

# 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.



**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*



**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.



**Grace Ampomaa Afrifa**  
Head of Programmes,  
ABANTU for Development

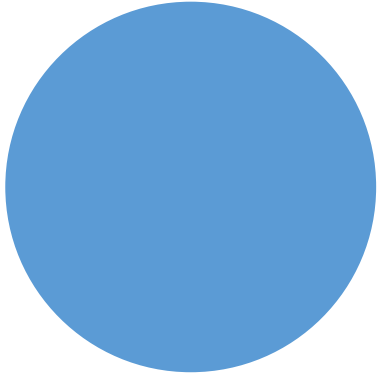
Grace Ampomaa Afrifa is the Head of Programmes of ABANTU for Development, a women's rights' organisation that works to promote gender responsiveness in policies in Ghana and Africa and serves as the Regional Office for West Africa, based in Accra. For over ten years, worked with ABANTU and within the women's rights space advocating for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality in Ghana. Focused on mainstreaming gender into climate interventions. She represents her org in the Gender Technical Working Group under the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) which works to promote gender responsiveness in Ghana's NDCs.



**Dana Elhassan**  
Senior Gender Specialist  
African Development Bank

Dana Elhassan is an expert within the Agriculture & Human Development Complex of the African Development Bank. With over 10 years experience in inclusive development planning and development innovation in climate change, energy, transport, with a focus on women and youth economic empowerment, especially in conflict-affected countries.

# Speaker Biographies: *Gender Data and Analysis / Institutional Arrangements*



**Herman Hakuzimana**  
Director of Climate Change  
Rwanda Environment  
Management Authority



**Mery Yaou**  
Gender & Climate FP  
Ministry of Environment  
Togo

Mery Yaou has a career in the Department of the Environment at the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection. She successively held the positions of studies officer, head of the planning unit and head of the climate change division. Its main task is to ensure the application of national and international legislation in the fight against climate change. She is the gender and climate change focal point and actively participated in the development of Togo's NAP and CDNs. She also coordinated Togo's Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) process. She is a holder of a Master Degree in Urban Geography.



**Therese Dibor Sarr Faye**  
Ministry of Environment  
Senegal

Ms. Therese Dibor Sarr Faye, is a planner/planner graduated from the Ecole Supérieure d'Economie Appliquée (ESEA), She holds a diploma of higher studies specialized in planning, decentralization and local development.

With a decade of experience in sustainable tourism issues, Ms Faye is currently working in the climate unit of the Directorate for the Environment and Classified Institutions, where she follows issues related to adaptation and gender.



**Michael Ochieng' Okumu**  
Deputy Director, Climate  
Change Negotiations  
Kenya

Michael Okumu is the Deputy Director in charge of Climate Change Negotiations and Finance at the Climate Change Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Kenya. His background is in Agriculture, enriched with, among others, short in-service trainings in gender and community development. He is currently a PhD candidate in climate change adaptation. His experience as an agriculture extension (as well as gender) practitioner started at the grassroots and later at the policy making level in the Ministry of Agriculture. He is part of the agriculture team of the African Group of Negotiators under the UNFCCC, and is leading the Kenyan NDC Update process.

# Biographies – Facilitators: *Institutional Arrangements*



**Ndeye Yacine Badiane-Ndour**  
National Coordination of  
Strengthening AG, FAO

Ndeye Yacine Badiane-Ndour's expertise is on climate change and adaptation for agricultural sector. Since 2019, she has been National coordinator of Strengthening Agricultural Adaptation project at FAOSN. Since 2011, she has represented the agricultural ministry for Senegalese delegation for COP (since Durban 2011 to COP 23 at Bonn).

In environment and natural resource management.



**Julie Dekens**  
Senior Researcher  
NAP Global Network

Julie joined IISD's Resilience Program in 2010 and has been an active member of the Secretariat for the NAP Global Network since its inception in 2014. She co-leads the Network's work on gender-responsive NAP processes and on monitoring and evaluation. In addition, she coordinates technical support programs for NAP processes in the Pacific region and Francophone Africa. Over the past 10 years, her work and main interests focus on social aspects of climate change adaptation, including the integration of local knowledge and gender issues. In March 2017, Julie was one of 18 winners selected by the Geneva Environment Network for promoting gender equality.



**Mwanahamisi Singano**  
Head of programs, African  
Women's Development and  
Communication Network

Mwanahamisi Singano (Mishy) is African Feminist, who heads programs at African Women's Development and Communication Network - (FEMNET). She has extensive experience in socioeconomic programming, policy advocacy, and development campaigns. For over 10 years, Ms. Singano led and engaged in promoting and protecting rights of women in their diversities. In that quests, she has worked on climate change, violence against women, inequality, financial inclusion, women's empowerment, land rights, farmers' and food rights in different countries in Africa. She is also a trainer, writer and passionate speaker.



**Ndivile Mokoena**  
Project Officer, Gender into  
Urban Climate Change  
Initiative (GUCCI), GenderCC

Ndivile Is a Project Officer for an international project - Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative (GUCCI) one of GenderCC SA – Women for Climate and Gender Justice projects, an NGO based in Johannesburg working on climate change policy advocacy, building capacity at local community and raising awareness on climate change across the board. Ndivile is currently the Women & Gender Constituency global south co-focal point, one of nine recognised constituencies in United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) She is also part of the IPCC Gender task force working group II.

# Speaker Biographies: *Alignment and Coherence*



**Halima Bawa-Bwari**  
Acting Director, Climate  
Change, Federal Ministry of  
Environment, Nigeria

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.



**Richemond Agré Mathieu Assie**, Coordinator of the NDC Support Programme and CBIT's project, Ivory Coast

Richemond Agré Mathieu Assie has more than 13 years working in climate change issues as an Oil & Gas Engineer and well test analysis specialist. He focuses on climate change mitigation. Previously, he served as the National Coordinator of GHG inventories in Côte d'Ivoire, Cote d'Ivoire's GCF National Focal Point, UNFCCC National Focal Point, and Coordinator of the National Climate Change Programme in Cote d'Ivoire.

He has been the JISC Member under UNFCCC for non-annex 1 countries (Since dec. 2018)

# Biographies – Facilitators: *Alignment and Coherence*



**Tiana Razafimandimby**  
Women Empowerment  
Specialist  
CARE International

Tiana Razafimandimby has 15 years of career with CARE International including proven experience in (i) approach to gender equality and equity, (ii) community mobilization leading the organization to work with the whole community, women and men, young people and children by encouraging individuals as well as the community to undertake a behavior change process, (iii) communication for equitable access for all to information and knowledge through capacity building, (iv) project management, (v) management of relations with donors, partners and stakeholders, (vi) strong involvement in the training of CARE International staff and partners.



**Oureratou Ouedraogo**  
National Coordinator, Burkina  
Faso, Pan African Climate  
Justice Alliance

Oureratou Ouedraogo is the national Coordinator for Burkina Faso for the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance. She specializes in development issues, sustainability and gender mainstreaming in development policies and programs. She has a Masters in Economics, option Macroeconomics and Development Management, a Master 2 research in Integrated Management and Sustainable Development of the West African Coastline and a international gender studies diploma. She has experience in the design, implementation, analysis and monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs.



**Salina Sanou**  
Head of Programmes, Pan  
African Climate Justice  
Alliance

Salina Sanou is a renowned pan African policy and advocacy expert with many years of experience in strategic partnership development, research and programme work. Over the years Sanou has led programming processes that have resulted in building effective linkages between grassroots realities and national, regional and global policies and vice versa. Currently, Sanou is the Head of Programmes at PACJA, overseeing a programme mirroring three thematic areas namely Resilient People, Societies and Economises; Just Transition and Energy Access and Climate Finance.



**Tyler Booth**  
Focal Point  
YOUNGO

Tyler Booth is a Radiobiology Honours student at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She is currently the focal point for the Climate Change Youth Policy Committee and member of the YOUNGO Women and Gender working, where she facilitates youth engagement with national and international climate policies and serves as a representative to the We Are Tomorrow Global Partnership. Tyler is currently working as a Junior Researcher on the Youth Climate Advocacy in Africa Project with the South African Institute of International Affairs. She attended COP25 as an official youth representative for South Africa and negotiated on the LWPG and its GAP.



**Amelia Kinahoi Siamomua**  
Head of Gender, Development  
Directorate, The  
Commonwealth Secretariat

Amelia Kinahoi-Siamomua is a Pacific islander, a development economist and an international civil servant with more than 35 years' career in the United Nations system and other international organisations. She has been a long-time advocate and practitioner of sustainable development, women's rights and empowerment, and engaged with networks, and programmes to advance the agenda of sustainable development, climate change, global trade, women's empowerment and gender equality. Amelia is currently the Head of Gender in the Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate of the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat.