

INCLUSIVE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS & THE WPS AGENDA: LESSONS LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCES IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE DRC

Speakers:

JOHANNA (YOKA) BRANDT

Employment History

2020- present **Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations**- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

2016 – 2020 **Secretary-general**- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

2012 – 2016 **Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships (ASG level)**- UNICEF

2008 – 2012 **Director General for International Cooperation**- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

2007 – 2008 **Deputy Director General for International Cooperation**- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

2004 – 2007 **Ambassador of the Netherlands to Uganda**- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

2000 – 2004 **Ambassador of the Netherlands to Eritrea**- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

1985 – 2000 **Various positions in The Hague and at the missions**- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands



STORAI TAPESH:

Ms. Tapes is a dedicated woman and human rights activist with extensive development and programming experience with civil society, international organizations, and UN agencies.

She is the former chair and board member of the Afghan Women Social Protection Organization (AWSPO), a current member of the CEDAW technical committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the deputy director and senior program manager of the Afghan Women's Network (AWN).



Ms. Tapes has designed and led several programs and initiatives that advanced and promoted the WPS agenda, women's role in decision-making, gender equality, and access to justice, accountability, and transparency.

HABIBA SARABI:

Habiba Sarabi is a haematologist, politician and reformer of the post-Taliban era in Afghanistan.

She has worked as a women's rights and education activist and teaching girls and women in refugee camps in Pakistan. In 2013, Habiba Sarabi won the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for her work in good governance and girl's education and in 2016 she was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for her unrelenting work to bring peace to Afghanistan, while ensuring attention to gender equality and women's empowerment.



Ms. Sarabi has also built a notorious political career by serving as Minister of Women's Affairs from 2002 to 2004 and through her later appointment as governor of Bayman Province in 2005, making her the first woman ever to be a provincial governor in the country. Later on in 2014, she joined Dr. Zalmay Rasul's ticket as vice president in the presidential elections and was the most prominent woman running in that year's elections. Upon formation of the National Unity Government, Sarabi served as advisor on women and youth to Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive of Afghanistan. Furthermore, in 2016, she was then appointed as deputy to Afghanistan High Peace Council. Habiba Sarabi was also a member of the Government's negotiation team with the Taliban.

CLARE HUTCHINSON:

From 2018-2021, Ms. Hutchinson was appointed as NATO Secretary-General Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security (WPS), High Level Focal Point on Children and Armed Conflict and Head of the NATO Human Security Unit. During her tenure Ms. Hutchinson provided advice and guidance to military and civilian leadership on gender and Women, Peace and Security, as well as introducing and negotiating key policies on WPS, including combatting sexual exploitation and sexual violence in operations.



Previously she worked as a Gender Adviser with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping where she spearheaded the strategic development of gender strategies for peacekeeping at HQ and in numerous UN peacekeeping missions.

Prior to working with the UN, Ms. Hutchinson was a communications, media and public relations expert, concentrating on mitigating risk and disaster for governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Ms. Hutchinson was born and educated in Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK, obtaining an MA International Relations and MRes from the University of Newcastle, UK and a BA from Coventry University. She also studied drama and stage design at the Newcastle College of Arts and Technology. She is a dual Canadian/UK citizen, residing in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Ms. Hutchinson is an Associate Fellow with the Geneva Centre for Strategic Policy (Geneva), Distinguished Fellow with Glendon College, York University (Canada), 'Women Leader for Peace' as part of the International Leadership Association; Mentor for the Women in International Security for Eastern Partnership Program and in 2022 was awarded the Order of the Grand Golden Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria for her work in Women, Peace and Security and Human Security.

WINNIE TSHILOBO MATANDA:

Winnie Tshilobo Matanda, from the DRC, is a human rights activist specialized in the promotion of women's, girls' and children's rights with a focus on equity and gender equality for a more just society.

With a degree in International Relations and pursuing her master's degree in Development Studies, she is currently a Gender, Integrity and Protection Advisor with CORDAID in the DRC. She coordinates actions for the Women, Peace and Security agenda in a local advocacy program for security, justice and peace in the DRC integrated by national and international partners as well as the various stakeholders.

She has built a 6 year-long career in national (Association of Women in the Media, Fund for Congolese Women) and international organizations (Tearfund, FemPo, Save the Children International...) which has led her to become aware of the existential challenges facing women and girls in the DRC, which are only aggravated by constant conflict and political instability.

Winnie is also a researcher, and participates in several advocacy and research initiatives related to the protection, meaningful participation and empowerment of women and young girls. Her research is based on the multilevel analysis, ranging from community to national and international, on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its National Action Plan in the DRC.



CLAUDINE TSONGO MBALAMYA:

Claudine Tsongo Mbalamy is a lawyer and human rights defender since 2006 and has a 15 year academic trajectory as a law faculty teacher in addition to 7 years as Head of Works at the Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs (ULPGL) and the University of Goma.

With her background on gender and peacebuilding, she counts with 16 years of experience in civil society organizations (especially women-led) and in the coordination and management of projects in the DRC. She co-founded and currently coordinates the Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (DFJ) where she oversees more than 21 DJF legal clinics that bring in a yearly average of 2000 (S)GBV survivors cases for justice.

She also manages advocacy campaigns for the meaningful participation of women in peace processes and decision-making bodies at all levels, as well as for the improvement of women's rights legal and regulatory. Therefore, she is recognized for her involvement in the revision of the DRC's family code, in the voting procedure on DRC's parity law, and the effective creation of the UNSCR 1325's committees at provincial and local levels in North Kivu.

Furthermore, Tsongo is the founder of the Network of Women Lawyers Associations in eastern DRC (RAFEJE) and the Network of Women Lawyers in the Great Lakes Region (ROFEJ – GL).

