

# We the Peoples|

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My former colleagues, Permanent Representatives of the UN that are in the room, those who are currently serving, and those who served alongside with me and others, I just want to say, I miss you so much and I'm so happy ... I'm so thrilled to present an SDG Vanguard Award to Louise Mabulo.

Louise Mabulo is the founder of The Cacao Project. Louise's story is one of resilience in the face of immense challenge. Like far too many, Louise has experienced the vacillating impact of climate change firsthand.

After a typhoon struck the Philippines in 2016, damaging a large portion of the country's agricultural land, Louise turned tragedy into transformation.

Then a teenager, she founded The Cacao Project, a seed exchange enterprise that combats deforestation and cultivates climate smart livelihoods by putting power and resources into the hands of local farmers. She drew on traditional practices to foster intergenerational understanding and restore vitality to local communities.

As a 2019 Young Champion of the Earth for the UN Environment Programme, Louise has been breaking down the barriers to knowledge about food systems and climate resilience by helping people everywhere understand where the food on our plates comes from.

Louise is an extraordinary pioneer, and it is exciting to think that she's just getting started.

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