

Bridging the GAP from Access to Action – National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point training on climate finance and gender

Speaker Bios

Moderator



Sana Kapadia, Director of Strategy, 2X Global

Sana Kapadia is Director of Strategy at 2X Global, where she leads on the co-creation and implementation of the strategic plan. She is a seasoned finance and investment professional, gender-smart investing specialist and her career has spanned gender finance, impact investing, development finance and equity research. She is focused on leveraging capital as a tool for social change and unlocking more gender-smart capital at scale. Climate and gender finance is a core priority at 2X Global and Sana has led on creating knowledge products, convening and advancing the Gender & Climate Finance Community of Practice and amplifying why gender-smart climate finance matters across multiple global fora and forums.

Speakers



Verania Chao, Global Inclusivity Advisor, Climate Strategies and Policy Team, Climate Hub, UNDP

Verania has worked for UNDP for more than a decade. She is working as the Global Inclusivity Advisor under the UNDP Climate Hub at Headquarters. She is currently spearheading the work on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and gender equality and social inclusion, including the work with Indigenous Peoples and Youth, supported by the Climate Strategies and Policy Team and the Climate Promise initiative. Previously, she worked as a Policy Specialist for Environment and Climate Change in the UNDP Gender Team at Headquarters. She also 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 at the community level. Verania holds an MSc in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



**Verona Collantes-Lebale, Senior Gender Specialist,
Global Environment Facility**

Verona reviews programs submitted for GEF funding to ensure compliance with GEF's gender equality policy requirements. She leads the preparation of knowledge products, including best practices in gender mainstreaming, as well as reports to the GEF Council and the Conventions on progress in gender equality in GEF programming. She contributes to raising the visibility of gender issues in the thematic areas of the GEF through her participation in meetings of the Conventions, regional and national discussions and expert meetings.

Verona convenes the GEF Gender Partnership (GGP), whose members include gender focal points of the 18 implementing agencies of the GEF and the 5 Secretariats of the Conventions that the GEF serves, and actively engages with women's organizations and youth networks. The GEF Gender Partnership is a powerful platform for knowledge exchange, capacity-building and communicating impacts among GGP members and vis-à-vis external partners.

Before joining the GEF, Verona was an Intergovernmental Specialist at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and served various position in UN agencies in New York and Geneva, Switzerland. She was a Philippine Foreign Service Officer. Verona completed her Masters in International Law and Economics at the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland.



**Tiffany Hodgson, Head of Sustainability and
Inclusion, Green Climate Fund**

Tiffany Hodgson is Head of Sustainability and Inclusion, leading the Office of Sustainability and Inclusion (OSI). She was formerly the Manager of Environmental and Social Safeguards, Gender and Indigenous Peoples matters in the Office of Risk Management and Compliance. Prior to joining the GCF in April 2021, Tiffany worked at the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, where she led the team that supported the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. During her time at the UNFCCC, she also worked on climate change adaptation, the long-term global goal, and climate finance; and served as a focal point on gender. Prior to that, Tiffany worked in her home country of South Africa at the Centre for Policy Studies.

She holds an Honours Degree in Politics from the University of Johannesburg and a Master of Science degree, focused on environmental sciences.



Young Hee | Governance Specialist (Legal & Gender Focal Point), Adaptation Fund

Young Hee Lee, a Korean national, is governance specialist and gender coordinator at the AF. She has been leading the gender work at the AF since 2016. As a lawyer by training, she is also responsible for providing legal and policy advice on the matters related to the Fund including the AF complaint handling mechanism. She holds Juris Doctor degree as well as LL.M (Magister Legum) from American University Washington College of Law in D.C., USA, where she studied as a Korean government scholar. She also has a Master of Laws and BA in Diplomacy and Political Science from Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea.



Ruth Oviedo Hollands, NDC Project Program Manager, Care About Climate

Ruth is a climate justice activist from the US, passionate about human rights, gender equality, and social justice. As Program Manager for the NDC Project at Care About Climate, Ruth works on amplifying youth voices globally by analyzing country's NDCs and advocating for meaningful youth and gender inclusion. This work is presented through the NDC Equity Tracker, a platform where youth ambassadors share recommendations leveraging what they know about their country to create more equitable and youth-inclusive NDCs. Through her advocacy, Ruth works on building intergenerational bridges that can help create equitable climate places for all.