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## Creating Richness in the INFORMATION SOCIETY: Inclusion, Diversity & Gender Equality

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### [WSIS Gender Caucus hosts Critical Debate and Dialogue Series at the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society](#)

Distinguished gender equality advocates and scholars from around the world will debate issues of human development, capacity building, empowerment and media participation during the World Summit for the Information Society Gender Caucus (WSIS-GC) *Critical Debate and Dialogue Series at Palexpo*, in Geneva, Switzerland 8-13 December 2003. Confirmed speakers include Gloria Bonder, (FLASCO/PRIGEP), Dr Martha Burkle, Monterrey Institute of Technology, Noeleen Heyzer (UNIFEM), Sarbuland Khan (UN ICT Task Force), Dr Kio Chung Kim (AP WINC), Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo (Makerere University), Lyndall Shope-Mafole, Presidential National Commission on ICTs for Development, South Africa, Prof. Lena Trojer (NGRRG) and Muthoni Wanyeki (FEMNET). Speakers will raise topics of gender equality critical to the development of the Information Society and achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Gender equality is now affirmed as an integral part of the WSIS Declaration of Principles:

*“We are committed to ensuring that the Information Society enables women’s empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. We should mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to that end.”*

This World Summit on the Information Society provides the opportunity to stimulate intellectual thinking and exchange research findings on gender equality and women’s rights. The debates and discussion will focus on human development, empowerment and regional themes from around the world. Young women, technology developers and social entrepreneurs have programmed an entire day to present their perspectives on the Information Society. The *Critical Debate and Dialogue Series* will provide conceptual insights into the gendered nature of the digital divide and the value of integrating gender equality and women’s rights issues into the WSIS process and its outcomes.

The *Series’* focus on development issues contributes to the *Information and Communication Technologies for Development Platform* of the WSIS. The *Series* seeks to generate a research and knowledge production process focusing on gender equality and women’s rights issues in the Information Society and to foster North-South scholarly collaboration.

The WSIS-GC is a multi-stakeholder group of women and men from national governments, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the United Nations system.

Strategic Partners of the WSIS Gender Caucus supporting this event include: Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; NORAD; Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; SIDA; and UNIFEM .

For more information contact the Events Programme Co-ordinator at [events@genderwsis.org](mailto:events@genderwsis.org) or visit <http://www.genderwsis.org/dec2003events.html>