

Border Management Branch



“Invest in Women – accelerate progress” was the motto of the 2024 [International Women’s Day](#) celebrated on 8 March. With information on topics such as why [investing in women is a human rights issue](#) and [gender-responsive budgeting](#), UN Women set the context for pushing financial and societal empowerment of women across the globe.

BMB programmes have been champions in pioneering project implementation focused on empowering women by, for example, providing gender sensitive and leadership training for women law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners. In February, these efforts culminated in a UNOV/UNODC Gender Award for 2023! #Investinwomen

Discussion forum on crimes that affect the environment

The Government of Slovenia, UN Women and UNODC co-hosted a discussion forum on gendered dimensions of crimes that affect the environment in February.

Setting the stage and opening the event, Barbara Žvokelj, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Slovenia, said that: "The forum gives us an opportunity to explore an angle which has not been explored or does not exist extensively enough yet. Do men and women, whether as offenders, defenders, influencers, beneficiaries and/or victims, engage differently with environmental crimes? Do we find ourselves entangled in certain gendered perceptions?"

Global panels with international experts on climate justice, wildlife crime and crimes in fisheries, illegal deforestation, pollution and waste as well as crimes in the mineral and extractive sector discussed what role women play in such a crimes and how they affect women and girls.

Taking an inclusive approach, the forum emphasised the importance of including youth and indigenous communities in the discussions. Cristina Hoyes, Head of the Latin America and Caribbean Unit in DCAF, Switzerland, highlighted that "indigenous and rural women are disproportionately affected by climate change, facing increased gender-based violence and economic insecurity."

The discussion forum will inform an assessment currently being finalized by UNODC and which will include concrete recommendations on the way forward.

The panel discussions can be watched in full [here](#).

BMB programmes win UNOV/UNODC Gender Award!

In February, the Blue Enforcement Project, jointly implemented by the Container Control Programme and the Global Maritime Crime Programme, won one of the 2023 UNOV/UNODC Gender Awards. Focused on crimes in the fisheries sector, the project put particular emphasis on supporting women LE and fisheries officers in their career progressions. Through a targeted approach, the two programmes delivered capacity and leadership training for women professionals, focusing on topics such as challenges and opportunities in the respective sectors, communication and innovation. Giving the workshops high reviews, the participants reported taking the new skills with them and, among other things, undertook gendered research using their newly acquired skills.

For more information, look [here](#)



Crimes that
Affect the
Environment



First Admiral Zulinda from the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency inspires officers at the Emerging Leaders Dialogue

Maritime law enforcement is a rapidly developing field, offering numerous opportunities to both men and women seeking to advance their careers in preserving national maritime zones. At the Emerging Leaders Dialogue (ELD) convened on 4 March 2024 under the auspices of the 14th Maritime Law Enforcement Dialogue, First Admiral Zulinda binti Haji Ramly shared her journey in reaching her senior rank in the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency. First Admiral Zulinda is the first woman to have been appointed as First Admiral in the history of the coastguard force. Currently the Director of the Disaster, Search, and Rescue division of the agency, she has also formerly supervised an operational group under the National Task Force of an inter-agency mechanism established to counter the unregulated movement of people during COVID-19. During the Emerging Leaders Dialogue, First Admiral Zulinda shared her struggles, experiences, and highlights throughout her journey. The experience sharing session sparked interest from mid-rank officers that hailed from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, all of who recognized that clearly set goals, effective communication, and leadership are essential to a successful career in maritime law enforcement.

2024 LAC Women’s Network Regional Meeting

Ahead of the International Women's Day, the Passenger and Cargo Border Team (PCBT) hosted its Second Regional Women's Network Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in Santo Domingo. Facilitated with the support of the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Canada, the meeting gathered representatives of eleven countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Paraguay.

The focus of the gathering was to promote inclusivity, empower women, and address discrimination in a traditionally male-dominated field, aiming to foster an environment that supports equality and empowerment within law enforcement.

Building on last year's meeting, emphasis was put on professional development, collaboration and networking, exchange of experiences, and discussion on key issues such as the visibility and roles of women officers within PCBT units, their involvement in decision-making processes, and promotion of gender equality in security policies.

Also present were the Director of Security and Defense of the Dominican Republic and the Canadian Ambassador, who highlighted the importance of international cooperation in combatting organized crime and enhancing border security, specifically through the lens of empowering female officers. In this opportunity, the participants proposed a layout for a future implementation of the UNODC-UNOV Gender Awards Winner Initiative CCP's Women's Professional Development Program in the LAC region, as part of its broader strategy to foster female leadership and professional development in law enforcement globally.

For more information, look [here](#)



PCBT Virtual Coffees, February and March 2024

PCBT AIRCOP has expanded its work related to gender mainstreaming, particularly through its regional Virtual Coffees for Women of AIRCOP, of which AIRCOP has organized two during Q1 in 2024 (one anglophone and one francophone) with participation from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroun, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, The Gambia, and Togo.

The latest series of the virtual coffees focused on exchanges between airport and seaport interagency task forces, and invisible barriers that women face as they build their careers in predominantly male-dominated environments. Interventions were welcomed from the head of the Port Control Unit in Ghana and an officer from the Joint Interdiction Task Force (JAITF) of Abuja (Nigeria), during which both agents discussed their experiences as women working in seaport and airport environments. During the francophone meeting, interventions were made by the head of JAITF of Cotonou (Benin) and agents from the JAITF of Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire). Participants from both meetings highlighted the importance of mentorship and female representation in managerial positions for young women in law enforcement to look up to.