

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fourth session
1 – 12 March 2010

Interactive Expert Panel IV

Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis

Monday, 8 March 2010, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Panellists

1. Ms. Mona Khalaf is an economist and an independent consultant on gender and development issues. She is a former Assistant Professor of Economics and former Director of the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World at the Lebanese American University. She is on the Advisory Board for the Gender Economic Research and Policy Analysis Initiative (GERPA), established by the World Bank and CAWTAR in 2006. Ms. Khalaf is on the editorial board of *Al-Raida*, a quarterly magazine that addresses women's issues in the Arab world and has authored several publications that focus on women's empowerment through education and work. She coordinated the World Bank's Gender Consultative Council in the MENA Region and was member of the Lebanese NGO Commission and the Lebanese National Commission for the Preparation of the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women; the Lebanese National Commission for Women Affairs; and the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW. In 2009, she was commissioned to prepare a report on "Economic empowerment of Arab women through access to economic and financial resources" for ESCWA.

2. Ms. Alma Espino is an economist and Researcher of the Economics Institute of the Faculty of Economics and Administration at the University of the Republic, Montevideo, Uruguay. She is also the coordinator of the Gender and Development Division of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Development Studies, Uruguay (CIEDUR). She has been a consultant for various international organizations, including ECLAC, ILO, UNRISD, UNIFEM, World Bank, UNDP, and foundations. Ms. Espino is the focal point in Uruguay for the International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN), as well as the Research Coordinator for its Latin American Chapter. She was the coordinator of the first regional conference "Gender and macroeconomics in the Latin America and the Caribbean" in Mexico in 2006.

3. Ms. Rania Antonopoulos is director of the Gender Equality and the Economy programme at the Levy Institute, Annadale-on-Hudson, New York. Author of numerous publications, her most recent work includes "Unpaid Work and the Economy: Gender, Time Use and Poverty in Developing Countries" (co-editor), in 2010. She specializes in macro-micro linkages of gender and economics, international competition, and globalization. She has served as an expert adviser and consultant for UNDP and, since 2002, as a co-director of the GEM-IWG Knowledge Networking Program on Engendering Macroeconomics and International Economics. She headed a team of Levy Institute researchers studying the impact of public employment guarantee schemes (EGS) on pro-poor development and gender equality. The project, supported by a UNDP grant, consisted of a pilot study exploring the synergies between EGS and unpaid work, including unpaid carework, in India and South Africa. Currently, she is working with the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) for the launching of a similar public job creation programme.