

8TH DIALOGUE ON ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT

Regional Dialogue
Americas & the Caribbean



Speaker Bios



Johanna Arriagada Díaz: Johanna Arriagada Díaz is an Environmental Engineer and graduated from University of Santiago, Chile. She complemented her career with work at a marine chemistry laboratory at University of Cádiz (funded by Spanish Cooperation Agency) and a year at Technische Universität Dresden (funded by German Exchange Service (DAAD)). Since 2006, her professional experience has been related with global phenomena such as climate change and ozone layer protection. Currently, she works at the Climate Change Office of the Ministry of Environment, where she is in charge of capacity building in the adaptation to Climate Change area and is the Coordinator of two UNDP projects (NDC Support Program and Fourth National Communication on Climate Change). Since 2015, she has implemented several climate change courses, public participation processes, and awareness activities. She is leading the integration of ACE and gender into Chile's new NDC. Her challenge is now to design a Capacity Building and ACE strategy aligned with NDC and long-term climate strategy.



Thomas Cameron: Thomas Cameron is a Senior Policy Analyst at Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada's department for the Environment. He currently serves as Canada's National ACE Focal Point and ACE negotiator. In addition, his responsibilities include working on climate inclusivity and is Canada's lead negotiator for the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. Prior to his current role, Thomas served in Canada's Foreign Ministry working on International Crime and Counter-Terrorism and in Canada's G7/G20 Office. He holds degrees in International Relations and Public Administration.



Claudia Uribe Salazar: Claudia Uribe has been appointed the new director of the Regional Bureau for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC/UNESCO Santiago), and entrusted with the position of representing UNESCO in Chile. Her mission started on March 10, 2018 and she began her activities at the UNESCO office in Santiago on March 19. Claudia Uribe was advising the project management unit of the Ministry of Education in Surinam. She had participated in discussions on creating a post-conflict educational program in Colombia and served as an assessor and consultant for Global Partnership for Education. Shortly before, in 2016, Claudia Uribe worked as technical advisor for the National Institute for Educational Assessment of Mexico and a consultant for the Government of the State of Puebla (Mexico). Claudia Uribe has developed an extensive international career. Between 2003 and 2015, she served as Lead Education Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank, where she spearheaded discussions on educational policies with governments and developed and supervised loan and technical cooperation programs in this area.



Cristián Bravo Araya: Cristián Bravo Araya is OREALC/UNESCO Santiago Consultant on Education for Sustainable Development mandated to strengthen regional strategy and networks on this matter promoting holistic integration of environmental education, disaster risk reduction, climate change awareness and human rights standards. Cristián has collaborated with public institutions in Chile related to education, human rights, and historical memory, working directly with NGOs and UN agencies. As Human Rights Coordinator at Chile Ministry of Education (2016-2018), he was focal point on national negotiations and follow-up measures of IACHR friendly settlement agreements in causes related to sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, unjustified police violence and rights of indigenous peoples.



Gabriela Pignataro: Gabriela Pignataro is the ACE Focal Point for Uruguay. She is a veterinary, with a postgraduate in Human Development, Disaster Risk Management and Environmental Management. She has experience as UNDP consultant in the MVOTMA Climate Change Division in National Communications and the National Emergency System (SINAE) of Uruguay in the development of the Education Strategy for Risk Management. She serves as an advisor to MVOTMA and the Secretary of Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic for the transversal integration of the human rights perspective. She is also the Executive Director of the NGO Cultura Ambiental in Uruguay, coordinator of Environmental and Risk Management projects with stakeholders and local governments.



Martha Delgado: Martha Delgado is currently the Vice-minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she promotes a multilateral foreign policy agenda. She is a recognized environmentalist leader at national and international levels. She has 28 years of consecutive professional experience in various areas of national public service, including the Federal Public Administration and leading non-profit organizations dedicated to environmentalism and human rights.



Renae A. Baptiste: As a young person from a small island developing state, witnessing and experiencing the impacts of climate change, Renae is passionate about contributing to the solution and has been working within the field for over 3 years, raising awareness and encouraging persons to adopt and live more sustainable and resilient lives. Renae currently works as a Technical Officer for the GCF Enhanced Direct Access project in Grenada and in her free time serves as the President for the Caribbean Youth Environment Network-Grenada.



Kathleen Rogers: Kathleen Rogers is the President of Earth Day Network. Under her leadership, EARTHDAY.ORG has grown into a global year-round policy and activist organization with an international professional staff. She has been at the vanguard of developing campaigns and programs focused on diversifying the environmental movement, highlighted by Campaign for Communities (C4C) and Billion Acts of Green. Prior to her work at Earth Day Network, Kathleen held senior positions with the National Audubon Society, the Environmental Law Institute, and two U.S. Olympic Organizing Committees. She is a graduate of the University of California, Davis School of Law, where she served as editor-in-chief of the law review and clerked in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.



Diego Arguedas Ortiz: Diego Arguedas Ortiz is a climate change communicator and university lecturer. In 2019, he joined the Climate Change Directorate of Costa Rica as a communication adviser, focusing on topics of climate empowerment. Prior to this, he worked as a reporter covering climate change. He created Central America's first climate media outlet, Ojo al Clima, in 2015 and his work has appeared in outlets such as BBC Future, MIT Technology Review and Univision.



Mag. Talieh Wögerbauer: Talieh Wögerbauer holds a Master's degree in Political Science, International Law and Economy (University of Vienna). She is a Senior Policy Advisor and National Focal Point for ACE in the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. Talieh is the National Focal Point for Action for Climate Empowerment for , she also holds the position of Chairperson of the Blue Shield Board for Cultural Heritage Protection, Austria. She is also the Director for International Relations of the International Society for the Promotion of Music and Culture (IMK).



Ana Belén Marín: Marín Aguirre is an engineer specializing in socioeconomic development and the environment. She has more than 10 years of experience in the public sector, having served as director of the Ministry of Environment and director and undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries. She is currently a Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, centering her political and technical experience in forestry, agriculture, livestock, mining and the environment.



Orlando Sàenz Zapata: Orlando Sàenz Zapata is a sociologist with a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Theory and History of Education from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). He is a Professor and researcher at the University of Applied and Environmental Sciences (U.D.C.A). Coordinator of the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA). He is also the Coordinator of the Observatory of Sustainability in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSES-ALC) and a member of the Group of Experts on Sustainable Development Goals and Higher Education, convened by the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI).



Frank Niepold: Frank Niepold is the Senior Climate Education Program Manager and Coordinator at NOAA's Climate Program Office in Silver Spring Maryland, a co-chair of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Education Interagency Working Group, the U.S. Climate Action Report Education, Training, and Outreach chapter lead for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and served as the Education and Youth delegate for the United States at the 2015 Conference of Parties (COP21), and a member of the Federal Steering Committee for the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4). At NOAA, he develops and implements NOAA's Climate goal and literary objective relating to education and outreach efforts. Frank is the “Teaching Climate” lead for NOAA’s Climate.gov web portal that offers learning activities and curriculum materials, multimedia resources, and professional development opportunities for formal and informal educators who want to incorporate climate science into their work. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Climate Literacy and Energy Literacy Network (CLEAN), current co-chair of the CLEAN Leadership Board, member and steering committee member of the UNFCCC Climate Education, Communication, and Outreach Stakeholders (ECOS) network of networks.



Timothy Damon: Timothy Damon is founder and President of the Global Youth Development Institute (GYDI), a non-profit organization admitted as an NGO observer to the UNFCCC and dedicated to empowering young people around the world to participate meaningfully in climate change policy and governance, as well as concrete climate actions. GYDI has previously supported the Global South Scholarships for COP23 and the 2018 Action for Climate Empowerment Youth Forum, in addition to various trainings and events. Mr. Damon currently also serves on the steering committee for the Education, Communication, and Outreach Stakeholders (ECOS) community within the UNFCCC, and formerly served in 2016 as an elected Focal Point for its official Youth Constituency, YOUNGO, where he has been an active member since 2013, focused on intergenerational equity and ACE. He has provided advice and technical support regarding ACE to multiple Parties, most notably the COP23 Presidency during the negotiations for the Paris Agreement Work Programme. His academic background includes a M.Sc. in Climate Change and International Development from the University of East Anglia and a B.A. in Law & Policy, with a minor in Economics, from Dickinson College. During his time at both institutions, he was deeply engaged in campus sustainability and climate action.



Adrián Martínez Blanco: Adrián Martínez Blanco is the Director of the Costa Rican NGO - La Ruta del Clima, a grassroots organization focused on climate empowerment and science-based advocacy on climate governance from a Human Rights and Climate Justice perspective. Mr. Martínez Blanco is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Eastern Finland and has a MA in Environment, Development and Peace, a Licentiate in Law and is an Alexander von Humboldt Alumnus. Also, he is an active climate change advocate on human rights, loss and damage and public participation.



Cecilia Castillo: Cecilia Castillo is a climate governance director at FIIAPP (International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies). FIIAPP is part of the Spanish and European cooperation system, specialized in accompanying partner countries and institutions in demand-driven, public policy reform processes, guided by their priorities and shared agendas. Cecilia has over 15 years of experience in public technical cooperation and EU International cooperation. She currently works for the bi-regional European Union- Latin America flagship programme for climate change (EUROCLIMA+) supporting partner countries in the update, design, implementation and M&E of climate policies, through multi-stakeholder policy dialogue processes. She holds a Master's degree in Political and Institutional Communication, Master's degree in International Cooperation, Master's degree in Public Administration, BA in Communication and a Degree in Public Management.



Carlos De Miguel: Carlos De Miguel Head of the Policy Unit for Sustainable Development of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, an institution in which he has worked since 2001. He directs lines of research on climate change, sustainable production and consumption patterns and application of economic instruments for environmental management, among others. He carries out environmental performance evaluations, monitors the environmental aspects of the development agenda until 2030 and coordinates the actions of ECLAC as Technical Secretariat of the process that reached the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement). He has co-authored numerous books, magazine articles, and working papers on various issues related to development and the environment. Carlos is an economist, he has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Valladolid (Spain), a Master's degree in environmental economics from the University of Chile (Chile) and followed the European Studies program at the Catholic University of Tilburg (Netherlands).



Adriana Valenzuela: Adriana Valenzuela is the Focal Point for Education and Youth at the United Nations Climate Change. Adriana has extensive experience in working with the UN system, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and youth organizations on sustainability, climate change and education, training and public awareness initiatives. She acted as a lead negotiator and Chair of the G/77 and China at the Climate Change negotiations on issues related to education. She is responsible for organizing the Education and Young and Future Generations Day at the Climate Change Conferences.