

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Presenters

Lopa Banerjee

Lopa Banerjee has been the Chief of the Civil Society Section at UN Women Headquarters in New York since January 2012. Lopa leads UN Women's work on strengthening civil society contribution, participation and influence in the global, intergovernmental policy discussion and decision processes. Before joining UN Women, Lopa worked within the United Nations system for over a decade, in UNDP and OHCHR in South Africa and UNICEF in Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Bangladesh and New York on gender and development issues including, social policy, governance and human rights based programming and the rights of the child. Prior to becoming an international civil servant, she worked in the private sector as well as with civil society on gender-based violence and representation of women in the media in India. Lopa's areas of specialization include policy analysis and advocacy, partnership development and engagement, and gender and human rights based programming. She speaks English, Hindi, Bengali and is currently learning Spanish.

Celine Paramunda

Celine Paramunda is a Medical Mission Sister originally from India. She has served over a decade as the women's coordinator among the impoverished Dalit (former untouchables) women in South India. Choosing micro finance as a tool, empowerment of women became an experience of mutual empowerment. Her academic background includes a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Bachelors in Nursing. She holds a Masters Degree and M.Phil in Women's Studies. Celine is a member of several NGO Committees e.g. Sustainable Development, Social Development and an Executive member of Financing for Development. She has attended UN Climate Conferences and was active in the Rio+ 20 preparations leading up to the conference in 2012. She has followed the process of the Open Working Group (OWG) and was a steering committee member of OWG 5. Celine serves as the NGO representative at the UN for the Medical Mission Sisters

Moderator

Monica Tolman

Career – a lifetime spent first in Human Resources and then Training and Development at all levels. Was Training Director for a large company, Head of Management Development for a group of engineering companies and, latterly, was Development Consultant. Voluntary Work – was Assistant Youth Club Leader at the age of 18 and worked in the Youth Service as a volunteer for many years. She is also active in the Community and in the Church. Monica has held all roles in the National Council of Women of Great Britain from Branch Chair to Regional Chair to Vice President and President. Is now Hon Vice-President of NCWGB, Vice Chair of ICWGB and is ICW-CIF Co-ordinator of Status of Women Standing Committee.