



## Lusaka Branch Office of the Dag Hammarskjöld Institute for Peace & Conflict Studies (DHIPS) of The Copperbelt University (CBU)

# PRESENTS

## AFRICAN WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY: BREAKING BARRIERS AND BUILDING BRIDGES

### Introduction

At the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly (2021), Resolution A/RES/76/269 was passed, declaring June 24<sup>th</sup> of each year henceforth as International Day of Women in Diplomacy. Among other Stakeholders, this Resolution calls upon Academic Institutions such as the Copperbelt University (CBU) to join in the celebration of the Day and, more important, to contribute to the UN advocacy for the greater inclusion of women (including African women) in Diplomacy. This Webinar, sponsored by the Lusaka Branch Office of DHIPS at CBU, is informed by that defensible and timely challenge. It also comes in the wake of the celebration of the Day earlier this year by the European Union (EU) Group that is accredited to Zambia and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). It is an EU-sponsored meeting to which some of our Faculty and a number of our CBU students and alumni were cordially invited.

Despite comprising half of the world's population, women remain severely underrepresented in diplomatic circles, holding only a quarter of diplomatic positions worldwide. This statistic is intensely relevant to issues of peace and conflict in that current research suggests that when women are actively involved in the decision-making process in the determination of how best to utilise a nation's resources, they tend to devote much greater attention to the social needs of the nation rather than placing what can sometimes be seen as an undue conflict-escalating and male-driven emphasis on military spending.

Today, we gather to discuss the challenges, opportunities, and successes of African women in diplomacy, and to inspire a new generation of African female leaders to take their rightful place on the global stage and, in doing so, make a difference. To help us accomplish this grand objective, we have constituted an esteemed Panel of seasoned and retired African (Zambian) women Diplomats who have distinguished themselves regionally and internationally as Members of the Diplomatic Corps. They will each share from their rich experiences, insights, practical advice and suggestions for the empowerment of African women in diplomacy and, thus, create a more inclusive and effective diplomatic community to help advance Zambia's and, more broadly, Africa's economic, political, socio-cultural and other interests internationally.

**Date:** Friday, August 9th, 2024

**Time:** 15:00 hours (Johannesburg/  
Zambia [GMT + 2])



[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_OTNkNTM1YWwtZDQ4OS00NmZmLTgxM2QtM2U0M2JkY2EwNmJh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22f417fc47-7603-46b4-b348-bc74d551af41%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%223821f20d-95c9-46cd-a3cc-6fa3c86e1834%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTNkNTM1YWwtZDQ4OS00NmZmLTgxM2QtM2U0M2JkY2EwNmJh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22f417fc47-7603-46b4-b348-bc74d551af41%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%223821f20d-95c9-46cd-a3cc-6fa3c86e1834%22%7d)

# The Webinar Team will be comprised of the following:

## Panelist

**Ms. Charity Nkonga**

Former First Secretary (Political) at the Embassy of the Republic of Zambia to Belgium (covering France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain)



## Panelist

**H.E. Amb. Susan Sikaneta**

Former Diplomat of the Republic of Zambia to Ethiopia, Malawi, the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, India and Sweden



## Panelist

**H.E. Amb. Sheila Siwela**

Former Diplomat of the Republic of Zambia to Zimbabwe, Belgium, the European Union, the Netherlands and the USA



## Discussant

**Dr. Rosemary Fumpa-Makano**

(PhD),

Member of the DHIPS Lusaka Faculty and Holder of a Certificate in Diplomacy from the Zambia Institute for Diplomatic and International Studies (ZIDIS).

## Respondent

**Ms. Grace Zulu**

Attorney-at-Law and Final Stage Student in the DHIPS Diplomatic and Strategic Studies Specialization

## Discussant

**Mrs. Kamwenje Chinjili-Banda**

Research Fellow in DHIPS; MA in Diplomatic Studies and International Relations (Mulungushi University) and PhD Student, University of Zambia.

## Moderator

**Dr. Gosnell L. Yorke (PhD)**

Coordinator of the DHIPS Lusaka Branch Office, the Copperbelt University, and Former Honorary Consul of the Caribbean State of St. Kitts-Nevis to the Republic of South Africa



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**Time: 15:00 to 17:00 hours (Johannesburg/  
Zambia--GMT+2)**