



## Meet the Speakers

Session 4.4 | TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2020, 3 PM - 4:30 PM EDT  
DEFENDING OUR FUTURE



**HOST & MODERATOR**  
**BEN LEATHER**  
SENIOR CAMPAIGNER GLOBAL WITNESS

Ben Leather is a Senior Campaigner at Global Witness, where he investigates and campaigns against the threats posed by governments and business to the rights and safety of land and environmental defenders. He also provides training for local activists on security, advocacy and how to interact strategically with international human rights mechanisms. He was previously with the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), lobbying for human rights defender protection, corporate accountability, and a stronger UN. Ben also used to live and work in Mexico, providing international accompaniment and support for at-risk human rights defenders with Peace Brigades International (PBI).



**SPEAKER**  
**WALELA TXAI**  
YOUTH LEADER  
ARTICULATION OF INDIGENIOUS PEOPLES OF BRAZIL

Walela is an activist of the Paiter Suruí people in Brazil. She is a counselor and member of the ethnic environmental association of Kanindé Defense. As a lawyer, she is a strategist for the public Defenders of the Rondonia Union, and a counselor of the State Council for the Rights of Children and Youth -CONEDCA. President of the Academic Law Center of the UNIR University.



**SPEAKER**

**MILITZA FLACO**

**YOUTH LEADER**

**MESOAMERICAN ALLIANCE OF PEOPLES AND FORESTS**

Militza comes from the Emberá Querá community of the Emberá Nation in Panama. She is a traditional dance teacher for young women and participates in the town's tourism project as a way of preserving culture and traditions through sustainable business practices. Since 2016, she is the president of the Emberá and Wounaan Youth Organization of Panama, promoting development initiatives in indigenous communities and rural areas of Panama, with the aim of contributing to the quality of life of indigenous people.



**SPEAKER**

**NADINO CALAPUCHA**

**YOUTH LEADER COORDINATOR OF INDIGENOUS ORGANISATIONS OF THE AMAZON BASIN**

The youth representative of the Amazon Basin is a member of the Kichwa Nation in Ecuador. He is currently the communications focal point for COICA and leads Kambak, a music group that composes songs in Kichwa about the rituals and traditions of their people, to be shared with the world.



**SPEAKER**

**KALFEIN WUISAN**

**YOUTH LEADER INDONESIAN ALLIANCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE ARCHIPIELAGO**

Kalfein Michael Wuisan, is an Indigenous Minahasa youth from Wuwuk, Sulawesi Utara, Indonesia, and a member of the youth wing of the Indonesian Alliance of Indigenous Peoples (AMAN), called BPAN (Barisan Pemuda Adat Nusantara). He's involved in making short films, photography, graphics and books as part of a cultural movement with local artists, humanists and historians to enhance and maintain Minahasa cultural customs, using his expertise in photography, cinematography, graphic design, and writing. He is also actively involved in sharing knowledge through the Smartphone Movement, a cultural movement that focuses on the use of smartphones to document the activities of indigenous youth, communities and territories.



**SPEAKER**

**ANDREW REVKIN**

**FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY EARTH INSTITUTE**

Founding director of the Initiative on Communication and Sustainability at Columbia University's Earth Institute where he is building programs aimed at bridging gaps between science and society to cut climate risk and promote resilience. Revkin has written on climate change for over 30 years, reporting from the North Pole to the White House, the Amazon to the Vatican - mostly for The New York Times. He has won the top awards in science journalism multiple times and has written acclaimed books on the history of humanity's relationship with weather, the changing Arctic, global warming and the assault on the Amazon rainforest.



**SPEAKER**

**KATHRYN BARAGWANATH**

**POLITICAL SCIENTIST UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

A PhD candidate in the political science department at the University of California, San Diego. Her research focuses on the political economy of natural resources and environmental politics, with a focus on Latin America. Kathryn investigates the effects of oil windfalls on political corruption and selection in Brazilian municipalities. She also focuses on environmental politics and the political economy of development. She uses both geographic data to study the politics of deforestation in the Amazon and high-resolution satellite imagery to study the effects of infrastructure investment on development, focusing on road construction projects.



**SPEAKER**

**TUNTIK KATAN**

**INDIGENOUS LEADER & VICE CO-ORDINATOR  
COORDINATOR OF INDIGENOUS ORGANISATIONS OF THE AMAZON BASIN**

Indigenous leader born in the Tuutinentsa Shuar community, Morona Santiago Province, in the Amazonian region of Ecuador. Since 2000, he has worked on social, cultural and environmental projects among different cultures in the Amazon Basin. Currently, he is vice-coordinator of COICA and general coordinator of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. Tuntiak Katan is an Ecuadorian indigenous leader and has been engaging in environmental projects throughout his community and abroad since 2000. He has deep knowledge of indigenous issues and its relations to climate, biodiversity and sustainable development issues, and he is an active spokesperson at local and global levels.



**SPEAKER**

**OONA CHAPLIN**

**ACTRESS ANIWA/BOA FOUNDATION**

Oona Chaplin is an actress and activist who features in Game of Thrones. She is Charlie Chaplin's granddaughter, inheriting his passion for storytelling and desire to use her voice to shine a light on social issues and the miracle of human potential. Oona uses her social media presence to highlight social and environmental issues. She recently landed a leading role in the upcoming Avatar sequels, which seems fitting as she has devoted much of the last 7 years to cultural exchange with indigenous communities from all over the world, particularly Brazil, Mexico, and Chile- part of her ancestry is Mapuche.



**SPEAKER**

**DINAMAN TUXÁ**

**INDIGENOUS LEADER AND CO-ORDINATOR ARTICULATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF BRAZIL**

Dinamam is a Coordinator of the Articulation of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) and Legal Adviser to the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of the Northeast, Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo (APOINME). Bachelor in Law (2009) from the Vale do Rio Doce University, Masters in Sustainable Development from the University of Brasília – UnB and Doctorate in Law from the same institution, National Counselor for the Environment (2015). Currently Dinamam is a lawyer, indigenous social activist acting in various fields: youth, the environment, and in matters of indigenous land demarcations.



## **SPEAKER**

### **RUKKA SOMBOLINGGI**

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF ALIANSI MASYARAKAT ADAT NUSANTARA/AMAN, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ALLIANCE OF THE ARCHIPELAGO, INDONESIA**

Rukka is the first female Secretary General of the Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN)-the world's largest Indigenous Peoples organization. Rukka is a Torajan from the highlands of Sulawesi, a starfish-shaped island the size of Florida. Her people have gained notoriety for their elaborate funeral rituals and the way they have built a local tourism industry while preserving their cultural identity. She is known for her fiery oratory and her longtime dedication to the indigenous rights movement. Her parents hosted a meeting in 1993 that is often cited as its genesis in Indonesia. Rukka completed her bachelor degree from the Faculty of Agriculture, Hasanuddin University and her Master degree in Political Science the University of Chulalongkorn, Thailand. Before joining AMAN in 1999, Rukka worked for JAPHAMA (Jaringan Pembelaan Hak-hak Masyarakat Adat), a network of Indigenous Peoples' defenders-one of the main groups that convened the first congress of Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia in March 1999 during which AMAN was established. Rukka joined UNDP Regional Indigenous Peoples Programme at UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand as Program Specialist in 2007 and returned to AMAN in early 2011 as Project Manager. Later that year she is assigned as the Chair of Organizing Committee of the Fourth Indigenous Peoples Congress in Halmahera, North Maluku, which gather more than one thousand indigenous representatives from across Indonesia. From 2009-2012 Rukka as a member of Executive Council of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact/AIPP representing Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Timor Leste. Rukka has written the Indonesian Chapter of the Indigenous World, an annual global report on indigenous peoples by the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs based in Copenhagen, Denmark.



## **SPEAKER**

### **LEVI SUCRE ROMERO**

**INDIGENOUS LEADER & CO-ORDINATOR MESOAMERICAN ALLIANCE OF PEOPLE AND FORESTS**

An indigenous leader who leads the process of technical management and organization of the RIBCA, a group of eight indigenous territories in Costa Rica. He also coordinates the Executive Commission of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB). He is a farmer and specialist in the areas of indigenous organizations, cultures, and environment in Central America, coming from the Bribri Talamanca indigenous community in Costa Rica. He has more than 20 years of experience with rural development and community organization, and 15 years of experience in the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects in indigenous territories and local communities.