

# Speaker Biographies – Opening



**Minister Carolina Schmidt**  
COP25 President

Minister Schmidt holds a business administration degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

She served as SERNAM (National Women's Service) Minister and Education Minister during the first government of Sebastián Piñera.

She has served as a director and CEO of various companies. Prior to her appointment as minister, she was the General Media Manager for the Copesa group, and director of the Santiago Municipal Theater, advisor at the Center for Public Policy of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and advisor to Comunidad Mujer, a nonprofit that addresses leadership, training and mentoring for women.



**Gonzalo Muñoz**  
High-Level Climate Action Champion,  
Chile

Gonzalo was nominated by the Chilean presidency and the United Nations as the High Level Climate Champion for COP25, to mobilize climate action in non-state actors around the world, as well as advise the presidency of COP25. Prior to this, he co-founded and ran TriCiclos, one of the more recognized Latin American companies in circular economy and recycling, aimed to offer a transformative service that would help the environment while also being financially sustainable.

He then moved it to Brazil and now operates in 13 countries in Latin America, where their mission is to foster new designs for a world without waste.

Gonzalo also co-founded Sistema B and is a member of the board at BLab global.



**Patricia Espinosa**  
Executive Secretary,  
UN Climate Change

Patricia Espinosa, previous to her appointment as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2016 served as Ambassador of Mexico to Germany since 2012 and from 2001 to 2002.

Patricia Espinosa was Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico from 2006 to 2012, bringing more than 30 years of experience at highest levels in international relations, specialized in climate change, global governance, sustainable development, gender equality and protection of human rights.

# Speaker Biographies – Panel: *Why mainstreaming gender enhances effectiveness of climate action*



**Renata Koch**  
Director  
EmpoderaClima

Renata is from Brazil and graduated in International Relations from Unisinos. She is the Founder and Director of EmpoderaClima, an educational platform about gender equality and climate action, available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, and French, of the nonprofit Care About Climate. Renata has presented her work on gender and climate justice in China, Germany, Bangladesh, Austria, the U.S. She works as a Political Analyst at the British Consulate-General in Rio de Janeiro, and is the Brazil Delegate for G(irls)20 this year. Renata's currently co-lead of the Gender Working Group at YOUNGO, and has represented global youth at COP21 and COP25.



**Lorena Aguilar**  
Regional Director  
Latin American Social Sciences  
Institute (FLACSO)

With field experience in more than 50 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia, Lorena is a renowned world leader for pioneering strategic contributions to national and international policies and action for addressing and adapting to climate change. Lorena has led inclusive collaboration with government counterparts, UN agencies, international organizations, and civil society towards advancing equitable sustainable development for over three decades. She has authored over 70 publications. She was the Vice- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica. At present she is the Regional Director of the Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO).



**Verania Chao**  
Programme Specialist, Climate  
Change and Gender Equality  
/Inclusion, UNDP

Verania has worked for UNDP for more than a decade, and is currently spearheading the gender-responsive NDC work under the NDC Support Programme and the Climate Promise initiative. Previously, she worked as a Policy Specialist for Environment and Climate Change in the Gender Team at Headquarters. She oversaw the environment, energy and climate change portfolio in UNDP's country office in Mexico, where she worked with national and subnational governments, civil society organizations and community level. Verania holds an MSc in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

# Speaker Biographies: *Gender data and analysis / Institutional Arrangements*



**Dr. Cristopher Ballinas Valdés**  
Director General, Human Rights & Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

VA Doctor in Philosophy in Politics from the University of Oxford, he earned a B.A. Summa Cum Laude in Political Science (UNAM) and has also attended graduated studies in Economics at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and in American Studies at the University of California – San Diego and Master Studies in Government and Public Affairs (FLACSO – México). In December 2018, he was appointed Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Mexico. Dr. Ballinas Valdés has published commentaries in leading newspapers in Europe and Latin America.



**Laura Marrero**  
Gender & Climate Change FP, Ministry of Housing, Planning & Environment, Uruguay

Laura Marrero is a Sociologist. She has worked intensively on environmental issues from various institutions, developing research activity and implementation of specific public policies on climate change in the last 10 years. Since 2017 she has been a member of the team of the National Directorate of Climate Change, as a national consultant on gender and climate change for the Green Climate Fund. She coordinates the inter-institutional Working Group on Gender of the National System of Response to Climate Change, and is the focal point on gender for the UNFCC.



**Una May Gordon**  
Principal Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation, Jamaica

Una May Gordon is a climate change and environmental management professional and agribusiness specialist with over 35 years of experience in the field, working on successful national, regional and international development projects. She has extensive involvement in Climate Change policy-making, crafting adaptation strategies, disaster risk assessment, analyses, design, management and implementation of multi-stakeholder, inter-sectoral technical assistance and capacity development projects. An advocate for gender equality and is a board member of the Caribbean Institute of Women in Leadership.



**Janey Joseph**  
Director of Gender Relations, Saint Lucia

Janey Joseph is Saint Lucian national who graduated from the University of Havana in July 2004 with a licensure in Psychology and from Lynchburg College in 2008 with a Master of Education in Educational Guidance and Counselling. Her career path has led her from teaching to school counselling, private counselling to part-time lecturing to gender and development. She now serves as the Director of Gender Relations in Saint Lucia. Her passion for people, manifested in her dedication to holistic education, human development and gender equality has propelled her into both national development and community service.



**Manuel José Saldías**  
Gender & Climate Change FP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile

Manuel José Salidas Kuhlmann currently works at the Environment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (since March 2019). In that position he joined Chile's team of climate negotiators in the run up to COP25, participating to this date on behalf of his country in different thematic clusters, eg., gender, adaptation and loss and damage. Manuel José has been recently appointed as one of the two National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points of Chile.

# Biographies – Facilitators: *Institutional Arrangements*



**Daniel Morchain**  
Policy Advisor, Adaptation  
Resilience Program  
IISD

Daniel Morchain is a Policy Advisor with IISD's Resilience Program, leading the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) processes in Colombia and Peru through the NAP Global Network. Daniel is both the regional lead for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the thematic lead on vertical integration (multi-level governance).

Within the Resilience Program, Daniel supports the design and implementation of initiatives that address adaptation to climate change impacts in the context of development. Prior to joining IISD, Daniel was a senior adviser in Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience at Oxfam.



**Helen Gutierrez**  
Project Officer,  
La Ruta del Clima

Helen is a climate activist based in Costa Rica with a background in environmental health and environmental justice. She is a project officer for La Ruta del Clima, a Costa Rican non-profit organization, that fosters and promotes actions for climate empowerment through a human rights approach. Climate justice is a central pillar for all the work that Helen does and her areas of expertise include: planning for climate adaptation (including integrating a gender analysis into climate planning), vulnerability and adaptation research, as well as participatory action research.



**Sibyl Nelson**  
Gender Advisor, Office of  
Climate Change, Biodiversity  
and Environment, FAO

Sibyl has more than 12 years of international experience in the social and gender dimensions of climate change, agriculture, and rural development. She currently works on two FAO-UNDP programmes, NAP-Ag and SCALA, where she leads gender mainstreaming in adaptation planning and NDC implementation in twenty countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, focusing on agriculture. She has conducted multi-disciplinary research and delivered capacity development activities to a range of stakeholders on gender and disaster risk reduction as well as gender, food security and climate change.



**Mariama Williams Kamara**  
Coordinator Sustainable Dev.,  
Climate Change & Gender  
Programme, South Centre

Mariama is the Coordinator, Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Gender Programme at the South Centre, an inter-governmental think tank of developing countries based in Geneva. She is also a member of the Caribbean Feminist Action Network (CFAN), and a Board of Director, Institute of Law and Economics (ILE), Jamaica. She focuses on gender analysis in economics, economic development & sustainable development issues (including international trade, finance, debt, South-South cooperation and social development); gender and trade, gender and climate finance, women's leadership and social sustainability and women's economic empowerment.

# Speaker Biographies: Alignment and Coherence



**La Fleur Quammie**  
Coordinator, Gender Affairs  
Division, St. Vincent and the  
Grenadines

La Fleur Quammie is the Coordinator in the Gender Affairs Division within the Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, The Family, Gender, Persons with Disabilities and Youth in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. She provides administrative and technical support towards the advancement of gender equality, equity, development and peace, as outlined in the National Economic and Social Development Plan, annual budget reports, and national policies. She also engages vulnerable groups who are challenged by teenage pregnancy, single parent limitations, domestic violence, and crime and violence on a whole that affects men, women, boys and girls.



**Maude Dufort-Labbé**  
National Gender and Climate  
Change Focal Point for Canada

Maude Dufort-Labbe has been working in the Policy and Negotiation team at Environment and Climate Change Canada since 2019. She leads negotiations and policy work on gender and climate change and on response measures. Before this, she was the senior advisor to Canada's Chief climate change negotiator. Maude has expertise in sustainable development and strategic environmental assessments. She holds a Master in Public and International Affairs from the University of Ottawa and a Bachelor in International Relations and International Law from the University of Quebec in Montreal.

# Biographies – Facilitators: *Alignment and Coherence*



**Estibalitz Morra**

Climate Governance Specialist  
EUROCLIMA+

Over 15 years of experience in environmental management and climate change adaptation for major international organizations. Specifically mainstreaming natural resources and climate change priorities into different strategies and programmes - fostering policy and institutional dialogue. Presently working at the EU flagship programme for climate change in Latin America (EUROCLIMA +) as specialized advisor in climate governance, supporting the design and implementation of climate public policies and more ambitious NDCs. My background is Environmental Engineering (PhD Honours), International Master in Business Administration, and a MSc in Human



**Viridiana Murillo Robledo**

Women and Gender working  
group – YOUNGO

Viridiana is from Jalisco, Mexico. She has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from University of Guadalajara and she is specialized in International Cooperation for Development, and North American Studies. Currently, she serves as a program assistant in Miyamoto International, Inc. in the implementation of the PREPARE II program. She works to engage with national and international stakeholders to encourage public ownership of the SDGs in Mexico. She was elected as one of the Global Focal Points on Financing for Development by the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth to enhance the meaningful participation of young people in the



**Nora Lambrecht**

Climate Risk Officer  
ESG Division  
IDB Invest

Nora Lambrecht is a Climate Risk Officer at IDB Invest, the private sector arm of the Inter-American Development Bank Group. Previously, she focused on corporate sustainability strategy at HeidelbergCement, a global materials company. With degrees in economics from the University of Cambridge as well as in climate policy and international affairs from the University of London SOAS and University College Maastricht, Nora leverages her interdisciplinary background to embed transversal themes like climate change into processes and decision making. Nora is part of the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum.



**Meshia Clarke**

Technical Specialist  
Gender Equality  
EnGenDER Project, UNDP

Meshia Clarke is a development specialist who has worked with business support institutions as well as non-governmental organizations and other development agencies before joining the UNDP. Her portfolio of work includes the design of gender-responsive capacity building and training programmes for the Barbados based Coalition of Services Industries Inc. She has also served as Executive Director of the Barbados Renewable Energy Association (BREA). She worked with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). She now serves as the Technical Specialist for Gender Equality on the EnGenDER Project with the UNDP.



**Marium Alleyne**

Technical Specialist  
Climate Change  
EnGenDER Project, UNDP

Marium Alleyne is the Climate Change Technical Specialist for the Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) Project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. She has comprehensive knowledge of climate variability and climate change and its impacts on Small Island Developing States; experience in designing and structuring solutions that address/mitigate disaster and climate risks and contributed to increase climate change awareness and capacity at the country level. She has 6 years experience.