

**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

**Rutgers Professor and CWGL Executive Director Dr. Radhika Balakrishnan Selected to Moderate Panel at the 21st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

*New Brunswick, NJ, September 17, 2012*—This week, the United Nations Human Rights Council will hold a session on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work on women's economic, social, and cultural rights. The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.

Dr. Radhika Balakrishnan, executive director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) and Professor in the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University, has been asked by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to moderate a panel discussion at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Council in Geneva, Switzerland on September 20, 2012 from 12-3pm (CET). The three-hour panel will be entirely recorded and transmitted live (in English and original language) via webcast on the Human Rights Council website: <http://webtv.un.org/live-now/watch/21st-regular-session-of-the-human-rights-council-10-september-28-september-2012/1807081747001>.

The interactive panel will offer panelists, member states and observers the opportunity to discuss the integration of gender in promoting and protecting economic, social, and cultural rights in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the UN Office at Geneva and President, Human Rights Council, Laura Dupuy Lasserre, will chair the session. The panelists are: Moez Doraid, Director, Coordination Division, UN Women; Fatima Duarte, President, Portuguese Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality; Leilani Farha, Director, Center for Equality Rights in Accommodation; Pregs Govender, Deputy Chair, South African Human Rights Commission; and Magdalena Sepulveda, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

"I am honored to be asked to moderate a panel of this importance. We will make recommendations to member states and the UN system to promote gender equality, as it relates to economic, social and cultural rights. I hope that this process will promote a policy agenda for the achievement of substantive equality between women and men," said Dr. Balakrishnan.

Dr. Balakrishnan's work focuses on economic and social rights from a feminist perspective. Her latest publication, co-edited with Diane Elson, *Economic Policy and Human Rights: Holding Governments to Account* (Zed Books, 2011), critiques three decades of neoliberal economic policies from a human rights perspective.

*The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) strengthens and facilitates women's leadership for women's human rights and social justice worldwide. CWGL envisions a world in which all people are equal and gender equality is systematically realized by the achievement of human rights for all. CWGL works to: advance economic and social rights from a feminist perspective; promote an end to violence against women and highlight the linkages with militarism; and build coalitions and deepen capacity around those urgent issues that are critical to the global women's movement to secure policy reform at the international and national levels.*

# # #