

# “Girl Power and Potential”

## Reception of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Adolescent Girls

ILO – UNESCO – UNFPA – UNICEF – UNIFEM – WHO

Millennium UN Plaza Hotel Ballroom  
Tuesday, 3 March 2009  
6:30-8:30pm

6:30 PM: Cocktails and h’ordeurves

7:00 PM: Remarks by (in order of appearance):

*Ms. Tamara Kreinin (Moderator)*, Executive Director of Women and  
Population, United Nations Foundation

*Ms. Purnima Mane*, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population  
Fund (UNFPA)

*Ms. Cecilia Lotse*, Director, Governance, UN and Multilateral Affairs, United  
Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

*Ms. Marcia Azucena Yat Jor*, Adolescent girl from Guatemala, Abriendo  
Oportunidades Program

*Ms. Noella Coursaris Musunka*, Congolese model and founder of  
The Georges Malaika Foundation

# “Girl Power and Potential”

## Speakers

(In order of appearance)

### **Ms. Tamara Kreinin (Moderator)**

*Executive Director of Women and Population, United Nations Foundation*

Tamara Kreinin is the Executive Director of Women and Population at the United Nations Foundation. Her experience in health and human services spans over 25 years. Prior to joining the UN Foundation, Kreinin spent two years serving as a consultant for non-profit and philanthropic organizations including a year as Interim Executive Director of The New York Regional Association of Grantmakers. Kreinin has extensive experience in the sexual and reproductive health and rights arena, including past positions of President/CEO of The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States and Director of State and Local Affairs at the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in Washington DC. Kreinin is currently on the Boards of The Center for Gender and Health Equality (CHANGE) and Inwood House. She is co-author of *Girls' Night Out*, a book about women's groups across America, published in August 2002 by Crown, Random House. Kreinin holds a Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan.

### **Ms. Purnima Mane**

*Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund*

Ms. Purnima Mane is Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Assistant-Secretary-General (ASG). As Deputy Executive Director (Programme), she assists the UNFPA Executive Director in directing UNFPA's programmes in line with the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Millennium Development Goals and the 2005 World Summit.

Ms. Mane has devoted her career to advocating for population and development issues and sexual and reproductive health, pioneering work on gender and AIDS. Prior to joining UNFPA, she served in several international positions, such as Director of Policy, Evidence and Partnership at UNAIDS; Chief Fund Portfolio Director and Director, Asia at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and Vice-President and Director of International Programmes at the Population Council. She worked for over a decade on public health and gender-related issues in India.

Ms. Mane holds a doctorate degree from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India. She has co-authored and edited a number of books and is a founding editor of the journal, *Culture, Health and Sexuality*.

## **Ms. Cecilia Lotse**

*Director, Governance, UN and Multilateral Affairs, United Nations Children's Fund*

Ms. Cecilia Lotse is currently the Director, Governance, UN and Multilateral Affairs, at the UNICEF New York Headquarters. Ms. Lotse served in a number of senior positions during her 23 years in UNICEF. Ms. Lotse served as UNICEF Regional Director in the Regional Office for South Asia, Kathmandu, Nepal, providing leadership and guidance in developing and implementing UNICEF's programme of cooperation for the Region. She also served as Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board. Ms. Lotse was also the Director of the Programme Funding Office in UNICEF New York Headquarters.

Before joining UNICEF, Ms. Lotse worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), serving in Gaborone, Botswana and New York. She also worked as Coordinator of Development Review at the Rockefeller Foundation, New York.

Ms. Lotse is a national of Sweden. She studied Political Science at the University of Stockholm, Sweden and at the University of Maine, USA, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972. She was awarded a Master of Philosophy degree from Columbia University, New York, USA in 1975, and pursued advanced studies toward a Doctorate in Political Science at the same school.

## **Ms. Marcia Azucena Yat Jor**

Marcia Azucena Yat Jor is a young Mayan woman from the Pocomchi ethnic group in Guatemala. She is eighteen years old and speaks Pocomchi and Spanish. She is currently a student finishing high school. Marcia has been participating in the Abriendo Oportunidades Program for over a year, as a professional intern in a local NGO and leading and teaching groups of younger girls ages 10-14 at the community level. She has also participated as a health extension worker for the public health sector in her community. She is currently engaged in teaching other young women in the Abriendo Oportunidades Program to become mentors of younger girls in their communities. She would like to go on to university and study psychology and later work with women and girls to help them overcome problems of violence and abuse and reach their personal goals. Abriendo Oportunidades is partly funded by UNFPA and implemented by the Population Council.

## **Ms. Noella Coursaris Musunka**

Noella Coursaris Musunka, born in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo, is a versatile model and founder of the Georges Malaika Foundation (GMF). GMF is a U.S. based non-profit organization whose mission is to unlock the potential of Congolose girls through educational opportunities. Noella and her team of non-profit and private industry professionals are determined to build a school for 300 girls in Kalebuka, DRC and have already sponsored 16 young girls with full tuition, uniforms, meals and school supplies for the 2008/2009 academic year. Noella is determined to serve as an agent of change in her native Congo and to spark activism that will bring about peace, stop war and end sexual violence against women.