



**ECOSOC  
YOUTH FORUM**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**#YOUTH2030**

## **10<sup>th</sup> Economic and Social Council Youth Forum**

**A Decade of Action: Building a Resilient Recovery**

**BIOGRAPHIES**  
7-8 April 2021

### **FIRST DAY**

#### **10X10: TEN YEARS OF #ECOSOCYF - BUILDING UP FOR A DECADE OF ACTION**

**9:00 AM – 9:30 AM**



**H.E. Mr. Munir Akram**

President of the Economic and Social Council

His Excellency Munir Akram was elected seventy-sixth President of the Economic and Social Council on 23 July 2020. Ambassador Akram is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Akram assumed his position as Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, on November 1, 2019.

Ambassador Munir Akram previously served as Pakistan's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York for six years between 2002 and 2008, after serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva for seven years from 1995 to 2002. [SEE MORE](#)



**Mr. António Guterres**  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

António Guterres, the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1st January 2017. Having witnessed the suffering of the most vulnerable people on earth, in refugee camps and in war zones, the Secretary-General is determined to make human dignity the core of his work, and to serve as a peace broker, a bridge-builder and a promoter of reform and innovation.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary-General, Mr. Guterres served as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015, heading one of the world's foremost humanitarian organizations during some of the most serious displacement crises in decades. The conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and the crises in South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Yemen, led to a huge rise in UNHCR's activities as the number of people displaced by conflict and persecution rose from 38 million in 2005 to over 60 million in 2015. [SEE MORE](#)



**H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir**  
President of the 75th Session of the General Assembly

On 17 June 2020, the General Assembly of the United Nations elected H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir of Turkey as President of its seventy-fifth session, which runs from September 2020 to September 2021.

After graduating with a degree in law from Ankara University, Mr. Bozkir joined his country's foreign service in 1972. He held several positions during his 39-year career there, including: Permanent Representative of Turkey to the European Union (EU); Ambassador to Romania; Consul General in New York; Counsellor of the Permanent Representation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); First Secretary of the Embassy in Iraq; and Vice Consul General in Stuttgart. He also served as the Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister Turgut Özal; Chief of Cabinet and Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to Presidents Turgut Özal and Süleyman Demirel; Deputy Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for EU Affairs; Secretary General for EU Affairs. [SEE MORE](#)



**Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**  
UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Jayathma Wickramanayake is the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, a capacity she has served since the age of 26. In this role, Jayathma 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. 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". She also served 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. [SEE MORE](#)



**Ms. Anika Jenne Dorothy**

Executive Director of the Green Congress of Kenya

Anika is the East Africa Co-ordinator for AMPLIFY. She garnered vast experiences working with grassroots community environmental organizations which consisted primarily of women and girls. Ms. Anika is part of the 40 global youth task force of the Generation Equality Global Youth Taskforce by UN Women and the current Youth Core Group Representative in the Generation Equality Forum. She is also part of AWLN (African Women Leadership Network) technical committee in Kenya. Lastly, she is a ONE East Africa Champion where she lobbies decision makers in effort to create changes needed for gender equality. Ms. Anika holds a Masters in Women, Leadership & Governance in Africa from the University of Nairobi.

**#YOUTHLEAD: YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT TO BUILD BACK BETTER**

**9:30 AM – 10:00 AM**



**H.E. Mr. Carlos A. Alvarado Quesada**

President of The Republic of Costa Rica

President Carlos Alvarado is the 48th President of the Republic of Costa Rica. He was inaugurated into office on May 9, 2018. He was born in San José, Costa Rica on January 14, 1980, and is a professor, politician and author. He studied journalism at the University of Costa Rica, and holds a master’s degree in Political Science from the same university and has a master’s degree in Development Studies from the University of Sussex in England.

President Alvarado is an expert in communication, public policy and public-private partnerships with five years of experience in political communication and parliamentary advisory. He has taught communication at the School of Social Science at the University of Costa Rica and the Latina University of Costa Rica. He also served as an advisor to the Citizen Action Party’s group in the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica from 2006 to 2010. [SEE MORE](#)



**Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi**

Secretary General, WOSM

Ahmad Alhendawi is the 10th Secretary General (CEO) of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), becoming the youngest to hold the position in the history of world’s leading educational youth movement which serves over 50 million members in 170 countries. Prior to his appointment, Alhendawi served as the first-ever United Nations Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth.

Prior to that, he worked as Youth Policy Advisor at the League of Arab States; Team Leader at the World Bank-funded program to the Arab League on Institutional Development; Youth Programme Associate at the Iraq Office of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA); Emergency Programme Officer at Save the Children, and a Regional Consultant supporting the Danish Youth Council’s projects in the MENA region. [SEE MORE](#)



**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
Director-General, World Health Organization

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected as WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017.

He is the first WHO Director-General to have been elected from multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and is the first person from the WHO African Region to serve as WHO's chief technical and administrative officer. Immediately after taking office on 1 July 2017 Dr Tedros outlined five key priorities for the Organization: universal health coverage; health emergencies; women's, children's and adolescents' health; health impacts of climate and environmental change; and a transformed WHO. [SEE MORE](#)



**Ms. Nadine Khaouli**  
Co-Founder, Kafe be Kafak and Member of  
Generation 17

Nadine Khaouli is a 25-year-old Lebanese Young Leader at Generation 17, Community Advocate and Co-founder of "Kafe be Kafak", an independent youth organization to help people in need in response to the 2020 Beirut Port explosion, the COVID-19 pandemic and the huge economic crisis that Lebanon is facing.

Nadine is also the UNDP Lebanon Youth Development Delegate and a member of the UN Family in Lebanon. Through these roles, Nadine is taking her advocacy global, leading virtual workshops and trainings for young people around the world aligned to the Global Goals and Agenda 2030. Her lifelong mission is to support youth, end poverty, and bring "essential dignity" to every person in Lebanon.



**Ms. Chandra Tripura**  
Founder & Director, Hill Resource Centre

Chandra Tripura is a young enthusiastic human rights activist and social entrepreneur from the Tripura Indigenous People of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh. She has done her Masters in Sociology and Social Policy from Dhaka University. She is a professional dancer and choreographer, and highly dedicated to protecting and promoting indigenous culture. She has started defending Indigenous Peoples' rights, culture and tradition through dance performance from the year 2008 and co-founded Bangladesh indigenous Cultural Forum (BICF) in 2010. Currently she is playing the role of General Secretary and Artistic Director in the organization. It is the first organization in the country that has introduced indigenous dance as a strong tool of advocacy for protecting and establishing IPs' rights both in CHT and the Plains of Bangladesh. [SEE MORE](#)

## **LEAVING NO YOUTH BEHIND: ADDRESSING THE LONG - TERM CONSEQUENCES OF COVID-19 FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH GROUPS**

**2:30 PM – 4:00 PM**



### **Mr. Elliot Harris**

Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Elliott Harris was appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in 2018. Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Harris began his career in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1988, where he worked in the African Department and the Fiscal Affairs Department. In 2002 he became an Adviser in the Policy Development and Review Department, and was appointed in 2008 as Special Representative to the United Nations, in addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Strategy and Policy Review Department. Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in German and political science and an advanced degree in economics. He was awarded an Advanced Studies Certificate in international economics and policy research from the Institute of World Economics in Kiel, Germany. [SEE MORE](#)



### **Dr. Derrick León Washington**

OHCHR Minority Fellow at OHCHR

Dr. Derrick León Washington is a cultural anthropologist, curator, dancer, and Senior/Regional United Nations Human Rights Fellow specializing in museum curation, experiential education, and expressive arts of the Americas. He is creating multidisciplinary content and research for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights about the usage of culturally relevant tangible/intangible cultural heritage that helps advance human rights, UN SDGs, empower individuals/communities, and imparts accurate COVID-19 information. Additionally, he has curated several UN projects, including multi-national webinars, and featured in a short film about the 'I Still Believe in Our City' campaign sponsored by UN Human Rights and the NYC Commission on Human Rights. He completed his master's degree, curatorial portfolio certificate, and doctorate in socio-cultural anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. [SEE MORE](#)



**Ms. Angelica Ojinnaka**  
Youth Advisory Committee Member and National Youth Ambassador from Nigeria and Australia

Angelica Ojinnaka is a Nigerian-Australian youth advocate and researcher. Her passions include mental health promotion, policy and advocacy, youth participation in policy decision-making, dismantling racism and gender justice. She is a youth activist for Plan International Australia and youth ambassador with the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (NSW), where she participates in advocacy and policy concerning young people from diverse backgrounds, in a culturally humble fashion.

Angelica is a current Master of Research candidate at Western Sydney University. Her Master of Research thesis examines how children and young people with complex and interrelated developmental, health and social needs perceive the Australian service system, and the extent to which they are engaged in service decision-making. She has also studied at the University of Cambridge for subjects in microbiology and autism and recently has completed a United Nations Diploma with the United Nations Association of Australia (NSW). [SEE MORE](#)



**Ms. Nujeen Mustafa**  
Activist and author from Syria

Nujeen Mustafa is a Syrian refugee who has been supporting UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency since 2018. At just sixteen, Nujeen made the 3,500-mile journey from Syria to Germany in a steel wheelchair. Nujeen was born with cerebral palsy and spent the majority of her life confined to her apartment in Aleppo, Syria, where she taught herself English watching shows on TV. As war broke out, she and her family were forced to flee, first to her native Kobane, then Turkey. Her family didn't have enough money for them all to make it to safety in Germany, where her brother lives, so her parents stayed in Turkey while she set out with her sister across the Mediterranean, braving inconceivable odds for the chance to have a normal life and an education.

Nujeen's optimism and defiance when confronting all of her challenges have propelled this young refugee from Syria into the spotlight as the human face of an increasingly dehumanised crisis. Since moving to Germany, Nujeen has continued to tell her remarkable story and to capture the hearts of all who hear her speak. [SEE MORE](#)



**Mr. Tushar Kanti Baidya**  
Project director, Inclusive Bangladesh

Tushar Kanti Baidya is a Dhaka-based teacher and youth social worker. Alongside his job, Tushar runs two projects on social development titled "Faith in the Commonwealth", through which he promotes global citizenship and religious literacy among local youths of different religions, and "LGBTIQ Advocacy" through which he promotes SRHR and develops employment skills of marginalized youths. He is also involved in addressing hate speech and building alternative narratives to counter hate speech, which is a part of his work on CVE/PVE. Tushar is the recipient of "Faith in the Commonwealth Peace Award" in Bangladesh for the year 2019. [SEE MORE](#)



### **Ms. Alba Verónica Yacabalquiej**

Asociación de Investigación Desarrollo y Educación Integral from Guatemala

Alba Verónica Yacabalquiej Salanic is 24 years-old and she is originally from Xecam, Cantel, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. She studies at University International Relations and Political Science where she is part of the Integral Research and Development Association (IDEI), which executes projects with indigenous peoples. As a K'iche 'Mayan, Alba works with indigenous youth in rural communities from an environmental perspective



### **Ms. Lynda Romdhane**

Lawyer and Mawjoudin “We exist” association from Tunisia

Lynda Romdhane is a fierce activist for women's rights. She has a strong history of activism against sexual and gender based violence in Tunisia with ENAZEDA (#MeToo) and the “Falgatna Movement” (Y'en a ras le bol). Her interest in the legal feminist cause first started with her involvement in a legal clinic, where she learnt the techniques to hear and support of the victims of patriarchy. As a lawyer, Lynda is undergoing training with the Tunisian league on human rights, to help prepare the Universal Public Review of Tunisia human rights record in 2022. In doing so, she will work on the recommendations related to gender and sexual rights in Tunisian law, and urge her country to change its laws for the better. [SEE MORE](#)



### **Ms. Fiona McCluney**

UN Resident Coordinator in Albania

On 4 September, UN Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Fiona McCluney of the United Kingdom as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Albania, with the host Government's approval. Ms. McCluney brings to the position more than 30 years of experience as an urban planner and development practitioner, including 12 years of service to the United Nations.

She was previously the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Montenegro, also serving as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in the country, from 2015-2018. Prior to this, Ms. McCluney was Chief Technical Adviser and Head of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Country Office in Palestine, from 2012 to 2015, and in Iraq, from 2011 to 2012. Between 2008 and 2011, she served with UN-Habitat in Iraq as Head of Urban Governance, Land and Housing. [SEE MORE](#)



**Mr. Clement Voulé**

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

Clément Nyaletsossi VOULE, a national of Togo, was appointed as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association and took up his functions in April 2018. Prior to his appointment, he led the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) to support human rights defenders from States in transition and coordinated the organization's work in Africa as the Advocacy Director.

Mr. Voule also worked as Secretary-General of the Togolese Coalition of Human Rights Defenders, as a campaigner for the Togolese Coalition for the International Criminal Court and as Secretary-General of the Amnesty International section in Togo. Since 2011, he has been an Expert Member of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. [SEE MORE](#)

**REFLECTING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD –  
CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THE YOUTH FORUM AND  
THE START OF DECADE OF ACTION**

**4:00 PM – 4:30 PM**



**Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Mohammed served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria where she steered the country's efforts on climate action and efforts to protect the natural environment.

Ms. Mohammed first joined the United Nations in 2012 as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the responsibility for post-2015 development planning. She led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals. [SEE MORE](#)



**Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**

UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

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**Ms. Dilan Ezgi Koç**  
UN Youth Champion for Disarmament

Dilan Ezgi Koç is a UN Office for Disarmament Affairs Youth Champion for Disarmament, an International Relations graduate student and musician from Ankara, Turkey. Her research interests include nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation and nuclear security networks, and she has also worked and published on the Syrian conflict and alliance politics. She has also been volunteering and holding leadership positions at non-profit organizations, organizing events and fundraising concerts to advocate for human rights and gender equality.

As an MA in Global Affairs student at Yale University and a cellist, her aim is to promote the role of arts and the arts society to build a safer and more peaceful world for all - through the achievement of the SDG's. She believes the arts can act as an intermediary between hard facts and solutions, and urgent human awareness and action.



**Mr. Abdullah Al-Khafajy**  
Liaison Officer for Medical Education issues,  
International Federation of Medical Students'  
Associations (IFMSA)

Abdullah Al-Khafajy is a final-year medical student at Baghdad University College of Medicine, with five years of experience in the field of student and youth advocacy on a national, regional, and international level. He currently serves as Liaison Officer for Medical Education Issues at the International Federation of Medical Student Associations (IFMSA), as well as being an Executive Council member at the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), and the International Association for Medical Education (AMEE). Throughout his years of activity in the IFMSA, he has shown interest in Accreditation and Quality Assurance in higher education, social accountability in medical education, and Health Workforce Education and Regulation, as well as his dedication towards Meaningful Student Engagement and Advocacy. Abdullah is currently working on areas including the Global Health Workforce crisis, Open Science, and Global Health Education within IFMSA, and he aims to continue his advocacy work after graduation.

He believes in education as an approach to empower and engage communities in public policy and decision-making. Integrating the SDGs and addressing the key global challenges in primary and secondary education curricula would be a good practice to produce a sustainable generation that will lead a sustainable world.



**Ms. Mariana Vasconcelos**  
Co-Founder & CEO, Agrosmart

Mariana Vasconcelos is the daughter of farmers, co-founder and CEO at Agrosmart, techpioneer company by the World Economic Forum. Biz Dev with degrees from UNIFEI, UCLA and Singularity University, Mariana was nominated MIT Technology Review Innovators under 35, Forbes Under 30 and Fast Company 100 Most Creative. She is a global ambassador for Thought for Food, expert in digital agriculture and considered one of the 100 most influential agribusiness people by Dinheiro Rural Magazine.

She believes in using data for a more productive, sustainable and climate resilient agriculture.

## CLOSING SESSION OF THE ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

4 30 PM – 5:00 PM



**Mr. Liu Zhenmin**  
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Mr. Liu Zhenmin of China as the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs effective 26 July 2017. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Liu was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013).

Mr. Liu brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic service, with a strong focus on the promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. He was deeply involved for 10 years in climate change negotiations including the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. He also widely participated in the international activities on the protection of our planet including Antarctica and the oceans. Over the last several years, in various capacities, he has been consistently highlighting and advocating for sustainable development issues. [SEE MORE](#)



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**Misses Melati and Isabel Wijsen**  
Founders of Bye Bye Plastic Bags and Founders of YouthTopia

Melati & Isabel Wijsen are sisters and founders of Bye Bye Plastic Bags which they started at 10 & 12yrs old. Now 7 years later, Bali has banned the plastic bags straws and styrofoam. Today their mission is to help raise a generation of changemakers through their latest project YOUTHTOPIA.



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President of the Economic and Social Council

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