

**Title:** Transforming Education for Sustainable Development Through Youth Climate Action

**Date and Time:** 11 November at 13:15 - 14:45

**Venue:** Memphis Room (Blue Zone)

**Organising Partners:** World Organisation of the Scout Movement, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Restless Development

**Brief Event Description:** This event will highlight the importance of collective action from young people to preserve and protect our planet. The discussion will spotlight three powerful climate education programmes [Earth Tribe](#), [Youth Climate Action Lab](#) and [Girl-Led Action on Climate Change](#), and provide a platform to hear from institutions and governments on how they support youth leadership and invest in programmes that aim to transform education for sustainable development through youth climate action

**Speakers:** Confirmed speakers for this event include ([please see Annex 1 for speaker bios](#)) -

#### Youth Speakers

- Inés Yabar (Co-facilitator), Restless Development - Peru
- Verónica Monserrat Arjona De La Cruz (Co-facilitator), WAGGGS - Mexico
- Kazi Zubair Hossain (Speaker), WOSM - Bangladesh
- Thuto Lucy Matobo (Speaker), WAGGGS - Lesotho
- Devika Chhabra (Speaker), Restless Development - India

#### High-Level Speakers / Respondents

- Dr Omnia El Omrani, Youth Envoy for the COP27 President
- Michael Alexander, Communications and Advocacy Expert, UNEP
- Camila Zepeda, Director General for Global Affairs at Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico's Chief Climate and Biodiversity Negotiator
- HE Dr Tariq Al Gurg, CEO, Dubai Cares
- Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
- Liesbet Steer, Executive Director, Education Commission
- Inkar Kadyrzhanova, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Office on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO

**Format and Agenda:** The format for this event aims to encourage dialogue and discussion, rather than using traditional panel formats and pre-prepared presentations. The event will be led by two youth co-facilitators. Below is an overview of the event agenda and structure:

Timing	Activity	Leads
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 chairs set up on stage for youth speakers and facilitator.</li> <li>• Co-facilitators walk on stage with microphones and remain standing for welcome and intro.</li> </ul>	
13:15 - 13:20	<b>Welcome + Introduction</b>	<b>Inés</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short welcome and overview of the event (include those online)</li> </ul>	
13:20 - 13:25	<b>Opening KeyNote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Omnia El Omrani, Youth Envoy for the COP27 President</b> - Sets the scene for the discussion and event theme</li> </ul>	<b>Verónica to introduce</b>
13:25 - 13:30	<b>Room Energiser</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A short activity to encourage participants to connect and engage in the discussion</li> <li>Turn to the person next to you and ask 'Why do you think climate and education are linked?'</li> <li>When I say 'Youth' you say 'Power!' Youth Power!</li> </ul>	<b>Verónica</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Facilitator invites three youth speakers to come sit on the stage.</i></li> </ul>		
13:30 - 13:50	<b>Interactive Youth Discussion Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interactive dialogue with the three youth speakers, to talk for 5 minutes about their climate and education programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Thuto</b> - Girl Led Action on Climate Change</li> <li><b>Kazi</b> - Earth Tribe</li> <li><b>Devika</b> - Youth Climate Action Lab</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Inés</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Kazi and Devika leave the stage, and the first youth speaker remains in their seat.</i></li> <li><i>Camila walks on stage</i></li> </ul>		
13:50 - 14:25	<b>High-Level Respondents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitator explains what we're going to do with this session</li> <li>Facilitator invites / introduces <b>Camila Zepeda, Government of Mexico</b> to the stage</li> <li>Thuto will dialogue with <b>Camila Zepeda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Thuto and Camila Zepeda will leave the stage</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Facilitator invites / introduces <b>Michael Alexander, UNEP</b> to the stage who is joining <b>Kazi</b></li> <li><b>Kazi</b> will dialogue with <b>Michael Alexander</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Kazi and Michael Alexander will leave the stage.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Facilitator invites / introduces <b>Devika and HE Dr Tariq Al Gurg, Dubai Cares</b> to the stage</li> <li><b>Devika</b> with dialogue with <b>Tariq Al Gurg, Dubai Cares</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Devika and Tariq Al Gurg, Dubai Cares will leave the stage</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Each pair has 10 minutes together on stage.</p>	<b>Verónica</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>All speakers and respondents have now left the stage, apart from the co-facilitators</i></li> </ul>		

14:25 - 14:44	<b>Closing Speaker Remarks and Calls to Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr Liesbet Steer, Executive Director, Education Commission</b></li> <li>• <b>Inkar Kadyrzhanova, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Office on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO</b></li> </ul>	<b>Inés to introduce</b>
14:44 - 14:45	<b>Brief Thanks and Close</b>  <b>END</b>	<b>Verónica</b>

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### Annex 1: Speaker Bios

#### **Inés Yabar, Restless Development - Peru**

Actively working towards a more sustainable future since she was 15. By volunteering in beach cleanups in the coastline of Peru, she helped collect data and organise thousands of volunteers to help inform policies in Peru: leading to banning single use plastics after 7 years of relentless work. She is currently the Global Youth Power Manager for Restless Development helping young people achieve a more just and sustainable world and sits on the leadership team. Inés is on the board of L.O.O.P. (a grassroots women led Peruvian social impact company conserving the marine ecosystem) and the board of Ensemble pour TECHO (an organisation seeking to overcome poverty in Latin America). Her previous experiences include working with organisations in France, Lebanon and Japan to reach the 2030 agenda. Inés is also a Global Shaper (Lima Hub), a Plastic Action Champion, Next Generation Fellow with the UN Foundation and sits on the Global Plastic Action Partnership Advisory committee. Through her journey she combines her research, volunteering and job to continue learning, sharing and acting towards a more sustainable future.

#### **Verónica Monserrat Arjona De La Cruz, WAGGGS - Mexico**

Veronica Monserrat from Veracruz Mexico is 22 years old and part of Guías de México, she is also an Advocacy Champion for Climate Change. Veronica has been a Girl Guide for 12 years, it was and still is life changing for her as through this she has developed lifetime skills that helps her to develop a better society. She grew up with a strong community of women leading change, helping and caring for each other. She is truly committed to work for gender equality and ending gender gaps. She is about to graduate from the Bachelor of Renewable Energy Engineering (specializing in Sustainable Development). Veronica has a strong interest in environmental activism, leadership for sustainable change, sustainable sciences and climate action. She always takes part in various environmental campaigns, programs or discussions, in her Guides community or her university.

#### **Kazi Zubair Hossain, WOSM - Bangladesh**

Kazi serves as a Youth Representative of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). He co-leads the Environment Advocacy Group of WOSM and represents Scouting externally in different environmental advocacy processes. He also serves as the Environmental Education thematic facilitator of the UN Environment Programme-Children and Youth Major Group (UNEP-CYMG). He is a Scout Leader from Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he is actively involved in national policy processes and community development within the Bangladesh Scouts, country's largest youth organization. In the past few years, he has implemented several service projects related to environment and climate action. For overall excellence, in 2009 he was awarded the President's Scout Award and in 2018 the President's Rover Scout Award by the President of Bangladesh. Kazi holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics from the University of Dhaka. He has expertise in the field of Computational Statistics, Regression & Time Series Analysis, Survey Sampling, and Program M&E. He also holds a Certificate of Professional Development in Climate Change Education.

**Thuto Lucy Matobo (Speaker), WAGGGS - Lesotho**

Thuto Matobo is a 29 year old female Youth Leader and Climate change advocate from the Lesotho Girl Guides Association (LGGA). She joined guiding in 2001. She holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) from the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and a Master of Laws (LLM) in Environmental Law and Governance from the North West University (NWU). She has participated in national policy formulation in Lesotho relating to Climate Change and Occupational Health and Safety. She is a certified Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Legal Auditor where she has experience auditing the Largest mines in Lesotho ensuring that they are compliant with International and National Environmental laws. She holds professional affiliation with Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) where she conducts legal research and engages in climate change education initiatives. Thuto is a lecturer at the NUL, teaching Environmental Law and supervising dissertations on Climate Change Law. Thuto is passionate about nature and aspires to see more women involved in climate change advocacy.

**Devika Chhabra, Restless Development - India**

Devika currently works as a Youth Climate Champion for Restless Development's Youth Climate Action Lab in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. She is also studying a BSc triple major degree in Biotechnology, Chemistry, and Zoology from Christ University, Bangalore. As a Youth Climate Champion, Devika focuses on understanding the impact that water access and quality has on urban community members in the DJ Halli community of Bengaluru. Through youth-led advocacy, the project aims to raise awareness and mobilise communities to take action on the barriers posed by climate change; especially in the informal settlement colonies. Devika also started her own initiative REPLASTECO in 2018. REPLASTECO aims to prevent PET bottles from entering the oceans, protecting the underprivileged from the harsh winters whilst spreading awareness about the horrific implications of single-use plastic.

**Dr Omnia El Omrani, Youth Envoy for the COP27 President**

Omnia El Omrani is the first official Youth Envoy for the COP27 President and a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Resident from Egypt. She has more than seven years of experience in climate change and facilitated over 74 hours of training sessions and workshops in 15 countries across the world. She is a Commissioner at the Lancet-Chatham House

Commission on Post-COVID Population Health, a Youth Sounding Board member of the EU DG-INTPA, an associate at Women Leaders for Planetary Health, and a member of the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety and UNICEF-Az Youth Leaders Programme. She has attended the last three UN Climate Change Conferences in Katowice, Madrid, and Glasgow, representing more than 1.3 million medical students worldwide in the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA).

**Michael Alexander, Communications and Advocacy Expert, GEF Biodiversity Unit, UNEP**

Michael Alexander has joined the GEF Biodiversity & Land Degradation Unit as a Communications and Advocacy Expert. Michael previously worked with WWF, where he most recently led the Policy & Advocacy team for WWF-Singapore. Prior to that he worked in the advertising industry in London for nearly 10 years. Michael is British but remains confused about where home lies: he was born in Vienna, grew up in Tokyo and has since lived in the UK and Singapore. He currently lives in Singapore with his fiancée and their adopted dog and two cats.

**Camila Zepeda, Director General for Global Affairs at Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico's Chief Climate and Biodiversity Negotiator**

**HE Dr Tariq Al Gurg, CEO, Dubai Cares**

HE Dr. Tariq Al Gurg was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Cares in 2009. Al Gurg has enabled Dubai Cares to contribute to the evidence-base in education, leverage funding and invest in strategic relationships and programs that support the global education agenda. Al Gurg is a founding member of the High-Level Steering Group of 'Education Cannot Wait' as well as Generation Unlimited, UNICEF's flagship youth initiative, where he also sits on its Global Board and Global Leadership Council. He is also a high-level Champion of World Economic Forum's Reskilling Revolution, a member of the advisory board of UNESCO's Futures of Education Commission and the Regional Champion of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in the Middle East. Al Gurg is also a member of the UAE Committee for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid headed by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC). Al Gurg's past experience includes 12 years at various senior management positions within the consumer and corporate banking at National Bank of Dubai (Currently known as Emirates NBD).

**Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO**

Ms Stefania Giannini was appointed UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education in May 2018, becoming the top UN official in the field. In this position, she provides strategic vision and leadership in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda, encompassed in Sustainable Development Goal 4. During her term, she has given fresh impetus to multilateral and bilateral partnerships, including through the establishment of the Multilateral Education Platform; increased global focus on education's ethical role in providing learners with the skills to respond to 21st century challenges; heightened attention to the responsibility of universities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and fostered closer relations between education, culture and the social and natural sciences. She affirmed UNESCO's leadership in the context of the COVID-19 response, the most profound disruption to education in recent history, through global

evidence, guidance, policy dialogue and collaborative work with UN partners to support countries and jointly advocate for prioritizing education in the recovery. She has encouraged mission-oriented approaches with public and private partners to build resilience and reimagine education, including through the Global Education Coalition. With an academic background in the Humanities, Ms Giannini has served as Rector of the University for Foreigners of Perugia (2004 – 2012), being one of the first and youngest women to hold this position in Italy. As Senator of the Republic of Italy (2013 – 2018) and Minister of Education, Universities and Research (2014 – 2016), she developed and implemented a structural reform of the Italian education system, centred on social inclusion and cultural awareness. She has also been closely involved in an advisory capacity with the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation.

**Dr Liesbet Steer, Executive Director, Education Commission**

Dr. Liesbet Steer is the Executive Director of the Education Commission, chaired by former UK Prime Minister and UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown. She was director of the Commission's report *The Learning Generation*, and now oversees the Commission's global work around five key education transformations identified by the Commission: learning approaches, teachers and the education workforce, delivery systems, education financing, and cross-sectoral action. Under Liesbet's leadership, the Commission has been at the forefront of new thinking in education financing calling for more effective and "progressive" domestic spending, innovative international and private financing (through the International Finance Facility for Education, the Education Outcomes Fund and Greater Share), and better coordination of external funding (including through her leadership of the Global Education Forum and Save Our Future). Liesbet has over 20 years of experience in international development and finance across the world – working for the World Bank, IFC, Asia Foundation, ODI, and Brookings. Between 1997 and 2007, she lived in Vietnam and Indonesia where she worked on economic development in the Asia region. Liesbet has written widely on development finance and education and presented in a wide range of fora and advisory panels. She currently serves on the Board of Greater Share, the Global Leadership Council of Generation Unlimited, the High Level Steering Group of the Education Outcomes Fund, and the World Economic Forum Education 4.0 Alliance. Liesbet was educated at the Universities of Antwerp and East Anglia, and the London School of Economics. She holds a M.Sc. in Quantitative Economics, and Ph.D. in Development Economics. She is married to Andrew Steer and has two college-aged children.

**Inkar Kadyrzhanova, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Office on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO**

Inkar Kadyrzhanova is a senior officer focusing on climate change in agriculture at FAO. Before that, she worked at UN Women, UNFCCC and UNDP on mitigation, climate resilience and environment management. She has been a gender and climate change adviser at the UN Women Office for Asia and the Pacific, where she led the regional work on gender mainstreaming in climate change and disaster risk reduction. Prior to that, she worked at the UN Climate Change secretariat on mitigation, data and analysis issues and supported the negotiation process on climate action by state and non-state stakeholders. She worked as an environmentalist at UNDP in Europe and the CIS covering regional environment programmes. She has more than 20 years of work experience in the area of environment

protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation and worked at different UN agencies. She holds a graduate degree from the Moscow State University and two Master's degrees from the Kazakhstan Institute of Economics and Planning and the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.