

Speaker Biographies



Maude Dufort-Labbé
Canada's NGCCFP

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.



Manuel José Saldías
Chile's NGCCFP

Manuel José Saldías has been working in the Climate Change Unit of the Environment Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile 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 climate clusters, eg., gender, adaptation, loss and damage. He has been recently nominated as one of the two National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points of Chile to the UNFCCC. Manuel José is a career diplomat of Chile and as such has been stationed in Montevideo, Uruguay and in New Delhi, India. He also holds a Law Degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

Speaker Biographies



Angela Ebeleke
DRC's NGCCFP

Angela Ebeleke is a Phlebotomist, trained in tracheostomy. She works in a respiratory ward and has more than 20 years of experience in the health and social care sector. Since 2017 she also is one of the two gender focal points of DRC. She is devoted to care for people's health and consequently for a healthier earth. Angela has worked for Languages Unlimited as an English, French and lingala link worker to advocate for vulnerable people. Last Summer she was appointed Director of C.NetZERO, a community interest company with aim to decarbonise their locality. She's a member of Friends of the earth, a grassroots network.



Halima Bawa-Bwari
Nigeria's NGCCFP

Halima Bawa-Bwari, currently, Acting Director, Department of Climate Change, was Deputy Director (Vulnerability and Adaptation), Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment. A United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Gender negotiator for Nigeria. An Environmental Scientist with experiences in Biodiversity including Biosafety, Coastal and Marine conservation and management, Nature conservation, Wildlife management, Industrial Compliance Monitoring, Climate Change, among others. She has been a National Focal Point for; the Abidjan Convention on Coastal and Marine Conservation and Management.

Biographies: Facilitators First Session



Hadeel Ikhmais
Palestine's NGCCFP

Hadeel Ikhmais owns Bachelor degree on biology and medical technology from Bethlehem University, Masters degree in environmental studies from ALQuds university. She works in Environment Quality Authority since 2016 in climate change section (section head) and was recently nominated to be the national gender focal point for climate change in Palestine.



Emma Letellier
France's NGCCFP

Emma Letellier is the French national gender and sustainable development focal point within the interministerial climate team attached to the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. She is also the issue lead of the European climate negotiation team under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the French gender and biodiversity expert for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Biographies: Facilitators Second Session



Julian Reyes

Julian Reyes is a Foreign Affairs Officer and AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the Office of Global Change at the U.S. Department of State. He leads on gender and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) issues for the United States at UNFCCC negotiations, and works on other science matters including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Julian received his PhD in civil engineering from Washington State University.



Olivia Urbanski

Olivia Urbanski is the Special Assistant in the Office of Global Change at the U.S. Department of State. She supports on gender and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) issues for the United States at UNFCCC negotiations. Olivia received a degree in Environmental Studies and Global and International Studies from Loyola University Chicago.

Biographies: Facilitators Second Session



Raquel Escobar Gómez
Venezuela's NGCCFP

Raquel holds a Master of Administrative Science and a Specialization in Global Political and Economic Issues from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU). She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies from Central University of Venezuela (UCV) and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the Pedagogical Institute of Caracas (IPC). Bringing more than 20 years of experience in the Foreign Service as a Career Diplomat, Raquel specializes in Gender equality, minority issues, indigenous peoples and people of African descent. She has also collaborated with different academic institutions in Venezuela and abroad.



Biliga Koivogui
Guinea's NGCCFP