



## NGO Committee on Financing for Development invites you to a panel event during CSW 62

### Economic Empowerment of Rural Women through Access to Innovative Financing and Effective Partnerships

**Date and Time:** March 12, 2018 at 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm  
**Location:** Gallery, 4 West 43rd Street, New York, New York



#### Speakers:

- **H.E. Dian Triansyah Djani**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the UN (TBC)
- **Ms. Sebnem Sener**, Program Specialist, Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (UNSGSA)
- **Ms. Yashmin Fernandes**, Director, Development and Strategic Partnerships, Women's World Banking.
- **Mrs. Vidhya Das**, Co- Founder Atragamee.org
- **Jonathan D'Oleo Puig**, Director General, D'Oleo Analytica, LLC

**Moderator: Anita Thomas**, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development  
Board Member and Representative to the UN, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)

For inquiries: please contact [ngosonffdsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ngosonffdsecretary@gmail.com)

#### Co-sponsoring Organizations:

#### Supporting Organization:



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





#### **Additional Supporting Organizations:**

- Augustinians International
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- Passionist International
- Pax Christi International
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sisters of Charity Federation
- Soroptimist International
- Vivat International

#### **Background:**

The McKinsey Global Institute found that of the 95 countries that it modeled in its 2015 report, 46 stood to gain more than 10 percent increase in GDP, if their female citizens were given the same economic opportunities as men. World Bank reports that women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent 30 to 37 percent of all SMEs (8 million to 10 million women-owned firms) in emerging markets and that these businesses have unmet financial needs of between US\$260 billion and US\$320 billion a year.

Economic empowerment measures, like providing small business loans to rural women looking to expand their often, home-based products, have the potential to positively influence countries struggling with extreme poverty. As many of these women are in rural areas, access to financial services tailored to their needs as well as to programs designed by cross-sectoral development partnerships (government, private sector and civil society) aimed at building rural women's capacity to save, borrow, insure and invest smartly are keys to improved agricultural productivity, reducing hunger and promoting economic growth.

#### **Objective of the Event:**

The objectives of the panel, is to generate substantive discussion about the effectiveness of the financial services available to rural women to meet their needs and to enhance their ability to positively impact the welfare of their family, community and businesses. The panel will share examples of successful strategies and propose measures to improve rural women's access to innovative financial products, services, and partnerships that can empower them to start and grow businesses, to strengthen their contribution to their community as producers and free themselves from a life of poverty.