

# Youth & the UN Are Impacting Our Sustainable Future

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023 - 1PM-3PM, EST**



**Juan Pablo Celis Garcia, Youth Programme Coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi.** As part of this role, he manages the Young Champions of the Earth Award, the UN's highest environmental honor for young people working on innovative solutions to environmental issues. He is a founding member of the Youth Representatives Steering Committee of the UN Department of Global Communications. Juan Pablo served as Subcommittee Co-Chair of the 66th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference on Education for Global Citizenship, where he chaired the Gyeongju Youth Declaration on Decision-Making. Previous experiences include, Communications Associate for the UN Association of New York and Adviser to the

Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations. He holds a B.A. in International Studies - Public Policy, Summa Cum Laude, and a Master of International Affairs.



**Daniel del Valle Blanco, Diplomat, Political and Youth Advisor, Permanent Missions of the Sovereign Order of Malta and Slovakia to the United Nations in New York. High Representative for Youth, International Human Rights Foundation.** Daniel is based in Madrid, Spain. His main professional interests include diplomacy, international relations, law, human rights and economics. Mr. del Valle serves as the official High Representative for Youth of the International Human Rights Foundation, where he brings also his recent and on-going experience serving as Policy Advisor to the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations in New York. In that capacity he has focused primarily on youth policies, Latin America and Africa. Daniel has worked passionately to support the implementation of the UN Youth 2030 Strategy launched by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in September 2018, and the work of the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

Underpinned by his humanistic values, he has provided the said diplomatic missions with invaluable assistance in areas such as humanitarian aid, human rights, education, peacebuilding, public and cultural diplomacy and social media. He has worked directly also with a number of Latin American and African diplomatic missions both in New York and in Europe (e.g. Haiti and Lesotho) to ensure direct participation of youth in decision making processes and to involve young people in bringing about desired change in their countries and societies ("Ambassadors of Change"). Daniel's other commitments include serving as Secretary-General of the International University Circle of Spain (CIU), as Ambassador of the "We Are All Migrants" Campaign of the Organization of American States (OAS) for Spain, in the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), as well as Coordinator of the "Medicine for Venezuela" Initiative in Spain. He has led the UN Environment Program (UNEP) Campaign "Faith for Earth" in Spain (as a senior member of the Youth Council) and has worked closely with the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) on their "For Safe Worship" Campaign. He is also a member of Advisory Boards of the Yuva Bhagidari Foundation in India (promoting young people's engagement in innovation, sustainability, democracy and good governance) and of the Peaceful Mind Foundation (a global organization, registered with the UN, focusing on mental health for all), as well as Honorary Advisor for Youth Leadership with the NGO Committee for Sustainable Development-NY. In addition, he has advised private companies from various sectors on security international events and political analysis. Daniel has taken courses in Economics at the University of Münster in Germany, has the title of Expert in Climate Change International Legal Regime, by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), and is currently completing a Law degree, with a concentration in international law, at the El Escorial – María Cristina Royal University Centre associated with the Complutense University of Madrid, one of Europe's oldest universities.



**Rosario del Pilar Diaz Garavito, Founder & Executive Director of The Millennials Movement, and a SDGs Activist from Peru,** Rosario is a former Member of the Youth Advisory Board for the Human Rights of Youth partnership of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Education Above All and Silatech. Rosario is an Obama Foundation Scholar 2019-2020 and holds a Master's Degree on International Development and Policy at the University of Chicago. Her work is focused on advocating for young people's voices and human rights to be considered in decision-making processes that affect their present and their future at different levels and facilitated youth participation channels and peer-to-peer capacity-building experiences around key processes such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through her work Rosario led the establishment of the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) children and youth regional formal mechanism – MeSCLAC / MGCY LAC, for the SDGs review process at the UN,

serving as Elected Focal Point 2020 – 2022, mobilizing youths across the region to have a say at the United Nations. Rosario is a LAC Women Empower Program 2022- 2023 of the Ban Ki Moon Center alumni, Youth Power Panelist 2020 - 2021 for the #YouthPower Initiative of The Global Goals Campaign and Women Champion 2015 - 2016 for UN Women for the “Empower Women” Global Movement for Women Economic Empowerment. Her work has been recognized by the Vice Presidency of Peru, the Regional Coordinator of the UN System in Peru, The United Nations Millennium Campaign, AIESEC International with the Leader for Peace Award.



**Ali Mustafa, Consultant on United Nations Relations, AFS Intercultural Programs, Advisor to Youth Representative Steering Committee United Nations Department of Global Communications..** Ali is a youth development professional who brings with him over 14 years of experience as a human rights advocate and a youth mobilizing force. He has worked with numerous multilateral organizations in various capacities and has developed programs on youth and gender. He founded the International Youth Conference in 2019, since then engaging youth from the global south. In his role with United Nations Population Activity (UNFPA), he engaged with a group of university students to present youth mobilization programs to various targeted communities. Ali is currently serving as the Consultant for United Nations Affairs at AFS Intercultural Programs and a Civil Society Representative to the United Nations Department of Global Communications and previously served as Co-Chair to Youth Representative

Steering Committee, UN Department of Global Communications and Co-Chair for youth planning sub-committee for 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference in 2019. Ali holds a Graduate Degree in International Affairs and PhD Candidate of Political Science conducting his research in “Youth Engagement in Politics.” He can be reached out on twitter at @smalimustafa



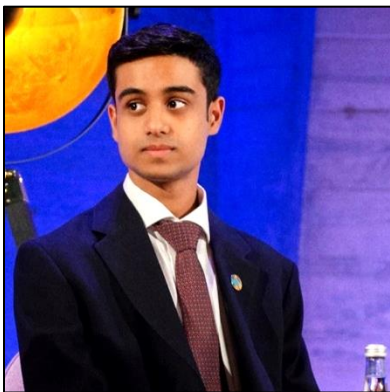
**Cherinet Hariffo, 20-year-old, President and Founder of Youth for SDG 2030 from Ethiopia.** Cherinet advocates for youth, human rights, refugee rights, equal access to education, and social justice. He is a former refugee and currently lives in the United States. Cherinet was raised in Kenya, where he spent his childhood after escaping the civil war that ravaged his home country of Ethiopia. Ever since he was a young adult, Cherinet has been an engaged member of several community-based organizations that strive to make a positive difference in the lives of young people and promote human rights, social justice, and equal opportunity. Many groups he initiated in settings such as schools, churches, and refugee camps in Kenya are still active and thriving today. At the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, he was pivotal in mobilizing young people to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through United Nations partners and the United Nations Youth. He has organized a number of demonstrations against

injustices all over the United States. Hariffo has also made significant contributions to the cause of educating refugees, both inside the refugee camps and outside of them. He has also had an impact on areas of encouraging and empowering young people to participate in the execution of sustainable development goals and to offer them a seat at the policymaking table, Cherinet founded Youth for SDG 2030, which he currently serves as the organization's president.



**Farwa Aamer, Research Analyst with the Stimson Center's Energy, Water, & Sustainability Program.** At Stimson, Farwa leads the Water Security and International Hydro-diplomacy project where her research focuses primarily on the security and political dimensions of transboundary river water governance in the Global South. Farwa periodically organizes and convenes high-level Track II dialogues and discussions designed to facilitate greater inter and intra-regional cooperation on issues around water, climate security, and renewable energy transitions in South Asia, Central Asia and the Euphrates-Tigris River basin. Farwa also spearheads the Women and Water Security work at Stimson—a project designed to amplify women voices in the water

discourse. Prior to joining the Stimson Center, Farwa served as the Director of South Asia program at the EastWest Institute (EWI)—a global think tank headquartered in New York. At EWI, Farwa worked on promoting non-traditional channels of diplomacy and establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for shared economic, financial, and geopolitical interests. Farwa received her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from University College London (UCL) and has a Master's in Management with Finance from BPP Business School, London.



**Ishaan Shah, 19-year-old Youth Leader and Founding Director of Stolen Dreams, and Co-Founder of the Youth for Freedom Collective in the UK.** These are two international youth-led collectives working with stakeholders to counter contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons through education, advocacy, and policy. He is an international human rights, gender equality and climate action young leader. Ishaan is the first Youth Focal Point for the Review and Implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a UN Women National Gender Youth Advocate, the UN's Migration Youth and Children's Platform Contemporary forms of Slavery and Trafficking in Persons Specialist, a

Youth Representative on the UN Network on Migration's Civil Society Action Committee, and a UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Young Champion. Through this work, Ishaan is promoting meaningful youth participation and co-leadership in decision-making processes at all levels.



**Irene Nakabugos, Youth Representative of Humanitarian Focus Foundation & an Ambassador of the Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy Research in Uganda.** Irene is an activist for capacity building and the adoption of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to tackle the global digital divide, human rights challenges, and inequalities to ensure sustainable development in the world whilst embracing diversity. In her community, she tutors young women to equip them with practical IT skills in software engineering and soft skills. She has represented her country in The Seeds for the Future program in China organized by Huawei and the SUSI program at the University of Delaware organized by the US Department of State. She is the first Laureate of

the Global Youth Sustainability and Impact Leaders (GYSIL) program and an Ambassador of the program. She currently serves as a Program Manager for the GYSIL program under the Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy Research (IPPDR) and is also the assistant to the President of IPPDR.



**Julia Sora Wykoff, 17-year-old Founder and CEO of Zeal Cares, a Social Entrepreneur & Youth Representative of NGOCS-D-NY.** Julia is an advocate for the Pediatric Oncology community from Houston, Texas. When she was 9, she attended a Youth for a Better World Montessori MUN Youth Conference at the United Nations in New York City. At that conference, her eyes were opened to real-world problems, and she decided she wanted to give back to her own community. She heard about the struggles a close family friend was facing with dry skin during chemotherapy treatment, and she focused her efforts on supporting children going through similar experiences. Zeal Cares makes and sells all-natural lip balm, and for every lip balm that is purchased, another is gifted to a child or young adult with cancer to help alleviate their dry skin during chemotherapy treatment. Zeal Cares, currently partners with more than 30

hospitals and organizations in 18 states. Julia is passionate about supporting and improving the lives of the pediatric and AYA (adolescent and young adult) oncology community. She strives to make their treatment more comfortable by providing them with high-quality and effective body products and she is working towards her goal of being a significant source of funding for pediatric cancer research. In addition to being an Honorary Advisor for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, she is a Youth Ambassador for the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation. Julia is also proud to be the NGOCS-D-NY Youth Rep for 2023.



**Alexa Mazzamuto, 17-year-old Youth Leader and Advocate for Cancer Awareness and Prevention from Long Island, NY.** Alexa's goal is to educate youth on cancer awareness and prevention while promoting healthy lifestyles in communities locally and globally. As a Girl Scout, she achieved a Silver Award focused on breast cancer awareness and education. She worked closely with Dr. Tousimis, who was the Chief of Breast Surgery at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. Alexa created a presentation on breast cancer with facts, treatments, and prevention based on the knowledge and profound research she gained from Dr. Tousimis. Her presentation is currently shown in the Lobby of the Breast Cancer Center of Georgetown University Hospital. She made the presentation easy enough for everyone, even children, to comprehend. Her mother had thyroid cancer as well as breast tumors, so she

understood the value of cancer awareness and the impact it has on families. Dr. Tousimis acknowledged Alexa's initiative and the positive impact it had on patients. Currently, she is focusing on achieving her Gold Award on Practicing Prevention and she is consulting with a pediatric doctor as her project advisor. In addition, she consulted with an endocrinologist, Dr. Sinha, who works at Cornell Medical to gain information on thyroid cancer and the entire endocrine system. She is also developing a cancer prevention section for the curriculums in school systems. She hopes to inspire other youth to join her initiatives in raising awareness and the value of cancer education for our sustainable future. Alexa is proud to be an NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY Honorary Advisor for Youth Leadership and an Advocate on Cancer Awareness and Prevention.



**Sharehan Alwakily is Student Delegate Member of Debate for Peace in Israel.** Sharehan is a political science student at Reichman University in Israel. She is the first Bedouin woman to stay diplomacy at the university. Sharehan comes from an unrecognized village in southern Israel, and forged her path to the top private university in Israel via her dedication to education, and especially extracurricular programs supported by the US State Department. Sharehan has been one of the most active members of Debate for Peace, despite having to travel 6 hours roundtrip to get to Tel Aviv from her village. After graduating high school Sharehan worked at the first boarding school for Bedouin students in Israel, where she served as a mentor. She has spoken at synagogues and mosques and various communities in the Netherlands, UK, US east and west coast, as well as online. She introduced the Moot Court project at the United

Nations in Jan. 2023 as part of an international initiative to raise awareness about the Holocaust and promote human rights and coexistence.



**Anke de Boer, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General at the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP).** Prior to joining GASP, Anke de Boer worked as a Business Analyst in Brisbane, Australia. She was also involved with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition as a Digital Coordinator, where she developed an interest in community empowerment as part of climate action. Anke graduated with distinction from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), holding a Master's degree in Environmental Policy and Regulation. Her thesis focused on the political discourse surrounding development and resource extraction in regional Australia. She served as a student panel coordinator at the Climate Exp0 conference, hosted by the COP26

Universities Network. Anke de Boer's goal is to continue broadening her understanding of environmental justice in community-based natural resource management in the Global South.



**Sofía Bermúdez is a Youth-Student Representative of the UNESCO SDG4Youth Network and Coordinator of the Youth Track for the Global Futures Forum in Argentina.** Sofia is a young education advocate from Argentina passionate about education and youth empowerment. She has nine years of experience working with nonprofit organizations and implementing educational projects for young people. Her advocacy focuses on youth mobilization, amplifying young people's voices and ensuring access to education for all. Currently, she works at Education for Sharing; Sofia is proud to be a Representative of the UNESCO SDG4Youth Network and Coordinator of the Youth Track for the Global Futures Forum.



**Dr. Andrise Bass, BSCJ, MBA, Ph.D, President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Vice President of ASPAFrique & Vive Chair of the NGOCD-NY Executive Board.** Dr. Bass is a Transformational Strategist Coach, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist with over 28 years of experience in the business industry. She has been a community organizer, for grassroots movements, an author, a keynote speaker, a business entrepreneur for business start-ups and a business strategist for non-profits. Her passion is helping men and women become leaders in their communities. Over the past 11 years, she has trained and mentored thousands of corporate professionals and entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and varied industries across the globe. Every day,

she looks forward to helping her clients transform their lives, so they can create wealth and have a long-lasting sustainable legacy. In 2011, she was honored as a social ambassador for her humanitarian work and her positive fight on social justice in Haiti. She has a Bachelor in criminal justice, MBA in Organizational Psychology and Ph.D. in public policy and administration. Working with Al Gore she is a Mentor/Leader at Climate Reality Project and Vice President of ASPAFrique a non-profit. As President and Founder of Humanitarian Focus Foundation she is continuously working to support education, poverty alleviation, human rights, climate action, and sustainable development. Dr. Bass' goal is to educate women to become leaders in being of serve to their communities.



**Steven Aiello, Founder and Director of Debate for Peace & NGOCS-D-NY Executive Board Member from Israel.** Dedicated to Building Cultures of Peace - Steven, is an educator and conflict resolution specialist based in Tel Aviv. Steven has been leading Jewish-Arab MUN programs since 2011. He founded Debate for Peace in 2016 and has run over 20 MUN conferences and led 10 international delegations, engaging more than 2,000 students from nearly 100 cities and towns. Steven is an Honorary Advisor for the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Project Officer and Dialogue Expert at Asfar, Head of the Model UN Program at the Academy for Young Diplomats (Petah Tiqva, Israel). He was founding co-Editor of the WIIS Israel Middle East Review, and the first Middle East Desk chief for Wikistrat. Steven has been a panelist at the UN, European Parliament, and Almedalen Week as a guest of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. His writing has appeared in the Iran Human Rights Review, Georgetown

University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and & World Affairs, the Center for Islamic Pluralism, and Jurist.org, the Jerusalem Post, Diplomacy.co.il, and the Times of Israel. Steven has a BA in Economics (NYU), MA in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies (IDC). He has also spent years studying Judaic and Islamic studies and co-founded the Jewish-Muslim study group at Tel Aviv University. Some of his work is available on the SSRN, where he ranks among the top 10% of authors. Jewish and Italian-American, Steven is originally from Brooklyn. He speaks English, Hebrew and Arabic.



**Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, Director of UN Relations for Global Family and Convener of NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum.** Margo is a Climate Reality Project Leader and a Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need. She has represented the Huairou Commission and Mayors for Peace at the UN. She is proud to be a Charter Board member of the Soroptimist International Metro New York - SIMNY Chapter. She is a member of the NGO Major Group and the Women's Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. She passionately champions engagement with youth leadership and women's empowerment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals especially SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: *"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change."* Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into the United Nations discourse to foster investing in the SDG solutions to support the

success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, to "Leave No One Behind." She supports the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda and the Summit for the Future. Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

**Partners:** NGOCS-D-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, Coalition for the UN We Need, SDG Relief Fund, Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet, The Stimson Center, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, The Millennials Movement, RecycleGO, Global Family, Youth for a Better World-MMUN, Zonta International, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Perkins-Eastman, Global Urban Development, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, Debate for Peace, Together First, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO & UNA-USA Council of Organizations

***"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"***

**<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>**