

Speakers

Mr Jan Lock - Chair of the Board of Directors, Woord en Daad Foundation

Jan Lock (1956) graduated from Wageningen University, the only university in the Netherlands that specifically focuses on agriculture, food and development. Since 1994 he has been director of the Woord en Daad Foundation. Woord en Daad connects people around the world in their fight against poverty from a Biblical perspective. Jan Lock has extensive experience in the areas of development cooperation, humanitarian aid and international diaconate work. From 2003-2006 he was co-founder and board member of Prisma, a Dutch association of Christian organisations involved in the field of development assistance and international diaconate - and of EU-Cord, it's European counterpart. He also co-founded Partos, the Dutch branch organisation for international development.

Ms Catherine Jere - research officer, Education for All Global Monitoring Report Team, UNESCO

Catherine Jere joined the EFA Global Monitoring Report Team in January 2013. Until her appointment she was a Research Fellow with the Centre of Educational Research and Training (CERT) at the University of Malawi, where she has worked since 2003. She has led several research studies, monitoring and evaluation programmes and consultancies on behalf of donors and non-governmental organisations, both within Malawi and the wider Southern Africa region. These have included projects on school-based gender violence, child-friendly schooling, HIV/AIDS impact and prevention and youth service and volunteering. Catherine developed and ran the monitoring and evaluation programme for the pilot of the Malawi Government's Complementary Basic Education programme and, most recently, was one of the lead researchers on the SOFIE project – a three year research study funded by the ESRC-DFID Scheme, and based at the Institute of Education, University of London, which used open and flexible learning strategies to improve access and retention in formal education in high HIV prevalence countries in Southern Africa. Catherine has an undergraduate degree from the University of Edinburgh and a Master's degree in Education and Development from the University of Bristol. For her work on the SOFIE project she was awarded a Bloomsbury Scholarship towards the completion of her PhD.

Ms Oley Dibba Wadda - executive director, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)

Oley Dibba-Wadda is a strategic analyst and expert on gender equality in international policy and programming across multicultural and multidisciplinary environments. She is the current executive director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), a Pan African organisation on women, peace and security in Africa based in Dakar with offices in Geneva and New York. Before joining FAS, Oley worked with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) also as Executive Director - equally a Pan African organisation operating in 34 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. Similarly she worked with Oxfam GB in the UK as Global Adviser for Gender Equality. Oley has experience in evaluating international development projects and has held management and advisory roles in various other international NGOs and agencies including the Commonwealth Education Fund, Concern Universal and the European Development Fund.

Mr Maarten de Jongh - Programme Manager Community Investment – ING Sustainability

Maarten de Jongh has been working at ING Sustainability since 2010. In this role he has been responsible for the international Community Investment activities of ING, consisting of the partnership with UNICEF, financial education and entrepreneurship programmes and the ING Chances for Children programme by promoting and supporting access to quality education for every child. Before joining ING he worked in the area of CSR and cross-sector partnerships for several international development organisations such as Plan International and UNICEF.

Ms Hedwig Bruggeman - executive director Agri-ProFocus

Hedwig Bruggeman has over 30 years' experience in development cooperation: as an independent consultant in Africa and Asia and through several long-term assignments in Africa for Oxfam GB and SNV. She started working within her specialisation of animal husbandry extension and has held various programme management positions. At present she is the managing director (since 2005) of Agri-ProFocus. Agri-ProFocus is a network of professionals from both the public and private sectors in support of farmer entrepreneurship, farmers organisations and sustainable food systems in emerging markets. Agri-ProFocus operates through country-based, physical Agri-Hubs and online thematic and country exchange platforms. One of the bottlenecks that Agri-ProFocus members face in their daily work is the lack of hands-on and practical capacity in all steps of the food producing and processing chains. Ms. Bruggeman is convinced that context-specific agricultural vocational training is at the heart of all aspects of sustainable food production systems.

Ms Laura Lasance - executive director CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality

Laura Lasance (28) is the Executive Director of CHOICE. She is responsible for the daily management of the CHOICE team and the International Advocacy and Youth Leadership programs. Laura has extensive experience in advocating for youth rights and mobilising other young people and youth-led initiatives to do the same. Through her role in CHOICE, Laura supports youth-led organisations in Africa and Asia, as well as youth advocates from around the globe to live up to their full potential, fostering true youth leadership. Laura is a supervisory board member at dance4life. Before joining CHOICE in 2010, Laura worked at the Centre for Conflict Studies at Utrecht University as a junior professor. Laura has an academic background in Conflict Studies and Human Rights (MA, Utrecht University). CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality (CHOICE) is a youth-led organisation that actively promotes and supports Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of young people globally, as well as meaningful youth participation in this field. CHOICE is run by an enthusiastic and ambitious team of young professionals, all aged between 16 and 29 years old. CHOICE is part of the SRHR Alliance, together with AMREF Flying Doctors, dance4life, Rutgers WPF and Simavi.

Ms Kirsten van den Hul - The Change Agent

Kirsten van den Hul (Deventer, 1976) is Sovietologist, Arabist, change catalyst, Dutch UN Women's Representative 2011, Inspirational speaker, and founder of The Change Agent. She started her professional life at the Fund for Central and East European Book Projects, a small NGO supporting independent publishers in Eastern Europe, and Mama Cash, an international women's fund financing pioneering projects worldwide. Facilitated participatory art projects with young people in Eastern Europe and North Africa at the European Cultural Foundation. Moved to Tunisia, where she studied Arabic and worked as a trainer of business English for the American-Tunisian Chamber of Commerce. Back in Amsterdam, she worked at LPG multinational SHV Gas, organised and hosted weekly talk shows for WOMEN Inc., developed corporate and cultural events for Cultuurfabriek and set up a platform for Corporate Social Responsibility for Foundation Hart voor Amsterdam. An independent change agent since 2007, facilitating participatory change projects for a wide range of public and private clients including NOS Dutch Public Broadcasting, Zuidas Amsterdam, Nike, the Dutch Ministry for Education, Culture and Science, and Nieuwe Kerk. In 2013, she joined the European Elections Programme Committee of PvdA (Dutch Labour Party). In October 2013, she launched her first book: '(S)hevolution, de eeuw van de vrouw' ('The century of women'). In November 2013, Kirsten van den Hul received the Joke Smit Prijs from Minister Bussemaker. The Joke Smit Prijs is a bi-annual lifetime achievement award from the Dutch government for people or organisations working to achieve gender equality.