



Participant Profiles



Sebastian Antonino Cutrona, President of the Councilmember Caucus of the *Cambiamos* Alliance in La Rioja, **Argentina**.

PhD in International Relations by the University of Miami, degree which he obtained by means of a Fulbright scholarship. He was president of the youth chapter of the *Union Civica Radical* party in his province. He currently also serves as a professor at the National University of La Rioja, teaching International Politics and Regional Integration. He also has a degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in International Relations. He has worked as a professor at the University of Miami, the University of San Andrés and the National University of Cordoba. His most recent book is titled *Challenging The US-led War on Drugs*, published by Routledge. His studies and training in leadership have been funded by the Association of Latin American Studies, Bank Santander, Fulbright, the University Foundation of Rio de la Plata, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. His professional experience also includes the Center for Legal and Social Studies, the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. He is a columnist in national newspapers such as Clarin, Perfil and Infobae.



Walter Daniel Lanaro, Senator, Province of Buenos Aires, **Argentina**.

Born in Buenos Aires 32 years ago. He did his primary and secondary studies at the Instituto Los Santos Custodios. He studied law at the University of the Argentine Federal Police (IUPFA in Spanish). From an early age he walk the political and social path of his country and more precisely his province (Buenos Aires). He held various positions in the social area of the administration of the city of Buenos Aires, under the leadership of current president Mauricio Macri, and the current governor of Buenos Aires, Maria Eugenia Vidal. Today he is Senator of the Province and president of the standing committee of childhood, adolescence and family. He is also a member of the standing committees of Prosecution of Judges, Education, Sports, Zoning and Housing, Political Reform and Electoral rules, and Modernization of the State.





Fernanda San Martin, Congresswoman, Legislative Assembly, Bolivia.

Lawyer, with a double degree from the University Complutense of Madrid and the Panthéon Sorbonne University of Paris, with a Masters in Management and Public Policy (Masters for Development, UCB-Harvard). Fernanda received a prize for her thesis "The relationship between institutional quality and economic growth in regards to foreign direct investment in Bolivia." Diploma in Legal English and Common Law by the Université Pantheon Sorbonne de Paris, Political Marketing, Arbitration, Conciliation, Negotiation and Investment, Higher Education, Risk management, preparation of contingency plans and evacuation. She is currently a National Representative and presides over the Gender Rights Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of Bolivia, chaired the Committee on International Economic Relations, and is currently a member of the Commission of Leading Women of Latin America (OAS), representative of the Chamber of Deputies at the Open Government Partnership Summit 2016. She was a legal advisor for several private companies and law firms, consultant for the World Bank, University Lecturer, General Secretary (Director of Legal Affairs) La Salle University, lecturer, columnist in *La Prensa* and *Razon* newspapers, founder of the Citizen Movement "Plaza Avaroa" and National leader of the Social Democrat Movement.



Maria Quiteria Mendes de Jesus, Northeast Region Director, National Confederation of Municipalities, Brazil.

Elected in 2008 as mayor of Cardeal da Silva, municipality of Bahia, State of Brazil, and re-elected in 2012. In 2013, the first woman to preside the Association of Municipalities of Bahia (UPB in Portuguese), re-elected to the position in 2015. She is the only woman in the Directory of the National Confederation of Municipalities of Brazil (CNM). Worked as Secretary of Culture and Tourism of the Municipality of Penedo, Alagoas. She holds a degree in Administration and specialization in Municipal Public Administration. Her political trajectory began in school, with her participation in the students' association. She has been invited to participate in countless national and international events. During her participation in the Bilateral Forum Austria-Brazil in Movement, held in Vienna, she received the title of Ambassador of Peace for the World by the Federation for Universal Peace - entity linked to the United Nations (UN) in Recognition of her efforts in promoting sustainable social development of the cities of Bahia. Recently, Maria Quiteria made a special presentation at the 3rd BRICS Urbanization Forum, held in India in 2016.





Jorge Fuentes Fetis, Mayor of *Los Alamos*, Province of Arauco, **Chile**.

Degree in communications and journalist at the *Universidad del Desarrollo*. He has a masters' degree in Strategic Communication and Business from the same university. He entered the world of politics at the age of 18 and was a candidate for councilor for his municipality. Although he was not elected, he continued with his vocation. He became president of the Center for Students of Journalism. After graduation he entered the labor force, serving as Chief of Staff of the Governor of Arauco and professor at the Catholic University of the Santísima Concepción, Cañete. In 2012 he run as mayoral candidate for *Los Álamos*, winning the election and becoming the youngest mayor of Chile with only 26 years. His great management in politics at his young age, earned him a prize that the newspaper *El Sur* delivered in 2012 to the 50 young leaders who stood out most in the region. He is currently National Director of the Youth and Politics program of the Association of Municipalities of Chile (AMUCH). His vision of politics and leadership, led him this 2017 to assume the regional presidency of his party.



Ingrid Scarlett Valencia Barreto, Adviser for the Rights of Displaced Population, Office of the Ombudsman. Leader of the organization *Manos Visibles - Poder Pacífico*, **Colombia**.

Lawyer, Master in Government and Public Policies of EAFIT University and Specialist in Criminal Procedural Law, alumni of the "Innovation and Leadership in Government" Program (ILG), Georgetown University (Washington DC). Active leader of the Network Poder Pacífico - Manos Visibles that promotes the development of leaders committed to the Colombian Pacific, strengthening their individual and collective capacities in governance and management, in order to consolidate an elite that leads processes of sustainable development and integration in the region. From this network, she shares her experiences and good practices of empowerment to the territorial and social ethnic organizations with which she works, to contribute to the construction of peace from the territory and the sustainable development of her region. Her experience is focused on the implementation of public policies for comprehensive care and reparation to victims of the armed conflict. She works in the Ombudsman's Office as an adviser for the rights of the displaced population, overseeing the training for citizens' participation and its impact on the definition of public policies and preparing for the implementation of territorial peace. She has served as Coordinator of Victims for the Governor of Chocó and Legal Coordinator of the Land Restitution Unit.





Víctor Julian Sanchez Acosta, Legislator, Provincial Legislature of Cundinamarca, **Colombia**.

He completed his high school studies at *Colegio Bolivar* where he was an active part of the different groups of the school, in 2006 he was appointed Regional Co-Director of the Youth Program of the political party Cambio Radical. In 2009 he was part of the staff of Senator and House Representative Rodrigo Lara Restrepo, in 2013 graduated in Government and International Relations, in 2015 is endorsed to the Assembly of Cundinamarca by the *Unidad Nacional* Party. On January 1st, 2014 he is sworn in as Deputy of the Assembly of Cundinamarca, developing a new leadership role in the 116 municipalities of Cundinamarca while attaining a master's degree in urban planning and regional development at the *Universidad de los Andes*. He has been a leader on projects of major Departmental importance, such as the Development Plan and the creation of Peace Council.



César Fausto Solorzano Sarria, Congressman, National Assembly, **Ecuador**.

Elected at 33 years of age, he became the youngest representative that his province has had in the National Assembly of Ecuador. Born in the city of Quito (Ecuador) in 1980, to his father Cesar Solorzano Valarezo, Marine and to his mother Elizabeth Sarria Mosquera, professional singer. First of three brothers, he grew up in a humble neighborhood which forced him to continue his university studies in the city of Quito obtaining a degree in Systems Engineering. Volleyball player in the national professional team of Ecuador being the youngest player at 18 years of age. He participated in several international championships representing the country as an outstanding athlete which allowed him to obtain a sports scholarship to attend college. He's performed in several leadership roles and has worked in several public entities as an analyst for the Superintendency of Banks, adviser to a congressman at the National Assembly of Ecuador, Director of Committees in the Andean Parliament of Ecuador. Recently reelected as a National Deputy for the period 2017 - 2021.





Nery Granados Santos, Commissioner, Santa Tecla, and Legal Adviser to the Vice President, **El Salvador**.

Lawyer and Notary, graduated with honors from a Master's in International Business Law from the Ibero-American University of Mexico City, Bachelor's Degree in Judicial Sciences from the Evangelical University of El Salvador. He has extensive experience in the public sector, from 2004 to 2014 worked in the Municipal Office of Santa Tecla, holding various positions, among them, Legal Advisor of the Mayor, Head of the Legal Department and Municipal Secretary.

Since 2014 he serves as Legal Advisor to the Vice President of the Republic. In March 2015, he was elected as councilor of the Municipal Council of Santa Tecla, representing the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front party, FMLN. He has participated actively in the electoral processes since 2003, carrying out various positions including Legal Representative before the Municipal Electoral Board of Santa Tecla for the 2012 Legislative and Municipal elections, and Electoral Legal Representative before the Departmental Electoral Board of La Libertad, for the Presidential elections of 2014, both positions representing the FMLN.



Byron Rodriguez Palacios, National Secretary of Youth, TODOS Political Party, **Guatemala**.



He holds a degree in Law and Social Sciences from the Rafael Landivar University of Guatemala, and currently holds the position of National Secretary of Youth for the *TODOS* political party, which is currently the second electoral force in the country. He works there with more than 3,000 young people around the country, organizing various activities and projects of political and social leadership. He was elected for the position with more than the 75% of the votes. He has extensive experience in youth programs including being representative to the European Parliament of Latin American youth at the World Forum on Democracy in November 2015 in Strasbourg. He is currently a member of the Latin American Youth Network for Democracy, where he has also had the opportunity to represent Guatemala at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2015 in Washington DC and in 2016 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He is part of the Fellows Network of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Guatemala, and also currently works as an Adviser to the Vice Presidency of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala.



Luis Fernando Castellanos Cal y Mayor, Mayor, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico.

Degree in Law from the *Universidad Valle de México*; Master of Government Science by the University of the Center for Macroeconomic Studies of Argentina. Specialization in Municipal Administration of the Technological Institute and of Superior Studies of Monterrey; Diploma in Municipal Administrative Law at the Autonomous University of Chiapas and Diploma in Constitutional Controversies and Federalism at the National Institute of Controversies and Unconstitutionality Acts. Member of the Greenpeace Association. He is part of the Green Ecologist Party of Mexico, holding positions of Secretary of Youth Affairs, Secretary of Electoral Processes, Secretary of Finance, Representative before the Institute of Elections and Citizen Participation, and before the Local Board of the Federal Electoral Institute, Secretary General Of the State Executive Committee and Secretary of Elections of the National Executive Committee of his Party. He has been Plurinominal Deputy for the Green Ecologist Party of Mexico. Held the Presidency of the Board of Directors, later designated as President of the Political Coordination Board of the LXV Legislature of the Congress of the State of Chiapas. Has chaired the committees of tourism and international cooperation, and the special committee for the Project of Integration and Development of Mesoamerica. Vice-President of the committees on Governance and Constitution affairs, Treasury, and Justice. Representative before the Commission of Concord and Pacification. Secretary of the committee on Population and Migration Issues



Luis Gerardo Aldaco Ortega, Coordinator for Municipal Development, State Government of San Luis Potosi, **Mexico**.

Lawyer by the *Universidad Autonoma* of San Luis Potosi in 2001. Since he has dedicated himself to public service, holding various positions both in the city council of San Luis Potosi and in the State Government. Enthusiast of politics, his position as a community instructor in the National Council for Educational Development, CONAFE (1996 - 1997) further sensitized his vocation for public service, he is convinced that the public servant has to serve and not be served. In 2009 he was appointed General Director of the Potosi Youth Institute, considered one of the most important arenas in governmental matters both at the state and national levels. He has also held positions of popular election, he was a councilor of the council





of San Luis Potosi, the state capital (2015-2018). This position gave him a greater perspective about the citizens and their needs. In 2015 he returned to his Alma Mater as Professor of the Faculty of Law. Currently, he serves as head of the State Coordination for Institutional Strengthening of Municipalities (CEFIM), part of the Government of the State. From this position he has the responsibility of granting the tools to strengthen the institutional and management capacities, with a plural approach, of all the local governments that make up the State. He is also currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Law from the UASLP.



Odalis Vega, Mayor, Hato Mayor del Rey, **Dominican Republic**.

Communicator, politician, columnist and writer. Born in 1987. Vega grew up with accentuated social sensitivity within a humble family environment. In 2006, he entered the APEC University where he enrolled in Law. He has worked in various positions of the Honorable Supreme Court. He currently has responsibilities for various printed and electronic media. He is a member of the National Union of Press Workers (SNTP). Current member of the Disciplinary Tribunal. He has served as a reporter for several news programs, including Telenoticias Canal 11 and Noticias SIN. Diploma in Defense and National Development, graduated in 2011 from Fu Hsing Kang Military University in Taipei, Taiwan Republic of China. Decorated by the Political Bureau of the Ministry of National Defense of that Asian country. Diploma in Political Management and Training. Diploma in Political Communication and Public Journalism from the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) and the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC). Finalist in the first contest of proposed legislative drafts of the Chamber of Deputies. He has drafted several major laws. Special recognition in National Youth Award 2011 in the line Political Leadership. In 2016 is elected Mayor of Hato Mayor del Rey. In November 2016 he is elected National Vice President of the Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU). "Crime of a Journalist", is his first work, but has other books in process, including history, stories, novels and poetry. He is a member of several social, cultural and sports institutions and has received several awards both at a national level and abroad.



Conrado H. Rodriguez, Congressman, House of Representatives, **Uruguay**.

He comes from a family that dedicated their life to public service, in politics and journalism. He obtained his degree at the Faculty of Law-*Universidad de la Republica*. He is a member of the Colorado-Batllismo Party since he was very young, actively working in the different electoral processes. Candidate to Councilor in 2005. He participated actively in the formation of the Organized Youth of the Colorado Party. He founded in 2008 with other colleagues of the Colorado Party the group "Renewal and Change" and the "Batllist Convocation" group. He is a candidate for Deputy with 29 years. Actively participates in the Departmental and Municipal election of 2010, being candidate to Councilor and to Mayor by the Municipality CH, obtaining important voting in Montevideo. He is then, appointed Secretary of the Ideological Congress and goes around the country training and creating workshops. In 2014 appears in the primaries of his Political Party with his own list of candidates. In October of that year he is elected National Representative for Montevideo at the age of 34. He is part of the Finance Committee, and the Cooperative Committee of the House, and acts as sector delegate in the committees of Education, and Constitution, Codes, General Legislation and Administration. In 2015 participated in the 1st Inter-American Meeting of Young Legislators, organized by the Congress of Peru. He has participated in the Ibero-American Youth Parliaments organized by the Network Iberoamerica LIDER.



Antonio Colmenares Vazquez, National President, AIESEC in **Venezuela**

Born in a small town located in the Venezuelan Andes, in a very humble family where from a very young age instilled in him a vocation to serve humanity. He remembers his first experience in a Scout group at age 6, where he carried out an activity to help seniors in extreme poverty. Discovering that something little could go a long way for another person helped him decide that his life purpose was bound to impact and improve people's lives. He is currently working for Venezuela through organizations that promote democratic values, good governance, and promotion of free market economy, effective articulation between state, society and the private sector. Member of the Latin American Youth Network for Democracy. Active member of the Junior Chamber International Venezuela. Fellow of ImpactHub Caracas. He has been Coordinator of activism and participation of the Voluntad Popular Party. He has served as Coordinator of Economic Development Projects in the City of Sucre, and Coordinator of Entrepreneurship and Democracy Projects of the Venezuelan Youth Organization for the United Nations. Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer of Dotatodo.