



United Nations
Climate Change



THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION

Speaker Bios



Julio Cordano: Julio Cordano is a career diplomat from Chile. Since 2012 he serves as the Head of the Department of Climate Change and Sustainable Development of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For 2019/2020, he has assumed the role of Negotiations Coordinator for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for Chile's COP 25 Presidency. His studies include a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Chile and a master's degree in public policy from the Victoria University of Wellington. He is currently also a member of the Adaptation Committee under the UNFCCC.



Marie-Claire Graf: Marie-Claire Graf is a Swiss youth advocate and change maker for just sustainable development and drives ambitious climate action through her diverse engagement in several initiatives around all dimensions of sustainability at local, national and international levels. It's her aspiration to inspire and empower youth to take meaningful, impactful and positive actions to create momentum for change. She has initiated and led several associations in the fields of climate action, sustainable development, youth and women empowerment and education. Currently she serves as the co-Focal Point of YOUNGO and was recently awarded the United Nations Youth Climate Champion of Switzerland award.



Heeta Lakhani: Heeta Lakhani has a master's degree in Environmental Studies & Resource Management. She is a firm believer in the power of young people in grassroot as well as international processes and policies. Heeta educates school students on climate change and aims to bridge the knowledge gap on climate science as well as international processes among the children in Mumbai, who are at the forefront of facing the impacts of climate change. Through her work she aims to create change-makers who will take knowledge-based action in order to combat the climate crisis. She also serves as the co-Focal Point for YOUNGO.





Ovais Sarmad: Ovais Sarmad was appointed the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in May 2017. Mr. Sarmad supports the Executive Secretary in managing the UNFCCC secretariat and its staff, advising on a range of issues relating to the strategic operations planning and development of the organization. Previously he served as Chief of Staff to the Director General at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Geneva. He worked in several management and policy capacities in IOM over a period of 27 years. Prior to IOM, he worked in the private and public sectors in London, where he qualified as a Chartered Management Accountant (ACMA) and Chartered Global Management Accountant (GCMA). He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India and professional certification in management accountancy from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants in London.



H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma: H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma is a Mossi Princess from Burkina Faso and a direct descendant of Princess Yennenga, who was a famous warrior in the 12th century, and is considered the mother of the Mossi people, whose son created the Mossi Kingdom in the 12th century. She is internationally recognized as a role model for empowering the bottom of the pyramid, for recognizing the importance of the informal sector and for unleashing the potential of women and youth in developing countries. She is a regular and motivational speaker/facilitator at high-level international conferences and meetings including the United Nations, representing the informal sector, and the youth and women.



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.



Ezekiel Opeoluwa Oyeyemi: Ezekiel Opeoluwa Oyeyemi is a member of YOUNGO ACE working group. He serves as the climate change focal point and M&E officer for the Women Environment and Youth Development Initiative, a grass-root non-governmental organization that is advancing the cause of women and youth in Nigeria. He is an SDG advocate with a particular interest in SDG13- climate action. He continually engages in Action for Climate Empowerment activities through raising awareness and educating students in a lively and engaging way about the climate crisis.



Hailey Campbell: Hailey Campbell is a 1st year Masters of Sustainability Student at Arizona State University, as well as a climate activist, member of YOUNGO, and an intern for the Local 2030 Islands Network. She strives to create learning opportunities that strengthen our relationships with the earth, each other, and our local to global community to promote just, fair, and urgent sustainable development and building climate resilience.



María Agustina Rodríguez Ortiz de Rozas: María Agustina Rodríguez Ortiz de Rozas, from Argentina has a degree in Sustainable Tourism, a Diploma in Environmental Management and Diploma in Environmental Toxicology. She is the coordinator of Laudato Si' Animators in Argentina and a member of the International Network of SDGs Promoters in addition to being a member of the YOUNGO ACE working group.



Lodovica Cattani: Lodovica Cattani is a graduate student of international relations and development in Italy and has a master's degree in sustainable development and Arctic studies from Rome. She has been trained as a climate leader from The Climate Reality Project since 2013, and currently helps coordinate the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Italy and is part of the LCOY working group of YOUNGO, as well as the COY16 organization and the Re-Earth youth initiative's task force for racial justice.



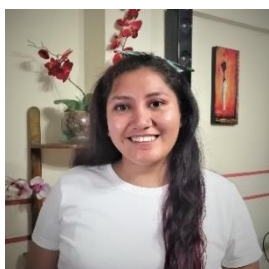
Shayan Zuberi: Shayan Zuberi is a 24-year old from Pakistan. In 2017, he founded an organization called Lakeer foundation ('Lakeer' means right path in Urdu). The organization educates young students about climate change, environmental problems and water conservation techniques. In 2019, he was part of the national delegation for the regional climate week where he represented his country as a youth leader. There, he learned about YOUNGO and ACE, and how by actively empowering the youth, we can solve the climate crisis.



Amy Wickham: Amy Wickham is a Programme Specialist on Climate, Energy and Environment. Since joining UNICEF in 2013 she has been conducting significant research and analysis on the environmental pollution and climate change consequences for women, children and young people, identifying technical innovations for more environmentally sustainable programmes, as well as documentation, reporting and awareness raising through various advocacy methods at each of country, regional and global levels. She has worked at UNICEF Zimbabwe, UNICEF Mongolia and is now based at UNICEF HQ in New York. Previously, she has worked with international organizations in Kenya, India, Ireland and Rwanda. She has bachelor's degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics, and an MSc in Development Practice.



Fabiola Rios Pool: Fabiola Rios Pool is Bolivia's Climate Change Participation Strategy coordinator of UNICEF. She has participated in research on the impact of climate change on women and youth and has been part of the construction and definition processes of public policies in her country, related to topics of natural resources, sustainable development, and the climate change agenda. Currently, she promotes the participation of adolescents and young people through the development of networks and platforms for positioning the voice of youth in the public climate change agenda. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology with a focus in advocacy and public policy, and an MSc in Human Rights.



Carolina Vaca Vidaurre: Carolina Vaca Vidaurre is the National Coordinator of the "Youth Council for Mother Earth". She is a chemical engineer with a background in public policy management. She is Bolivian, a feminist and an activist for Human Rights and the Environment, with 7 years of experience in volunteering. She was recognized as an "Outstanding Woman in Volunteering" by the Chamber of Deputies of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia in 2019.

