

European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean
EU-LAC Multi-Actor Dialogue Forum
Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation, and Social Cohesion

OPENING SESSION



ALEJANDRO SOLANO RUIZ

Alejandro Solano Ruiz is the Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica since August 2023. He is a lawyer with an outstanding career since 1994. His experience in international law and foreign policy led him to hold the position of Consul General in the Costa Rican Mission to the European Union, as well as other important roles in Argentina and Switzerland.



JORGE HERRERA MURILLO

Jorge Herrera Murillo is Vice Rector of Research at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA). He has served as a university professor and was Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Sea in Costa Rica.



LEIRE PAJÍN

Leire Pajín is President of the EU-LAC Foundation, Director of International Development at IS Global, and leads REDS, in addition to her role on the strategic board of UNSDSN. Previously, she held positions as Spain's Minister of Health, Social Policy and Equality and Secretary of State for International Cooperation, as well as serving in Congress and the Senate.



MARCO MÉNDEZ

Marco Mendez is Director of the School of International Relations at the National University of Costa Rica (UNA). His main research interests are foreign policy, diplomacy, human rights and international security. He has obtained prestigious grants from institutions such as the Carolina Foundation and the Organisation of American States.



PIERRE-LOUIS LEMPEREUR

Pierre-Louis Lempereur is Ambassador of the European Union in Costa Rica. He has diverse experience within the European Union diplomatic service. Previously, he held roles in the Office of the EU High Representative for Non-Proliferation Issues in the Council of the European Union and in the Office of the Council of the EU to the United Nations.

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KEYNOTES SESSION



MODERATOR: ANNA BARRERA VIVERO

Dr. Anna Barrera serves as Senior Programme Coordinator at the EU-LAC Foundation, responsible for the areas of knowledge, gender equality and culture. During her doctoral studies in Political Science, she specialised in Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples, Legal Pluralism and Gender Relations in the Andean Region.



MÓNICA ARAYA

Monica Araya is Executive Director of the international portfolio at the European Climate Foundation (ECF). She oversees work and grantmaking on trade, diplomacy, decarbonization plans and global climate policy. She helped to develop Costa Rica's national decarbonisation plan and was Special Advisor to the High Level Climate Action Champion at COP26.



RAGNHEIÐUR ELÍN ÁRNADÓTTIR

Ragnheiður is the Director of the OECD Development Centre. She previously served as Minister of Industry and Trade in Iceland from 2013 to 2017 and as an MP for the Independence Party. In addition, she held key roles in the political arena and worked for the Icelandic Trade Council.



INMACULADA ZAMORA

Inmaculada Zamora is Secretary General of the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Public Administration and Policies and of the EUROsociAL+ Bridge Programme, managing international cooperation projects seeking cooperation between the European Union and Latin America to reduce inequalities, improve levels of social cohesion and strengthen institutions.



EDUARDO MAURICIO AGUDELO

Eduardo Mauricio Agudelo is the Director of Digital Transformation at CAF Development Bank. He has focused on the competitive structure of the Internet value chain in Latin America and the related policy implications of market failures to promote the e-commerce ecosystem and maintains dialogues to improve and implement digital transformation policies.

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KEYNOTES SESSION - COMMENTS



COMMENT: JOSÉ ANDRÉS FERNÁNDEZ LEOST

José Andrés Fernández Leost is an Associate Professor of Political Theory at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) and works as Head of Analysis at the Carolina Foundation. He has served as Head of Research and Publications at the Atman Foundation for the dialogue between cultures, and is a Research Associate at the Euro-Mediterranean University Institute (EMUI-UCM).



COMMENT: OLGA BAUS-GIBERT

Olga Baus-Gibert is Deputy Head of Unit, Unit B.2 of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships at the European Commission. She has an extensive career working for the European Commission in various sectors, such as education and external relations with several regions.

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PANEL JUST GREEN TRANSITIONS: FINANCING THE JUST GREEN TRANSITION



MODERATOR: JORGE HERRERA MURILLO

Jorge Herrera Murillo is Vice Rector of Research at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA). He has served as a university professor and was Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Sea in Costa Rica.



SANDRA GUZMÁN

Sandra Guzman is Founder and Coordinator of the Climate Finance Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (GFLAC). She has represented civil society and advised the Mexican delegation in climate change conferences and is the first Mexican in the Homeward Bound project for the empowerment of women in science with a mission in Antarctica.



MARIANA RONDON

Mariana Rondon, Director of the CIPÓ Platform Program. She has more than 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors, the United Nations system and civil organisations. She specialises in sustainable project management, research, team leadership, strategic planning, institutional development, fundraising and advocacy.



ANDREA COSTAFREDA

Andrea Costafreda is Program Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at Oxfam, with experience in bilateral cooperation and multilateral organizations. She is also an associate professor in the Master in International Relations at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She has published on democratisation, political institutions and human development in Latin America, as well as on the international development agenda.



JOSÉ VICENTE TROYA

José Vicente Troya Rodríguez is the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Costa Rica (2019-to date). He also leads the United Nations Gender Interagency Group in Costa Rica and is the UNDP's Gender and Environment Champion for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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**PANEL II INCLUSIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: COOPERATION IN
INFRASTRUCTURE, CONNECTIVITY, ACCESS, AND REGULATORY DIALOGUE**



MODERATOR: FRANCIA SERRANO

Francia Serrano is the Alliance Coordinator of MY World Mexico Initiative, where she promotes the 2030 Agenda and inclusive digitalisation in Mexico. She has contributed to the development of public policies, bi-regional research, studies on paradiplomacy and smart cities under the "Smart and Cheap" approach.



JOSÉ IGNACIO TORREBLANCA

José Ignacio Torreblanca is Senior Policy Fellow and Director of the Madrid Office of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) since 2007. He is Professor of Political Science at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) in Madrid. He is a political analyst and journalist with several publications in the media.



LUIS ELIÉCER CÁRDENAS

Luis Eliécer Cárdenas is Executive Director of the Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks (RedCLARA), RedCLARA is an international organisation that aims to connect Latin American Research and Education Networks through collaboration and development in education, science and innovation.



LEONIE KELLERHOF

Leonie Kellerhof is a policy advisor working at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on harnessing digital transformation for sustainable development and the EU-LAC Digital Alliance. For her research on global digital issues, she received the IELTS Award from the British Council.



MITJA JERMOL

Mitja Jermol is a UNESCO Fellow in Open Technologies for Open Educational Resources and Open Education. He has experience in research and development of artificial intelligence, cybernetics, cognitive systems and e-learning. He is also specialised in the context of business intelligence, personalised learning, smart cities and factories of the future.

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PANEL SOCIAL COHESION: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES



MODERATOR: ALEX SEGOVIA

Alexander Segovia is Coordinator of the Central America Initiative Network (RedICA). He has held various positions in government, multilateral institutions and academia. He is a researcher and visiting professor at Loyola University. His research interests include armed conflicts and post-war transitions in Latin America, structural change and economic models.



MOUSTAPHA KAMAL GUEYE

Moustapha Kamal Gueye is Coordinator of the Green Jobs Programme of the International Labor Organization. He is a member of the Management Committee of the Global Social Observatory and was for three years Senior Director of the Environment Program at the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD).



SANDREA MAYNARD

Sandra Maynard is Vice Chancellor for International Affairs at the University of the West Indies (UWI). She has held senior management roles in universities in the UK. She has been responsible for driving the development of internationalisation in higher education.



INMACULADA ALONSO

Inma Alonso is the Coordinator of the NGOs for Development Project for the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. She has more than 15 years of experience in non-governmental organizations in Spain and in 12 countries in Africa and Latin America leading corporate communication strategies, awareness raising, advocacy, and public and media relations.

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REGINA LEÃO

Regina Leão is the coordinator of social programmes for young people in the Archdiocese of Rio de Janeiro. She has been working for several decades developing social projects in the slums for the inclusion of poor young people.



LAURA SÁNCHEZ LEÓN

Laura Sánchez is a gender expert in the social linkage division of the French Development Agency (EUROsociAL + Bridge consortium partner). She specialises in development project management, with a focus on gender equality, and several academic studies in impact analysis and project management for development.



ISABEL ROMÁN

Isabel Román is the Director of the State of Education in Costa Rica Report and a public policy specialist for the development of the State of the Nation Programme, in collaboration with the National Council of Rectors of Costa Rica (CONARE). She has led the Sustainable Human Development Report in Costa Rica and contributed to research in the regional State of the Region Report.

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**PANEL JUST GREEN TRANSITION: INVESTMENT AND COOPERATION IN
CLEAN ENERGY AND CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS**



MODERATOR: OLMAN SEGURA BONILLA

Olman Segura Bonilla is Director of the International Center for Economic Policy for Sustainable Development at the National University of Costa Rica (CINPE-UNA). Professor at UNA where he conducts research in ecological economics, microeconomics, climate change and valuation of natural resources. He served as Labor and Social Security Minister of Costa Rica from 2012 to 2014.



RODOLFO LACY

Rodolfo Lacy is an economist with extensive experience in environmental and sustainable development policies. He served as Director of Climate Action and Environment for Latin America at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He served as Undersecretary of Environmental Policy and Planning at Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.



MARTÍN OBAYA

Martín Obaya is Director of the Centro de Investigaciones para la Transformación (CENIT). His work has focused on technological learning processes and productive policy in developing countries. He has worked on issues focused on the lithium industry in South America, exploring opportunities and challenges for the development of linkages and technological capabilities.



MARÍA ELENA HUERTAS

María Elena Huertas is co-founder of Centro de Pensamiento POLEN Transiciones Justas, a think tank focused on just transitions in Colombia for a more equitable and climate change resilient society. Academic professor teaching courses related to thermodynamics, energy trends and air quality. Environmental researcher dedicated to developing projects focused on air quality and energy issues.



JOSEP PUXEU

Josep Puxeu Rocamora is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). He chaired the study group for the EESC opinion "The sustainable economy we need". Since September 2015 he represented the Food and Drink Industry at the EESC and has served as Director of the Spanish Soft Drinks Association (Anfabra).

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PANEL INCLUSIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: CLOSING DIGITAL GAPS, THE USE OF INFRASTRUCTURES AND CONNECTIVITY FOR SKILL AND PRODUCTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

MODERATOR: RICARDO CÁCERES



Ricardo Cáceres is Director of Information Technologies of the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA). He is a specialist in information systems with extensive experience in the strategic application of digital technologies, He is coordinator of the Technical Secretariat that supports the Ad Hoc Group that leads the Regional Digital Strategy of SICA, and coordinator of the Regional Unit of Electronic Signature in SICA (URFE-SICA).

JAVIER GONZÁLEZ



Javier Gonzalez is Director of the Laboratory for Research and Innovation in Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (SUMMA), a regional research and innovation center funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He advises and works in collaboration with the authorities of the Ministries of Education of 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ÁNGEL MACHADO



Ángel Machado is Director of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services, President & CEO of Canon Medical Systems Corporation Argentina. He is a lawyer specialised in finance, banking and international trade with extensive experience in the direction and management of national and international companies, particularly in the health sector.

SHIRLEY SABORIO



Shirley Saborio is Executive Vice President of the Council for the Promotion of Competitiveness and Member of the Board of Directors of the Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce. She was chief delegate to the International Labor Conference 2007-2014, director of the National Wages Council representing the business sector and alternate representative of the employer sector in the ILO Governing Body.



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HERNÁN AGUIRRE

Prof. Aguirre teaches at Shinshu University, Japan, and has a long experience in computational intelligence and design optimisation. He also co-directs the Frontiers in Mass Optimization and Computational Intelligence Laboratory between Japan and France and is involved in journals specializing in evolutionary computation.



DUMITRU FORNEA

Dumitru Fornea is Secretary General of the National Confederation of Trade Unions MERIDIAN of Romania and has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) since 2007. He is an active member of the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI), of the Specialized Section for Transport, Energy and Information Society and a member of the Specialised Section for External Relations.

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PANEL SOCIAL COHESION: POLITICAL INEQUALITIES



MODERATOR: CARLOS CASCANTE SEGURA

Carlos Cascante Segura is an academic with a distinguished career specializing in history, international law and diplomacy. He has several publications and teaches at the School of Political Science of the University of Costa Rica and at the School of International Relations of the National University. He has also held diplomatic functions for the Costa Rican Foreign Service.



NATALIA GÓMEZ SOLANO

Natalia Gomez Solano is the Special Advisor for Youth at DG INTPA and Researcher at Wageningen University, specialising in environmental engineering, climate adaptation and youth participation. She has led initiatives such as the Costa Rican Youth and Climate Change Network and worked as Climate Adaptation Planning Advisor at the United Nations Environment Programme.



LUZ HARO

Luz Haro is the Executive Secretary of the Network of Rural Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC), and plays roles in the Ibero-American Union of Municipalities (UIM) and the Ibero-American Network of Municipalities for Gender Equality (RIMIG). In her distinguished career in the Ecuadorian countryside, she is founder of several projects to empower rural women.



MERIKE BLOFELD

Merike is Professor of Political Science at the University of Hamburg, specialising in Latin American social, health, family, gender and labor politics. She was director of the Institute for Latin American Studies at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and professor at the University of Miami, where she focused on Gender and Sexuality Studies.

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JULIANA MARTÍNEZ FRANZONI

Juliana Martínez Franzoni is Professor at the Institute of Social Research (IIS) of the University of Costa Rica (UCR), awarded the prize for best researcher of the University of Costa Rica for her contributions in comparative social policy and welfare regimes in Latin America.



RAQUEL COELLO-CREMADES

Raquel Coello-Cremades is a Regional Economic Empowerment Policy Specialist for Latin America and the Caribbean at UN Women and holds a PhD in International Economics and Development from the Complutense University of Madrid. She is also a lecturer in the Master's Program in Gender and Development at the same university and has published extensively on gender, fiscal policy, public budgeting and care economy.



SILVIA CASTELLANO SACÓ

Technical Specialist in the Gender Equity and Youth Programme of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The objective of the Programme is to strengthen gender mainstreaming and support for rural women and youth in order to achieve substantive equality in the Americas.

PLENARY SESSION WITH RAPORTEURS OF THE PARALLEL PANELS



MODERATOR: NOEL CRUZ MUÑOZ

Noel is Executive Assistant to the Rector's Office of the National University of Costa Rica. He has held positions as a consultant for Mujeres Unidas en Salud y Desarrollo (MUSADE) and President of the Student Federation of the UNA (FEUNA). He has experience in the formulation and implementation of social projects, coordination and management of various work teams.



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CLOSING SESSION



CARLOS ISAAC PÉREZ MEJÍA

Carlos is Vice Minister of Strategic Management at the Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica. He is also a professor at the University of Costa Rica and INCAE Business School. He is an expert in sustainable development policies with a long experience in various organisations.



ANDREAS SCHAAL

Andreas Schaal is Director of Global Relations and Co-operation at the OECD. In close coordination with OECD members and the OECD External Relations Committee, he and his team implement the OECD Global Relations Strategy, engaging with more than 100 partner countries worldwide at the ministerial level and building a global level playing field by increasing adherence to OECD standards and policies.



MATTEO BANTI

Matteo Banti is the Head of Regional Cooperation of the European Union in Central America, has previous experience in the European External Action Service and specialises in topics such as Common Foreign and Security Policy, Crisis Management, Financial Management, Development and Cooperation and Contract Management.



ADRIÁN BONILLA

Dr. Adrián Bonilla is the Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation. Previously, he was National Secretary of Higher Education with ministerial rank in his country (2018-2019). He served as Secretary General for the entire region of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences FLACSO (2012-2016), and also Director of the Ecuador Headquarters (2004-2012) of that international academic body.