



**UNFPA Formal Side Event:
Intergenerational Action for Bodily Autonomy - Accelerating SDG3
co-convended by UNFPA and the Government of Argentina**

Speaker Biographies



Dr. Julitta Onabanjo (Convener) is the Regional Director for UNFPA, East and Southern Africa.

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency whose mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Dr. Onabanjo provides strategic oversight, support and technical expertise to 23 Country Offices and partners in the region, who work on the ground to improve people's lives by equipping them with policy advice, training and support. Furthermore, the Regional Office focuses its efforts on impacting the lives of women and young people by empowering them and placing gender equality and human rights at the heart of this.

Dr. Onabanjo is a public health specialist with wide ranging field and executive experience having worked in Nigeria, Eswatini, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and the UNFPA Headquarters. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in biology from the University of London and a Medical Doctor degree from the University of Zambia, in addition to a Master's Degree in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Hon. Carla Vizzotti, (Co-Convener) is currently the Minister of Health in Argentina. She is an Internal Medicine Specialist (UBA) and infectious disease fellowship (CEI) and a Systems and Social Security Specialist (ISALUD). She is a founding partner and President of the Argentine Society of Vaccination and Epidemiology (SAVE). She is a member of the Vaccine Acceptance Research Network (VARN) Advisory Committee, Sabin Institute, member of the Latin American Society of Pediatric Infectology (SLIPE) (2018-present), member of the Vaccine Commission of the Society Argentina de Infectología (SADI) (2007-present); and member of the Scientific Committee of the Vacunar Foundation during 2019.

She served as Director of the Center for Studies for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases (CEPyCET) of the ISALUD University. She has served as a Consultant in Analysis of Sanitary Strategies of Fundación Hupedes and adviser in the Commission of Social Action and Public Health of the Honorable Chamber of Deputies of the Nation. She was in charge of the National Directorate of

Disease Control Immuno preventible (DiNaCEI) of the Ministry of Health of the Nation in Argentina (2007-2016).

She was part of the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization Practices of the World Health Organization (2013-2019), the Technical Advisory Group of Maternal Immunization of the World Health Organization since (2014-2016); and the Technical Advisory Group on Maternal Immunization for the Pan American Organization Health (2014-2016). She was a member of the Founding Council of IAIM (International Association of Immunization Managers / International Association of Managers of Immunizations) (2013-2015). She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Company Argentina of Infectology (2013-2018).

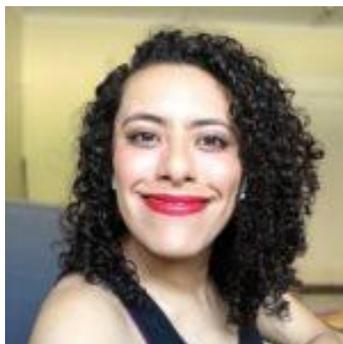


Ib Petersen, (Co-Convener) is the Deputy Executive Director (Management) for UNFPA. Mr. Petersen, who recently served as Director for the Department of Migration, Conflict and Stabilization of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brings to the position over 30 years of experience within the spheres of bilateral and multilateral affairs and development. Prior to his position as Department Director, Mr. Petersen served as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations from 2013-2019, during which he held several important duties. Most notably, Mr. Petersen has served on the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development programmes, including as President of the Joint UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board in 2017, and most recently as Special Envoy for ICPD25 and the Nairobi Summit as well as Special Envoy for Conflict and Fragility.

Mr. Petersen started his long-serving career with the Danish Ministry in 1985. Throughout his service, he notably held the positions of State Secretary of Development Cooperation, Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United Nations from 2007-2009 and State Secretary for Development Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2009-2013. During this time, Mr. Petersen led the development of new strategies for Danish development cooperation, strengthened results-based management and successfully implemented development campaigns and initiatives to support economic growth in Africa, and to support women's rights and empowerment, including through the "MDG3 Global Call to Action" campaign.

Mr. Petersen holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Aarhus.

Working for women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights has been a central element of Mr. Petersen's professional life, often in partnership with UNFPA. For him, this is an unfinished agenda under pressure, not least in times of Covid-19.



Eunice Leyva Garcia (Moderator) is the Executive Director at the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights. She is a Mexican human rights lawyer and an expert in access to justice, disability justice and gender. She was the recipient of the Disability Rights Scholarship by Open Society Foundations and completed a Master in Laws at McGill University, where she was also awarded the O'Brien Fellowship by the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism.

Eunice started her career as a human rights defender at the age of 21 years old. She has represented victims of severe human rights violations,

persons deprived of their liberty in the Mexican prison system, women survivors of GBV, and persons with disabilities within the criminal justice system. She has litigation experience at the domestic level and at the Inter-American and UN systems of protection of human rights.

Eunice has collaborated with different human rights NGOs, including the International Disability Alliance and Women Enabled International. She is an active member of the Marea Verde movement on sexual and reproductive rights in Latin America.



Alexandra Chichikova, (Keynote speaker) is the first-ever Miss Wheelchair World and an advocate for the health of women with disabilities. In 2020, she was appointed to be a member of the High-Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 Follow-up. Born in Belarus in 1993, she has been using a wheelchair since a spinal injury in 2011. In 2017, she was crowned Miss Wheelchair World at a pageant held in Poland by the Only One Foundation, which says that every woman can reach her social, career and personal goals whether she uses a wheelchair or not.

An important part of Aleksandra Chichikova's life is collaboration with UNFPA, which promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights for women with disabilities — topics she addressed as a speaker at the global summit on ICPD25, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. In her work in Belarus, she also partners with public and state medical organizations in order to improve the level of service for women with disabilities. Through her efforts, maternity hospitals have been equipped with gynaecological examination chairs accessible for women using wheelchairs. Aleksandra's goal is to make people with disabilities less stigmatized and make society treat them as its equal members.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and social pedagogy, works as an IT project manager, and since 2015 has performed in theatre productions addressing social problems.



Hon. Emma Inamutilla Theofelus (Panelist), is a young, 24-year-old Namibian born in Windhoek, Namibia and is currently a Member of Parliament and the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in the Republic of Namibia.

Before her appointment, Honourable Emma was always policy adjacent and was a Youth Activist around issues of gender, children's rights, sustainable development and youth unemployment. She served as the Deputy Speaker of the Youth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia and the Junior Mayor of the City of Windhoek amongst other roles.

Emma holds an LLB Honours Degree from the University of Namibia, a diploma in Business Management from Amity University and a diploma in Afrikan Feminism and Gender Studies from the University of South Africa.

In her new role, Emma plans to better communicate the activities and programs of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and assist in preparing the Namibian nation for the 4th Industrial Revolution.



Mavis Naa Korley Aryee (Panelist) is a Member and National Radio Host, CYIB Curious Minds. Having joined the group close to a decade ago based on a recommendation by another member, she has not looked back in learning from colleagues and imbibing the essence of advocacy. Right from her nascent stages in the group, she stood out as someone who will not allow a modest background to hold her down. She integrated quickly and contributed to programmes using her community-level experience and drawing parallels with existing laws and conventions that the country and the international community have signed on to.

Presently, as a presenter in a Youth level programme GEMS OF OUR TIME on national radio and also on the local language version of Child rights and reproductive health programme MOMLIKOO, she seizes every opportunity to learn more and does not hold back from supporting much younger ones who join with the basic knowledge of advocacy and broadcasting that takes ethics into consideration.

Without a doubt, she is a youth leader that so many others look up to in her community as she inspires many young ladies to remain resolute in their goals as they work on issues that largely relate to the ICPD Programme of Action. Mavis has also participated in other youth-focused programmes including the 7th African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights, Ghana Tertiary Leaders Conference, Ending Trafficking in Humans, Ghana Tertiary Women's Mentorship series as well as League of Young Communicators Summit.



Dr. Peter Waiswa, MBChB, MPH, PhD (Panelist) is a Ugandan medical doctor and an Associate Professor at Makerere University School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Uganda. He is a health systems and policy academic and researcher with particular focus on newborn health and development and maternal-newborn-child health services. He leads the InDepth Network on Maternal-Newborn health and is a frequent advisor to international organizations on perinatal-newborn health. He is also a member of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group of Experts (STAGE) for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition.

He holds a joint PhD degree from Karolinska Institutet and Makerere University, and is on the faculty at Makerere University School of Public Health, Uganda, as well as at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. Dr. Waiswa worked as a District Medical Officer for eight years under Iganga District Local Government where he rose to the rank of Principal Medical Officer. He has extensive experience in health systems and health service management. His research and program interests in low and middle income countries include health systems research including policy analysis, implementation and operations research, and how well these are linked to programming.



Dr. Joia Adele Crear-Perry, MD, FACOG (Panelist) is a physician, policy expert, thought leader and advocate for transformational justice. As the founder and president of the National Birth Equity Collaborative (NBEC), she identifies and challenges racism as a root cause of health inequities.

She is a highly sought-after trainer and speaker who has been featured in national and international publications including *Essence* and *Ms. Magazine*. In 2020, Dr. Crear-Perry was honored by *USA Today* in its "Women of the Century" series and featured on *ABC Nightline's* Hear Her Voice.

Dr. Crear-Perry has twice addressed the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to elevate the cause of gender diversity and urge a human rights framework toward addressing maternal mortality. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Birthing Project,

Director of Women's and Children's Services at Jefferson Community Healthcare Center and as the Director of Clinical Services for the City of New Orleans Health Department.

Dr. Crear-Perry currently serves as a Principal at Health Equity Cypher and on the Board of Trustees for Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Community Catalyst, National Clinical Training Center for Family Planning and the UCSF PTBi. She is an Adjunct Professor at Tulane School of Public Health.

After completing undergraduate studies at Princeton University and Xavier University, Dr. Crear-Perry received her M.D. from Louisiana State University and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tulane University's School of Medicine.



Maria Teresa Rivera, (Panelist) is Women's Rights Activist. She is one of the first women to receive international protection after being socially and judicially persecuted for the crime of abortion in El Salvador. She was sentenced to 40 years in prison after suffering an obstetric emergency, and her case became a reference in the fight against laws that criminalize abortion in El Salvador and in the world.

After proving her innocence, María Teresa now lives in Sweden, a country where she was granted asylum. From Europe, she militates as a defender of women's rights, especially reproductive rights.

UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, aims to end the unmet need for contraception, end preventable deaths in pregnancy and childbirth, and end gender-based violence and harmful practices in all forms, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, basing its efforts on high-quality population data to ensure that no one is left behind.

