

***Nominate civil society speakers for the
UN President of the General Assembly's High-level Thematic Debate on
"Achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
for a transformative post-2015 development agenda"***

Dear Colleagues,

At the request of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA), the [United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service](#) (UN-NGLS) is conducting an open process to obtain nominations for 3 civil society speaking roles in the President's High-level Thematic Debate on "Achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for a transformative post-2015 development agenda," which will take place on 6 March 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York. Travel funding will be provided for the 3 civil society speakers that are selected. The roles for these representatives are outlined in Section A below.

The concept note for the Thematic Debate is available [here](#).

Anyone can nominate representatives of civil society organizations via this process. Please read this entire email if you will participate in this process, as it has a few steps and specific requirements. Kindly note: this nomination process is not open to candidates of the corporate private sector.

1. Submit nominations for the following 3 civil society speaking roles

a) One speaker for the opening session, which will also commemorate International Women's Day. This individual must be a chief or executive-level representative of a civil society organization, and acquainted with the conferences and review processes for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing +20) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD Beyond 2014), as well as the current status of Post-2015 development agenda discussions. For this role, OPGA will prioritize candidates representing local or community-based civil society organizations.

b) One speaker for Panel Discussion #1 on women's economic and political empowerment. This individual should be a chief or executive-level representative of a civil society organization, with expertise on access to decent work and control over economic and productive resources, and/or participation in governance and decision-making. For this role, OPGA will prioritize candidates representing local or community-based civil society organizations, particularly in developing countries.

c) One speaker for Panel Discussion #2 on access to quality education and skills development as tools for empowerment of women and girls. This individual should be a chief or executive-level representative of a civil society organization, and should have expertise on the benefits of increasing access to quality education, training and lifelong learning opportunities for women and girls. For this

role, OPGA will prioritize candidates representing local or community-based civil society organizations, particularly in developing countries.

Submit nominations for these three roles here: <http://bit.ly/6March-PGA-Gender-Nominate>

All nominations will automatically load into a google doc spreadsheet, [published here](#).

Before submitting a nominee, please confirm the nominee:

- is a chief or executive-level representative of a civil society organization, and officially authorized by their organization/network to speak on the organization/network's behalf;
- has the expertise outlined above for the role the person is nominated for;
- has experience with presenting gender equality and women's empowerment issues in public fora,
- has demonstrated ability to engage constructively with a variety of stakeholders;
- would be a compelling public speaker (the online nomination form requests links to writing samples or remarks delivered at speaking engagements).
- is available to be in New York on 6 March 2015 and for travel if necessary.
- has a visa for travel to New York, or is able to obtain one within 2 weeks for travel to New York.

2. Apply for the civil society Selection Committee

A civil society Selection Committee will be facilitated by UN-NGLS to evaluate all nominees and determine a short-list of 5 to 7 candidates for each of the roles outlined above in Section 1.

The final selection of speakers will be made by the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

To learn more about the Selection Committee, and to apply to be a member, please click [here](#).

Please note that members of the Selection Committee cannot be considered for the civil society speaking roles to be filled through this process.

3. Timeline for participation in the nomination process

Friday, 30 January:

Deadline for applications to participate in the civil society Selection Committee

Tuesday, 3 February:

Deadline for submission of civil society speaker nominations

Monday, 9 February, 8:00-10:00am EST: Selection Committee conference call #1

Tuesday, 10 February, 8:00-10:00am EST: Selection Committee conference call #2

D. Visa arrangements

OPGA will provide an invitation letter for the selected civil society speakers. These participants will be responsible for obtaining their visas for travel. Please confirm that the US Embassy/consulate in the home country of a candidate will be able to issue a visa for their travel to the US within 2 weeks.

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

Thank you and best regards,
UN-NGLS