



Department for Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development

Expert Group Meeting
'Youth, Development, and Rights'
13-14 November 2013
New York

Participant Biographies
In order of intervention

Day one: Political and Civic Participation

Topic Overview

Jorge Cardona, born in Valencia on 30 April 1957, Cardona holds a Chair in Public International Law and International Relations at the University of Valencia. He is member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011-) and a member of the Committee appointed by the *Secretariat of the Ibero-American Youth Organisation* (OIJ) for the monitoring of the compliance by States of the Ibero-American Convention on Young People's Rights (2010-). He is a former member of the *Commission of Notables* appointed by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the study of the reform of the Inter-American System of Human Rights (1999-2001). *Legal Expert* of the Conference of Ibero-American Ministers of Justice (COMJIB) (since 2008).

Cardona is Professor of Public International Law at the Spanish Universities of Valencia (1980-1984, 1985-95, and since 2008), Alicante (1984-85), and Jaime I in Castellón (1995-2008). Visiting Professor at Universities and Scientific Institutes in Europe, Latin America and Africa. Member of the Management Council for the Master on International and European Studies of the University of Valencia, as well as for the International Doctoral Programme on International and European Law (since 2007), and member of the Management Council for the Master on Human Rights, Peace and Sustainable Development of the University of Valencia, as well as for the International Doctoral Programme on Human Rights (since 2007). Henri Rolin Chair at the Universities of Louvain-La-Neuve and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (2009). Chairman of the Centre for Studies on Law and International Relations (CEDRI) (since

2007). *Director of the Depository Library of the United Nations* at the University of Valencia (since 2007). He is a member of the scientific committee of the *Revista Española de Derecho Internacional* (1990-98; 2011-). He is author of nearly 150 publications on International Law, in particular on: the Law of Treaties, International Trade Law, European Law, the Law of International Responsibility, the Law of International Organisations, human rights, and peacekeeping and international security.

Leonardo SC Castilho currently serves as Human Rights Officer with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in its New York Office, where he is the focal point for different issues under non-discrimination, including youth rights, and economic, social and cultural rights. He also held positions with OHCHR in its headquarters in Geneva; its Regional Office for South America in Santiago, Chile; and its Country office for Guatemala. Prior to joining OHCHR, he also worked with UNFPA on development and human rights in different positions in its country office for Brazil and regional projects for the Latin American region, including in Haiti. Before joining the United Nations, he worked for human rights NGOs in his hometown of Rio de Janeiro and at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica. A jurist by training, he began his university studies at PUC-Rio, graduated with a Master on International Development from Sciences-Po Paris and obtained another Master of Studies on International Human Rights Law at Oxford University.

Session one: Political Participation

Rathika Sitsabaiesan is a Member of Parliament in Canada. Rathika's political, social, and cultural consciousness took shape early on in her life as her parents have been community activists who worked towards the advancement and injection of Tamil culture into the Canadian fabric.

Since the age of nine, Rathika has been making a difference at the grassroots level as a volunteer and community organizer in various capacities. Her inspiration for political participation stems from the student movement, the labour movement, and pursuit of social justice. The causes which are close to her heart include poverty reduction, affordable housing, access to education, employment equity, immigration, and the preservation of Tamil language and culture.

Rathika was elected to be the Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Rouge River in the 2011 Federal Election in Canada. She is the first person of Tamil descent to be elected to the Parliament of Canada and only the second Tamil woman to be elected to any federal parliament outside India or Sri Lanka. She is the first woman and first person of colour to be elected to represent the constituency at the federal level. Rathika was 29 years old when she was elected, becoming the province of Ontario's youngest Member of Parliament.

Åshild Marie Vige is 25 years old and from Norway. Åshild is currently a law student at the University of Oslo and a board member of LNU - The Norwegian Children and Youth Council. Her areas of expertise in the board is UN and HIV and AIDS matters. Åshild has been active in Norwegian NGOs for several years, both as an employee and volunteer. In 2012, Åshild was one of Norway's two youth delegates to the UN General Assembly. From 2011-2013, she was president in Queer Youth Norway, Norway's youth organization on LGBT rights. She has also been working in Young Friends of the Earth Norway for several years. Common for the various organizations she has been involved in, Åshild has been working with meaningful and real youth participation.

Alejandro Morlachetti holds a Master of Law degree (LL.M) from Columbia University (New York, 1997) and a Law degree from the School of Law of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (1990). From 1998 he has worked as an independent consultant for several international organizations, including: UNICEF, UNDP, PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, ILO, IOM, FAO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

He has been an advisor of several governments on how to integrate human rights into national public policies and legislation and strengthen the capacity of countries to develop and implement human rights based programs and services and promoting the use of mechanisms of protection available in the UN human rights and Regional systems and the standards and decisions that have been issued by UN treaty bodies.

He is a Professor of Economic, Social and Cultural rights at the Human Rights Master Degree, University of La Plata, Argentina. He is a Visiting Professor of a Seminar on Public Policies with a Human Rights Perspective at the University of Concepcion, Chile and he is a Research Fellow (Migration & Human Rights Program - Centre of Human Rights) at the National University of Lanus, Argentina. He is a member of the Commission of Experts of the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth

Session two: Civic Engagement

Ivana Savić is Executive Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Development Studies, a youth-led think tank on human rights and sustainable development. Since 2009, she has been one of the Organising Partners for the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) with a mandate to coordinate and facilitate young people's participation in the international sustainability negotiations, namely the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 and now the post-2015 process, the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals. Ivana is also a member of the UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee, and CIVICUS Youth Advisory Group. Additionally, she has been involved in different youth initiatives worldwide and has

been internationally recognized expert in the field of the rights of the child, youth rights, human rights and environment, sustainable development and young people's participation. Ivana holds an LLM degree in the Rights of the Child and is a Doctoral candidate in the Rights of the Child at the Union University, Faculty of Law in Belgrade, Serbia.

Andrea Landry is currently on her way to attaining her Masters in Communications and Social Justice at the University of Windsor, Canada. She has been involved, and engaged with, advocacy roles within the indigenous community on a local, provincial, national and international level. Her work ethic enables her to exceed past her fullest potential and strive forward to personally, and politically engage for brighter futures for aboriginal youth in Canada. Andrea sits on the United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Caucus. Through this work, Andrea represents Aboriginal youth living in Canada and brings their issues to the forefront for further advancement. She has also been involved with political engagement strategies which enable her to meet with MLA's, MPs and the Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, to discuss the best ways to create better lives for aboriginal people living in Canada. By putting the issues on the table in front of world, and political leaders, addressing the problems becomes less difficult, and information sharing processes, along with education processes, become highly effective. Andrea has been key in developing local, provincial, national, and international rallies for the Idle No More movement. Andrea hopes to accomplish a lot more in her life surrounding advocacy, social justice, and the role of providing advancement for the Aboriginal community in Canada.

Pablo Angulo is Youth Program Associate at World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) in the New York office for 2013-2014. He became involved with UNA-Venezuela in 2009 after some classmates invited him to join the creation of the UNA-Venezuela Youth Section. He was appointed Activities Coordinator of UNA-Venezuela Youth and later worked as the Assistant Coordinator of the R2P Project carried out by UNA-Venezuela in partnership with WFUNA. Apart from his involvement with UNA-Venezuela, he was most recently the National Focal Point of Red Vanguardia, the biggest youth network in Ibero-America whose objective is to engage youth in designing projects of social impact in the region. He has represented Venezuelan youth in several international events and he has been heavily involved in fostering leadership, participation and activism among youth in Venezuela. He holds a degree in Modern Languages with a focus in International Organizations and Translation from the University of the Andes, as well as a certificate degree in Governability and Political Management from George Washington University and Andres Bello Catholic University.

Day Two: Economic Participation

Topic Overview

Beth Porter is Policy Advisor, Financial Inclusion, for the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). Ms. Porter has two decades of experience in financial inclusion in 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. At UNCDF she provides policy guidance and support to the global team on financial inclusion. She previously directed an initiative at Making Cents International to build institutional capabilities in youth-inclusive financial services. As Vice President at Freedom from Hunger, Ms. Porter led program strategy and managed delivery of integrated microfinance services worldwide. Ms. Porter has provided technical assistance and training in strategic planning, organizational effectiveness, and product design, and is experienced in program appraisal, design and evaluation. Ms. Porter is on the boards of the SEEP Network, Bolivian MFI CRECER, SMART Campaign, Child and Youth Finance International, and YFS-Link, and was a founder of Women Advancing Microfinance International. Ms. Porter holds a Master's Degree from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a Bachelor's degree from Stanford University. She speaks English, French, and Spanish.

Session one: Recognition

Jean-Pierre Kallanian worked in the Massachusetts' juvenile justice system for 16 years. He started his career working with at-risk and disadvantaged youth providing individual, group, and family counseling in a 16-bed secure treatment facility, which led to him overseeing counseling services in a 20-bed secure detention facility. From 2001 to 2013 he managed a residential treatment program providing rehabilitative and reintegration services that received state-wide recognition and replication. For several years he volunteered on the board of an international non-profit youth organization (ICNYP) advocating and presenting on behalf of reintegrating at-risk young people and youth in conflict with the law.

Jean-Pierre assisted both his organization's youth programming division and the state's juvenile justice agency in formulating policies and practices to best met the changing needs of youth and families. Jean-Pierre is now living in Austria where he is starting up his own youth and family consulting organization (<http://www.epiconsulting.org>) and currently writing an innovative and inspiring parenting book on adolescence that presents the teenager as someone from whom parents can learn to not only improve their parenting skills, but also grow individually in reaching their true potential.

Natalia Popova (*fortcoming*)

Andrea Bateman has over thirty years experience in the secondary, TVET & Higher Education sectors. She has had extensive experience as a quality auditor at state and national level. She has researched and provides advice in the following core TVET topics: competency based assessment, graded assessment, recognition of prior learning and credit transfer, professional judgement and quality assurance systems.

Andrea has a special interest in the development, functionality and purpose of qualifications frameworks and quality assurance systems.

Consultancies include project management and concept development of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (2011–2013); EAS Summit TVET Quality Assurance Framework (2012); refinement of Pacific Qualifications Framework (common reference framework for 15 South Pacific countries) and related regional quality assurance framework (2010 – 2011); review of Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) (2009); review of international quality assurance systems of TVET (2009); review of Asia Pacific Quality Network (2008); review of Australian Qualifications Framework (2008, 2010); review of quality assurance mechanisms for offshore delivery of education and training (2005); cross-sectoral review of off-shore quality systems (TVET and English as a Second Language) (2007).

Andrea holds a Master of Assessment & Evaluation (UniMelb), BA, BEd (Sch Lib), Diploma of Education.

Session two: In the workforce

Amy Huziak is the National Representative for young workers at the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). While completing a B.A. in Political Science and Gender Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, Amy became involved with labour activism through the United Food and Commercial Workers Union serving in her workplace as a shop steward, chief steward and bargaining committee member. Amy then campaigned for election to the Executive Council of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour as the Vice-President for Young Workers, where she represented the interests of young and new workers for the province. She went on to work briefly as the Provincial Coordinator for the Ready-for-Work program, which trains high school students in Occupational Health & Safety as well as Employment Standards, before taking on her current role as the National Representative for Young Workers at the Canadian Labour Congress. In her national role with the CLC, Amy is responsible for engagement and education with young working people across Canada, including working with trade unions and community organizations to develop initiatives for youth participation within the labour movement, as well as in broader politics and activism. This involves not only working with youth, but working to develop intergenerational understandings of activism and social justice. She also

represents Canada with the International Trade Unions Confederation Young Workers Committee, as well as the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas Young Workers Committee. In 2012, Amy participated in the International Labour Organization's Global Youth Employment Forum as a delegate representing working youth.

Rory O'Sullivan is the Policy and Research Director at Young Invincibles where he oversees the organization's policy research and advocacy strategy. He is an expert in a variety of issues related to young adults including financial aid, skills acquisition, youth employment, health insurance coverage, and consumer information. Rory serves on the board of the Campaign for College opportunity, a higher education advocacy non-profit in California. He is also a student negotiator on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Gainful Employment at the United States Department of Education.

Rory's work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, NPR, MSNBC, Reuters, Business Week, The LA Times, Yahoo News, The Christian Science Monitor, and C-SPAN among others. He graduated from Pomona College in 2006 with a B.A. in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and completed a joint J.D./M.P.P. in 2011 at Georgetown University.

Daniel Adugna is a young professional working in the Division for Capacity building and Youth Development of the African Union Commission (AUC). He is in charge for the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AU-YVC) a program that promotes volunteering to deepen the status of young people in Africa as key participants in the delivery of Africa's human development targets and goals. In addition, Mr. Adugna is directly involved at a continental level policy making and their subsequent implementation in AU Member States with bearing on Youth. These include the African Youth Charter and the African Youth Decade.

Currently he is actively working with the department of Peace and Security of the AUC in deploying young professionals to post conflict states in Africa and promoting youth entrepreneurship. Mr. Adugna holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Information Systems from the Technical University Munich, Germany and is currently pursuing his MBA with the Lincoln University, California. His professional interests include: Peace and security; Agribusiness; Project Management and Operations; Systems Function; Institutional growth and development; Multi-disciplinary work; Information and Communication Technologies; African business and diplomacy; Pan-Africanism and Regional integration; Youth participation and leadership.

Jeremy Liddle believes entrepreneurial thinking can change the world. He is a speaker, global thought leader and author specialising in the art of 'Entrepreneurial Thinking'. As the Australian President for the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance & summits, and Director of Entrepreneurship for The Enterprise Network for Young

Australians, Jeremy advises world leaders on global best practice in policy and processes for business success, with the intention of creating positive change & sustainability. By the age of 20 Jeremy was managing his first start up business in the booming Australian juice bar trade, opening up Australia's number one Juice Station Outlet. In 2005, he went on to co-found a natural health company called RioLife which picked up various accolades, including in 2010 winning My Business Magazine's fastest growing small business award.

Jeremy is a Tedx speaker, and has keynoted globally for G20YEA on the art of entrepreneurial thinking and leadership. He won "The search for Australia's top young entrepreneur" at Australia's largest convention for young entrepreneurs, "The Entourage" UnConvention in September 2011, and featured in the Shoestring Media 2012 Young & Influential list. His latest book "From Idea to Start-Up", has been hugely successful in assisting young entrepreneurs implement processes to create a vision and execute a dream.