MS. DUBRAVKA ŠIMONOVIĆ
Head of the Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Croatia
Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Chairperson (2007-2008)

A national of Croatia Ms Dubravka Šimonović has been an expert on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women since 2003. In 2007 she was elected as a Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee for two years. She has been appointed by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe to its Task Force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (2006-2008), and was its Chairperson in 2006/07 and its Vice-Chairperson in 2007/2008.

Ms Šimonović holds degrees from the Faculty of Law at Zagreb University in Croatia where she has also practiced law. She has a PhD in the field of Family law. A career foreign service officer, Ms. Šimonović currently heads the Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She represented her country at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995. She was elected Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women for 2001 and 2002 and a Vice-Chair of the Bureau for the Special session of the General Assembly "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century." Ms Šimonović served as a member of the UNIFEM Consultative Committee from 2001 to 2003. Ms Šimonović has published and lectured widely on women's rights and gender equality.