

# Fourth Annual UN Briefings and Luncheon

## US Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs to the UN Delivers Keynote Address



Ambassador  
Rosemary DiCarlo

New York, NY – On May 1, 2009, the Women's Foreign Policy Group hosted its fourth annual UN Briefings and Luncheon focusing on *World Crises and the UN: from Sudan to the Democratic Republic of Congo to Afghanistan*. The conference drew over 100 participants from corporations, non-profits, foundations, international organizations, the media, and the diplomatic community.

Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, US Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs to the UN, delivered the keynote address, *US Priorities at the UN*, at the luncheon. The conference also featured briefings by Eva Busza, Principal Officer for the Strategic Planning Unit, Office of the Secretary General, on *The UN Secretary General's Top Priorities and Challenges*; Radhika Coomaraswamy, Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, on *Protecting Children in Armed Conflict*; B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on *Major Political Crises Facing the UN*; and Joanne Sandler, Deputy Executive Director of UNIFEM, on *Ending Violence against Women in Conflict Zones*.

In her remarks, **Ambassador DiCarlo** outlined four key priorities for the US that demonstrate a revitalized US leadership and cooperation at the UN. (1) A commitment to being "at the center" of the UN efforts to reduce poverty, fight disease, and promote sustainable economic development. She pointed out that the new US Administration's first proposed budget "puts us on a path to double foreign assistance" and noted that the US shares the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Though the Ambassador acknowledged the current work of UN agencies to meet the Goals, she said that additional funding will be needed to fully realize them.

(2) A focus on ridding the world of nuclear weapons. Ambassador DiCarlo noted the international goal of securing all vulnerable nuclear material around the world within four years

and cited a recent example of the US Mission's success in rallying the Security Council to unanimously condemn North Korea's launch of a rocket using ballistic missile technology, which violated Security Council prohibitions.

(3) A strong global leadership on climate change. On this point, Ambassador DiCarlo noted that the General Assembly will also focus efforts toward a global warming agreement by the end of this year and expressed gratitude that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is a strong advocate on this issue.

(4) A commitment to increasing the UN's capacity for peacekeeping missions. Ambassador DiCarlo explained how increased peacekeeping missions can be an effective tool in managing conflicts "whose spread could threaten US national security interests and values." She said that at one-eighth the cost of a US troop deployment, using the UN's "blue helmets" is a good deal for the American taxpayer. However, with these operations growing in size and complexity, she explained that the UN needs a revamped strategy and improved capacity to better provide for peacekeeping missions.

Ambassador DiCarlo also discussed maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia and the US's role in the recent UN and NATO provisions to escort humanitarian vessels and to intercept, arrest, and prosecute pirates. Additionally, she addressed the situations in Haiti, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and the Sudan, as well as swine flu and the global economic crisis.



B. Lynn Pascoe



Radhika  
Coomaraswamy



Joanne Sandler



Eva Busza

U  
N  
  
B  
R  
I  
E  
F  
I  
N  
G  
S



WFGP Board Chair  
Maxine Isaacs



WFGP Board Member  
Gillian Sorensen



Peggy Kerry of the US Mission to the UN  
during morning briefings



Keynote Luncheon Speaker Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo



Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, Maxine Isaacs, and Melinda Blinken



Joanne Sandler of UNIFEM and  
Sheila Sisulu of the World Food Programme



Patricia Ellis and Radhika Coomaraswamy, Under-Secretary-General,  
Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict



WFGP Board Members and Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo



WFGP Board Member Donna Constantinople and Columbia  
University student Yata Kande asking questions during Q&A

(cont. from page 1)

**Eva Busza**, Principal Officer, Strategic Planning Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, discussed the progress that has been made on the three priorities the Secretary-General set in 2007: (1) to deliver results to people most in need, (2) to address new global challenges by securing "global goods," and (3) to strengthen the UN by increasing accountability. Ms. Busza added that the recent economic crisis has made staying on top of these priorities an even more important task.

To deliver results to people most in need, there must be increased investment in food production and a renewed focus on maternal and infant health – an area where the Secretary-General feels the UN can make rapid progress. In addition, Ms. Busza explained that "delivering results" means bolstering the UN's capacities for conflict prevention and peace-building, the need for which has caused the UN's civilian, military, and police personnel to increase from 20,000 to over 110,000 in the past ten years. She also noted that the UN is working with member states to improve risk reduction mechanisms that address humanitarian needs in times of disaster or conflict.

Ms. Busza explained that what makes the current challenges different is not that they have not existed before, but that as matters of "global goods" they are not restricted to particular member states and require solutions of great depth, scope, and cooperation. For example, the problems presented by climate change, swine flu, and nuclear non-proliferation all necessitate intensive global collaboration.

**B. Lynn Pascoe**, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, discussed recent developments in the UN's peacekeeping and peace-building efforts. He explained that the UN Department of Political Affairs, recognizing the need to increase its ability to respond rapidly and effectively, has put in place expert teams that are prepared to assist in crisis prevention. When a crisis arises, the organization aims to "get somebody out on the ground within a few days or a week at the maximum." In addition, the UN's political unit aims to be more active in resolving conflicts by collaborating with other UN units and outside groups. Mr. Pascoe also spoke of a new UN website, [peacemaker.un.org](http://peacemaker.un.org), that is a repository of peace agreements and best practices in mediation and negotiation, as well as UN efforts to determine how to most effectively help countries transition from crisis to self-sufficiency.

Mr. Pascoe said he believes that the UN has "been a little too quick" to resort to peacekeeping efforts in the past, noting that the increase of field personnel to 110,000 has made the UN second only to the US in terms of deployment and has become too large for the organization to manage effectively. However, Mr. Pascoe also pointed out that, under Ban Ki Moon's leadership, the UN has started to rely more on diplomacy and regional mediation in crisis prevention and resolution.

**Joanne Sandler**, the Deputy Executive Director of UNIFEM, spoke about ending violence against women in conflict zones. She lamented the international community's failure to stand by women victims of violence. She explained that the reluctance of member states to help often comes from concern about imposing Western values, but may also result from preference given to other political priorities.

Ms. Sandler discussed four key challenges that must be overcome in order to fulfill Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on post-conflict situations: (1) ending impunity for rape in peace negotiations; (2) implementing 1820 with standard operating procedures to prevent widespread and systematic sexual violence in conflict situations (to this end, she noted that the recently formed *UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict* brings together various UN entities to develop the first-ever comprehensive strategy to combat sexual violence); (3) implementing monitoring mechanisms to take the place of the current provisions under 1325, which are "woefully inadequate" compared to the robust monitoring mechanisms of Security Council Resolution 1612 on children in armed conflict; (4) supporting women's leadership "in spearheading change," which includes implementing justice processes for women, such as truth commissions, and providing "safe spaces" to women in post-conflict societies. Ms. Sandler also mentioned the need to increase resources for advocacy from high-level leadership such as UNIFEM's "Say No to Violence" campaign, led by celebrity spokeswoman Nicole Kidman.

**Radhika Coomaraswamy**, Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, spoke on protecting children in armed conflict and the progress that has been made regarding child soldiers. This includes the shift towards dealing directly with the leadership of groups that use child soldiers and putting the groups on the "list of shame" included in the Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict presented to the Security Council. She also explained that the international community has begun to bring criminal charges against these leaders and pointed to the current case at the International Criminal Court against Thomas Lubanga who is being charged with committing three war crimes: conscripting children under the age of 15 into armed groups; enlisting children into armed groups, and using children to participate actively in armed conflict.

Additionally, Ms. Coomaraswamy stated that her office and field teams have been empowered by the Security Council to enter into negotiations with parties that use children, enabling the UN to identify, release, and shelter these children. She emphasized that the "list of shame" has been especially helpful as groups have come to realize that being on it has consequences. Ms. Coomaraswamy called for greater focus on reintegrating child soldiers into society. She said that the current standard of six months of training and support is inadequate and should be extended to at least two to three years of work with the children and their community.

Visit [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org) for more photos and transcripts of the briefing sessions and luncheon address.

## Embassy Series Event: Ambassador Sarukhan of Mexico



On April 20, 2009, Mexican Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan hosted an Embassy Series event at his residence in Washington, DC for WFPG members and friends. The event included a reception and program on *US-Mexico Relations*, which was moderated by Mary Beth Sheridan, Diplomatic Correspondent for *The Washington Post*.

Ambassador Sarukhan spoke about the continued importance of US-Mexico relations and how Mexico and the rest of Latin America are integral to the continued presence of the US as a global and regional power. The Ambassador stressed the role of the US as an "indispensable nation" in the hemisphere and emphasized the need for the new Administration to liberalize free trade with Latin America. He expressed hope that the Obama Administration would shift the current paradigm toward a fresh course for inter-American relations.

In speaking of US policy towards the region, Ambassador Sarukhan noted the generally accepted "three D's" – *defense, diplomacy, and development* – of American foreign relations. He stated that he would add a fourth D for *democracy* and explained his hope that *liberal democracy* in particular would gain traction in the region because it is "concerned with setting limits to . . . power." He added that, given the history of the region, the predominant struggle in Latin America is in establishing liberal democracies with majority rule and minority rights that can sustain economic growth while ensuring human rights.

Ambassador Sarukhan also highlighted five strategic drivers of the US-Mexico bilateral relationship: (1) security, (2) the matching of common security and common prosperity, (3) the nexus between energy efficiency, energy security and environmental policy, (4) economic growth coupled with social wellbeing, and (5) US-Mexican engagement on global and regional issues.

Moderator Mary Beth Sheridan and the Ambassador discussed the shifting paradigm of bilateral relations with the US and how Mexico plans to confront its current challenges, including drug violence, immigration, and development. The Ambassador commented on the significant difference between the diplomatic climates of the Bush and Obama Administrations and was optimistic that the current Administration would be more successful at reaching out to Latin America. He also described the changing demographic and economic face of Mexico and asserted that the development of infrastructure is the key to the country's economic success. He stressed the important role that the US, as its largest trading partner, has to play in Mexico's development.



Mary Beth Sheridan and Ambassador Sarukhan

Visit [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org) for pictures and highlights of these and other WFPG events

## Embassy Series Event: Ambassador Castellaneta of Italy

On March 31, 2009, Italian Ambassador Giovanni Castellaneta hosted a WFPG event at the Italian Embassy in Washington, DC for WFPG members and friends. The event included a reception and program on *Italian-US Relations* which was moderated by Elisabeth Bumiller, author of *Condoleezza Rice: An American Life* and the Pentagon Correspondent for *The New York Times*. Ambassador Castellaneta spoke about Italian-American cultural heritage, President Barack Obama's visit to Europe for the G-20 Conference, foreign aid to developing countries, Afghanistan, and the 60th anniversary of NATO. The Ambassador emphasized the importance of collaboration and community as "important factors of strength in relations" between the United States and Italy.



Elisabeth Bumiller and Amb. Castellaneta

He also expressed confidence that the collaboration of the US and the EU would be beneficial in addressing problems from the financial crisis to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Elisabeth Bumiller asked the Ambassador about the steps being taken by the US and EU to solve the financial crisis, Italy's foreign policy toward Iran and Afghanistan, and the role Italy would like NATO to play in Afghanistan. Responding to questions about the financial crisis, the Ambassador highlighted the importance of working together and the need for solutions that specifically address the various situations in the countries affected by the crisis.



Regarding the situation in Afghanistan, the Ambassador said "our policy is currently limited to fighting terrorism" but that there must also be work on institution-building and economic recovery. He discussed the prime importance of having one million soldiers stabilize Afghanistan, find roots of terrorist cells there, fight the drug trade, and help the Afghans start a new economy. He expressed optimism that NATO can and will do more to help US efforts in Afghanistan, stating that a failure of NATO in Afghanistan could become a failure of NATO as a whole. He also spoke of the need for new global governance to deal with the problems caused by the current financial crisis and to continue the ongoing work to help developing countries.

## Leadership at a Time of Economic Crisis: The Role of Women



On May 4, 2009, the WFPG launched its partnership with the World Bank Groups' Private Sector Leaders Forum with a program exploring *Leadership at a Time of Economic Crisis: The Role of Women* at the World Bank's headquarters in Washington, DC. The program featured Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chair of Carlson, Beth Brooke, the Global Vice Chair for Public Policy at Ernst & Young, Joanna Barsh, a Director at McKinsey & Company, and Melanne Vermeer, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues.

Amanda Ellis, Lead Specialist of the World Bank Group Gender Action Plan, introduced the speakers. Remarks from the panel were followed by a lively Q&A. In closing Amb. Vermeer pointed out that she thinks of her fellow panelists as "why not?" women, because they "see things as they could be, and say 'why not?'" In particular, she explained that Ms. Nelson, Ms. Brooke, and Ms. Barsh, are actively working to unleash the potential women have in their own companies and around the world. See [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org) for Amb. Vermeer's remarks, highlights, and materials from the event.



## New York Mentoring Fair at New York University

The WFPG held its 2009 New York Mentoring Fair at New York University in late February. The event drew over 120 students and young professionals from the region. Universities represented include NYU, Barnard, Columbia, CUNY Lehman, Princeton, Sarah Lawrence, Seton Hall, and Yale. The event, which marked the second year of WFPG's Mentoring Fair partnership with NYU was co-sponsored by NYU Wagner School of Public Service and the NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development with additional support from several NYU student groups, including Wagner's International Public Service Association, Stern's Women in Business, and the International Relations Society.

The WFPG hosts annual Mentoring Fairs in both New York and Washington, DC to encourage and promote the next generation of leaders. WFPG members and friends share their career expertise with young women and men interested in international affairs.

Mentors discuss careers and fields such as the Foreign Service, international law and business, NGOs, and national security. WFPG Mentoring Fairs give busy professionals the opportunity to give back to the community. The WFPG would like to thank the mentors who participated and encourage all of its members to take the time to mentor a student or young professional this year.



Board Member Gillian Sorensen with students

## Welcome WFPG Summer Interns!



Kiera Bloore, senior at Georgetown University, Alyssa Teddy, senior at University of California, Davis, and Amy Withmory, senior at University of Pennsylvania

*"My semester with the Women's Foreign Policy Group was by far one of the most intensive and enlightening internships I have ever had the opportunity to be a part of. . . . [with] the numerous events that the interns were able to attend and help plan, I was impressed by how much I was able to do during my time."*

-Kaitlyn Neuberger,  
2009 Spring Intern



Caitlin Carroll, senior at Brigham Young University, and Taylor Henninger, recent graduate of New York University

## Author Series Event with David Sanger and Karen DeYoung

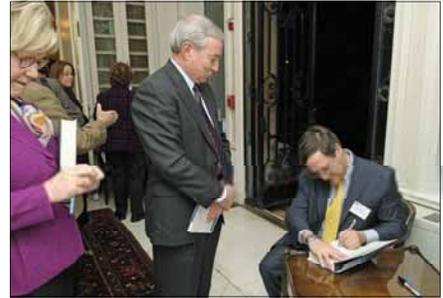
### *Foreign Policy and National Security Challenges for the Obama Administration*



On February 10, 2009 the Women's Foreign Policy Group hosted an Author Series event at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC with David Sanger, Chief Washington Correspondent for *The New York Times*, and Karen DeYoung, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent for *The Washington Post*.

Mr. Sanger spoke about his newly released book, *The Inheritance*, and the foreign policy legacy left for President Obama by the Bush White House. His book focuses on the way in which the conflict in Iraq dominated foreign policy during the Bush years, drawing policymakers' attention away from the emergence of both international threats and new opportunities for relationships abroad. Mr. Sanger stressed that, "this is the non-Iraq book," and, in fact, it is a book about everything else that happened while the American government was focused on the conflict in Iraq. He cited Iran and North Korea in particular as countries that took advantage of the "great distraction" that Iraq provided the US government. In addition, Mr. Sanger pointed to the conflict in Afghanistan as an example of how preoccupation with the war in Iraq led the government to devote insufficient amounts of time and resources to a problem that must now be a top priority on President Obama's agenda. He also detailed the complex and tenuous nature of the decisions that the Administration must make regarding engaging with Iran, particularly on whether to continue the covert program that the Bush Administration began, one of the largest of its kind run by United States. On the subject of the financial crisis, Mr. Sanger expressed concern that it will become "Barack Obama's Iraq," taking up too much time and attention and forcing the new Administration to sideline other important aspects of their agenda.

Ms. DeYoung spoke about her recent interview with Jim Jones, the new National Security Advisor, in which they discussed how the National Security Council would be organized during Obama's presidency. Mr. Jones described an NSC that would encompass many topics not traditionally considered to be issues of national security, such as climate change, energy, and infrastructure. She noted that his take on the NSC reminded her of Colin Powell's approach to the Council's transparency, the Advisor's role in keeping the group focused, and the importance of synthesizing the members' views for the President. Ms. DeYoung said she is eager to see how different this newly expanded NSC will actually be from its predecessors, and whether the high level of transparency promised by Mr. Jones actually comes to fruition. She also spoke about Afghanistan and Pakistan and the recently authorized troop surge in the region. Ms. DeYoung said that the increased troop deployment was the only way to hold the front while the Administration develops a new, effective, and comprehensive plan for Afghanistan.



Visit [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org) for pictures and highlights of these and other WFPG events

## Author Series Event: Daniel Erikson on US-Cuba Relations



On February 18, 2009, Daniel Erikson spoke to the Women's Foreign Policy Group and the Institute of International Education on his latest book, *The Cuba Wars: Fidel Castro, the United States, and the Next Revolution* in New York. Mr. Erikson discussed the impact of Fidel Castro's replacement by his brother, Raul, the changes in US policy regarding the embargo in Miami, and the role of Guantanamo Bay in US-Cuba relations. In terms of the future, he discussed how the arrival of the new US Administration may affect the future of United States' Cuba policy and named a number of challenges to increasing cooperation between the US and Cuba, including the strong presence of hard-line, pro-embargo Cuban-Americans in both Miami and the US Congress. He also spoke of a new possibility for improving US-Cuba relations and though he conceded that "on Cuba, no one ever got it wrong by saying 'nothing's going to change,'" he believes that changing views in Miami and Obama's unique position as the first president to be born after Fidel Castro assumed power in 1959 and a candidate who ran on a foreign policy platform of engagement with America's adversaries offer the potential for substantive reform.

# Author Series Event with Diana Villiers Negroonte on Insecurity in Central America

## *The Merida Initiative and Central America: The Challenges of Containing Public Insecurity and Criminal Violence*

On Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at the Law Offices of Arnold & Porter, LLP, Diana Negroonte, WFPG Board Member and nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, discussed her new book *The Merida Initiative and Central America: The Challenges of Containing Public Insecurity and Criminal Violence*. The book is about the Merida Initiative which was developed two years ago to address the issues of drug trafficking and criminal gangs plaguing Mexico and Central America. The Initiative, which provides these governments with US experience and expertise working with gangs, initially focused on equipment and technology. However, recently, the focus is shifting to prevention and intervention programs, an approach – which combined with improving law enforcement resources – had great success in Plan Colombia.



Dr. Negroonte's book focuses on the Northern Triangle of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras where the rate of homicide is increasing by about 17% annually. In her assessment of the regional homicide statistics, she stressed that “each of those numbers matters” and should not be dismissed as mere data but considered in terms of mothers and fathers. Dr. Negroonte also focused on the inefficiency of the legal system and the lack of popular confidence in the justice system and police. She noted the significant challenge of reinstating the public's trust in rule of law, given the years of preferential treatment of the wealthy and well-connected. However, she pointed out that Colombia was able to increase the trust of its citizenry by making a “major national commitment to strengthen their law system to a full egalitarian system.” Colombian Ambassador Carolina Barco added that the US can be helpful as a partner, as was the case in her country. The Ambassador also pointed out that, as these and other Latin American countries move from being solely drug-producers to drug-consumers as well, it is increasingly important that they work together with the US to combat these issues and share responsibility.



## WFPG Cosponsors International Women's Day Luncheon



On March 6, 2009, the UN Foundation, the UN Information Center, and the WFPG cosponsored a luncheon to celebrate International Women's Day at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), delivered the keynote address. Timothy E. Wirth, President, UN Foundation, was the Master of Ceremonies and Christy Turlington Burns, CARE Advocate for Maternal Health, delivered opening remarks.

Ms. Obaid delivered the keynote address, *From Crisis to Opportunity*, which highlighted examples of recent progress, including the decision of the new US Administration to resume funding UNFPA. Her remarks also focused on the promising trend of cooperation and integration of services provided by new *Deliver as One* partnerships. *Deliver as One* UN country teams bring together “the government, the development partners (UN and donors), and civil society organizations” in order to support development plans, which include initiatives for women's rights and health. Ms. Obaid stressed the importance of such integrated, holistic, and organic programs, noting that for change to endure, it must be made internally and that both women and men leaders must be supported as agents of change in their own countries.



# WFPG Honors Women Leaders

## A Celebration of Women Diplomats in New York

On April 14, 2009, the Women's Foreign Policy Group held its *Celebration of Women Diplomats* at the home of WFPG Member Geraldine Kunstadter in New York, NY. The event, which honored the achievements of women diplomats, featured four ambassadors to the United Nations and one ambassador to the United States. The diplomats spoke of the role of women in foreign policy and reflected on their own goals and responsibilities. The speakers addressed issues which particularly concern women as well as the contributions women can make in all areas of international relations.

The five women ambassadors, from Croatia, Estonia, Israel, Nigeria, and Romania, shared personal experiences and thoughts on progress. As Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović of the Embassy of Croatia to the US, noted, education is the basis of gender equality, but is not enough to fully achieve it: "Women have to be ambitious; they have to be self-confident." She spoke of her own attempts to address discrimination and violence against women in Croatia and elsewhere and described how her quest for gender equality has played a part in her family life as well.

Ambassador Gabriela Shalev, of the Mission of Israel to the UN, discussed her historic appointment to her post by another woman diplomat, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, and the non-traditional perspectives her background as an academic and grandmother provide. "I think that I bring a...different kind of communication," she said, concluding that "it is good for women to participate in politics."

Several other women officials attended the evening reception, including Deputy Chiefs of Missions to the UN from Belarus, Barbados, and Finland, as well as diplomats from the Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda, the Consulates General of Angola, the Czech Republic, Finland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Norway, and Uruguay, and the Government Office of Quebec.



Ambassadors Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic of the Embassy of Croatia to the US, Joy Ogwu of the Mission of Nigeria to the UN, Gabriela Shalev of the Mission of Israel to the UN, Tiina Intelmann of the Mission of Estonia to the UN, and Simona Mirela Miculescu of the Mission of Romania to the UN

## Beyond the Headlines: Barbara Slavin on Iran



On June 30, 2009, the Women's Foreign Policy Group held a program on Iran in Washington, DC featuring Barbara Slavin, Assistant Managing Editor for World and National Security for *The Washington Times*, and author of a book, *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies: Iran, the US and the Twisted Path to Confrontation*. Ms. Slavin took the audience behind the headlines in her discussion of the June 12 Iranian election, the protests, and what the internal turmoil means for Iran and its relations with the United States and the rest of the world. She explained that the crisis is not over, but that it is merely entering a new phase in which the Iranian people will have to continue being creative in getting their story out to the world. After her remarks, a lively discussion ensued about President Obama's reaction to the situation, the difficulty of covering the story given the crackdown, expulsion, and arrest of journalists and other sources, the impact the situation might have on the nuclear issue, and Iran's policies and actions vis-à-vis the rest of the Middle East. Ms. Slavin hopes that the public will stay interested in this issue and demand coverage on Iran from the media since what happens in Iran is of great importance and significance for not just Iran, but the rest of the world as well.

## Coming in August 2009: WFPG Guide to Senior-level Women in International Affairs

The Women's Foreign Policy Group publishes an annual *Guide to Senior-Level Women Leaders in International Affairs* to highlight the role women play as leaders, diplomats, and policymakers. The Guide is an index, which includes women Heads of State, Foreign Ministers, US Government and UN Officials, and Diplomats.

See [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org) for the 2009-2010 Guide to Women Leaders in August 2009

# WFPG Launches *Women in Power* Series

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator and Former Prime Minister of New Zealand to deliver Keynote Address, *The Development Challenge in the Middle of the Global Recession*



Helen Clark became the first woman to lead UNDP on April 17, 2009. She also chairs the United Nations Development Group, a committee consisting of the heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues. Prior to her appointment with UNDP, Helen Clark served for three terms as Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999 – 2008). Throughout her tenure as Prime Minister, Helen Clark engaged widely in policy development and advocacy across the international, economic, social and cultural spheres.

## Women in Power Series Luncheon Event

with

**Helen Clark**

Mistress of Ceremonies:

**Kimberly Dozier, CBS News Correspondent**

**Thursday, July 23, 2009**

12 noon to 2 p.m.

The Ritz Carlton, Washington, DC  
1150 22nd Street, NW

Visit [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org) for registration and sponsorship information.  
For inquiries please contact us at (202) 884-8597 or  
[womeninpower@wfpg.org](mailto:womeninpower@wfpg.org).

## A Celebration of Women Diplomats in Washington, DC



Ambassadors Carolina Barco of Colombia, Dr. Inonge Mbikusita Lewanika of Zambia, Maria de Fátima Lima da Veiga of the Republic of Cape Verde, Amina Salum Ali of the African Union, Faida Mitifu of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Glenda Morean-Phillip of Trinidad and Tobago

On March 10, 2009, the Women's Foreign Policy Group held its *Celebration of Women Diplomats* at the home of WFPG Board Chair Maxine Isaacs in Washington, DC. The event, in honor of the achievements of women diplomats and administration officials, was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day and featured seven women ambassadors to the United States. As Ms. Isaacs explained that this is "an exciting time for women and in this country," the diplomats spoke of both the challenges and benefits of a career in foreign service and the necessity of bringing men and women together to empower women and encourage their advancement within their countries and their world.

As Ambassador Claudia Fritsche of the Embassy of Liechtenstein said, "We have come a long way, but we haven't come all the way." The seven women ambassadors, from the African Union, Cape Verde, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liechtenstein, Trinidad & Tobago, and Zambia, shared personal anecdotes and

thoughts on progress. Ambassador Carolina Barco of Colombia, for example, recounted how she became Foreign Minister of Colombia, while Ambassador Faida Mitifu of the DRC spoke on grassroots efforts in her country to end violence against women.

Several other women officials attended the evening reception, including Deputy Chiefs of Mission from Estonia and Norway, foreign diplomats from the Embassies of Brazil, the Czech Republic, Greece, Mexico, Panama, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, and the Consulate General of Indonesia, and numerous State Department officials.



Fatima Ishitani of the Embassy of Brazil, WFG Board Member Theresa Loar, and Carmen Mora of the Embassy of Panama



WFG Board Chair Maxine Isaacs with Ambassador Claudia Fritsche of the Embassy of Liechtenstein



WFG members and guests enjoying the reception at the Celebration of Women Diplomats event

Maxine Isaacs  
*Chair*

John F. Kennedy School  
of Government

Gail Leftwich Kitch  
*Vice Chair*  
MacNeil/Lehrer  
Productions

Dawn Calabia  
*Treasurer*  
Consultant

Donna Constantinople  
*Secretary*  
KMA Communications

Debbie Dingell  
General Motors

Hon. Paula J. Dobriansky  
Baker Hostetler

Hon. Henrietta Holsman Fore  
Holsman International

Isabel Jasinowski  
Goodyear

Hon. Ann McLaughlin  
Korologos  
Former US Secretary  
of Labor

Theresa Loar  
CH2M Hill

Tracey McMinn  
Shell

Diana Villiers Negroponte  
The Brookings Institution

Ponchitta Pierce  
Journalist

Susan Rappaport  
Consultant

Gillian Sorensen  
United Nations Foundation

Mary Catherine Toker  
General Mills

Patricia Ellis  
*Ex-Officio*  
Women's Foreign  
Policy Group

## Welcome New WFPG Board Members

### Mary Catherine Toker



Mary Catherine Toker  
*Joined in March 2009*

Mary Catherine Toker is Vice President of Government Relations for General Mills. In this capacity, she leads the company's government relations initiatives and provides strategic leadership on a broad range of public policy issues around the world. Mary Catherine joined General Mills in 1988 having served on the legislative staff of Senator George J. Mitchell (D-Maine). She currently serves as the Chair of the International Committee of the Grocery Manufacturers Association. She is also an appointee to the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade which provides recommendations to the US Trade Representative on a wide range of agricultural trade policy issues. Mary Catherine also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Congressional Hunger Center and the Public Affairs Council.

### Hon. Henrietta Holsman Fore



Henrietta Holsman Fore  
*Joined in June 2009*

Hon. Henrietta Holsman Fore is Chairman and CEO of Holsman International, an investment and management company which includes steel manufacturer and distributor Stockton Products and home hardware manufacturer Vicenza. Previously, she served as Administrator of USAID and Director of US Foreign Assistance, Under Secretary of State for Management, Director of the US Mint, and founder of the US-Asia Environmental Partnership. She is a Trustee of CSIS and the Aspen Institute; serves on the Leadership Council of the Initiative for Global Development. Previously she served as a trustee or director of the Asia Society, Asia Foundation, Institute of the Americas, and US Committee of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council.

### Hon. Paula J. Dobriansky



Paula J. Dobriansky  
*Joined in June 2009*

Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky, a Senior International Affairs and Trade Advisor at Baker Hostetler and a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, served as Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs (2001-2009), during which time she was appointed the President's Special Envoy on Northern Ireland. She received the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Medal for her work. Other government appointments include: Associate Director for Policy and Programs, USAID; Deputy Head, US Delegation, 1990 Copenhagen Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; and Director of European and Soviet Affairs, NSC. The ambassador also served as Senior Vice President and Director of the Washington office of the Council on Foreign Relations and was the Council's first George F. Kennan's Senior Fellow for Russian and Eurasian Studies.

## WFPG President and Board Activities

In April, WFPG President Patricia Ellis was invited to serve a two-year term on the US Department of State's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy which advises the State Department on a broad range of international economic policy issues. Members of the committee are senior representatives of US corporations, policy institutions, trade and labor associations, and academia with a strong overseas interest and extensive international experience.



In May, WFPG Board Member Gillian Sorensen was honored by the World Federation of the United Nations Associations for her work as New York City Commissioner for the UN, her service as Assistant Secretary-General of the UN, her role as National Advocate at the UN Foundation on matters related to the Organization and the US-UN relationship, and her long career dedicated to a world without war and to joined efforts to address the planet's ills.



## Members in Action: WFPG Member News

Constance Wilson Andresen is the co-inventor of a device to help test women for diseases, leading to early detection of cervical cancers, AIDS, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, TB and malaria. She has recently accepted a position as a UN representative for the Panamerican-Panafrican Association.

Bryna Brennan is now Senior Advisor for Risk and Outbreak Communication at the Pan American Health Organization/WHO.

Barbara Crossette is a co-author with George Perkovich of a chapter on India in a new book on present and future world stakeholders, *Powers and Principles: International Leadership in a Shrinking World*, published in June 2009 by Lexington Books and the Stanley Foundation. Crossette, a former *New York Times* bureau chief in South and Southeast Asia, is now UN correspondent of *The Nation*.

Jan Du Plain, President and CEO of Du Plain Enterprises, Inc., was hired again to assist with the second annual "Passport DC," in early May. It is a project of Cultural Tourism DC, which coordinates a large-scale, open house event at more than 30 embassies.

Nadine B. Hack, President of beCause Global Consulting and an NYU professor, was the Commencement Speaker at SNHU's Graduate School of International Community Development on July 2, 2009. Additionally, she was interviewed in the documentary movie *Barack Obama: People's President*.

Ambassador Linda Jewell is now Vice President of ISEP (International Student Exchange Programs), a non-profit organization which promotes academic and cross-cultural learning through its worldwide collaborative network of higher education institutions.

Sherry Mueller, President of the National Council for International Visitors, recently co-authored a book with Mark Overmann: *Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange, and Development*. Mueller's op-ed piece, "Public diplomacy begins with you," appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor* this past January.

Sona N. Pancholy was recently named the Executive Director of the World Jurist Association, which for nearly 50 years has worked to offer an open and dynamic forum where individuals of the legal profession and others can join together to share and exchange ideas and experiences regarding the rule of law and its use to promote world peace. Ms. Pancholy has previously served the WJA in various capacities and is excited to take on this new position.

Lisa Rogoff is an Advocacy Project Peace Fellow in Kigali, Rwanda, working with Survivor Corps, an international NGO formerly known as the Landmine Survivors Network. This summer, she will work with genocide survivors and their communities in rebuilding their lives, advocate for disability rights in Rwanda, assist a youth organization of genocide survivors, and support the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) reconciliation projects.

*The WFPG congratulates WFPG member Melanne Verwee on her April 6, 2009 appointment as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues.*

## Join the Women's Foreign Policy Group today! *Promote Women's Leadership in International Affairs*

As a WFPG Member you will receive:

- ◆ Special member rates for frequent international issues programs in Washington, DC and New York, NY
- ◆ Opportunities to network with senior women officials and the foreign policy community, including ambassadors, foreign ministers, and US officials
- ◆ Invitations to members-only events
- ◆ Opportunities to mentor students and young professionals

*Members are drawn from across the international affairs community and include international organizations, the government, and the corporate, non-profit, diplomatic, and media sectors. WFPG membership is open to women, men, and organizations that are committed to global engagement and the promotion of women's leadership in international affairs. For more information and to register online, please visit [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org).*

*The WFPG offers individual, leadership circle, student, young professional, institutional, and corporate memberships. See [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org) for details.*

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Washington, D.C.  
Permit No. 1258

1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 720  
Washington, DC 20009



WOMEN'S  
FOREIGN POLICY  
GROUP



## *Women's Leadership, Global Engagement*

### Inside this Issue:

<b>Annual UN Briefings and Luncheon</b> <i>Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo US Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs to the UN delivered the keynote luncheon address</i>	1
<b>Embassy Series</b> <i>Ambassador Sarukhan of Mexico Ambassador Castellaneta of Italy</i>	4
<b>Beyond the Headline Series</b> <i>Barbara Slavin on the Iranian Elections</i>	5
<b>Author Series</b> <i>David Sanger and Karen DeYoung on Foreign Policy and National Security Challenges for the Obama Administration</i>  <i>Diana Villiers Negroponte on Insecurity in Central America</i>	6

<b>A Celebration of Women Diplomats</b>	8
<b>Women in Power Series</b>	9
<b>WFPG Welcomes new Board Members</b>	10

**Register Today!**  
**Women in Power Series Luncheon Event**  
with  
**Helen Clark**  
UNDP Administrator and Former Prime Minister of New Zealand  
Mistress of Ceremonies:  
**Kimberly Dozier, CBS News Correspondent**  
**Thursday, July 23, 2009**  
12 noon to 2 p.m.  
The Ritz Carlton, Washington, DC, 1150 22nd Street, NW  
Register online at [www.wfpg.org](http://www.wfpg.org)