



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Seventh IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

Post-COVID-19 recovery: A youth-responsive approach

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(virtual; CEST – Geneva time)

Biographies

MODERATOR:



Ms. Ana Saldarriaga works at the World Economic Forum as the Deputy Head for the Global Shapers Foundation. She leads a team responsible for impact strategies, process optimization and digital engagement.

Prior to the Forum, Ms. Saldarriaga was the first Latin American woman to become the CEO/President of AIESEC, the world's largest youth-led organization with 50,000+ members and 300+ employees. During her seven years with AIESEC, the International Labour Organization recognized AIESEC's internship model as a global example to tackle youth unemployment and develop twenty-first century skills.

Ms. Saldarriaga has an engineering background. She is a Chevening Scholar with a master's degree from UCL in Public Administration in Engineering and Public Policy. Her research focused on the impact of artificial intelligence and new technologies on the future of work and education. She is also a Global Leadership Fellow of the World Economic Forum.

Born and raised in Medellín, Colombia, she has lived in five countries and delivered events in more than 50 countries.

OPENING REMARKS



Mr. Duarte Pacheco has been a member of parliament in Portugal since 1991. He has held different functions in Parliament, including that of a member of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Communities.

Mr. Pacheco has been a member of the Portuguese delegation to the IPU since 2002 and head of the delegation since 2016. He was the Chair of the IPU's Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group from 2017 to 2020. He was also the Vice-President of the IPU's Standing Committee on Peace and International Security from 2014 to 2016 and Internal Auditor for the IPU in 2007, 2011, 2013 and 2015.



Mr. Melvin Bouva is a young dynamic, charming, and driven Caribbean citizen, born and raised in Paramaribo, Suriname. He has been involved with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its youth movement since 2011 and was unanimously chosen the President of the Board of Young Parliamentarians in 2019. Together with his fellow members of parliament he took a number of successful steps to elevate the IPU's Youth Forum and its work to higher levels.

After a vibrant period as first Speaker of the National Youth Parliament and United Nations MDG Youth Ambassador, Mr. Bouva was sworn in as member of the National Assembly of Suriname in June 2010. From 2015 to 2020 he was the Deputy Speaker of Parliament (the youngest ever chosen) and represented his country in various countries and organizations around the world. In 2019 he also received a United Nations Award for one of the 25 Most Influential People of African Descent under 40 years in the category Politics and Governance. He has a degree in Public and International Law from the University of Suriname and a master's degree in Public Administration from the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Youth empowerment and youth leadership is what draws his attention the most, and he is giving his all to influence and inspire more young people and members of parliament to work on a better future.

SESSION ONE

Keynote Speaker



Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake was appointed at the age of 26 as the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in June 2017. She is the youngest senior official in the United Nations and the first woman to hold this position. In this role, Ms. Wickramanayake works to expand the UN's youth engagement and advocacy efforts across all four pillars of work – sustainable development, human rights, peace, and security and humanitarian action – and serves as a representative of and advisor to the Secretary-General.

In November 2019, Ms. Wickramanayake was recognized by Time Magazine in its list "Time 100 Next: Rising stars shaping the future".

Originally from Sri Lanka, Ms. Wickramanayake has worked extensively on youth development and participation, and has played a key role in transforming the youth development sector in her home country.

Prior to taking up her post, Ms. Wickramanayake was instrumental in creating the movement for civic and political engagement of young people, especially young women in Sri Lanka named "Hashtag Generation". Previously, she advocated for global youth development on an international level including as the first ever Sri Lankan Youth Delegate to the United Nations and as the youth lead negotiator and member of the International Youth Task Force of the World Conference on Youth 2014 where she played a critical role in mainstreaming youth in the Post-2015 Process and in the establishment of World Youth Skills Day.

Panelists



Ms. Eugenia Catalfamo represents the province of San Luis in the Argentine Senate. She is the youngest senator in this chamber, and her passion is to legislate for the inclusion of youth, women and diversity, with the firm purpose of ending inequality.

She believes in political participation as a tool, capable of building a fairer society that is more inclusive and more respectful of nature and environment.

SESSION TWO

Keynote Speaker



Ms. Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa is the Director of the Division for Education 2030 at UNESCO Headquarters. She has extensive experience of over 25 years with UNESCO, UNICEF and JICA, in managing global, regional and national programmes on inclusive education, gender and education, ECCE, learning assessment and teacher education, as well as coordinating partnerships in education. She currently oversees UNESCO's global programmes on Gender and Inclusive Education, Higher Education, and Education in Emergencies, and is leading the reform of the global SDG4 coordination mechanism.

Panelists



Mr. Sebastian Berger is serving as the Executive Director of the Global Student Forum (GSF). He previously held the office of Vice President in the European Students' Union (ESU) and was a founding member of the GSF Steering Committee.

Mr. Berger has been an active member of the international student movement for years, holding various elected leadership positions on the local, national and international level. With an academic background in political science, he is a policy expert on public responsibility, financing and governance of higher education.



Ms. Irine Yusiana Roba Putri is a member of Indonesia's Parliament from the Indonesian Democratic Party – Struggle.

She has been serving a member of parliament since 2014 and currently serves as a member of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the Indonesian House of Representatives, member of the Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights, and member of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

In March 2021, she was appointed as a Women Political Leaders (WPL) Country Ambassador for Indonesia. As part of the global network of female politicians, Ms. Putri works to develop public policy and budgets that further women's empowerment and gender equality in her home country.



Ms. Leah Moss is an Advocacy Manager at Plan International, an international development and humanitarian organization that advances gender equality and girls' rights. She specialises in girls' education and is currently leading the G7-GPE-COP26 advocacy initiative focused on girls' education, leadership and climate justice. Previously, she worked on sexual and reproductive health and rights at Plan, and as a Programme Liaison Officer at Sentebale, an international charity for young people affected by HIV in Southern Africa, where she led a programme in Malawi on HIV prevention for secondary school girls. Ms. Moss holds an MSc in Global Development from the University of Copenhagen and a BA in International History from the London School of Economics.

SESSION THREE

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Gaudenz Silberschmidt has been the Director of Health and Multilateral Partnerships of the World Health Organization (WHO) since May 2019 where he is also responsible for private sector, civil society, multilateral and parliamentary engagement. He was also in charge of the creation of a WHO Foundation, the WHO COVID-19 Solidary Response Fund and the Global Youth Mobilization initiative.

Mr. Silberschmidt joined the WHO in 2012 as an advisor to the Director-General on reform issues. In 2015 he was appointed Director for Partnerships and Non-State Actors and acted as Director a.i. of Coordinated Resource Mobilization. Before joining the WHO, as Ambassador he headed the International Affairs Division of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health. He represented Switzerland as a member of the Executive Board of the WHO where he also chaired several negotiations during the World Health Assembly. He is also a former member of the Bureau of the OECD Health Committee. He received his medical degree from the University of Zurich; holds a master's degree in international relations from the University of St. Gallen and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Public Health of the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel.

Panellists



Ms. Audrey Fontaine is a 28-year-old French Creole woman from Reunion Island, the French Mascarenes. At 15, she left her beloved Island to move to mainland France to study medicine. She currently lives in Paris where she works as a hospital psychiatrist while studying public affairs at the Paris Political Institute.

Throughout her academic and non-profit experiences, Ms. Fontaine has become passionate about health, gender equity and international affairs. Through her involvements, she has restlessly fought for gender equality, and for youth voices to be heard, especially in healthcare delivery, education, and leadership. Recently, she broadened her scope beyond global health having become the Youth7 representative for France at the Y7 2020 Summit.

SESSION FOUR

Keynote Speaker



Mr. Sangheon Lee is the Director of the Employment Policy Department (EMPLOYMENT) of the ILO which leads ILO's action for promoting full and productive employment by developing integrated employment, development and skills policies. He is currently leading ILO's work in monitoring the impact of the pandemic and developing policy options (*ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the World of Work*).

Prior to becoming the Director of EMPLOYMENT, he was the Special Adviser to the Deputy Director-General for Policy on Economic and Social Issues (2014-18), and acting director of the Research Department (2017-18).

Mr. Lee has written extensively on economic, employment and labour issues, including articles in academic journals, as well as editing volumes

under the global research project *Regulating for Decent Work* (Palgrave Macmillan) and other research projects. He is also one of the main authors of ILO flagship reports such as the *Global Wage Report* and the *World Employment and Social Outlook*. He co-authored *Working Time around the World* (2007 Routledge).

Mr. Lee holds a PhD in Economics from Cambridge University.

Panellists



Ms. Sebastian Essl is an economist in the World Bank's Global Macroeconomics and Debt Team. He has been involved in technical assistance on public debt management, including medium-term debt management strategies, debt management performance assessments, and debt sustainability analysis in several countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South-East Asia. In addition, Sebastian has been working on fiscal issues in developing countries. Prior to joining the World Bank, he worked as an economist in the Austrian Ministry of Finance, serving as the Austrian delegate in the European Council Working Group on Economic Governance. Sebastian holds degrees in economics and finance from Vienna University and Columbia University in the City of New York.



HE Meera Sultan Nasser Mohammed Al Suwaidi has been a Member of the UAE Federal National Council since 2019. She is an active Member of the Economic, Financial and Manufacturing Committee and a key representative of the UAE FNC at the IPU. Before becoming an MP, she worked for the Mubadala Investment Company in Abu Dhabi.

She holds an MPA in Economic and Territorial Development Sciences from Sciences Po, Paris and a BBA in Accounting from the American University in Dubai.

She is involved in extensive charity work and voluntary work in hospitals and orphanages for children with special needs.

Closing Session



Mr. Martin Chungong is Secretary General of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). He made double history in 2014 by becoming the first African and first non-European to be elected as IPU Secretary General. He has more than three decades of experience and knowledge of parliaments at national and international levels. He has dedicated his professional life to promoting and building democracy worldwide.

After having worked for 14 years in the Cameroonian Parliament, Mr. Chungong spent more than 20 distinguished years with the IPU before being elected IPU Secretary General – the eighth person to hold the position. He had previously served as IPU Deputy Secretary General and Director of Programmes.

He has become a leader in his field through his work on developing programmes to help parliaments become more transparent, accountable, representative and effective democratic institutions.