



Colmena fund
for Women's Political Power

Colmena Fund Leaders at CGI: Biographical Highlights

Members of the Colmena Fund's Steering Committee, along with representatives from our partner organizations, will take part in the 2025 Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting. They are extraordinary and diverse leaders from across the Global South, whose work is reshaping democracy and redefining how power is exercised worldwide.

We are pleased to share their biographical highlights with you, and extend an invitation to engage with them for interviews and expert commentary.

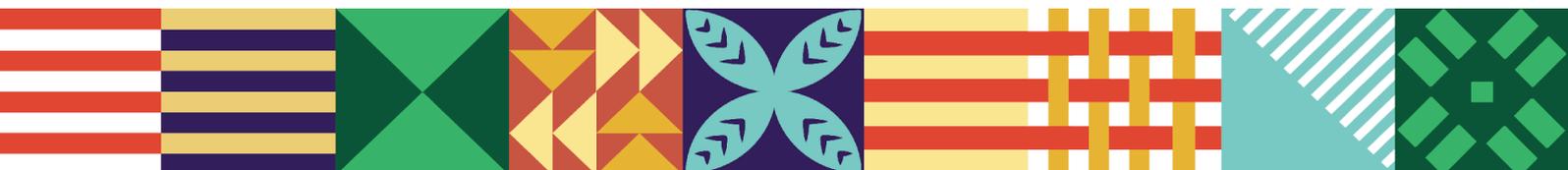


Colmena Fund's Steering Committee members

Suyen Barahona

Suyen is the Executive Director of the Colmena Fund. She is a political leader, human rights activist and feminist with over 15 years of leadership experience in politics.

She was formerly the president of UNAMOS, a Nicaraguan political party advancing democracy, progress, opportunities and justice, because of her political work and activism she suffered persecution from the Nicaraguan regime. In 2021, as a result of a wave of brutal government repression before national elections she was illegally imprisoned. She spent 606 days in prison, and in 2023 she was deported and stripped of her citizenship.





Colmena fund
for Women's Political Power

She is profoundly committed to supporting other women to gain political power to further democracy, gender equality, and justice. In 2022, Suyen was awarded the Human Rights Award for outstanding political courage by the Progressive Alliance and in 2023 the Global Women's Institute at George Washington University awarded her the Champions of Justice Award.

Epsy Campbell Barr

Former Vice President of Costa Rica (2018–2022)—the first Afro-descendant to hold this office in Latin America—and the country's first woman Minister of Foreign Affairs. An economist, researcher, and lecturer with honorary doctorates from Brenau University and Howard University, she has dedicated her career to advancing democracy, gender equality, racial justice, and sustainability.

Campbell Barr served as President of the United Nations Permanent Forum of Afrodescendants (2021–2024) and is founder of the Global Coalition Against Systemic Racism and for Reparations. A seasoned policymaker and international activist, she continues to champion economic and political empowerment for women, Afro-descendant communities, and historically marginalized groups.

Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo

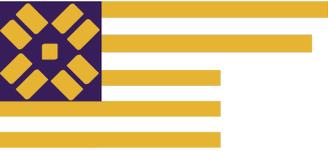
Leni Robredo served as the 14th Vice President of the Philippines (2016–2022), where she became the leading voice of democratic opposition and spearheaded anti-poverty programs focused on education, health, nutrition, rural development, women's empowerment, and housing.

A lawyer by training, Robredo built her early career as a human rights advocate working with farmers, fisherfolk, laborers, indigenous peoples, women, and children. After her term, she founded Angat Pinas, Inc., a non-profit advancing education, health, civic engagement, and disaster response. She has also been a Hauser Leader at Harvard Kennedy School. Today, she continues her political career as Mayor of Naga City, leading her community with the same commitment to justice, inclusion, and democratic values that has defined her public life.





Colmena fund
for Women's Political Power



Partners

Varaidzo Faith Magodo-Matimba - [Pollicy](#)

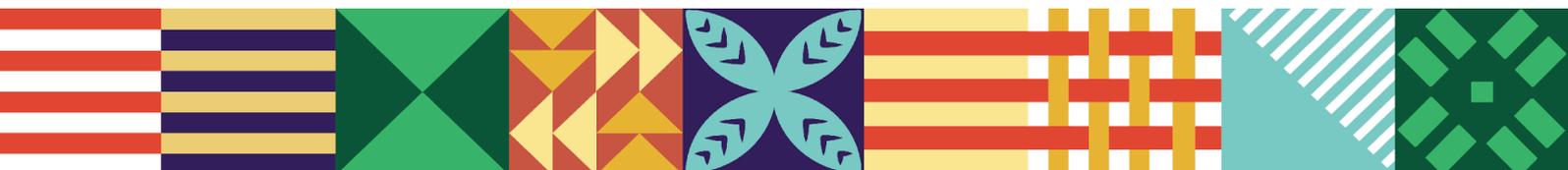
Pan-African feminist lawyer and Programs Manager at Pollicy, where she leads initiatives that use data and technology to shape policy and advocacy across East and West Africa. With expertise spanning feminist technology, digital inclusion, and data governance, she has worked across the continent building feminist movements and strengthening governance and resource mobilization for non-profits and social enterprises.

Her career bridges the women's movement, policy advocacy, and the private sector, where she practiced as a legal associate in mediation, arbitration, and commercial law. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Zimbabwe and an Executive Postgraduate Diploma in Development Policies and Practices from the Geneva Graduate Institute.

Maya A. Tamayo - [Angat Bayi \("Uplift Women"\)](#)

Co-founder and Program Manager of Angat Bayi, a pioneering initiative in the Philippines that prepares and supports women to enter politics, strengthens networks of elected women leaders, and mobilizes young women to expand the constituency for feminist leadership.

She also co-founded the Feminist Legal Network, a collective of legal professionals and advocates advancing gender-responsive and inclusive practices within the Philippine justice system. A feminist researcher, trainer, and advocate for women's rights and the arts, Tamayo has been recognized with the British Council's Connections Through Culture grant and was selected for the inaugural Women Together for a Better Normal fellowship by Ashoka and the S&P Global Foundation.





Colmena fund
for Women's Political Power

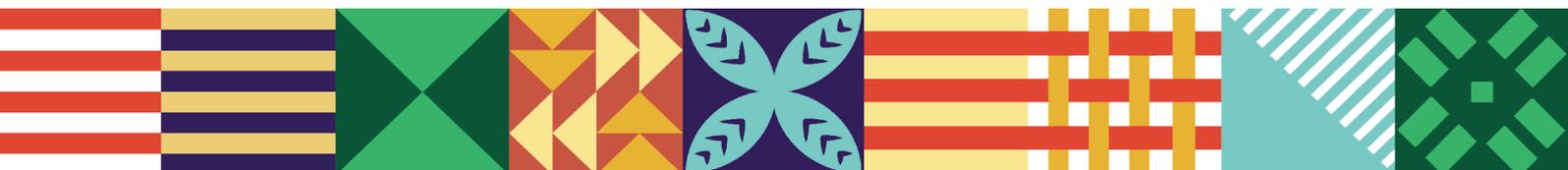
Kunthida Rungruengkiat - [Progressive Movement Foundation](#)

Academic and politician who served as Member of Parliament and Deputy Leader of the Future Forward Party until its court-ordered dissolution in 2020, resulting in a ten-year electoral ban. Her work spans education policy, curriculum development, and women's political leadership development and participation. Currently serving as Director at the Progressive Movement Foundation, she leads initiatives to enhance local administration policies and advance social progress in Thailand.

She also co-founded the Feminist Legal Network, a collective of legal professionals and advocates advancing gender-responsive and inclusive practices within the Philippine justice system. A feminist researcher, trainer, and advocate for women's rights and the arts, Tamayo has been recognized with the British Council's Connections Through Culture grant and was selected for the inaugural Women Together for a Better Normal fellowship by Ashoka and the S&P Global Foundation.

Gui Mohallem (they/them) - [VoteLGBT](#)

Gui Mohallem is a visual artist leading VoteLGBT, an organization that drives data, mobilization, and culture to advance LGBT+ political participation in Brazil. By combining technology with creative communication strategies, VoteLGBT has helped shape an increasingly intersectional electorate, fueling the rise of women—especially Black and trans women—who are reshaping political spaces and strengthening democratic representation in Brazil.





Colmena fund
for Women's Political Power

Hibaaq Osman - Karama

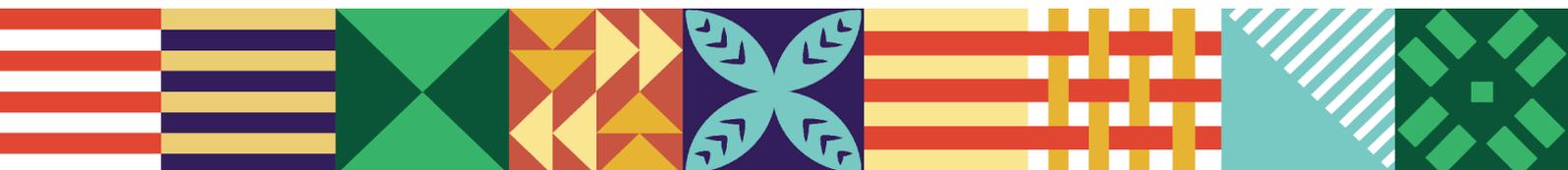
Since 2005, Hibaaq Osman has led a growing movement to end violence against women and promote women's participation across the Arab region. Through Karama – the civil society organisation that she founded in Cairo – Hibaaq has supported women across the region, building networks, institutions and constituencies to promote ideas and build support for positive change for women from Morocco to Yemen.

Hibaaq's innovative approach seeks out women working on the ground to advance women's rights and security, but who lack the tools and the opportunities to make a greater impact. Her work has been recognized internationally and she writes regularly for international press, including the Huffington Post and Guardian. She has been designated one of the 500 Most Influential Muslims and has been a member of UN Women's Global Civil Society Advisory Group.

Lindiwe Mazibuko - Futurelect

Lindiwe Mazibuko is a South African public leader, writer and academic fellow. She was the first black woman in her country's history to be elected Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. Mazibuko is also the co-founder and CEO of Futurelect, a non-partisan movement to diversify public sector leadership around the world.

A graduate of the University of Cape Town in South Africa and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in the United States, Lindiwe was an elected representative in South Africa's National Assembly until May 2014, when she resigned from active politics in order to return to higher education.





Colmena fund
for Women's Political Power

About the Colmena Fund

Colmena Fund is a non-partisan, independent fund, dedicated to accelerating women's feminist and democratic political leadership through critical funding and infrastructure in the Global South. It is the only fund specifically designed to provide holistic support for marginalized women to thrive and succeed throughout every stage of their political leadership journey.

Media contact: info@colmena.fund

About the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

Founded by President Bill Clinton in 2005, the Clinton Global Initiative is a community of doers representing a broad cross section of society and dedicated to the idea that we can accomplish more together than we can apart. Through CGI's unique model, more than 10,000 organizations have launched more than 4,000 Commitments to Action – new, specific, and measurable projects and programs – that are making a difference in the lives of more than 500 million people in 180 countries.

