

Maria Regina Neves Xavier Amorim Tavares da Silva (Portugal)

Portuguese Nationality

Married - three daughters – three grandchildren

1. Academic Qualifications

- Degree in English and German Literature - University of Lisbon, Portugal (1960)
- Fulbright scholar for one year in U.S.A. - Studies of American Literature and Community Development (1962-1963)
- Post-graduate degree “Diploma in English Studies” - University of Cambridge, U.K. (1966-1967)
- Short courses and seminars, namely in the areas of Irish Literature - Trinity College, Dublin; Documentation and Information - Lisbon and Edinburgh University; Women’s Studies - Lisbon and Salzburg Seminar, etc.

2. Present functions

- Special Adviser to the governmental Commission for Equality and Women’s Rights, since 1992 - particularly responsible for International Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – elected in 2000
- Independent researcher in the areas of gender equality, history of women and women’s human rights (list of publications in Annex)

3. Professional career at national level

- Teaching - Secondary level in Portugal (1960-1962; 1963-1965; 1967-1970)
- Teaching – University level - University of Cambridge, U.K. (1965-1967)
- Career break for family reasons between 1970 and 1974
- Since then, member of the governmental mechanism for equality, first Commission on the Status of Women, presently Commission for Equality and Women’s Rights.
- President of the same Commission (1986-1992) and, as such, responsible for projects in the areas of information to women, awareness-raising for equality issues, professional training, basic education for development, women’s studies and gender studies, etc. and for the co-operation with multiple sectors of the Administration, Women’s NGO’s, media and other social actors

Parallel participation in other bodies and NGO’s at national level includes:

- Member of the National Advertising Council (1983-1986)
- Member of the Commission for Equality in Work and Employment (1986-1991)
- Member of the National Committee for the Campaign for the Rural World of the Council of Europe (1987)
- Member of the General Council of the UNESCO National Commission (1989-1992)
- Member of the Board of Administration of the National Committee for UNICEF (2001-2003)

- Founding member of the Portuguese Women's Studies Association - APEM (1991)
- Founding Member of the Portuguese Alliance for Parity Democracy - ADP (1993)
- Member of the Portuguese Branch of the International Federation for Research in Women's History

4. Functions performed at international level

Council of Europe

- Member of the European Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CEEG), later Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG) - (1984-1989 and 1991-1995)
- President of CEEG (1987-1988) and of CDEG (1992-1993)
- Appointed by the Committee as its representative in several working groups and expert groups:
 - Interdisciplinary Project Group on "Human Rights and Genuine Democracy" (1992-1995) - elected Vice-President
 - Working Group on Parity Democracy (1991-1992) - elected President
 - Working Group on Migration, Cultural Diversity and Equality between Women and Men (1996)
 - Specialist Group on Intolerance, Racism and Equality between Women and Men (1996-1997) - elected President
 - Preparatory Committee of Ministerial Conferences on Equality (Strasbourg, 1986; Vienna, 1989; Rome, 1993)
 - Preparatory Committee of the European Conference "Equality and Democracy: utopia or challenge?" in preparation of the IV World Conference on Women (1994)
- Consultant for activities in programs of co-operation and technical assistance to countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1994; Zagreb, Croatia, 1996; Skopje, Macedonia, 1996; Kiev, Ukraine, 1996; Tirana, Albania, 1996; Warsaw, Poland, 1997; Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria, 1997, Chisinau, Moldova, 1998)
- Expert on behalf of the Council of Europe in meetings promoted by other organisations (namely, OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on "The Promotion of Women's Participation in Society - Warsaw, 1997; British Council Seminar on "Women and Human Rights - are tradition and equality in conflict? - London, 1997; Friedrich Ebert Foundation - Seminar on "International Protection of Women's Human Rights", Prague, Czech Republic, 1998; Donaueschingen Academy - Seminar on "The History of Women in the XX Century" - 1999; Council of Europe and KADER - Seminar on "Legislation and Mechanisms for Equality" - Ankara, 1999)
- Consultant for the elaboration of a study on "Twenty five years of Council of Europe Action in the field of Equality between Women and Men" – published in 2002

European Union

- Member of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the European Commission (1989-1991)
- President (1991) and Vice-President (1990) of the same Advisory Committee

- Portuguese expert of the Network "Women and Decision-making" (1992-1994)
- Portuguese member of the Community Mission of Investigation on the rape of Muslim women in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1993)
- Portuguese expert in the Community Project on "The State of the Art in Research on Women in political, economic and social Decision-making in Europe" (1997)
- Representative of the EU Presidency at a European Parliament hearing on the Beijing+5 process (Brussels, March 2000)
- Member of the High-level Group on "Gender Mainstreaming" (2001.2002)

United Nations

- Member of national delegations to the World Conferences on Women (Mexico, 1975; Copenhagen, 1980), the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993) and co-ordinator of national preparatory work for the IV World Conference (Beijing, 1995)
- Member of national delegations to the Commission on the Status of Women (1992-1996 and 2000-2001). In 1995 appointed representative of WEOG in "Communications Group".
- At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for EU technical co-ordination and spokesperson for the EU in the preparatory process of Beijing+5, on behalf of the Portuguese presidency of the EU, including the ECE Regional Preparatory meeting, PrepCom meetings and the General Assembly Special Session.
- Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) -- elected in 2000. Appointed by the Committee as its representative at the General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2002 and intervention in panel "Women and Children: from international law to national realities"
- As head of the national machinery for equality, responsible for presentation and discussion of national reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to the CEDAW Committee (Initial report, NY. 1986; II and III reports, Vienna, 1991)
- Temporary Consultant for the Division for the Advancement of Women on matters related to the CEDAW Convention (1991)
- Temporary Consultant for UNESCO (Seminar in Romania, 1993)

Participation in and cooperation with other organisations

- Member of the Southern Europe Women's Association (AFEM) - elected Secretary General and member of the Administrative Board for 1997-1999
- Regularly invited to give lectures by different institutions, namely: Cultural Service of the Ministry of the French Community of Belgium (1990), National Council for Equality of Denmark (1991); Ministry of Social Affairs of Denmark (1992); National Association of Feminist Studies (ANEF) of France (1994); International Association of Catholic Lawyers and "Barreau de Paris" (1994); International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg (1995); European Political Institute for the Training of Women (IPEF) in Paris (1996); University of Toulouse (1998); University of Innsbruck (1998); CELEM - Spanish Co-ordination of the European Women's Lobby, in Madrid (1999); Salud y Familia, in Barcelona (1999).

5. Publications

Author of several studies and articles in the areas of:

Women's Rights;

Feminism and Feminists in Portugal;

Biographies of Portuguese Women;

Women in Portuguese Expansion and Discoveries;

Portuguese Bibliography on Women;

Image of Women in Advertising;

Equal Opportunities in Education;

Women and Political Life;

Human Rights and Gender;

Equality and Democracy, etc. (see list in Annex)