

## **Ratifying the Escazú Agreement: Women for Human Rights & the Defense of Nature**

Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 2:00pm EST / 6:00pm UTC

*Please check your own time zone to coordinate!*

**Register here:** <https://bit.ly/3IXMzjb>



**Patricia Gualinga**

**Kichwa leader from Sarayaku, Ecuador Spokeswoman for Mujeres Amazónicas Defensoras de la Selva**

Patricia Gualinga is an Indigenous rights defender and foreign relations leader of the Pueblo Kichwa de Sarayaku (Kichwa People of Sarayaku), an indigenous community based in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The Kichwa People of Sarayaku have defended their lands and livelihood from human rights violations caused by the illegal appropriation of community land without free, prior and informed consent for extractive projects. Their human rights work in preventing such violations has included a case submitted to

the Inter-American System. Patricia Gualinga was one of the representatives of the case which came before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in 2012. The defender is currently working protecting the Kichwa People of Sarayaku from similar human rights violations resulting from oil extraction projects by Chinese companies on their land.



**Ruth Spencer**

**GEF/SGP National Coordinator from Antigua and Barbuda**

Ruth Spencer, a national of Antigua and Barbuda is a 3-time Award Winner in Energy, Climate Change and the Environment. Her passion, dedication and commitment is enabling integrated people centered development using bottom up approaches. Ruth builds the capacities of the local community groups that bring visibility and empowerment to their work ensuring that women and gender concerns are mainstreamed across many of the SDG's, the Escazu Agreement and the Multilateral Environmental Conventions namely Waste Management, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Mercury. She connects the local to global processes

though sharing case studies, presentations, and knowledge management products. Her belief is that the skill sets, capabilities and knowledge of the local people skill sets that exist in the various communities must become a part of the overall decision-making process so she advocates for good governance processes. Her values drive her work. Ruth has been nominated and appointed to many national and international working groups. She received her Master's Degree from Yale University in International Development Economics and also completed post graduate studies in project appraisal. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



**María Luisa Rafael, Quechua leader  
Human Rights and Environmental activist from Bolivia**

María Luisa is a Quechua leader from the community of Querarani, which belongs to the ancestral organization “Ayllu Cabeza Primera Tapacari”, located in the Poopó Province, in the Department of Oruro, Bolivia. She is a former member of the Coordinator for the Defense of the Desaguadero Basin and Lakes Uru Uru and Poopó (CORIDUP) and the National Coordinator for the Affected by Mining and Protection of the Environment of Bolivia (CONAMPROMA). María's fight for clean water and environmental justice is featured in the documentary

“UMA: A Water Crisis In Bolivia”.



**Andrea Sanhueza Echeverría  
public representative for the Escazú agreement, Chile**

Andrea is currently a researcher for Chile in its Open Government Partnership (OAS) programme and a public representative for the Escazú agreement. Andrea was elected in 2014 Representative of the public of the Escazú Latin American and Caribbean Agreement on access to public information, participation and justice on environmental issues. She is a seasoned professional with over 30 years of experience leading democracy strengthening initiatives in Latin America and the world on public participation, access to

public information, conflict resolution and environmental issues. Has worked as an international consultant and advisor of NGOs and governments in strategic planning, program development, participatory processes, outreach and advocacy campaigns. Andrea is working with several local communities in Chile on advocacy strategies to address environmental problems they face and also on the topics of open government.



**Taily Terena, Terena Nation**  
**Indigenous rights activist, Brazil**

Taily is a young Indigenous woman from the Terena nation of Brazil and a passionate advocate for the environment and Mother Earth - the indigenous movement has always existed in her life as her father was one of its founders in Brazil. She belongs to the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of Americas, and is currently studying anthropology at the University of Brazil. Photo by UNGEI/Sarah Winfield



**Paloma Costa**  
**Young climate activist, Brazil**

Paloma Costa is a young climate-activist from Brasília, basis of Brazilian government, who is finishing her studies in Law and Social Science at the University of Brasilia, researching at the Juridical Clinic of Human Rights - Juridical Office for Ethnic and Cultural Diversity (JUSDIV). She's advisor at Instituto Socioambiental, on social-environmental rights, including indigenous and traditional peoples, being responsible for bringing the youth perspective to the organization. From 2018-2020, in the youth-led organization Engajamundo, she coordinated the Working Group of Climate and the youth delegations to COP24th, COP25th, UNLACClimate-Week & #AmazonCenteroftheWorld, co-created EduClima - Climate Education Program and the Brazilian Youth Demands on Climate. Paloma is a member of Abu Dhabi Youth Voices, that went to the Abu Dhabi Climate Meeting and supported the UN Youth Envoy's Officer on the delivery of the Youth Climate Summit. She is also part of several networks and co-founded #FreeTheFuture movement and Ciclimáticos, and has been personally supporting indigenous youth initiatives, awareness and meaningful participation in processes. Alongside with the UN Secretary-General participated in the opening of the Climate Action Summit and represented the NGO's on the UN Humans Rights Council, on the topic of Youth and Climate. Paloma was recently appointed as one of the remarkable young leaders to compose the UN SG's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Changes.



**H.E. Ms. Patricia Madrigal Cordero,  
Ex-Vice-minister of Environment, Republic of Costa Rica**

Lawyer, specialized in International Law, University of Costa Rica; Doctoral Candidate in Environmental Law at Alicante University, Spain. Patricia Madrigal Cordero is plenty experienced in multidisciplinary and inter-institutional activities related to the definition of environmental policies (mainly on biodiversity, wildlife, marine conservation issues) and the recognition of the right to a healthy and ecological balance environment as a human right, searching the identification of forms to recognize the equity in the distribution of benefits derived from the conservation. Ms. Madrigal has been involved in several projects of international and regional cooperation organizations. She has taken part in the drafting of the Law of Biodiversity, Wildlife

and Environment in Costa Rica and other countries of the Central American Region. Having a leading role in the process towards the Escazú Agreement on the right of access to information, public participation and justice for Latin America and the Caribbean, first from civil society and then as Vice Minister of Environment of the Government of Costa Rica. Costa Rica exercised the co-presidency along with Chile, and guided the process until the negotiations were completed with a consensus text, robust, and the active participation of the public and with support in the Technical Secretariat of ECLAC. At present, continue supporting the ratification processes at the national level of the Escazu Agreement in order to its entry into force. Ms.Madrigal is also author of various publications. She has been a member of the Steering Committee of the National Law Bar Association, Coordinator of the Environmental Law Faculty of the Law School and the Environmental Clinic at the University of Costa Rica. Vice Minister of Environment of the Government of Costa Rica 2014-2018.



**Ana Llácer  
Journalist, Filmmaker & Environmental Activist**

Ana Llácer is a Spanish independent documentary filmmaker, journalist, and activist based in NYC. Ana's passion on human rights and environmental issues led her to make her first feature-length documentary UMA: A Water Crisis In Bolivia. This film tells the story of three indigenous communities in the Andes who are fighting to protect their water supplies from big mining operations amid an unprecedented water crisis. It is a women's story of displacement, resistance, and struggle for environmental justice. Website: [umadocumentary.com](http://umadocumentary.com)



**Carmen Capriles**  
**WECAN Coordinator for Latin America, Bolivia**

Carmen Capriles of La Paz, Bolivia started Reacción Climática in 2010, as a volunteer organization which aims to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on the Andean region. She has actively participated in different UN processes like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement, with special emphasis on women's rights and gender equality - and most recently in the Escazú Agreement, advocating for Environmental Defenders. Carmen holds a degree from

Bolivia as an Engineer in Agriculture, as well as a degree in Sustainable Rural Development from Egypt.



**Osprey Orielle Lake**  
**Founder and Executive Director of WECAN International**

Osprey Orielle Lake is the Founder and Executive Director of the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) International dedicated to accelerating a global women's climate justice movement. She works nationally and internationally with grassroots and Indigenous leaders, policy-makers and scientists to promote climate justice, resilient communities, and a just transition to a decentralized, democratized energy future. She serves on the Executive Committee for the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature and Osprey is the Co-Director of the Indigenous Women's Divestment Delegations, and actively leads WECAN's advocacy, policy and campaign work in areas such as Women for

Forests, Divestment and Just Transition, Indigenous Rights, a Feminist Agenda for a Green New Deal, and UN Forums. Osprey is the author of the award-winning book, "Uprisings for the Earth: Reconnecting Culture with Nature."

*Presented as part of WECAN International's Advocacy & Solutions Series:*

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