

Gender and Climate Change – Global Launch Event Speakers



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.



Ms. 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, Ms. 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.



Mr. Archie Young,
UK Lead Climate Negotiator,
Cabinet Office

Archie Young has been the UK's Lead Climate Negotiator since 2016, overseeing climate negotiations in the UNFCCC, EU, G7 and G20. He has a background in both international and domestic policy. Previous roles include co-Director International Climate & Energy; Deputy Director Americas & Head of South America Department in the UK's Foreign Office; Head of Delivery in the Department of Energy & Climate Change; and Deputy Director for Business, Environment and the Olympics in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit.



**Mr. Manuel José Salidas
Kuhlmann,**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Chile

Manuel José Salidas Kuhlmann currently works at the Environment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (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 clusters, eg., gender, adaptation and loss and damage. Manuel José has been recently appointed as one of the two National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points of Chile.

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Ms. Emilia Reyes,
Executive Programme Director,
Gender Equity, Mexico

Emilia Reyes has specialized in gender responsive public policies and budgets and sustainable development, including comprehensive disaster risk management and climate change. She is the Programme Director of Policies and Budgets for Equality and Sustainable Development, at Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia (Gender Equity: Citizenship, Work and Family), a non-governmental organization that seeks to mainstream a gender perspective at different government levels (state and local), as well as in public institutions.



Dr. Chu Thi Thanh Hương,
Deputy Head, International
Cooperation Division, Ministry of
Environment, Viet Nam

Dr. Chu Thi Thanh Hương is the Deputy Director of the Science Technology and International Cooperation Division, Department of Climate Change (DCC) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Viet Nam. She was the Secretariat to develop the country's INDC in 2015, the Plan for Implementation of the Paris Agreement of Viet Nam in 2016. Currently, she has been assigned to support the process of the country to review and update NDC as the secretariat. She is the Secretariat for the Vietnam Negotiation Team under UNFCCC. She also supports the Leaders of DCC for the tasks of National Focal Point of UNFCCC, IPCC, CTCN.



Ms. Michelle Winthrop,
Director, Policy Unit, Irish-Aid

Michelle Winthrop is the Director of the Policy Unit within Irish Aid, the official Development Cooperation agency of the Irish Government. Prior to this role, she led on climate change for the Irish Foreign Ministry, which included becoming a LEG member. Prior, Michelle was Director of Programmes for Farm Africa, a British NGO working with on agriculture, forestry and market development in Africa. Michelle has also worked as an adviser within the UK's Department for International Development, in the UK, on secondment to the World Bank, and overseas. Michelle has experience and expertise in climate change adaptation, smallholder agriculture, natural resource management, market-based approaches to development, gender and inclusion, and food security/vulnerability.

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Ms. Vositha Wijenayake,
Executive Director, SLYCAN Trust

Vositha Wijenayake is Executive Director of SLYCAN Trust, and an Attorney-at-Law specializing in international environmental law, and UN human rights law. Among her key areas of focus under climate change adaptation are stakeholder engagement in the adaptation processes, integration of climate change adaptation into development processes, monitoring and evaluation of finance for adaptation, risk and vulnerability assessment.

Vositha holds an LL.M in Public International Law from University of London, and an LL.B from Queen Mary, University of London



Ms. Angie Dazé,
Associate, International Institute
for Sustainable Development
and NAP Global Network

Angie Dazé is an Associate on resilience and climate change adaptation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and a member of the NAP Global Network Secretariat. Her work focuses on policy and practice related to climate change adaptation and resilience building. This includes analysis, guidance and technical support for National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes, with a particular focus on gender-responsive approaches and local-to-national linkages in adaptation action. In addition, she coordinates the activities of the [NAP Global Network](#) in Ethiopia and South Africa.



Ms. Bridget Burns,
Director, Women's Environment
& Development Organization

Bridget Burns is Director of the Women's Environment and Development Organisation - WEDO. For several years, she has been particularly focused on integrating gender equality into the decisions and outcomes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition, Bridget serves as the co-Focal Point of the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency. She obtained a Masters from the London School of Economics in Gender, Development and Globalization as well as a Bachelors in International Policy.



Ms. Fleur Newman,
Action Empowerment Unit Lead
(ACE, Gender and Youth), UN
Climate Change, Moderator

Fleur Newman leads the intergovernmental work on gender and climate under the UNFCCC. She is also the Gender Focal Point and Focal Point for Women for the UN Climate Change secretariat. Fleur is a lawyer by training who, before joining the UN, spent 10 years practicing law in the private sector in areas including climate change, sustainability, energy and international law. Throughout her career, Fleur has been an advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Fleur holds a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Development, LL.B, and LL.M in International Law.