

HIGH LEVEL SIDE-EVENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS 62ND COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**“Legal Frameworks for the
Empowerment of Rural Women:
Case Studies From Across the
Sustainable Development Goals”**

**THURSDAY
MARCH 15, 2018**

6:30-8:30_{PM}

No fee; please register at <http://www.nycbar.org/calendar/events>

Sponsoring Association Committee

United Nations Committee

Michael D. Cooper, Chair

Katherine M. Ball, CSW62 Side Event Coordinator

NEW YORK
CITY BAR



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EVENT

Rural women, serving as key agents in the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development, face particularized problems differentiating their lives from urban counterparts. In a largely agricultural setting, issues affecting agricultural production such as access to credit and markets, land ownership, tenure, and inheritance, and natural resource rights take central stage. Article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, identifying particular rights of women in rural areas, represents recognition within an international treaty of the specialized disadvantages and discrimination encountered by rural women, beyond those of women generally. Yet while efforts at remediation can be found oftentimes in national legislation, discrimination in the law itself, lack of knowledge of the law, and weak implementation, enforcement, and access to justice all prove to be a major barrier in rural settings, where the very rule of law may be fragile or absent.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by transforming recognized legal and human rights obligations into new development benchmarks, adds new impetus to the drive to craft effective interventions for the legal empowerment of rural women across the spectrum of their challenges. This high level panel illuminates the nexus between the legal empowerment of rural women and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by examining effective legal interventions that have worked to solve the problems of rural women across several key targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using the tool of the law.

High level keynote addresses will be followed by three presentations on use of the law to achieve development targets for rural women, followed by an interactive dialogue.

Dr. Beatrice Duncan, Rule of Law Advisor (Justice and Constitutions), UNWomen, will present the interface between UNWomen programmatic initiatives and law to achieve SDG targets for women.

Dr. Justine Uvuza, Sr. Land Policy Advisor on Gender of Landesa Rural Development Institute will present on legal initiatives under SDG Target 1.4: "Women's Rights to Equal Ownership and Control over Land" by Landesa in Rwanda and Liberia.

Christine A. Carron, Ad.E., Retired Senior Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright Canada, LLP, President Pro Bono Quebec, Fellow of American College of Trial Lawyers, will present on a pro-bono legal initiative under SDG Target 10.3 to protect rural women from persecution for witchcraft in rural Tanzania in conjunction with HelpAge International.

Co-Sponsoring Organizations

The International Development Law Organization • United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) • Advocates for International Development • Landesa Rural Development Institute • HelpAge International • Virginia & Ambinder LLP • Hoffman & Kessler • King & Spalding • Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law • Committee on International Human Rights

KEYNOTES

DR. IRENE KHAN

Director-General, International Development Law Organization

YASMIN BATLIWALA, JP

Chief Executive, Advocates for International Development

Moderator:

KIM AZZARELLI

Co-Founder, Seneca Women



Fighting for Women's Equality and Rights in the Workplace



HOFFMAN & KESSLER



"...the rule of law is one of the greatest unifying factors, perhaps the greatest... It remains an ideal, but an ideal worth striving for, in the interests of good government and peace at home and in the world at large." The Rt Hon Lord Bingham of Cornhill KG

KING & SPALDING

Women's Affinity Groups of K&S