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GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

MISSION

The Global Alliance for Women's Health (GAWH) is committed to advancing women's health in all stages of life and at all policy levels through education, advocacy and program implementation. GAWH grew out of the Working Group on Women's Health, convened by Dr. Elaine M. Wolfson for the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

The Global Alliance for Women's Health consists of coalitions of international, national and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women's groups, health care professionals, religious organizations, academics and individual citizens from all of the regions of the world who are committed to improving health care services and research for women in all policy and program areas at the local, national and international levels.

The guiding principles of the GAWH are: (1) that women's health is a continuum from infancy through old age of which the reproductive years are a stage, (2) that women's health has been under-serviced and under-attended throughout the world, (3) that long-term initiatives and commitments are needed in order to forge alliances and collaborative programs across the globe, and (4) that partnering among NGOs, governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector and academic institutions are necessary in order to provide effective health care and research for women globally.

PROGRAMS

As part of its Consensus-Building Program for Women's Health, GAWH has distributed over fifteen thousand copies of the **Women's Health Compendium** (which has been translated into Spanish, Russian and Turkish), and another twenty-five thousand brochures and newsletters concerning: **NGOs as Agents for Change**, **Mature Women's Health Concerns**, **Health Education for All**, and international bibliographies on women's health research. GAWH has also organized and co-facilitated with NGOs from Europe, Asia and Africa more than 60 Health Caucuses attended by over 1,000 NGOs and individuals. These Health Caucuses have aggregated and articulated language on health for the Platforms of Action coming out of the Copenhagen, Istanbul and Beijing United Nations Conferences. The Health Caucuses have had success rates of over 95%, i.e., adoption of its proposals by the intergovernmental conferences. In 1996, GAWH initiated the NY NGO Committee on Health, currently in formation.

As part of its "Life Span Approach to Women's Health Program," GAWH has sponsored and co-sponsored more than 20 panels and symposia on a variety of health policy issues: from industrial investment in women's health to alternative medicine, and from women's wellness to men as partners for women's health.

In its "Empowering Women NGOs Program," GAWH has initiated a partnership with Yiriwali, a women's NGO in Burkina Faso, for the distribution of cerebrospinal meningitis vaccine and has, through its Vice President Dr. Fantaye Mekbeb, begun partnerships with women's NGOs in Ethiopia.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

PARTNERING

The Global Alliance for Women's Health has partnered with a cross-section of non-governmental, governmental, and private sector organizations. These include: the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service; the United States Department of Labor, Women's Bureau; the World Health Organization (WHO); the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef); the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, (INSTRAW); the International Special Dietary Industries (ISDI); divisions of the Presbyterian Church; the United Methodist Church; Hadassah; Pan-Pacific and South-East Asian Women's Association (PPSEAWA) and numerous individuals. Additionally, Global Alliance for Women's Health is one of the six consulting organizations to the Global Commission on Women's Health of the World Health Organization.

OUTREACH

The Global Alliance for Women's Health has outreach to NGOs and individuals in more than 105 countries throughout the world. It distributes health information, publications, and mobilizes support for women's health through such projects as the Declaration, "Investing in Women's Health is a Win-Win Strategy."

INTERNS

Since its founding in 1993, Global Alliance for Women's Health has been fortunate to have interns from major universities, graduate schools and professional schools including: Yale University, Columbia, Dartmouth College, the New School for Social Research, and Rutgers University.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

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Lecturer, College of Vocational Studies
University fo Delhi

The Global Alliance for Women's Health

tribute to

The Honorable Melinda L. Kimble

United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Recipient of the

Global Alliance for Women's Health Award For the Advancement of Women's Health

In recognition of her dedicated efforts advancing women's health, especially at the Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul World Conferences

Thursday, October 17, 1996

4:00-6:00 PM

Church Center of the United Nations

Dag Hammarskjold Lounge

777 UN Plaza

44th Street and First Avenue

New York, New York 10017

Summary

On October 17 at the Church Center of the United Nations, the Global Alliance for Women's Health honored Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, Melinda Kimble, with the First Annual Award for the Advancement of Women's Health. Over fifty people from the U.S. government, the United Nations, and the NGO community attended the evening reception to thank Ms. Kimble for the effort she has put into advancing and empowering women throughout the world. Melinda Kimble has served in her current position since 1993, and has been a key advocate for women's health at the United Nations conferences in Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul. In presenting the award, the Global Alliance for Women's Health recognized her outstanding strategic and managerial expertise, as well as her accessibility and her encouragement of women NGOs.

Honorary Chair, Dr. Mariam Chamberlain, opened the evening with greetings. She was followed by congratulatory remarks, reminiscence, and thank you's from Under-Secretary General Nitin Desai, Ambassador Princeton Lyman, Ambassador

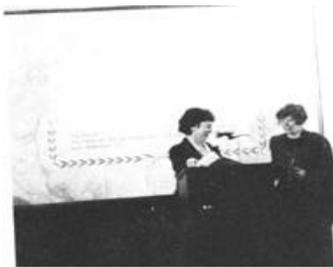
Victor Marrero, and Ms. Sudha Acharya. Each speaker emphasized the importance of advancing women and addressing their health issues, and the vital role Melinda Kimble has played. It was evident from their words that she was more than worthy of the award being presented. Ambassador Lyman stated, "Those who know Melinda know that her work on behalf of women's health is really but one part of the tremendous work she has been doing for the last five years on behalf of women's health, education, shelter, research, food security, and international fields. She's an extraordinary person and I don't know how she keeps up with all the activity." In addition, certain speakers addressed the importance of world conferences and the values which are instilled in the words and policies which evolve from these meetings.

An unexpected but exciting addition to the program was a letter presented by Theresa Loar, Executive Director of the President's Interagency Council on Women, from First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, hailing Ms. Kimble's achievements. The First Lady wrote, "I am grateful for women like Melinda, whose professional efforts to recognize the essential contribution that women make to their families, their communities and their countries. I send Melinda my thanks and my congratulations on receiving this prestigious award."

President of the Global Alliance, Dr. Elaine Wolfson, added her remarks before presenting the award, noting that, "Health had hardly been spoken of in the Social Summit document in Copenhagen," but thanks to the lead that Melinda Kimble had taken, women's health had become a comprehensive part of Beijing Platform for Action. She mentioned how truly vital Ms. Kimble has been in representing the government, NGOs, and women around the world.

Upon receiving her award from Dr. Wolfson, Melinda Kimble, a women noted to be tireless, responsive, and dedicated, by those who spoke at the reception, closed the program by saying, "It won't be a perfect or an easy road, but we have the compass from Nairobi and the road maps from Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing, Istanbul, and , of course, Rio to guide our work...What I hope for the twenty-first century is people will say, 'Women made the difference.' " With the continued work of women like Melinda Kimble, this will be accomplished.

*Health to
The Honorable Melinda
Kimble.*



*Dr. Elaine M. Wolfson,
President of the Global
Alliance for Women's
Health,
presents the award for the
Advancement of Women's*



MELINDA L. KIMBLE



Melinda Kimble was named Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs (IO) in June 1991. As Deputy Assistant Secretary, Kimble oversees the entire range of economic and social policy issues that come before the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly Second and Third Committees. She also has direct responsibility for substantive policy development for the key specialized and technical UN agencies as well as the voluntary funds and programs, including UNDP, UNICEF, and the World Food Program. She oversees the work of the Office of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of Technical Specialized Agencies, and the Office of International Development Assistance. In this capacity, she developed the U.S. negotiating strategies for recent UN conferences, including Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing and Istanbul.

Ms. Kimble is a career Foreign Service Officer, joining the Department of State in January 1971. She was promoted to the senior Foreign Service in 1989, and promoted to the rank of Minister Counselor in 1993. Before assuming her current position, Ms. Kimble was the Director of the Office of Egyptian Affairs in the Near East and South Asia Bureau. From 1987 to 1989 she served as the Deputy and acting Director of the Office of Monetary affairs in the economic and Business Bureau. She has also served in Tunisia, Egypt, and Cote d'Ivoire as well as in the Africa Bureau in Washington.

Ms. Kimble has bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from the University of Denver and a master's from Harvard. She is a recipient of the Department of State's Meritorious and Superior Honor Awards, senior performance pay, and a presidential performance award. Her foreign languages are Arabic and French. She is married to James R. Phippard, a former career AID official, and has four grown stepchildren.

Dr. Mariam Chamberlain
Honorary Chair of the Program
Founding President,
National Council for Research on Women

“On behalf of the advisory board of the Global Alliance for Women’s Health I’m pleased to join in welcoming you to this reception in honor of Melinda Kimble, from my full time base at the National Council for Research on Women, which is a coalition of research centers throughout the United States with outreach abroad. I’ve had an opportunity to work with GAWH and to watch it grow and I’ve been most impressed with how much GAWH, as a young and vigorous organization has accomplished under the leadership of Elaine Wolfson towards calling attention to the full range of women’s health issues through all stages of life and variety of conditions in society and in at all levels of policy. One way to do that is to recognize those who made important contributions to the advancement of women’s health and that’s why we’re here today.”



Dr. Mariam Chamberlain acted as the Honorary Chair of the Award Reception for Melinda Kimble. She is the Founding President and Resident Scholar at the National Council for Research on Women, a working alliance of centers and organizations for feminist research, policy analysis, and educational programs for women and girls. In the 1960’s and 1970’s, she was Program Officer in Education and Public Policy at the Ford Foundation. During this time, she was instrumental in developing the field of Women’s Studies. She is the recipient of two honorary degrees; Doctorate of Humanities, from the University of Arizona in 1985 and Doctor of Human Letters from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1989. Dr. Chamberlain holds a AB in Economics from Radcliffe University and a Ph.D. from Harvard.

“Those of you who took part in those global events can attest to the extraordinary job she has done for our government and our country. I think your honoring her today is in part a reflection of the outstanding work she did in that regard.”

- Ambassador Victor Marrero



Ambassador Victor Marrero
United States Ambassador to the
United Nations
Economic and Social Council

“Thank you Elaine, I can attest to the very very effective work that the Alliance has performed on behalf of women’s health. I served on the US delegation for the conferences in Beijing, in Istanbul, in Cairo, and in Vienna. From these experiences, I got to know of the work that this organization has carried out on behalf of women’s issues and I congratulate you for that.

Amb. Victor Marrero was appointed by President Clinton in May 1993 as the US Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Previously, he had been in private law practice as a partner in the firms of Tufo & Zuccotti, and Brown & Wood. Among the public offices he has held, he was Under-Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Development during the Presidency of Jimmy Carter and Commission of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal. He has been active in civic and educational programs, such as serving as Founder and First Chairman of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. Amb. Marrero received a BA from New York University and a law degree from Yale Law School, where he was elected an editor of the Yale Law Journal.

This position I hold presents me with many occasions to participate in happy events. It also has some very difficult moments. I’ll tell you about one of the tough ones, the first time I met Elaine. It was at an event right in this room a day or so after the United States has just lost an election for membership on the Commission on the Status of Women. You can just imagine what it must have felt like standing in front of a hundred or so very angry women trying to explain what happened. I can assure you it was not one of those very joyful moments. Fortunately today I am here again to represent the government in honoring one of our own finest professionals.

I often compare the relationship of the US mission to Washington as one based on an umbilical bond. We receive from the International Organizations Bureau all of our care and feeding, our support, our guidance, instruction, as though it were through an umbilical cord. In Washington and in the Department of State, the people with whom we deal most closely are those in the International Organization Bureau. For us in the Economic and Social Section of the US Mission, it is Melinda Kimble who represents that link. I am also pleased that we have with us here today, Ambassador Princeton Lyman, who is the Acting Assistant Secretary of the International Organization Bureau. She is a connection. As I mentioned, for us in the Economic and Social sphere, our connection, our lifeline in Washington is Melinda Kimble. And for me, for the last three and a half years it has been a tremendous honor and pleasure to have had a vital link in the Department who has worked so well and so cooperatively, who is knowledgeable, someone you could turn to for immediate guidance and who could give you prompt, well-considered decisions.

It has been a pleasure to have worked with Melinda, as I know you have also, on the various UN conferences at which she has led the US negotiating team. Those of you who took part in those global events can attest for the extraordinary job she has done for our government and our country. I think your honoring her today is in part a reflection of the outstanding work she did in that regard. For me it is also significant that we have developed not only that professional, umbilical tie, but we have become good friends. We work very closely at all times and see eye to eye on most issues. and this, too, is a result of the qualities she brings to the job: vast experience, knowledge, professionalism, and friendship. It is a great pleasure for me to be here. Thank you for inviting me to share this event with you.”

"Our lifeline in Washington is Melinda Kimble. And for me, for the last three and a half years it has been a tremendous honor and pleasure to have had a vital link in the Department who has worked so well and so cooperatively, who is knowledgeable, someone you could turn to for immediate guidance and who could give you prompt, well-considered decisions."

Ambassador Victor Marrero



***Ms. Sudha Acharya,
Chair of the NGO Committee on the
Status of Women, Representative of the
All India Women's Conference***



***Under-Secretary General Nitin Desai,
United Nations Secretary for Policy
Coordination and Sustainable
Development***



***Ambassador Victor Marrero,
United States Ambassador to the United
Nations Economic and Social Council***



Sudha Acharya is Chairperson for the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. Ms. Acharya has been a representative of the All India Women's Conference for 26 years. She is a vice-president of CONGO (NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations.) Ms. Acharya is retired from NYNEX. She holds a MA degree in English literature and an MBA in Finance.

Sudha Acharya

Chair,
NGO Committee on the Status of Women
All India Women's Conference

“Thank you very much for these kind words. I feel privileged today on behalf of 150 international and national organization which work under the banner of the NGO Committees on the Status of Women's, which is a committee in Consultative Status with the UN. The Global Alliance for Women's Health is a member of this NGO committee and is active, articulate, and effective in it's chosen field. We are very happy they are doing so well. The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, came into being in 1972. It has been working for 24 years on issues of women and women's health and it has had influence in the conferences on women and plans of action. Because of this, we know how vital and crucial it is to have in-depth discussion with those at the conference and people in the mission. We have great pride in joining GAWH in thanking Melinda Kimble for her enthusiasm and willingness to work on a cause that is so dear to us. I would like to wish GAWH great success in this area.”

"Those who know Melinda, know that her work on behalf of women and women's health is really but one part of the work she has been doing in the last five years in the international community on behalf of health, women, education, shelter, research, food security and international peace. I don't really know how she keeps up with all the activity that she does, but she is perhaps our most dynamic and active ambassador to the international community in all these areas."

- Ambassador Princeton Lyman

"You need people with soft hearts
but hard heads to take those
problems and deal with them and get something
accomplished. Melinda really personifies that. She
believes deeply in the issues around which she has been
working and she works very very hard to make sure
the institutions with which she is interacting are
structured the best way so the results are real and just
not on paper. She's very dedicated to the work of the
international community and the UN."

-Ambassador Princeton Lyman

Ambassador Princeton Lyman Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs

“Let me thank the Global Alliance for Women’s Health for honoring Melinda Kimble today for her work. Those who know Melinda, know that her work on behalf of women and women’s health is really but one part of the work she has been doing for the last five years in the international community on behalf of health, women, education, shelter, research, food security and international peace. She’s an extraordinary person. I don’t really know how she keeps up with all the activity that she does, but she is perhaps our most dynamic and active ambassador to the international community in all these areas.

The Habitat Conference, which is singled out in your award for Melinda, is an example of a series of conferences, in Beijing, Copenhagen, Istanbul, that have become rather controversial. Some people believe that those conferences are too large, accomplish too little, and should be done away with. There is a feeling that we have had an awful lot of them and that we need a rest and respite. That may be true, but the fact is that all of you have been involved in those conferences, particularly those I just mentioned, know that they broke new ground, that they established new norms and created much greater awareness about problems that needed to be put on the forefront of the international community.



Ambassador Princeton Lyman, Ph.D., was appointed the Acting Secretary for the International Organization affairs in July 1996. He is responsible for the formation and implementation of US policies with regard to the UN, UN agencies and other international organizations. From 1992-1995, Dr. Lyman served as the US Ambassador to South Africa during its transition from apartheid to democracy. Amb. Lyman’s domestic assignments as a Foreign Service officer also included US Agency for International Development’s (AID) Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination, US AID’s Bureau of African Affairs. He also served in Seoul, South Korea, and as Director of US AID Mission to Ethiopia. He is the recipient to numerous Presidential and State Department Awards. Amb. Lyman has a BA from the University of California and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

I see the delegates to those conferences come back with a new agenda in those areas and bring those ideas into national policy. It wouldn't happen otherwise and their enthusiasm is really reinforced by the international norms that have been established.

Another thing that is really striking about those conferences, and is represented here, is the partnership between the NGO community and, in this case, the US government, but I think, broader than that, the governmental community in general. I remember the first major international UN conference I attended and I was astounded by the organization and capacity of the NGO community. In fact every morning we would meet and say, "I wonder what the NGOs are saying about us this morning?" I realized there, and since then, how important it is in all our work that this very dynamic interaction takes place, that we are in touch with people, that by their very definition with their involvement with the NGO community, are so committed and involved in the particular issues at stake. I am grateful to the Global Alliance for

Women's Health in making this award not only for the sake of Melinda, but in testimony to that cooperative partnership that can exist between the NGO and the government community.

Melinda is, as those of you who know her, not a wide-eyed idealist. She's a tough negotiator. She reminds me of a favorite book I read some years ago by Alan Blinder called ***Hard Heads and Soft Hearts***, where he argues that people with hard heads and hard hearts may be very practical but they have no empathy for the real problems in the world. People with soft hearts, but soft heads, don't know how to get anything done. You need people with soft hearts but hard heads to take those problems and deal with them and get something accomplished. Melinda really personifies that. She believes deeply in the issues around which she has been working and she works very very hard to make sure the institutions with which she is interacting are structured the best way so the results are real and just not on paper. She's very dedicated to the work of the international community and the UN. I'm grateful for your giving this

award to Melinda. I think it's well deserved and I'm very happy that the relationship between our bureau and our government and the GAWH has worked so well. Thank you."



(Left) From Left to Right:
Dr. Harris Schoenberg, Executive Director and UN Representative, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, Ambassador Princeton Lyman, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, The Honorable Melinda L. Kimble, and Sarah Kovner, Special Assistant to Secretary, United States Department of Health and Human Services

(Right) *Ambassador Princeton Lyman, The Honorable Melinda Kimble and Ambassador Kenneth Brown, GAWH Advisory Board Member*



"I must here mention the dedication and skill with which Melinda has defended the case which was made in Cairo and Beijing and other processes because there's always a risk of losing particular advances or gains made elsewhere. And I assure you, as one having been involved in these processes, that she is very diligent and very particular in ensuring that what has been gained by one process doesn't get lost by oversight or neglect in some other process and that it is terribly important."

- Under-Secretary General, Nitin Desai



Under-Secretary General Nitin Desai oversees work in support of various UN intergovernmental bodies, including the Economic and Social Council and the recently established Commission on Sustainable Development. Other functions of his department include follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, World Summit for Social Development and the Conference on the Sustainable Development and the Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. He is Executive Secretary of the Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development. Mr. Desai received his Masters in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Bachelor's from the University of Bombay..

Under-Secretary General Nitin Desai

United Nations Under-Secretary General
for Policy Coordination and
Sustainable Development

“I am most particularly happy to be here at this function which honors Melinda Kimble. I’ve had the good fortune to work with her over several conferences and other processes and have greatly admired her qualities of soft heart and hard head that she has brought to her work. I am also particularly happy that this function is organized by the Global Alliance for Women’s Health because I think it signifies the tremendously important role that NGOs, and most particularly the women’s movement, has played in shaping what I would describe as the new multilateralism which seeks agreement and consensus, not just amongst diplomats and governments, but also more widely, in civil society. In many ways, what we are doing here today is commemorating many things, of course, in particular, it is the special contribution Melinda has made to this issue, but I believe it also commemorates certain other things which we need to remember. First there is the whole issue of the advancement of women. I believe that when the history of this century is written, three things will stand out as the crucial changes which took place in our polity and our society. First is decolonization. The second is the end, I hope, of racism, and third is the

advancement of women. You may notice that I did not mention sustainable development because that we haven't achieved. That's the task which is still ahead of us not that the other three are completely over. I believe that these are the three great changes. If I took a snapshot of today with what was the situation 100 years ago when women had a vote in only two countries in the world, not two just one, just New Zealand as far as I remember, possibly Australia. It's a tremendous change that has taken place. That's the first thing.

The second, I believe, is the fact that issues relating to women's health are central to the whole question of the advancement of women and as you know in the UN system, in Cairo and subsequently, the broad issues of women's health have been at the center of the negotiating process.

I must here mention the dedication and skill with which Melinda has defended the case which was made in Cairo and Beijing and other processes because there's always a risk of losing particular advances or gains made elsewhere. And I assure you, as one having been

involved in these processes that she is very diligent and very particular in ensuring that what has been gained by one process doesn't get lost by oversight or neglect in some other process and that it is terribly important.

Sometimes people, outside, wonder, "Why do people argue so much about words?" Well it is important to worry about words. Particularly words as they relate to the advancement of women and the condition of children, to human rights because they are what we are talking about. They are values, and values are encapsulated in words and it's for that reason that it is important to argue about words when we negotiate and it's for that reason we measure our advances in terms of the types of words that we can get people to agree to use formally as part of our position.

The third thing I believe we're commemorating is what I describe as the new multilateralism. A multilateralism which tries to go beyond not only north south but east west issues and which tries to look for consensus not just amongst countries, but amongst all actors in society.

In all of these things, Melinda has played a very very important and crucial role. She's a fierce negotiator. She often gets angry, but for good reason I can assure you. She often gets agitated, but for good reason I can assure you.

The new multilateralism, the cause of women's health, the cause of the advancement of women is that which lies at the heart of much of our work. Melinda, I join with everybody else in congratulating you on this. We look forward to your participation in the work of the UN and I hope you come to it with not only your hard head, but also your soft heart."

"Some people wonder, "Why do people argue so much about words?" Well it is important to worry about words, particularly words as they relate to the advancement of women and the condition of children...values are encapsulated in words and it's for that reason that it is important to argue about words when we negotiate and it's for that reason we measure our advances in terms of the types of words that we get people to agree to use formally as part of our position...In all of these things, Melinda has played a very very important and crucial role. She's a fierce negotiator."

-Under-Secretary General, Nitin Desai

"It was a delight to work with Melinda, to talk to her or her assistants, to share our concerns about addressing women's health throughout the life span...We all shared different aspects of a vision of improving women's health and improving the empowerment of women throughout the world. We knew that at least the first step was through rhetoric and language."

-Dr. Elaine M. Wolfson



Dr. Elaine M. Wolfson

President of the Global Alliance for Women's Health

Dr. Elaine M. Wolfson is the President of the Global Alliance for Women's Health. Dr. Wolfson has been studying sociogovernmental aspects of women's health for the past twenty years. She has published articles on women's health, including studies on the use of governmental advisory boards to screen bio-ethical policies and the impact of administrative gridlock on reproductive regulatory policies. Dr. Wolfson is an adjunct faculty member of Columbia University School of Public Health Division of Health Policy and Management. She received a BA from Smith College, a Ph.D. from New York University, and a Certificate in Business Administration and Management from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

“Thank you very much. Now I get the chance to say a few specific words about Melinda and I want to share with you some of our experiences. I met Melinda two and a half years ago, perhaps three years ago, at the first press-com for the World Summit for social Development. I know that Melinda had worked on Cairo, but we had not been formed by Cairo. I see Adrienne Germain is here from the Intl. Women's Health Coalition there were many other groups working very very hard at the Cairo meetings. We were very much involved in women's health and the life span. We were formed in 1993 and we met Melinda at the prep-com's for the Social Summit. We began to talk to Melinda about issues of women's health abroad in Africa and Asia and she was very responsive. She did indeed seem to want to work with us and you know, I've been a political science professor early on in my life and I used to teach my students how important it was to be a responsive government and also how important it was to support a responsive government. It was a delight to begin to work with Melinda to talk to her or her assistants, to share our concerns about women's health and the lifespan, to speak with Sharon Kotok and Sarah Kovner, who joined us here today from Health and Human Services, David Hohman, the other

NGOs, Sharyl Patton, Peggy Kerry. We all shared different aspects of a vision of improving women's health and improving the empowerment of women through the world, by improving their health and we knew that at least the first step was through rhetoric and the language that would develop the parameters from which we could then have policy evolve and then move to the follow-up and then implementation stage. So it was very nice to have people in the State department, people at the US mission, and Melinda in particular, who would talk with me on a cold winter day, and we would say, "Melinda there is no commitment on women's health in the Social Summit. What can be done about this?" and Melinda would say, "Well, let's see, there's Washington, we have to have instructions from Washington." We would go home and rub our chins and say, "Well, let's see, where do we go next?" Where we went, we came full circle and Melinda was there always to pick up the ball.

Melinda was tireless. I thought I had a fair amount of energy but we would meet and I would feel like a crumpled piece of paper and I would see Melinda

plowing ahead... 1 AM, 5 AM. The negotiations in Habitat went on until the early morning hours and Melinda was always there as well as all the people who worked with her. David Hohmann sent his best wishes. He couldn't join us, but he was a very important figure in our efforts and our working with Melinda and the delegation. Several of you who have been on the delegation are in the room tonight and I want to thank you because without your work and support, health would not have become the central critical area concerning the Beijing meeting. It was separated from education. Which gave us the opportunity then to really address the range of health issues. We went from three pages in the Nairobi meeting to 17 pages in the Beijing Platform of Action. Health had hardly been spoken of at the Social Summit, in the Social Summit document in Copenhagen. It was not a part of the initial commitments, but with Melinda's help and with the missions help, and with the help of several other governments and NGOs, but with the lead of Melinda, it went, indeed, into Commitment 6 and it became very comprehensive. So too, health

was given short shrift in the Habitat meeting and there was no principal on health as we discovered and we began to advocate for an articulation of health, not just for women now, but for people in general. After all, how can we talk about empowerment how can we talk about development if we don't have healthy people who have an infrastructure that will provide health for them?

I came upon the solution because of ill health I experienced in my 30's and I saw how debilitating it was for my own professional interests. With the aid of my mentor, on our advisory board who is in the room tonight, Dr. Celso-Ramon Garcia from the Univ. of Pennsylvania. I was able to translate my concerns and personal experiences into a positive policy area. Indeed he was the person who said to me, as I would come to him and show him my research, "Elaine, why don't you write this up you could have a paper out of it? Why don't you see what you can do with this?" His guidance propelled me on and as a result of that we were able to meet with people like

Melinda Kimble and who work with the State Department. We know how important it is to have partners. The NGOs can not do this alone. Women can not do this alone and governments can not do this alone. Only with people who are as tireless, and as responsive, and dedicated and also as adroit as Melinda, will we be able to achieve the language and the tension to help in all of these world conferences, and for that, Melinda, we want very much to give you this award and to express our appreciation for your efforts."

"Now for the first time, we recognize women's rights as human rights. We've finally said that at the International Community in Beijing. We have given women access to education and health care and we know women cannot be empowered without good health. I think there is much more to be done."

-The Honorable Melinda L. Kimble

Melinda L. Kimble,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
For International Organization Affairs

“Well, it’s an extraordinary opportunity and honor to be here and, Elaine, I have to thank you very much for putting this together. I would like to thank everyone who made all the wonderful comments about me. I’m sure you’re not talking about me. I’m particularly glad to see Under-Secretary General Desai and Under-Secretary General Kittani here because it means they forgiven me for calling the no action motion on the floor of Habitat II at 10:30 in the evening. So, it’s been a wonderful journey through the UN conference cycle. It has been an extraordinary privilege to do it for the United States and for people and for women.

Some people have heard me say during the Beijing process that women make the difference. I think there is no more powerful three words that we can keep in mind as we move to the twenty-first century. Women empowered will change the world. Women empowered will help us build sustainable lives, sustainable families and a sustainable world. The Economist said a few month ago, “It’s been a great century for women.” Under-Secretary General Desai said a few things about this century. It has been a great century. Now for the first time, we recognize women’s rights as human rights. We’ve finally said that at the International Community in Beijing. We have given women access to education and health care and we know women cannot be empowered without good health. I think there is much more to be done. The Economist went on to say, of course the transformation has mainly taken place in the developed world. Our task for the twenty-first century is to implement the action plans of Cairo, Copenhagen, and Beijing, ensuring that women everywhere have the choices and opportunities I have had to ensure that women everywhere can voluntarily and responsibly make decisions about going to work, political participation, education by themselves to develop their full potential. We will only achieve this kind of development when we have equality between men and women.

It's been an extraordinary opportunity in these past few years to really work on every single thing we put in place, building blocks to give people choices for the twenty-first century, but this in many ways is the easy part. Doing it, implementing it, putting in place, will take a lot of effort. It will take sustained effort and we will go back and we will go forward again. It won't be a perfect or an easy road, but we have the compass from Nairobi and the road maps from Cairo, Copenhagen, and Beijing, Istanbul and, of course, Rio to guide our work and I hope we can all achieve that. What I hope for the twenty-first century is people will say, 'Women made the difference.' Thank you."



Daniel Sheperd, The Earth Times with Under-Secretary General Ismat Kittani and Ambassador Princeton Lyman.



Theresa Loar, Executive Director of the President's Interagency Council of Women, who presented the letter from First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Letter from First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton
Presented by Theresa Loar, Executive Director
of the President's Interagency Council on Women

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to send greetings to each of you attending the first annual ceremony for The Award for the Advancement of Women's Health, sponsored by the Global Alliance for Women's Health. I am especially pleased to join my voice with yours as you honor Melinda Kimble this evening.

I know firsthand the positive influence that Melinda has had on women's health. I am grateful for women like Melinda whose professional efforts recognize the essential contributions women make to their family, community and country. I send to Melinda my thanks and my congratulations on receiving this prestigious award. You have my best wishes for a wonderful evening.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

“It’s been an extraordinary opportunity in these past few years to really work on every single thing we put in place, building blocks to give people choices for the twenty-first century, but this in many ways is the easy part. Doing it, implementing it, putting in place, will take a lot of effort. It will take sustained effort and we will go back and we will go forward again. It won’t be a perfect or an easy road, but we have the compass from Nairobi and the road maps from Cairo, Copenhagen, and Beijing, Istanbul and, of course, Rio to guide our work and I hope we can all achieve that. What I hope for the twenty-first century is people will say, ‘Women made the difference’.” - The Honorable Melinda L. Kimble
