



Building a better world, partnering with youth

Google+ Hangouts Speaker Biographies

Political Inclusion, 8 August 2012, 11am EST

Ms. Sima BAHOUS- UNDP

Sima is Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States. From 2008 through early 2012, Sima was the Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Development Sector at the League of Arab States. Prior to this, she has served in two ministerial posts in Jordan as President of the Higher Media Council (2005-2008) and as Advisor to King Abdullah II (2003-2005). Previous roles include: Head of the Media and Information Division at the Royal Hashemite Court (2001-2003); Executive Director for the King Hussein Foundation (1999-2001); Development and Communication Specialist and later Executive Director of the Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation (1986-2001). She has also taught Development and Communication at Yarmouk University and Petra University in Jordan (1986-1991); and Producer and Host, Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (1980-1983).

Ms. Ilham HASSAN – Youth Representative

After completing her studies in Hargeisa, Ilham worked for the Education Development Centre and subsequently joined Shaqodoon (Youth Employment Empowering Programme) as an Information Match Trainer. Ilham is a news reader at Bulsho TV, Hargeisa Local TV, is an active key member within many youth organisations including Haldoor, Gaaroodi, Somaliland Nationalism Cell, and has been invited by NGOs on various occasions as a guest speaker for events that support the empowerment of youth. Ilham is a member of the Rays political party and is a candidate for the upcoming local municipality election, representing the Hargeisa constituency. Ilham has a wealth of knowledge regarding the political system of Somalia, particularly having lived through civil and tribal wars, and two migrations to refugee camps in Ethiopia.

Mr. Desmond MAUBO – Restless Development

Desmond is a youth advocate from Zambia, and currently Assistant Coordinator of programmes on civic participation, health and rights within Restless Development - Zambia, an international youth led development agency. Desmond is particularly active in the advocacy of sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people



in Zambia, stressing that weaknesses in community structures to hold government responsible for service delivery make populations to economic stress, HIV infection and other sexual and reproductive health challenges. Desmond actively promotes youth engagement with accountability work and in this regard, is currently supporting the design of the new DfID-Zambia Accountability Strategy on political inclusion and participation.

Mr. Ritesh SINHA - ArcelorMittal

Ritesh is Senior Manager for Corporate Social Responsibility for ArcelorMittal (India). ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with a presence in more than 60 countries and global revenues in 2011 amounting to US\$ 94 billion. Through its core values of sustainability, quality and leadership, ArcelorMittal commits to operating in a responsible way with respect to the health, safety and well-being of its employees, contractors and the communities in which it operates. ArcelorMittal is a member of the UN Global Compact, the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index, and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). Ritesh has over a decade of experience in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility and is a strong advocate of stakeholder engagement, institution building and social enterprise promotion.

Mr. Alex WIRTH – Fellow at the Forum for Youth Investment

Alex is an advocate for youth involvement in government, community service, and service-learning. Alex is a Fellow at the Forum for Youth Investment where he is leading the Campaign for a Presidential Youth Council aimed at institutionalizing youth voice in government. In March of 2012, Alex was appointed by Secretary Clinton to the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, a federal advisory committee to the Department of State that supports worldwide humanitarian development and values by coordinating efforts and delivering expert advice on issues of education, science, communications, and culture. He chairs the youth working group of the Commission. Alex founded the Youth Creating Action Network (YouthCAN), serves on the youth councils of DoSomething.org, Youth Service America, the National Youth Association, and Democratic National Committee. Currently, Alex is a student at Harvard University studying government where he is actively involved in the Harvard Institute of Politics.

Citizenship 8 August 2012, 2pm EST

Mr. Ravi Karkara – UN HABITAT

Mr. Ravi Karkara has been a global advocate on the human rights based approach to development and an advocate for social development, social inclusion and social justice. He has extensively contributed to field, programme and policy work including; working with local women leaders, youth leaders, organising high level ministerial consultations, consulting to the UN General Assembly mechanisms, consulting to processes related to regional bodies such as the EU and the AU, and



uniquely organising consultations between young people, the G8 Leaders and Leaders of BRIC countries.

Youth participation has been a key focus of Ravi's work for 17 years. Ravi is pursuing his research on "Inclusive Governance to Strengthen Accountability on Meaningful Youth Participation in social Justice. He is also an Expert Advisor on Children & Youth, Partners and Youth Branch, at UN-HABITAT New York. Ravi has held positions at UNICEF Headquarters, Save the Children Sweden and UK and various other advisory and consultant positions at civil society organisations globally.

MIGUEL ÁNGEL CARREÓN SÁNCHEZ- Director General of the Mexican Institute of Youth

Mr. Carreón Sanchez is 29 years old and holds a BA in Economics by the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and studied a master's degree in Government and Public Policy at Universidad Panamericana (UP). He has held several positions at President Calderon's Office including: Coordinator of International Affairs at the Advisory Coordination, and Technical Deputy Director of the Infrastructure and Tourism Cabinet.

From 2011 to date, he was appointed by President Felipe Calderon as Director General of the Mexican Institute of Youth, Head of the Youth Policy in Mexico. He has always been an assiduous supporter of a youth agenda with economic and social development perspective.

Ms. Kiara Worth – Major Group for Children and Youth

Ms. Kiara Worth is one of the Organising Partners for the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY). The MGCY is the official youth constituency for sustainable development negotiations, including the recent Rio+20 Earth Summit, and through her role as Organising Partner, she helps facilitate and advance the participation of young people within these processes, including policy amendments and youth activism. Kiara has engaged with thousands of youth across the globe fostering dialogue, collaboration, participation and unity and diversity amongst young people, and mobilising them to act – confident that youth hold the key to building a better world.

Kiara also works as an independent consultant for sustainable development, focusing on rural resource management and communications. She applies alternative forms of social development that use the creative arts and theatre as a means of enabling social transformation. Her publications, dramatic performances and community theatre have focused on environmental integrity and sustainable living, and encouraging people to act. Her work has been featured at numerous panel events at the UNCSO and related events. Kiara specialises in working with people with diverse backgrounds; she currently working in Papua New Guinea as a photo-journalist and communications specialist.



Ms Liza Vadnai – MTV

Ms. Vadnai's career has spanned a wide range of youth and media organizations in the public, private and independent sectors. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin - Madison with a degree in sociology, she spent the following four years designing programs and working with young injection drug users, HIV patients and at-risk families in San Francisco and New York City, working for the University of San Francisco, The Vera Institute of Justice, New York Academy of Medicine and La Bodega de la Familia, among others. Liza has since used her youth, media, and non-profit experience to pursue enterprises that combine those worlds. She specializes in marketing, strategy and social entrepreneurship and has worked in various capacities for a diverse range of organizations, including Blue Magazine, Global Kids, WNYC's Radio Rookies, Boost Mobile RockCorps, GOOD and now MTV. At MTV, Liza oversees the Act blog on MTV.com and runs multi-platform campaigns around sexual health and education. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Mr. Joshi Rajiv – Global call to Action against Poverty

Joshi Rajiv, 28 years-old, has an extensive background in youth issues and is Director of Programmes in the International Secretariat of the Global Call to Action against Poverty, the world's largest civil society alliance working to end poverty and accelerate the MDG progress. He currently serves as the Chair of the "Beyond 2015" UN working group, where he coordinates civil society engagement in shaping the post 2015 agenda and also advises the UN on development of a "Global Conversation" online platform to engage citizens in the consultation process. Further, Joshi Rajiv has served elected terms as Chair in the Scottish Youth Parliament and has worked with the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council, organized the World Youth Congress and is the founder of the CIVICUS Youth Initiative.

Employment 9 August 2012, 11am EST

Ms. Gail Gershon - Executive Director, Community Leadership, Gap Inc.

Ms. Gail Gershon joined Gap Inc. in 1995, and is responsible for Gap Inc.'s portfolio of youth grants, global employee volunteer programs, and in-kind giving. She also leads Gap Inc.'s youth signature program, *This Way Ahead*, a job readiness and internship program that was launched in 2006.

Before joining the Gap Inc. team, Gail worked at the Florence V. Burden Foundation, the Metropolitan Life Foundation, and the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers. She also served with the Domestic Abuse Awareness Project, the Institute of International Studies at U.C. Berkeley, and as founding board chair of Materials for the Arts, a public/nonprofit partnership that promotes re-use and recycling in New York City. Gail currently serves as a board member of the TS Alliance, which focuses on families affected by tuberous sclerosis.

Ms. Yasmyn Camier – contributor to UN World Youth Report 2011



Ms. Yasmyn Camier graduated from Aix-Marseille University in France in 2010 with a bachelor in biology and ecology. She is currently completing a master of science in environment at the University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada.

Ms. Camier was selected in 2011 in two international contests to attend a conference on Environment in Canada, and one on the Afrodescendant Youth held in Costa Rica. As an observer at the United Nations High-level Meeting on Youth in July 2011, she recognized the tools needed to enhance her role as a coordinator volunteer in the international youth association Give1Project, based in Paris. In early 2012, she was nominated as one of the three young contributors to the United Nations World Youth Report and was a panelist at the Report's launch in New York City.

She is also involved in youth associations such as IANA, CNRJ which support youth projects to mentoring. Ms. Camier was born and raised in Guadeloupe, a French island in the Caribbean and currently lives in Quebec City where she works as an intern at the Ministry of Environment of Quebec.

Gianni Rosas – International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mr Gianni Rosas is the coordinator of the ILO's Programme on youth employment. He joined the ILO in 1996 when he served as associate expert in employment and training. He has held several positions both at Geneva headquarters and in the field as member of the ILO's technical cooperation team on employment and training, skills development officer and employment specialist. He participated in the review of the mandate and policy messages of the ILO on youth employment and developed several country programmes on this topic. He has published papers and developed guides and manuals on youth employment. Prior to joining the ILO, he worked as training coordinator and project manager in several youth employment transnational programmes of the European Commission. He also worked as project analyst in a public-private partnership in Italy that funded innovative group-based youth enterprises, including cooperatives. Gianni holds a degree in economics and business administration, a Master's degree in youth employment promotion and upper-tertiary specialization in economics and law of the European Union.

Dr. Nicole R Goldin, PhD - US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Dr. Nicole Goldin is a development economist currently serving in the Obama Administration as Senior Advisor in the Policy, Planning and Learning Bureau at the U.S. Agency for International Development. At USAID she serves as the Agency lead on youth policy and integration, and as senior advisor on general development policy planning and engagement. She joined USAID in September 2009 from the Department of State where she was Senior Advisor to Undersecretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, Maria Otero, for strategic and policy planning as well as policy on global Youth, Africa, and International Organizations. Dr. Goldin was a principal author of both the State Department Youth Policy and the forthcoming first-ever USAID Policy on Youth In Development. She is a frequent speaker, lecturer, and facilitator on broad development policy and youth issues. Her expertise includes policy, strategy and research; engagement, communication, partnership and social



responsibility. Her experience spans public, corporate, finance, and nonprofit sectors on economic growth and opportunity, education and social affairs, peace and democracy, and cross-cutting youth, urbanization, and gender issues. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, she last worked with Peace Dividend Trust (PDT) as Managing Economist leading research and projects related to economic recovery and stabilization. Other previous experience includes 10 years working and consulting in the development and finance sectors with such organizations and firms as the Clinton Global Initiative, Gerson Lehrman Group, Chemonics International, and IFES. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from UK's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), an MSc in Development from the London School of Economics (LSE), an MA in International Political Economy from American University, and a BA in East Asian Studies from Union College. Dr. Goldin has lived, worked, and traveled in over 50 countries across all 7 continents.

Mr. Romulo Dantas – YMCA World Alliance

Mr. Romulo Dantas works as Executive Secretary for Youth Empowerment at the YMCA's World Alliance and has been serving the YMCA, previously in Brazil, since 1998. He has over 14 years experience within the YMCA as both staff and as a volunteer holding key positions in the YMCA of São Paulo, the Brazilian Federation of YMCAs and the Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs focusing on areas such as communication, strategic alliances, youth work and volunteer management. Besides YMCA, Mr. Dantas has worked for Human Resources Companies in Brazil, especially in Public Relations, but also with finances and in development of strategic planning and governmental relations. Mr. Dantas has earned a bachelor's degree in Social Communications, post graduate program in Business Administration and has attended the Special Institute for YMCA's Executive Secretaries in Brazil.

At the World Alliance Romulo focuses his work on research, external relations, leadership development programmes and events.

Entrepreneurship, 9 August 2012, 2pm EST

Mr. Ghanem Nuseibeh – Cornerstone Global Associates

Mr. Ghanem Nuseibeh is Founder of Cornerstone Global Associates, a high-end London-based strategy and management consultancy. Described by The National newspaper in Abu Dhabi as "the oracle on the Arab World", Ghanem specializes in economic and political risk, and works with organizations and governments from around the world. Among the projects he is currently involved in are about job creation in the private sector. He is a regular columnist on Arab World unemployment in The National daily in the UAE.

Mr. Ghanem received awards from UK's Institute of Civil Engineers and Royal Academy of Engineering. He is currently Senior Visiting Fellow at King's College, London, focusing on Middle East entrepreneurship. He also heads the GCC and Yemen section of think-tank Political Capital Policy Research and Consulting Institute.



He was born in Jerusalem and completed his schooling and university studies in the UK, holding a degree and post-graduate degree in Civil Engineering from Imperial College London. He regularly appears in international media and has homes in London, Dubai and Jerusalem.

Mr. Matteo Landi - UNIDO

After he graduated (MA) in 2003 from the University of Foreigners in Perugia (Italy) on Communication of International Organizations, Mr. Landi moved to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where he joined UNESCO; there he developed strategies to apply ICT solutions and fine arts to create viable jobs for youth in World Heritage sites. He also developed the national campaign for the return of the Axum Obelisk from Rome to its original site in the north of Ethiopia.

In 2005 Mr. Landi joined UNICEF where he collaborated in the continental campaign Speak Africa, designed to enhance youth participation in decision making processes, dialogue and on-line based collaboration. He also deployed the first revolving funds for young women entrepreneurs in the region of Tigray, [in]famous for harsh droughts and extreme poverty.

In 2008 he joined UNIDO in Vienna where he was called to develop innovative approaches for to youth unemployment in the West African countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Since then, Mr. Landi manages Youth Entrepreneurship projects throughout the African continent.

Always very passionate about youth development issues, in particular youth participation and employment, Mr. Landi is a strong advocate of youth entrepreneurship as a viable and sustainable solution to youth unemployment, and of the instrumental role that the UN can play.

Eddy Balina – Youth Start Uganda

20 years back in Jinja Town, the source of the world's longest River Nile in the pearl of Africa was born: Eddy Matagala Balina a rising dynamic social entrepreneur, motivational speaker and youth advocate with a sharp passion for entrepreneurship, ICT, Nonviolence, Youth community participation and Leadership.

Eddy is youth Think tank member from YouthStart- Uganda Finance Trust MDI a partner organisation of The MasterCard Foundation; Also involved in Youth Program designing at Uganda institute of Family counselling.

He is Initiator and CEO of The Nonviolence Project Uganda Chapter a youth education and leadership organization inspiring, motivating and engaging young people to live safer and healthier lives by creating alternatives to youth violence.

Eddy is completing his Bachelors Degree in Development Studies with Africa's reputable Makerere University; In 2011 Eddy spearheaded Uganda's largest youth Country Tour for Nonviolence – "Imagine Uganda for Peace" impacting thousands of



people and in 2010 was National winner of transform students Trophy of Best Public speaker.

With a soaring sense of humour, Eddy enjoys cracking jokes, making friends, tennis, African dance adventure, movies, debating and volunteerism.

“I dream of a world where young people are given a window of opportunity to articulate their ideas, participate in decision making and be groomed into responsible, accountable and productive citizens.”

Ms. Ayshah Maende – Digital Opportunity Trust, Kenya

Mwanaisha (Ayshah) Maende is field officer for the Coast Region with Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT) Kenya. She joined DOT in 2010 when she applied to become an intern with DOT's signature program ReachUp!. As an intern, she worked with her peers in eastern Kenya, teaching and empowering them with ICT, entrepreneurship, and 21st century life and workforce skills. She empowered 240 community members (Youth) whom half of them started sustainable livelihood projects or further their studies in ICT. Following her internship, she joined the DOT local team and was elected to chair the Yes Youth Can Funded Program and Kilifi Youth programs. She graduated in mass communications from the East African School of Media Studies. Last year she attended the 2011 Annual Clinton Global Initiative as panelist in transformative tools for a skilled workforce session

Mr. Younes El Jaouhari - Ministry of Youth and Sports of Morocco - Director of youth, childhood and women affairs

Education 10 August 2012, 2pm EST

Ms Julia Viehoefer - UNESCO

Ms. Julia Viehoefer has been working with UNESCO's Section of Education for Sustainable Development as Associate Expert since October 2011. Her work focuses' in particular on Climate Change Education and Information. Prior to joining UNESCO, she worked for the Division of Education, Communication, Information at the German Commission for UNESCO. Julia holds a Master's degree in European Studies. Throughout her studies she was an active member of the European Students Forum (AEGEE). In 2009 she participated in the 6th UNESCO Youth Forum.

Mr. François Taddei – Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity

In 2004, Mr. François Taddei established the Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity (CRI) in Paris, which offers an undergraduate program, a Master's degree, a doctoral school as well as many seminars and activities. CRI's main role is to promote new pedagogies to help creative students take initiatives and develop their research projects. Mr. Taddei participates in various working groups on the



future of research and education. He has been involved in many scientific committees, and is about to take the lead at the future Institute for Learning through Research.

Ms. Crystal Lee – United Natives

Crystal Lee is a full-blooded Native American woman enrolled in the federally recognized Dine (Navajo) tribe. Her tribal clans are Tachii'nii (Red Running Into Water people), Tabaaha (Water's Edge people), Tsenjikini (Cliff Dwellers people), and Kin I ichii'nii (Red House people). She was raised on the Navajo Reservation.

Diné cultural knowledge and traditional life have strongly influenced Crystal's educational, professional and political activities. Crystal is the Founder and Executive Director of United Natives, which is a national online mentoring program for Native American undergraduate students pursuing post-secondary education. Currently, she is also working in collaboration with tribal nations across the world to advance research and advocacy in the areas of public health, disease prevention, indigenous healing and cultural awareness, environmental sustainability, and education. Crystal graduated from Arizona State University in 2005 with a B.A. in Communications and a B.S. in Microbiology. She then earned her M.P.H. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2008. Today she is working towards a Ph.D. in Public Health at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Crystal also serves as a North American Focal Point for the United Nations Indigenous Youth Caucus and is affiliated with an international organization that is called the Clinton Global Initiative.

Education on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 10 August 2012, 2pm EST

Mr. Yudho Sasongko – Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN

Mr. Yudho Sasongko is First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations. He represents Indonesia at the United Nations on issues related to the administration and budget of the United Nations (the Fifth Committee). Additionally, he also covers the issue of population and development, in which his country is one of the 47 members of the Commission on Population and Development.

Mr Sasongko joined the Foreign Ministry of Indonesia in 1999. Prior to his current assignment to the UN, he worked at the Economic and Development Desk at the Office of the Foreign Minister (2008-2011); the Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago (2004-2008); and the Foreign Ministry's Center for Education and Training (2000-2004). Mr Sasongko graduated from the University of Indonesia in Jakarta with a Master's Degree in International Relations in 2003.



Heather Boonstra, Guttmacher Institute

Ms. Heather Boonstra is a Senior Public Policy Associate in the Guttmacher Institute's Washington, DC office and is responsible for promoting the Institute's sexual and reproductive health agenda in federal law and policy. Ms. Boonstra is a regular contributor to the Institute's policy journal, the Guttmacher Policy Review, and oversees a portfolio of projects on abortion, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and the integration of family planning and HIV services in the United States and globally. Ms. Boonstra came to Guttmacher in 1999, after working with the Reproductive Health Technologies Project and as a consultant with the Center for International Health and Information, Save the Children, and the Pacific Institute for Women's Health. Ms. Boonstra graduated summa cum laude from the University of Oregon and holds an M.A. in religion from Yale University, where she studied medical ethics.