

The Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations in collaboration with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are co-hosting a side event at the 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS



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Monday, March 8, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
United Nations North Lawn
Building, Conference Room C

Moderator:

Francisco Cos-Montiel,
Women's Rights and Citizenship
Program, IDRC

Opening Remarks:

**Honourable Dr. Jacqui
Quinn Leandro**, Minister of
Education, Gender, Sports and
Youth Affairs, Government of
Antigua and Barbuda

Speakers:

Reem Bahdi, Associate Professor,
Faculty of Law, University of
Windsor, Canada

Sheila Meintjes, Head,
Department of Political Studies,
University of the Witwatersrand,
South Africa

Frances Birungi, Uganda
Community Based Association
for Child Welfare; Member,
Huirou Commission

Randi Davis, Practice Manager,
Gender Team, Bureau for
Development Policy, UNDP

Koh Miyaoi, Gender
Practice Leader for Europe
and CIS, UNDP

Democratic governance is a key element in achieving equitable and sustainable development. Yet much of the existing research and literature on democratic systems addresses neither how women's political participation contributes to democratic processes and outcomes, nor how this form of governance advances women's rights and gender equality.

At this session, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda will present the new Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWIL). IDRC will launch its global research initiative on Democratic Governance, Women's Rights, and Gender Equality. This initiative will support Southern-based researchers to examine women's political citizenship and how democratic governance systems respond to women's rights, needs, and priorities. Panelists will explore these issues at the global and regional levels.

The Huirou Commission will discuss its work on strengthening grassroots women's participation in decision-making processes, and local government responsiveness to community priorities. UNDP will present its work on gender and democratic governance, and women in politics. It will also launch a new regional report on women's political participation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

