



CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, World Young Women's Christian Association and Women's Environment and Development Organization

Invite you to an interactive panel discussion

***Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Debate:
Making Rio+20 Count for Rural Women***

Moderator: Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, World YWCA

Speakers: Nonhlanhla Sibanda, People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA), South Africa

Caroline Daly, YWCA-YMCA of Sweden

Dr Jennifer Clifford, Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD), University of Massachusetts Boston

Sabina Anokye Mensah, Voices of African Mothers, US & Ghana

Facilitator: Jeffery Huffines, UN Representative (NY), CIVICUS

**March 1, 2012
10:30am – 12:00 noon
Church Center of the United Nations
44th Street and First Avenue, Boss Room, 8th Floor**

The panel discussion will review the role played by rural women in sustainable development and poverty eradication, from the local to the international level, and critically examine the impact of the current development model on rural women's participation in global decision-making, particularly as it relates to shaping and implementing the anticipated outcomes of Rio+20. Case studies of the work done by rural women will be shared as a means to examine the daily challenges women face with regard to property rights, food security, feminization of poverty, inheritance and violence.

Contact: Jeffery Huffines at jeffery.huffines@civicus.org

Event Panel:**Moderator – Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, World YWCA**

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda is a human rights lawyer who has been the World YWCA General Secretary since 2007. Her leadership of the World YWCA movement extends across 108 countries with a reach of 25 million women and girls. She served as Regional Director for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and as a human rights officer with UNICEF in Liberia and Zimbabwe. She serves on various Boards including Action Aid International, CIVICUS and Save the Children UK. She is the founder and chairperson of Rozaria Memorial Trust and an active member of women's organisations including the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association.

Speakers:**Nonhlanhla Sibanda, People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA), South Africa**

Nonhlanhla Sibanda is a seasoned women's rights activist and professional with a passion for social justice and peace. She has extensive experience in feminist research, women rights programming, gender analysis and development. She is currently working as a Projects Manager for POWA, a women's rights organisation based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Her work has focused on women's rights, specifically violence against women. In her professional and feminist activist work over the years, she has developed and implemented multi-pronged women's rights programmes and advocacy strategies at national, regional and international levels.

Caroline Daly, YWCA-YMCA of Sweden

Caroline Daly is a project manager at the YWCA-YMCA of Sweden. Caroline is currently working with a project concerning youth's inclusion in civil society in Sweden, and has previously written a book on how members of YWCA-YMCA of Sweden can implement efforts to fight climate change in their local associations' work. Caroline is presently a board member of the Swedish Development Forum (FUF) and has earlier worked with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Dr Jennifer Clifford Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD), University of Massachusetts Boston

Jennifer Janisch Clifford, Ph.D. is an environmental and natural resource economist specializing in economic valuation, resource conservation, and incentive instruments. She is a member of the faculty of the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD) at the UMass Boston where she teaches a course in Climate Change, Global Food and Water Resources. As an economic consultant Jennifer has worked on several water projects, including coastal zone and coral reef protection for the government of Belize, benefit cost analysis of the Charles River cleanup, and a major contingent valuation study of the Miyun Reservoir for the Chinese government.

Sabina Anokye Mensah, Voices of African Mothers, US & Ghana

Sabina Anokye Mensah is with the Voices of African Mothers (VAM) which is one of the Organizing Partners for the Women's Major Group for Rio. She has expertise in food and energy. Sabina currently lives in Ghana.

Facilitator:**Jeffery Huffines, UN Representative (NY), CIVICUS**

Jeffery Huffines is CIVICUS' representative at UN Headquarters in New York. He serves as one of the Organizing Partners for the NGO Major Group for Rio. From 2007-2011 he served as Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive and has been a leading advocate for a number of coalitions, including the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organisations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations; and Co-Chair of the Faith & Ethics Network for the ICC.



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