



FINANCIAL INCLUSION AS A TOOL FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND POVERTY ERADICATION

March 13, 2017 at 4:30 pm -6:00 pm in the Boss Room, 8th floor, Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York



Speakers:

- **Ambassador Meza-Cuadra**, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations
- **Yrenilisa Lopez**, Investment Officer, Women's World Banking Asset Management
- **Daniel Platz**, Economic Affairs Officer, Multi-stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Branch, Financing for Development Office, United Nations
- **Jeri Rhodes**, President, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)

Moderator: **Anita Thomas**, Representative to the UN, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund
Executive Committee Member, NGO Committee on Financing for Development

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Supporting Organizations: Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, International Federation of Business and Professional Women International, New Humanity of the Focolare Movement



VGIF – an international fund for women and girls
Small Grants – Local Action – Better Lives



NEW HUMANITY





Additional Supporting Organizations:

- Casa Generalizia della Società del Sacro Cuore
- Company of the Daughters of Charity
- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
- Dominican Leadership Conference
- Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
- International Association of Schools of Social Work
- International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- International Presentation Association
- *Ius Primi Viri* International Human Rights Education Association
- Loretto Community
- Maryknoll Sisters of Saint Dominic
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- National Council of Women USA
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- Sisters of Charity Federation
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
- Soroptimist International
- Unanima International
- United Nations Associations of USA
- Vivat International

Background:

The latest numbers from Global Findex, a comprehensive database on financial inclusion from the World Bank Group, reveal that while more than 700 million people gained access to formal financial services between 2011 and 2014, the gender gap in financial inclusion remains a stark reality with women in emerging economies having a 20% less likely of having a bank account than men and 17% less likely to have borrowed formally¹.

Studies also show that women in rural areas tend to be less educated and less likely to be formally employed. The lack of financial inclusion makes it harder for women, especially in rural areas, where in many households she is the sole income earner or the main income earner, to save for the future and borrow the necessary funds to grow her business, send her children to school and own assets.

Objective of the Event:

The objectives of the panel, organized by the NGO Committee on Financing for Development and the NGO Committee on Social Development in collaboration with the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, is to generate substantive discussions around the topic of financial inclusion as a tool for women's empowerment and poverty eradication.

¹ McKinsey Global Institute- Digital Finance for all: Powering Inclusive Growth in Emerging Economies, Findex notes April 2013, Women and Financial Inclusion