

Nisreen Elsaim

Chair of UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change



Nisreen Elsaim is the Chair of the UN Secretary General Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change. A climate activist and junior negotiator with the African Group of Negotiators in technology transfer with experience across a range of environmental topics, Nisreen was also part of the social movement that brought about democratic change in Sudan. She holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Khartoum, Sudan where she also pursued her master's degree in renewable energy. Nisreen is currently the General Coordinator for Youth and Environment - Sudan (YES), a platform to give all environment working youth the networking they need. She is also the Chair of Sudan Youth Organization on Climate Change (SYOCC). As part of many regional and international platforms Nisreen led and mentored many young leaders within YOUNGO, PACJA, Abu Dhabi youth Voices, and many other young leaders. She focuses on the policies of countries regarding climate change and renewable energies. She has written several policy papers in climate change, renewable energy, gender, and youth empowerment.

Stella Gama

Technical Advisor, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi



Stella Gama is a forest resources management specialist with over twenty years of experience on participatory methodologies, forest governance and institutions, stakeholder engagement, natural resources management and forest administration.

Stella has strong passion on enhancing women's effective participation in climate and environment diplomacy. She has nine years working on climate change diplomacy at the UNFCCC, advocating for women empowerment, gender balance in Rio Conventions bodies, gender responsive climate policies, and technology development and transfer. Stella is also acting as UNFCCC negotiator for Malawi and the Least Developing Countries Group. She has served as member and vice chairperson of the Technology Executive Committee and Rapporteur for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice at the UNFCCC.

Ineza Grace

Co-Director, Loss and Damage Youth Coalition



Ineza Grace is an Eco-Feminist Impact driven actor in the climate change sector serving the global community-based in Rwanda. She is the co-founder and coordinator of "the loss and damage youth coalition" a global youth coalition of more than 350 members from +45 countries advocating for concrete action to address the climate injustice, and she is the founder and chief executive officer of "The Green Protector" a Rwandan NGO started in 2017 aiming to increase active youth participation in the creation of a better and protected environment. She is also a junior researcher fascinated with climate change politics to unlock concrete action on the ground.

Daniela Jacob

Director, Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS)



Daniela Jacob is meteorologist and Director of the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS), a scientific organizational entity of Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon, and visiting professor at Leuphana University, Faculty of Sustainability. She was Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, and one of the Lead Authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (Working Group 2). Daniela Jacob is chair of the German Committee Future Earth (DKN) and co-chair of the Wissenschaftsplattform Nachhaltigkeit (WPN2030). She is member of the European Commission's Mission Board on "Adaptation to Climate Change including Societal Transformation", member of the 'Earth League', an international alliance of prominent scientists from world-class research institutions, as well as member of several other committees. Her main research fields and areas of interest are local and regional climate modelling, the hydrological cycle, climate services and adaptation to climate change. Moreover, Daniela Jacob is Editor-in-Chief of Journal "Climate Services", a new scientific Journal she co-founded with Elsevier.

Tracy Kajumba

Principal Researcher & Team Leader, Strengthening Partnerships, International Institute for the Environment and Development (IIED)



Tracy Kajumba is a principal Researcher and Team leader strengthening local to global partnerships at [IIED's](#) Climate Change Group. She is also the intersectionality and inequality lead for IIED, and is a member of the SMT, focusing on equitable partnerships, racial equity, gender justice and decolonising research and development. She has over twenty years' experience of development research, programme management, policy influencing and has worked on diverse development programmes on climate change adaptation across sectors, gender equality and social inclusion and MEL for adaptation. Before IIED, Tracy worked with the Ireland Department of Foreign Affairs as a senior regional advisor for climate change and development for Sub Saharan Africa, country programme lead with the Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance, Care International in Uganda as a gender and climate change advisor, and with the Government of Uganda in public administration as a senior assistant secretary.

Chrysi Laspidou

Professor at the Civil Engineering Department, University of Thessaly



Chrysi Laspidou is a Professor at the Civil Engineering Department, University of Thessaly in Greece. She obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin and her PhD at Northwestern University. She is the Vice-President of Research and Technology at the Brussels-based organization, Water Europe, and a member of the Steering Committee of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Knowledge Action Network at Future Earth. Chrysi is the Chair of the Water-Energy-Food COST Action network, NEXUSNET and the coordinator of the large 15-million European project ARSINOE. She has published over 60 articles in scientific journals and conference proceedings and is actively involved either as a Coordinator, or as a Principal Investigator in research projects funded by the European Commission, or national sources.

Kulthoum Omari-Motsumi

Special Advisor of the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)



Kulthoum Omari-Motsumi has extensive experience in climate change adaptation, gender mainstreaming, ecosystem-based adaptation, agriculture and food systems in the African continent. In the recent past, Kulthoum served as the Coordinator of the AAI, an African-led initiative that aims to enhance climate adaptation action in the continent. In her capacity as the coordinator, she was responsible for programme development, partnership building and the establishment of the secretariat. Her extensive experience in climate adaptation has led her to being appointed a member of the Adaptation Committee of the UNFCCC, representing 54 African countries. Kulthoum is a contributing author of the IPCC Africa chapter, specifically on adaptation finance and she is currently a member of the Botswana National Climate Change Committee.

Funanani Muremi

Deputy Director International Climate Change at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa



Funanani Muremi is a Deputy Director International Climate Change at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in South Africa and forms part of the South African negotiating team under the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), representing South Africa on adaptation, loss and damage as well as gender thematic areas.

Funanani has over ten years experience in international relations and negotiations, diplomatic protocols with focus on multilateral trade negotiations and multilateral climate change with a focus on adaptation as well as loss and damage under the UNFCCC. Funanani is currently serving serving as a member of the UNFCCC Adaptation representing the African Group of Negotiators and as a South African National Focal Point for gender and climate under the UNFCCC.

Sixbert Mwangi

Executive Director, Climate Action Network, Tanzania



Sixbert Mwangi is a climate scientist based in Tanzania. Sixbert leads the Climate Action Network Tanzania which is the leading 'Think & Do Tank' NGO in Tanzania in the areas of climate change policy, research, and on-the ground actions. As a climate scientist and member of the IPCC, Sixbert has been engaging at multiple levels including the UNFCCC Conference of parties, regional forums, national dialogues, and local solutions. He has produced several publications on climate change in Tanzania and East Africa, covering water, agriculture, energy and broader natural resources management. Sixbert has over 12 years of experience on both on research, policy and actions on the ground and has extensive leadership skills for multidisciplinary teams working on complex (i.e. multisectoral) yet important subjects such as climate change, SDGs and other poverty reduction projects.

Jaroslav Mysiak

Director of the Research Division 'Risk Assessment & Adaptation Strategies, Fondazione Centro Euro- Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici



Jaroslav Mysiak is a member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environmental Agency, a member of the European Science and Technology Advisory Group of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and a member of the Expert Group on slow-onset event established by the Executive Committee of the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage.

Jaroslav's research focusses on risk assessment and governance, including behavioural responses to risks and risk-reduction measures, risk perception and transformational social change, environmental economics, sustainable finance, climate adaptation and services. Previously he contributed to the sustainable taxonomy as a member of the expert network established by the Technical Expert Group (TEG) on sustainable finance, and member of the EU Disaster Loss Data System working group. He acted as team leader of the UNDP coordinated project's developing the disaster risk reduction strategy and action plan for the Republic of Mauritius, and contributed to similar assessments elsewhere (e.g., Nigeria, St. Lucia).

Xolisa Ngwadla

Independent Expert; Led the African Group in the Paris Agreement and authored the Global Goal on Adaptation.



Xolisa Ngwadla has a wide range of technical competencies that range from environmental management and sustainability, agriculture and rural development, having practiced in those fields in different capacities as a researcher, consultant, and as a manager. Xolisa has worked in the public-sector policy development on climate change in the South African government, as well as leading climate change research at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of South Africa. He also has experience in the corporate environment as a business development manager for Sub-Saharan Africa at DuPont, responsible for the food industry, as well as technology commercialization and business development at the CSIR. Xolisa's strength lies in having a sound natural science training background augmented with economics and social science training, a strong analytical acumen, and a deep international network, particularly on climate change, having been the lead negotiator for the African Group in both the negotiation of the Paris Climate Agreement and its operationalisation. Xolisa also has authored several papers and policy briefs on climate change on various subjects ranging from philosophical issues such as equity and fairness in global climate governance, through concepts that have found global resonance in the Paris Climate Agreement, such as the Global Goal for Adaptation, to operational aspects such as Green Climate Fund Replenishment, timelines, and cycles of commitments in the Paris Agreement, amongst others.

Lisa Vanhala

Principal Investigator of Climate Change Loss & Damage, Professor of Political Science, University College London



Lisa Vanhala holds a DPhil and MPhil in Politics from University of Oxford. She spent her undergraduate years at McGill University and Sciences Po Paris. Prior to joining UCL Lisa held positions at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies in Oxford and at the Centre for the Study of Human Rights at LSE. She has held visiting professorships at the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, the Center for the Study of Law and Society at the University of California, Berkeley and the European University Institute in Florence.

Lisa has held major grants, including a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, an ESRC Future Research Leaders Fellowship and a European Research Council Starting Grant. She is interested in the politics of climate change and the socio-legal study of human rights and equality issues. Her current, ERC-funded project, the Politics and Governance of Climate Change Loss and Damage (CCLAD), explores attempts to govern the impacts of climate change we will not be able to adapt to at the global and national level. Relying on a political ethnographic approach the project explores the role of norms, identities and the micro-level, everyday dynamics of global environmental governance.



Kamal Djemouai is a specialist in climate change, environment and sustainable development issues with more than 25 years of experience. He has been involved in climate negotiations for more than twenty years, focusing on issues such as climate finance, adaptation, mitigation, transparency and market mechanisms.

Former Chair of the African Group of Climate Negotiations (2008-2009), he has been a member of the lead coordinators of the African group for several years. He is also an advisor to the African members of the Green Climate Fund board (GCF). He developed GCF Guidelines for Tunisia (State Actors and Civil Society organizations) and Algeria (Ministry of Environment). He chairs the clean development mechanism accreditation panel (and is an alternate member of the CDM executive board). And has co-chaired and facilitated various negotiating groups under UNFCCC.

He is one of the lead authors for the international cooperation chapter of Working Group III of the IPCC 6th assessment report and also an expert for the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI). He was co-author of the climate negotiation guides for the Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development (IFDD), particularly on sections related to finance and adaptation. He is a Lead Reviewer for UNFCCC transparency reporting.

Mr. Kamal Djemouai was for nineteen years a senior executive within the Algerian Ministry of the Environment.

Ruth Wolstenholme

Managing Director, Sniffer



Ruth is Managing Director of Sniffer, a sustainability charity in Scotland, UK working for a fairer and flourishing future in a changing climate. Ruth has led the charity for over 25 years and has a Masters Degree in Environmental Management and in African Studies. She has been involved in a range of place-based projects addressing climate resilience. Ruth is Programme Director of Climate Ready Clyde – a widely recognised regional initiative in Glasgow City Region - and Adaptation Scotland. She has worked closely with IIED on an international framework on enablers of adaptation action to share learning across global south and north. Ruth is a strong advocate of fair and inclusive approaches to addressing climate and is a member of the European Environment Agency Expert Group on Just Resilience.

Vhalinavho (Vhali) Khavhagali

Senior Fellow for Adaptation, Africa-Europe Foundation



Vhalinavho (Vhali) Khavhagali is a climate change and biodiversity professional specialist with over 15 years of experience in adaptation. He holds vast knowledge of management practices, scientific training, and multidisciplinary approaches, coupled with local, national and international experience. Valhi demonstrated a firm sense of responsibility and leadership throughout his career, working for African government ministries and initiatives, international civil society organisations, and the private sector. Currently, he serves as IUCN Country Director in South Africa, and will lead the work of the Africa-Europe Foundation Working Group on Climate Adaptation.

Raphaël Danglade

Senior Programme Manager, Africa-Europe Foundation



Raphaël Danglade is responsible for the programming, management, and coordination of the Climate Portfolio, ensuring its impactful positioning and efficient delivery of activities. Aimed at catalysing partnerships, advancing policy recommendations, advocacy, and outreach, he is specialised on issues linked to climate, energy, and agri-food systems. Raphaël has a demonstrated history of working for international foundations, think tanks, civil society organisations and private sector companies. Previously, Raphaël managed the Climate, Energy and Sustainability policy area at the Brussels-based think-tank Friends of Europe. He holds a Bachelor in Geography from Royal Holloway, University of London, after which he completed an MSc in Climate Change and International Development at the University of East Anglia, UK. He speaks French and English.