980-1981). He was then the extraordinary plenipotentiary Ambassador of Senegal to Germany and Austria and to the United Nations in Vienna prior to his nomination as Force Commander of MONUC (now MONUSCO) by the Secretary-General in April 2005. Lieutenant General Gaye is a graduate of the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr in France. Born in 1951, he is married with two children.

Ms. Aparna Mehrotra

Senior Adviser Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, UN Women

Ms. Aparna Mehrotra of India has been working with the United Nations for 28 years in several capacities. Currently she is Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, Division for Coordination, UN Women. Ms. Mehrotra began her career in 1983 as an intern working on gender issues for UNIFEM, the women's advocacy agency of the United Nations. After this, she served in the United Nations Development Programme in Argentina, Angola and Indonesia, and with the United Nations Capital Development Fund overseeing the development programme on least developed countries including Bolivia, Nicaragua and Bangladesh. As Deputy Chief of the Regional Programme Division in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean she also served as the focal point for gender, led the UNDP Latin America contingent to the World Women's Conference in Beijing, undertook peace-keeping assignments in Nicaragua and Mexico and chaired the UNDP/UNFPA/OPS Disciplinary Committee for five years adjudicating over 70 cases. Among her other portfolios, in 1997 she co-founded the Women's Human Rights Campaign in Latin America focusing on national campaigns in 13 countries to eliminate violence against women and in 2003 authored the Directive against sexual harassment for the UN Military and Police contingents. Prior to her current assignment, she worked as the Trust Fund Manager of the UNDP Trust Fund for International Partnerships and with the Special Adviser of the Secretary General for Iraq. In addition to a law degree, Ms. Mehrotra has graduate and undergraduate degrees from Stanford University, knows six languages and is the mother of one son.

Commissioner Ann-Marie Orlor

UN Police Adviser, Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Commissioner Ann-Marie Orlor of Sweden was appointed United Nations Police Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in March 2010. Previously she served as the Deputy Police Adviser since May 2008. Prior to joining the United Nations she was a police officer and eventually a Police Commissioner with the Swedish National Police for almost 20 years. Apart from her extensive senior level policing experience with the Swedish National Police at the local, regional and headquarter level, Commissioner Orlor served from 2001 to 2003 at the Council of Europe as the Programme Manager for the "Police and Human Rights Beyond 2000" programme. She was the Secretary General of Amnesty International in Sweden for a brief period in 1998 and worked for a private Swedish security company Dutra Ledarskap as a Leadership Consultant specializing in leadership on a strategic level in 1999. Commissioner Orlor studied journalism in her spare time, is a graduate of the Swedish Police Training Academy and holds a law degree from the University of Uppsala, Sweden. She is fluent in English and has some French and German language ability

Ms. Lakshmi Puri

Assistant Secretary General, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN Women

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, a former diplomat from India was appointed as Assistant Secretary-General for UN Women in March 2011. In this position Ms. Puri is responsible for the leadership and management of the Bureau supporting intergovernmental bodies, United Nations coordination and external relations. She also serves as one of the two Deputies to UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet. Ms. Lakshmi Puri has more than 37 years experience in economic and development policy-making as well as in political, peace and security, humanitarian and human rights-related diplomacy. More than twenty years of these have been in relation to the United Nations system. She has promoted the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda throughout her career. She has considerable experience and professional background in all the thematic and functional areas of UN Women. She has been actively involved in pioneering efforts to analyse and advocate positive linkages between economic development and gender equality. She has worked on ensuring inclusion of a gender perspective in trade investment, migration and labour mobility, financial flows, environment and climate change, energy, agriculture and food security, and access to essential services, among other issues. Ms. Puri held the rank of Permanent Secretary of the Government of India, was Ambassador of India to Hungary and accredited to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ms. Elizabeth Spehar

Director, Americas and Europe Division, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations

Ms. Elizabeth Spehar joined the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) of the UN Secretariat in September 2007 as Director for the Americas and Europe Division and since January 1, 2009, has headed the newly-constituted Europe Division (ED). Since 2008, Ms. Spehar has also served as the Department's focal point on democracy and chairs the inter-agency Working Group on Democracy of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS). Before joining the UN Secretariat, Ms. Spehar was a senior official with the Organization of American States (OAS) for over 12 years, which included the positions of Executive Coordinator for the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) at OAS Headquarters in Washington DC for 9 years as well as Chief of the OAS Electoral Support Program in Haiti (2005-6). Prior to her initial appointment to the OAS, Ms. Spehar had served as the Head of the Americas Programme of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD) in Montreal, Quebec, Canada (1990-1994). Earlier in her career, she worked for a variety of institutions dealing with human rights/women's rights, democracy and development issues, including MATCH International (Ottawa, Canada), the UNDP Office in Cape Verde, West Africa, and consultancies with the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Ms. Spehar holds a B.A. Honours Degree from Queen's University, Canada, a Masters' Degree in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA), Carleton University, Canada, and a Diplome d'Etudes Supérieures from the University of Pau, Pau, France.