Latin American and Caribbean
Regional Co-Facilitator Election 2026

Nominees

Akira Mauricio Alcaraz Takano, Red, Paz, Integracion y Desarrollo "PAZINDE"

Akira Alcaraz Takano is a Bolivian communications professional specializing in strategic communication, environmental education, climate action, and youth engagement. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences from the Bolivian Catholic University and a Master's degree in Football Business Management from The Football Business Academy in Lisbon, Portugal. His academic background is complemented by specialized training in environmental communication, climate governance, sustainability, and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). Throughout his professional career, Mr. Alcaraz has successfully designed, coordinated, and facilitated capacity-building processes for more than one thousand young people, strengthening their participation in international environmental and climate negotiations, including UN Climate Conferences (COPs). His work has consistently promoted inclusive participation, intercultural dialogue, and the meaningful engagement of youth and Indigenous Peoples in sustainable development processes. As Environmental Communication Officer and Facilitator at PAZINDE, an organization accredited to ECOSOC, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNEP, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), he has contributed to the implementation of regional initiatives on climate adaptation, water security, environmental governance, and public awareness. Mr. Alcaraz combines strong expertise in strategic communication, stakeholder engagement, project coordination, and regional networking. Fluent in Spanish and English, he has demonstrated the ability to build partnerships across governments, civil society, academia, and youth organizations. His technical expertise, facilitation skills, regional experience, and commitment to environmental sustainability make him a highly qualified candidate to serve as Regional Facilitator for Latin America and the Caribbean, contributing to UNEP's mission of strengthening youth leadership, regional collaboration, and inclusive environmental governance.

Jose Arrieta, Fundacion Barranquillar+20

José Arrieta is a young environmental advocate and leader with experience in regional coordination, participatory processes, and policy advocacy to advance meaningful youth participation in environmental governance across Latin America and the Caribbean. He currently serves as the Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP (CYMG), the official youth engagement mechanism to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In this role, José has fostered spaces for dialogue, intergenerational collaboration, and coordination among diverse youth groups across the region, promoting the integration of their perspectives into high-level environmental processes. During the XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, he coordinated the Latin America and Caribbean Youth Environment Forum (LACYEF) and led a regional consultation process and online survey that gathered contributions from urban and rural youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, migrants, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ youth, and adolescents. These contributions were consolidated into the Latin America and the Caribbean Youth Declaration, which was presented to environmental authorities and

used as an input for Member State delegations. José has also actively participated in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), the XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Seventh Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-7), and the Youth Environment Assembly (YEA), participating in high-level meetings and delivering interventions. His experience in connecting youth, governments, and multilateral stakeholders enables him to contribute skills in facilitation, alliance-building, and collaborative leadership to strengthen youth environmental participation throughout the region.

Maria Jose Lubertino Beltran, Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos de la Argentina (ACDH)

María Jose Lubertino is a human rights, ecologist and feminist activist lawyer, researcher, and women's rights advocate with over three decades of experience. Profile and Background: Education: PhD in Law (UBA) specialized in Human Rights, Gender, and Non-discrimination; Higher Diploma in Social Sciences (FLACSO); Environmental Law Specialist (UBA). Academic Career: Regular Human Rights Professor at Buenos Aires University Law School since 1987. Leadership Roles: President of the Citizen Association for Human Rights (ACDH), cofounder of the Women Defenders of the Environment and Good Living Network, and Coordinator of the LAC Ecofeminist Network. Former National Congresswoman, National Institute against Discrimination, xenophobia and racism President and National Senate Advisor. International Presence: Member of the ECLAC Civil Society Liaison Board (Focal Point for the Southern Cone 2019-2023, Environmental Justice Focal Point 2023-2025, Cofacilitaor and LAC Major Stakeholder at the UN 2025-2028). Member of the Women's Major Group at the UN, Women and Gender Constituency and Human Rights § Climate Change Working Group at UNFCCC, UNCBD Women Caucus, UNCCD Civil Society Caucus and UNEP Women Major Group. Key Qualifications and Career Highlights: Environmental and Gender Advocacy: Active in intersectional environmental justice and gender action. Participated in Rio+20, UNFCCC COPs 27, 28, 29 and 20 , CBD COP 16, UNEA 7 and CSW 70 representing the Women Caucus on the CBD Panel organized by the Armenian Government. Active Civil Society Engagement: Consistent participant in international fora aligning Latin American regional perspectives with global frameworks. Monitors Agenda 2030 SDGs (5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) and Kunming-Montreal Framework targets across the region via the LAC Civil Society Participation Mechanism. Extensive Legal and Human Rights Expertise: Decades of advocacy merging human rights, the rights of Nature, gender justice, and environmental law through strategic litigation, capacity building, and technical support for legal and constitutional reforms across Latin America. Proven Leadership: Demonstrated capacity in high-level policy negotiations through institutional, legislative, and executive public service roles in Argentina and international bodies.

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Mario Galbert, Juventud Unida en Accion

Mario Galbert [27] is an environmental policy advocate from the Island of Jamaica. He holds a Master of Science Degree in International Public and Development Management, (UWI). He founded Youth Action Co:Lab Limited which aims to achieve social, economic, environmental and climate justice for current and future generations. He formerly served as SIDS Focal Point for Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP, championing the issues of SIDS across several pillars of UNEPs work particularly in the process to establish the Intergovernmental Science-Policy on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention and the International Negotiating Committee on establishing a Legally Binding Treaty to End Plastic Pollution. He has used his experience to enhance youth engagement in the Cartagena Convention process which serves the wider Caribbean region supporting countries across Latin America and The Caribbean in their effort to protect and conserve our region's marine environment, coordinated through the Ocean Science and Governance Youth Network which supports UNEP Administered Regional Seas Programme. He currently chairs the network which was launched after the successful negotiation and adoption of the ocean affairs resolution at the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly. His strong policy coordination and stakeholder engagement skills allow him to assist with coordinating negotiation tracks during UNEA and other Multilateral Environmental Processes on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group. He is experienced in coordinating stakeholders across the region and has engaged in several stakeholder engagement processes for the Latin America and Caribbean Environment Ministers Forum having assisted with coordination the first virtual LAC Youth Environment Forum and hosted the 2025 Caribbean Youth Environment and Climate Change Conference in Kingston, Jamaica. He was crucial in delivering the first Caribbean Youth Declaration on Environment and Climate Justice which has been used to champion issues of youth from across the region.