

Programme of Events for **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Friday 7 March, 2008

Governing Body Room (R3 South) 10:00-12:00

10:00 Welcome and opening remarks by
Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the ILO

10:10 Musical interlude: BY BOSSA

10:20 Introduction of panellists by Ms. Patricia
O'Donovan, Executive Director of the
Management and Administration of the ILO

10:25 **Ms. Evelyn Ndali Oputu** (Nigeria) is the
Managing Director and CEO of Nigeria's Bank
of Industry (BOI). Since Ms. Oputu's assumption
of office in 2005, BOI has embarked on a
number of initiatives designed to facilitate the
attainment of the Millennium Development
Goals in Nigeria. She was recently conferred
with one of Nigeria's national honours, Officer
of the Order of the Niger.

10:40 **Ms. Michaela Walsh** (USA) is the founding
President of Women's World Banking (WWB),
a unique agency developed to respond to the
need to provide women – particularly in
developing countries – with access to credit
and financing. During her tenure, WWB's
expanding capital fund allowed WWB to make
over 57,000 loans totaling USD 11.6 million in 37 countries. In the
1960s and early 1970s, Ms. Walsh broke the gender barrier as the first
woman manager of Merrill Lynch International and the first woman
Partner of Boettcher and Company. Currently, Ms. Walsh is Director of
Women's Leadership at Manhattanville College and Director of the
Global Student Leadership Network.



10:55 **Ms. Rupa Manel Silva** (Sri Lanka) is the
founder and President of the Women's Bank
of Sri Lanka. The Women's Bank emerged out
of a pilot project of women's mutual help groups
initiated by the National Housing Development
Authority (NHDA) of Sri Lanka. The total of the
deposits to date stands at USD 6 million for
37'000 members. By 1994, Ms. Silva was able to
extend the network to reach poor rural women.
Ms. Silva was also a 2007 Laureate of the WWSF
Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life.

11:10 **Ms. Agnes Jongerius** (the Netherlands) is
the President of the Dutch Trade Union
Confederation (FNV). She has been a member
of the Federation Committee of the FNV since
1997. She is also one of the Vice Chairs of the
Dutch Social Economic Council and the Chair
of the Workers Labour Council. Internationally,
she is currently the Vice President of the Inter-
national Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and
a titular member of the ITUC General Council.

11:25 Questions and answers session

11:55 Closing remarks by Ms. Evy Messell, Director of
ILO's Bureau for Gender Equality