



## Speaker



**Professor Veena Sikri**  
*Convener*  
*South Asia Women's Network*

- Prof. Veena Sikri conceptualised the South Asia Women's Network (SWAN) and leads the network as the Convener. Veena holds the Ford Foundation endowed Chair at the Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia University (New Delhi), where she heads the Bangladesh Studies Programme. She is also Vice Chairperson of the South Asia Foundation (India Chapter), a secular, non-profit and non-political organization with eight autonomous chapters across South Asia.
  - **Experience:** Before joining the world of academia, Veena has had a rich and distinguished experience for more than three and a half decades as a diplomat with the Indian Foreign Service. She has been India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, India's High Commissioner to Malaysia and India's Consul General in Hong Kong. Veena has been closely involved in multilateral diplomacy and international conferences, including in the UN Security Council, ECOSOC, UNESCO, and Summit meetings of SAARC and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). She was Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for almost four years from 1989 to 1992.
  - **Publications:** Veena has recently completed a three-year assignment as Visiting Senior Research Fellow with the Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore, which culminated in the book "India & Malaysia : Intertwined Strands", currently under publication. She writes extensively and is active on the lecture and think-tank circuit, focusing on South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- **Education:** Veena holds a Master's degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.