










**UYD 2023**  
Joint Sessions – 18 - 23 September 2023  
SPEAKERS PRESENTATION

Opening Ceremony	
Speaker	Biography
 <p><b>David VELOSO LARRAZ</b></p>	<p>David Veloso Larraz is the <b>General Director of the Spanish Youth Institute, INJUVE</b>.</p> <p>He also held the position of Adviser in the Ministry of Social Rights, but previously he had worked as an Adviser in the Castilla-La Mancha Parliament and as a member of the European Affairs Council of the Community from Madrid.</p> <p>Graduated in Sociology from the University of Granada and in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the Complutense University of Madrid. He also has a master's degree in public policy from the ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa and a master's degree in city management from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.</p> <p>In his professional career, David Veloso Larraz has been a visiting professor at the Torcuato Di Tella University, and a researcher at the in Social Sciences Institutes of Lisbon and Coimbra.</p>
 <p><b>Thais LERAY</b></p>	<p>Thais Leray is <b>Team leader for Youth</b> in the unit in charge of <b>Youth, Education and Culture of the European Commission DG for International Partnerships</b>.</p> <p>She has spent the past 20 years working on policies and programmes in the field of international cooperation, human development, sustainable development, and climate action.</p> <p>Prior to joining the European Commission in 2010, she has worked for the private sector and the World Bank. She holds 3 Masters, in Business Administration, Environmental Management and International Economics.</p>

 <p><b>Milosh RITOVSKI</b></p>	<p>Milosh Ristovski is the <b>Secretary General of the European Youth Forum</b>. Milosh has over ten years of experience in organisational and project management, including extensive work, activism, and volunteering in the youth sector.</p> <p>Milosh started his professional career at the Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) of North Macedonia, first as a programme coordinator and later as the executive director.</p> <p>On a European level he also served as a project coordinator in Out of the Box (OTB) International and as Secretary General of the Young European Federalists (JEF) Europe.</p> <p>He is passionate about youth rights, education, digitalisation, innovation, and European integration.</p>
 <p><b>Tilemachos BONI</b></p>	<p>Tilemachos Boni has been elected as <b>member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe</b>. Tilemachos has been representing ELIX in the Executive Committee of the ALLIANCE of European Voluntary Organisations network with his main focus being external relations and advocacy and as part of that.</p> <p>Together with other 29 youth representatives, Tilemachos is bringing the voice of young people within the Council of Europe, supporting the development of youth related policies.</p> <p>Tile is an experienced project manager with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organisation management. He has professional skills in youth work, public speaking, team building, facilitation, and training.</p> <p>Tilemachos is also Grant-Making Processes Manager within the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).</p>
 <p><b>Benjamin MWAPE</b></p>	<p>Benjamin Mwape is the <b>Youth and Partnerships Expert for the African Union-European Union (AU-EU) Youth Cooperation Hub</b>.</p> <p>The Hub is a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together youth leaders from Africa and Europe to co-create innovative solutions to some of the most pressing global development challenges. Previously, Benjamin has worked extensively in international youth development with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations International Labour Organization (UN-ILO) and other Civil Society Organisations. As a strong advocate of good governance, Benjamin has led several youth-led accountability initiatives in shaping policy and practice.</p> <p>He also served on the board of the National Youth Development Council in his Country as an advisor to the Minister of Youth. He holds an MBA in Leadership from the University of Lusaka and several undergraduate qualifications in communications, media and public relations.</p>

Joint Session	
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 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mr. Saji PRELIS</b></p>	<p>Mr. Prelis has over 25 years’ experience working with youth movements and youth focused organizations in conflict and transition environments, in over 35 countries throughout the world.</p> <p>In 2010 he co-founded and has been co-chairing the first UN-CSO-Donor working group on Youth and Peacebuilding (Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security) that helped successfully advocate for the historic UN Security Council <a href="#">Resolution 2250</a> (in 2015) on Youth, Peace and Security. As a result of the Working Group’s advocacy, a second Security Council Resolution (<a href="#">Res 2419</a>) was unanimously adopted in June 2018 and a third (<a href="#">Res 2535</a>) in July 2020.</p> <p>Prior to joining SFCG, Mr. Prelis was the founding director of the Peacebuilding &amp; Development Institute at American University in Washington, DC. Over eleven years at the university resulted in him co-developing over 100 training curricula exploring the nexus of peace building with development.</p> <p>Mr. Prelis has served as an adviser to governments and governmental agencies in over a dozen countries. He has also played an advisory role to the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Ministers on youth and peacebuilding. In June 2017, Mr. Prelis received the distinguished Luxembourg Peace Prize for his Outstanding Achievements in Peace Support.</p> <p>Mr. Saji Prelis obtained his master’s degree in international Peace &amp; Conflict Resolution with a Concentration in International Law from the American University in Washington, DC.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chiagozie UDEH</b></p>	<p>Chiagozie Udeh, <b>UNFPA’s global focal point on Youth and Climate Action</b>. He is based in Geneva. Chiagozie Udeh is a 23-year-old Nigerian expert on Climate policy and clean energy campaigner.</p> <p>Before joining UNFPA, he was part of the leadership of YOUNGO (the children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC process) for many years. He is also focal point for the work on Youth, Peace, and Climate Security with the COP28 presidency team.</p> <p>While working as TUNZA Eco-Generation ambassador from 2014 to 2017, he led climate action, students’ environmental education and biodiversity protection in Nigeria, continuously publishing reports on these topics.</p> <p>In 2015, Udeh became Programme Coordinator for the Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation which is planting trees and training children to become Climate Justice Ambassadors.</p> <p>In March 2018 Udeh took active part in the launch of the “Trillion Trees” campaign in Monaco. As part of the African Union’s Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC) Infrastructure and Energy Cluster Committee. He coordinates the Energy thematic group and is part of Africa’s (renewable) energy revolution with AFROWatt, a startup aiming to sustainably electrify rural Africa.</p>

 <p><b>Alessia ULFE BANDINI</b></p>	<p>Alessia ULFE BANDINI is <b>Co-chair of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security Working Group on Climate.</b></p> <p>Alessia is a young professional with over 2 years of experience in the field of Youth, Peace, and Security. Currently working at the Kofi Annan Foundation as consultant at the Programme - Youth &amp; Peace and Trust. She has also experience at UNFPA where she was working on Youth, Peace, and Security.</p> <p>Alessia ULFE BANDINI has previously been involved within the United Network of Young Peacebuilders as Advocacy &amp; Communication officer.</p> <p>Alessia holds a MSc in International Relations &amp; Diplomacy, Peace Studies, and Conflict Resolution from Leiden University. She also obtained a MA in Conflict Studies and Human Rights at Utrecht University.</p>
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Closing Ceremony	
Speaker	Biography
 <p><b>Amb. Francesca CAMILLERI VETTIGER</b></p>	<p>Ambassador Francesca Camilleri Vettiger, is the <b>Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe.</b></p> <p>Amb. Francesca Callieri Vettiger is also the <b>new Chair of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre</b> of the Council of Europe.</p>

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