

Sarah E Hendriks

Director of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Support Division (PPID)

UN Women

Ms. Sarah E Hendriks joined UN Women in 2019, where she serves as the **Director of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Support Division (PPID)**. In this role, she drives UN Women as a global thought and practice leader through cutting-edge policy analysis, strategic guidance to field programming and intergovernmental support to normative advancements for gender equality, including through the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UN General Assembly (UNGA), and Human Rights Treaty Bodies.

With extensive experience in leadership and strategy design, Ms. Hendriks supported the development of UN Women's new Global Strategic Plan (2026-2029) within six geographic regions and across the core impact areas of: governance & participation; violence against women; economic empowerment; peace, security & resilience; and humanitarian action. Ms. Hendriks served as the UN-Women **Acting Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination and Programme Results** from June 2023 - February 2024. She has provided overarching leadership to UN Women's global response to COVID-19, including through the advancement of [research](#) and [policy analysis](#) to meet women's needs. To advance results on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ms. Hendriks spearheaded the agency's efforts as convener of the [Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions](#), a leading global multi-stakeholder initiative to accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality.

Ms. Hendriks brings has over two decades of work across multistakeholder partners, including with government, public sector, foundations, NGOs and research institutions. Prior to joining UN Women, Ms. Hendriks served as the **Director, Gender Equality, Global Growth & Opportunity at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** (2015-2019), developing the Foundation's first-ever strategy on gender equality and women's economic empowerment, driving new global philanthropic investment of \$170 million. This work was supported by Ms. Hendriks' leadership to design and launch a global investment strategy on gender data, catalyzing an \$80 million portfolio and institutional support on gender data as core to advancing global accountability to the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda.

Prior to this role, Ms. Hendriks worked as the **Director of Gender Equality & Social Inclusion at Plan International Headquarters** (2010-2015) where she led the strategic direction across 50+ countries that drove more than 500 million euros in new resources towards innovative work on gender equality and adolescent girls' development. Sarah served for 9 years as Chair of the Advisory Board governing Plan's flagship annual report and campaign 'State of the World's Girls', which reached audiences across more than 72 countries. Previously, Ms. Hendriks served as the **Global Advisor on Gender Equality and**

HIV/AIDS at Plan International Canada (2005-2010), leading the Canadian Government's coordinated investment on HIV/AIDS and youth in Africa (Burkina Faso, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Mozambique).

Earlier, Ms. Hendriks worked with several development and human rights organizations, including Women and the Law in Southern Africa in Malawi (2002-2005), World Vision International in Zimbabwe (1997-1998) and as a senior consultant with Global Affairs Canada (on Gender-Based Violence), GIZ (on women's access to justice) and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (on gender mainstreaming in public sector delivery and good governance).

A national of Canada, Ms. Hendriks holds an M.A. in Adult Education and International Development from the University of Toronto and B.A. in International Justice and Human Rights from McMaster University, Canada.