

**Biographical data of Ms. Ismat Jahan
Bangladesh's candidate to CEDAW**

Name and first name: Ismat Jahan (Ms).

Date and place of birth: 03 June 1960, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Working languages: Fluent: English and Bengali; Basic: Spanish.

Current position/function: Ambassador to Belgium and Head of Mission to the European Union; concurrent accreditation as Ambassador to Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Main professional activities:

Career diplomat with 26 years of service experience; specialization in multilateral diplomacy with skills in international negotiations and conference diplomacy; area of focus: human rights and humanitarian issues and gender matters. Overseas assignments included postings in the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh to the UN in New York and Geneva. Most recently served as Permanent Representative to UN in New York. Currently, as Head of Mission in Brussels responsible for overall management of the Embassy and spearheading its various activities; articulating strategic and operational plans for implementation of national foreign policy; drafting of policy papers and country statements; representing Bangladesh in various meetings, conference and seminars in the European Commission and the European Parliament; networking with the think tanks and civil society including women's organisations.

Educational background:

- I. M.S.S. (Economics), University of Dhaka, 1982.
- II. M A (Law and Diplomacy), Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA, 1986.
- III. Visiting Fellow in Foreign Service Program, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, USA 1996 (Certificate with distinction).
- IV. Certificate in Spanish Language from the University of California, Berkeley, USA, 1986.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Serving in the New York and Geneva Permanent Missions, have long association with gender issues and women's rights. In this capacity, have participated in many CEDAW meetings (involved in formulation and presentation of Periodic Reports of Bangladesh) and Commission on the Status of Women. Have also contributed to the multilateral process on gender issues at the UN through active participation in the drafting of Conventions, Declarations and resolutions related to the work of CEDAW e.g. UN Convention on the Rights of Child and its Protocols; the Beijing Platform for Action; Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol on Trafficking in Women; SAARC Convention on Trafficking of Women and Children for Prostitution. Associated in the organization of SAARC regional seminar on violence against women (Dhaka 1998); attended Seminar on gender mainstreaming in the LDCs, Cape Town, 2001. UNCTAD Panellist at Special Event

on Gender, 3rd UN Conference on LDCs, Brussels 2001. Delegate to the NAM Ministerial Conference on Women and Development (Havana 1989).

List of most recent publications in the field:

Statements on women issues published in UN documents.

Muslim Women in South Asian Politics, an article for a New Delhi newspaper 2002.
