

International Youth Day 2022

Bio notes of Webinar Speakers and Moderators

Daniela Bas

Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

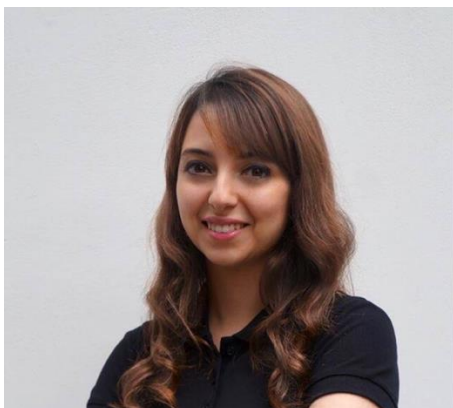


Ms. Daniela Bas, of Italian nationality, is the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs since May 2011. Political scientist with a major in International Politics, she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a dissertation on “The elimination of architectural barriers and the employment of people with physical disabilities”. She is also a certified journalist and worked for the major press, Radio, and Television networks and is also a certified multicultural/life coach. Ms. Bas’ interest has always been people-centred in the various activities, associations, and professional roles she has held. In addition to her work at

the United Nations from 1986 to 1995, she held managerial roles until 2000 in the private sector in Italy. From then until 2011, before joining UNDESA she was, inter alia, adviser for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Italy. On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she was Board Member of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and of the Committee to Promote non-Armed and non-Violent Civil Defense of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Ms. Bas was also the special adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission (On. Frattini) on human rights, democracy, and social affairs.

Batool Al-Wahdani

Junior Medical Doctor with the NHS



Batool Al-Wahdani is a Jordanian junior medical doctor working in NHS Scotland. Batool was the past president of the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA) 2018/2019. She is a youth advocate who led the advocacy work of medical students on Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. She represented youth and medical students in international meetings and several events in the United Nations General Assemblies and World Health Assemblies. Batool worked as well in the World Health Organization on addressing the shortfall of health

workers, youth engagement in health and most recently on communication and training for engagements with non-State actors. She is a Chevening Scholar with a MSc of Public Health degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Rafiu Adeniran Lawal

Founder and executive director of the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation



Rafiu Adeniran Lawal has more than five years' experience in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and civil society engagement. Currently, Rafiu is the founder and executive director of the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation, a network of young people who work for peace and security across communities in Nigeria and lead the implementation of the 2021 National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security. He has volunteered as regional coordinator of the United Network of

Young Peacebuilders in West and Central Africa. Rafiu holds a master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Ibadan and a bachelor's degree in Social Studies Education from Obafemi Awolowo University. He is a passionate peace advocate, teacher, social commentator, and researcher. He co-authored the book 'Connecting and Amplifying Voices of Youth Building Peace in Nigeria (2020)' and the report 'Complementarity of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 and the AU Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security (2021)'. Rafiu is a 2022 Mandela Washington Fellow - a leadership initiative of the US Department of State.

Gabrielle Alves

Junior Researcher at Plataforma CIPÓ

Law student at the Brazilian Institute of Education, Development and Research



Gabrielle Alves holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Brasília, where she received honorable mentions in two studies carried out during the course, one focused on the United Nations Global Goals affected by corruption. She also did an exchange program at the Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III University and participated in the Youth Assembly at the United Nations in New York. Based in Brasília, Gabrielle is currently a law student at the Brazilian Institute of Education, Development and Research (Idp). She is also a Junior Researcher at Plataforma CIPÓ,

participating in advocacy initiatives in the area of racial, socio-environmental and climate justice.

Romeral Ortiz Quintilla
Consultant for several UN entities



Romeral Ortiz Quintilla is a committed peacebuilding practitioner who is truly inspired by the role that youth play in conflict transformation and peace. She counts with more than 10 years' experience in the field of Meaningful Youth Engagement and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) where she has been largely contributing to the national and regional ownership and dissemination of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250. She has previous experience working with the UN, the EU and youth-led organisations in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa and South-East Asia. Romeral is currently a consultant for different UN entities, in accelerating the implementation of Youth2030 and the YPS agenda.

Dr. Sandra Timmermann
Representative to the United Nations for the International Federation on Ageing
Secretary of the Global NGO Executive Committee



Dr. Sandra Timmermann is a Representative to the United Nations for the International Federation on Ageing and Secretary of the Global NGO Executive Committee. Active with the NGO Committee on Ageing, she is part of a team that is advocating for a Convention to protect the human rights of older persons. Her special interest is working collaboratively with youth so that everyone, regardless of age, will have equal rights and opportunities. Sandra is a gerontologist, holding senior positions in the field of aging for over 35 years and nationally recognized for her work in aging, retirement, and lifelong learning. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society and is a recipient of several national awards for leadership in her field. She has served on many national boards of directors, and is a frequent writer and speaker.

Noumaan Anwer
Policy Researcher
Political Aide
Writer



Noumaan Anwer is a young policy researcher, political aide, and writer based in India. He has worked with several legislators from his home country providing research support, managerial functions for development projects. He also works with several NGOs in India and elsewhere, organizing action and awareness around human rights, education, social developments, and civil rights. In the future, he hopes to contribute towards the qualitative improvement of institutional structures and grassroots democracy in India and in conflict zones across the world, through innovative education and sustainable development for young people.

Lani Anaya
Practice-based research expert in peace and development



Lani Anaya is a Mexican practice-based research expert in peace and development. She does consultancies for local, national, regional and international projects related to youth inclusion in peacebuilding (Youth, Peace and Security Agenda), the 2030 Agenda, and the ecumenical movement. She has implemented YPS-focused research, multi-stakeholder advocacy, and trainings in Mexico, Brazil, Kosovo, Germany, the USA, and the African and Latin America regions. She collaborates in Mexico with Agora and MY World Mexico youth-led organizations, co-leads the YPS network Juventudes por la Paz in Latin America, and co-facilitates the UNAOC Young Peacebuilders edition in LAC region. Lani holds a BA in International Relations from UNAM, an MSc. in Peace and Conflict Studies from Uppsala University, a social ethics specialization from the University of Geneva and a MA in Ecumenical Studies at Bonn University

where she does research about youth agency within faith-based organizations, both at interreligious peacebuilding approaches as well as via youth-led digital religious communications.

Ashton Applewhite

Co-founder of the Old School Anti-Ageism Clearinghouse

Author of ‘This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism

An internationally recognized expert on ageism, Ashton Applewhite is the author of *This Chair*



Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism and a co-founder of the [Old School Anti-Ageism Clearinghouse](#). She speaks widely at venues that have included the United Nations and the TED mainstage, has written for *Harper's*, the *Guardian*, and the *New York Times*, and is at the forefront of the emerging movement to raise awareness of ageism and to dismantle it.

Alana Officer

Unit Head for Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing at the World Health Organization.

Alana Officer is the Unit Head for Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing at the World



Health Organization. She coordinates the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) and oversees WHO's work on Age-friendly physical and social environments including the Global Campaign to Combat Ageism and the Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities. For more information, see

<https://www.who.int/about/people/biography/alana-officer>