DECADe of YOUTH ACtION

WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2020
Conference Room 2
United Nations Headquarters
10:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Join the conversation:
#GlobalGoals
#DecadeOfYouthAction
#UNwithCivilSociety
Ms. Diallo serves as Chief of the Civil Society Unit within the Civil Society and Advocacy Section of the Department of Global Communications, where she manages United Nations and civil society engagement and partnership activities. She has extensive experience in designing and implementing United Nations communications and advocacy programmes focused on international cooperation and development issues to foster civil society partnerships, with an emphasis on youth and women’s organizations.

Andrew Macdonald is an international education executive who is driven by his mission of creating a better world through education. He has held senior positions in leading education organizations including Renaissance Learning, Kaplan Virtual Education, and Wilson Language Training in international education, literacy improvement, formative & summative assessment, and online learning. Most recently, he was the Chief Schools Officer for the International Baccalaureate, where he supported over 6000 schools in 150 countries.

Ali Mustafa is a youth development professional who brings with him over 10 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 is currently serving as the Youth Representative to the United Nations Department of Global Communications and as the Director of Generation Next, a movement aiming to create momentum on the Youth Climate Compact adopted at the 68th UNCSC.

Alexandria Villaseñor is a 14 year old climate activist living in New York City. She skips school every Friday in order to protest against lack of climate action in front of the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York. Villaseñor is a co-founder of US Youth Climate Strike and founder of Earth Uprising, an organization which consists of a team of young people who want to save the planet. Villaseñor aspires to one day work at the United Nations.
SHAAZ NASIR
Director of Digital Transformation, Microsoft

Shaaz Nasir has worked across public and private sectors in North America and the Middle East as a Digital Change Management practitioner. At Microsoft, he’s part of the Digital Advisory Group that’s focused on putting people at the center of any technology program of change for governments. He’s building responsible AI data governance/frameworks, people-centric smart cities strategy, and leading change management programs across the public sector. He volunteers as a Global Shaper, and initiative by the World Economic Forum, and contributes to panels on the fourth industrial revolution and the digital divide. He is also the Co Founder of “Mindthis Magazine”, a media company aiming to redefine what success means for the 21st century young professional, with readers in over 175 countries.

MARCO SANCHEZ
Youth Engagement & Advocacy Coordinator, UNA-USA

Throughout his academic career at California State University, Fullerton, Marco was a former UNA-USA campus chapter leader, where he helped to lead grassroots advocacy efforts in the Southern California community. In addition to advocacy, Marco has a personal interest in human rights and international economic development given his previous role as a policy consultant for the World Bank Group. Through his experiences in advocacy, organizational development and public leadership, Marco has been able to successfully engage everyday Americans and lawmakers by educating communities about the United Nations, and the importance of a strong U.S.-UN partnership.

CECILIA CHAPIRO
Yunus & Youth Founder, Investment Adviser, UNICEF Innovation

Cecilia is the investment adviser for the UNICEF Innovation Fund where she leads the sourcing and selection process of open source and frontier tech start-ups in developing and emerging countries. She is also the founder of Yunus & Youth, an organization supported by Nobel Peace Prize recipient Muhammad Yunus where she has helped grow social businesses in more than 40 countries. Cecilia’s work experience merges the for-profit sector (Johnson & Johnson), the non-profit sector (Junior Achievement, Ashoka, AIESEC, ‘Techo’), and the international field (Organization of American States, Grameen, UN). She holds a Licentiate in Business Administration from ‘Universidad de San Andres’ and a Master’s in Public Administration from NYU where she attended as a Fulbright Scholar.
Mayela works at Girls Who Code as Partner Engagement Manager after working with corporate and strategic partnerships at City Year New York and Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC. In the transitions, she gained valuable experience working in fast-paced tech startups, Quartet and Sawyer Effect. Before officially moving to NYC in 2015, she lived in sub-Saharan Africa for 3 years where she completed her Peace Corps Cameroon service and a fellowship with MCW Global working in youth development. As an immigrant from Mexico City, Mayela brings her passion and insights of diversity and inclusion to guide her work with high-need communities.

MAYELA CALDERON  
Partner Engagement Manager, Girls Who Code  
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Valeria is a public policy professional with experience working with Latin American governments, the nonprofit sector, and multilateral organizations. She has worked for the Organization of American States, the European Union Delegation to Nicaragua, and the Inter-American Development Bank, where she promoted economic and social development. She is also an active member of Nicaraguan civil society and a co-founder of Global Emergency Response and Assistance, an NGO with a mission to protect human rights and restore the dignity and safety of those affected by conflicts and disasters. She has a Masters of International Affairs in Economic and Political Development with a specialization in Management with a regional focus on Latin America from the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs and a Bachelor’s degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University.

VALERIA GOMEZ PALACIOS  
Co-Founder & Program Director, Global Emergency Response and Assistance  
Valeria is a public policy professional with experience working with Latin American governments, the nonprofit sector, and multilateral organizations. She has worked for the Organization of American States, the European Union Delegation to Nicaragua, and the Inter-American Development Bank, where she promoted economic and social development. She is also an active member of Nicaraguan civil society and a co-founder of Global Emergency Response and Assistance, an NGO with a mission to protect human rights and restore the dignity and safety of those affected by conflicts and disasters. She has a Masters of International Affairs in Economic and Political Development with a specialization in Management with a regional focus on Latin America from the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs and a Bachelor’s degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University.

Jahan Rifai is a part of the UN75 initiative: the biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want. The initiative places a special emphasis on the voice of youth and marginalised groups. She recently graduated with a Master’s degree in Strategic Communication from Columbia University. She strives to use the power of storytelling and communication as a platform to amplify voices, create connections and build bridges towards a better future for all.

JAHAN RIFAI  
UN75  
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RUTH BRINKLEY
Director of Operations for New Future Foundation, INC

Ruth is Director Operations for New Future Foundation, INC. a NGO founded by Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely, Goodwill Ambassador to Africa. Brinkley has served as an advisor for the United Nations Department of Global Communications Youth Steering Committee, and she plays an active role as a humanitarian and community activist. Brinkley has also been a part of the Hip Hop community since an early age, as her father Earl “Les Dion” Brinkley was signed to Sugar Hill Records under the group “Fine Quality”. She is an active community producer at BRIC, Brooklyn’s public access station and has established her own production company, Infinite Enterprize Productions Inc. Brinkley is an alum of New York Digital Film Academy and is trained as a Director, Cinematographer, Editor, Producer and Musician. She is a public speaker as well as an independent performance artist under the names “Infinite Wiz” and “Shortyreal” and has performed at venues nationwide and internationally.