

2023 International Youth Day Official Commemoration
“Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World”
BIOS OF SPEAKERS



PANEL ONE: Green skills in and the world of work/the green economy

	<p>Sergio A. Iriarte Quezada (from La Paz, Bolivia) currently works at the Youth Employment Accelerator of the Employment, Labour Markets and Youth Branch (EMPLAB), at the ILO’s Employment Policy, Job Creation and Livelihoods Department. Previously, he was the Project Manager and Global Coordinator of different projects at the ILO on skills and lifelong learning. Before his time on the SKILLS and Employability Branch, Sergio worked as a Senior Officer on Business Processes and Change Management at the Business Improvement Unit of the ILO. He started his work with the ILO 15 years ago at the Evaluation Office and later moved to the Youth Employment Programme where he worked in different domains, such as employment policies, technical support, policy advice, development of training material and providing training and coaching to ILO members and Constituents. He also has expertise on innovation and knowledge management, programming, policy and strategic planning. Sergio coordinated the Standard-Setting Committee on Apprenticeships of the International Labour Conference in 2022 and 2023. His professional experiences before the ILO include working at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) collaborating with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education. Sergio holds a BA in Economics and a MA in Political Economics from the University of Geneva, and a MA in Development Studies with a focus on International Development from the Graduate Institute Geneva.</p>
	<p>Hae Kyeong Chun is a Technical Officer at the Skills and Employability Branch, Employment Policy Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. Her work area focuses on skills needs anticipation for the future of work, skills for trade and economic diversification, and skills for environmental sustainability and climate action. At the ILO, she coordinated the preparation of the report, <u>“Skills development in the time of COVID-19: Taking stock of initial responses of technical vocational and educational training”</u> in collaboration with the UNESCO and the World Bank. Recently, she edited, updated and finalized the publication, <u>“Changing demand for skills in digital economies and societies: Literature review and case studies from low- and middle-income countries”</u>. Currently, she is coordinating the work on developing a practical guidance tool on how to <u>green TVET and skills development</u>. Before joining the ILO, she worked at the OECD Development Centre and the Korean Delegation to the OECD in Paris. She also has work experience at the Embassy of</p>

	<p>Rwanda in Seoul, and worked as a research assistant at Seoul National University. She holds a Master's Degree in International Commerce from Seoul National University.</p>
	<p>Rabiya Anwer, as an Assistant Secretary General at the Employers' Federation of Pakistan, brings seven years of experience in advocacy and awareness raising for creating inclusive workplaces and accessible education opportunities for all. With a passion for youth empowerment, especially for young girls in marginalized communities, she has been a fervent advocate for their rights and inclusion at various prestigious forums, including Youth @ Heart Virtual Forum 2020, the launch of Global Survey Youth & COVID, and World Youth Skills Day 2021. Rabiya's contributions to the Federation's advocacy and policy work span critical issues like decent work, skills development, responsible business conduct, and disability inclusion in the workplace. A defender of gender equality, she passionately advocates its intersectional perspective for combating discrimination, as highlighted during her address at the 51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Globally engaged, Rabiya actively participates in initiatives such as the Youth Advisory Group of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, promoting green opportunities for young people. Moreover, her involvement in the IOE Policy Working Group on Gender Equality and Diversity and the Private Sector Leadership Working Group of Global Youth Employment Opportunities Summit-YEO 2030 Initiative showcases her commitment to driving positive change on a global scale.</p>
	<p>Boitumelo Molete is the Social Development Policy Coordinator at the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), lead on Climate Change and Just Transition. She has worked on issues of Climate Change through the labour perspective for 8 years by interrogating the effects of Climate Change on the working class which started at the National Labour and Economic Development Institute (NALEDI). She is currently the lead on Climate Change and Just Transition for COSATU, as one of the experts who inputted and contributed on the newly developed COSATU Just Transition Blueprint for workers. Issues of social protection and decent work are core focuses of the work and are lobbied across structures. Boitumelo currently sits on the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) which is the key body for social dialogue on behalf of the Federation, its Affiliates and workers as the labour constituent takes place. This includes representing Organised Labour in MANCO and EXCO, and in the NEDLAC Development Chamber. She is a Universal Basic Income Coalition (UBIC) subcommittee member; Trade Unions for Energy Democracy South (TUED South) Advisory Group Interim Committee member and Youth Advisory Group of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact member. She has attended the Conference of Parties and other UNFCCC conferences wherein she has been a technical and strategic</p>

	<p>representative. Boitumelo is studying towards a Leadership Development Programme (University of Pretoria: Enterprise 2023) and a BA Sociology Honours (University of South Africa: 2024). She attained academic qualifications including a Certificate (ITCILO looking at the Global Workers' Academy on Just Transition and Green Jobs:2021); Post Graduate Diploma in Labour Law (University of Johannesburg :2019); Advanced Project Management (University of Kwa Zulu Natal – Extended: 2018); Project Management (Cape Peninsula University Technology: 2017); Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Sciences and Sociology (University of Johannesburg: 2012) and a Research Sociology Certificate University of Johannesburg: 2012).</p>
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PANEL TWO: Green skills and sustainable lifestyles/transferable skills

	<p>Shri/ Mr. Nitesh Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary, D/o Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports: Mr. Nitesh Kumar Mishra is a Civil Servant, with more than 27 years of experience in the areas of Public Policy and its execution. He has vast experience of working in major Ministries of Government of India. Presently as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, he is ensuring twin objectives of personality-building and nation-building by optimally tapping constructive and creative energies of the youth by developing their personality and involving them in various nation-building activities. Mr. Mishra is a member of the Executive Committee of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) and contributes to the implementation of Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK) Scheme and National Service Scheme (NSS). In addition to his duties as Joint Secretary, Mr. Mishra is Director General, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, the biggest Youth Organization in the world having around 50 lakh volunteers.</p>
	<p>Ms Andrea De Remes: GenU Young People's Action Team: Andrea De Remes is the co-founder and CEO of Erandi Aprende, a social venture that demonstrates the key to unlocking the potential of girls in STEM, which lies in nurturing and guiding them to develop incredible ideas. The digital platform, designed especially for Spanish and bilingual speakers, delivers an engaging, open-ended learning approach that transforms STEAM projects into thrilling adventures, led by an avatar, a young girl and inventor named Erandi. Andrea is also part of the Generation Unlimited Young People's Action Team and Global Leadership Council. She has been recognized with prizes and distinctions including the Youth Challenge 2.0 Over 18 Overall Global Winner, Yunus & Youth LATAM Fellow, Rising Impact Maker by YEF Global 2021, Halcyon Incubator Residential Fellow Fall 2022, Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative 2023 Fellow and as a Vital Voices Visionary. Andrea holds a Bachelor's degree in South and Southeast Asian Studies and a Master in Political Science from Leiden University in the Netherlands.</p>



Mr Jean Claude Niyomugabo: GenU Young People's Action Team:

Jean Claude Niyomugabo is the Co-Founder and CEO of Speke Farms, an agritech company that connects farmers to the market using digital platforms, training them about conserving the environment and agriculture, and providing financial advice through digital technology. He has 2 years of experience working with farmers to conduct research on how climate-smart agriculture can help small-scale farmers boost productivity and how green jobs can be explored to generate income. Jean Claude is a young leader within the Young People's Action Team, the youth advisory board of the Generation Unlimited (GenU) secretariat at UNICEF, serving as the elected co-manager of the Entrepreneurship Community of Practice, a consortium of practitioners and business leaders within the GenU network working on youth-led green business solutions. Jean Claude has a bachelor's degree in Conservation Agriculture from Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA) and earned the prestigious Ban Ki Moon Youth Agri Champion title for 2022.







Ms Marthle du Plessis is a Partner in PwC Advisory and Leads PwC's Africa Workforce of the Future Platform. She is furthermore the South African Lead for PwC's global cross Industry "New World, New Skills" campaign studying the future world of work and the associated skills to succeed. She is the sponsor of the Africa Organisational Agility Community of Interest and is an active member of the global Organisational Design leadership team focusing on new strategic growth plays. She is a subject matter expert in the design of strategy led Target Operating Models and has significant experience in large scale workforce transformational programmes both locally and abroad. Prior to joining PwC, Marthle worked for Accenture in a Senior Manager capacity where she led the South Africa Talent, Learning and Development team as well as the Organisational design Community.




Julia Stevens is a programme consultant with UNICEF's Generation Unlimited. As a youth specialist, she has extensive experience working with UN agencies, policy makers and civil society organisations globally. Throughout her career she has designed, managed, evaluated, and scaled programmes and policies working with youth, not as beneficiaries, but as agents of change, innovators, knowledge providers and partners in the implementation of the SDGs. She has worked on a cross-section of youth initiatives spanning youth leadership, youth civic engagement and youth participation. With a special interest in participatory methodologies, she completed her Masters in Peace Education at the United Nations Mandated University for Peace. She has worked with UNESCO, UNITAR, ILO, UN Women and ITU to design knowledge products, develop training programmes and provide technical and strategic guidance and support to specialised agencies on the development and implementation of international and regional youth strategies.

PANEL THREE: Green skills and a just green transition

	<p>Kohei Yamada is an Associate Social Affairs Officer from the Programme on Youth Unit at the Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Kohei brings years of experience facilitating intergovernmental coordination and engaging in policy-focused research and advocacy for youth development and inclusion. His expertise extends to the intersection of youth with key global issues including climate change, environmental sustainability, and education for sustainable development. Through his various capacities and roles at intergovernmental organizations, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Office, and Stockholm Environment Institute, among others, he has collaborated with policymakers, civil society, academia and youth to drive policy dialogues, discuss regional and global strategies and cultivate partnerships for the implementation of SDGs. Kohei holds a master's degree in development studies from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Additionally, he holds a second master's degree in international relations from Ritsumeikan University in Japan.</p>
	<p>Francesca Dalla Valle works as a Programme Officer for the Decent Rural Employment Team at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in its headquarters in Rome, Italy. She graduated in International Relations and Peace & Conflict Studies and holds a MSc in International Economics. She focuses her work on youth-specific issues and rural youth employment activities, from both policy and operational angles, at global, regional and country level, in both development and fragile contexts. Francesca has been working for the United Nations for over 20 years and, previous to the FAO, she worked for various other UN entities and programmes.</p>
	<p>Adejoke Lasisi is an African fabric designer and environmentalist. She is the founder of Planet 3R and Jokelinks Weaving School. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife. She also holds a certificate in Entrepreneurial Management from EDC Lagos, Nigeria. Adejoke is saving the planet using her weaving skills by converting textile and plastic wastes into innovative products. In her quest to create more impact, she realized many people in her community dumped textile and plastic wastes by the roadside which majorly causes blockage to drainage while some people even burn them thereby depleting the ozone layer which is hazardous to environment. This prompted her to use the weaving skills she acquired from her mother while growing up to create an innovative solution by starting planet 3R initiative. Planet 3R converts Plastic and Textile wastes into Eco-friendly products. Through her Initiative, she and her team have been able to achieve some goals which includes collection of 940,352kg of recyclable wastes from the street and training about 264 youths and women. They have also sensitized over 10,000 students across various</p>

	secondary schools in Ibadan, Oyo state on waste management and recycling. They have also created employment opportunities for 21 individuals which have overall contributed to a cleaner and safer environment.
	Anjali Chalise is a School and College Coordinator at Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA) which is the largest youth-led network fighting against the climate crisis in Nepal and the thematic Coordinator of "Culture for Climate Action" at the YoU-CAN Steering Committee. She is also a Children and Youth Advisor of the Red Alert Network at Save the Children, Nepal, where she advocates for young people's rights in the face of climate challenges. In her academic and advocacy journey, Anjali has co-authored "Climate Campaign Toolkit-2021" to empower communities in addressing climate issues. She has also represented Nepal at the Conference of Parties (COP27) in Egypt as the youth delegate.

Spotlight Session: UNEP's Sustainable Lifestyles and Education team

	<p>Laura Astudillo Mesías is the Communications Consultant for the Sustainable Lifestyles and Education team, in the Economy Division of the UN Environment Program in Paris. She started her career as a journalist in Colombia covering sustainability before moving on to Sustainable Development. In UNEP, she has been working on shifting the way sustainability is communicated by highlighting the role individuals can play to live better and lighter. By engaging all kinds of stakeholders, UNEP's Sustainable Lifestyles team is trying to convey real, aspirational sustainable messages to promote effective action for change. She has a master's degree in International Development from Sciences Po (France) and a degree in Journalism from Universidad del Rosario (Colombia).</p> <p>UNEP's SLE Team is working on tools for civil society to identify the sectors and aspects in which they can act efficiently to combat the planetary crises. Through applying a 'people lens' to sustainability, the team seeks to empower people to find ways to live better and lighter.</p>
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