



COP28
UAE



“Harnessing the Power of Youth Climate Action for SDGs at COP28”

*An ECOSOC Youth Forum Side Event co-organized by
the COP28 Youth Climate Champion and UNDP.*

Date and time: April 26, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Format: Hybrid

Location: The United Arab Emirates Permanent Mission to the United Nations:
315 E 46th St, New York, NY 10017

Registration for in-person attendees has closed

Registration for virtual attendees:

https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uogAS8FaRtyVPzI-BOSypw#/registration

Agenda:

- 1. Introduction by the moderators:** Giulia Jacovella, Youth Empowerment and Climate Analyst, UNDP, and Fernando Armendaris, Program Manager, COP28 YCC team
- 2. Opening remarks:** Muath Alwari, Director of Policy at the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN
- 3. Stories from Climate and Social Justice Activists**
 - Ahmed M. Badr, President & CEO, **Narratio**
 - Ruth Miller, Consultant, **Whirlwind Woman Climate Consulting**

4. Panel discussion

Moderator: Xan Northcott, Project Manager, COP28 YCC team

- Jennifer Baumwoll, Global Climate Change Advisor, UNDP
- Jorge Arturo Ríos Badillo, Expert on Climate, Environment and Technologies at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN
- Jevanic Henry, member of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change (YAG) and Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Fellow
- Esraa Essam, YOUNGO member and Fulbright Scholar
- Asif Nawaz Shah, Partnerships Specialist, COP28 Presidency

5. Q&A from the audience

6. Closing

Speakers' Bios:



Ahmed M. Badr is the Interim Director of the Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Policy at Wesleyan University. He is the youngest senior staff and faculty member in the University's 192 year history. He is an Iraqi-American author, poet, and social entrepreneur working at the intersection of creativity, displacement, and youth empowerment. Ahmed's work seeks to combine poetry, archival collections, and multi-media to explore the complexities of migration, identity, and self-expression, with a focus on reframing and reclaiming the power of tragedy.

He is author of [*While the Earth Sleeps We Travel: Stories, Poetry, and Art from Young Refugees Around the World*](#) (Andrews McMeel), featuring a foreword by actor and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Ben Stiller.



Ruth Miller is a Dena'ina Athabaskan and Ashkenazi Russian Jewish woman, raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She is a member of the Curyung Tribe, and also has roots in Bristol Bay. Ruth currently works at Whirlwind Woman Climate Consulting. She has worked many years towards climate justice and a regenerative economy for all on her lands and beyond, including international advocacy with the United Nations Association and SustainUS. She is a daughter, a granddaughter, and aunty, a language learner, a traditional beadworker, and a subsistence fisherwomxn.



Jennifer Baumwoll is a global climate change specialist based in New York and the global coordinator for UNDP's Climate Promise. She has worked with UNDP for over 12 years on climate change policy and adaptation, both at Headquarters and the Regional Hub for Africa in Addis Ababa. Her work focuses on linking global processes, particularly the UNFCCC, to country support and vice versa, developing corporate climate strategy and positioning, and designing approaches for better aligning implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Previously, she managed a global climate change adaptation project and developed adaptation-related project proposals for grant funding. Before joining UNDP, Jennifer worked with UNISDR in Bangkok, focusing on the value of indigenous knowledge for disaster risk reduction.



Jevanic Henry (Saint Lucia) is a climate and development professional and advocate. He previously served as Climate Change Special Envoy for the Caribbean Youth Environment Network and was a United Nations Foundation's Next Generation Fellow. Jevanic worked as a Foreign Service Officer with the Government of Saint Lucia, as well as with the climate change unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat and co-authored a practical guide on enhancing access to climate finance. He is currently an Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Fellow, assigned to the Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York.



Esraa Abdelkader, an Egyptian national, is a Fulbright award recipient pursuing a Master's degree in Climate Science and Solutions at Northern Arizona University. Esraa is also a member of YOUNGO, the Youth and Children Constituency to the UNFCCC. In addition, she manages the Environmental Caucus sustainability program at Northern Arizona University, where she focuses on assisting with implementing the University's climate action plan and managing Sustainability projects on the NAU campus. Esraa is also pursuing a certificate in Greenhouse Gas Accounting. Before her current role, Esraa was the head of the Climate Change Department at Ameaster for Environmental Consultancies and Services in Alexandria, Egypt, where she conducted the Climate Change Impact Assessment CCIA for construction projects. Esraa's additional experience includes working as an environmental chemist and has experience conducting Environmental Impact Assessments. She is also a climate desk facilitator, through which she works to raise climate awareness. Outside of her formal roles, Esraa has spoken at numerous climate-related events and has helped organize climate-related conferences, including the "Future and Climate Challenges Conferences" in Alexandria, Egypt, as a pre-COP27 preparation conference.



Asif Nawaz Shah is a specialist within the COP28 UAE Partnerships team, working on mainstreaming inclusion across the COP28 agenda, with a particular focus on advancing meaningful outcomes for youth, and cities and subnational actors.



Xan Northcott, from the United Kingdom, is Project Manager for the COP28 Youth Climate Champion team of H.E. Shamma Al Mazrui, who is leading the Presidency's youth engagement for COP28 in the UAE. Previously he served as the 2022 Global North Focal Point for YOUNGO, the Children and Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which coordinates the participation of youth civil society in the UNFCCC intergovernmental climate change negotiations. He has also worked to support youth climate action, political engagement and social entrepreneurship in roles including Coordinator of the Generation Global educational programme at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, and with the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Generation Citizen and United Nations Development Programme. He graduated Summa Cum Laude and with Politics Honors from New York University.



Giulia Jacovella is a Youth and Climate Analyst at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), based in New York. Since 2013, she has been working for organizations promoting natural resource governance, rural development, food and energy security, human rights and gender and youth empowerment, in the USA, Senegal, Guatemala, Nicaragua and the UK. She is fluent in English, Italian, Spanish and French. Giulia holds a master degree in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London) and a BA in Political Science from LUISS University (Italy).



Fernando Armendaris is a Program Manager with the COP28 Youth Climate Champion team where he focuses on ensuring substantial engagement of young people before, during, and after COP28. Prior to his current position, he worked for over eight years at the World Bank on urban and WASH development issues, including in Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Angola, Ethiopia and Ghana. Fernando holds a Master of Public Administration Degree focused on Development Practice from Columbia University in the City of New York. Fernando is originally from Quito, Ecuador.