

**The latest update to the Youth Advocacy Campaign, as a partnership of the IAAP  
Division of Youth and Early Career Professionals with Columbia University  
Teachers College.**

This campaign is led by IAAP UN representative Dr. Judy Kuriansky and Division 15 past-president Pedro Altungy, and under the umbrella of the GAAP Lab (Global Advocacy and Applied Psychology).

The campaign is now in Phase II, with an international partnership of membership of Division 15 Presidents of various regions, in collaboration with Columbia University Teachers College graduate students in Dr. Kuriansky's class on "Psychology and the United Nations."

Past success has been reported in previous IAAP eNews. Regarding this Phase II, we are happy to report that since we launched the project last Summer, we have already contacted 90 of the 193 countries who are Member States of the UN. In addition, the team has held meetings with several missions: Tuvalu, Norway, Rwanda and Zimbabwe; and had several appointments set up with other missions, including Romania and Lebanon, which were postponed when the war in Israel broke out which preoccupied countries, and timing which then also coincided with meetings of the Second Committee which required intensive attention. The Member State Missions expressed great interest to meet and were very gracious in asking to meet at another later time. While the tragic recent events in the Middle East have put this campaign on hold, we are continuing to research about countries and prepare for reaching out.

The focus of the discussions shifted now to the Summit of the Future, to be presented at the next General Assembly meeting in September, and also the Global Digital Compact, and also on the topic of Youth, Mental Health and Climate Change.

The IAAP UN team also reports that very important connections were made at the recent 5<sup>th</sup> Global Ministerial Summit about Mental Health, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to which IAAP UN representatives Dr. Judy Kuriansky and Russell Daisey were invited, and attended. The two-day summit October 5-6 was on the theme "**Mental Health in All Policies**" attended by Ministers of Health, Youth, Education, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, PAHO, the Red Cross, and many other stakeholders. Very valuable connections were made with these stakeholders and Ministers from South and Central

America, including Uruguay, Peru and Chile. While the representatives were mainly from the global South – with the Summit deliberately held in Argentina to bring those to the meetings who had not come to previous summits in Europe -- a few European Ministers came, e.g., Hon. José Manuel Miñones Conde, Minister of Health, Spain. The connections were valuable for potential partnerships in projects in which the IAAP UN team is already involved, and others for the future and for the UN campaign.

## **UN Youth Advocacy Campaign**

### **Project updates**

Last July, the IAAP UN team along with Division 15 started to work together in developing the [\*UN Youth Advocacy Campaign\*](#). It's main goal is to establish relationships with the governments/missions at the UN, to raise awareness about the challenges in mental health and youth, especially in relation to climate crisis and the threats lying in our future. IAAP, is thus working to build on the very high profile at the UN.

This initiative is led by Dr. Judy Kuriansky (head of the IAAP-UN team) and Dr. Pedro Altungy (past-president of IAAP Division 15), who coordinate an international team of early career psychologists from IAAP Division 15 (Marija Davcheva, Jennifer Namutebi, Gabriel Medianero, Monique Arantes and Ana Kraljevic) and students from Columbia University Teacher's College (Theo Ntwari, Emma Gaskins, Arwa Ayoub, Tanya Battiwalla, Rayshmi Fernando, Ibssa Abdo and Dahlia Alrawi).

We started this campaign this Summer, ahead of the UN General Assembly High-level meetings (HLMs) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR), the Climate Ambition Summit, the SDG Summit and Ministerial Summit of the Future, and looking forward to COP 28, negotiations about the Global Digital Compact, other international agreements, and post-UNGA issues.

Since last August, the team has already contacted 90 of the 193 countries represented at the UN. By now, the team has hold meetings with the following countries missions at the UN: Tuvalu, Norway, Rwanda and Zimbabwe; and it's preparing the meetings with Romania and Lebanon. The main issues that have been discussed in these meetings have been:

1. To promote engagement in the commitment of the key role of young people, harnessing their energy and creativity through a new UN Youth Office. The goal is to make global governance more responsive and accountable, with a focus on climate and education), as we look towards COP28 and the Summit of the Future 2024. This Summit is coordinated by Namibia and Germany
2. To work with us on presenting side events at the UN to promote this (in partnership also with the Sierra Leone-Jamaica youth entrepreneurship and leadership exchange project which isn't in development). IAAP will be invited to contribute to this process.
3. To build on the GA resolution in June about Mental Health and Psychosocial Support led by Mexico, with core co-sponsors Argentina, Canada, Israel, Japan, Morocco, passed by consensus.
4. To work towards a GA resolution on youth and mental health and climate change → currently there is no resolution on this specifically, so we would advocate on its creation and adoption. However, Dr. Kuriansky has co-authored a policy on the topic of Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Mental Health and Well-being (American Public Health Association. (2019). (20196). Washington, DC. APHA. <https://apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2020/01/13/addressing-the-impacts-of-climate-change-on-mental->

[health-and-well-being](#). An article about this has been published in the Applied Psychology Around the World Journal. See: Kuriansky, J., Magnabosco, J. & Otto, J. (2020). Climate Change, Mental Health and Wellbeing: A New Policy Statement for Advocacy. *Applied Psychology Around the World*. 2:3. 27-32. Access at: [https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1082/apaw\\_2020\\_sep\\_vol2\\_3.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1082/apaw_2020_sep_vol2_3.pdf)

The IAAP team at the UN will keep on working in trying to contact every single country represented at the UN, pursuing the fulfilment of all the aforementioned goals. In this way, IAAP will be continuing to take an active and high-profile leadership role in international policymaking at the highest level, aligned with the IAAP mission: to promote the science and practice of applied psychology and to facilitate interaction and communication among applied psychologists around the world. It also proves the commitment of the youngest members of the association, who are working beside the most experienced members for our common goal: to help, through applied psychology, to make a better world.