

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PROMOTING
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

WFPG CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

Anniversary Conference: Women Leaders Tackling 21st Century Challenges

June 10, 2015—The Women's Foreign Policy Group celebrated 20 years of promoting women's leadership and voices in foreign affairs with a conference in Washington, DC on *Women Leaders Tackling 21st Century Challenges*, which highlighted prominent women from across the foreign policy community. The discussions covered the Middle East, women's leadership in the public and private sectors, the impact of technology and social media in foreign policy, media coverage of global hot spots, and 20 ideas to meet tomorrow's global challenges. The day-long conference concluded with an evening reception hosted by Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde of Finland on Celebrating Women Leaders Across Generations.



Hon. Anne Richard, H.E. Alia Hatoug Bouran and Judy Woodruff

Chaos in the Middle East: What Should the US Do?

The first conference panel covered *Chaos in the Middle East: What Should the US Do?* The discussion was led by Judy Woodruff, co-anchor and managing editor of PBS NewsHour, and included Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Anne Patterson; Center for a New American Security CEO Michèle Flournoy; Ambassador Alia Hatoug Bouran of Jordan; and Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration Anne Richard. The panelists discussed the major challenges facing the Middle East, the ongoing threat of ISIS and the importance of continued US leadership, tensions with Iran, the Syrian conflict and refugee crisis, and how US citizens should view their interests and involvement in the region.



Hon. Michèle Flournoy, H.E. Anne Patterson and Judy Woodruff

Woodruff's first question focused on challenges for US foreign policy in the Middle East. Patterson named sectarian divisions as the key issue, while Flournoy called for a long-term strategy in the region. Richard underlined the severe humanitarian crisis in Syria, and Bouran pointed to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as the biggest issue for Jordan's national security.

Much of the discussion focused on the threat posed by ISIS. Patterson outlined the abstract challenges posed by ISIS by underscoring that we "don't have a good understanding of the draw of ISIS." Both Bouran and Patterson mentioned that ISIS has the capability to send out 90,000 messages a day. In order to diminish their reach, Flournoy called for a more extreme and controversial approach, stating that "a lot of the technology...that's being used for this messaging is hosted on US-owned infrastructure," she described how we need to develop "moral and legal approaches that allow us to identify what is support for terrorism and take it down". When asked about free speech, she responded that many technology companies are concerned about the legality, liability, and morality of such limits. Overall, she stressed that we are "too passive" in using the tools we have to thwart online support for terrorism.

Bouran continuously emphasized how Jordan and other Gulf states are grateful for international support as well as the knowledge and expertise of the US. She stated that as

“this is a war within Islam,” that “the Arab and the Muslim world have to take the leadership role”. She stressed that most Muslims believe that ISIS has distorted the principles of Islam to justify their violence. Patterson covered the US strategy towards ISIS, which involves a 62-member state coalition and a three-year action plan. The administration has prioritized the crisis in Iraq because ISIS presents a direct threat to the safety and security of our Gulf allies and has created a humanitarian crisis. While acknowledging Patterson’s points, Flournoy called for more aggressive steps, stressing the need for increased pressure on the Iraqi government to re-include Sunnis and to distribute more resources to the provinces. Militarily, she wants to enable spotters to call in airstrikes, and train local Sunni and Kurdish militias to be reintegrated into Iraqi security forces.

On the humanitarian crisis caused by ISIS, Richard described the second major displacement wave in Iraq. The Iraqi government is attempting unsuccessfully to “fight a war and help its own displaced people at the same time.” Richard summed up the challenges for Iraq, the US and the global community with: “how to get donors to do more, how to get the Gulf states to care more, how to get aid to people who have fled a force that has no regard for human rights and for basic human dignity, and how people will be able to go home again.”

On US leadership, Flournoy emphasized that the US is the only country with the expertise required to unite the international community and address ISIS. Patterson called for an increased focus on building institutions and creating a comprehensive economic strategy to promote investment and growth to lower youth unemployment and to improve stability. In addition, both Flournoy and Bouran highlighted the need to establish more modern, secular education systems to prevent the radicalization of a new generation. By investing in education and community programming, the US can help build stronger, more resilient communities. In time, Flournoy hopes these measures will make the region immune to radicalization.

Patterson and Flournoy discussed the ongoing P5+1 negotiations with Iran and Iranian support of terrorist organizations. Both speakers overwhelmingly supported a nuclear deal. Flournoy added that when Iran supports terrorist groups that threaten our allies, they must be met with resistance. They also agreed that the US needs to do more to reassure its Gulf allies that it is addressing the nuclear threat as well as Iranian adventurism in the region. Bouran expressed concern over Iran’s regional military involvement, but that Jordan supports the negotiations.

On the refugee crisis in Syria, Richard noted that Syria has already lost 30 years of development, and that the longer the crisis drags on, the longer the recovery will be. Already “we stand to lose a generation of Syrian children”. Richard also lamented the lack of respect for humanitarian workers and principles. She hopes that the US will continue its longstanding tradition of welcoming refugees, despite doubts that Syrian refugees might have extremist ties. Richard emphasized that accepting refugees shows solidarity with our allies in the region. Flournoy believes that a resolution will result from negotiation, and emphasized the need to empower moderates to maximize their influence at future negotiations.

The panelists discussed the importance of the region to the US and how ordinary citizens should view the US’s expanding role in this region. Richard called on private donors to treat these crises as they would a natural disaster. Flournoy outlined several reasons for future involvement, including global pricing of oil; the latent threat of foreign fighters; the safety and security of our allies in the region; and finally because these threats require US engagement and leadership to be dismantled. She insisted that we must not ignore the region, because the violence the potential to spread and affect Americans on US soil. Patterson stressed strategic patience and “a long-term investment of resources and intellectual capital” to deal with these issues, just as the US has done in other parts of the world over the last 50 years.



Women in Charge: How They Are Changing Politics, Government & Corporate America

The *Women in Charge* panel addressed the importance of women’s leadership across public and private sectors, the role that men can play in advancing women’s rights, and the role of

social media in elevating the voices of young women. Opening speaker Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues Catherine Russell was joined by Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Former Marriott Chief Global Communications and Public Affairs Officer and Congressional Candidate Kathleen Matthews, UN Global Education First Initiative Youth Advocacy Group Co-Chair and Amnesty USA Senior Campaigner Jamira Burley, and moderator Eleanor Clift, a Daily Beast Political Writer and McLaughlin Group Panelist.

In her opening remarks, Russell emphasized how powerful young women can be if they are given the tools to succeed. She praised the President and First Lady’s recent initiative “Let Girls Learn” to help adolescent girls attend secondary school, but added that the government cannot achieve this goal alone and so everyone must work together to empower girls. She noted that in order to achieve progress, men must be included in the conversation.

Clift asked each of the panelists to reflect on where they were 20 years ago and if they thought they would be where they are today, and then to project into the future and think about where they will be in their careers in the coming decades. Dingell was working at General Motors and was sure she would retire there. She said she never would have imagined



she would run for congress, and added that there ought to be more women in congress because women bring a different perspective. 20 years ago, Matthews was working as a reporter at ABC7, WJLA-TV where she hosted “Working Woman” and reported on women-focused news. Like Dingell, Matthews also believed she would end her career as a journalist, but she transitioned into the corporate world and is now running for congress. Russell explained that 20 years ago she was the associate deputy attorney general. Prior to this, however, she worked for then-Senator Biden on Capitol Hill during the time he introduced the Violence Against Women Act. Now she focused on gender-based violence and women’s issues on an international scale. 20 years ago, Burley was still in elementary school, but she explained that it was at this time that she was becoming aware of the socio-economic factors that faced her family and her neighborhood in Philadelphia. When she was still young, her brother was shot and killed, and this tragedy launched her into activism against gun violence.

The speakers addressed the importance of including women in the workforce. Russell stressed while it is true that many women are victims of violence, they have a tremendous capacity to be agents of change in their communities. Empowering women leads a more prosperous and stable society. Matthews noted that if women’s labor force participation rose to comparable male levels, GDP would rise by 5% in the US, by 9% in Japan, and by 34% in Egypt.

The panel also covered the role of women in the private sector and Mathews and Dingell shared their personal experiences. Matthews talked about the importance of having multiple women on corporate boards, noting that if you only have one woman on a board, she does not speak out because she does not want to “rock the boat.” If you have two, they are waiting for the other one to speak and it is a standoff. She argues that when you have three women on a corporate board, it is a critical mass that, according to research, has been shown to help companies perform better. She also noted that while Marriott is known for its “diversity and inclusion,” she would go to award ceremonies and no women would win

awards because they had not filtered up the ranks and did not own or manage hotels. Dingell spoke about the sexism present in many industries, including the auto industry, and how when she was younger and interviewing to work at General Motors, they asked her why a woman would want to work there.

Several of the panelists stressed the importance of educating girls, not just in the US, but all over the world. Burley, who was the first person in her family to graduate high school, articulated a dire need for education so that girls are able to “adequately provide and engage in society.” Russell echoed this sentiment, pointing out that in many places in the world girls do not have access to secondary education, which cuts off an “endless sources of strength and potential.” She applauded the President’s focus on this issue and his determination to close the gender gap in education.

Russell emphasized that empowerment is not a zero-sum game and that empowering women is not detrimental to men, but rather an advantage. Empowering women strengthens communities and countries and this in turn benefits everyone . Burley added that “true liberation has to liberate that entire community” and this is achieved through the collaboration of both men and women.

The panelist also discussed social media’s role in foreign policy and its advantages and disadvantages. Russell pointed out that one of the problems with social media is that it is being used by terrorist organizations such as ISIS to recruit people all over the world, including women. She suggested that the State Department must adjust and use more social media to combat this issue by informing women being recruited that although these groups may promise you that you will be a part of a great mission and be a “wonderful bride,” you will actually be entering into a life of slavery. Burley, however, spoke about some of the benefits of social media, citing the website she cofounded, GenYNot, as an example of the ways social media can impact young people in positive ways.

From left: Jamira Burley, Kathleen Matthews, Debbie Dingell, Catherine Russell, and Eleanor Clift

WFPG 20th Anniversary Luncheon

How Are Technology and Social Media Revolutionizing Foreign Policy?



Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine Novelli was the keynote speaker at the WFPG's 20th Anniversary Conference. She was joined by Ann Mei Chang, executive director of USAID's Global Development Lab, and Astri Kimball, policy counsel at Google, for a panel on *How Are Technology and Social Media Revolutionizing Foreign Policy?* Bay Fang, a senior fellow with the New America Foundation, moderated the discussion. Novelli focused Internet policy, particularly with regards to access, governance, and security, while the following discussion covered hacking, the Snowden leaks, the right to be forgotten, Twitter diplomacy, social media and technology usage by extremist groups, the digital divide, and the panelists' experiences as women in their fields.

In her keynote address, Novelli emphasized the significance of the Internet as an empowering social and economic tool and thus a critical component of any country's infrastructure. She cited statistics which claim that by 2016 the Internet economy will represent 5.4% of US GDP, with an overall contribution of \$4.2 trillion to the G20's collective GDP. Novelli also stressed the importance of "good policy," both by government and the private sector, in protecting this resource. She focused on three policy areas: access, governance, and security.

On Internet access, Novelli highlighted the necessity of increasing global connectivity. Currently, three out of every five people worldwide still remain without Internet access. Secretary Kerry recently announced a new State Department initiative to address this. Novelli underlined the gender imbalance of technology access—200 million fewer women than men use the Internet and 300 million fewer women own cell phones. She praised Nigeria in particular for its initiatives aimed at bridging the information and communications technology gender gap and expressed a desire to see more such programs across the developing world.

Novelli also spoke about Internet governance and the importance of a "multi-stakeholder system," which includes civil society, the private sector and governments. She emphasized that Internet governance should be neither top-down nor bureaucratic. While acknowledging that many governments may want for more control or censorship rights, Novelli called for openness and protection for free speech online, claiming that censorship "obviously" would "be the death knell of something that is a free-wheeling and kind of organically growing process."

Regarding Internet security, Novelli outlined five key principles aimed to encourage international cooperation and discourage any one country's interference with another country's cybersecurity. She stressed the importance of "get[ting] everybody on the same page" with regards to Internet policy, with the ultimate aim of protecting and promoting the Internet as an "unparalleled platform [through which] voices from every corner of the global can contribute to political, economic, and social discourse."

Novelli was joined by Astri Kimball and Ann Mei Chang for a discussion which covered the Snowden leaks, personal freedom, and social media. On the Snowden disclosures, Novelli acknowledged that they have affected the global dialogue on Internet security and privacy; however, she noted that, the discourse has already broadened, commenting that "the policies that are governing the Internet... are much larger than the things that Edward Snowden was talking about. They're about the very essence of how companies and economies operate. They're about democracy." Novelli emphasized the importance of protecting infrastructure like electric grids and water systems from hacking. Kimball advised that public-private partnerships are key in addressing hacking, and pointed out

From left: Ann Mei Chang, Astri Kimball, Catherine Novelli, & Bay Fang

the difficulty of designing a system which allows law enforcement access without creating a loophole for hackers. The “right to be forgotten,” or the right to request that search engines remove links to content about their pasts which they deem irrelevant, was passed by the EU court last year. Kimball defended Google’s position, highlighting their efforts to strike a balance between “privacy and freedom of expression and security” and between the flow of information and “the things that we don’t want to see online—illegal content, violence...and in the case of the right to be forgotten...some stories about us that we don’t want online.” She emphasized that Google’s top priorities include following the law in every jurisdiction and creating a positive user experience through smart policy choices and programs such as YouTube’s Trusted Flagger.

The panel also discussed social media and technology use, both by governments and by extremist groups such as ISIS. Novelli commented on the transition within the State Department from conducting diplomacy on a government-to-government basis, to conducting diplomacy in a world opened up by the Internet and social media. Novelli observed that social media has changed diplomacy by forcing diplomats and officials to carefully consider their intended message. It has also made it more difficult to draw the line with regards to eliminating potential threats posed by online statements while protecting freedom of speech. On ISIS, she emphasized making “our narrative more compelling than theirs.” Commenting on Google’s work policing this kind of content, Kimball noted that there are a variety of ways to flag or remove content and “every country is going to strike the balance differently.”

Chang spoke about the “digital divide” and using technology to improve the lives of citizens in developing countries, saying, “we also have to think about the people that are getting left behind.” She used Egypt’s so-called Facebook revolution as an example, pointing out that less than a third of Egyptians were online at that time, leaving many, particularly women and

those in rural areas, out of the conversation. Chang reiterated Novelli’s emphasis on expanding Internet access as a key pillar to development. Kimball gave two examples of how data and technology are helping vulnerable populations. Firstly, early warning systems for natural disasters which have improved preparedness and response. Secondly, she called attention to how Google Maps has helped drivers avoid a billion hours of traffic annually, which has contributed to fuel efficiency.

The panelists also covered their experiences and challenges as women working in technology. Novelli mentioned that, in negotiations, some men thought they could easily “out-tough” her. Speaking of one particular interaction with some Russian munitions manufacturers, she said, “at the end of the negotiation, when we had the deal that we wanted, they came up and...said, you know, we have never met another woman like you, and we’re going home to tell our wives about you.” Kimball pointed out the struggle that the tech industry is having with finding women engineers and emphasized the importance of getting young girls interested in computer science. She also noted the power of the Internet’s “democratizing influence, where girls can have a voice.” Chang, a software engineering by training, described the subtleties of the Silicon Valley work culture, saying, “if I look at what things are valued in a lot of tech companies, the people who are feted are the men who stay up all night the night before a product is going to launch and fix the last bug... nobody talks about the woman who actually planned ahead and tested her code such that the bug wasn’t there in the first place.”

At one point, Chang asserted, “With any technology...there’s always an upside and a downside, and I think the thing that we need to balance is both continuing to fight the downside but not restricting the upside because of it.” Throughout the discussion, the speakers emphasized that technology and social media—with proper guidance from both the public and private sectors—is revolutionizing foreign policy for the better.

Looking Back: Reflecting on 20 Years of the WFPG

To kick off the celebration, WFPG Co-Founder and President Patricia Ellis shared a little of the organization’s history with members and guests. She recognized those in the audience who contributed to the organization over the years. WFPG also screened a video with highlights from 20 years of WFPG programming, which included clips from women leaders Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, and Hillary Clinton.

20 years ago, “when the old boys network was alive and well,” Patricia Ellis and Julia Chang Bloch gathered a small group of women around a kitchen table and formed an organization to connect women working in the foreign policy field with one another, to provide a platform for their voices to be heard, and to amplify the impact that women had on major international issues. The organization that emerged is now a respected convener, connecting women across generations

and sectors, both domestically and internationally. WFPG now holds more than 30 substantive global issues events and discussions each year.

WFPG believes that through highlighting women leaders in foreign policy, we provide important role models for the next generation and create a vital network of women to address the key issues and challenges in foreign policy today.



WFPG Co-Founder Patricia Ellis



Covering the World's Hot Spots: The Inside View

Covering the World's Hot Spots: The Inside View featured journalists Margaret Warner, PBS NewsHour chief foreign affairs correspondent; Missy Ryan, Washington Post pentagon correspondent; Indira Lakshmanan, Bloomberg News foreign policy correspondent; and Lara Jakes, deputy managing editor for news at Foreign Policy Magazine and ForeignPolicy.com. The discussion was moderated by Elisabeth Bumiller, Washington editor for The New York Times. The panel covered a variety of topics, including the conflict in Ukraine, new Pentagon leadership, recent events in Yemen, the Iran nuclear talks, Iraq and the situation created by ISIS, the new administration in Afghanistan, the experience of reporting on the ground, and the future of foreign policy news coverage.

Warner spoke about the conflict in Ukraine and described the Russian territory grab as a move designed to destabilize the post-Cold War order. She addressed the confusion among US and European officials about President Putin's motivations and end game, citing his desire to maintain a frozen conflict on the border with Russia in order to weaken Ukraine, or a demonstration of his ability to undermine NATO. Warner does not think the White House will arm Ukraine, and instead will try to support them with funding, intelligence, and logistical assistance. President Obama does not want this to turn into a proxy war with Russia, especially since polls have shown that the American people will not support military action in Ukraine.

Ryan discussed Ashton Carter's succession of Chuck Hagel as secretary of defense and highlighted the differences between them. Hagel was an "affable man...with a distinguished record in the Senate," while Carter "has strong opinions [and] a forceful personality." He has made it clear to this administration that he intends to leave behind a tangible legacy even though he will only serve for a short period of time. Ryan also described Carter's previous accomplishments as deputy secretary. In that position, he focused on logistics such as procurement, personnel, recruitment, and retention. She also described his efforts to connect Pentagon staff with Silicon Valley to enhance their technological capabilities.

Ryan also spoke about the situation in Yemen and explained how the conflict has developed into a proxy war between the Houthi rebels supported by Shiite Iran, and the military coalition organized by Sunni Saudi Arabia. The Saudi bombing campaign has killed at least 2,000 Yemenis and left thousands of others displaced in what has become another urgent

humanitarian crisis in the region. Warner added that the US response to the crisis in Yemen is an example of the Obama Doctrine, which is predicated on the fact that the US will provide technological and air assistance, but that local actors will operate on the ground; this policy was seen as largely successful in Yemen until recently. Ryan underscored that the conflict demonstrates the limits of US military influence and commitment in the Middle East.

Lakshmanan detailed her experience covering two secretaries of state, John Kerry and Hillary Clinton, compared with her experience as an independent correspondent. She discussed the different styles in which they conduct themselves: Kerry presents the information informally and in a relaxed manner, while Clinton was more disciplined and reserved with the press. Kerry has also been very involved in specific policy negotiations, especially in the Middle East, whereas Clinton focused more on thematic issues, such as the campaign to restore the view of the US abroad through public diplomacy. Lakshmanan contrasted covering foreign policy on the ground with covering it from Washington, explaining that there is "much more freedom...to talk to real people and individuals" in the field. In her opinion, when covering foreign policy from "inside the bubble" of DC, "everything is controlled for you from your water and your food and the hotel you're going to stay in to...the information, frankly, that you're given."

On the P5+1 Iran nuclear negotiations, Lakshmanan believes there will be a deal pending the resolution of several main provisions. These include international inspections and access to both declared nuclear sites and suspected covert sites; the complicated process and conditions for unraveling the sanctions; and the complete accounting of any possible overlooked military dimensions of the nuclear programs. The time-frame of this agreement is also a concern, as some want to ensure that the deal will permanently limit Iran's nuclear capabilities. When asked about Kerry's role in the negotiations, she said he is engaged with his nuclear team almost daily; if the parties arrive at an agreement, Kerry will travel to Vienna to ensure that it is solidified. The next challenge then becomes presenting the deal to Congress, which Lakshmanan and Warner agreed would not be an easy feat.

Jakes addressed the situation in Iraq and recent US military responses. Drawing on her extensive experience on the ground, she shared that fears of the rise of the Islamic State

had first appeared several years ago, and she and others on the ground questioned the Iraqi government and the US Embassy in Baghdad on how enduring instability would affect the US's exit strategy. She reported that in many of their responses, it was evident that military and policy officials were not receptive to any concerns that could potentially prolong the war. Today, the Islamic State controls a third of the territory in Iraq and Syria and affiliated groups have emerged in other parts of the region. The day of the panel, the US announced that it would send another 450 trainers to Iraq; this would bring the number of troops back to about 3,500, which is what the Iraqi government requested from the US in 2011. She stressed that future stability is incumbent on the US, as the Iraqi people desperately want our leadership and guidance to achieve lasting peace in their country.

Regarding Afghanistan, Ryan expressed hope for the future based on the formation of the new unity government with Ashraf Ghani as president and Abdullah Abdullah as chief executive officer of the country. She thinks their partnership has been relatively effective so far. Jakes addressed the reluctance to remove all US troops from Afghanistan by 2016 because of the cyclical nature of insurgencies. She stated that "insurgents and extremists...lie low when they think that troops are leaving so that they can come back with a vengeance when they think the coast is clear," which is exactly what occurred in Iraq. While acknowledging the difficulties that lie ahead, Warner and Lakshmanan both spoke about the improved standard of living and increased access to healthcare and education for all Afghans. They also agreed that to counter the ideological forces who oppose the

progress of the last decade, it is imperative that Ghani and Abdullah negotiate a settlement with the insurgents.

The panelists also shared some of the most dangerous moments they have experienced while covering foreign policy. They all agreed that they were genuinely concerned about the people they left behind. Lakshmanan related her experience writing a series about the rise of piracy where she gained several different perspectives of those most affected by this issue. Warner and Ryan both shared their experiences during the Arab Spring where they witnessed the celebration of freedom, and followed that with reflections on the challenges and turmoil still facing many of these countries.

In terms of areas of foreign policy that are underreported on in the US media, Warner cited China, India and Southeast Asia, whereas Ryan focused on Latin America and the drug war. Lakshmanan called for more thoughtful coverage, with more focus on thematic, long-term developments, rather than short news briefs that lack meaningful analysis. Jakes described how news outlets need to cover more people to understand how policies impact people around the world. When asked about the future of foreign policy reporting, Jakes also stressed that nothing replaces content or the "people who are willing to go out there and go get it." Despite budget restrictions for foreign policy coverage, the journalists agreed that increased curiosity about global affairs and the interconnectedness of our world today will allow foreign news coverage to survive.

From left: Jamira Burley, Kathleen Matthews, Debbie Dingell, Catherine Russell, and Eleanor Clift; Ann Stock speaks during speed mentoring session; WFPG future leaders at conference

Mentoring the Next Generation

As part of its anniversary celebration, WFPG and its supporters welcomed 65 future foreign policy leaders from the State Department, non-profit organizations, and foreign embassies. In addition to attending the conference, the young women joined WFPG for a speed networking session.

Since its founding, WFPG has supported over 200 college students through its internship program, where they learn how to run a nonprofit, research issues, organize events, and network. WFPG has also provided practical career counseling to over 5,000 students through mentoring fairs and panels.



20 New Ideas to Meet Tomorrow's Global Challenges

The panel on *20 New Ideas* featured NDI Vice President Shari Bryan, Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs Bathsheba Crocker and IREX CEO Kristin Lord. New York Times Energy and Environment Correspondent Coral Davenport moderated the panel. The speakers considered major current and continuing global challenges and presented ideas possible solutions. Touching on a diverse range of contemporary issues, including youth, urbanization, climate change, technology, and the UN, the panel presented the common themes of resolving conflict without violence and addressing economic inequality.

The speakers all identified critical opportunities in promoting global stability. Globally, there are 1.2 billion people aged 15 - 24, of which 87% reside in developing countries, Lord noted that although the “youth bulge” is associated with violence, marginalization and criminality, it also offers opportunity. She encouraged more youth engagement to ensure that there is a youth “boom”, rather than a “bulge”. Lord suggested that NGOs and governments incorporate youth inclusion initiatives into programs, and start investing in education and workforce development. By focusing on youth today, we can avoid the insecurity associated with marginalized youth in the future.

On reshaping the relationship between people and their governments, Bryan identified urbanization as a key source of political and economic opportunity. With more than 80% of the world's GDP generated from cities, Bryan noted that leadership will be needed in order to fully harness the opportunities that cities offer. Bryan also argued that technology is an important instrument in encouraging democracy. Admitting that some governments do use technology to repress their citizens, Bryan reminded the audience that there is a huge increase in data available in the world, and that it is now easier to communicate with political leaders and hold individuals accountable. Bryan asserted that not only has political accountability increased, but technology has also changed the way in which people engage in politics. Bryan also underlined that more women in decision-making positions would increase focus on development and economic equality.

Davenport raised climate change as a source of insecurity in the 21st century. She noted that climate change will affect where and how people live, what they fight over, and the future of public health. The IOM, she added, has estimated that disasters caused by climate change could “trigger a wave of up to a billion new refugees by 2050”. She stressed how crucial it is to decouple fossil fuel emissions from economic growth.

Crocker discussed the role of the UN in addressing global needs and whether it is equipped to tackle today's tough issues. Despite facing crises in the Middle East, increased non-state actors, and Russia's disregard for international norms, Crocker asserts that the UN still brings an unmatched moral authority and provides a useful framework for tackling tough issues. Crocker reminded guests that the UN has been involved in a myriad of day-to-day activities that are not visible to the general public and plays a crucial role in upholding global peace and security. Moreover, there has been renewed energy in working towards multilateral solutions, like the commitment to reach a real climate change agreement by the end of 2015.

When asked about the role of the US in meeting these challenges, the panelists reflected on good governance, tackling conflicts before they turn violent, and the limits of US power. Lord stated that civil society networks are crucial to creating social inclusion and economic opportunities, while Bryan added that advocacy organizations need to remind elected leaders that support for youth and women leads to economic growth. Bryan also pointed out that local governments are beginning to address global challenges, like climate change. Crocker discussed how the UN is becoming more involved in “political missions”, which try to broker disputes before conflict erupts.

The speakers all shared advice for the young professionals in the room, who be the ones to tackle these challenges. They agreed that one should be open to different opportunities and stressed networking. Lord added that people should be open to creating a new job to fill a gap that they see and Bryan emphasized the merits of working abroad.



From left: Shari Bryan, Bathsheba Crocker, Kristin Lord and Coral Davenport

Celebrating Women Leaders Across Generations



The Women's Foreign Policy Group's 20th Anniversary Celebration concluded with an evening reception hosted by the Embassy of Finland. The program recognized women leaders across generations and highlighted the next generation of leaders. The speakers included Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde of Finland, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Heather Higginbottom, and WFPG President and Co-Founder Patricia Ellis. The young leaders who spoke included Political Counselor of Finland Riina-Riikka Heikka, Foreign Service Officer and Former WFPG Employee Emily Ball, and World Bank ICT Innovation and Education Specialist at the World Bank and WFPG intern alumna Saori Imaizumi.



Ambassador Koukku-Ronde spoke about her four-year relationship with the WFPG and praised the organization for its dedication to empowering women over the last 20 years. She also pointed out Finland's phenomenal track record of promoting gender equality, citing the fact that Finland was the first country in the world to extend universal suffrage and the right to stand for elections to all women and men. She touted Finland's excellent record of equal representation in politics, reporting that 83 of 200 parliamentarians and more than half of Finnish diplomats are women.



Deputy Secretary Higginbottom addressed the progress that has been made on gender equality in the State Department and the US government in general. She mentioned that the foreign service has come a long way from the 1970s, when female FSOs had to resign if they married. Since Madeleine Albright's appointment in 1997, three out of five secretaries of state have been women. Many other high-level State Department positions are currently held by women, including the ambassador to the UN, the national security advisor and her two deputies, and four of the six under secretaries of state. She also stressed the importance of building networks and mentoring, acknowledging that she does not think she would be where she is in her career without the



support of mentors. Although the recruitment of women at the State Department has vastly improved, Higginbottom noted that women continue to be underrepresented at senior levels, especially as ambassadors. She said that is why organizations that work to make women's voices heard in foreign affairs like WFPG are vital. She urged those in the audience with well-established careers to mentor the young women who have just entered or will be entering the world of foreign affairs.

Ellis covered the importance WFPG has placed on mentoring throughout its 20 years through its internships, career panels, and mentoring fairs. She credited Madeleine Albright with helping to start WFPG's mentoring program, sharing that when Secretary Albright was a professor at Georgetown, she would bring her students over to meet with WFPG members. Ellis also advised young leaders to go with the flow, pursue their passions, and "be prepared for serendipity."

Young leaders spoke about role models, mentors, and what they have learned so far in pursuing careers in foreign affairs. Heikka focused on three lessons she has learned: personal commitment; the capability to energize; and learning the "value of holistic expertise and respect." She urged young leaders to be open to new challenges, to respect and remember to balance their family life, and to "grow into being who you truly are." Ball spoke about her journey to becoming a foreign service officer and the role mentoring played. When she was younger, she spoke with a women FSO at a WFPG mentoring fair and she had an enormous impact on Ball's career. Ball encouraged everyone to help mentor the next generation. Imaizumi spoke about her time as an intern at WFPG and how Ellis' mentoring helped her become a more confident networker, employee, and speaker.



Speaker photos from top down: Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde, Heather Higginbottom, Patricia Ellis, Ann Stock, Emily Ball, Riina-Riikka Heikka, and Saori Imaizumi

Above: WFPG interns and intern alumnae join event speakers



WFG Board of Directors with Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment Catherine Novelli.

Board Members from left: Gebe Martinez, GM Networking; Secretary and Treasurer Dawn Calabria; Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel, Lockheed Martin; Vice Chair Gail Leftwich Kitch, Voter Participation Center; Chair Ann Stock; Diana Villiers Negroponete, The Wilson Center; President Patricia Ellis; Theresa Loar, CH2M; Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times; Donna McLarty, Vital Voices; Marcia Wiss, Hogan Lovells US LLP; and Carolyn Brehm, Procter & Gamble.



WFG President Patricia Ellis, Admiral Susan Blumenthal, Board Member Donna McLarty, and Board Chair Ann Stock



Board Member Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel of Lockheed Martin with Caroline Chewning and Allison Ford of United Technologies



Ambassador Réka Szemerényi of Hungary, Board Member Gail Leftwich Kitch, and Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde of Finland



Tino Calabria, Shari Bryan and Jackie Corcoran of NDI, and Board Member and Event Chair Dawn Calabria



Ambassador Anne Patterson, Diana Sedney, and Kay Larcom of ConocoPhillips



Sara Al-Saadi of the Embassy of the State of Qatar With Board Chair Ann Stock



Lee Woodman and WFPG President Patricia Ellis



Assistant Secretary Richard and Ambassador Faida Mitifu of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Maureen White and Elizabeth Stevens



Ambassador Linda Jewell, Lauri Fitz-Pegado, Irene Natividad, and Board Member Diana Villiers Negroponte



Patricia Ellis and Ann Stock award Ambassador Ritva Koukku-Ronde with a Lifetime WFPG Honored Membership



Board Member Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel of Lockheed Martin and Susan Davis, Board Chair of Vital Voices



Heather Higginbottom with Board Members Theresa Loar, Marcia Wiss, Ann Stock, Gail Kitch, Pat Ellis, Kate Irvin, Dawn Calabia, & Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel



Board Members Kate Irvin of Coca-Cola and Gebe Martinez GM Networking with Ambassador Elena Poptodorova of Bulgaria

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