UNEA 5.2 SPEAKERS BUREAU

To speak with any of our experts, please contact Claire Arkin at claire@no-burn.org

Global Plastics Policy Experts

African Policy Experts

Asia Pacific Policy Experts

European Policy Experts

U.S. + Canada Policy Experts

*they will be in person at UNEA 5.2

Global Plastics Policy Experts

Christina Dixon*
Deputy Ocean Campaign Lead, Environmental Investigation Agency (UK)

Chris has worked as an environmental campaigner since 2011 on multi-stakeholder platforms, policy and advocacy and corporate campaigning. She holds a MA in communications from Goldsmiths, University of London, and has extensive experience working with governments and communities to mobilise on topics from the environment, to animal welfare and urban development. Since 2013 she has been focussed on plastics and pollution from fisheries.

T: @_C_Dixon

Von Hernandez
Global Coordinator, Break Free From Plastic (The Philippines)

Von is a leading and multi-awarded Filipino environmental activist, whose career has been marked by more than 20 years of campaign leadership, strategic planning, organizational development and management. In 2003, he was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize for his work, which led to the first national ban on waste incineration.

T: @brkfreeplastic
Jane Patton*
**Campaign Manager: Plastics and Petrochemicals, Center for International Environmental Law (United States)**
Since 2011, Jane has been working with communities to address inequality, mitigate harm, and increase justice through organizing for safer environments, better schools, and greater self-determination. Jane holds a BA in International Relations & Politics from the University of Essex and a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University.

T: @soopajane

Huub Scheele*
**Global Waste Policy Coordinator, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (The Netherlands)**
Huub works on getting a global Treaty on Plastic established and monitors waste trade policy. Based in the Netherlands, he started campaigning on international hazardous waste trade before he graduated as an environmental engineer. He has a long history with several non-profits that monitor the social, environmental and human rights impacts of international financial institutions. He also works for various funders that provide grants supporting environmental activists and affected communities.

Neil Tangri*
**Science and Policy Director, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (United States)**
A founding member of GAIA, Neil has worked on international environmental policy, climate and development finance, and provided technical support to GAIA members. Neil has a captain's license from the U.S. Coast Guard and a Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Hemantha Withanage*
**Executive Director and Founder, Centre for Environmental Justice Chair, Friends of the Earth International (Sri Lanka)**
Hemantha is an environmental scientist based in Sri Lanka. A science graduate from the University of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka, Hemantha joined the environmental justice movement in 1990 as an environmental officer for the Environmental Foundation Ltd. In 2004, he co-founded the Centre for Environmental Justice - the most visible environmental organisation in Sri Lanka today. From 2005-2008, Hemantha was Executive Director of the Philippines based NGO Forum on ADB, a network of civil society organisations monitoring the Asian Development Bank – for which he has also been the elected International Convenor a number of times. Hemantha has held leadership positions in number of other regional and international networks and is a leading environmental activist in the Asia Pacific region. Hemantha closely monitor the plastic related issues in Sri Lanka and in the region and is also closely monitoring the Express Pearl Ship burnt near Colombo harbor in Sri Lanka.

T: @HemanthaWithana

African Policy Experts

**Betty Osei Bonsu**  
*Project Coordinator, Green Africa Youth (Ghana)*

Betty Osei Bonsu is an environmentalist who serves as the Project coordinator for Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO) where she is championing the Sustainable Community. GAYO has provided green jobs for more than 70 youth in rural communities whilst diverting waste from landfills. Betty is also responsible for the implementation and replication of the GAYO Sustainable Community Project (SCP) to other regions in Ghana. She is recognized as a young environmental leader through her efforts in executing global leadership programs including her contribution to the recently launched GLF Biodiversity report.

T: @gayoghana

**Rico Euripidou**  
*Campaign Coordinator, groundWork (South Africa)*

Rico Euripidou is groundWork's Campaign Coordinator. His interests lie in working on issues of energy, chemicals policy, climate change and public health, all of which are, of course, closely interrelated. He trained as an Environmental Epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom.

T: GroundWorkSA
Madi Koena *
Provincial Leader, South African Waste Pickers Association (South Africa)
Madi Koena, she is a provincial leader for SAWPA in the Western Cape of South Africa and works at a material recovery facility in Paarl, Western Cape where they implement zero waste principals.

Ana la Rocha *
Executive Director, Nipe Fagio (Tanzania)
Ana Rocha is the Executive Director for Nipe Fagio. She is Brazilian and has a Master's degree in Business with focus on Business Strategy for Sustainability and Marketing. She is passionate about community development and works to allow people become active agents of change.

T: @NipeFagio

Carissa Marnce*
Africa Communications Officer, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (South Africa)
Carissa Marnce is GAIA's Africa Communications Coordinator. She has a background in Journalism, with a special focus on new media and has previously worked with local news media as a journalist. Carissa joined the GAIA team in April 2020 and is based in Durban, South Africa.

T: @gaianoburn

Griffins Ochieng *
Executive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice and Development (Kenya)
Mr. Griffins Ochieng is the Executive Director of the Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD), a public interest non-governmental organization working on chemicals and waste
management in Kenya. Griffins is a former Co-chair, of the NGOs major group at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science from Kenyatta University. At CEJAD, he also serves as the Programme’s Coordinator, managing a portfolio of various projects related to chemicals and waste management including heavy metals such as mercury and lead, Plastics and Waste Management, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) elimination among others.

T: @CEJADKenya

Niven Reddy*
Africa Regional Coordinator, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (South Africa)

Niven has a background in social science and worked in the education and environmental planning sector before joining the environmental justice movement in 2016 with groundWork, where he focused on air quality and working with local waste picker groups. He joined the GAIA team in January 2018 and is based in Durban, South Africa.

Asia Pacific Policy Experts

Nina Azzahra Arisandi
Young environmental activist, ECOTON (Indonesia)

Nina campaigns to fight illegal imports of plastic waste from industrialized countries. The plastic is mixed with legal paper waste and then disposed of in Indonesia without control and regardless of the ecologically catastrophic consequences and contaminates the Brantas River, from which Nina and the residents of her region get their drinking water. Her main concern is to stop the transport of rubbish from Europe to her home country and other countries in the global south. Nina never tires of starting media-effective campaigns over and over again.

T: @ecotonID, @aeshnina; IG: @aeshnina

Lakshmi Narayan
Waste picker organizer, KKPKP (India)

Lakshmi Narayanan has been working with waste pickers in Pune since 1989 and is one of the founders of Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat and SWaCH, active members of Alliance of Indian Waste pickers, Global Alliance of Waste Pickers, WIEGO and GAIA.
**Nindhita Proboretno**  
Zero Waste Program Officer, Nexus3 Foundation and Aliansi Zero Waste Indonesia (Indonesia)

Nindhita works for the Nexus3 Foundation as a Zero Waste Program Officer and is the Co-Coordinator of the Alliance for Zero Waste Indonesia. She has worked in a variety of local and international non-governmental organizations over the past 12 years. She currently leads various projects, including a plastic-free school and waste-to-energy, and coordinates 10 NGOs under AZWI to achieve zero waste. She graduated from Massey University in New Zealand with a Master of International Development.

T: AZWIIndonesia

**Mageswari Sangaralingam**  
Senior Research Officer, Consumers' Association of Penang (Malaysia)

Mageswari Sangaralingam is a senior research officer with the Consumers' Association of Penang and Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth). She coordinates and oversees operations of projects undertaken by the organizations such as on promotion of agroecology, protection of natural resources, minimizing exposure to toxic chemicals and ensuring environmental health and justice.

T: @MageswariSanga4

**Dharmesh Shah**  
Senior Technical Advisor, Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (India)

Dharmesh Shah is an India based environmental policy researcher and writer working on issues of air pollution, biodiversity conservation, waste and climate change. He is currently working with Delhi based law research organisation, Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) as a senior technical advisor.

T: @dshah1983
European Policy Experts

Anne Aittomaki*
Strategic Director, Plastic Change (Denmark)
Anne Aittomaki is the strategic director at the environmental organisation Plastic Change where she has worked for over 6 years. She oversees the organization's strategic impact work combining future scenarios methodology and systems thinking with narrative designs and communication. She is a strong national voice in public and political arenas and media - and is a frequent keynote speaker. She holds a degree in social anthropology and sees plastic as a cultural problem with environmental, climate and health consequences.

T: @AnneAittomaki

Delphine Lévi Alvarès*
European Coordinator, Break Free From Plastic (Belgium)
Delphine Lévi Alvarès is the European coordinator of the Break Free From Plastic movement. She has been a driving force behind the development of the movement's holistic strategy, linking to the broader global movement. She has played a central role in the foundation of the movement since its inception in 2016, uniting more than 100 European NGOs under a common vision. Since its foundation in 2017, Delphine is also the coordinator of the Rethink Plastic alliance: the Brussels based, policy coalition working on plastic pollution issues across the European Union which played a crucial role in securing ambitious legislation on single-use plastics at the European level. She also gives lectures on strategic communications, advocacy and embodied leadership for different academic programmes, and co-authored the first 'Scénario Zero Waste' book in 2014.

T: @delphinelevialv

Latin America Policy Experts

Cecilia Bianco *
Coordinator, Taller Ecologista (Argentina)
Cecilia Bianco is an aeronautical mechanical engineer, and quality engineer. She has developed various publications on chemical substances and their impacts on health and the environment. She is a member of the Academic Committee of the Center for Environmental Policy Studies in the Faculty of Political Science and International
Relations of the University of Rosario and of the Research Council of the Santa Fe Cancer Control Agency. She is currently studying towards a Diploma in Political Management of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean. For more than 15 years, she has been the coordinator of the toxic area of the civil association Taller Ecologista, based in the city of Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina.

T: @CeciliaSBianco

Alex Cardoso* language preferred: Portuguese
Leader, MNCR (Brazil)
Alex Cardoso is a waste picker, and member of Cavalhada Recyclable Material Collectors Cooperative - ASCAT. He is also a member of Porto Alegre and Metropolitan Region Collectors Cooperatives’ Network - CATAPOA, and National Movement of Waste Pickers and Recyclable Material Collectors - MNCR. He is a social scientist, based in Porto alegre, Brazil.

T: @catadoresmncr

Magdalena Donoso*
Regional Coordinator for GAIA Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile)
Magda has worked in communications and networking with several Chilean NGOs and in Television Trust for the Environment (UK), supporting educational and activism programs in forestry and biodiversity for 15 years. For the last fourteen years she has worked on waste issues with cities in Latin America, particularly defending the rights of recyclers and promoting zero waste.

T: @Magdalenadonoso

Lucia Fernandez
International Coordinator with the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers / Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (Uruguay)
Lucia is a PhD candidate of the Doctorate in Architecture at Universidad de la Republica Uruguay. She is an assistant professor at both the Institute of Theory and Urbanism, of the Faculty of Architecture as well as the Social and Solidarity Economy and Cooperatives Unit. Lucia holds a MA in Architecture, focused on spontaneous recycling dynamics from the Ecole National Superieure d'Architecture (ENSAG) and a MA on Ethical and Sustainable Development from the Philosophy Faculty of Universite Lyon. From 2011 – 2013 Lucia was based in Boston where she had a research affiliation with CoLab, at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. She has worked
with WIEGO since 2008, when she coordinated the first World Conference of Waste Pickers, held in March 2008. Since then, she has supported large scale networking, with the Latin-American Network of Waste Pickers and the international coordination of the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers. She has been involved for so many years with the waste sector that some people fondly call her “basurita”.

T: @WIEGOGLOBAL

Alejandra Parra*
Zero Waste and Plastics Advisor for GAIA Latin America & the Caribbean, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (Chile)

Alejandra is a Biologist specialized in Natural Resource Management and holds a Masters’ Degree in Planning. She is a co-founding member of the Chilean organization RADA (Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales). Alejandra is an environmental activist with more than 20 years of experience. She has also implemented citizen environmental education programs, zero waste strategies at the local level, and developed advocacy actions aiming to impact public policies at the regional, national, and international levels.

T: @GAIA_LAC

U.S. + Canada Policy Experts

Karen Wirsig
Environmental Defense Canada

Karen Wirsig is the plastics program manager at Environmental Defense Canada. Karen brings her experience as a labour and community organizer to the crucial campaign to stop plastic pollution in Canada and around the world.

T: @Karen_Wirsig