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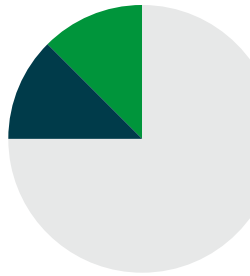
Green careers guide

Alejandra Lopez Carbajal
Mexico



Alejandra Lopez Carbajal

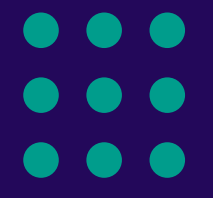
Mexico

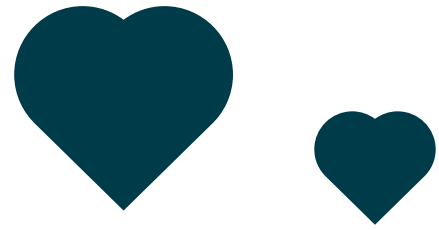


Climate change is the existential crisis of this century. Dealing with a phenomenon that is global in nature, global in consequence, requires us, as humanity, to transcend from our capitalist consumerist status quo to a different paradigm of development in which human welfare is as important as the Earth's welfare. This clashes with common knowledge (and ignorance), with outdated views of prosperity that are exclusively based in economic indicators that fail to take into account the value of environmental services including those of the climate system. It clashes with monetary interests of companies that own a big part of the current economic system. Hence, tackling climate change requires a revolution, an organized revolution of many to build bit by bit a different status quo.



I am privileged because I have had the chance and the opportunity to build a career on a subject that is so important to mankind and to me personally. My name is Alejandra Lopez Carbajal. I am Mexican and I studied a Masters in Science in Environment and Development at LSE back in 2012-2013. I have been working in climate change policy at the national and international levels since 2004, but I decided to go for a Masters Degree to complement and update my theoretical and technical knowledge, and I thought there was no better place to do so that in a world's top university in the UK, where I could challenge what I already knew. And I did. After working for several years with the Mexican Government, both at the Ministry of Environment and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, getting my LSE MSc Degree defied my reasoning and broaden my perspective. It also provided me with a worldwide network of passionate young professionals with whom I continue to stumble upon everywhere I go and in everything I do, and





it enabled me to jump to a regional job, where I am currently Finance and Capacity Building Advisor to the AILAC¹ negotiation group in the United Nations climate regime. In this capacity, I am looking at ways to better represent the interests of the group and those of developing countries in multilateral negotiations over the Financial Mechanism of the Paris Agreement.

One of the best experiences of my professional career was being part of the Mexican Presidency of COP16. This happened in 2010, 10 COPs away from the one that will take place in Glasgow. It happened after a major failure of the multilateral system in which a global agreement could not be reached. The role of the team of the Mexican Presidency was thus to regain confidence in multilateralism as the best way possible to address climate change by taking into account the interests, responsibilities, circumstances and needs of all countries and bridge major differences to build a common ground to address the global challenge of climate change. After a very impressive display of the best of the Mexican diplomacy to listen, engage and enable the participation of major emitters, most vulnerable countries, oil-exporter countries, high-income, middle-income and low-income countries, we managed to restate the necessary trust in the UNFCCC process and to deliver the Cancun Agreements, which were a first major step towards the Paris Agreement.

Now, international policy may seem at times disconnected to national or local realities, however, the Paris Agreement is a milestone in international policy that drives action by different stakeholders -governments, cities, private entities, individuals- to transition to net zero emissions by mid century. The future, a future that is compatible with this new paradigm of development, that is compatible

with the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals, **needs as many young professionals choosing to work in renewable energy and energy efficiency, in sustainable cities and sustainable transportation, in zero-waste lifestyles, in climate-smart agriculture, in the digitalization of the economy, in essence, in reducing the carbon footprint of our economic system.** Fossil fuels represent the past. Climate technologies represent the future. If you have the choice to decide where to work and what to do, channel your energy to this end: join the climate revolution and drive change from where you stand!

1. In English, Independent Association of Latin American and Caribbean Countries

