

COP29 - UNFCCC

11-22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

Pact for the Future: A new role for young people in major global challenges

18 November 2024

Biographies of speakers

Pierluigi Sassi

President of Earth Day Italia, since 2011 Pierluigi Sassi has been in charge of the Italian editions of the UN-designated International Mother Earth Day.

In the tenth year of his pontificate, Pope Francis welcomed him as a permanent member of the *Familia Pontificia* (Papal Family or Household), appointing him “Gentleman of His Holiness”. Economic and environmental journalist for L'Osservatore Romano, he collaborates with several Italian institutions and Pontifical dicasteries to promote the Integral Ecology advocated by the Encyclical “Laudato si”.

Business Angel, Innovation Manager and Professional Investor at Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, he now also leads Impatta, the Italian Think-Tank on Innovability, within which he established Impatta4Equity, a holding company with equity in the ecological and digital transition sectors.

Francesco Corvaro

Francesco Corvaro is the Special Envoy for Climate Change of the Italian Government, and a University Professor with 20+ years of experience in Thermodynamics, Renewable Energy, Net-Zero, Energy Transition, Sustainable Mobility, Sustainability, Environmental Impact Assessment, Resilience Models, Smart City Models and Life Cycle Assessment. He is in charge of initiating and maintaining several international collaborations with academia and the industry, such as: Architect of the Capitol (Washington DC), Naval Research Laboratory (Washington DC), Arup Group, Tiber International Group, Inc., National Gallery of Washington DC, Catholic University of America, University of Tennessee, University of Maryland, and Georgetown University. He is the liaising official for the double degree programme between the Catholic University of America and the “Università Politecnica delle Marche”.

Stefano Laporta

Stefano Laporta has been President of ISPRA since 2017 after being its Director General since 2010 and Sub-Commissioner since 2008. He is also President of the Council of the National System for Environmental Protection – SNPA. Italian representative in the Management Board of the European Environment Agency, he has been its Deputy Chairman since 2023. He is also a member and Italy’s representative in the Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies. Furthermore, he is a lecturer at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Rome “La Sapienza” within the course on “Environmental Justice and the Fight against Climate Change”.

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Maria Siclari

Maria Siclari is Director General of ISPRA, Italy's Institute for Environmental Protection and Research. Graduated in Economics at the University of Messina, she previously served as Head of ISPRA's Geological Survey of Italy Department, Director General of INGV, and Deputy Head of the Civil Protection Department. As of 15 April this year, Maria Siclari has also been coordinator of the council of experts of the National Inspectorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ISIN), as established by the Council of Ministers upon proposal by the Minister for the Environment and Energy Security, Gilberto Pichetto Fratin.

Fabrizio Pilo

Fabrizio Pilo is Full Professor of Electrical Systems for Energy at the University of Cagliari, where he currently holds the role of Pro-Rector for Territory and Innovation. Before assuming this position, he led the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering for twelve years. He is the author or co-author of over 200 articles published in international journals or presented at national and international conferences; he is in the top 2% of the most influential researchers according to the Stanford ranking. He is an IEEE Senior Member and CIGRE Distinguished Member. He has been and continues to be coordinator of European, national and international research projects on energy distribution, smart grids, management of distributed energy resources and renewable energy sources. He is Vice President of the Board of Directors of the NEST Foundation of the Italian Energy Consortium (PE2 PNRR), member of the Board of Directors of the Interuniversity Consortium for Energy and Electrical Systems (ENSIEL), President of the Technical Committee of CIRED (the main global association for the study of Distribution Systems), of which he was President of the Session dedicated to the development of the distribution system for ten years. He is the Coordinator of ISGAN (IEA) WG 3 for Cost-Benefit Analysis for Smart Grids.

The main research topics include the planning and management of energy distribution systems, the electrification of end-use energy, electric mobility and the technical-economic evaluation of investments. In 2008, he co-founded the spin-off RESPECT Srl.

Samuele Palumbo – Young violinist

Born in Cefalù (Sicily) in 2011, Samuele Palumbo is a young violin prodigy. He won the “Tú sí que vales” talent show in 2023. Although his national fame stems from a TV experience, Samuele proves to be remarkably mature and driven, wanting to constantly improve and always maintaining the pleasure of playing music!

He recently starred in the docufilm titled “The Cannon of Peace”, which uses music as a peace-making tool to address the injustice and suffering resulting from armed conflicts.